

Oh My God 291

### **Chapter 291: The Era Has Changed**

After Earthlings transmigrated to the Other World, they faced the invasion of the zombie virus and uncovered the potential in their genes. The depth and scope of their research into viruses surpassed what the virology on Earth had reached.

There were more than one hundred virus research centers in Dragon City, and gene medicine was connected to viruses as well.

After the zombie catastrophe sifted out the weak, the surviving humans had much stronger immune systems, and they were not afraid of most viruses.

But to ensure that the zombie catastrophe would not happen again, when legitimate virus research centers modified brand new viruses, they had to set up defensive precautions to ensure that the viruses would not be infectious to humans.

“So, this means that this is a viral infection created by surgical means, and it was used specifically to target Spirit Creations Creatures?” Meng Chao was contemplative. “So, what’s the deal with the Giant Sandworm suddenly swelling up several times its size and obtaining a brand new skill? It evolved from a monster to a superbeast. How did that happen?”

Gao Ye was just about to answer when the monitor monitoring Trash Site 4 suddenly screeched, and an entire patch of land suddenly collapsed.

The surface of the land had been created by a mountain of trash, and there were a lot of holes in it because of the Giant Sandworms crawling underground. It had long since become incredibly brittle.

The workers had accidentally touched a fragile part underground while they were dragging the carcass of the super Giant Sandworm out, and quite a number of equipment was crushed.

“I’ll take command,” Gao Ye said through the communication channel.

Then, he sat down in a chair in the lab that looked like the examination chairs in a dentist’s office. It was also bound with all sorts of dense pipe wires.

His brain was gradually enveloped by a superbrain.

The pipe wires shone when mental strength gushed out endlessly through his temples and forehead. Then, through the internet, it went straight to Trash Site 4.

Something amazing happened.

A rather clumsy Giant Sandworm suddenly looked up. With movements that were way more agile than they should be, it crawled into the drainage pipe.

It was like a scalpel that cut straight into a lesion and accurately found the spot with the super Giant Sandworm. It ate the trash and rocks that blocked the workers from going forward, which soon cleared up a tunnel.

As someone slowly spun a winch, a steel wire rope finally dragged the super Giant Sandworm's carcass to the surface, which was covered by a soft cloth.

The workers cheered.

Gao Ye sighed in relief. He removed the superbrain and stared at the super Giant Sandworm on the screen. "It's too beautiful..." he mumbled.

"Director Gao, were you controlling the Giant Sandworm just now?" Meng Chao asked with great interest. "I never knew that monster controllers could control biochemical beasts from so far away."

"The internet in Dragon City has become incredibly steady. 9G technology is enough to transfer human brainwaves and mental strength. So, monster controllers and biochemical beasts don't necessarily have to stay together. Of course, it's only when your mental power is strong that you can control creatures remotely," Gao Ye answered casually.

He looked at the drainage pipes on the screen and pondered it for a while before he added, "When I controlled the Giant Sandworm, I noticed quite a lot of industrial sewage water and mud soaked by chemical waste.

"I think that the Giant Sandworm ate this complicated mud while being stimulated by the mutated rabies, which is why it experienced this unknown mutation.

"This is something that we'll only be able to figure out once we take samples of the industrial sewage water and the contaminated mud. We'll need to conduct tests and examinations.

"No matter what, this super Giant Sandworm is definitely a miracle. It's so large and beautiful. This is the perfect machine of flesh and bone. Compared to those crude scrap metals from Heavenly Works Machines, it's much better. This is the future of our civilization!"

Meng Chao stared at Gao Ye for a long time. "Director Gao, you seem to... be really averse to runic symbol technology."

Gao Ye smiled. "The graduates of Monster University are all very averse to runic symbol technology, don't you think?"

"True." Meng Chao thought about it and agreed. "Runic symbol machines use up more crystals, their failure rate is higher, and they cause more pollution. In many situations, they can't compare to biochemical modification technology in terms of being environmentally friendly, efficient, and producing no pollution.

"Aside from that, there is one more major problem with runic symbol machines. As the development of automatized technology continues and all sorts of runic symbols with new functions are discovered or developed, they will gradually take over the positions of most normal people."

Once they found the super Giant Sandworm, Gao Ye became really happy and much friendlier. He looked incredibly excited and like he was seconds away from declaring Meng Chao as his bosom buddy.

This was how many eccentric people acted. They usually kept their thoughts tightly locked in themselves, but once their mouths were unzipped, they started talking without stopping.

“Right now, Dragon City is in a very awkward conflict,” Gao Ye said. “On one hand, the higher-ups know very well that it’s impossible for us to conquer the vast and endless Other World with just tens of millions of people. If they want to effectively rule the place, they can only continuously develop the internet and automatized technology to use runic symbol machines and superbrains to replace humans.

“On the other hand, before we can even expand outwards and obtain enough survival space for ourselves, Dragon City will end up being unable to provide enough jobs for tens of millions of citizens that would give them dignified lives.

“Hence, when the runic symbol machines with the newest superbrains replace humans in more and more jobs with an efficiency that is ten times higher than that of humans, there will be millions and even tens of millions of youngsters who won’t be able to find jobs.

“If runic symbol technology and automatized technology continues its development, what will happen?”

“Only 1% of the population are superhumans. They can use spirit energy to change their nerves, and their neural information transmission speed is ten times or even one hundred times faster than that of a normal human. The difference between superhumans and normal humans is just like the difference between a normal human and an insect.

“To superhumans, instead of handing out tasks to normal humans, it would be better to use their unparalleled mental power to control drones, spider-shaped fighting vehicles, and all sorts of automatized machines through 9G or even 10G internet. Even if they have to fish out money from their pockets to take care of the idle humans after they finish their tasks, it’s better than letting the clumsy humans cause problems.

“As time passes, normal people will lose their ability to work. No matter how hard they try, even if they’ll be willing to study and work, they won’t be able to work day and night nonstop like machines in crystal mines with incredibly high radiation.

“Gradually, normal people will no longer find a place in their own civilization, and for the first time in history, 99% of human beings will become useless. Don’t you think that such a future is very terrifying?”

“It’s... It’s not as bad as you make it seem, right?” Meng Chao forced himself to smile. “I studied history before. During the industrial revolution, there were also a lot of people who were worried that machines would replace humans. The workers even rushed into factories and destroyed the rumbling machines. In the end, even after three hundred years passed, humans were never replaced by machines. In fact, they developed into a brilliant civilization, and it gave them a lot of brand new jobs.

“Don’t you think... you’re haunted by unnecessary fear?”

“The industrial revolution was accompanied by a bloody colonization. Your so-called brilliant civilization was born from the blood, sweat, and tears of millions of normal people thrown between the cogs of the machines. When the age of colonization reached its limit, civilization also reached the limit of its growth. Two world wars and the Great Depression were needed to begin anew,” Gao Ye said faintly,

“Don’t misunderstand. I’m not some kind of moral teacher who pities the fate of man. I don’t have any opinion when it comes to colonizing the Other World and turning all living creatures in the Other World into our servants, then squeezing every last drop of their blood dry.

“I just wonder whether the resistance of the creatures in the Other World will be as weak as those of the backwards civilizations on Earth. The industrial people were able to conquer countries filled with gold with just dozens of muskets. Would something that good really happen to Dragon Citizens?”

“If it’s not possible, then while we face a limit of space and resources, the 99% normal people in our city will turn into a burden, baggage, and trash.

“Don’t go thinking that this is all alarmist talk, and don’t go thinking that since the first industrialization didn’t wipe out the meaning of existence of normal people, the second, third, fourth, and fifth industrialization won’t do that. We’re in a world where the evolution speed is a hundred times faster than on Earth. There is no creature that will never be eliminated in the struggle to survive. Even humans, who claim to be at the top of all living creatures, are not exempt from that.

“In truth, there is an essential difference between the machines with runic symbols, those fired up by crystals, and those with superbrains or the ‘thinking machines’, which are the central nervous systems of monsters, implanted in them, and the machines made during the first industrial revolution.

“The latter couldn’t replace 90% of human functions. They still needed to be operated and maintained by humans.

“But if we continue developing the former, they will be able to work on their own and even perform their own maintenance. In fact, some of the unmanned factories that operate with more automatized technology will have runic symbol machines producing runic symbol machines. No human will be needed in the entire process.

“More importantly, the humans nowadays are completely different compared to the first industrial revolution.

“On Earth, no matter how great the difference between normal people and those at the top were, there was something that made them the same—their bodies of flesh and blood.

“No matter how smart those at the top were, it was impossible for their thinking ability to be one hundred times greater than that of a normal person.

“No matter how strong those at the top were, they couldn’t defeat hundreds of normal people with their own strength.

“Even if those at the top had hundreds of the most advanced machines in their hands, they would still need thousands of normal people working for them. Perhaps they would even need hundreds of guards to monitor these people. And these workers and guards would have families, and their family members would all be normal people. Just like that, with thousands of normal people’s strengths gathered together, they would be able to fight against those at the top and their machines.

“Because of this, those at the top would not be able to overlook the existence of normal people.

“Those at the top would have to rack their brains to maintain the balance between themselves and normal people. They would have to placate them because they feared the wrath of normal people or just because they wanted to gain benefits from normal people.

“Even if you reverse time by thousands of years and go back to the bloodiest and darkest era of slavery, the slaves still had value when they were turned into slaves and their value was squeezed out of them. The existence of that value allowed slaves to fight against the slave owners. This is how those grand stories that evoke praises and tears were born.

“But times have changed, Meng Chao. Times have changed.

“Superhumans themselves aren’t terrifying, and fully automatized runic symbol machines with superbrains aren’t terrifying, either. But when they are combined, they can take away the value from 99% of the normal people in our population. They would become completely useless!

### **Chapter 292: Price of Evolution**

Gao Ye’s face was far from the definition of handsome.

When he gritted his teeth, his face also became so distorted that Meng Chao had no words to describe it.

“Do you still think that I have groundless fears? That’s only because you do not know the newest development of runic symbol machines and automatized technology.” He cast a deep glance at Meng Chao and continued. “Let’s use the newest mining machine developed by our greatest competitor—Heavenly Works Machines. It’s a giant that has dozens of functions, including exploring, tunneling, crushing stones, gathering samples, and fighting. It can even take along hundreds of small unmanned excavating machines.

“Thanks to runic symbol machines and automatized technology, you will need only one machine master at the peak of Earth Realm to control this mining machine, and you’ll be able to have the work efficiency of hundreds of skilled miners.

“Of course, due to the radiation in crystal mines and the fact that automatized technology is still not fully developed, this sort of runic symbol machine can’t completely replace a human miner.

“But if Heavenly Works Machines manages to get the deal for Subway No.20 and get more deals in the development of the northern frontlines, they will get more money to invest in their research. One of these days, they will be able to develop a perfect machine that will have the work efficiency that surpasses thousands of miners but only requires one superhuman to control it.

“At that time, what are the thousands of miners who have been replaced supposed to do?”

Meng Chao opened his mouth. Gao Ye’s words were too realistic. He sank into deep thought but was unable to answer his question.

Gao Ye continued coldly, “This is what I mean when I say that times have changed. During the old era, even if the ones at the top had a mine, they needed thousands of people to work for them. They also needed mine protection teams, engineers, accountants, and all sorts of experts helping them to make up for what their brains lacked. And no matter how loyal those people appeared to be to those at the top, they definitely had their own thoughts and interests in their minds.

“Of course they could enslave and exploit those miners. They could even commit crimes that would make people bristle with rage, but if you look at it from another perspective, they had to use the miners,

mine protection team, engineers, and accountants. The source of their strength came from these people. If they deserted the ones at the top, those at the top were nothing.

“Hence, when the miners’ rage turned into a storm, those at the top trembled in fear. They had to pay an extra price to suppress or placate the miners. It was only this way that they could achieve a temporary balance.

“But in the new era we are about to welcome, due to the infiltration of spirit energy and stimulation from genes, in just a short half a century, the 1% of superhumans in our population have been evolving rapidly, and they have turned into... a brand new creature who only look similar to Earthlings.

“Those at the top no longer need any engineers, accountants, guards, or miners. With their superior calculation abilities, they are the best engineers and accountants.

“Since they can move mountains and seas, they are their own army.

“And if they use the incredibly advanced Internet of Everything, automatized machines and runic symbol technology, with just one thought, they can control thousands of mining machines to replace traditional miners.

“Do you understand now? In the new era, those at the top do not need to enslave normal people, because normal people won’t have any value.

“Those at the top can then be callous and merciless and ignore normal people so that they would perish on their own. They can also still treat normal people as comrades from Earth. If they’re merciful and just, they might fork out a bit of their money to provide for the normal people.

“Honestly, that’s how Dragon City is now.

“Most of the superhumans are training and fighting madly to continuously enrich and improve themselves so that they can climb to the peak of intelligence, physical abilities, riches, and technology.

“But that also means that an increasing number of normal people are unable to get the chance to display their skills. They can’t catch up to the speed of superhumans, so they can only choose to curl up in their houses and live on the synthetic food made of earthworm meat, which is given to them by the Survival Committee, or take up simple and boring jobs that can be replaced by runic symbol machines at any moment. They can only be miners, expand underground spaces, or repair the parts of the city ruined by monsters.

“But as superhumans’ intelligence and strength continues increasing and runic symbol machines as well as automatized technology gets closer to being fully developed, those days when they have work will eventually come to an end.

“When more superhumans reach Heaven Realm and Deity Realm, and the internet, superbrain, and runic symbol machine technology becomes so advanced that they can project the superhumans’ unparalleled brainwaves to control more than one thousand drones and thinking machines at the same time, just what sort of meaning will normal humans have in this civilization?”

“Well...” Meng Chao finally thought of a point. “At the very least, normal people can be consumers. If there were no normal people, the superhumans wouldn’t be able to sell the products they produce using those automatized runic symbol machines.”

“They don’t need to sell them to anyone,” Gao Ye said. “Those at the top in the old era had the primitive urge to continuously expand the market, but to those at the top in the new era, there might be something even more attractive compared to profit, and that is cultivation.”

“The Survival Committee’s slogan is that the normal humans and superhumans are like fish and water. Neither can be apart from each other. Without normal people supporting the superhumans, the superhumans would be water without a source and trees without roots. Perhaps that is the case for low-grade or middle-grade superhumans.”

“But to Deity Realm elites or even the peerless ones who are above Deity Realm, is that really the case?”

“Let’s make an interesting thought experiment. Let’s say that we have a peerless elite who has surpassed Deity Realm. His brainwaves are powerful enough to reach the entire planet, and he has drones and automatic runic symbol machines spread all over the planet. What value and meaning do the normal people have to him, then?”

Meng Chao frowned and stared at Gao Ye before he said, “Director Gao, I’m beginning to think that you’re being a little extreme.”

“Perhaps my thoughts are extreme,” Gao Ye retorted. “But it’s also possible that you refuse to face the brutal future. But regardless of whether you’re willing to face it or not, evolution has never stopped walking forward. In fact, it’s even going faster now.”

“You’re a superhuman as well. You should have experienced the unmatched pleasure of having spirit energy flow through your nerves and blood vessels. This pleasure is even more stimulating than becoming wealthy and having your capital increase. It’s enough to make superhumans cultivate nonstop and climb to new heights.”

“There will definitely be more Heaven Realm elites, Deity Realm elites, and even the unmatched elites who surpass Deity Realm in the future. The distance between them and normal people will also increase.”

“Similarly, if runic symbol machines and automatized technology continues developing at its current pace, those cold machines will become smarter, stronger, and more agile. Sooner or later, they will replace the normal people, who make up 99% of our society.”

“We cannot stop superhumans from cultivating. In fact, we ourselves continue cultivating nonstop.”

“But we can stop the development of runic symbol machines and automatized technology. We can reveal the evil plot of Heavenly Works Machines and stop them as well as other runic symbol machine companies from getting more deals so that biochemical modification technology will become the future of Dragon City. This is the only path we can take.”

“Fortunately, when Spirit Creation Creatures was about to be accused of a crime we didn’t commit, you stood up and gave us critical evidence. Your deeds have not only saved Spirit Creation Creatures, but also changed the future for all of Dragon City,” Gao Ye said earnestly.

"I wasn't thinking that much. I just wanted to find the truth." Meng Chao thought about it and said, "Besides, Director Gao, when you use biochemical modification technology to create Giant Sandworms and other such biochemical beasts, they're also a form of machine which can do a lot of things on its own.

"Based on what you said, if improved runic symbol machines will result in normal people losing their place in our civilization, the machines of blood and flesh will do the same.

"If we use just biochemical beasts to mine, the miners will also lose their jobs."

Gao Ye was stunned for a long time, then he smiled bitterly.

"That's right, Meng Chao. You're very smart. In just a short few minutes, you managed to point out the main problem that I have been facing for years.

"Perhaps it's all the same. Perhaps runic symbol machine technology and biochemical modification technology are the same. We're living in an era where everything is evolving at a rapid speed, and our so-called evolution means that we have to cast aside 99% of our people so that the remaining lucky 1% will be able to reach a higher position in life.

"Alright, it's very interesting talking to you. I hope that we'll be able to talk further in the future. But now, I have to hand in the examination report to the related departments."

Gao Ye looked as if he wanted to send Meng Chao away.

A thought popped up in Meng Chao's head. "You'll hand over the examination report to the local government?"

"Of course, since this is crucial evidence. It's enough to prove that Heavenly Works Machines harbored a sinister plot against us. The sooner we send this over, the sooner we'll be able to catch the culprit," Gao Ye said calmly. "Besides, after something so big happened, the higher ups are already monitoring Spirit Creation Creatures. It's just that they're doing it discreetly. On the surface, they didn't send anyone with guns and bullets to guard our place.

"But I believe that the higher ups already know about this. After all, many people would have seen us digging out such a big super Giant Sandworm.

"I can't think of any need for us to hide the truth. The sooner we end this, the sooner I can stop bothering with this and resume my research."

"Oh..." Meng Chao thought about it for a while before he asked, "Director Gao, is this government official you mentioned a police officer by the name of Shen Yupeng?"

Gao Ye was stunned for a moment. "You know each other? But he didn't mention anything about him being a police officer. He just said that he's from the Supernatural Tower."

"Got it." Meng Chao nodded. "One last question, Director Gao. This is out of pure curiosity, and you can just give a random answer. Do you have a lab in mind that you suspect might have created this mutated rabies?"



“Well...” Gao Ye shook his head. “How should I say this? Mutated rabies isn’t something that is difficult to create. Many of the biochemical labs have the skill, such as a lot of the labs from the various courses in Agricultural University. The labs in the monster colosseums can do this too. There are a lot of other labs which can do it too. I can’t tell.”

### **Chapter 293: Lair**

When Meng Chao left Spirit Creations Creatures, the sun had already set west, and the street lights were lit up.

Dragon City shone in glory.

Meng Chao received a call from Ning Shewo, and he invited him to join the gathering of the various leaders in the biochemical modification technology field.

Many people had learned that he helped Spirit Creation Creatures find the missing Giant Sandworm and also discovered crucial evidence while having outstanding performance during the northern offense, so they were incredibly interested in him.

Once they learned that Superstar Resource Recovery Company was his family business, they treated him as the future star who had recently risen to power in the field.

When Meng Chao wanted to agree to the meeting, Lu Siya called him.

He thought about it before he apologized to Ning Shewo and picked up Lu Siya’s call.

“Did you discover anything?” Both of them asked at the same time.

In the end, Lu Siya was the one who spoke first. “I didn’t discover a lot of problems when it came to the transfer and receiving of money in Jin Yongqiang’s account. Right now, a lot of criminals like using high-grade crystals with high purity as their currency. They trade using ‘cash’ straight away, and it doesn’t leave any traces online.

“As for where he went... He kept to a regular pattern over the past half a month. Aside from taking a few trips to Trash Site 4, he also went to a pet shop opened by Spirit Creation Creatures and bought a Contest Tiger. Aside from this, there’s nothing strange. He never went to the company, but he did go to a monster colosseum—”

“Wait.” Meng Chao thought of something and interrupted Lu Siya. “Why did he go to the monster colosseum?”

“To gamble. Didn’t his file state that he’s a gambling addict?” Lu Siya asked. “His favorite way to gamble was betting on monster fights. Of course, this is also the favorite gambling method for most of the gamblers in Dragon City. It’s shocking, exciting, and bloody.

“Jin Yongqiang went to the monster colosseum whenever he was free since a few years ago. Every month, he would go at least eight times. The frequency at which he went there over the past month hasn’t changed.

“Well, do you think that there’s something suspicious about it?”

“Monster colosseum...” Meng Chao sank into a deep thought.

Animal fights were one of the most ancient entertainment types among humans.

After Dragon City transmigrated, they had to live in a small space because they were surrounded by Monster Mountain Range. The people were tense and felt gloomy. As they faced all sorts of strange and powerful monsters, the ancient entertainment of making monsters fight against each other was naturally revived, and it quickly became popular.

There were dozens of legal monster colosseums of various sizes in Dragon City.

There were also countless illegal underground colosseums.

Even though the broadcasting platforms provided livestreams of powerful fighters hunting monsters in the wild by installing cameras on their helmets and shoulders so that citizens could get first person view of the hunt and feel as if they were right there in the fight, trying to satisfy the urge to see the fight by showing it on the screen was just like trying to scratch an itch through layers of cloth. Compared to being near the fight itself and listening to the deafening roars of the monsters while smelling the scent of death in the air was completely different. It was so much more exciting when the monsters killed one another, and their warm blood flew on their faces.

The experience from being near real fights could not be replaced by watching powerful fighters on livestreams, no matter how strong they were.

The Survival Committee also supported having monsters fight against each other as entertainment. They even called it a sport.

First, they said that it could cultivate the citizens’ nature of practicing martial arts and their love for fighting.

Second, they wanted to let the citizens see that no matter how fierce the monsters were, they were not really that terrifying. In the end, they would be captured by humans and turned into tools for their entertainment.

Besides, there was absolutely no harm in letting the bloody fights become an outlet for the citizens’ ruthlessness. Everyone could mingle with each other harmoniously in this narrow living space.

That was what they said, but if something was overdone, it became bad.

As business for monster colosseums grew, gradually, quite a number of citizens found that the fights to the death between normal monsters became normal and stale. They were not exciting enough, and the attractiveness between Nightmarish Beasts started decreasing. Everyone had seen them too many times.

To ensure attendance rate and safety, the people involved in monster colosseums chose to use biochemical modification to modify the monsters they had at hand.

For example, they modified the monsters’ offensive parts to become larger and sharper or made their appearances even more monstrous and ugly. They even fused the characteristics of several monsters together to create frankenstein-like creatures.

The monster fighting squads also injected all sorts of forbidden drugs into the monsters to ensure that they would become the champion of the season. Those drugs could make normal monsters turn into rampaging beasts.

Stimulants were forbidden drugs in competitive sports.

In the field of monster fights, there were also a constant presence of legal and illegal modifications.

Many of the monster colosseums and famous monster fighting squads had their own biochemical lab so they could make all sorts of gene medicine with secret formulae.

In theory, creating mutated rabies was not difficult for them.

Once Meng Chao thought of this, he asked, "Do you know which monster colosseum Jin Yongqiang frequented?"

Lu Siya was silent for a moment before she mentioned a name. "Golden Tooth Lair."

"A lair?"

Meng Chao sucked in a sharp breath.

Lairs were a unique form of buildings built during the bloodiest and darkest era half a century ago in Dragon City.

It could be said that the people in them were a unique social organization, which had a small but complete world of their own.

Back in the day, the streets and alleys of Dragon City were filled with zombies.

There were also citizens who carried the zombie viruses, but did not turn into zombies themselves. Instead, the zombie virus unlocked the seals in their genes, and they awakened to supernatural powers, which turned them into superhumans.

Unfortunately, the first-generation of superhumans did not have any method to cultivate spirit energy, so usually, once they awakened, they soon experienced spirit energy deviation. Their brains were damaged by rampaging spirit energy, and their personalities became twisted and ruthless, which meant that they turned into human-shaped beasts who did not regard the law with any importance.

Besides them, there were also monsters here and there who tore through the barrier of space to invade Dragon City. Together with zombies and the deviated superhumans, they turned Dragon City into a bloody forest which only operated on the law of the jungle, and the people in it lived under the constant threat of death.

To fend against all that, the citizens had to gather together.

They would block off all the entrances and exits of their residential area and even cover the windows. They only left tiny embrasures for themselves.

Then, they used sharp reinforced bars to turn the outside buildings into steel porcupines.

The modern residential areas turned into dock forts of ancient times.

If they did not have enough living space in the residential area, they solved it by digging underground tunnels and dividing the existing floors on the surface to smaller parts.

A skyscraper with forty floors and the space between floors of more than three meters would usually gain seven or eight floors underground, and the floors on the surface divided into fifty or sixty levels. Each room would be as narrow as an insect's nest, but it would be good enough to ensure the survivors' safety.

Gradually, the survivors from different dock forts merged their dock forts together once they connected the underground tunnels between them as they continued digging underground.

The nest-like buildings were then turned into lairs. They were the symbol of humans maximizing the space available to them and the only safe haven during the bloody and dark era.

They were also the last home that everyone worked together to protect, because there was nowhere else to go.

During the peak of the dark era, Dragon City had Ten Great Lairs, and 80% of the citizens stayed there.

At that time, those who dared leave the lairs and wander around outside were either zombies, out-of-control superhumans who experienced spirit energy deviation, well-trained fighting squads from various companions, Battle God Lei Zongchao, Female Battle God Su Jianqing, War God Wu Tiedao, and other such peerless fighters.

But lairs had their own problems.

The buildings were scattered all over the place, and the people built them without caring about the location. It was impossible for them to pass any sort of hygiene and fire protection laws, which meant that fires broke out quite often.

Narrow spaces were also a violation toward human rights. If anyone stayed in one for a long time, their minds would definitely become twisted. Countless people became ruthless, and the lairs turned into a heaven for crimes.

The people living in lairs had to fight against the catastrophe of their world ending right in front of them and the threat of law collapsing around them, so they huddled together and protected each other. They formed all sorts of organizations and gangs. Hence, they usually only cared about the code of brotherhood and not the law. Of course, at that time, there was no longer any law.

When a citizen living in a lair killed someone, they would just hide deep in the lair, because it was like a maze. If anyone tried to find them, it was the same as trying to find a needle in a haystack. It was practically impossible.

Hence, Battle God Lei Zongchao used his peerless and incredible power to intimidate the nine great companies at that time. He also helped War God Wu Tiedao build the Red Dragon Army. After that, he built the Survival Committee and announced brand new laws. Once societal order was reestablished, the Survival Committee's first task was to change the lairs and restore their hometown to the point where it looked like a city again.

Over the course of the twenty years spanning through the Great Expedition Era and Great Construction Era, Dragon City went through devastating changes.

Countless small residential areas like Blessed Heavenly Garden were built. They might be simple, but at the very least, they gave humans their basic dignity.

The buildings in them were old, noisy, and cramped now, but in those years, countless lair citizens went after them like hungry tigers. Even if they queued up for them, these “luxurious apartments” were not something that they could easily get.

As more lair citizens moved into new residential areas and the Survival Committee proved that they did indeed have enough power to help the citizens fight against the threat of zombies, monsters, and the out-of-control superhumans, the lairs were disassembled and modified into new commercial and residential areas.

Seven of the Ten Great Lairs disappeared like that

But due to lack of time and money as well as other factors, there were still three lairs left.

The citizens who stayed in the lairs either suffered from physical disabilities or had other reasons. They could not look for suitable jobs in the outside world nor pay the rent in public renting houses.

Some of them had also gotten used to their surroundings, since they had lived in the lairs for their entire lives. They were like insects who were used to their own nests.

Some of them, however, had committed crimes in the outside world and were afraid of being subjugated by the Survival Committee and the Supernatural Tower, which was why they decided to rush into danger and flee into the depths of the lairs.

Though there were also some who stayed there because they were paranoid and believed that the apocalypse was right around the corner. They did not believe the Survival Committee and were certain that Dragon City was going to collapse sooner or later, so they treated the lairs as their final fortress.

There were also those who had crazy ambitions and wanted to use the chaotic environment in the lairs to conduct all sorts of illegal experiments, and many of the people Meng Chao had ran into in the life science forum in the deep web were from the lairs. Once they created brand new martial arts, they would wander about the lairs in search of fearless and ignorants lab rats for their experiments.

In any case, the purpose of the lairs had changed throughout the years. In the past, they were safe havens for survivors, but now, they were lawless places that sheltered evil people.

### **Chapter 294: Lucky Star**

Of course, the Survival Committee wanted to deal with the three remaining lairs.

But the greatest problem Dragon City faced were not the lairs, not the monsters, not the zombies, and not the out-of-control superhumans.

Their greatest problem was that they did not have money.

Lu Siya and Gao Ye were right.

Every city needed to suck out the life of the endless villages around it to gain an endless supply of money, resources, and people. That was the only way it could ensure its daily operations and metabolism.

And only a developed industry could provide enough jobs for nearly ten million youngsters who were waiting for food.

But the prerequisite for a developed industry was a consumer market that was ten times larger than the population itself. Without an external market, there was no way for them to develop their industry.

From the day Dragon City transmigrated, it turned into a deformed freak. Due to the stimulation from external threats endangering their lives, humans were forced to unite and work together, which was why Dragon City was able to last until this day.

With the discovery of a new resource—spirit energy—and the great development of biochemical technology, runic symbol technology, and life science, they entered a technological revolution. Because of this, Dragon City temporarily managed to achieve the miracle of all its citizens obeying the law despite having tens of millions of people and being alone in the whole world.

But on the other side of the miracle was the fact that Dragon City's financial model was constantly on the verge of collapse.

The disassembling of seven lairs within a short twenty years and the building of a large number of normal but small residential areas was already the absolute limit.

They were in a constant state of war, and the Survival Committee had to draw out a large amount of compensation money to pay the disabled soldiers and the families of the soldiers who did not return home.

They also had to give an allowance for a lot of disabled citizens so they could satisfy their basic needs. The local government also had to deal with the problem of an increasing number of youngsters waiting for jobs so they could feed themselves.

The new northern area's construction fees were also an astronomical figure.

And all of that had to be done while trying to ensure that tens of millions of people could at least eat synthetic luncheon meat made of earthworm meat. That alone was enough to give a headache to the Survival Committee.

If they disassembled the last three lairs, the Survival Committee would have to look for a lot of empty space in the already cramped Dragon City to build a new area full of public renting houses so that the lair citizens could move out of them. They would also have to be given jobs.

Throughout the whole changing process, the Survival Committee would also have to ensure the stability of order so that nothing major would go wrong. This was just too hard. It was even harder than the northern offense.

'Instead of modifying the lairs, it would be better to expand outward and build new residential areas. Once we get more capital while accumulating money for the development of the new residential area,

we'll get back to solving the problem of the lairs' was the basic thought process of the Survival Committee during the new stage of developing the city.

Of course, money was not the only problem.

Lairs had existed for nearly half a century. They had their own administration and a complicated interest group.

They also sheltered a lot of gray markets that did not exist beyond their borders. They were really popular in the narrow alleys, which were as complicated as mazes and had electrical wiring as messy as a spider web. Countless people relied on the most ancient job to survive and sold their bodies to live.

Extremely dangerous criminals were also hiding deep in the lairs. Even if the Survival Committee built luxurious mansions outside and invited them to stay there, they would not agree to it.

But the Survival Committee could not use brute strength to take down the lairs either.

After all, 90% of the people who stayed in the lairs were normal citizens.

The cramped and complicated environment in the lairs made it very easy for fires to break out and the buildings to collapse.

And superhuman criminals were skilled in creating a lot of collateral damage.

If the Supernatural Committee decided to take out numerous weapons to capture one out-of-control superhuman, they could not guarantee that the person would not be forced into a corner and decide to drag thousands of innocent citizens to the grave with him.

They were still at war with the monsters, though. Their main problem was trying to snatch living space from the monsters. The Survival Committee could not create chaos in Dragon City that would unsettle everything.

Besides, human society had never been just plain black and white.

There were always gray areas.

Right now, most of the gray market in Dragon City was concentrated in the three lairs, and because of it, it was easier to monitor and manage those markets.

If they destroyed the three lairs, the gray markets would spread through all parts of the city, and it would be the same as letting cancer cells spread through the whole body. Things would just become even more chaotic.

Meng Chao at eighteen years of age might have a hard time understanding why Dragon City, which was a city of heroes and the vanguard of human civilization in the Other World, would tolerate the existence of lairs, which accommodated evil people.

But the Meng Chao who came back from the apocalypse synthesized all information available to him and thought about it. Soon, he could understand why this problem was allowed to exist.

The Golden Tooth Lair Lu Siya mentioned was the largest of the three lairs left.

There were anywhere from hundreds of thousands to a million people living there. No one had ever bothered to make detailed calculations before, so true numbers were unknown.

The people there took up all sorts of the most ancient professions.

Naturally, they had monster colosseums as well.

Compared to the legal monster colosseums beyond the lairs, the monster colosseums in the lairs had two features that attracted people.

First, the illegal monster colosseums in the lairs usually conducted all sorts of insane modifications on the monsters, which made them incredibly violent, bloodthirsty, and terrifying. They would even inject all sorts of outlawed gene medicine so that the monsters would go berserk. It brought unmatched excitement to the spectators who watched them fight.

Second, there was gambling.

Legal monster colosseums allowed the spectators to gamble as well, but there was an upper limit to the amount of money they could bet. They also had to register their information. Even if they won, they had to pay a high winning tax to support the development of biochemical modification technology and the foundation for disabled soldiers and the families of the soldiers who died.

At the same time, they also forbade the existence of illegal loans. They did not allow the citizens to borrow money to place bets, either.

In other words, the legal sites allowed small bets to help people relax. It was just for fun.

But when it came to illegal monster colosseums, such rules did not exist.

With a single shout, they could borrow a hundred or two hundred thousand worth of cash at any moment. They could even get more than that if they really wanted to place their bets. Of course, the interest was also ridiculously high. Many people became addicted to it, and they were never able to turn back. Some of them even threw aside their normal jobs and lives to become one with the lairs.

“Jin Yongqiang is a regular in the underground monster colosseum in Golden Tooth Lair,” Lu Siya said.

“The people there know that he’s part of the middle management in Heavenly Works Machines and that he’s a machine master at the peak of Earth Realm. He has a lot of chances to earn money, so they naturally are at ease when lending him money.

“He was still okay during the past two years. He was there just for fun, so he didn’t lose a lot of money. Last year, I think he even earned a lot of money as well.

“But something happened this year. Not only did he lose all his money, he even had to pawn off his apartment.

“Even so, he was already addicted to it. When he was free, he would go to Golden Tooth Lair. Perhaps he knew that he wouldn’t be able to get his apartment back with his regular salary, so he could only try his luck at the monster colosseum.

“But is this related to the case of murderous pets in Blessed Paradise?”



Meng Chao organized the clues and told Lu Siya his discoveries. "Of course. There are labs that do monster modification in the underground monster colosseums in Golden Tooth Colosseum, and the modifications they conduct are even more insane compared to those in the legal labs in Spirit Creation Creatures and Agricultural University. They don't care about any rules. Besides, they have the technology and motive to create the mutated rabies virus.

"Perhaps this virus has always been around and was specifically created to make monsters go berserk. It can increase their aggressiveness and make the fights more exciting to attract the audience.

"Jin Yongqiang is a regular in the underground monster colosseum, so he would naturally know the ways there. Perhaps he had his own channels to get that mutated rabies virus.

"This means that as long as we find the monster colosseum that Jin Yongqiang often goes to, we'll be able to find his friend there. They might be a pharmacist, monster controller, or vet for some monster fighting squad, which will give us our answer!"

"That's right!" Lu Siya said excitedly. "Meng Chao, you're seriously my lucky star. You seem to be able to turn impossible into something possible. In just one short day, you managed to find the answer from a bunch of messy clues. Let's go to Golden Tooth Lair now!"

"Wait!" Meng Chao said hesitantly. "Are we going alone? Based on what I know, there are quite a number of gangs in Golden Tooth Lair. Many of the forces of power have been there for decades, since the time of the zombie crisis. Their history is longer than even the Survival Committee's. If we go alone, what will happen if the situation goes out of control?"

Lu Siya was stunned for a moment. She quickly said, "Of course we're not the only ones going. I'll immediately hand all the clues to the abnormal beast research department so that the higher ups can send good soldiers to support us."

"Well..." Meng Chao thought about it. "Wait, I think I saw Shen Yupeng."

"What?" Lu Siya's voice grew louder. "Where are you? How did you manage to see him?"

"I'm at the entrance of Spirit Creation Creatures," Meng Chao explained. "The secret police are keeping an eye on the labs of Spirit Creation Creatures. When Gao Ye obtained the examination report, he immediately reported it to the secret police. Shen Yupeng might have come here to get an understanding of the situation."

"Damn it. That guy's instincts are even better than a dog's. We can't let him find this clue!" Lu Siya said anxiously. "Hurry up and leave. You can't let Shen Yupeng see you! Meet me at the entrance of Golden Tooth Lair as soon as you can. We have to find the person who gave Jin Yongqiang the mutated rabies virus before Shen Yupeng and the secret police!"

Meng Chao blinked.

While standing at the entrance of Spirit Creations Creatures, he watched Shen Yupeng's black sedan getting closer.

"Kay, coming," he told Lu Siya on the phone.

On the surface, Golden Tooth Lair was a gray, concrete forest. The buildings were packed close to each other, and most of the entrances were blocked by construction waste and cars burnt to scraps.

The entrance was a seemingly normal market that sold all sorts of monster materials.

But the thick fragrance that seemed to have stagnated in the air and refused to leave betrayed that this place was different from normal residential areas.

The scent was Hundred Poison Banquet.

While many of the monsters' organs contained poison, they were also incredibly delicious and tasted fresh. They tasted even better than the pufferfish on Earth.

There were often cases of citizens not being able to resist the temptation and cooking poisonous organs, which resulted in food poisoning.

As time passed, the Survival Committee passed a law that forbade the selling of poisonous monster organs for the purpose of eating them.

But the laws forbidding the selling of poisonous monster organs were just scraps of paper in Golden Tooth Lair, because this place was a lawless place that existed in the middle of the spectrum between a lawful world and a world of absolutely no laws.

Hundred Poison Banquet, which was formed by the fragrance of hundreds of poisonous monster organs, had long since become a specialty that everyone knew.

Quite a number of citizens would actually come to Golden Tooth Lair just to satisfy their food cravings.

### **Chapter 295: Poisonous Scorpion**

Meng Chao went around the market with great interest.

He found all sorts of poisonous monster organs that were difficult to find elsewhere, but in which he was interested due to his nature of a harvester.

After he went through the market once, Lu Siya appeared at the entrance.

But her getup left Meng Chao slightly stunned.

She had a ponytail with a baseball cap over her head. She wore a tracksuit and a pair of sneakers, which made her look like a university student who did not put on any makeup.

Speaking of which, Lu Siya was just in her twenties.

But she usually wore thick makeup, which made her look like a skilled, strong woman. She usually gave Meng Chao the impression that she was too mature for her age.

When he saw this youthful and pretty Lu Siya, he blinked for a long time before he dared to go up and talk to her.

"Big Sis Ya, what's with this?"

“There are all sorts of bad people in Golden Tooth Lair. Dressing up less conspicuously will avoid us a lot of trouble,” Lu Siya explained.

‘So you do know how to keep a low profile!’ Meng Chao shouted out in his head, but he thought better of saying it out loud. Instead, he looked behind Lu Siya. “Where are the fighters from the abnormal beast research department?”

“They came in through another entrance.” Lu Siya looked at Meng Chao with an intense gaze. “Don’t worry. I have a mini camera and signal flare on me. I can contact the main team at any moment. The moment we find the target, we’ll definitely be able to control the situation. Enough with the talk, let’s go in!”

They passed through the market and entered a supermarket that was opened under a tall apartment complex.

They moved through rows of shelves positioned in such a complicated manner that the place looked like a maze. They passed two corridors that led them down two basement floors before they started walking up. Then, their field of vision widened and became bright. They saw a small impluvium.

Towering but old apartment complexes surrounded it.

The residents did not open their windows wide. They were also packed closely to each other. At first glance, the place really looked like a concrete hornet nest. Meng Chao could not help but think about just how small and cramped were the living spaces behind the windows.

He was only able to see a small patch of gray sky when he raised his head up. That patch of sky was practically perpendicular to his head.

Countless pairs of eyes looked at the people in the impluvium. Their gazes were curious, aloof, or gloomy.

The expressionless faces made everyone look like criminals who were out for a breath of fresh air.

‘So, this is a lair.’

Meng Chao had never come to a lair before.

Even though there were no laws that forbade those beyond the lair from coming into contact with those in the lair, the lairs were the final symbol of the darkest, bloodiest, and lawless era decades ago.

Many of the citizens who had struggled through that age and were finally able to move out to small public renting houses like the ones in Blessed Heavenly Garden warned their children repeatedly to never go to the lairs, or else, they would end up being corrupted.

Meng Chao remembered a few delinquents, who were ignorant and incompetent, from his middle school. To them, going to the lairs was a sign of glory. If they skipped school and went to the lair, they would brag about it for more than a month, even if they had just wandered around the outskirts of the lair and ate one Hundred Poison Banquet.

He looked at the buildings that reminded him of a maze and the branching alleys and realized that he did not know where he should go.

But Lu Siya had already contacted someone living in the lair.

“Miss?”

Soon, a strong young man with a vivid double-tailed venomous scorpion tattoo on his arm appeared in the impluvium and bowed a little to Lu Siya.

That was not a normal tattoo.

It was the emblem of a gang.

During the bloody age when zombies ran rampant, when law and order collapsed, and everything operated based on the law of the jungle, the survivors chose to protect themselves by forming organizations.

To seize precious water, food, energy, living space, and other resources, practically all the organizations that managed to survive had great fighting strength. They then used various means to ensure and strengthen the loyalty of their members.

That was how gangs came to be.

As the city developed, some of the gangs grew larger and more successful. Their leaders obtained a vast amount of resources and used them to unlock the shackles in their genes. They challenged the limits of their lives and became superhumans who could control spirit energy. Their heads also became clearer because of that, and they upgraded their gangs into various companies, industries, and organizations.

In the end, with Battle God Lei Zongchao as the witness, the nine great companies signed a contract of peace and created laws to restore Dragon City's order. Thus began a brand new era.

And many of the middle-sized and small gangs either gradually merged with the mega corporations of the nine great companies or disappeared without a trace.

Now, it was hard to find the appearance of tattoos in more than 90% of the regions in Dragon City.

The surviving gangs were only able to maintain their last operations in the three lairs.

Sky Pillar Corporation began its business through the mining industry.

No matter when, those who could become rich through mining were not kind people.

Decades ago, Sky Pillar Corporation had risen to power by being the first to discover a crystal mine in Dragon City, so naturally, they had all sorts of connections to other gangs.

Even now, they supported quite a lot of gangs in the lairs. It was something normal for mega corporations.

Hence, the sturdy man with a gang tattoo on his arm was incredibly respectful to Lu Siya.

“I've already investigated things,” the man with the scorpion tattoo said. “The Jin Yongqiang you mentioned liked gambling at Black Blood Colosseum, which is located in the eastern region of Golden Tooth Colosseum. He has won and lost over the past few years as well as borrowed money from the finance companies over there.”

“He had already returned all his debts when at the start of this year, he lost a lot and he borrowed a large sum from Fast Money. It’s one of those finance companies. The compound interest caused the debt he accumulated to reach sky high numbers.

“Fast Money has a pretty good relationship with Poison Scorpion, which is my gang. I’ve already notified them earlier. If we go there straight away, we should be able to get more detailed information.”

“Good.” Lu Siya nodded in satisfaction. “Lead the way!”

The scorpion tattooed man led the way.

Meng Chao and Lu Siya walked down the bumpy path. Golden Tooth Lair’s alleys were full of holes, and they needed to take a lot of twists and turns through chaotic electrical wiring.

The buildings to their sides were all illegal constructions. Perhaps they had only seven or eight floors in the beginning, but later, people had gone mad and turned them into buildings with twenty or even thirty floors. They were not straight and looked like they were about to knock into each other.

To make them sturdier, all sorts of things were added as if patching up a torn hole in a piece of cloth. There were steel girders and steel columns stuck in them diagonally. Quite a number of those steel columns were already crooked because of the buildings pressing down on them, and Meng Chao’s heart leapt to his throat when he saw it.

The further they went into Golden Tooth Lair, the better he could smell the scent unique to the lair.

It was the aroma from cooked venomous monster organs. It was mixed with low-quality perfume, the scent of sweat, the pungent scent of pheromones, the blood of monsters and humans, and the smell of photinia. It was a really strange scent.

Monster gambling was really popular here.

While on the way to the place, Meng Chao saw more than one hundred posters related to various underground colosseums.

There were also monitors hanging high above the exterior vertical planes of the buildings. They showed repeating videos of deformed and ugly mutated monsters tearing into each other and ripping out each other’s organs. They were so huge that they far surpassed the monsters found in the legal matches organized by the government.

A lot of youngsters who had nothing to do walked while swaying in the streets and alleys. Most of them had holographic technology strapped to their heads, which allowed them to watch the monster fights, as if they were at the arena. These were people who were rather poor and could not even buy the cheapest tickets. So, they could only use this method to satisfy their addiction.

There were quite a lot of people with tattoos on their bodies or faces. They watched Meng Chao and Lu Siya, who were newcomers in the place and did not fit into the place because of the air they gave off.

However, when they saw that the person leading them was a young man with a scorpion tattoo on his arm, they shrank back.

‘I didn’t expect that there would still be places like this in Dragon City.’

Meng Chao could not help but sigh. 'Now that I compare this place to my area, I think I'm actually quite lucky. Blessed Heavenly Garden might be run down, but at the very least, the order there is pretty good. My neighbors have proper jobs, and all children receive compulsory education. Even though the education level is slightly inferior, it can satisfy their basic needs.

'Of course, the continued existence of lairs comes from the government having no choice but to compromise. Once Dragon City has enough space and resources, the modification of lairs will definitely be pushed forward. Otherwise, these places will remain as ticking time bombs buried in Dragon City. When we face even stronger enemies, they will blast Dragon City's future to pieces.'

After thinking about it, Meng Chao chose to focus and search the memories of his previous life for when the lairs would be taken apart by the government.

He felt as if something had stung his brain. He saw the image of a lair burning. Screams, chaos, and explosions were everywhere. Countless people fled out of the lair. Buildings collapsed. Smoke and dust filled the area. The out-of-control superhumans, who had been hiding deep in the lair, were like fiendish demons who had been unsealed. They charged into Dragon City.

"Hiss..."

Meng Chao cradled his chest and sucked in a deep breath to calm his racing heart.

The Dragon City of his previous life did not seem to have properly solved the problem of lairs.

And hence, it led to a great disaster that caused countless deaths.

It added a certain degree of uncertainty to the end of the Monster War.

It also resulted in the humankind paying an even more devastating price before it finally won the war. Even so, the funeral bell of the city rang out, signalling the apocalypse.

'How could this be?

'But it makes sense... Dragon City didn't manage to win the northern offense in my previous life, so it didn't have enough resources and space to solve the problem of lairs.

'When the monsters with high intellect showed up, they just needed to head to the lairs, where there are a lot of people and the environment is really chaotic. It wasn't difficult to cause chaos there.

'Now, we already changed the end of the northern offense. We will now develop the northern frontlines, and it will provide a lot of jobs. This also means that the Survival Committee will get a continuous supply of money, which will allow them to set some aside and create a budget for the modification of the lairs. We should be able to prevent the disaster from repeating itself.'

As Meng Chao thought about it, the scorpion-tattooed man in front of him stopped.

They arrived at the entrance of a crooked, illegal building with more than ten floors. Through a narrow flight of stairs, they went underground.

Dim neon lights were twisted around to form the words for Fast Money.

The tattooed man went inside to negotiate.

“Aren’t you going to resume your strategy of throwing money at them?” Meng Chao whispered.

“Don’t need to,” Lu Siya whispered back at him. “The people here are all dogs who won’t ever be full. If you fork money out, they’ll think that you’re some dumb idiot with a lot of money. The guy who led us here is one of the leaders of a group within Poison Scorpion, and Poison Scorpion’s influence is second only to that of Golden Tooth in Golden Tooth Lair. Their word holds weight.”

### **Chapter 296: Small Insect**

After a brief moment, the scorpion tattooed man returned to their side.

“I got the information.” He motioned for them to enter. While he led them inside, he said, “Jin Yongqiang has a friend called Small Insect in Golden Tooth Lair. This guy was originally a vet for a small fighting squad. Jin Yongqiang would occasionally show him some respect by betting on his fighting squad.

“But it is a fighting squad without a gang supporting it. So, they aren’t that great regardless if you look at their monster modifications or their ability to control their monsters remotely. Their results have never been good. Jin Yongqiang doesn’t win a lot of money betting on them, but he doesn’t lose a lot of money with them either.

“Then, during the second half of last year, for some reason, this fighting squad suddenly rose to power, and their results kept getting better. In a few of the key matches, they won against major fighting squads supported by other gangs. They even won against Black Bone Fighting Squad, which is supported by Black Bone.

“Jin Yongqiang also acted contrary to how he usually behaved. Since the second half of last year, he would always place a huge bet on this squad, betting that they would win. He won a lot of money from it.

“When Black Bone Fighting Squad lost, they were not just embarrassed and angry, but also puzzled. After investigating things, they finally figured it out. Small Insect used dozens of illegal drugs to create a brand new drug that would make monsters go berserk. After injecting this drug into the monsters, the monsters’ metabolism would increase several times the normal level, and the monster would release an insanely violent power.

“You must understand, even though there aren’t as many rules in the colosseums in the lairs when compared to the colosseums outside, they still don’t allow you to inject every single kind of illegal drug into the monsters, especially when you don’t have a powerful gang supporting you.

“The fighting squad incurred public wrath, and soon, they were struck down by Black Bone. While Black Bone was interrogating the fighting squad members, they found out that Jin Yongqiang knew about this.

“Since the fighting squad used illegal drugs to win, they were considered to have cheated, and their victories were considered null, but monster gambling was a long-term business, and they prioritized trust. They could not ask for the winnings from the gamblers who did not know what happened, so Black Bone could only consider themselves unlucky.

“But Jin Yongqiang knew everything, so it was another matter.

“When Small Insect learned that the victory rate of monsters that were injected with his drug was incredibly high, he wanted to earn some money as well.

“But the people in the lairs live mostly by the paycheck, and there are few people who can place huge bets.

“He was also the vet of a fighting squad. If he borrowed money from a finance company to place bets, his intentions would be obvious.

“So, he went to Jin Yongqiang and revealed some of what was going on to him. He persuaded Jin Yongqiang to place a large bet on his fighting squad, and once they won, they would split the money. That’s the gist of what happened.

“But once the conspiracy was revealed, Jin Yongqiang was naturally told to cough up the money he won.”

The Poison Scorpion member’s words were very clear. With just a few words, he managed to tell them everything that had happened.

It was no wonder why he had the right to come and receive Lu Siya, who was from Sky Pillar Corporation.

Lu Siya nodded with a contemplative expression and asked, “How did Black Bone deal with Jin Yongqiang?”

“Black Bone knew that Jin Yongqiang was a middle-rank manager in Heavenly Works Machines, so they did not make things too difficult for him,” the Poison Scorpion member said. “In truth, unless it’s absolutely necessary, we don’t want to make things hard for the guests from beyond the lair. Otherwise, would our customers want to come back to the lairs to play?”

“Black Bone went to Jin Yongqiang and politely asked him whether he knew that Small Insect injected illegal drugs into the monsters. Jin Yongqiang naturally denied it.

“Black Bone did not use force on him. They just brought out the oral testament from Small Insect and the records of Jin Yongqiang’s bets.

“In the past, when the fighting squad did not have a high chance of winning, Jin Yongqiang would only occasionally bet on them. He did not place a lot of money on them either. His bets were just for fun. The main teams he betted for were the major fighting squads supported by the gangs, especially Golden Tooth Fighting Squad, which was supported by Golden Tooth.

“But ever since Small Insect created the new drug that made the monsters go berserk, it was as if Jin Yongqiang turned into a prophet. He poured a lot of money into them and betted huge amounts of money on his friend’s fighting squad.

“There was no explanation for this abnormal behavior. Once they used a few more tricks on Jin Yongqiang, his mental defenses crumbled, and he confessed to everything.

“Even then, Black Bone did not touch him. They only asked him to write a testimony and sign a confession. He was also to cough up all the money he won by cheating.



“Unfortunately, Jin Yongqiang had long since spent all the money he won to indulge in a debauched life in the lair.

“Black Bone threatened him by saying that if he did not return the money, they would send his testimony and confession to Heavenly Works Machines and the other media. Then, they would upload it online so that his reputation would be ruined.

“Jin Yongqiang was forced into a corner. He had to go to Fast Money and borrow money to pay the gambling debt he owed to Black Bone.

“Then, he pawned off his own apartment to temporarily return the money to the lenders.

“Fast Money was prepared to auction the apartment off once they collected it, but half a month ago, Jin Yongqiang suddenly went to them happily and returned a large sum of money, then promised that he would definitely return the rest within three months.

“The people in Fast Money were curious, but there was no need for them to get to the bottom of things. As long as their customers could return the money in time, the money’s origin had nothing to do with the company even if their customers kidnapped people or murdered someone.”

Lu Siya and Meng Chao exchanged a glance.

The information provided by the Poison Scorpion member matched the information they had.

Small Insect was now their main suspect. They were almost sure that he had provided the mutated rabies virus to Jin Yongqiang.

“Where did Small Insect go after this?” Lu Siya asked.

“He died,” the Poison Scorpion member said.

“He died?” Lu Siya’s voice swiftly became shrill.

“Black Bone’s power is similar to that of Poison Scorpion in Golden Tooth Lair, but Small Insect had deceived them and caused them to lose a lot of money. There’s no way he wouldn’t be killed for it,” the Poison Scorpion member said.

“That guy was born in the lair and was not a normal citizen outside. Even if he died, no one would care. I heard that he was hung upside down and beaten up for a day and night. The bones in his legs were crushed to bits inch by inch. Then, he disappeared without a trace. No one knows whether he was buried underground, thrown into the depths of a pipe that crushes trash, or fed to monsters.”

Lu Siya frowned and asked, “When did this happen? Recently?”

“Not recently. It happened around half a year ago, I think.” The Poison Scorpion member shook his head and said, “I don’t know the details. The people from Fast Money didn’t tell me anything more. If it weren’t because of Poison Scorpion, they wouldn’t have wanted to tell me even this much.”

“Does Jin Yongqiang know anyone else in the lair, especially a vet or some other monster controller?” Lu Siya asked.

“I don’t know about that.”

Lu Siya cursed under her breath. She turned around and said to Meng Chao, "The trail went cold."

Meng Chao rubbed the bridge of his nose gently before he suddenly turned to the Poison Scorpion member. "Say, did Black Bone's results change compared to last year?"

The Poison Scorpion member was slightly stunned. He thought about it before he nodded slowly and said, "Black Bone's results weren't much last year. They have never been able to find a suitable pharmacist, vet, or monster controller. Every time they spent a lot of money to buy a monster, that monster would usually be beaten up by their opponent using a monster of the same grade or one who is a grade lower.

"But they have been raking in quite a lot of victories this year. Their results can now compare to Poison Scorpion Fighting Squad."

Meng Chao's eyes began sparkling. "Then, if my guess is correct, their results have been getting better after they got rid of the fighting squad that cheated and tortured Small Insect for information before they made him disappear, right?"

The Poison Scorpion member thought about it before he nodded repeatedly. "Yes, that's right!"

Lu Siya stared at the Poison Scorpion member before she looked at Meng Chao. She also came to a realization. "Are you saying that Black Bone took Small Insect in and asked him to use that illegal drug to modify the monsters of Black Bone Fighting Squad?"

"Cultivating a vet, pharmacist, or modifier requires a lot of money, and it's not something easy. Aside from needing a lot of resources, the person himself also needs a certain degree of talent," Meng Chao explained. Small Insect was a member of the lair without a background. I don't think he ever received any legitimate education from a university but learned things on his own, right?"

"This is a vet who obtained his skills on his own, and he managed to create such a powerful drug that could cause monsters to go berserk, then used it to help a nameless fighting squad rise to power. I don't think Black Bone would let a genius like this go so easily.

"And just as I expected, you mentioned that Black Bone hung Small Insect upside down and beat him up as well as crushed the bones in his legs inch by inch. I find it very strange.

"If they really tortured him to death, why did they only crush his legs instead of all the bones in his body?"

"But once I thought about it from another angle, it's easy. His hands and brains needed to be preserved to create new drugs for their monsters to go berserk!"

Lu Siya's eyes shone with excitement.

"What's Small Insect's real name? Do you have his picture?" she asked the Poison Scorpion member.

"I don't. Many of the lair members don't like telling other people their real names. They don't like having their pictures taken so that others would know what they look like, either."

"Then..." Lu Siya thought about it. "Can we go to Black Bone's territory and look for this Small Insect?"

“With my status, it would be too dangerous to go to Black Bone’s territory. Besides, many people know about Small Insect using illegal drugs, and Black Bone has already killed him in name. They won’t admit that they’re keeping this guy around.”

The Poison Scorpion member thought about it and added, “But there are a few of Black Bone Fighting Squad’s fights today in Black Blood Colosseum. If Small Insect has really been taken under Black Bone Fighting Squad’s wing, he should appear along with the team.

“Many of the drugs that make monsters go berserk only last for a short time. The vets have to use different formulae and concentration of the drugs based on the monsters’ condition and the effect they want to reach before the match. He won’t want to hand such an important job to others.”

### **Chapter 297: Capture**

Black Blood Colosseum was different from the legal monster colosseums in the world outside. But then again, most of the colosseums in the lair were built indoors.

They were not that big, but that also meant that the spectators were really close to the monsters. There was usually only a high-voltage electrical net separating the spectators and monsters.

The smell of blood and sweat meshed together with money, desires, and death. The resulting smell could stir up anyone’s emotions.

The arena in Black Blood Colosseum was a metal cage suspended in the air by dozens of thick metal chains. All the seats were designed to surround the metal cage.

And the best VIP seats were right under the cage.

That way, when the monsters were killed, the blood and organs that spilled out of them would spill on the spectators’ faces.

When Meng Chao and Lu Siya stepped into Black Blood Colosseum, they heard loud cheers from the audience.

A monster resembling a giant ape stood in the cage. It was more than three meters tall, and its fur was snow white. It lifted a feline-type monster and, with a loud crack, broke its spine. Then, it brought it to its mouth and bit into it. Once it tore a bloody hole, it ripped the monster in half.

Then, it tossed the mangled corpse to the side of the cage.

Bright electrical arcs instantly shone around the cage to electrocute the corpse until it let out cracking sounds and smoke rose from it.

“This Iron-armed White Ape is a monster from Black Bone. Recently, it has won three consecutive matches. Many people place their bets on it,” the Poison Scorpion member explained softly.

“How is it?” Lu Siya asked Meng Chao quietly.

Meng Chao squinted and observed it for a long time.

“The frequency of the dilation and shrinking of its pupils is clearly higher than that of normal white apes. Its limbs are trembling as well. White foam is coming out of its nostrils, and it has a pinkish hue. It should be caused by using too much strength; its alveoli should have burst.”

Meng Chao thought about it and said, “These are all signs of a monster being injected with too many stimulants or drugs that cause it to go berserk. If I dissected this Iron-armed White Ape now, its lungs would be similar to those of the three biochemical pets who went out of control.”

“So, it means that we’re at the right place.” Lu Siya’s eyes lit up, and she asked, “Where is the preparation room for Black Bone Fighting Squad?”

“It’s over there, in the basement.” The Poison Scorpion member hesitated for a moment before he asked, “Should we notify Black Bone of this?”

Lu Siya thought about it for a while before she said, “Not now. Once we find the person, we can discuss this further. Otherwise, they won’t admit to it.”

“You don’t have to go. We don’t want any trouble between Black Bone and Poison Scorpion. We’ll go and take a look, then decide on what we should do.”

Meng Chao and Lu Siya strode to the basement.

At the end of the corridor, they ran into a few built guards, which stared at them with wariness.

Lu Siya thought about it and brought Meng Chao to the first floor.

It was the hall to buy tickets and bargaining chips. The management here was relatively lax.

Lu Siya asked Meng Chao to serve as her sentry while she went to the backdoor. She found a corner where there was no one around before she placed her hand gently on the floor and started chanting.

As spirit energy ripples spread out, her palm gradually fused into the floor.

Lu Siya was a mine explorer. She could “scan” the structure of the rock strata underground through the feedback given to her by spirit energy ripples. She could read the alignment of the crystal mines with it.

This also meant that she could “scan” the internal structure of a building based on the different tremors from the walls, pillars, and foundation.

She analyzed the situation carefully and said, “We have to go to the southwest corner of the building. There are a few really huge spaces over there. The walls, ceiling, and floors have been strengthened in unique ways. There are steel plates carved with runic symbols and other defensive measures in them. They should be there to prevent monsters from fleeing.”

“Also, the location coincides with the spot we saw just now. You know, the end of the corridor with the really tight defense.”

“If my guess is correct, that should be the preparation room for the monster fighting squads.”

As she spoke, Lu Siya removed her sunglasses and earrings. She sucked in a deep breath, and her face instantly turned stark pale.

Meng Chao knew that she had just used her talent as a Spirit Sensor to search for information on the basement in the southwest corner.

However, due to the stimulation from the Red Radiance Jades increasing her ability, she could not use her talent at will and control it properly. Every time she gathered information from her target, a large amount of other unnecessary information would surge into her brain, such as the crowd shouting at the top of their lungs, the stench of blood gushing out of the monsters' bodies, and other such details.

"Are you okay?" Meng Chao supported her with familiar movements.

"I'm fine. I just wanted to listen closely to the voices in the preparation room." Lu Siya narrowed her eyes and listened for a while with her ear turned in that direction. "I was right. I can hear a lot of monsters rubbing their claws and gnashing their teeth. They're also scratching at the walls. I can also hear the sounds of the chains binding their limbs knocking into each other. There's a lot of growling too. That is indeed the place where the monsters are locked.

"Wait. There's a set of footsteps. They belong to a human, but sound really strange.

"He or she is clearly a human, but those footsteps are really heavy and stiff. They're like... mechanical prosthetics!"

Lu Siya and Meng Chao exchanged a glance.

Without a doubt, there was a person with a set of mechanical prosthetic legs in Black Bone's monster preparation room.

Who else would it be other than Small Insect, whose legs were crushed and rendered useless?

"What should we do now?" Meng Chao mouthed to Lu Siya. "Do we use Poison Scorpion to negotiate with Black Bone and have them hand the person over?"

"Impossible." Lu Siya shook her head gently. "Small Insect is Black Bone's golden goose. There's no way they will hand him over just because of a single sentence from Poison Scorpion. That's the same as them ruining their own brand.

"There are just too many ways to make a person completely disappear in a lair. Black Bone just needs to deny it, then throw Small Insect into the depths of the lair to make sure that there is no proof of them keeping him around. Unless we break down the hundreds of buildings here and filter through the hundreds of thousands or even millions of people,, we won't be able to find Small Insect.

"And if we cause a ruckus, the main instigator and mastermind in Heavenly Works Machines, who is hiding behind Jin Yongqiang, might try to kill us to silence us, and that will be problematic.

"To prevent future problems, we have to capture Small Insect right now and get his testimony as quickly as possible so that we can solve the case.

"... Wait. The door was opened. The person stomping around with the mechanical legs has walked out. He didn't come out with the monsters but walked out alone into the corridor. Where is he going?"

Lu Siya's mind raced. She quickly analyzed the structure of the building, and her eyes lit up.

“He went to the toilet!

“The toilets on the first floor and in the basement are at the same location. They’re both at the end of the corridor behind us. Small Insect went to the toilet alone!

“This is a rare chance! We have to seize the chance now and take him without anyone noticing us. This is the only way!”

As she spoke, she jumped up and ran to the toilet.

Meng Chao followed her. “What if we made the wrong guess and the person is not Small Insect?”

While running, Lu Siya said, “Then, I will have to activate my spirit energy magnetic field of a five-star superhuman and apologize to him sincerely.”

“Where are the elites from the abnormal beast research department? We’re already at this stage of the mission, so they should be showing up now, right?”

“They’re here. They’re lurking around the building,” Lu Siya said. “If it’s possible, don’t alert anyone. We want to end the fight in ten seconds. This Small Insect is a vet and a pharmacist. He shouldn’t have a lot of fighting strength. We’re more than enough to instantly subdue him.”

Meng Chao gritted his teeth and asked the third question. “But how are we going to break into the toilet in the basement from the toilet on the first floor?”

“Like this!”

Lu Siya brought Meng Chao to the entrance of the toilet on the first floor.

Meng Chao pushed the door of the men’s toilet open, took a look, came back, and said softly, “There’s someone inside.”

Lu Siya pushed the door of the women’s toilet open and took a look. Then, she dragged Meng Chao inside.

She pressed her hands tightly against the floor of the women’s toilet while chanting. Spirit tattoos showed up on her arms. As spirit energy surged into the floor, she changed the atomic structure of the reinforced concrete. The floor, which had a diameter of more than half a meter, instantly turned into gravel, and a hole opened up.

The toilet in the basement was prepared for the staff of the monster fighting squads. Normal people seldom used it, and at that moment, there was no one in the women’s toilet under them.

They jumped into the hole, and from the women’s toilet on the first floor, they entered the women’s toilet at the first basement floor.

When they pushed the door open and walked out, they were just in time to see the door of the men’s toilet open up. A man with his legs replaced by mechanical legs walked out.

He was on the slightly chubby side, and his skin sagged. His face was puffy and pale. If anyone looked at him closely, they would see that he suffered from slight edema. They could also see traces of cuts left by

scalpels and stitches on his face, which made his expression a little unnatural. He appeared to have gone through plastic surgery.

When he saw Meng Chao and Lu Siya walking out of the women's toilet, he was stunned for a moment before he came to a conclusion as to what they had been doing, and he gave them a lecherous smile.

Meng Chao and Lu Siya smiled a little. One of them stared at his hands, and the other stared at his expression.

"Small Insect, it's been discovered what you did!" Lu Siya took a step forward and blocked his path. "Jin Yongqiang is already dead, and the next one will be you!"

The man's expression changed swiftly.

He looked in the direction of the preparation room and forced out a smile. "You got the wrong person—"

"It's him!" Meng Chao said. "There are traces of corrosion from monster acid and drugs on his fingers. He's either a vet or a pharmacist!"

"That's right. Plastic surgery can change your looks, but it can't hide your expressions," Lu Siya said. "You're lying. You're Small Insect!"

Small Insect screeched. He shoved at them and tried to flee to the preparation room.

Lu Siya smirked coldly. She snapped her fingers, and the floor under his feet immediately became bumpy. He could not control his feet on an uneven surface because it had not been long since he had started using the mechanical legs, and the next instant, he fell face flat on the floor.

Meng Chao stepped on his spine so that he could not let out a single sound.

However, against their expectations, it was not over. Small Insect pressed a button on his waist, and a piercing alarm rang out in the preparation room at the end of the corridor and from his waist.

Eight armed and built men immediately rushed out of the preparation room and charged at Meng Chao and Lu Siya like hungry tigers.

### **Chapter 298: Critical Moment**

"Let's go!"

Lu Siya pulled at Meng Chao, who grabbed Small Insect. They went inside the women's toilet again.

With their superhumans' strength, it would not be difficult for them to use force to subjugate the gang members.

But this was a lair, and many of the citizens were connected to the gangs. They shared a relationship that if one of them fired a signal, everyone would come to help them.

If the two were surrounded by thousands of people, then even if Lu Siya could now go against gravity and fly, it would still be difficult for her to escape.

Besides, the gang members were not suspects. They were also not out-of-control superhumans or human-shaped monsters. In theory, they were all good citizens who obeyed the law. Be it Poison Scorpion, Black Bone, or even the infamous Golden Tooth, these were all just names used to refer to the gangs in private. On official documents, they were registered as Ping Pong Club, Movie Lovers' Exchange Club, Reading Club, and whatnot.

Joining a reading club was not a crime.

Organizing illegal monster fights was also not a major crime.

Meng Chao and Lu Siya could not kill the built men as they pleased.

So, Lu Siya could only snap her fingers again.

She summoned eight spikes from the floor and used them as a fence to block off the corridor, which would stall the group when they rushed up.

Together with Meng Chao, she then pushed Small Insect into the women's toilet on the first floor.

At that moment, a few women had already entered the women's toilet on the first floor. They were examining the hole in the floor when they saw someone crawling out of the hole. They screamed.

"Meng Chao!" One of them was a woman with a really curvaceous body. While she screamed, she pointed at Meng Chao's face. "You're Lin Chuan's assistant, Meng Chao!"

It would seem that she was also a loyal admirer of the Weeping Reaper.

Meng Chao sighed in his heart.

When a person became famous, they were afraid of the troubles their recognition would cause, just like how a pig would be afraid of being slaughtered after it was fattened up.

However, Meng Chao did not have time to hide his face. The Black Bone members underground had already rushed to the women's toilet at the first basement floor.

Before they could use any lightness skills and jump up, Lu Siya activated her mine explorer's ability and sealed off most of the hole.

One of the unfortunate Black Bone members was halfway through jumping out of the hole when he got stuck. He yelped and his legs flailed around in the basement.

Soon, the sounds of people pushing at each other came from the hall on the first floor.

As if they had knocked on a hornet's nest, a large group of Black Bone members charged at them like hornets.

Meng Chao and Lu Siya grabbed Small Insect by the arms and jumped out the window of the women's toilet.

With just a few steps, they ended up in a maze that was as complicated as a spider's web.



The buildings around them were packed as densely as in a hornet's nest, and all of them looked practically the same. Curious faces looked out of the windows and stared at them closely. It made their skins crawl.

In less than half a minute, the Black Bone members caught up to them, since they were familiar with the place.

Lu Siya had to stop and turn around to activate her skill. She summoned spikes again and blocked off their pursuers in the shabby street.

She also released the imposing aura of a Heaven Realm elite in order to intimidate those Black Bone members.

But the Black Bone members did not fall for her trick. After all, those who are unreasonable aren't afraid of those who would throw away their lives in desperation, so they believed Lu Siya would not really attack them. They gritted their teeth and forced their way through the intersecting spikes.

Meng Chao continued to run forward with Small Insect in his arms.

But after taking only a few steps forward, he felt a sharp gaze on his back.

When he turned his head around, he noticed a strange, silver glare flashing behind a window across from him.

"Sniper!"

Meng Chao cursed. He could not tell whether the person would dare to fire, and he was not willing to let someone else decide his fate based on their rationale. He swung his arm, and his sleeve flapped. His fingers shook, and a scalpel drew a shrill arc that let out a whistle even sharper than that of a bullet. It went straight to the scope of the sniper rifle. The scalpel's power was just perfect. It got stuck in the scope after piercing it. There was only half an inch to the person's eyeball.

It was a warning.

If the sniper ignored it, Meng Chao was confident that he could use another scalpel to pierce his eyeball and brain.

The sniper had never seen such amazing knife throwing skills before.

Just as Meng Chao expected, he was so terrified that he shrank back and did not dare to show his face again.

But at the moment Meng Chao was distracted, Small Insect, who had been staying obediently in his grip, suddenly struggled fiercely.

Thud!

Brilliant flames shot out from beneath his mechanical legs, and he nearly burned Meng Chao's leg hair.

He used the reverse thrust from his "rocket legs" to break free of Meng Chao's grip and fly five meters away while remaining close to the ground.

Meng Chao did not think that there would be such a mechanism hidden in Small Insect's mechanical legs. He quickly tossed his chain sabers forward, but it was already too late. Small Insect used his advantage of being familiar with the terrain and the help of his "rocket legs" to fly upwards until he was as high as the third floor. Then, with a few jumps, he fled to a roof.

"After him!"

Meng Chao and Lu Siya looked at each other. One of them flung his chain saber, and the other activated the maglev power of Heaven Realm elites. They jumped on the roof at the same time.

Small Insect had already jumped over a few buildings with the help of his mechanical legs, and Meng Chao and Lu Siya rushed after him. The distance between them swiftly drew closer.

Meng Chao threw his chain sabers forward, and every time he did so, he grazed Small Insect's mechanical legs, which created sparks.

Soon, there were no more buildings ahead of Small Insect with a close height difference. He could no longer escape.

Small Insect suddenly shouted. He jumped and fell down from a height of more than ten floors.

Meng Chao ran over to look and saw him using the flames at the end of his legs to buffer his fall a few times. He then crashed into piles of trash, which made them fly everywhere. Even though he looked really pathetic, he was unharmed and could still run.

Meng Chao cursed. He jumped down as well and threw his chain sabers while in midair. They drew a long gash on the outer wall of the building. He used this method to reduce the impact of his fall, and in the end, he managed to land as lightly as a panther.

When he looked up, he noticed that there was a really disorganized pet market in front of him.

The pets sold in it were naturally not the legal pets which had gone through strict modification procedures, like the ones sold at Spirit Creation Creatures, which had been approved by the government.

Instead, they used all sorts of biochemical modification technologies to ruthlessly modify various creatures until they turned into real monsters.

Of course, since the lair was a place with a dense population and really cramped living spaces, the pet sellers had to ensure the basic safety of their wares.

Otherwise, before the adjudicator court or investigation departments would come over to condemn them, the gangs in the lair would drop by to create trouble.

Hence, the strange-looking pets lay around quietly in the barb-covered cages.

However, when Small Insect noticed that Meng Chao stuck to him like a shadow and refused to let go no matter what, he gritted his teeth and swung his arm. It activated a hidden mechanism in his sleeve, which fired a poisoned dart. It went straight to a seemingly obedient Iron-armored Rhinoceros.

After the creature was hit, its eyes almost instantly became bloodshot.

Even the air that came out of its nostrils turned burning red.

It struggled madly, and the chains tying its neck to the ground started rattling.

No matter how its owner tried to appease it or force it to calm down by using a stun baton to stab its bum, it still went on a rampage. While kicking around with its legs, it even sent its owner flying.

The owner coughed up blood, and the pet market descended into chaos.

“That bastard!” Meng Chao was shocked and enraged.

But this made him certain that Small Insect was definitely the vet cum pharmacist who was related to the case of pets murdering their owners at Blessed Paradise.

He had to have seen the news and online articles and realized that he had ended up causing a major problem by helping Jin Yongqiang. If he left the lair, not even God would be able to save him.

That was why he hid such a diabolical mechanism on his body. He used a drug that could make monsters go even wilder compared to the mutated rabies virus to stop his pursuers.

“Stop that raging Iron-armored Rhinoceros. Don’t let it hurt innocent citizens!” Meng Chao shouted at Lu Siya, who was just behind him.

He gritted his teeth and ran forward before he lunged around twenty meters forward. Like a flying arrow, he pounced on Small Insect and pinned him to the ground.

“You can’t escape anymore!” Meng Chao punched Small Insect’s face, turning it to a bloody mess.

Small Insect was pinned firmly against the ground. But even as blood flowed down his face, he smiled strangely. With a thud, the parts below the knees of his mechanical legs shot out like cannonballs. They landed on the pet stalls on the sides of the street and, with sizzling sounds, released a large amount of pungent-smelling gas.

‘A drug that makes monsters go berserk, and it’s in a gaseous state!’

Meng Chao sucked in a breath of that strange gas, and his pupils shrank.

He did not expect that Small Insect would be so despicable. He actually hid such a sinister thing in his mechanical legs. It would stimulate dozens of biochemical pets in one go and turn them into fierce monsters!

Just as expected, the biochemical pets started howling in the pungent-smelling gas. They sounded increasingly more wild with every passing second.

They tore at the chains with every bit of their strength and yanked at the iron hoops embedded into the ground. Some even used their sharp claws and teeth to rip off their pelts so that their deformed, swelled-up muscles would be seen by the citizens, who were already screaming and shouting.

“Where are the elites from the abnormal beast research department?!” Meng Chao shouted at Lu Siya, who had just subjugated the Iron-armored Rhinoceros.

Lu Siya found herself speechless.

There were already around eight wild pets who had rushed into the crowd and started attacking the people.

The environment was too complicated and there were too many people around. Once these wild pets rushed into the crowd, the consequences would be dire. She could not use her spikes to stop them.

Lu Siya was so angry that she kicked Small Insect's head.

She put so much strength in it that his teeth fell to the ground. It would appear that they were fake teeth. All his real teeth were probably pulled out by Black Bone.

At that critical moment, they heard thuds coming from behind them. They were faint but rhythmic.

Bloody fountains gushed out of the wild pets' eyes at the same time.

Without shocking or harming any innocent citizens, the attacks made the wild pets sway and fall to the ground.

It was not just blood and brains that gushed out of their eye sockets. Black smoke and deep-purple flames followed after them.

By the looks of it, the items that killed them were not normal bullets. They had been injected with spirit energy that was as hot as magma, and it instantly fried their brains.

Small Insect's strange smile instantly froze.

Lu Siya was also stunned for a moment, then her expression turned really sour.

A man with a hook nose walked toward them from the depths of the pet market with his hands in the pockets of his trenchcoat.

"Adjudicator, Shen Yupeng!" Lu Siya spat out coldly.

### **Chapter 299: Do Both Things Simultaneously**

Shen Yupeng was a superhuman whom the adjudicator court decided to elect as both a secret police officer and adjudicator. He had two forms of authority and the right to act before reporting to his higher ups.

In theory, he had the right to investigate all superhuman criminal cases, regardless of the grade of the case. Of course, he also had absolute brute strength as his backup, which allowed him to have the confidence to subjugate out-of-control superhumans without it resulting in severe collateral damage. He protected the Supernatural Tower's dignity as well as ensured Dragon City's safety.

This was the true meaning behind adjudicators.

Even though his looks were really similar to those of his cousin, Shen Yupeng gave off a completely different presence compared to Shen Yulong, who died tragically under Raging Waves.

When the man with the hook nose walked over slowly, he did not even pull out his hands from his pockets. Even so, all people and even the biochemical pets, who had sucked in the gas that made them go wild, fell completely silent.

At that moment, the Black Bone members had already caught up.

When they sensed Shen Yupeng and Lu Siya's presence, which were completely different from theirs, they paused and looked around. Small Insect seemed to have caused a ruckus, and dozens of guns were directed at their brows from the dark. The sharpshooters did not even bother hiding their murderous intent.

Shen Yupeng arrived beside Lu Siya and Meng Chao and reached out with two fingers to pick up Small Insect. He then shouted to the Black Bone members. "This person is one of the main instigators in the case of the pets murdering their owners in Blessed Paradise. He fired gas that makes pets go wild in an attempt to cause dozens of biochemical pets to go berserk. This put hundreds of innocent citizens in danger, and he also tried to destroy the order in Golden Tooth Lair.

"Is he a member of Black Bone? Will Black Bone be responsible for all that he did?"

The Black Bone members looked at each other, but none of them spoke.

"I'm going to ask again."

Shen Yupeng's eyes shone with a bright spark. They were like spotlights burning at hundreds of degrees Celsius while fixed on the Black Bone members.

"Is he a member of Black Bone?" he asked fiercely. "Does Black Bone want the secret police to take up arms and organize a search for the top ten wanted criminals of Dragon City in Golden Tooth Lair, which is the territory of Black Bone, Poison Scorpion, and Golden Tooth? Do you want us to stop the operations of the monster colosseums, finance companies, and everyone else's businesses for three months?"

Under his intimidating presence, the Black Bone members retreated nonstop.

At that moment, a person with a ridiculous tattoo of two black bones intersecting with each other like a cross on his face received a call.

He appeared to be a leader. After he obsequiously agreed to certain things, he hung up and shouted at Shen Yupeng, "He's not a member of Black Bone. We don't know who he is."

"Big Brother Huang—" Small Insect shouted.

But his voice was silenced by Shen Yupeng's fist.

"If that's the case, why are you still here?" Shen Yupeng asked the Black Bone members with a smile.

Soon, the Black Bone members disappeared without a trace.

Before leaving, they even sensibly compensated the damages the pet sellers suffered after their animals were killed.

Shen Yupeng grabbed Small Insect to carry him under his armpit and said to Lu Siya and Meng Chao, "Let's go."

"Wait!" Lu Siya glared at him. "This is a criminal the abnormal beast research department wants to investigate!"

“Oh?” Shen Yupeng did not even bat an eyelid. He said faintly, “I’m sorry. I didn’t know that the abnormal beast research department has released an arrest order for this suspect.”

Lu Siya found herself speechless.

Shen Yupeng continued, “Of course, the abnormal beast research department has just been built. It’s also a safety department at the same rank as the adjudicator court, so it has the right to execute its authority before reporting to the higher ups.

“So, has the Survival Committee or the Supernatural Tower given the abnormal beast research department any power in regard to the case of murderous pets in Blessed Paradise and allowed you to participate in it?”

Lu Siya could not say anything about it.

“And of course, it’s fine even if you don’t have an arrest warrant or authorization documents when you run into unique, emergency cases that threaten the safety and stability of Dragon City. As long as you have enough power and can handle the situation, it’s fine.”

Shen Yupeng’s expression was relaxed. He smirked at Lu Siya. “Did you have enough brute strength to bring this guy out of Golden Tooth Lair without harming any innocents while ensuring that not a single hair on this person’s head is harmed?”

Lu Siya was so angry that her face turned red. She was practically fuming.

Shen Yupeng’s expression became stern. He brought out a few documents that had just been printed from his trenchcoat. The ink was still very fresh. “This is our arrest warrant for the suspect, Mr. Liao, and these are the authorization documents for my secret police and adjudicator squad, which is led by me. We are charged with investigating the case of the murderous pets in Blessed Paradise.

“As for absolute strength... I believe I won’t need to display it, will I, Ms. Lu?”

More than ten black figures jumped down from the hornet-nest-like buildings behind Shen Yupeng.

Some of them landed behind Shen Yupeng. They were all secret police and adjudicators who were fully armed and had camouflage paint on their faces.

Their vitality magnetic fields burned like flames and silently spoke of their strength.

Some of the black figures flashed past the area and continued guarding from the dark. They were in positions that would allow them to fire in crossfire.

They were a powerful squad and were much more powerful than Lu Siya alone.

“Now, are you still going to insist that this criminal is yours?” Shen Yupeng smiled, turned around elegantly, and strode away.

“Wow...” Meng Chao gasped in amazement as he looked at Shen Yupeng’s tall and mighty back. “He’s so cool. He absolutely fits my image of a secret police officer and adjudicator!”

“You...” Lu Siya seethed. She was unable to understand it. “How could this be? How did Shen Yupeng manage to arrive ahead of us and appear here in such a timely fashion? He even managed to find out Small Insect’s real surname!

“It has been less than twelve hours since we dissected the three corpses, and we were the first ones to discover the super Giant Sandworm as we;; as the first ones to see the examination reports. Once we found the clues, we fought against time and rushed here. We didn’t waste even half a second!

“Shen Yupeng had absolutely no reason to be here, unless someone leaked our secret. There is definitely no one from my side who leaked our secret. Damn it! Did you tell someone else about this?”

“That depends on your definition of someone else.” Meng Chao thought about it. “I told Shen Yupeng directly. Does he count as ‘someone else’?”

“What?!” Lu Siya screeched.

At that moment, Shen Yupeng had already given instructions to his secret police squad to retreat and returned to look for Meng Chao while feeling incredibly happy.

“Big Brother Shen, as expected of a legendary adjudicator! You really live up to your name!” Meng Chao thanked him sincerely. “It’s all thanks to you appearing in time, or else, the consequences would have been dire. Dozens and even hundreds of innocent citizens might have died.”

“That’s nothing. This is what I should do,” Shen Yupeng said with a smile. “I should be the one thanking you, Meng Chao. Thank you for fulfilling the duty of a good citizen and handing us the clues about the suspect. You also worked together with us to help us enforce the law, and in the end, we managed to catch the criminal.

“We can’t be sure what relationship Small Insect has to the case of the murderous pets in Blessed Paradise, but based on the number of poisonous mechanisms and drugs he was hiding on him and how he used them without hesitation, there is definitely something wrong with this person. We might have a shocking case on our hands!”

“Of course, every citizen is duty-bound to work together with the related departments to protect Dragon City’s safety.” Meng Chao turned his neck and dug in his ear gently to pull out a mini in-ear communicator. He also brought out a tracking chip from the area around his heart, which was charged by his body temperature and heartbeat. “I’ll return these to you. The advanced technology of the secret police is really useful. They’re only the size of a grain, but I could hear your voice really clearly just now. I didn’t notice any interference at all.”

“Your courage and wits are the reason why you managed to get so much information about the suspect and could locate him,” Shen Yupeng said with a smile. “Honestly, Meng Chao, regardless of whether it’s your performance at the northern frontlines or the operation today, you don’t act like a normal university student at all. I’m beginning to admire you even more now. Once I bring Small Insect back, are you interested in coming over for supper with my squad? We can get to know each other.”

“Sure!” Meng Chao said readily. “I really want to learn more from you and your colleagues. Based on how all of you attacked practically at the same time from different angles and killed dozens of berserk pets instantly, I can tell just how well-trained you all are.”

The secret police officers and adjudicators behind Shen Yupeng had been praised before, but it was another matter to be praised by the super teenage hero who had risen to fame during the northern offense and managed to shine brilliantly in the tournament between the alliance of the five universities and Dragon City University.

The squad smiled and nodded at him.

Meng Chao returned their smiles and acted in a very friendly manner.

Lu Siya watched him in dumbfounded silence. She felt as if she had been struck by lightning and staggered a few steps back. She nearly fell to the side.

“Big Sis Ya, are you okay?” While talking to Shen Yupeng, Meng Chao was still paying attention to Lu Siya’s condition. He quickly helped her regain her footing and whispered, “You should put on your sunglasses and earrings. It’s too noisy here, and the smell isn’t too pleasant. It might affect your constitution as a Spirit Sensor.”

“I’m not suffering from sensory overload. I’m reacting this way because I’m angry at you!” Lu Siya gritted her teeth, but she could not yell in front of Shen Yupeng. She could only grab Meng Chao’s arm and drag him to the back of the crowd and growl at him. “Since when were you in cahoots with Shen Yupeng?”

“Since I was on the phone with you and you told me to avoid Shen Yupeng,” Meng Chao told her honestly. He slowly walked forward to not lose Shen Yupeng, who had started moving, from his sight.

Lu Siya could not believe it. “Why?”

Meng Chao hesitated for a moment. “Do you really want the truth? I’m afraid that the moment I tell you, we won’t be able to remain friends.”

Lu Siya was seething. “Do you think that we can still be friends after this?”

“That’s true...” Meng Chao nodded and spoke to her honestly. “Because my instincts tell me that you’re ambitious, self-righteous, and will do anything to achieve your goals.

“To take revenge for Big Brother Lin, you’re eager to climb up the ranks of the abnormal beast research department within the shortest time possible, and for that you need to beautifully solve a few major cases

“From the moment you bribed people to do what you wanted, I knew that you don’t have a skilled squad in the abnormal beast research department. If you really summoned elite reinforcements, your achievements would be split with others, and this is something you couldn’t tolerate.

“So, I was highly suspicious that you were lying to me and had no reinforcements. You were taking the risk on your own and deceiving me, an innocent, kind, and somewhat dumb university student, to come and play the lone hero in Golden Tooth Lair with you.

“I don’t mind being deceived, but Golden Tooth Lair is really dangerous, and if the suspect got forced into a corner, we might have hundreds of innocent citizens injured. This is something I can’t accept.



“So, I could only ask for help from Shen Yupeng. After all, he’s an elite from the adjudicator court and is in charge of this case. Besides, if we had two squads acting together, the chances of us catching the criminal would be higher.

“That’s the general gist of things. But, if I wronged you and you actually have reinforcements from the abnormal beast research department, you should ask those elites to come out now. I’ll apologize to you sincerely, and you can punish me however you want.”

### **Chapter 300: Golden Tooth**

Meng Chao’s gaze was clear as he stared into Lu Siya’s eyes.

Lu Siya had to squash her anger.

Naturally, she could not summon even a single elite fighter.

“So, you’re the one who deceived me first, right?” Meng Chao said cordially. “When I asked you on the phone as to whether you can get reinforcements, you told me that you will get a squad of elites from the abnormal beast research department to ensure that everything proceeds safely.”

“But...” Lu Siya took a moment to take hold of her anger before she said, “We could capture Small Insect on our own. Why did you let someone else snatch the credit?! We had actually captured him!”

“But at what price?” Meng Chao retorted. “If Shen Yupeng hadn’t brought his secret police officers and adjudicators, how many innocent citizens would have been injured by these biochemical pets that Small Insect enraged?”

“Also, you can see that we’re surrounded by illegal buildings. They easily catch fires and collapse. How could you ensure that the biochemical pets wouldn’t create any tragedies?”

“Perhaps to you, the deaths of dozens or even a hundred innocent citizens is a price you can accept as long as you can capture a crucial suspect. It reminds me of how you led the mine exploration team into an unidentified lake with a Lion Dragon Fish in it just to get the first mining rights for the Red Radiance Jade mine. In the end, your entire team was almost wiped out.

“But no matter what, those mine explorers had signed a contract with you, so they knew full well the dangers of coming with you.

“But the citizens here live here because they’re poor, were born here, or have other reasons. They should not become the ‘price’ you have to pay.

“I know that you have a lot of money and connections that allow you to use extraordinary methods to handle things. I believe that even if a tragedy really happened here, you would be able to give compensation fees that are high enough to satisfy the victims’ families. You would also be able to handle the forces of power in Golden Tooth Lair. Then, you would be a step ahead of the secret police and beautifully handle a case that is connected to many major parties. In the end, everybody would be satisfied.

“But the dead can’t talk, and they can’t express their anger or happiness.

"I'm sorry, but this just isn't the way I do things. I can't let a tragedy happen right in front of my eyes. If you really created one, I'm afraid there's no way we would be able to work together again in the future. You might even become my eternal enemy.

"That is why I had to go to Shen Yupeng and... make some preparations beforehand."

Lu Siya stared at Meng Chao for a long time before she sucked in a deep breath. "So, Shen Yupeng knew about our findings before we even entered Golden Tooth Lair?"

"Correct. He brought a well-trained squad of secret police officers and adjudicators through another entrance," Meng Chao said. "When we were investigating Jin Yongqiang's social network and locked down on Small Insect, he conducted a search for information and organized it.

"He also contacted Black Bone and Golden Tooth to have them work with us. Otherwise, how would it have been possible for us to leave Black Bone Colosseum so easily after the ruckus we caused there?"

Lu Siya fell silent. Then, she said, "So, right from the beginning, you didn't trust me."

Meng Chao scratched his head. "But you never showed me any reason to trust you! Did you actually think that a male university student like me, who is passionate and has no experience in society, would be utterly bewitched after seeing a fair-skinned, busty, long-legged, rich, mysterious woman like you who is older than me by a few years and gives off the charm of a mature woman? Did you think that I would become stupid and worship your high heels without any conditions?"

Lu Siya glared at Meng Chao fiercely and gritted her teeth before she hissed, "Since you think that I think self-righteous, ambitious, and will do anything to achieve my goals, why did you work with me and even treat me as your friend?"

"The law doesn't say that I can't become friends and work together with a woman who is self-righteous, ambitious, and will do anything to achieve her goals!" Meng Chao said matter-of-factly.

Lu Siya was so angry that she was rendered speechless.

She was about to fly off into a rage, but Shen Yupeng suddenly stopped moving ahead of them.

They had arrived at an incredibly narrow and dark alley.

There were few windows on the sides of the buildings, and they were painted black, which was a seldom seen color on the outer walls of buildings. It felt like it was an alley stuck between two cliffs.

Meng Chao raised his head and sensed an incredibly domineering presence behind a window at the seventh or eighth floor.

He was momentarily dazed. He felt like he was meeting a lion who was so old that its fur had fallen off, but its claws were still sharp and looked brand new. It led its pride, and they stood at the sides of the cliffs while staring coldly at the prey beneath them.

"Ms. Jin, I've found the person. Thankfully, we didn't cause too much trouble. May we leave now?" Shen Yupeng asked while looking up.

Meng Chao felt his heart freeze.

The person who was watching them from above was the leader of the largest gang in Golden Tooth Lair—Golden Tooth.

He was a living legend. He had an exciting life full of colorful experiences during the half a century Dragon City struggled in the Other World.

Ever since Dragon City transmigrated to the Other World, faced the zombie crisis and the collapse of order, the gangs gained a completely different meaning compared to the time on Earth.

While zombies, viruses, monsters, and out-of-control superhumans ran rampant outside, gangs were the only things that protected the safe havens of the lairs. They were the successors of an ancient chivalrous and righteous spirit.

The man who was addressed as Mr. Jin by Shen Yupeng stood up during the ruthless, tumultuous era, because he was required to do so.

It was said that he was among the first batch of people infected by the zombie virus but who did not mutate nor die. Instead, he was one of the lucky few who had the seal in his genes removed.

It was said that once he yanked off a large, golden horn from a Golden-horned Beast that had wandered into Dragon City and ground it until it became a golden saber that looked like a fang. That was the origin of his name, Golden Tooth, and it spread like wildfire.

Legends also had it that Golden Tooth Saber had killed more than ten thousand zombies and monsters. He had also defeated all the leaders in more than one hundred hornet-nest-shaped buildings, which made them submit to him. He could then clear the tunnels connecting the hornet-nest-shaped buildings, strengthen them, fuse them together, and build the largest lair in Dragon City, which had lasted until the present day.

During the bloodiest and darkest era in Dragon City, hundreds of thousands of people were protected in his lair. With him around, they did not need to worry about their lives.

The superhumans whose spirit energy invaded their brains and made them lose control over their spirits and nerves had to keep themselves in check when they arrived at his territory. Otherwise, his Golden Tooth Saber would pierce their skulls, regardless of the fact that it was the toughest bone in the body.

At that time, he was not as famous as Battle God Lei Zongchao, but he was a good person who protected the people in his territory. He could not be considered a hero, but at the very least, he was a good man.

Unfortunately, not all pioneers could seize the pulse of time and change with it.

Many other powerful fighters who had a similar background to Mr. Jin appeared. With keen senses, they noticed the fierce trend that would lead to the change of times, and they knew that it would soon crush lairs and gangs.

They immediately followed the waves of change and took the initiative to change their gangs into corporations, then used those corporations to eat up other corporations to turn them into mega corporations, and under the eyes of Battle God Lei Zongchao, those mega corporations formed the

Survival Committee. They built the Supernatural Tower to manage all superhumans, so all the scattered forces of power in Dragon City would become focused in one organization.

Many people rode the wind and rose to power at that time. They shot up the ranks and became the leaders of mega corporations, famous figures in the Survival Committee, or even mayoral candidates who competed in the elections in a dignified manner.

There were also those who were attacked overtly and covertly and could not rise back to their feet. They sank into obscurity or died mysterious deaths. Their power, wealth, and forces of power were scattered into the wind and disappeared without a trace.

While all that was happening, Mr. Jin hid in his Golden Tooth Lair and coldly watched the world change.

Thirty years after the creation of the Survival Committee, he was like a living fossil. No matter how the outside world attacked him, he remained standing tall and did not fall.

Dealing with Mr. Jin and his Golden Tooth was always a major problem for the Survival Committee and the Supernatural Tower.

First, he had a long record of serving the city and was an outstanding figure from the same generation as Battle God Lei Zongchao. He had countless disciples and was involved in various industries. His influence was such that he could not fall, or else, with how complicated his spheres of influence were, things would become extremely chaotic.

Second, at the start of the zombie crisis and Monster War, he had contributed to the city by defending it. Countless citizens had managed to avoid being infected by the viruses and the attacks of the zombies and monsters by hiding in Golden Tooth Lair, which he built. It was not an exaggeration to say that he had saved hundreds of thousands of citizens.

But it was also a fact that he held half of Golden Tooth Lair and used the place as his base. He was in control of more than 30% of Dragon City's gray market and refused to accept any plans to modify the lair, so Golden Tooth Lair gradually turned into a malignant tumor sitting on Dragon City's heart.

What was even more troublesome was that no one knew just how much fighting power Mr. Jin had.

Decades ago, he was an infamous powerful fighter at the peak of Heaven Realm.

The pioneers who cultivated spirit energy during the early stages of their transmigration to Dragon City did not have any scientific method to cultivate spirit energy. They relied on their instincts and used simple but crude methods to change their bodies, which led to a lot of internal injuries. They sometimes were so severe that it endangered their brains and central nervous systems, which made it very easy for them to go through spirit energy deviation and loss of cultivation base.

But the leader of Golden Tooth had not taken part in any fights for years. No one knew whether he had fallen from the peak of Heaven Realm or had taken a step forward and reached Deity Realm.

In such a situation, no one dared to gather their courage and try to kill the master of Golden Tooth Lair.

Fortunately, he had a sense of propriety and did not want to butt into the affairs of the world outside his lair. He only wanted to manage his territory.

Occasionally, he would even work with the Supernatural Tower to hunt down the out-of-control superhumans who had gone overboard and ruined the order between the legal and illegal forces.

He also did his best to ensure the safety of the citizens who came to have fun in Golden Tooth Lair.

And if someone targeted a guest with ill-will, usually, before the police could come, Mr. Jin would take action and find the culprit and execute judgment on him. Then, he would throw the heavily wounded criminal out of Golden Tooth Lair so that the police could do whatever they wanted with him.

In other words, with Mr. Jin and his Golden Tooth Saber, there was basic order in Golden Tooth Lair.

When it came to this veteran who knew the laws of gray areas so well, before the monsters were completely wiped out, even an adjudicator like Shen Yupeng would not dare to easily provoke him.