

Chapter 341: Ghost Tribe of His Previous Life

Meng Chao's eyes shone brilliantly. He said to Qin Hu, "Mr. Hu, you just reminded me of something. There's a huge pool of resources hidden behind hundreds of thousands of broken-star superhumans in Dragon City. If we don't use it properly, it'd be a great waste. But I can't just let you fork out your own money for the renovation of the headquarters."

"You don't have to be concerned about that," Qin Hu said heartily. "Kid, you don't understand. You can only earn money if you're willing to spend."

"Think about it. The main goal of setting up the Broken Star Club is to practice the Ultimate Style. You're not just Mr. Gu's true disciple, but also the promoter with the most charisma. You're also the one who is repairing your main meridians and reaching new cultivation realms the fastest among all the broken-star superhumans. All the broken-star superhumans are using you as their example. It's only natural that you become the club leader of the Broken Star Club."

"But what about me? I joined midway, and I don't even know whether I can be considered a broken-star superhuman. There's no problem if I'm a normal member, but I want to be a director, and if I'm a director when the Broken Star Club really has hundreds of thousands of members, others will inevitably ask what gave me the right to be the director."

"I really have high hopes for the Broken Star Club's development, which is why I'm willing to fork out all my money to take this gamble. Kid, you have to let me fulfill my wish!"

Meng Chao thought about it for a moment and said, "Mr. Hu, this is all armchair strategy right now. It sounds really impressive, but no one knows what sort of problems we'll face when things really start rolling. You might end up with all your money going up in smoke."

"That's nothing. I still have Superstar's shares. We entrusted our backs to each other before. Kid, you won't be able to bear watching me beg for money on the streets, right?" Qin Hu laughed. Suddenly, his expression turned dark, and a spark akin to that of a fierce tiger shone in the depths of his eyes.

He said clearly, "The deal with the White Spirit hasn't ended yet. Practically all of Frenzied Saber died, and I have to take revenge for my friends. Unfortunately, I don't know who the mastermind is yet. I've also lost all my power, but I can use other methods to help a little!"

"I can't do much else, so I want to do my best to make the Broken Star Club grow. If I can gather people from everywhere and obtain clues from all over the city, I might be able to truly figure out something."

Meng Chao's expression changed.

He did not expect that this was Qin Hu's goal.

His mind raced, but he did not suspect Qin Hu's motive in the slightest.

In his previous life, Qin Hu had also managed to survive alone and then stepped on the path of revenge against the White Spirit. He never turned back or wavered.

It did not matter how many flaws Qin Hu had, at the very least, he was a real man.

However, there were certain differences between Meng Chao and Qin Hu when it came to operating the Broken Star Club.

He shook his head and said, “Mr. Hu, if you and I work together with Big Sis Ya, we’ll definitely have the chance to catch the mastermind who created the White Spirit, but when it comes to the Broken Star Club, I don’t intend to earn even a single cent from it.”

Qin Hu was shocked. “What?”

“The Broken Star Club should be a non-profit organization. Its goal is to obtain the friendship and trust from hundreds of thousands of broken-star superhumans. If you want to make it big and strong, you can’t mix in any thoughts of gaining any sort of profit from it.

“There’s nothing wrong with what you said about using the members to do ground marketing, direct selling, and group purchasing. But we have to return all the profit to the members and the normal citizens who trusted the members. Aside from the fees required to maintain the operations of the organization, we can’t earn any money from the Broken Star Club.”

Qin Hu scratched his head. “Then, what should I be aiming for after doing so much hard work and making such a huge deal about this entire thing? Do you really want me to contribute to the citizens?”

“What’s so bad about contributing to society?” Meng Chao smiled faintly. The light in his eyes was incredibly bright. “Mr. Hu, place your sights even further. If we really manage to win over the trust and friendship of hundreds of thousands of broken-star superhumans, then rely on their connections and resources to conduct business beyond the Broken Star Club, we’ll definitely be able to earn money.

“Money isn’t the most important thing in Dragon City and the Other World. You’ve already made a good start, so you should not kill the goose that lays golden eggs for a quick profit. The Broken Star Club can’t be used to earn money. Instead, it should be used to win something that’s even more important.”

“What is it?” Qin Hu asked in shock.

“The future!” Meng Chao said firmly and slapped Qin Hu’s shoulder. He strode outside. “Come, let’s have a good talk with the other directors. I have a piece of good news for all of you.”

Qin Hu thought about it and quickly walked after him. “What good news is it?”

“What does the Broken Star Club lack right now?” Meng Chao asked.

Qin Hu thought about it. “We’ve paid half a year’s worth of rent for the warehouse, and we don’t really need to pay much for the renovations. But we’re facing a severe lack of the Ultimate Style cultivation cabins. The club members come mainly for cultivation, but those cabins are expensive and difficult to buy. I’d like to contribute in that area, but I don’t have that much money!”

“Don’t worry. You don’t need to contribute.” Meng Chao grinned. “It’s all thanks to your hard work that the Broken Star Club has entered the sights of the best in Dragon City. A mysterious elite has donated one million Supernatural Coins and one hundred cultivation cabins to us!”

From that day onwards, Meng Chao felt as if he had returned to the most crucial period of time for Project 1024. He started living a life where he wanted to split one second into two.

First came the training from the abnormal beast research department.

Ye Xiaoxing was really efficient. He found a few instructors for him right away. They were specialists from Agricultural University and also ace lecturers from the University of Technology, University of Science, Medical University, and the military school.

The alliance of the five universities always helped each other to make up for what the others lacked, so elite students going to other universities for an exchange was a common occurrence.

Everyone was in Nine Sands University City, and superhumans could move pretty quickly as well as jump far, so Meng Chao did not waste a lot of time traveling.

The instructors taught him all sorts of things. He learned detailed dissection of superbeast brains, how he should create mental walls with spirit energy magnetic fields to fend against mind control from abnormal beasts, how to use a large number of advanced runic symbol machines and weapons the likes of which Meng Chao had never heard of before, and how he should set up or disassemble biochemical bombs that were made using monster organs as raw materials.

Of course, he also learned how to identify signs, track targets, perform anti-tracking, reconnaissance and anti-reconnaissance, use sociopsychology, histology, and other things.

Based on what Lu Siya told him, these subjects should have been taught slowly over the course of two years. He was supposed to learn from his instructors bit by bit.

But Meng Chao was not an official investigator of the abnormal beast research department. It would be enough if he learned the general concepts.

Regardless of whether it was Captain Ye Xiaoxing of Group 9 or the instructors, they did not have high hopes for Meng Chao. After all, the special training period was short, and he had to focus on many things.

The end result, however, was something that Meng Chao did not know how he should explain to the instructors, Ye Xiaoxing, and Lu Siya.

Perhaps it was because he was exposed to those things during the day, he started dreaming of them at night.

In the special training from the abnormal beast research department, his brain was forcefully injected with a large amount of information in the classes, and once he returned to the Ultimate Style cultivation cabin and entered deep meditation, he had really clear and long dreams.

In his dreams, he saw another training ground. He was receiving special training from the Ghost Tribe in his previous life.

The training courses were on how he should poison, kidnap, assassinate, detonate bombs, spread lies, shift blame, take advantage of chaos, steal during chaos, and other things.

The training he received when he was awake taught him to be the sturdiest shield that would defend the unity, stability, and peace of Dragon City and human civilization as well as find the evil forces lurking in the dark.

But in his dream, the training he received showed him how to become the sharpest spear that would do everything to throw chaos into the unity, stability, and peace of the civilizations of the Other World and become the evil force that lurks in the dark.

'Just what did I do in my previous life?!

As he delved deeper into the training courses during the day, the memories in his dreams became clearer. Meng Chao discovered that practically every day after he woke up, he would remember a brand new skill that was absolutely despicable and ruthless. When he looked at the murderous skills listed by Kindling, his skin crawled and he broke out in cold sweat.

'Looks like there's a reason behind why I was able to drag out my existence until the apocalypse fell upon Dragon City despite being just a third-class fighter when many peerless fighters had died.

'I was old and had serious internal injuries. No matter how much I trained, I couldn't improve any further. That's why I could only learn how to poison, assassinate, set up traps, and lurk in the dark to snipe my targets. That was the only way I could remain alive.

'But Dragon City was in a really bad state in my previous life. We were a human civilization, but for the sake of survival, we used these despicable methods.

"But so what if they're despicable. The point is, even after we used all of them, we still couldn't escape the disaster. This is just... It would have been better if we had caused a huge ruckus and stirred up a storm!'

Meng Chao felt that the sacrifice had not been worth it. He and Dragon City had lost too much with nothing to show for it.

His resolution to change the future became firmer at that moment.

Fortunately, with the memories of his previous life and contribution points, he could digest and absorb the special training courses from the abnormal beast research department.

After he received the training from the Ghost Tribe in his nightmares and returned to reality for the training from the abnormal beast research department, he felt like veteran bandit who had performed all sorts of heinous crimes being asked to catch a thief or an assassin who had killed many targets being asked to be a bodyguard.

He could not say that he could handle the tasks with ease, but at the very least, there were similarities in the courses.

Besides, he could usually think from an angle that no one expected and give answers that stunned his instructors.

Honestly, as he awakened to the memories of his previous life, Meng Chao came to look down on the training course from the abnormal beast research department, but only a little.

In the last half a century, the main threats Dragon City faced were zombies and monsters.

They did not need to use deception techniques when they faced these evil creatures.

The abnormal beast research department had just been formed, and while the members were elites from various fields and law enforcement organizations, none of them had yet figured out an effective solution to facing intelligent monsters or organized abnormal humans and abnormal beasts. They were things that they had never faced before.

Most of the training courses from the abnormal beast research department were copied straight from the adjudicator court. The problem lay in the fact that the enemies the adjudicator court had to deal with were evil superhumans who committed crimes.

Committing crimes and throwing Dragon City into chaos were two different things. Since they just copied the training courses blindly, Meng Chao found them a little unprofessional, since he had experience from the future.

There were plenty of times when Meng Chao could not help but think, 'If I used the skills from the Ghost Tribe to attack the defenses of the abnormal beast research department, I think... I'd have a good chance of succeeding.'

Chapter 342: Speedy Development

Of course, Meng Chao just entertained the thoughts in his head.

He was sure that in his previous life, Dragon City had suffered a major loss against the abnormal beast organization, and the Ghost Tribe learned many of its tricks from it.

If he used them during his training and shocked everyone, it would be too flashy. He might end up catching the attention of the abnormal beast organization.

He had contact with the White Spirit Case and Gao Ye's case. If there was really a huge abnormal beast organization with plans behind these two cases, his name might already be on their black list.

Before he reached Heaven Realm, he should keep a low profile.

Hence, Meng Chao only made sarcastic quips in his mind while he obediently received guidance from the instructors during classes. He only occasionally revealed some outstanding ideas, but it was enough to shock his instructors.

Lu Siya had an even greater understanding of Meng Chao's progress.

After the course to teach him the skills to perform fine dissection of an abnormal beast's brain, Lu Siya became an instructor for a period of time to teach him about the structure of the abnormal beast research department, their operation and fighting methods.

She had heard that Spirit Creation Creatures intended to split up its core asset package and work with Superstar, so she was very interested in this and wanted to have a share in it.

Spirit Creation Creatures was still being monitored and investigated, so it was a rather sensitive business acquisition, and the government required someone from the abnormal beast research department to join the process.

Hence, she began traveling to Nine Sands University City and spent a lot of time with Meng Chao.

He was naturally not as cautious with her as with the other instructors.

Besides, Lu Siya was a Spirit Senser, so when she was in close contact with someone, she could read them in a way that others could not.

For example, she noticed the faint killing intent that spread out from Meng Chao when he was in a dark mood.

She had a much clearer idea of how fast Meng Chao was improving compared to the other instructors, and she also noticed terrifying skills that he sometimes unintentionally revealed.

"I didn't expect this. Compared to stopping the enemy from creating destruction, you seem to be more skilled in creating destruction. In fact, you seem to prefer that. With how you're acting, you're basically born to be a thief, assassin, spy, or terrorist. The abnormal beast research department is wasting your talents!" Lu Siya had once told him.

Meng Chao could only smile wanly at that.

But when he thought about it, once he joined the Ghost Tribe in his previous life, didn't he do the things that thieves, assassins, spies, and terrorists did?

Those were not talents... He just did those things to survive.

'Dragon City suffered a really tragic fate in my previous life!' Meng Chao could not help but sigh. 'Even a good man who is kind, passionate, optimistic, and filled with justice such as me was forced to walk down a ruthless and despicable path. How much more did the other citizens suffer, if that's the case? How could Dragon City not be destroyed if it ended up in that state?!

Fortunately, Lu Siya just mentioned those things without thinking much about them.

After she said them, she even asked him how to kill, lurk in the dark, assassinate targets, and cause destruction. She was full of interest.

They sparred and often switched roles between being the one causing destruction and the one protecting. They performed offensive and defensive drills. Lu Siya was several cultivation realms higher than Meng Chao, but he had experience and skills that surpassed the current era.

In the end, one person was better on one day, but the next ended up a loser. As time passed, both of them learned a lot from each other and neither could differentiate just who was the instructor and who was more skilled and favored destruction more.

Aside from training, Meng Chao spent the rest of his time in the Broken Star Club.

He told Blade Dancer Gu Jianbo about his plans to grow the Broken Star Club, and Gu Jianbo's eyes sparkled at the mention of it. He agreed to it and showed great support.

Gu Jianbo was not a martial arts maniac who only knew how to shut himself up to research martial arts.

When Meng Chao first met him, he was a fatty who had a dandy appearance.

In Meng Chao's previous life, he had persevered alone, even if he suffered a lot of setbacks during his experiments. He was able to get sponsors, and in the end, he managed to create the Ultimate Style.

This showed that he was someone who knew how to handle people, had a lot of connections, and his promises to get sponsors were topnotch.

Ma Hong, the course rep of the martial arts refresher course, had also shared that before Meng Chao arrived, Gu Jianbo often went to mingle among the rich and powerful to get funds for his research. He was really skilled in riding the coattails of rich women.

They were all connections that the Broken Star Club could use.

Meng Chao's suggestion delighted Gu Jianbo because the Ultimate Style could not spread in the way he wanted.

It was true that through the northern offense, Agricultural University's martial arts course increased its support for the Ultimate Style, and right now, the Ultimate Style was something the entire city knew. Compared to the same month last year, it was as if they were living in different worlds.

But the fact that everyone knew it and was interested in trying it out did not mean that all superhumans were willing to throw money into it and use it as the main cultivation model.

The Overkill Style, Machine Armor Style, Gun Fighting Style, Beast Soul Style, and all other martial arts had been developed for at least twenty years before they gained a solid foundation and a huge number of practitioners. Their interest groups were deeply entangled with each other.

Even if everything was ignored and the focus was put on the martial arts training courses in society, there were so many of them trying to earn a living that they were as numerous as the stars in the sky.

Once the Ultimate Style rose to fame, it meant that they were going to steal their money and cut off their means of living. There was no way those people would not resist that.

This did not mean that the Ultimate Style was afraid of those martial arts, however. Gu Jianbo was really good at mingling with people, and he knew the logic behind wealth only coming to the people who were amiable. The Ultimate Style had just been born, and it was not his style to form enemies right off the bat.

Meng Chao's suggestion suited his tastes.

Broken-star superhumans had been an overlooked ocean for a long period of time. They had cleared around five main meridians, and it was hard for them to practice traditional martial arts.

But the Ultimate Style was practically made for them.

It was a great idea to first enter the market of hundreds of thousands of broken-star superhumans. With the Broken Star Club as a solid shield for the Ultimate Style, they would have a much better chance to snatch the pie from the Overkill Style, Gun Fighting Style, Machine Armor Style, and Beast Soul Style.

Hence, Gu Jianbo, who was the supervisor-in-name of the Broken Star Club, decided to show respect to his true disciple. He made use of all his connections and glib tongue to go and attract sponsors for the Broken Star Club, just like what he did when he went to get sponsors for the Ultimate Style.

Ever since Gu Jianbo became a five-star superhuman, his fame rose in Dragon City.

The bosses and rich women from various fields who had once invested in the Ultimate Style also saw that Gu Jianbo had fulfilled his promise and delivered results. They were about to get back the money they invested and also earn big.

So, there was no way they would be stingy and not invest further into the project.

Naturally, Meng Chao could not hide this from his tutor's wife—Griffin Li Yingzi.

To his surprise, despite being a Beast Soul Style elite, she encouraged the development of the Broken Star Club and gathered a lot of resources for them through different channels.

Li Yingzi had her own reasons for it.

The dean of Agricultural University's martial arts and life science department, Black Tortoise Zong Yue, had been in his position for decades and should retire in a few years' time. Then, he would venture deep into the Supernatural Tower for isolated training.

There were two ace lecturers with great support under Dean Zong—Cold-blooded Jiang Ming and Griffin Li Yingzi.

Jiang Ming was a powerful fighter of the previous generation. He had sacrificed decades of his youth for Agricultural University's martial arts course. His connections, experience, and fighting strength were flawless, and Li Yingzi originally did not want to challenge his position.

But thanks to Meng Chao, she had obtained a lot of spirit energy in the northern frontlines and managed to reach Spirit Armor Realm.

Now, both of them were at the peak of Heaven Realm.

Li Yingzi's beast soul fusion was the most advanced and top-tier technology of Beast Soul Style.

Her husband, Gu Jianbo, was also an ace lecturer in the martial arts course and had risen to fame recently with his research.

Li Yingzi was eager to make progress, so there was no way she would not be ambitious.

However, she did not intend to challenge Cold-blooded Jiang Ming head-on. He had been in the martial arts course for years and was also her lecturer when she was studying. If she challenged him head-on, no matter what, she would not be able to win. She might even end up damaging the harmony in Agricultural University's martial arts course.

She needed to think of another way to go about it, and she cast her sights on the course that Gu Jianbo was in charge of—the martial arts refresher course.

Originally, Agricultural University's martial arts refresher course only had around one hundred people. It was not a full-time course either, so the students could attend the classes whenever they wanted.

But once the Ultimate Style rose to power, Agricultural University's martial arts refresher course became famous.

Many people said that it was the best refresher course in the whole city. Even though they could enter with money, it was not a place where they would only end up getting a cert that was absolutely meaningless. They could really learn something there.

Because of it, during Meng Chao's second semester as a freshman, the refresher course expanded to the point that it had around three hundred people.

But to Li Yingzi, this number was far from enough.

Hence, she started suggesting things to Gu Jianbo while they lay beside each other in bed.

"Jianbo, right now, your martial arts refresher course is occupying the entire old lecture building of the martial arts course. You have ready-made cultivation centers and labs, so even if you want to add other equipment or get more investments, it won't be a problem. But it's a bit of a waste if you only have three hundred students.

"Besides, you're only teaching the Ultimate Style. Isn't that a bit too dull? We have plenty of amazing skills in the martial arts course. Get more students, and I'll mobilize the lecturers to transfer a group of young ones to you. Since the whole city is saying that your refresher course is the best in the city, you should work hard and make it true!"

Gu Jianbo was a little uncertain. "Will it work, though?"

"The refresher course students are responsible for their own profits and losses. As long as they don't cause trouble, it'll only be good for us if we get more funds for the martial arts course. There's nothing wrong with that.

"I'll go and talk to Dean Zong. The old man has always supported the Ultimate Style. When we talk to each other, he's very happy when the conversation shifts to the progress of you and Meng Chao. If you can really turn the refresher course into something we can be proud of, it'll be a good thing for us too.

"As for the source of students, we'll definitely not have a problem with it. Meng Chao's Broken Star Club has been growing really lively lately, hasn't it?"

"I have one more thought. Dean Zong might retire in two years. He'll look at two factors to appoint the person who will succeed him. First, the one who has a higher cultivation realm and will be the first to reach Deity Realm. Second, connections, resources, research results, and the ability to create benefits for the course.

"I'm somewhat confident that my research results are satisfactory with beast soul fusion. But if we can really turn Agricultural University's martial arts refresher course into the model for all refresher courses in the city within two years, my chances will be even better.

"If I see that I can't win against Mr. Jiang, I'll take a step back, but at the very least, we'll still have the refresher course in our hands."

Chapter 343: Make A Friend

Gu Jianbo was a little tempted by his wife's words.

He had spent ten years of his life on his research. His best friend had sacrificed his life for it, while he had given up on his youth. Now that he had finally developed the Ultimate Style, it was only natural that he wanted to set up his own school and let the Ultimate Style shine in glory.

And if he wanted to “set up his own school”, the most important thing was to have a lot of people!

If the hundreds of thousands of broken-star superhumans in the city learned the Ultimate Style, Zong Ye’s soul would definitely be happy in heaven.

However, it would definitely not be easy to execute this matter swiftly in the system of Agricultural University’s martial arts course.

After all, they were talking about expanding the refresher course within a year and a half from hundreds of people to thousands of people, maybe even tens of thousands of people. This would require various things like teaching resources, equipment, and location.

But they could do it outside the system of Agricultural University’s martial arts course if they acted in the name of the Broken Star Club. And it would also make it much more suitable for them to give full support.

As they continued talking, their topic of conversation moved to Meng Chao.

Even now, both of them still found all that happened unbelievable. Meng Chao was basically a blessing from heaven. Ever since he came to Agricultural University, the Ultimate Style’s research and Gu Jianbo’s relationship with his wife improved by leaps and bounds; he had achieved substantial breakthroughs in both areas.

It had just half a year, he had obtained unexpected results with the Ultimate Style, got back together with Li Yingzi, and the Broken Star Club was starting to show signs of a great club.

Now, Meng Chao’s declaration of challenging Dragon City University’s martial arts course no longer sounded like conceited words.

Who knew where in life Meng Chao would be in five years’ time?

“You’ve earned a good deal by taking in this true disciple,” Li Yingzi’s commented.

“Of course. Your husband has a good eye for talented people, you know?”

Gu Jianbo smiled so widely that his eyes turned into slits. He completely erased the fact that he had hidden his identity from Meng Chao in the beginning.

Since his true disciple was so capable, Gu Jianbo naturally had to give him full support. Agricultural University was known as Monster University. Its comprehensive power was second only to that of Dragon City University. The martial arts course was also a powerful course, so when Gu Jianbo and Li Yingzi decided to use their resources, the results were rather shocking.

With the two of them protecting Meng Chao along the way and helping him in all aspects, the day the Broken Star Club’s headquarters held its inauguration ceremony, many powerful fighters whose names shook Dragon City came to attend the ceremony. The media also showed up. Thousands of broken-star superhumans also came to pay tribute, so the atmosphere was really lively.

Gu Jianbo's status rose from supervisor-in-name to leader-in-name. He was the one who personally cut the ribbon.

Dean Zong Yue of Agricultural University's martial arts course might not have attended personally, but the Black Tortoise had decided to carve the words Broken Star Club in bold strokes on a signboard. He also asked Gu Jianbo to hand them to Meng Chao to encourage him and all broken-star superhumans to work harder so that they could walk further on their road as superhumans. Then, they could contribute more to Dragon City.

Black Tortoise Zong Yue was a Deity Realm fighter.

The three words he wrote were carved into a signboard made of high-grade crystal. When it was hung at the entrance of the headquarters, the place immediately looked really high class.

With Gu Jianbo, Li Yingzi, Qin Hu, Yan Hengbo, Lu Siya, and the others gathering sponsors all over the place and the mysterious person behind the abnormal beast research department donating one million Supernatural Coins and one hundred cultivation cabins, the Broken Star Club did not lack money for the time being.

To a certain degree, Meng Chao was a person who got by with whatever he had at that moment. Even if he saved up millions, when the apocalypse arrived, all of them would end up gone.

It was better to change all that money into resources and turn those resources into fighting power so that even if the apocalypse arrived, they could fight it.

Hence, he threw in the money he earned through blood, sweat, and tears into the buffet in the Broken Star Club. He bought the freshest and best monster raw materials. As the young heir of Superstar, he was close to the raw materials of monsters, and he could get them whenever he wanted. It was much easier for him to get nutritious and spirit energy-filled monster meat compared to other people.

The mysterious person who donated the one hundred cultivation cabins did not cover the purchasing cost, which was the cost for every single time they used the cultivation cabins and the cost they needed to put in gene medicine and nutritional fluid into the cabins.

Meng Chao fulfilled his promise in this regard. Aside from taking the cost needed for the materials, he did not take an extra cent from the broken-star superhumans.

The Broken Star Club also prepared really comfortable recovery centers and medical centers for the large number of broken-star superhumans.

Meng Chao also often used his connections to invite Blade Dancer Gu Jianbo, Griffin Li Yingzi, other lecturers from Agricultural University's martial arts course, and some of the really famous fighters in the society to organize lectures and on the spot practice sessions in Broken Star Club. All of that, of course, was free.

As for food, cultivation, recovery, business gatherings, team building exercises, and other services, the members only needed to pay a fee that was never more than 30% of what other clubs of similar standards asked. Meng Chao really only charged the prime cost, and he even paid for the electricity and spirit-energy-filled pipes on his own!

“Earning money is secondary. Our main goal is to make friends here,” Meng Chao said to the Broken Star Club members.

Those were his sincere thoughts.

Broken Star Club was not made to earn money, but it had a few rules the members had to obey.

First, the club members had to pay a membership fee. It was not much, but it would ensure their rights to enjoy the services in the club. They needed to pay from ten dollars to one hundred dollars a month. Once they ate two buffet meals at prime cost or enjoyed two hours of the newest Ultimate Style cultivation cabin at prime cost, they were able to earn their money back.

“It’s not that we lack that bit of money, but if we take membership fees, the broken-star superhumans will understand that they’re part of the Broken Star Club. This is a way for us to increase our unity and acknowledgement of the place,” Meng Chao told Qin Hu.

This was something he had learned from the training courses in Ghost Tribe.

He had also learned how to make uniforms and all sorts of commemorative medals to increase an individual’s acknowledgement of an organization and their sense of glory toward it. He could even use it to increase their bravery in a fight.

Of course, to the current Broken Star Club, uniforms would have been too much.

Instead, Meng Chao asked Qin Hu to print a batch of culture shirts. They came in two styles. One of them had the words Broken Star Club written in bold strokes in the front, which would definitely attract attention, but it was not suitable for people to go out wearing them.

The other one was then made from the best fabric. At first glance, it seemed like it had nothing to do with the Broken Star Club, but there was a small Broken Star Club emblem at the chest area. Those who did not know about the club would not be able to tell, but those who could would all be members of the same club.

The two culture shirts alone were already worth the membership fees.

Next, Meng Chao showed all the members the daily expenses of the club, the donations they received, and the cost of all the various expenses.

Many of the members had taken advantage of the club services, and now, they felt embarrassed.

“You don’t have to be shy about using the facilities. Broken Star Club is a public welfare organization, but it’s not a charity organization. If we want to maintain our current services, we will need all of you to work together with us.”

Meng Chao told the people that the membership fees and cost to use the facilities in Broken Star Club would definitely not increase, but to maintain operations which help broken-star superhumans cultivate, they would need to work together with various forces of power, businesses, and powerful organizations.

Broken Star Club would meticulously choose a batch of products that were related to cultivation and provide them to the members at prime cost. The club did not mind if the members did not want to buy

them, but they hoped that the members would spend some time and energy to try them out and provide feedback. The feedback and data of usage could then be exchanged into real money, which could be used to maintain the operations of the club.

Peerless elites were rather sensitive when it came to their own cultivation data. They would not readily reveal them to third parties.

But broken-star superhumans had a hard time even being acknowledged as one-star superhumans. At most, they were half-star superhumans. There was just no need for them to hide the data of their cultivation nor did they have the idea to hide their cultivation data.

Their money would remain in their pockets since the club did not plan to force the members to buy the products, so they decided to see what Meng Chao would bring.

He spent a lot of effort to make sure that the first group purchase in Broken Star Club would go off with a bang.

As he thought about it, he decided to look for Broken Soul Saber Luo Wu's son, Luo Hai, and talked to him about using Surging Lightning to be the first item in this project.

Surging Lightning, a saber personally designed by Soul Breaking Saber Luo Wu, had Meng Chao as the spokesperson and Luo Hai as the person in charge of selling it. It had already been in the market for a few months.

This saber might not have any sort of advanced technology that surpassed the current era, but it did not slack off in terms of materials used to create it. It was also designed based off of Meng Chao's Future One Hundred Saber Techniques, so the cost-performance ratio was second to none in the market. It could be considered as a hot-selling item of the season.

Luo Hai mentioned to Meng Chao that he was not against the idea of adding a Members Only version of Surging Lightning for Broken Star Club so that they could sell something else aside from the youthful version and flagship version.

But when Meng Chao told him the purchasing price, Luo Hai was so shocked that he sucked in a sharp breath.

"Meng Chao, you have shares in Surging Lightning as well. You've seen the entire production process right from the start too. The simple and crude materials we use and the way we win against other sellers through our cost-performance ratio already means that the price we sell our products is the lowest in the market!

"We already don't earn a lot of money from this, and you still want to give them such a discount? That's basically us losing money with each saber. We'll also face the risk of throwing the low-end market into chaos. If this price goes out, the channel vendors will spit at us, and I'll end up drowning in their spit. We can't conduct business like this!"

Meng Chao said nothing. He just handed Luo Hai a set of data.

Luo Hai frowned. "What is this?"

“This is the data of the project from Lab 1024 of Agricultural University’s martial arts course,” Meng Chao said. “You can just look at the final conclusion. I swear on my life that the data is real. Look at the upwards curve of this fighting strength increase. The research shows that the broken-star superhumans who use the Ultimate Style cultivation cabin every day for two hours to cultivate their branch meridians gain a lot of benefits in terms of repairing their main meridians and increasing their fighting strength.

“Recently, one hundred volunteers showed different degrees of increase in their punching force, 100 m-dash speed, reaction speed, and even mental strength index after they practiced the Ultimate Style for a month. The overall strength of the one with the highest increase is 29%, and the median is 11%. Do you know what this means?”

Luo Hai instinctively asked, “What does it mean?”

“This means that in less than a year and a half, most of the broken-star superhumans’ fighting strength might reach the average mark of one-star superhumans,” Meng Chao said. “If they become stronger, they will be able to take up missions that are even more dangerous.

“If they’ll want to complete dangerous missions, they’ll have to get more powerful equipment, and if they can really complete those missions successfully, they will be able to earn more money, get promoted, receive higher salaries, marry the people they fancy, and reach the peak of their lives.

“This is purchasing power! They can’t just live with a single saber their whole lives, right? Once the Monster War becomes more intense, normal sabers will become consumable items. Even the supreme-grade sabers might not be able to last a few intense fights. If you give up on some bit of profit from the Members Only version, perhaps in a few months, these broken-star superhumans will come back to buy a few flagship versions, because their strength had already increased by leaps and bounds.”

Chapter 344: Awakening the Sleeping Power

Luo Hai could not make the decision to sell the sabers at this price, so his father, Soul Breaking Saber Luo Wu, decided to come to Broken Star Club.

When Luo Wu, a fighter at the peak of Heaven Realm, saw more than one hundred cultivation cabins of the newest model in Broken Star Club’s cultivation center, he could not help but suck in a sharp breath. He praised Meng Chao for spending his money in a way that made the club imposing and admitted that he did not expect him to have turned the club into such a grand spectacle.

Meng Chao told him honestly that one hundred of the cultivation cabins were donated by a mysterious person, and Qin Hu was the one who managed the practical operations of Broken Star Club. He was only the middleman and did some really insignificant tasks.

Luo Wu thought about it for a while before he agreed to the price Meng Chao mentioned.

It was very easy for them to solve the problem of throwing the low-end market into chaos. They could just use simpler packaging for the dirt-cheap Members Only version of Surging Lightning. They could also order the most inconspicuous version of the sheaths for the members of the Broken Star Club, which would solve the problem.

It was another matter as to whether the Broken Star Members would sell the sabers to secondhand shops after they bought the products, though.

Luo Wu also did something generous. He personally donated twenty of the newest models of the cultivation cabins to the Broken Star Club.

“Meng Chao, before the Ultimate Style was developed, the hundreds of thousands of broken-star superhumans in Dragon City were a sleeping force. Now, you’ve awakened that sleeping force.”

There were eight thousand of the Members Only Surging Lightning produced in the first batch.

With the price that was much lower than the bottom one, the assured quality, and Meng Chao personally showcasing and teaching the Future One Hundred Saber Techniques, the saber did indeed become really popular the moment it appeared in the Broken Star Club.

In less than half an hour, all eight thousand sabers were sold, and Meng Chao ordered another 15,000 sabers.

Once the number of sabers ordered increased, the prime cost was naturally lower. When the cost was spread to the total cost of all the sabers, the losses were not too great once they made the calculations. However, Surging Lightning managed to gain the trust of many broken-star superhumans, and they began promoting it, so it was a double win.

Later, Meng Chao did the same thing and organized a few more group purchases of products he meticulously chose.

He was not an expert in appraising cultivation equipment and gene medicine, but he had his own ways.

Meng Chao asked Qin Hu to look for catalogues of cultivation machines and gene medicine that were more suitable for low-grade and middle-grade superhumans. He wanted to figure out the production factories so that he could awaken the memories of his previous life in the depths of his mind.

He specifically went to factories that were not very famous right now, which meant that their prices were not as high and they were more inclined to negotiate group purchasing prices.

Of course, those factories had a long history in Dragon City and would still be around even after ten years or even decades.

In Meng Chao’s eyes, since these factories could remain standing decades later despite all the trials and tribulations they faced, there had to be something that made them stand out above everyone else in terms of the quality of their products.

Just as he expected, whenever he brought products into the Broken Star Club, they were always cheap but of high quality. It greatly boosted the speed of the members’ cultivation.

Besides, the group purchases also helped the production factories gain a return of their capital. Hence, the Broken Star Club ended up helping out a few factories that were supposed to be in trouble for a longer period of time to step into the limelight ahead of time. Meng Chao thus helped contribute quite a lot to the overall increase to Dragon City’s fighting strength.

This was a surprise that he did not expect.

Group purchasing was just a method for them to gather popularity. Meng Chao's only hope was that once the Broken Star Club became stronger and more powerful, they could make Dragon City's tragic future a little brighter.

Hence, no matter how difficult his lectures were and how tough the training from the abnormal beast research department became, he always tried his best to find time to come to the Broken Star Club and teach all the broken-star superhumans the essence of future martial arts, strategies, and shooting techniques. He never held anything back.

While mingling around the broken-star superhumans, he got to know the various sides of Dragon City, especially the bottom level of society.

In his previous life, he was also a member of the bottom level of society during the Monster War. But at that time, he was worried about his parents' safety and was full of regret for his actions. He didn't have the time to think about how all the normal citizens lived.

In this life, in just a few short months, he came into contact with more than one hundred thousand broken-star superhumans, and through them, he learned about a lot of lifestyles and industries he had never heard before. He also learned of the wishes of millions of nameless normal citizens and discovered the small conflicts hidden under the prosperous surface of Dragon City.

"We have families of more than ten people squashed into dark and cramped shacks. Since the earth around the area is especially attractive to pest monsters, they often destroy the underground pipes, so we can't even flush the toilets. We can only use outside toilets. The area really stinks."

"The schools in communities are no good. There are only two broken-star superhumans teaching over there. There's not even a single one-star superhuman. The enrollment rate to schools of higher education never goes up."

"Youngsters who are in their twenties can't find jobs. Now, all the jobs that can ensure that we have enough to pay for insurance and offer a higher salary can only be taken by superhumans."

"I can't get a wife. All the girls nowadays would rather be the mistresses of superhumans than marry normal people. Of course, what their decision is logical. There are plenty of monsters out there, and only superhumans can protect their wives and children. Besides, there's a lack of space in Dragon City. The per-capita living area is really small. If a woman marries a normal person, they won't even have any personal space to be a couple. Why should they get married to normal men if that's the case?"

"There are people who say that monogamy is a horrible tradition from Earth. People were similar back, so it's the same no matter who you married, but once we've transmigrated, the superhumans showed up, and they're much more powerful. Their genes are definitely much better, so of course they should spread their genes more so that their power could be passed down. That's the only way to make human civilization stronger so that we can conquer all of the Other World."

"If normal people spread their weak genes, they're just wasting resources. It's better if they don't pass down their genes and create burdens."

This was the gossip spoken by broken-star superhumans as they chatted after a meal, and as they talked, Meng Chao obtained much information.

These things did not sound like major, national issues.

But Meng Chao felt that if a dam of one thousand kilometers could be destroyed by an ant's nest, then these minor conflicts could build up day by day, and in the end, become important reasons behind why Dragon City failed.

So he seized the chance to tell the superhumans, "Most of the broken-star superhumans come from the bottom level of society, but we all stepped on the road of superhumans. We're born to be the bridges that connect superhumans and normal people.

"If all of Dragon City could become united and act as a strong fort that cannot be destroyed, we would be the most important glue holding it all together.

"Over the past few months, your cultivation realms and fighting strength have been increasing. Next, you'll definitely not be satisfied with your current statuses, income, and positions in society.

"I do believe that broken-star superhumans will be very important in the future Dragon City, but our individual strength is still very weak. No matter what sort of difficulties we face, as long as we're the first to be united, we'll definitely be able to solve the problem!"

Meng Chao did not know whether the broken-star superhumans would listen to what he said.

But soon, something happened that made him and quite a number of veteran elites in the superhuman circles realize that the Broken Star Club was not just a public welfare organization whose members ate together, boasted about their feats, and did group purchases.

The event started from a horrible custom in Dragon City.

Dragon Citizens were fierce, and when they encountered conflicts, they often solved them with their fists.

When competitions of interest in the business world reached their final stage, they usually ended with a fight whose winner got the deal. The result of the fight made it clear who was better and deserved it so that they could avoid further conflict.

This was a horrible custom that spread around the time of the zombie crisis.

During that lawless, apocalyptic era, fists and weapons were the only truth.

The Survival Committee, Supernatural Tower, and Red Dragon Army were formed one after the other. Naturally, they wanted to set up the authority of law and prevent the people from fighting in private.

But the normal citizens of Dragon City possessed the running speed of short-distance running champions and punching strength of boxing kings. They could all be considered martial arts elites.

Superhumans were also the amalgamations of moving gunpowder warehouses and self-propelled artillery.

Those with martial arts usually used violence to cause chaos.

When a person had a sharp weapon in hand, it was normal for them to harbor killing intent.

Superhumans were all wild and untamable people. They refused to be restricted by any disciplinary organization. The stronger they were, the more they saw themselves as one-men armies that could fight against entire cities.

The Survival Committee could not use coercive measures on all superhumans either, because the peerless fighters who formed the Survival Committee and the nine great mega corporations behind them would be the very first people who would not want to be restrained.

Besides, the capital required to restrict the actions of superhumans was really high. Superhumans were also the main fighting force against monster invasions. If the government was too harsh on them, the superhumans might end up disappointed.

The Survival Committee could do nothing else about it, so it could only relent. As long as no one went overboard, the citizens could solve the conflicts themselves.

Only the most basic rules were set up. As long as people's lives were not threatened, superhumans could not attack normal people.

As for the fights between superhumans, these were considered to be within the realms of sparring. As long as no one was killed, it was fine. It didn't matter if they had to stay a few days in medical cabins.

Because of it, while normal people were safe, the broken-star superhumans suffered.

In theory, broken-star superhumans were also superhumans, so they often had to "spar" with the other superhumans.

But broken-star superhumans were the weakest people in the superhuman circle and were at the bottom of the ranks. There was no way they could win against anyone!

Due to this rule, they had to suffer a lot in silence. The anger they felt had long since gathered into lava, but they had no way to release it.

It was the same this time.

Two members of the Broken Star Club had a small construction materials company.

Since the northern frontlines were being developed, they were bidding for a construction deal that was not big, but not too small either.

Originally, everything had been settled, but at some point, another competitor butted in.

The boss of that company was an elite at the peak of Earth Realm.

They spoke to each other a few times, but they could not reach an accord. The boss of the competitor company glared at them and slammed his palm on the table. "Then we'll solve this in the way of superhumans. Come on! We'll bring our men out and let's spar!"

The reason he gave was solid too.

The northern frontlines were still in development and might be attacked by monsters at any moment. Without great fighting strength, how could they guarantee the delivery of the construction materials and ensure that the construction project would go smoothly?

Hence, the level of their fighting power was also an important part that would decide who would get the project in the end.

In the past, when broken-star superhumans saw this, they could only seeth in anger.

What else were they supposed to do aside from enduring the anger? There were entire realms between broken-star superhumans and superhumans who were at the peak of Earth Realm.

This time, when the two broken-star superhumans were infuriated by this, they casually grumbled about it when they came to cultivate at the Broken Star Club, and it instantly angered a lot of broken-star superhumans, because they were bound by the same hatred.

Finally, the day of the sparring came.

It was a working day, but five hundred broken-star superhumans arrived at the scene to watch the fight.

Chapter 345: Cannot Be Stopped

In the end, the sparring session did not happen.

When five hundred broken-star superhumans decided to watch the fight, the boss of the competitor company suddenly remembered that the horrible tradition of deciding who was right with fists was something left from the era when zombies wracked their lands and order was lost.

Even the people thousands of years ago on Earth knew that a country could only be strong when its people fought bravely for the country but avoided private fights. They were now in a new era, so how could they be monkeys who love fighting and abide by the law of the jungle just because they awakened to a bit of superpowers?

The elite at the peak of Earth Realm cordially hugged the two broken-star superhuman bosses and said earnestly, "We're all superhumans. We should be working together to contribute more to human civilization.

"The Survival Committee has been formed for years, and they have always promoted the fact that normal people and superhumans should all understand the law and obey it. We're supposed to treat the law as sharp swords hanging above our heads so that we always remember that regardless of superpowers or killing moves, we're nothing in the face of law.

"Besides, we're all businessmen. Since we're doing business, we should prioritize harmony. Fighting is something we should avoid. We can discuss everything, like the projects, deals, and cooperation agreements!"

In the end, the two broken-star superhumans defended their lawful rights, and the elite at the peak of Earth Realm also managed to get a pretty good cooperation agreement.

When this news returned to the headquarters of the Broken Star Club, Meng Chao forked out his own money to treat the five hundred broken-star superhumans, who went to help out that day and wanted to fight to their hearts' content, with proper food containing the richest spirit energy.

Then, he ordered more than five hundred commemorative shirts with unique designs. There was the logo of the Broken Star Club on the chest area and boldly written words "Attack when you should". He then gave them to the ones who volunteered to help in the fight.

This was also something he had learned from the courses in the Ghost Tribe's training camp.

After a victory, the leader had to give all sorts of medals so that people would remember their achievements.

This would boost the unity of an organization and make everyone's hearts gather together. It was also the method that provided the most benefits but cost the least.

With the Broken Star Club's status, giving commemorative medals would be going overboard, but the logic behind the commemorative shirts was the same.

And things happened just as Meng Chao expected, once word got out, it shocked many broken-star superhumans.

Those who had wanted to help in the fight wore the commemorative shirts and swaggered about the headquarters of the club, which attracted many respectful and longing gazes.

The broken-star superhumans were suppressed too much in the past. This time, they managed to win the spar without even fighting, and it put them in high spirits.

The most direct result of the incident was that the overall number of members in the Broken Star Club went straight over one hundred thousand very.

The donations, sponsorts, and investments from various parts of the society also increased day by day.

The investments brought by Gu Jianbo, Li Yingzi, Luo Wu, Ning Shewo, Yan Organization, and the other leaders were not surprising.

What surprised Meng Chao was that Qin Hu had also managed to get a major donation with no conditions attached to it. When Meng Chao saw the string of zeros in the donation, he was shocked for a full half a minute.

Now that there were one hundred thousand members in the Broken Star Club, it could already be considered to be on the right track. The nineteen people who formed the board of directors were in charge of the daily operations of the club. Qin Hu was also the donor of the headquarters, so it was only right for him to be the chairperson of the board of directors. He was the one in charge of the real operations of the Broken Star Club.

Qin Hu was far from being Xie Xiaolei and taking charge of a company's business, where he had to wrack his brains to think of new ways to earn money.

Otherwise, he would not have handed over Prosperous to his brother-in-law, which created a foul atmosphere in the workplace and left it at the verge of bankruptcy.

But he had two major strengths.

First, he was skilled in forming bonds with people from all places. He could drink with anyone, and after a few cups, they could hug each other and cry. The only thing missing was for them to kowtow on the ground and declare each other brothers.

Perhaps that was what it meant to be someone who adhered to the code of brotherhood.

Second, he was skilled at adapting to situations. He could switch between different sides and stances. He could speak in other people's way without any problem.

Meng Chao used Qin Hu's abilities to the fullest by asking him to be in charge of the daily operations of the Broken Star Club.

Besides, Qin Hu did gain some benefits after he was baptized by both the Red Radiance Jades and Blue Origin Crystals under Raging Waves that day.

Even though he had not recovered his power yet, perhaps it was because his body was now filled with spirit energy from the Blue Origin Crystals, he gained a... sincere, level-headed, friendly, and trustworthy presence.

It was not as if they could do anything about it. Blue Origin Crystals were known as Life Stones. They could change a person's vitality magnetic field and had amazing properties such as promoting the healing of wounds and increasing metabolism.

Right then, Qin Hu was like a human-shaped Blue Origin Crystal. When anyone stayed by him, they felt as if there was a spring breeze blowing against them and experienced a sense of comfort that could not be put to words.

Even so, Meng Chao could not understand how Qin Hu managed to scam so much money.

Half of his wealth was spent to build the headquarters of the Broken Star Club, and the other was in Superstar.

Recently, Superstar was busy trying to take in the high-quality assets released by Spirit Creation Creatures, so there was no extra money to donate to the Broken Star Club.

Qin Hu said that the money came from superhumans like him, who were in the same situation and sympathized with him because they also fell from grace after they were injured.

The path of cultivation was like swimming against the current. If they did not continue moving forward, they would be taken back.

Besides, the battlefield was a dangerous place. Regardless of whether it was spirit energy magnetic field interference, spirit energy deviation, monsters tearing limbs away, poison, or corrosion of organs and neural networks, all of them could send a mighty person at the peak of Earth Realm or a high-and-mighty Heaven Realm fighter to unfortunately down from their pedestal. They would not have a single bit of their fighting strength left and might even end up like Qin Hu without the ability to summon a bit of their spirit energy.

It had to be said that Dragon City was quite nice to the superhumans who were heavily injured during battle and whose fighting strength plummeted to the ground.

They would be given money, glory, and easy jobs that could give them a stable salary to live out their retirement. They were also invited to schools regularly to give speeches and given fresh flowers, cheered upon, and hugged by students. They received all sorts of things courtesy of the government.

But Qin Hu and those superhumans who had fallen from grace did not want them.

“We don’t want to live out our retirement like this and gradually fade away like a fart that doesn’t even stink. We need strength. Even if it’s not our own strength, at the very least, it’s a strength that we can borrow. Meng Chao, you understand what I mean, right?”

Qin Hu told him that the injured and disabled superhumans had their own circle and gathered together regularly.

All of them were in a similar situation. They did not lack money, but money alone was not enough to placate their restless souls. Besides, without strength, as time passed, they would not be able to defend their mountains of gold.

It would be better for them to invest in the Broken Star Club and form good ties with the broken-star superhumans.

When they donated that money, it did not mean that they wanted the five hundred broken-star superhumans to rush over to help them the moment they fired a signal. That was too much. However, they could still overwhelm others with their numbers, and at the end of the day, that was a form of assurance.

Qin Hu shared the same thought with Lu Siya on this matter.

Right as Qin Hu brought the large donation, Lu Siya mentioned that the Broken Star Club was developing too quickly. It had just been a few months, but the headquarters, which had just been fully renovated, now seemed a little cramped. Besides, they were renting a warehouse in an industrial area. No matter what, it gave off a feeling that it was not a legit club.

She asked Meng Chao whether he was interested in looking for a proper office building in the central commercial area, and when she said that, she meant an office building with man-made spirit energy ley lines underneath and plenty of spirit energy underground. They would need to rent around twenty floors of the office building for a long period of time to upgrade the Broken Star Club.

If he wanted to, she would settle all the problems related to money and the office building.

“What’s going on? Do you have too much money and feel uneasy about it?” Meng Chao was stunned once more.

Lu Siya smiled coldly. “You’re right. I currently have so much money that I’m uneasy. I sold my mining rights for the Red Radiance Jade mine in a one-time buyout.”

“What?”

Meng Chao was puzzled. Some time ago, when Qin Hu sold off the mining rights in his hands, Lu Siya had laughed at him and said that he was short-sighted. The Red Radiance Jade mine could be mined for decades, and they had yet to find how deep the mine ran and how many crystals it had.

If the mine ran deep underground and had a lot of crystals with spirit energy which was not lost during the spirit energy tsunami, they would be rich.

With Lu Siya's intelligence, how could she sell off this money-generating machine?

"I had no other choice. My father ran into a good chance and is hoping to jump up further in the organization."

Lu Siya explained that regardless of whether it was the Lu family or a mega corporation like Sky Pillar Corporation, they placed an emphasis on balance. Mr. Lu, the head of the family, was still alive, and he did not want to see any of his descendants have any sort of monopoly of power.

Since Lu Siya discovered the Red Radiance Jade mine, she stood out like a sore thumb among the grandchildren.

If her father was also in possession of great power in Sky Pillar Corporation while she continued to be in possession of the Red Radiance Jade mine, their branch would have too much power.

To obtain the support of his siblings, her father had to use the Red Radiance Jade mine as a bargaining chip. The price he offered was reasonable, but it placed her far away from the core of the Lu family and Sky Pillar Corporation.

"In other words, someone stuffed a lot of cash into my pockets and kicked me out!" Lu Siya said. "Qin Hu is right. Money is only money when you use it. If you don't use it, it's just useless paper, which is even too tough to wipe your behind. I've decided to toss all of my wealth into the Broken Star Club because I'm gambling on the fact that you and the Broken Star Club have endless potential.

"Some day, when the Broken Star Club really grows to the point that no one can imagine and I have the chance to seize the highest seat of power in Sky Pillar Corporation, you will definitely lead hundreds of thousands of broken-star superhumans to stand behind me, right?"

Meng Chao thought about it and said, "The Broken Star Club is just a public welfare organization that drinks tea, eats food, does group purchases, and explores the development trends of the newest martial arts. Even though we have one hundred thousand members, they won't listen to me... Broadcasting platforms also have millions of members on them, but they're useless. It's the same case for us."

"Enough with it. Everyone knows that you have been teaching the broken-star superhumans the Ultimate Style, the upgraded version of the One Hundred Saber Techniques, and all sorts of strange martial arts every day to increase their fighting strength. That's the only reason why they've become confident and decided to work together to defend their interests.

"Many of the broken-star superhumans treat you as their hero and idol. You're actually the spokesperson of all the broken-star superhumans in the city, so don't go telling me that you weren't thinking about garnering their support and building up your own force of power!" Lu Siya said.

"Even if it's too much of an exaggeration for you to gather hundreds of thousands of broken-star superhumans to rally behind you, right now, with just a simple cough, you could gather five thousand broken-star superhumans to help you fight.

“In a few years... Whew. No one will be able to fight against you. Tell me, why were you so certain that the Ultimate Style would definitely be successfully developed and could stimulate the potential of all the broken-star superhumans in the city? How did you know that you could gather them together to form a power that cannot be stopped?”

“Ah, forget it. You’re the one with the most secrets among us. It’s a waste of my breath to ask you. Just one question. When the time comes, are you going to stand behind me?”

Meng Chao thought about it for a while before he said tentatively, “Well, if we’re just going to watch... I don’t mind standing behind you to cheer you on.”

Chapter 346: Reaching Three Stars!

No matter how much Qin Hu and Lu Siya invested in the club, they could not compare to the mysterious boss who had donated one million Supernatural Coins and one hundred cultivation cabins.

Once five hundred broken-star superhumans decided to support their two friends and became famous because of it, the donor donated another two million Supernatural Coins and two hundred cabins to the club through the abnormal beast research center.

When Ye Xiaoxing told Meng Chao the figures, he was absolutely flabbergasted.

“Is the person... still unwilling to reveal his or her identity?” Meng Chao asked tentatively.

“Yes. But the donor is very pleased with the development of the Broken Star Club over this period of time. The donor also regards your individual potential very highly,” Ye Xiaoxing said. “So, don’t feel burdened by this. You just have to devote yourself to training and polishing the Broken Star Club. This donation is nothing to the donor.”

Meng Chao could tell that the donor was definitely an incredibly thick coattail. It would not be an exaggeration to say that it was an invincible coattail.

This was something that could be proven by the cultivation data he or she gave Meng Chao.

When he handed the data chip to his tutor, he, Gu Jianbo, and Li Yingzi studied it meticulously for a long time, and the more they looked into it, the more they felt chills down their spines.

They did not expect that there would still be so many flaws in the Ultimate Style and that it could be improved so much.

They had thought that it was a perfect spirit energy circulation model, but in the person’s eyes, it was full of flaws and had low efficiency.

In other words, if they modified the Ultimate Style based on the cultivation method the person gave them, the circulation of spirit energy and the output efficiency would increase by at least two times.

And the donor had also given a lot of cultivation suggestions that specifically targeted Meng Chao. He learned a lot from it.

“These cultivation suggestions were not given by normal Deity Realm elites.” Gu Jianbo and Li Yingzi studied the data for a long time before they came to the conclusion. “In all of Dragon City, there are

fewer than five people who can provide such detailed and accurate modification suggestions to our cultivation system.

“That person’s realm is at least at the same level as Black Tortoise Zong Yue’s, and his fighting experience and fighting strength might even be higher!”

A top-tier fighter ranked at the top five in Dragon City? Meng Chao gasped in amazement.

But when he thought about it carefully, he was not surprised. It had been a full year since he awakened to his memories before the national college examination.

He had also revealed many future martial arts and cultivation methods, be it the Ripple Force or the One Hundred Saber Techniques.

Even though they were just basic martial arts and there was an air of inexperience when he used them, the peerless fighters who stood at the top of Dragon City would definitely be able to tell that these cultivation methods had a value that surpassed the current era.

It was only logical that they would then regard him highly and invest in him.

Under Gu Jianbo and Li Yingzi’s guidance, Meng Chao began to practice the martial arts that the mysterious fighter decided to give him.

Even though Ye Xiaoxing had said that the donor had only given him a few casual pointers, they were difficult to practice.

There were all sorts of profound and complicated formulae in the data. Meng Chao also needed precise control over the circulation of his spirit energy in his spirit meridians and the timing and rhythm when he created his spirit energy magnetic fields...

It was as if the person had told Meng Chao to slide under a Nine-headed Crystalline Dragon when it roared. Then, all he needed to do was to swing his saber upward, and he would be able to cut the Nine-headed Crystalline Dragon’s stomach open. It was very simple.

There was a 1/10000 possibility of it actually working out.

If Meng Chao really wanted to do it, he needed extreme precision and being 120% in control of all his muscle fibers, nerve bundles, and bones.

He also needed to have strength to tear apart tigers with bare hands, along with a sharp weapon that could cut through metal as if it were mud.

The mysterious donor probably knew that Meng Chao would not be able to digest all the cultivation suggestions in a short period of time. It was a plan to train his overall strength for the next three or more years.

But Meng Chao did not have that much time.

He seized every second to get prepared in just a few short months so that he could fight to the death with the abnormal beast organization.

So, he could only cheat.

He tried using his contribution points to increase his Skillfulness with the Improved Ultimate Style given by the mysterious donor.

This revealed to him that the powerful person was indeed powerful. He was usually able to increase his Skillfulness by 1% or 2% by dumping from three hundred to five hundred contribution points into normal martial arts.

But there was not even the smallest splash after he tossed more than one thousand contribution points into the techniques provided by the mysterious donor.

But now... Meng Chao did not lack contribution points.

The greatest surprise brought by building the Broken Star Club was in the rapid increase of contribution points.

Every time he helped a broken-star superhuman discover his or her strength and confidence, he contributed to increasing the overall fighting strength of Dragon City and gained a corresponding amount of contribution points as a reward.

There were more than one hundred thousand members in the Broken Star Club. Even if some of them had not received personal guidance by Meng Chao before, practically all the members had watched his online classes.

Even the gene medicine they used in their cultivation cabins was repeatedly modified in the past by Meng Chao and Gu Jianbo as Meng Chao endured torturous pain to test it.

Even if each member only gave Meng Chao from three to five contribution points, the points piled up and reached astronomical figures.

Meng Chao felt as if he had become rich overnight.

When he spent those contribution points, he did so lavishly and generously.

He used the contribution points in exchange for Skillfulness, and hence, even if he missed out on most of the professional classes in his university, he could still score high marks in all of his professional courses.

He learned most of the classes like that. He first memorized them without thinking them through, then used contribution points to slowly digest them.

He did the same thing in the courses from the training camps of the abnormal beast research department and Ghost Tribe. In just a few months, he obtained experience that others would not be able to gain in a few years or even a decade.

Meng Chao used his remaining contribution points to improve the Skillfulness of the skills taught by the mysterious donor.

If he could not make a splash with three thousand contribution points, he would spend ten thousand. If ten thousand were not enough, he would spend thirty thousand, then fifty thousand, one hundred thousand, three hundred thousand, and five hundred thousand!

Meng Chao remembered Qin Hu's words.

Money was only money if you spent it. It was worthless paper, otherwise, and too tough to even use to wipe your bum.

It was the same with contribution points. It was only if he spent them fully that he would have the strength and motivation to contribute more!

Hence, before the end-of-term exams of the second semester, Meng Chao smoothly but shockingly reached Spirit Gathering Realm and became a three-star superhuman.

When they were two-star superhumans, only some of their spirit meridians had a crystallized quality, which allowed them to create stronger spirit energy magnetic fields.

Once they became three-star superhumans, they could use the spirit energy gathered by the crystal spirit meridians to repeatedly refine some of their organs, and through metabolization, they could make the new organ cells stronger. They would then also go through crystallization.

The crystalized organs improved some of the body's functions and the superhumans could display stronger divine arts. They could also activate anti-gravity magnetic fields to prepare for Heaven Realm.

Normally, superhumans did not refine a lot of spirit meridians while they were two-star superhumans. Usually, only one-third or a quarter of their spirit meridians would crystallize.

Hence, when they became three-star superhumans, not a lot of their organs could be nourished by spirit energy and crystallize.

Most of the superhumans only refined one or two organs, such as the heart, spleen, liver, lungs, kidney, mouth, nose, eyes, ears, tongues, limbs, or others.

Meng Chao mainly cultivated his branch meridians and was baptized by the Red Radiance Jades and Blue Origin Crystals. He also had his contribution points, so most of his spirit meridians and organs crystallized based on how his vitality magnetic field surged about.

In just one year, he managed to turn from a normal human to a three-star superhuman. He had risen by three levels, so it was inevitable that he felt a little smug.

But as he thought about it carefully, he had future cultivation methods, was baptized by the Red Radiance Jades and Blue Origin Crystals, was given a beast soul brand by a Deity Realm elite Black Tortoise Zong Yue, had been taught martial arts by a peerless elite who was much stronger than Zong Yue, and he had personally tossed an astronomical amount of contribution points to level up.

Even a husky would turn into the Howling Celestial Dog if it went through what Meng Chao did, right?

After thinking about it, Meng Chao abandoned the thought that he was a rare genius. But only a little.

He felt that he should still keep a low profile.

Fortunately, his classes in the abnormal beast research department and Ghost Tribe taught him skills on how to restrain his spirit energy. He also learned how to activate his vitality magnetic field to neutralize the explosive force from his spirit energy magnetic field so that he would appear normal.

Skills like Walking Corpse could also make all the physiological reactions of a normal person disappear without a trace!

Hence, when his tutor, dean, chancellor, classmates, broken-star superhumans, family members, friends, and various members of society were shocked by his rapid increase in cultivation realm, Meng Chao remained calm

He just said with a smile, "That's nothing. I just cultivate with the mindset that I want to contribute to Dragon City, and I got a little lucky, that's all."

Meng Chao's humility, modesty, and cordiality made everyone praise him.

His classmates, however, all said, "Meng Chao is pretending again!"

The mysterious donor's martial arts were really strong, and the help it provided to the Broken Star Club far exceeded the standards of a normal donation. Meng Chao then naturally thought about the problem that he might be taking advantage of the person.

It was not easy to get three million Supernatural Coins and three hundred cultivation cabins. There would definitely come a day when the person would make a series of requests to the Broken Star Club.

Since he or she was one of the top five leaders in Dragon City, the request the donor would make would naturally not be something trivial.

From a certain perspective, the donor was using the astronomical donation to bind the Broken Star Club to his or her side.

Even though the normal members did not need to bear any sort of responsibility, Meng Chao would take responsibility. He was not an ungrateful person, and under the donor's guidance, he had become a three-star superhuman at miraculous speed. He was now close to the peak of Earth Realm.

Even so, he was not entirely bothered by this. The most important thing to him was to increase his strength.

He had to increase his fighting strength, the power of Superstar and the Broken Star Club, and his status in the abnormal beast research department to gain the right to participate in the game that would decide Dragon City's future.

As long as he could stop the apocalypse from becoming true, he would not hesitate even if he had to make a trade with the Devil.

Chapter 347: Growth of the Dark Witch

When Meng Chao became a three-star superhuman, Superstar's project of buying the core assets of Spirit Creation Creatures was nearing its end as well.

This act of them eating a dinosaur was miraculously successful. Meng Yishan, the boss-in-name of Superstar, was actually quite confused and worried about it all instead of being excited.

"A'chao, what's going on?"

On the rare occasion that Meng Chao came home, Meng Yishan was finally unable to hold back. “Why is Spirit Creation Creatures contacting us so actively? Also, the bank, law firms, and accounting firms came to us on their own. Even the related departments have given us the green light as if they’re trying to make sure that this cooperation goes through. I-I just don’t feel at ease with this.”

He was a harvester who had worked hard for most of his life. Superstar and Prosperous’ merge was something that he could still understand, and he was also confident that he could help his son control that company.

But once Spirit Creation Creatures was involved, Meng Yishan felt faint and had no idea what was going on anymore, since it was a company dealing with high-tech and new technology.

“Little Cao mentioned that we’ve become middlemen to launder dirty money... Is that true?” Meng Yishan asked his son tentatively.

“What?” Meng Chao scratched his head. He cast a glance at his younger sister, who was sitting in front of a TV and giggling while holding half a slice of a pink watermelon. “Why does she know about the existence of such middlemen?”

“Why wouldn’t I?” Bai Jiacao had her black and shiny eyes fixed on the exaggerated soap opera on the screen while she said casually, “Big Brother, your Broken Star Club has been expanding really quickly recently. I’ve heard a lot of stuff at school and on the internet.

“You also became a three-star superhuman within a short year. Even if many of the superhumans were showered by spirit energy because of that spirit energy tsunami at the northern frontlines and reached various degrees of breakthroughs, you’re still improving the fastest!

“Now, people are taking the initiative to help Superstar become stronger and bigger. But there’s no such thing as free lunch. It’s impossible for our family to reach such heights in a short year by relying solely on our own strength.

“The only answer is that you found incredibly powerful support, and that person wants you to go out and do things that they would find inconvenient. You’re also supposed to circulate some cash that the person has trouble circulating. That’s the gist of it, right?”

Meng Chao fell silent when he heard that. ‘The brat actually guessed right.’

Ye Xiaoxing did not hide things from him when it came to this matter.

The abnormal beast research department was indeed hoping to form a close working relationship with Superstar since they needed money to investigate cases.

The investigations were related to the abnormal beast organization, and when it came to major cases that could threaten the safety of Dragon City, they would need astronomical funds to conduct the investigations.

As a law enforcement organization which was similar to the adjudicator court, the abnormal beast research department was able to get funds from the Survival Committee.

But money was also required for Dragon City’s construction, the war, and many other things. There were organizations that had no money waiting for the Survival Committee to give them money, so it was

difficult for the research department, adjudicator court, and even the Red Dragon Army to get any money from the Survival Committee's pockets.

Besides, half of the seats in the Survival Committee belonged to the nine great mega corporations.

If one of the cases involved the nine great mega corporations, should they investigate the case to the end or stop before they came to an end?

Hence, the research department naturally had the desire to deal with some of its funding on its own.

Instead of letting the Survival Committee seize their throats by making every bit of funding for their investigations go through strict budget declarations and post audits, it was better for them to use their own strength to support some of the external corporations and grow stronger themselves. Then, through these external corporations, they could get secret funds that would be completely in their own control.

This was something normal. Even the adjudicator court did it.

They had to use a lot of money to bribe people and placate the gangs in lairs. They also had to hire unique superhuman squads to handle certain "problems". Such things would definitely not get through audit, but if they had not done it, they would not have been able to conduct many of their investigations.

Besides, Spirit Creation Creatures had pretty decent skills in conducting biochemical experiments and tests.

The abnormal beast research department could use Spirit Creation Creatures to look into certain clues that could not be placed in the abnormal beast research department.

"Meng Chao, Spirit Creation Creatures must be controlled by the abnormal beast research department. Your performance over the past few months have made everyone look at you differently. We hope that Superstar can merge with Spirit Creation Creatures, and through it, form a close working relationship with the abnormal beast research department," Ye Xiaoxing said.

"Xie Xiaolei is a talented man. It'll be a pity if we don't use it. Don't worry. No matter what, he has a stain on his record. If he does something strange, his crime of working together with Gao Ye to create biochemical beasts illegally will be enough to make him suffer major consequences. But he's smart, so he won't go looking for trouble on his own."

Meng Chao had thought about it for a long time before he agreed to Ye Xiaoxing's suggestion.

"I don't think this is appropriate," Meng Yishan said. "Son, don't go laughing at me for not being ambitious. Last year, I hadn't even considered that Superstar could develop this much. I just thought that it'd be good if we could have around fifty of my friends working together so that we can earn a living.

"Later, you became stronger, and you even facilitated the merging of Superstar and Prosperous. I was naturally happy, but I also thought that this was the limit of my abilities and I should stop.

“I didn’t expect that in just half a year, you would move from being a one-star superhuman to a two-star superhuman. Meanwhile, you didn’t just create the Broken Star Club, you even made our business flourish. But I don’t understand what you’re trying to do now.

“I’m not worried that the right to lead the company will be taken over by someone else. In any case, the basis of Superstar is a normal harvesting team. At most, I’ll just go back to my roots and bring my friends with me to harvester once more. The money we earned this year is already enough for us to live comfortably for the rest of our lives. We were never ambitious people to begin with, anyway.

“But I’m worried about you. Everyone says that you need to prioritize taking your time when it comes to the road of cultivation. The faster you become stronger, the less solid your foundation becomes. The further you go, the easier it will be for you to go through spirit energy deviation.

“Besides, Little Cao is right. There is no such thing as free lunch in the world. Various people are working hard to help us become bigger and stronger, so they will definitely want us to repay them by having you do something difficult and dangerous, right?”

“Son, we don’t actually have to work so hard. The company can remain at the same scale as last year, and you can remain a one-star or two-star superhuman. You can live a comfortable and carefree life.

“There are plenty of superhumans who live their lives being one-star superhumans, so why do you have to face the risk of spirit energy deviation or even dying on the battlefield? Why do you have to reach the top?”

While eating his mother’s fried spring rolls and listening to his father’s worries, Meng Chao sighed in his heart.

His father was right.

If he did not know the future, the company could just remain with thirty or fifty employees while he stayed a carefree one-star superhuman who had no worries. At most, he would just become a two-star superhuman to enjoy his life.

A stable life with little riches brought peace. Knowing how to be content brought everlasting happiness, and that was the greatest blessing in life.

Unfortunately, the apocalypse was like a burning, sharp blade that hung above his head. Even if the blade had not pierced the top of his head, its light still stung his eyes.

The peace around him was just a dream.

Very soon, Dragon City would go on a journey that was even grander in scale, and it would be even more terrifying.

He had to grit his teeth and tear apart his flesh and bones while staking everything he had to continue climbing upward. That was the only way to survive once he reached a dangerous cliff. Only after he survived that cliff would he find a brand new path.

“Dad, don’t worry. I have a plan,” Meng Chao said. “You don’t have to worry about not being able to control Superstar once it becomes too big, either. You just need two things to control businesses in this tumultuous era in Dragon City and the Other World. First, connections. Second, power.

“When it comes to connections, I have the Broken Star Club at the grassroots level, and when it comes to those of a higher social rank, I have the support of Agricultural University and powerful people from various fields.

“When it comes to power, I’ve reached Spirit Gathering Realm in just one year, and my fighting strength is far beyond that of a three-star superhuman.

“As long as I have these two things, Superstar will forever be in our grasp. If I lose them, I’m afraid we won’t just need to be worried about something as simple as Superstar.

“In any case, you don’t have to be worried about so many things. You just need to trust that I have the power to protect all of you!”

In time, he managed to set his parents’ minds at ease, so he cast his attention to his little sister.

Bai Jiacao had graduated from middle school.

Over the past year, Meng Chao had used every second that he had to cultivate, so he seldom went home. He could even count the number of times he saw Bai Jiacao.

Girls quickly changed when they grew up. Bai Jiacao was very different compared to the girl he met when he just returned to the past. She no longer had her round face and young voice.

Her baby fat had disappeared. Her oval face was beginning to change, and she was gaining a sharp chin. Her body seemed to be growing, and now, she was a lot taller than before. In terms of her body ratio, her legs might be longer than Lu Siya’s. There was an amusement in her eyes, as if she could see through everything. It was not something a normal graduate of middle school should have.

In other words, his little sister... was becoming more and more like the Dark Witch.

It was not just her looks. Her wit and fighting strength resembled those of the Dark Witch as well.

Bai Jiacao had gained extraordinarily good results during her high school entrance exams and managed to get into Construction High, one of the three powerful high schools in Dragon City. She was even slotted into the experimental class.

Meng Chao asked Luo Hai about it, since he graduated from Construction High.

Luo Hai told him that the experimental class was the best class in Construction High. It was similar to Ninth High School’s rocket class, but it was smaller. It only recruited thirty students at most each year, and the students were taught with a special syllabus.

They completed all three years of high school education in one year. Then, they worked together with various famous universities to nurture the students with tertiary education.

Usually, the students who could join the experimental class were either rich or from powerful families. They were at the very least people like Luo Hai, who were second generation cultivators with parents who were at the peak of Heaven Realm.

There had never been anyone like Bai Jiacao, whose parents were normal people with no money, that got into Construction High’s experimental class with her own powers.

“Your father should publish a book on how to educate children so that he can tell us all how he managed to make both of you so outstanding. I can guarantee that the book will sell like hot cakes in the city and everyone will want a copy,” Luo Hai said seriously.

Meng Chao scratched his head. He did not think that his parents had any secrets in teaching them.

Of course, this was not entirely his doing either.

Even though he had been providing Bai Jiacao with a lot of gene medicine and high-calorie nutritional fluid over the past year and even racked his brains for basic martial arts that would be suitable for her, the main reason behind her improvement... was definitely because her Night Demon Blood was awakening.

Chapter 348: New Battle, Start!

A year had passed, and Meng Chao had already gotten rid of most of the paths that would make Bai Jiacao turn into the Dark Witch.

Based on his parents’ reaction, his little sister had also been behaving like a hardworking, normal middle school student.

But her corruption did not lower in the slightest!

This matter was a problem that persistently bothered Meng Chao. He still had no clues about the X-shaped eyes he saw in his mother’s notebook.

Now, Bai Jiacao had become really observant. With just one glance, she figured out what was going on behind why Superstar was able to take in Spirit Creation Creatures.

No matter what, her intelligence far surpassed the standards of a normal middle school student.

Meng Chao did not know how he should approach the topic. He could only beat around the bush. “Little Cao, have you been recently... having some really strange thoughts?”

Bai Jiacao was puzzled. “Huh?”

Meng Chao elaborated. “You know, thoughts that suddenly turn very dark and evil for no reason, and you feel like taking revenge on society when you think about them.”

Bai Jiacao was even more puzzled. “W-What are you saying?!”

Meng Chao elaborated even further. “For example, do you have instances when you suddenly have undeniable urges that make you really bloodthirsty or make you want to step on me?”

“I don’t feel any bloodlust, and I don’t want to take revenge on society, but I think about stepping on you every day.”

Bai Jiacao could not help but add, “Big Brother, I should be the one asking you those questions, don’t you think so? I feel like you’ve been really weird lately. How should I put it? Sometimes, when you come home and curl up in a corner to relax, you become really thoughtful and mysterious. It’s as if there’s a thick, black fog surrounding you that no one can see through.”

His little sister was right.

Meng Chao could also sense that the greatest change brought by the training from the abnormal beast research department and large increase in his contribution points was not reflected on his body, but in his soul.

The memories from his previous life had been scattered everywhere, but now, he remembered them one by one, and they were reconnected. Gradually, they formed the full picture of many “major events” of his previous life.

At the same time he awakened the skills of his previous life, he also came to realize how he himself, his little sister, Dragon City, and his comrades had changed.

The incredibly tragic future did not begin on the day the apocalypse descended on them.

It was the opposite. The arrival of the apocalypse was like a release. It drew the curtains on the dark fate that Dragon City faced, and the entire show ended with a sigh.

Meng Chao finally came to realize why he could not awaken all his memories when he had just returned from the past.

They were like a black poison. If he awakened to them while still in high school, even if he did not end up burning all of his brain cells in half a second, his personality would have become twisted and completely devoured by that of the Meng Chao from the apocalypse.

Then, Dragon City would end up with a killing machine that was callous, cunning, and had no human emotions. That killing machine would then be unable to change the future and crush the apocalypse.

Over the past few months, his body had certainly changed a lot. He had grown half a head taller, and his shoulders became broader.

Due to the stimulation from secret techniques, his muscles were not bulged up and swollen. Instead, they looked like iron rods wrapped up in rubber. They looked soft but also firm. The two qualities blended well with each other.

When he just awakened to spirit energy, he faced the problem of spirit tattoos appearing randomly while his spirit energy spilled out. But now, it was no longer the case. He could absorb spirit energy into his pores and his capillaries, then deliver it to his branch meridians.

Even if he tensed up his muscles and squashed all his nerves and spirit meridians until they were like springs pushed to the limit, he would still look like the average normal citizen.

Due to the spirit energy tsunami at Raging Waves, all the new superhumans who were nourished by spirit energy at the northern frontlines increased their fighting strength and cultivation realms by leaps and bounds. They became known as the golden generation.

The students who did not know Meng Chao found it very difficult to believe that he was the most outstanding one among them.

Only a handful of people who were really close to him or were unique existences, such as his little sister with Night Demon Blood, could sense the deepest and most authentic part of his soul.

Lu Siya was another one.

She did not just sponsor the Broken Star Club, but also threw in real cash when Superstar bought over Spirit Creation Creatures' assets to help Meng Chao. She was also his instructor in one-third of his classes, so they spent a lot of time together.

As a Spirit Senser, she could naturally sense the sinister aura that came from him after he awakened to the malicious skills and memories from his training in Ghost Tribe and his life in that incredibly tragic future.

"Do you know it?" she had asked him one day.

"Know what?" Meng Chao threw the question right back at her.

"You're very dangerous," Lu Siya said while staring at him. "I can smell an incredibly dangerous presence from you. If you walked behind me quietly at night, I would definitely feel chills down my spine. I'd even scream. Damn it, I'm already at Heaven Realm and even Captain Ye doesn't give me this sort of... feeling, as if I can't read him and can't control him.

"It's just a few months of incomplete training, so how could it make you into a completely new man?"

"When normal superhumans join the special training from the abnormal beast research department, they are polished until they turn into jades.

"But you don't need to be polished at all. This training is just giving a light tap against your disguise and making it crack. We're peeling off the outer layer and making you reveal your true colors."

Meng Chao had nothing to say to that. He could only scratch his head and smile like an idiot.

"Looks like you know." Lu Siya sighed. "Promise me one thing. Don't put on such an honest and innocent look while in front of me anymore, alright?"

"You have no idea how you look with that expression. I feel like looking at an Apocalyptic Beast that still has meat stuck between its teeth while wearing a harmless and stupid grin. It doesn't do anything to help ease the awkward atmosphere, but makes it even more terrifying, you know?!"

In any case, his training, the expansion of the Broken Star Club, the purchasing of Spirit Creation Creatures' assets for Superstar's use, the training from the abnormal beast research department, and the awakening of his past memories took up all his time. Even if he was busy for three days and nights, he might not find the time to sleep for even two hours. Time flew by, and in the blink of an eye, the summer holiday passed by like lightning.

When the training came to an end and they completed buying Spirit Creation Creatures' assets, they began renovations for the new headquarters of the Broken Star Club. At that moment, Meng Chao could finally stop and catch his breath. It was also only at that moment that he realized he was already a month into being a sophomore!

He was not the only one who had been busy. Dragon City seemed to have been dragged on the expressway. Quite a number of major cases had happened one after another.

First of all, once they gained full victory on the northern frontlines, Dragon City managed to preserve many soldiers with great fighting experience compared to Meng Chao's previous life, and it could throw those soldiers to the expansion of other frontlines.

The superhuman squads formed a golden team with the Red Dragon Army that wiped out the enemies effortlessly in the east, south, and west of the city. They took a few strategically important places in a row.

Wherever humanity's soldiers went, the fog disappeared.

The monsters only knew how to make noise and bare their teeth as they rushed over. Their only victory was wasting some bullets by taking them with their flesh.

Compared to the minerals and resources hidden under their feet, that bit of ammunition was nothing.

Quite a number of monsters mutated or evolved just like Meng Chao remembered they would. They awakened to more talents and abilities when they were about to die, which created some trouble for humans.

But Meng Chao had already spread the Ultimate Style, Future One Hundred Saber Techniques, the future versions of the three great force execution methods, and other future martial arts that specifically targeted the mutated monsters through the Broken Star Club, Yan Organization, and other organizations.

The superhumans who had been baptized by the spirit energy in Raging Waves were also more powerful compared to those in Meng Chao's previous life.

Even though there were still bloody battles that ended up with corpses strewn all over the place when humans fought against mutated monsters, at the end of the day, humans were always able to gain a pretty satisfactory victory. They could then set up sturdy bridge towers and stage bases in the areas around Dragon City that were originally shrouded by fog.

During the few battles where they won effortlessly, the broken-star superhumans had good results against the monsters.

The future fighting methods Meng Chao taught them increased their killing efficiency by quite a lot.

This meant that the status of many broken-star superhumans increased in their squads, forces of power, and companies.

The number of broken-star superhumans applying to join the Broken Star Club also increased day by day. There were even some low-grade superhumans who had awakened through normal methods who came to ask for information about what sort of organization the Broken Star Club was and how they could join it.

When faced with humanity's fierce offense, the monsters naturally launched a counterattack. Since the abnormal beasts had outstanding intellect, they did not choose to attack humanity's steel defense lines head-on.

Instead, they took the initiative to enter Dragon City when the space-time rifts opened. Starting from June, Dragon Citizens could clearly sense that the monsters who entered Dragon City when the fog descended were much smarter.

In the past, whenever the fog descended, the monsters were absolutely confused by what was going on. They would gather together and be attracted by the lights and smoke. Then, without any sort of order, they would attack various communities and skyscrapers.

This would result in them being surrounded by the electromagnetic towers, machine gun towers, 3D intersecting flame nets, and citizens who had been waiting for them. Then, those monsters would be killed by everyone working together.

Not only were they unable to cause great destruction, their flesh became raw materials used to build Dragon City and keep the human civilization running.

But now, when the fog descended, even if there were still a large number of monsters who rushed forward like in the past, there were quite a number of monsters who crawled into air vents, sewage systems, various ruins, and all sorts of dark and narrow corners.

When the Battle State was declared off and the citizens returned to their normal life, like going to work, school, and just going about their daily lives, they would jump out from the dark corners bite through the important underground pipes, attack citizens who were alone, destroy important infrastructures that affected people's livelihoods, and used other methods to create trouble.

When humans sent their exploration and hunting teams to search for these destroyers, the monsters seldom chose to face the humans outright. Instead, they used the complicated ruins and the underground network of pipes to play hide and seek.

But even if they were forced into a corner, they did not fight normally. They would secrete a special type of adrenaline to turn themselves into biochemical bombs, so they would deal much more damage than any claws or teeth ever could.

Chapter 349: Fire and Electricity

It was hard to imagine that monsters would be willing to turn themselves into walking biochemical bombs if they did not possess higher intelligence.

Meng Chao felt that the Mystery of the Supernatural Entities that was hidden behind the abnormal beasts had risen to the surface two years before what he remembered.

If there really was a satellite city that had been corrupted by the Other World to the point that it had lost its identity, it had all the time to calmly expand and infiltrate the Dragon City in his previous life due to the White Spirit making the Red Radiance Jade mine explode, which dealt a heavy blow to the city. At that time, Dragon City did not have the strength to launch new offenses on outside forces for at least two years.

Now, due to Meng Chao creating the butterfly effect, not only did Dragon City not lose its soldiers, the golden era had come about.

The Red Dragon Army obtained the resources from the developing area in the north, and its firepower was even greater than before.

Dragon City could advance boldly in all directions. Within a short half a year, it managed to expand its controlled territory by 30%. It even set up observation towers at spots that were nearly one hundred kilometers away from the city, so they could monitor an incredibly large area.

If the abnormal beast organization allowed Dragon City to continue winning all their battles and growing, no matter where the distorted satellite city hid, it would eventually be discovered.

So, Meng Chao believed that they had been forced to attack.

Many of the major events that should have happened two or three years later might come within the next three or five months.

This was good.

Based on the White Spirit and Gao Ye's cases, the secret weapons—the Nine Great Supernatural Entities—had yet to be perfected.

The infiltration of Dragon City might not have reached the degree that Meng Chao remembered, where they were everywhere, either.

If they brute-forced their plan, there was a high chance they would reveal their organization, and Dragon City could destroy them in one go.

The day they solved the Mystery of the Supernatural Entities would be the day Dragon City won the Monster War.

When the monsters' intellect increased, which was reflected in their actions, all sorts of brand new abnormal beasts popped up. The power of the abnormal beast research department also increased, and it began to recruit people from everywhere and mobilize people from other fields.

Even so, the core members were so busy that they could no longer tell night from day. Each of the high-grade investigators was usually in charge of more than ten cases at any point in time.

Otherwise, Lu Siya would not have had the chance to become Meng Chao's instructor.

Since they faced a severe lack of manpower and Meng Chao usually performed rather outstandingly, his course completion test was basically just for show, and on the second day after he passed it, he was sent to the frontlines, even though the task was almost entirely beyond him.

He was sent to a garbage power plant near Dragon City's steel corporations in the north of the city.

After Dragon City transmigrated, it could find almost no gasoline and coal underground. Aside from a handful of solar-powered power supply facilities, the thermal power plants in the city were crippled for twenty years.

Then, humans gradually mastered the technology of using fire-based crystals, electricity-based crystals, and all sorts of monsters to generate electricity. Household appliances that could be seen everywhere on Earth, like TVs, computers, and lights finally returned then.

However, to Dragon Citizens, the most important function of electricity was not to light up TVs and computers.

Instead, it was to provide power to the community defense systems. They were activated by high-voltage electricity and protected normal humans from monsters.

All the communities, regardless of whether they were rich, poor, new, or old, were fortified.

The moment danger arose, the roads were locked down and metal nets were connected to high-voltage electricity.

They used electricity-powered drive gears to set up layers of armor outside the buildings, which covered the doors and windows.

There were also offensive electromagnetic coils everywhere in the communities, along with searchlights that could blind people. All of them needed electricity to work.

If the power grid was crippled, even if they were able to fortify the city somehow, their defense would be compromised, and their defense lines might be destroyed by monsters.

It was precisely because the electricity-based defenses were so important that there were more than one power plant in Dragon City, which had tens of millions of people.

They had built five power plants without caring about pollution issues. One plant could be found in the east, west, south, north, and center of the city.

Many of the important units had their own crystal generators as well to ensure that the electromagnetic towers and searchlights could continue functioning when there was a power outage due to something happening to the external conducting materials.

Normal and old residential areas naturally did not have such advanced technology.

In the last three months, there had been at least five fogs. When the monsters attacked, the power plants encountered mysterious explosions. The power grids were crippled, and residential areas which were going through the fortification process suddenly experienced power outages, so the electrical nets that should have had high-voltage electricity coursing through them were torn to shreds by a gentle tug from the monsters.

Without electricity, the defenses of the residential areas instantly fell.

In the darkness, people's mental strength indices fluctuated much more, and they were much more likely to be devoured by fear.

Once, five residential areas had suddenly experienced power outages. The monsters successfully broke down four of the defense lines and engaged the citizens in melee combat.

The citizens disregarded their safety and fought while smiling in the face of death, and they were finally able to send the monsters away.

But the citizens also paid a heavy price.

There was not even a need to mention how many casualties they suffered. Most of the buildings in the residential areas were also destroyed. The reinforced bars were melted by the monsters spitting fierce flames, and the buildings began to sway. They could collapse at any moment. Some of them also turned into paradises for pests which had rushed inside to spit acid and venom in the internal structure of the buildings.

Initial estimates stated that more than ten thousand residential apartments were damaged beyond repair

The problem of housing its citizens had bothered Dragon City for years. Up till then, there were still countless citizens who were forced to live in dark, cramped, and humid lairs. And those places had a high crime rate as well.

There were also countless citizens whose three generations were squeezed into a small house of sixty square meters, which meant that there were more than ten people living in that house.

It was also normal for two- and three-layered bunk beds to be placed in houses with only a height of two or three meters.

Yet more than ten thousand citizens had lost their homes in one night, which made the problem of living space in Dragon City even worse.

If they could not solve it properly, the problem could intensify to a dangerous degree.

Perhaps that was the goal.

The abnormal beast research department investigated the data from the past few years.

They noticed that the five sudden power outages were different from the previous crippling of power grids due to the overload of the defense system.

The power companies in Dragon City had performed a full technical upgrade of the power grids in the last year. Even if there were more than one hundred residential areas that had to go through fortification, they could support the electromagnetic towers to release their most powerful attacks.

But the last five times the fog descended, the power plants near where monsters surged out of the space-time rifts experienced mysterious explosions.

Yet those power plants were not surrounded by fog, so they should not have been targeted by any monsters.

“When the fog descends, some monsters must be quietly sneaking into the power plants. They patiently wait under the power plants until the next fog and launch suicidal attacks at the power plants when they have to operate at full capacity so that they can create beneficial situations for the new batch of monsters who have to destroy human apartments.”

This was the theory of the experts from the abnormal beast research department.

Based on the past few battles, the monsters of different species seldom knew to fight together. Sacrificing themselves to create offensive chances for their comrades on different battlefields seemed to be a concept unique to humans.

If the monsters were really able to do it, they had to possess near-human intelligence.

And if they knew how to lurk around and ambush power plants because they were important facilities, it meant that the monsters had come to realize that the human defense system was related to electricity. They also knew that the huge steam towers could provide endless electricity to the humans.

No matter how everyone thought about it, it was impossible for the simple-minded monsters to know these things. They were highly likely to be abnormal beasts who had absorbed human intelligence.

The weather forecast station in the city predicted another fog.

Also, based on the fluctuations of the space-time rifts, the scale of this fog would be the largest in half a year, and it would also last the longest.

It was highly likely that a large number of Nightmarish Beasts and Hell Beasts would enter Dragon City.

In half a year, the speed at which monsters evolved and mutated had increased. Normal monsters like the Demonic Halberd Pigs had gone through more than ten mutations.

Even though the superhumans and Red Dragon City could rely on the Ultimate Style and other new fighting models that targeted the weaknesses of these mutated species to kill them in the wild until there was nothing of them left, it was a different thing to fight in the city.

A lot of normal citizens lived in the city, and many of the important facilities had flammable and explosive products.

And no matter how much the government fortified the citizens' apartments, it was impossible to make them as sturdy as battle fortresses.

There was nothing wrong with killing monsters, but if the superhumans ended up using a killing move that could destroy the world at a residential area, they would also end up crushing the residential buildings behind the monsters, which would also reduce their residents into mince meat. That would not be a victory.

The difficulty of urban warfare was much higher.

They were also engaging the enemy while in their own homes with normal humans around them, so they had to be even more careful of their movements. They might not even be able to bring out 50% of their total fighting strength.

If monsters crept in to destroy the power plants during crucial moments and crippled a large number of the power grids, the consequences would be dire.

This time, the fog would descend on a total of seven areas on all sides of the city. All the abnormal beast research department could do against it was to send their elites to the five power plants and set up defenses.

Meng Chao and Lu Siya were sent to the garbage power plant in the north of the city.

It employed the newest biotechnology. Instead of Giant Sandworms, it used unique microorganisms that had been modified to handle the trash.

The processed trash would then go through fermentation and turn into a substance similar to chemical fertilizer.

When this substance was mixed with the excretion of monsters as well as powder from fire-type or electric-type crystals like Lightning Stones, it became the best fuel. The energy conversion efficiency far surpassed that of any thermal power plants on Earth and could turn 65% of the heat into electricity.

This was a rather advanced biotechnology, but now, it turned into a major problem. There were nearly one thousand tons of semi-manufactured goods in the fuel fermentation warehouse.

Meng Chao did not want to know just how big the fire would be if the abnormal beasts used secret arts to ignite the semi-manufactured goods.

According to his memories, however, at least three extremely large fires would break out in the next few years.

The worst one would even swallow one-third of Golden Tooth Lair!

Chapter 350: Flame Rats

The power plant had its own factory protection team.

After a few of the strange fire accidents and explosions, the Red Dragon Army stationed squads from the special forces in the power plants.

They were at North Mountain Region, located in the north of the city, so the abnormal beast research department also stationed a regional-level operations team.

The three squads immediately did more than ten searches, but they did not find anything.

Meng Chao remained uneasy. He felt that something bad was about to happen.

When it was around ten at night, the strange fog came tumbling from the air. It released a faint blue and red light, which gradually descended on them along with the night. It was as if vortex-shaped, dark clouds had become connected together.

Piercing whistles cut through the night, and the sky seemed to be torn apart by a pair of hands that could not be seen. Huge shiny eyeballs came from the four cardinal directions. They had tentacles trailing behind them and looked like the amalgamations of an octopus and a jellyfish as they staggered out of the rifts.

Demonic Air Ripping Eyes were the vanguards of the monster invasion this time.

They did not have great fighting strength, but they could use piercing mind attacks and strike at humans' cerebral cortexes, which made their mental strength indices fall because of fear and confusion.

During the recent fog descents, the number of Demonic Air Ripping Eyes had increased. It was to the point that people began to think that there was some sort of mysterious power controlling them.

And the Demonic Air Ripping Eyes were also evolving.

Not only had their tentacles become incredibly sturdy, they could also send them down from one hundred meters up in the air. Those mutated tentacles were death hooks that snagged people away.

A large number of new-type Demonic Air Ripping Eyes had also appeared, and they could interfere with the internet as well as cut communication optical fiber cables and wireless communication.

The monster experts called these mutated types Demonic Confusion Eyes.

It signified that once they appeared on the battlefield, they blocked off all communications by executing full-band barrage jamming.

To humans who had strict organizations and were used to coordinating attacks with each other, this was naturally an incredibly problematic thing.

Meng Chao stood at the highest point of the power plant. It was a cooling tower that released steam, which made it look like an erupting volcano. He looked into the distance at the faint light shining from the Demonic Air Ripping Eyes and the night sky, which was now dyed all sorts of colors.

It was like a nightmare around him. The short-distance dimensional portals had opened, and monsters appeared in the alleys and streets in massive waves. Even Demonic Halberd Pigs and Iron-armored Rhinoceroses, which were the most common monsters, were much bigger and deformed. They didn't seem the same creatures that Meng Chao had seen in the fog descent that happened when he had just returned to the past.

Their eyes were bloodshot and they were foaming at their mouths. Their muscles were twisted from being too tense, and, driven by their killing instincts, the monsters started attacking humanity's fortified residential areas and skyscrapers.

Bang, bang, bang, bang!

The anti-aircraft guns located all over the city started voicing their protest. With the guidance of tracers, fire snakes shot into the air before they gathered together to form destructive waves that swept over the hundreds of Demonic Air Ripping Eyes.

Some of them were instantly shot full of holes. Whistles resembling those of popped balloons cut through the air while they swung their tentacles madly in the dark. This strange sight was even more terrifying than the mind attacks they released, and people's skins crawled when they saw it.

More Demonic Air Ripping Eyes released strange forcefields to change the trajectory of the bullets, so they would barely graze them.

Both humans and monsters were learning how to fight.

While humans developed the Ultimate Style and other advanced fighting models to specifically target monsters, the monsters were also evolving and growing less apprehensive of human bullets. But only normal bullets used for long-distance attacks.

Whoosh! Whoosh! Whoosh! Whoosh!

Fortunately, humans still had rocket launchers.

Some of the soldiers with heat tracing shoulder-fired rocket launchers had been lurking on the buildings. They had long since locked down on their targets, and when the Demonic Air Ripping Eyes descended to less than one hundred meters away from the ground, the soldiers calmly pulled the trigger.

To avoid the mind attacks from the Demonic Air Ripping Eyes, at the moment they pulled the trigger, the soldiers shut their eyes.

The rocket launchers had heat tracing technology, so they could still accurately find their target.

This time, the interference forcefields were not very effective and the Demonic Air Ripping Eyes were reduced to brilliant fireworks.

Under the illumination, more spaces were torn, and more Demonic Air Ripping Eyes crawled out.

For a period of time, more than one hundred residential areas and hundreds of tall buildings in the city were attacked simultaneously.

The metal nets were connected to high-voltage electricity. They released loud crackles and incredibly dazzling sparks.

The searchlights illuminated the battlefields in the residential areas, which turned night into day over there. The monsters with mimicry and invisibility talents could not hide anywhere.

The electromagnetic towers released bright electrical arcs. They were like sharp and unblockable blades that cut open the aggressive monsters and burnt them to a crisp.

The sturdy fortresses were supported by a lot of electricity.

The five main power plants in Dragon City were operating over their maximum capacity.

After an hour of intense fighting, the garbage power plant to the north of the city still showed no signs of abnormal activity. Aside from two units temporarily going out of service because they had been operating over their maximum capacity for too long, there were no hints of man-made fires or explosions.

“Could it be that no monsters are lurking here?” Lu Siya asked Meng Chao through the communication channel.

“I don’t know.” Meng Chao shook his head. His eyes were still fixed on the night sky. He did not even blink as he mumbled, “The weather forecast station said that the fog is going to last for a really long time. The fight might go from midnight until dawn. If I were a monster that has outstanding intelligence, I wouldn’t choose to attack now.”

“Before dawn, the power plant will have been operating at more than maximum capacity for an entire night. The humans would be mentally exhausted as well, so their defenses would be at their weakest. Wouldn’t that be the best time for me to attack?”

Meng Chao sat down cross-legged on the chimney and entered a deep meditative state.

Now that he had become a three-star superhuman and awakened to many of his previous memories, he could face Dragon City with absolute calmness even if it was burning with the flames of war.

It didn't matter that the Demonic Air Ripping Eyes let out piercing shrieks and shocking waves of mind attacks. They did not bother him in the slightest.

In fact, he consciously expanded his vitality magnetic field to sense the vitality magnetic fields of the monsters in an attempt to find the secret behind how they could coordinate their attacks with more than one hundred species being present.

Time trickled by, but the monsters' offense did not weaken in the slightest.

Even the steel corporations near the garbage power plant began to feel the pressure.

The Red Dragon Army special forces stationed here and some of the factory protection squad suddenly gathered together and rushed out of the garbage power plant.

Meng Chao opened his eyes and asked Lu Siya through the communication channel, "What's going on? Where are they going?"

"The steel corporations were ambushed by a large number of monsters. There are dozens of Nightmarish Beasts and a few Hell Beasts mixed among them. The protection squads of those steel factories are not going to be able to fend them off any longer, so they're rushing over to provide reinforcements," Lu Siya cried out.

"I know what you're worried about, but if we lose the defense line of the steel corporations, the monsters will seize the momentum to push to this place and the power plant will end up in flames!"

"Where's Captain Ye?" Meng Chao was taken aback for a moment. "There should be even more elites from the abnormal beast research department here, right?"

"There was news half a minute ago saying that mysterious explosions happened simultaneously at the power plants at the center and south of the city. It seems like there are abnormal beasts over there," Lu Siya said. "Captain Ye led Group 9 over there to put out the fire."

Meng Chao spat at the ground before he suddenly calmed down.

His nostrils flared, and he sucked in a deep breath. "Did you smell something? It's like... some sort of greasy inflammable substance."

"Yes," Lu Siya said. "And there's a lot of it... They're crawling up the pipes from deep underground."

It was rats.

Just when part of the defensive force tasked to protect the power plant was mobilized to stabilize the defense line of the steel corporations, thousands of rats suddenly crawled out from under the power plant.

The rats were unlike any of rat-type monster Meng Chao had seen before.

They were greasy, plump, had thin and short limbs, and moved really clumsily. Forget about Meng Chao, as long as a Red Dragon Army sharpshooter who was well-trained was around, they would be able to hit them easily.

But when shot by bullets, they did not die instantly. Instead, the inflammable substance that filled their bellies would rise up in flames because of coming into contact with air.

The fire would burn the rats alive, which put them in extreme pain. The originally slow rats would then become much faster. They would run around like crazy and set everything around them on fire.

For a period of time, gunshots rang and hundreds of fireballs screeched and ran about in the power plant. The situation became incredibly chaotic.

Fortunately, the abnormal beast research department had already predicted the risk of a fire and explosion, so they contacted the fire department and appointed an elite firefighting squad to come in advance.

Among them were a few experts who were skilled in controlling the transfer of heat.

A number of the superhuman engineers of the power plant were also skilled in creating spirit energy magnetic fields that could turn chemicals into electricity, then turn electricity into heat.

Thud!

More than ten fire trucks spread out in a row and fired a water pillar that looked like an aquatic dragon at the spot with the most Flame Rats. It blasted more than one hundred burning creatures away.

The engineers of the power plant started mumbling. Spirit tattoos spread from their foreheads to their fingertips, and they started moving their fingers rapidly. They created spirit energy magnetic fields that were both ingenious and exquisite. They turned the water droplets that came from the fire trucks into crystalline ice.

The ground was instantly frozen. A number of the Flame Rats' limbs froze to the ground, and even if the fat on their bodies was still burning madly, they could not take even a step forward.

Gradually, the ice turned into ice spikes, and they gathered together to form ice walls. They surrounded the area in a small ice cage and trapped most of the Flame Rats inside.

The Flame Rats struggled madly to climb out of the ice cage, but even if they were lucky, most of the flames on their bodies were already extinguished. They were also badly battered and were on their last breath, so they no longer had the strength to continue attacking the vital spots of the power plant.

Besides, Lu Siya was still levitating in midair while holding the fort.

After half a year of sparring with Meng Chao, she had turned from a support-class superhuman to a fighting-class superhuman. She had already mastered her Spike Art.

When she saw any rats that they missed, she snapped her fingers lightly, and a small row of spikes shot out silently to pin that Flame Rat to the ground.