

Oh My God 451

Chapter 451: Origins

Meng Chao forced himself to chat with the girl for half an hour before he finally understood the whole story.

It was not that complicated.

The girl and the mohawk man were childhood sweethearts. They came from normal families, and when they were young, they did not manage to get good cultivation resources. They studied in the elementary school in their residential area that anyone could enter. Then, they went to a normal middle school and a professional career college. After they graduated, they very naturally could not find a job.

During the current day and age, the work efficiency of superhumans was ten times above that of normal people. The jobs in mega corporations and the related departments offered high salaries, good benefits, were stable, dignified, and had a lot of cultivation opportunities. They were also jobs that would never end up in the hands of normal people.

The consumer market in Dragon City and the labor market had always been bleak. Since biochemical pets and runic symbol machines had become popular, the industries also started developing in the area of automated machinery.

If a superhuman could control a few automatic machines, he or she could complete the workload that even more than one hundred normal people could not complete. It was no longer news that normal people would be unemployed from the moment they graduated.

The girl and the mohawk man had three and seven siblings at home. They could only barely survive by doing odd jobs and accepting the aid from the Survival Committee.

However, they were unfortunately attacked by monsters, and the residential area that originally served as their home was reduced to ruins. They were forced to move to the even more cramped and noisy temporary settlement.

The mohawk man was the leader of the children in the residential area when he was young, and he often brought his friends to cause trouble all over the place.

When they reached the temporary settlement, the citizens from multiple residential areas were squashed together in one area. Most of them were young adults who were hot-blooded and could not find jobs. There was just no way they would not cause trouble.

The mohawk man often brought his friends out to fight. Because of it, he became quite infamous. Not only did he manage to get to know Big Brother Wolf, who was a working man with a lot of connections, he also got to know Big Brother Liao, who was a two-star superhuman.

Apparently, Big Brother Liao was originally a staff member of some mega corporation.

However, big companies had their own problems, and the professional qualification tests as well as high indicators of the assessments they had to take meant that they treated the superhumans like beasts of labor.

To normal people, two-star superhumans were very outstanding.

But in mega corporations like Sky Pillar Corporation, Universe Corporation, and Soaring Dragon Corporation, they were just normal employees who even had a time limit when they went to the toilet.

Big Brother Liao was prideful and could not accept being oppressed his entire life like some chew toy in a mega corporation by high-grade superhumans.

Hence, he brought two one-star superhuman colleagues to hand in their resignation letters so that they could create their own company.

Ever since Dragon City obtained full victory in the northern offense, the most popular and also most competitive job was naturally the development of land in the fog.

As long as they were strong enough and ready to risk their lives, there were naturally plenty of people who would treat this as a risk investment and be willing to sponsor the fees for setting up a developing land in the wild. They would even provide them with weapons and equipment.

With the problem of money and equipment solved, what was left was manpower.

With Big Brother Liao's charisma and his status as a two-star superhuman, it was impossible for him to find any Heaven Realm superhuman who would be willing to help him.

Besides, if he really got a Heaven Realm superhuman to handle the situation, who would be the one ending up creating his own business?

Big Brother Liao made his decision and decided to take the gamble. He looked for normal people who had not awakened to supernatural abilities but had certain fighting abilities and were really bold.

Dragon Citizens had lived through turmoil for more than fifty years, so none of them were weaklings.

Children at the age of three would begin learning standing stances and meditation techniques. When they were seven, they began learning how to wield cold weapons and firearms. When they were around ten, they started using shoulder-mounted anti-monster rocket launchers. All of that was just part of life.

In the beginning, they had no choice, because they did not have enough ammunition.

Now, Dragon City had found a few large metal and crystal mines. The normal people might not be able to get high-tech weapons, but they were at least able to get sufficient firearms and ammunition. It was also not a problem for everyone to get a rocket launcher. Hence, the normal people became bolder.

Big Brother Liao soon came to the mohawk man.

The mohawk man had long since become sick of living in the squatter area and wasting his life away.

His old home was in ruins, and his new home would not be built in the foreseeable future.

Even if his new home was built and he could move in for free, he had six siblings at home. There was no way he could have his own room and marry his childhood sweetheart.

But even if they got married, as normal people, they did not have stable jobs. Were they supposed to have their children live such boring lives with them?

Hence, the mohawk man and Big Brother Liao hit it off, and the mohawk man called a group of friends who grew up with him to go out of the city with Big Brother Liao and create their own world.

He originally did not want to bring his girlfriend along.

He just promised her that he would definitely follow Big Brother Liao and gain his footing in the depths of the wild.

Once the mega corporations bought the developing land they made, they would become rich and successful.

The mohawk man even dreamed about running into a miracle in the wild and rising to power like Meng Chao, his idol.

At that time, he could come back in a dignified manner and marry his girlfriend. Then, everyone would be speechless.

However, none of the girls in Dragon City were gentle.

They were not used to waiting for someone else to save them.

Since the mohawk man was leaving to fight for their future home, it was only par for the course that they should fight together.

Hence, the girl and her boyfriend received training from Big Brother Liao and got to know of her boyfriend's relationship with Big Brother Wolf.

Apparently, the mohawk man got some Deification Capsules from Big Brother Wolf, which he said were lifesavers. In the beginning, Big Brother Liao refused to believe it.

Later, the mohawk man and Big Brother Liao seemed to have tested the effects of the Deification Capsule in secret and been pleased with it. That was why Big Brother Liao agreed to the mohawk man bringing one hundred Deification Capsules.

As for how much they spent to buy those capsules from Big Brother Wolf and whether there were any conditions attached to it, the girl did not know.

The girl also had a guess regarding why the Deification Capsule caused so many people to be drained and even die in self-immolation during real battle even though the initial tests proved it to be fine.

She believed that during the initial tests, the mohawk man and Big Brother Liao did not take the whole Deification Pill. They only took half or even less of the drug.

In fact, since it was just a test, it was impossible for them to have really found hundreds of monsters to kill either, so their minds and bodies would have been more relaxed.

When they were in a battle that would determine their lives and deaths, everyone became incredibly excited, and they often released power that was greater than their limits. Naturally, while they killed monsters, their hearts, brains, and cells were not able to handle the pressure.

"It's Big Brother Wolf who killed Little Hua!" The girl's eyes turned red-rimmed, and she said bitterly, "You must capture him so that he'll stop using the Deification Capsule to harm others!"

Meng Chao did not quite agree with what the girl said.

He had also taken in a lot of gene medicine awaiting approval from the black market and the deep web.

So, it was only par for the course that he understood the attitudes of the people who took the drugs.

All the sayings about “new products developed by major companies” were just for show. For that sort of product to really be developed, someone to be willing to be a test subject.

He could only say that in the brutal Other World where the strong ruled, humans had to be willing to pay an even higher price than on Earth to obtain greater strength.

When it came to cultivation, people had to be willing to bet and accept defeat. There was no right and wrong in it.

Besides, if it were not for the Deification Capsule, even the five survivors would not be alive now.

Based on this perspective, Big Brother Wolf could not be considered to have lied, right?

However, based on the information provided by the girl, Meng Chao learnt that Big Brother Wolf she mentioned was not a superhuman, just a ruthless battle maniac who had some experience in pathfinding.

As a normal person, how and where did Big Brother Wolf manage to get such a domineering drug?

Since he had gained a handful of clues from the girl, Meng Chao comforted her a little more before he left the medical room and called Qin Hu.

“Mr. Hu, it’s me. Yeah, I ended my training in the wild. My training went pretty well. I just killed a Tyrant Mammoth today, so I’ll bring some fresh mammoth meat for you later. What? ... Well... it’s a male. But don’t you think that your tastes are a little unusual? Can you even eat that? ... Fine. I’ll bring the whole piece back. It’ll all depend on your cooking skills...”

They chatted a little before Meng Chao went to the main topic. “By the way, Mr. Hu, do you remember that we organized a public welfare activity at the temporary shelter in the eastern part of the city some months ago? ... Yeah, we also sponsored Ms. Xiao Fanghua’s martial arts refresher course to develop the talented children who lost their homes. Say, do you have close friends over there?”

It was not the spur of a moment that led Meng Chao to act as a substitute teacher for Ms. Xiao Fanghua.

Teaching a large number of citizens future martial arts had always been one of the best shortcuts to earn contribution points.

Besides, Meng Chao was thinking about getting to know some future leaders, and it would be for the best if he could get these future leaders as his lackeys or something.

However, after looking through his previous life’s memories carefully, he noticed that plenty of the powerful people who had the world at their beck and call in the future were the children from the nine great cultivation families.

They had an endless supply of cultivation resources and famous teachers. They did not need him to do anything unnecessary to teach them, and Meng Chao could not find an easy way to approach them.

But Meng Chao did not know what the future powerful people who came from poor families went through during the early stages of their lives.

Besides, plenty of them used their nicknames while they wandered about in the Other World and became known through them. Meng Chao had no idea what they were called while they were young.

Fortunately, Ms. Xiao Fanghua's martial arts refresher course gave him inspiration.

Through the martial arts refresher course, he could come into contact with the poor children with more potential. At the same time he guided them in their cultivation, he could bring them to join all sorts of stance, meditation, and martial arts competitions. During the competitions, they would come to know the geniuses from other regions, and when these rare talents stood out, they would naturally enter Uncle Meng's sights.

Hence, Meng Chao paid a lot of attention to this matter.

Before he went to train in the wild, he had asked Qin Hu to use Superstar and the Broken Star Club to provide support to the martial arts refresher course in the temporary settlement.

Qin Hu had yet to regain his fighting strength, and he seemed to be slowly giving up as well, so he poured all of his skills into conducting business and even driving his career forward.

Superhumans might be the backbone of Dragon City, but if the Survival Committee was made up of purely superhumans, it would surely be criticized.

They might just be there as a foil, but there were a few normal people as politicians in the Survival Committee.

Qin Hu was very ambitious. He believed that with his experience, achievements, connections, and the support from Superstar and the Broken Star Club, it was not just a dream for him to become a politician in the future.

But if he wanted to become a politician, he had to pay attention to his image, be passionate about performing volunteer work, and often appear in public.

Hence, he passionately solved the problem Meng Chao mentioned about the children who lost their homes not being able to cultivate. Over the last few months, he often went to the temporary settlement. With his lavish spending and boisterous personality, he became friends with everyone and got to know all sorts of people from everywhere.

"Big Brother Wolf?" Qin Hu mumbled a little. "Never heard of him. He should be some nobody who isn't successful. But that's fine, I have quite a number of friends over there. Give me five minutes. I'll know once I ask."

Chapter 452: Ning Lang and Ning Xing

Qin Hu was very efficient.

He did not spend a second more or use a second less. A full five minutes later, he called Meng Chao.

Big Brother Wolf's real name was Ning Lang. He was twenty-four years old and was a resident from Nine Sands Region.

He did not come from a rich family. His father passed away due to an illness when he was nine-years old, and his mother brought him and his five other siblings up through great difficulty by working odd jobs and receiving social relief.

Even though he came from a poor family, he showed cultivation talent when he was young and relied on his own power to get into a key middle school and high school even though he did not have sufficient cultivation resources. For a period of time, he became the hope of the entire residential area.

However, when he was in high school, he worked too hard on his cultivation without enough resources. It resulted in him being heavily injured, and he was hospitalized for a long time. From then on, all hope of his awakening to supernatural abilities was gone.

His experience growing up was very similar to Meng Chao's.

Since there were so many people from poor families, there were always a few people who had great talent.

However, because they lacked resources, there were only a handful of lucky people who could turn their talent into fighting power. Not everyone was like Meng Chao who could return from the apocalypse and gain a second chance.

In any case, Ning Lang was unable to climb back up to his feet during his high school years, and it only made sense that he did not manage to get into an undergraduate course. Because of it, he started fooling around in society.

Even though he was not a superhuman, the foundation he built since he was young was good. Besides, he was ruthless and fearless, so his fighting strength was at the top among normal people.

He got to know a lot of people while he was studying in a key high school. All of them were from powerful families, and they pitied him for what he went through, so they were all willing to help him a little.

After all, there was an iron-clad rule in the Supernatural Tower that superhumans were never to hurt normal people, but it was impossible for there to never be conflicts between superhumans and normal people. Thus, when something displeasing to superhumans happened, some superhumans would require people like Ning Lang to solve their "problems".

Like that, Ning Lang gradually gathered a group of toxic friends whose situations were like his, and they became "problem solvers".

This was an ancient profession in the gray area.

Ning Lang was like a fish in water, and soon, he became famous.

But no matter how famous he was, he was still just a hooligan.

With his skills, he did not have a problem filling his stomach, but in a world with superhumans, it was a joke for a normal lackey like him to want to drive a luxurious car or live in a mansion.

Even though plenty of people called him Big Brother Wolf, he still lived obediently with his old mother and five siblings in the public renting house that was slightly more than sixty square meters.

And during one monster invasion, that smoke-filled, small public rental house that they had lived in for half of their entire lifetimes was destroyed by the monsters.

Ning Lang was forced to move with his family to the temporary shelter, which offered an even worse environment than the public rental house. There, he got to know a hooligan from another residential area—the mohawk man.

There was also another crucial piece of information among what Qin Hu.

Ning Lang's youngest sister was fifteen. She was born after their father passed, and her name was Ning Xing. She was also gifted in cultivation, just like Ning Lang, and she had been studying for half of a year in Ms. Xiao Fanghua's martial arts refresher course in the temporary settlement.

This meant that Meng Chao should have taught her before.

"Ning Xing... is she a girl with freckles on her nose, a crew cut, and looks like a boy?" Meng Chao asked.

"That's her. She's the student with the most potential in the entire martial arts refresher course, and I even gave her two scholarships on behalf of Superstar before!" Qin Hu answered.

Meng Chao had a deep impression of Ning Xing.

She was the first to master Reckless Bull Technique among the children he taught, and she had a punching force of 300 kg.

A maximum punching force of 300 kg was a ridiculous result in the third year class of a regional key high school like Ninth High School.

And she was only fifteen!

Before going into the wild, Meng Chao asked Qin Hu to pay attention to the talented children in the martial arts refresher course, and among them was Ning Xing.

He did not expect that she would be Big Brother Wolf's younger sister. The world was really a small place.

But when he thought about it, it made sense. Ning Lang was a talented person, so it was not strange if one of his siblings got similar talent.

"I've never heard Ning Xing mention that she has such a powerful older brother before, though?" Meng Chao said. "Besides, it's impossible for her older brother to not see that she's talented.

"Even if he doesn't earn a lot of money by being a hooligan, he could still change his sister's cultivation conditions. The girl just doesn't have enough nutrition. If he could have gotten her more cultivation resources, her maximum punching force would have gone over 500 kg a long time ago.

"He gave up on cultivation because he was heavily wounded in the past, so he shouldn't let his sister repeat his mistakes!"

“I know, right? But I heard that Ning Lang hasn’t been that lucky in the past year. He’s in a lot of debt.”

Qin Hu said that the word about Ning Lang being a pathfinder in the past should be real.

Last year, when he came back to Dragon City while covered in wounds, he boasted to everyone in sight as if he had fought in hundreds of battles in the wild and killed countless monsters.

But based on what Qin Hu heard, his pathfinding operation completely failed. It seemed like he lost a lot of weapons, equipment, and engineering machines. He also got the friends who trusted him in trouble, so he suffered a major loss, even though he thought about trying to profit from it.

He was currently running away from his debtors, so he did not have the energy to care about his sister’s cultivation.

“I see...”

But that made even less sense.

If Ning Lang was poor and in huge debt, where would he get the money to buy the Deification Pills and sell them to the mohawk man?

“What is it? Is this Ning Lang involved in some major case?” Qin Hu knew that Meng Chao was connected to the abnormal beast research department, so he asked the question in a semi-teasing manner.

“He’s just a normal person, so I don’t think so.” Meng Chao pondered it for a while. “How about this? Send Ning Xing’s address to me. I might be able to get back to the city tonight. I’ll then visit her house to take a look. I’ve always regarded Ning Xing’s cultivation talent highly, after all.

“Since our company has given her a scholarship, even if I were not visiting for Ning Lang’s case and were just going over to see her progress over the past three months, it would still make sense.”

“Alright, I’ll have more people ask around over here and see what Ning Lang has been doing over the past few months. If I learn anything, I’ll send you news right away,” Qin Hu said and hung up.

At that moment, the drug monitoring department made a video call to Soaring Dragon Constructions’ forward operating base.

Ye Xiaoxing had already alerted the drug monitoring department, so the staff from the department paid great attention to the Deification Capsule.

Once they watched the surveillance footage from the developing land and read the test results from Soaring Dragon Constructions, they paid even more attention to it.

The drug monitoring department quickly stated that they would immediately send someone to take the Deification Capsule, the survivors, and the pathfinders who died unfortunately and tragically to conduct an investigation.

However, just as Meng Chao expected, the investigations from the drug monitoring department were restricted to only analyzing the components of the Deification Capsule.

If they wanted to find the manufacturers, they had to go through a lot of procedures to do it.

After all, the tragedy that happened in the depths of the wild could only be dealt with as a case where the people had taken in forbidden drugs and ended up going through spirit energy deviation.

Before a drug caused major harm to society, it was impossible for the department to send a large number of people to organize an emergency operation.

But Meng Chao had never thought about relying on the drug monitoring department to handle the case.

If there were really the claws of the abnormal beasts hidden behind the Deification Capsule, it would be a case that the drug monitoring department would be unable to handle.

Meng Chao got the surveillance footage from Manager Jiang, a copy of the test results, some drops of the Deification Capsule, and the spoils he harvested from the Tyrant Mammoth. Then, he returned via a light armored vehicle belonging to Soaring Dragon Constructions.

He asked the people from Soaring Dragon Constructions to send most of the spoils back to Superstar. He only took some of the Tyrant Mammoth's nose and a whole Demonic Halberd Pig's leg that was wrapped up nicely, which he brought to Settlement No.4 in the eastern part of the city.

Since the training in the wild had changed his appearance and he also wore a pair of sunglasses with really thick glass, not many people were able to recognize him under the dark sky despite his fame.

Meng Chao felt relaxed because of it. So he spent the time to observe how much the settlement had changed compared to three months ago.

Lu Siya had mentioned that the monsters forced the superhumans to reform, and what she said made sense, even though she had sounded really crude when she spoke.

Ever since the abnormal beasts developed the new zombie virus and turned the Blood Flower's spores into a weapon, the squatter areas, old residential areas, and temporary settlements with dense populations and horrible environments became hotbeds for zombie hordes.

To destroy the possibility of the new zombies and undead wreaking havoc in Dragon City once more, the superhumans who stayed in high-grade commodity houses and mansions were forced to pay attention to the hygiene and living conditions of the normal people.

Ambitious people like Qin Hu and Lu Siya did not miss the opportunity to create their images and increase their exposure rate to seize the chance to have people support them. Not only did they offer monetary support and manpower to change the living conditions in the squatter areas and temporary shelters, they often came over to perform voluntary work and become close to the normal people.

It was not important as to whether their goals were 100% pure.

In this world, there was not a single person who would be completely selfless, not ask for fame and benefits, and only love contributing.

In any case, under their lead, more superhumans offered money and manpower to help solve all sorts of problems for the citizens who were in trouble.

Take Settlement No.4 as an example.

Three months ago, when Meng Chao left Dragon City, there were still a lot of tents here. The drains would often become clogged because of the huge population, causing dirty water to spill all over. There were also several piles of stinking garbage around the settlement, which made it no different from a refugee camp.

Today, most of the tents had been upgraded to simple shacks with aluminium alloy frames. They had from five to six stores, and the families in them had their own kitchens and bathrooms. Even though this did not solve the problem of people being exposed to the weather and having to endure bad soundproofing, it was still better than them having to live in tents.

The garbage piles near the settlement had been dealt with, while the drains seemed to be wider. Meng Chao could not see any dirty water spilling out of them. The air had become much fresher as well.

While the citizens staying here were not all smiles, their moods were still considerably better compared to three months ago, when they were agitated, gloomy, and could not see a future for themselves.

‘Looks like we’ll be able to slowly change for the better if we’re given a bit of time.’

With this thought in mind, Meng Chao headed to the address provided by Qin Hu.

Chapter 453: Risk of Pathfinding

On his way, Meng Chao saw quite a number of citizens sitting at their entrances and polishing the monster bones in their hands. They were making the monster ribs and femurs into daggers, blades, and other tools.

Many of the monster bones were tough and malleable. They had the different functions of metals.

But the growth of each monster bone was different, so it was difficult for factories to process them on a large scale in an assembly line.

Fortunately, Dragon City had too much labor power, so they decided to ask the citizens who were idling in their houses to go through simple training and handle this sort of stuff.

Superstar was in the monster material recovery business. Hence, they distributed a lot of the tasks that did not require a lot of skill, were not dangerous, but highly repetitive and trifling to the normal citizens. This way, they could be considered to be answering to the call of the Survival Committee to help the city resolve the problem of the labor force.

Of course, this sort of task could not satisfy the entire labor market.

While walking through the area, Meng Chao still saw a lot of people who were energetic but had nothing to do, so they looked angry and appeared to be one step away from getting into a fight if someone disagreed with them.

No one could do anything about it. Dragon City had just started expanding their territory, so it was impossible to provide enough positions in the wild to the normal people.

Once there were a lot of people who did not have anything to do in a society, all sorts of internal problems would definitely arise.

And if these internal problems were used by the abnormal beasts with ulterior motives, they could be turned into all sorts of intense conflicts, which would slow down Dragon City's expansion outwards.

If they slowed down their expansion, the internal problems would become worse.

This was the malicious cycle the abnormal beasts wished to see.

It was also the reason behind why Dragon City paid such a devastating price during the later stage of the Monster War.

In this life, Meng Chao helped Dragon City have a good start, but they were far from being able to relax just yet. He had to destroy the malicious cycle in one fell swoop to completely suppress the monster civilization.

With this thought in mind, Meng Chao arrived at East Settlement No.4, 233.

It was a dark six-story building. Its structure was much simpler than that of a normal residential building. It looked like multiple containers stacked together with the stairs and corridors being outside. By the looks of it, each family had a huge, square space for themselves. It was like the dorms in a construction site.

At that moment, the corridor of the second floor was full of people.

Angry shouts came from one of the apartments, along with the sounds of things being thrown around.

In a moment, eight burly men with fierce expressions strode out.

The onlookers quickly avoided them. The fierce men did not even look at them and just squeezed their way through domineeringly. They shoved quite a number of citizens on the floor and did not seem to intend to help them up.

The citizens did not dare to ask them to help them up either. Without another sound, they climbed up and moved to the side to discuss things.

Meng Chao wanted to climb up the stairs when the men charged out.

The stairs were narrow, and Meng Chao knocked into the shoulder of the man right in front of the others.

Meng Chao felt as if he had been bitten by an ant.

Meanwhile, that man ended up with his butt on the stairs.

Meng Chao casually cast a glance at the men. He did not sense any powerful spirit energy waves from them. By the looks of it, they were normal people.

Unless a normal person was performing malicious crimes, a superhuman had a really troublesome time attacking them.

Meng Chao pushed his sunglasses and said nothing. He walked through the path the men opened up for him.

The men could smell the faint scent of blood from Meng Chao.

Their perception toward danger was much higher than that of normal citizens.

Even the man sitting on the stairs did not dare to provoke this mysterious and unfathomable fighter. He left together with the others in a hurry while whispering with each other.

Meng Chao arrived in front of Apartment 204.

He noticed that this was the apartment that the men had come out from just now.

Then, he felt a little regretful. He should have stopped those men and asked them what was going on.

But that was fine. With his current strength, they would not be able to run if he wanted to figure out who they were.

When he stood at the door, he found that there was nothing in the apartment.

After all, this was a temporary settlement. It was already considered very good for the people here to have their dwellings upgraded from a tent to a container and getting a roof over their heads.

However, the apartment could be said to be nothing but walls. Aside from a few folding beds and bunk beds, the most valuable furniture was a small dining table and chairs.

The words "Pay Your Debt" were sprayed all over the walls with red paint, and since it was not dry yet, it was as if drops of blood were dripping down the words.

All the furniture was turned over, and a few porcelain bowls and cups were shattered.

There was a middle-aged woman who coughed nonstop, along with a stubborn-looking, short-haired girl with her lips pursed crouching on the floor while she picked up the stuff on the floor.

Meng Chao looked at the neighbors who were watching from the corridor. Then, he walked in and shut the door behind him.

The girl and the woman looked up. They watched this unwelcome guest with puzzlement.

Meng Chao removed his sunglasses and smiled, showing off his pearly white teeth.

The girl stared at him for a long time before her eyes went wide. She became so excited that she cheered, "Big Brother Chao!"

This girl was naturally Ning Xing, the talented girl from the martial arts refresher course Meng Chao taught before.

The martial arts refresher course in the eastern temporary settlement was originally taught by Ms. Xiao Fanghua. Meng Chao would occasionally come over to help, but nothing more, since he did not have a teaching license.

Besides, he was still a university student. He was only around six or eight years older than the children, so he did not like people referring to him as a teacher when there were already so many people calling him Leader Meng due to him bringing the Broken Star Club members to organize a few public welfare activities here in the past.

He did not like this title. The Broken Star Club was mainly managed by Qin Hu, who was the director. He was really just a leader in name. At most, he acted as the middleman, so he was not worthy of the title.

He had thought about it and decided that Big Brother Chao was the most comfortable title. Of course, being referred to as Ace Chao felt pretty good too.

Ning Xing quickly introduced her mother to Meng Chao.

Mrs. Ning had clearly heard about Meng Chao countless times before. She stood up excitedly but then started coughing loudly. Her face turned red, and she did not even know what she should say.

“Ma’am, don’t get worked up. I was just passing by and thought to see how Ning Xing is doing.”

Meng Chao helped them pick up the tables, chairs, and folding beds. Then, he helped Ning Xing move Mrs. Ning to the bed to sit. He originally wanted to pour her a glass of water, but all the cups were smashed, so he could only give the Tyrant Mammoth’s nose and Demonic Halberd Pig’s thigh to Ning Xing.

“The Demonic Halberd Pig’s thigh is for you. Have your mother turn it into a stew. As for the nose, it’ll be hard for you to take care of it at home. Bring it to the martial arts refresher course. I’ll notify the kitchen and have them cook it carefully so that you can eat it as a supplement.”

“Thank you, Big Brother Chao.” Ning Xing stood up and bowed deeply to Meng Chao.

Mrs. Ning rubbed her hands and said, “Th-That won’t do. Over the past few months, Superstar’s Manager Qin has already taken care of us a lot. He even gave Ning Xing two scholarships. You’re being too kind to us, Leader Meng, you’re too kind!”

“It’s what I should do. Ning Xing has a lot of cultivation talent. What she lacks is just a bit of resources and chances. Right now, if we give her some help, I believe that at some time in the future, she will repay Superstar one hundred times.

“What we’re doing is something normal for a lot of enterprises in Dragon City. Everyone is performing a fair trade, so no one owes anyone anything. No one needs to thank anyone either.”

Meng Chao was worried that they would reject the offer, so he smiled and added, “Honestly, I won’t even have to wait for long. In a few days’ time, the city is going to organize a maximum punching strength competition for middle school students. Ning Xing can wear the fighting robe from Superstar when she goes to the competition.

“As long as she succeeds in the challenge and becomes the defender of the arena for a few rounds, the advertising effect will be enough for us to earn back all of the money we poured into her in terms of sponsorship. In truth, we’d be the ones who will be benefiting from her!”

“Don’t worry, Big Brother Chao!” Ning Xing had always been a tomboy, and her punching strength had increased over the past few months, so she was even more confident than before. She jumped up and swung her fist. “I’ll definitely become the defender of the arena!”

“However strong you are, there’s always someone stronger. Your opponents won’t just be your classmates from the refresher course. You’ll also be facing your peers from plenty of key schools and private schools. Many of them have powerful skills, so don’t underestimate them!”

Meng Chao looked around and changed the topic. "Over the past three months, I've been training in the wild, so I didn't have the time to come and visit all of you in the refresher course. I came over today to see whether you ran into any problems and whether I can protect you by solving your problems."

Even a blind man could see the glass shards all over the floor and the terrifying "Pay Your Debt" on the walls.

Mrs. Ning sighed. Ning Xing knew that Meng Chao was powerful, so she could not help but say, "Big Brother Chao, I-I didn't run into any trouble, but I think my brother is in trouble. Could you help us find him?"

Meng Chao was a little stunned.

Ning Lang was missing?

"What exactly is going on? Who were those fierce-looking people just now?" Meng Chao asked.

The story Ning Xing told him was about the same as Qin Hu's, but there were a lot more details.

She said that her older brother, Ning Lang, was not a bad person. When he was young, he was even the pride of the family and the entire residential area.

But when he entered high school, he went through spirit energy deviation and was heavily injured. He lost all hope to awaken to supernatural abilities and became hot-tempered and surly. He also got to know a lot of people working in society and started to often cause trouble, which brought a great deal of worry to the family.

A year before, he told his family excitedly that he was going to the wild as a pathfinder. As long as he succeeded, he would become rich overnight, and the entire family could live without worry. Naturally, he could also solve his sister's problem with the lack of cultivation resources.

Pathfinding itself was not a problem.

Even though it was dangerous, Dragon Citizens were born to face all sorts of dangers head-on. They were indifferent toward life and death, would fight if they were displeased with something, and were fearless toward death.

Ning Lang's greatest problem was that he was greedy. He did not join other people's pathfinding squad as a normal pathfinder.

Instead, he borrowed a large amount of money in secret and bought a lot of weapons, equipment, and construction machines, then used the connections he had built up over the years while fooling around to gather a large group of friends to build his own enterprise.

It has to be known that when it comes to pathfinding, aside from skills and fighting strength, a lot of luck is also required.

If they were lucky, there would not be a lot of powerful monsters around the developing land, but they would be able to discover a water source with a lot of spirit energy, a rare metal mine, or a crystal mine. Soon, mega corporations would come to fancy their land, and they would turn from a guerilla army to a regular army.

The other situation would be that word would get out, and more pathfinders would come to them. They would then turn the developing land into a new town, and with more people, they would be stronger, so monsters would not dare to provoke them.

At that time, the pathfinders could use the resources they found in the developing land to get a chance to rise to the top in one go.

But Ning Lang was someone with horrible luck.

Chapter 454: Came from the Lair

A small crystal mine had once been discovered near the developing land Ning Lang chose. Since it was quite far away from Dragon City, the claws of the mega corporations had yet to reach the place. That was why the unlicensed pathfinders could get the opportunity to occupy it.

He originally thought it was a project that would only bring them benefits.

When after much difficulty his group set up camp in the wild, prepared the defense systems, and made sure that their developing land had fierce firepower, the mine explorers from big companies came to explore the crystal mine in depth.

The results showed that the area had only a fake mine, since there were only a few thin layers of crystal crusts near the surface. They were revealed due to the weathering effect, and it only looked as if there were a lot of crystals in the area.

If they dug deeper, they would discover that aside from stones, all they could find were a few mixed ores that were of low quality. This meant that there was simply no value in developing the area.

The major companies were not interested in the piece of land, and Ning Lang's developing land became an incredibly awkward existence.

And when they were in the wild, the cost for daily living was ten times higher than in Dragon City.

Besides, they needed a lot of spirit energy and ammunition to maintain the automatic defense system against monsters.

Ning Lang's plan was to grit his teeth and persevere by throwing in all of his money to turn the harsh environment around him into fertile land and stay there by planting etherealized plants, but after toiling for months, an insect swarm ate all of the etherealized plants. A few of the pathfinders were also surrounded by the insect swarms and eaten to the point where only their bones were left.

Ning Lang could no longer persevere, then. He gave up on the developing land and fled back to Dragon City in dejection.

While his squad was retreating, it was ambushed by monsters again.

These monsters had been trailing them and waited until it was dark before they attacked, because the humans' guard was the lowest at that time.

Caught off guard, the pathfinders suffered terrible losses. They had to give up on most of the expensive construction machines and slaughter their way back.

When the heavily injured pathfinders returned to Dragon City, the survivors were not even one-fifth of the pathfinders who had left Dragon City with their chests puffed out to create their own business.

Ning Lang might not have died, but he ended up in an even more terrifying state than death.

He was one of the organizers of the pathfinder team, and the initial capital as well as the construction machines he bought on credit all amounted to astronomical figures.

A small part of the money for this came from his savings, but most of it was borrowed.

When he left the city, he did not get any approval from the related departments, so it was impossible for him to get any compensation from the government or get any insurance claims.

Many of the pathfinders who died were his childhood friends as well. Their families could only go to him to make him take responsibility, because they could not go to anyone else.

In an instant, Ning Lang turned from the awesome Big Brother Wolf to someone despised by everyone.

He did not dare stay at home and ran away to hide with the surviving pathfinders.

Meng Chao nodded.

He had a general gist of the modus operandi of unlicensed pathfinders.

Ever since Dragon City started developing at a large scale, the “regular army” and “guerilla armies” started attacking in all directions, and plenty of investors with nowhere to invest their money were willing to take the risk and invest in the “guerilla armies”.

In specific terms, there were plenty of unemployed young adults like Ning Lang and the mohawk man who were ambitious, fearless, and had some fighting strength. They wanted to take a gamble in the wild, but they did not have an initial capital to build their teams, buy weapons and ammunition, set up developing lands, and buy construction machines to change the environment. They also did not have the funds to organize training sessions for pathfinders to survive in the wild.

But that was fine. As long as they were bold and strong enough, there were all sorts of people who were willing to invest in them. They would get manpower, weapons, the knowledge required to set up developing lands, necessary skills, equipment, and everything else they needed in one go.

If the investors were willing to invest, then even if the developing lands were destroyed by monsters, the pathfinders would not carry too much responsibility.

Of course, if the developing lands were bought by major companies or the related departments, the investors would be able to earn big from the profit.

But Ning Lang seemed to have chosen another method to get funds. He refused to have investors in his operation and only got loans and bought equipment on credit.

If he did that, as long as he managed to set his foot firmly in the wild, all the profit would belong to him.

But if his entire squad was wiped out, he would be doomed eternally.

It has to be known that going out of the city to develop a land was a gray industry.

To the Survival Committee, as long as the problem of the unemployment among young adults lowered and the employment rate in Dragon City rose, it was willing to turn a blind eye, but the ones who were willing to borrow funds and resources to unlicensed pathfinders were not kind people.

It was not that easy to get them to hand away their money, either.

Could it be that Ning Land was in a hurry to clear his debts and got himself a batch of Deification Capsules from somewhere, then profited by selling them to the mohawk man's pathfinder team?

"Were the people just now your brother's creditors? Do you know their origins?"

Ning Xing bit her lip and shook her head. "I don't. I think my big brother did not borrow money from one place. A few batches of people have come along asking for money recently."

"Have they injured you?"

"No. No matter what, there are plenty of people here, so they don't dare to act rashly. At most... they do this."

Ning Xing's eyes turned red. She puffed her chest out and pretended to be mature and calm by saying, "Big Brother Chao, don't worry. I'm fine. The people who came today weren't terrifying. The people who came from the lair a few days ago were really fierce, but I wasn't scared of them, either. This is a temporary settlement, not the lair, after all!"

"Lair?"

Meng Chao narrowed his eyes.

The lairs were super slums that had come from the bloody era when zombies wreaked havoc in the land. It was a place where all sorts of crimes were hidden, which made it a paradise for criminals, a nest for lost people, and the birthplace of countless gray industries and black companies. They were parasites in Dragon City and tumors that had to be removed.

Meng Chao suddenly remembered that Golden Tooth Lair, the largest of the three remaining lairs in Dragon City, had suffered a large-scale fire during the later stage of the Monster War in his previous life.

The fire that time killed more than one hundred thousand innocent citizens who stayed in the lair. The countless lair citizens who relied on gray industries were also barely able to survive after they lost their only source of income.

The event also released countless criminals and lost people who were lurking within the depths of the lair.

The result of that was an overnight decline in the societal order in Dragon City. The rate of malicious crimes increased dozens of times, and the city practically returned to the lawless, chaotic era when the society operated through the law of the jungle and the Survival Committee had yet to be established.

The chaos in societal order largely diminished Dragon City's fighting strength, which opened up all sorts of chances for the monsters, and they used them to launch their greatest counterattack during the later stage of the Monster War. Even though they did not manage to completely turn the tables, the humans were greatly weakened, and the foundation of the city was damaged severely.

'Just how did the fire in Golden Tooth Lair start in my previous life?'

Meng Chao set aside that question for the time being and said, "Ning Xing, if he's willing to take the risk, he must accept the consequences of losing. If he owes people money, he must return it. This is the nature of things. Your brother can't just hide.

"He should be the one who bears the consequences, not his family. The money he owes has nothing to do with you. You shouldn't be living in fear all day long because of this.

"How about this? If you trust me, can tell me where your brother is, and I'll talk to him. We'll think of a way to solve this together."

"Big Brother Chao, if you're willing to help my brother, that would be great!" Ning Xing was really excited. Hope sparkled in her eyes, but that light soon dimmed as she shook her head and said in a troubled voice, "But I really don't know where my brother is hiding. Over the past few days, a lot of debt collectors have been looking for him, and he has been really elusive."

Meng Chao thought about it. "Then, when was the last time you saw him?"

"Last week," Ning Xing said. "I can't remember whether it was Thursday or Friday. In any case, he snuck back during the second half of the night. He didn't even wake Mom up, just stuffed five hundred yuan to me and told me to not let anyone discover this money. I was to only use it when I'm at my wits' end.

"Oh, that's right. He also said that he has let down the family, but as long as we persevere for a while, he would be able to pay off his debts. He would even get a lot of money so that the family can live without worry, and Mom would be able to live comfortably. I'd also get enough resources to get into a key high school."

Ning Xing was a sensible child. She had always kept those words in her heart and never told anyone about them.

But Meng Chao had organized a lot of public welfare activities in the temporary settlement in the name of the Broken Star Club and Superstar. He had also been the teacher for days in the martial arts refresher course and guided the students there seriously.

Ning Xing was sincerely grateful to Meng Chao and treated him as an older brother who could do everything, so she could not hold herself and told him the truth. Hope bloomed secretly in her heart.

"Get a large sum of money?"

Meng Chao's mind raced. Soon, he came to the conclusion that the money Ning Lang mentioned might come from reselling the Deification Capsules.

The logic behind it was simple.

Ning Lang's clients were people like the mohawk man. They were not rich, so he could only go and get the money from them when they were successful in their pathfinding.

Since he was a reseller, even if he got the money, he would not be able to get a lot of money. It would not be enough for him to pay off his debts and let his family live a comfortable, carefree life.

Did he intend to use the increase in strength from the Deification Capsule and go through another pathfinding expedition?

That was impossible. Ning Lang was no longer trustworthy. No one would lend him money or let him buy weapons, equipment, and construction machines he needed for pathfinding on credit.

Besides, the profit from pathfinding was not certain. Even if he successfully built the developing land and it was bought by a major industry, he would need to operate it for a year and a half before he got the money.

But Meng Chao did not think that Ning Lang was just comforting his little sister.

Based on what he understood of Ning Lang's personality from Qin Hu and Ning Xing, he was not the type to deceive his family.

So, what was he preparing for?

A bad feeling rose in Meng Chao's heart.

He asked Ning Xing for the addresses of the people Ning Lang was close to, who also were the survivors who had fled back to Dragon City with him.

Quite a number of them were staying in the temporary settlement.

He then asked Ning Xing to stay calm and headed to one of the survivors' apartment.

Before he even found the specific apartment number, he saw a group of fierce debt collectors in the distance. They were leaving the temporary settlement in a haste.

Chapter 455: Blood in Darkness

Meng Chao thought of something.

These men came to the temporary settlement to force Ning Lang to pay off his debt.

Since they did not find him at his apartment, they naturally had to go and look for news about him from the other pathfinders.

Meng Chao did not stay for long at Ning Xing's apartment.

If they had not found Ning Lang's whereabouts, they should continue to ask his friends one by one. They would not leave that easily.

Judging by how hastily they were moving and how goal-oriented they appeared to be, they had to have obtained information.

Meng Chao thought about this for a while.

He connected the clues of the lair, Blood Flower, and the Deification Capsule together. They were enough for him to spend some time following the group and see what was going on.

Meng Chao calmly trailed behind the men.

After they left the temporary settlement, they quickly brought out folding 3D mobile gears from their backpacks, opened them, and put them on.

In an instant, their speed increased ten times, and they charged through the path specifically built for 3D mobile gears on the walls of the buildings.

Meng Chao might not have had any 3D mobile gear on him, but with the great mobility of Heaven Realm superhumans, he could still casually keep up with them without losing sight of them.

However, it was long since past the rush hour at night. There were not many people on the road, and the men were heading to the outskirts.

Meng Chao had to suck in a deep breath and use spirit energy to stimulate his mitral cells to locate their scent. Then, he widened the distance so that it would be difficult for them to discover him.

Half an hour later, he smelled a foul stench from somewhere ahead of him.

It was a waste management plant in the outskirts.

The men disappeared behind a rising and falling mountain of trash.

Meng Chao frowned a little. He endured the feeling of his nasal mucosa being assaulted by the stench released by trash after it went through the fermentation process.

Even so, he felt like tears and snot were about to escape from his eyes and nose in waves.

But he could do nothing about it. Ever since he entered Heaven Realm, his senses had become much more sensitive, and it was not necessarily a good thing in all situations.

Now, he could somewhat understand what Lu Siya, who was a Spirit Sensor, had felt.

“Gosh I hate trash sites...” Meng Chao mumbled and went into the depths of the trash site with his back bent.

He carefully avoided the eyes of the waste collectors while he sniffed the stench that came charging at him to identify the scent of the men from the thousands of different smells.

Even after he circled the entire trash site once, he could not find the men.

“That’s strange. Where did they go?” Meng Chao stood at the tallest spot on the mountain of trash and narrowed his eyes. His gaze scanned the entire area like lightning.

Suddenly, he narrowed his eyes more. He sensed a faint fluctuation of spirit energy.

Meng Chao moved like a black panther. With the night providing him cover, he jumped down the mountain of trash and arrived at a row of abandoned buildings at the edge of the trash site. They were almost drowned out by trash.

Soon, he discovered a maintenance shaft.

The trash site originally managed the trash by burning it, which was how it created electricity and thermal energy.

Later, it had brought in sandworms, microorganism fermentation, and other advanced technology and other, more effective ways to turn trash into energy, and the incineration plants and generators affiliated to the trash site were gradually abandoned.

This maintenance shaft led to the underground incineration plants. The cover was rusty, and it looked like it had been corroding for decades.

However, a lot of the rust at the edges was removed. It looked like someone had opened it recently.

Meng Chao knelt down on one knee and sniffed.

He smelled a faint hint of blood in the depths of the maintenance shaft.

“No!”

Meng Chao’s pupils shrank swiftly. Without hesitation, he opened the lid and jumped down.

He fell more than ten meters down and landed at the bottom of the shaft as lightly as a feather.

While there was still a signal, he called Ye Xiaoxing and Lu Siya, but their phones were off.

If he were to guess, they were carrying out an emergency task or were in an area where signal interference was really bad.

The bloody scent ahead of him was getting stronger.

Meng Chao could only turn off his phone, tense up his muscles, and move forward carefully.

The maintenance shaft was as complicated as a maze. It led to several dark garbage furnaces.

Each furnace was as quiet as the dead. It was as if they were crematoriums ten times larger than the regular-sized ones.

Meng Chao blinked. Faint gold rings soon appeared around his pupils.

The gold rings continued magnifying and shrinking. He used spirit energy to scan through the darkness and see everything around him clearly.

For the time being, he did not see the men, but he did smell them, especially the sweat that no matter what, he could not avoid smelling.

They seemed to have sweated a lot.

People would only sweat this much under two conditions.

First, vigorous exercise.

Second, extreme fear.

Suddenly, Meng Chao stopped moving. He knelt down on one knee and brought out a forceps from the inside pocket of his shirt. With it, he picked what he found carefully from the ground.

It was a finger.

It was soft, warm, and still bleeding.

It was thick and short, and the fingerprints were almost worn out. The skin was rather coarse. It should be the finger of a man who had received professional grappling or shooting training.

The severed part of the finger was a mess. It did not look like it was cut off by a cold weapon. It did not seem like it was bitten off either. Instead, it seemed to have been yanked off with brute force.

Meng Chao searched along the spot where he found the severed finger and discovered specks of blood.

The blood splatter was in radial form, and it spilled all over the underground incineration plant.

Even though he was in the dark and had practically fused into one with the cold metal around him, Meng Chao's eyes were like fireflies that were dancing about madly.

In his mind's eye, he saw an incredibly brutal scene.

'These men... should have found Ning Lang's hiding place. They came fiercely and went straight to their target. They ran into Ning Lang here and immediately fought against him.

'Logically, they were only here to force him to pay off his debt. There was no need for them to kill him, so it's impossible for them to attempt to take his life immediately.

'So, the one who attacked first was Ning Lang.

'Based on the distribution of the blood, the first two men's neck arteries were instantly ripped off by Ning Lang or someone else hiding here. The blood from that action sprayed on the walls and the ground.

'The remaining people were caught off guard. There should be someone here whose chest was punctured, which is why this blood splatter was formed.

'When the other men saw how fierce Ning Lang was, they were terrified. They wanted to turn tail and run, but Ning Lang caught up to them and killed them with heavy blows. He might have hit them at the back of their heads with a heavy hammer and crushed their brains. That's why drops of blood came out of their orifices. Not a lot of blood flowed out because of it.

'I came after these men, but I'm around half an hour late. Ning Lang probably took only one minute to kill these men and another three to take care of the corpses before he left quietly.

'Since these men were sent to force him to pay his debts, they must have been brave, ruthless, and fearless. I ran into one of them earlier, and he managed to make me feel like I was stung by an insect. Their physical constitutions had already reached the peak of normal people. Even normal one-star superhumans wouldn't be able to kill them so quietly in just a short one minute.

'Is it... because of the Deification Capsule?'

Meng Chao remembered the superhuman who had mutated into an ape that he saw in the wild during the day.

He also remembered the superhuman who was surrounded by flames and was reduced to ashes in the end.

The image of the five dried up corpses who burnt to death and whose blood evaporated also popped up in his head.

He stood in the darkness and carefully surmised Ning Lang's objectives.

Logically, even if he owed someone a major debt, there was no need for him to kill his debt collectors the moment he saw them.

Owing someone money was an economic conflict, while killing someone was a malicious crime.

Since there was a need for severe punishments during times of chaos, there was a death penalty in Dragon City.

The fierce men might not necessarily have been good people. They had probably committed several crimes, so killing them would not mean the death penalty straight away.

Even so, there was still a high chance for the killer to be sent to the most dangerous mining fields in the wild for hard labor. Or he could be sent to a suicide squad that searched for satellite cities and Apocalypse Beasts' nests that were hundreds of kilometers away from Dragon City and deep in Monster Mountain Range. It was about the same as being sentenced to death and having it carried out immediately.

Scums were also a form of resource.

Dragon City was a place that lacked resources, so they had to squeeze out the most value out of criminals on death row too.

Ning Lang had been a hooligan for years.

Hooligans were people who performed multiple petty crimes, but never major crimes. They sometimes understood the laws for malicious crimes even better than the lawyers and judges.

Then why did he kill these debt collectors the moment he saw them?

Hate?

It did not seem like it. Even though these people came to cause trouble to his family, he had hidden himself away and had no contact with anyone. He should not know about what happened at home.

This meant that... Ning Lang hid here to do something that could not be seen by others, but the debt collectors had accidentally saw it?

This explanation made much more sense.

While Meng Chao thought about this, he searched everywhere. Soon, he found empty cans and packages of high-calorie nutritional fluid. He also found a few sleeping bags that were partially new.

By the looks of it, Ning Lang had been lurking here with a few unidentified people over the past few days.

Meng Chao also found some steel pipes that were twisted into the shape of Chinese donuts and steel plates that were ripped in half.

The steel plates were more than 5 cm thick.

Meng Chao was certain that they were ripped apart because he discovered deep fingerprints on the steel plates.

It seemed that the steel pipes that had a diameter of from three to five cm were twisted into donuts by human hands.

It was impossible for normal people to have such great strength.

'Did Ning Lang and his companions take the Deification Capsule and were cultivating or testing their own strength?'

The bad feeling in Meng Chao's heart grew stronger.

In the end, he found some ashes left by something that was burnt at the ventilation pipe in the furnace.

He used his finger to test it, and he found some faint traces of heat in the ashes.

By the looks of it, after Ning Lang murdered the group, he left urgently, but before he escaped, he burnt a large pile of paper documents.

Since he left in a hurry, he did not have the time to wait for all the documents to be burnt.

It was stuffy underground, and since the ventilation pipes in the furnace were not good when it was shut, while the documents at the top were burnt, Meng Chao could still discover some yellowing and blackening pieces of paper under the ashes of the first layer of documents.

'This is...'

Meng Chao carefully picked up the scraps of paper that had not finished burning and pieced them together.

At first glance, it was a map.

Chapter 456: Shocking Theft

Since they were burnt scraps, the picture on them had become very faint. Even if Meng Chao used his spirit energy to stimulate his brain cells and activated his calculation abilities to the max, it was still difficult to accurately restore them to their original form in his head.

He used his flashlight to shine on the scraps of paper and examined them for a long time, but he could only tell that it was the blueprint of some building that also had the streets around the building.

Based on the structure of the building, it was a warehouse that stored crystals and monster materials.

Since crystals that had just been mined were really unstable, even the slightest tremor or difference in temperature could turn them into ticking time bombs.

Even if they did not explode, their quality could change easily. They could even release radiation that would harm the human body.

After the crystals were shipped to the densely populated city area, they had to go through unique processing. It was considered as part of the refinement process.

It was the same for plenty of monster materials. They had to be placed in a spot where no one could touch them, go through fermentation, and all sorts of microorganisms processing them to dissolve the acidity and poisonous qualities in them. Then, the humans could bring out their maximum nutrients and energy.

Hence, plenty of the mega corporations, cultivation families, powerful organizations, universities, and all sorts of research centers in Dragon City had their own warehouses. They were specifically used to store all sorts of valuable and highly dangerous materials.

The warehouse blueprint and the map of the streets around it were marked multiple times by a red and blue pen.

There were also a lot of complicated routes, along with a string of numbers marking time.

‘The red lines look like the routes to break into the warehouse from the outside.

‘The blue lines are the four routes that could allow easy retreat.

‘The times by the side should be the shortest and longest time they need to break in and get out, right?’

‘As for this, it’s the distribution of guards in the warehouse, along with the distribution of firepower.

‘Unfortunately, more than 70% of the map and information on it has been burnt. I can’t tell just which warehouse it is, but this is enough to tell me what the problem is.’

Once Meng Chao connected all the clues together, there was no way he would not know what Ning Lang intended to do.

After suffering major losses in his pathfinding operation, he decided to take a reckless risk and rob a crystal and monster material warehouse!

It was only by snatching a large number of valuable raw materials that he would be able to clear off his debts and let his family live a carefree life.

Material warehouses like this had a few superhumans guarding them, so normal criminals were unable to covet them.

But Ning Lang had the Deification Capsule. It let normal people obtain supernatural abilities for a short period of time, which would be enough time for him to complete the robbery.

The unlucky debt collectors must have seen Ning Lang plotting his scheme.

Or it could be that Ning Lang and his companions had already taken the Deification Capsules at that time, so their rationality was reduced while their fighting strength had increased by leaps and bounds. They ended up as murderous puppets and killed those bothersome people.

No matter what, Ning Lang had already killed someone, so it was impossible for him to delay things any further.

He and his companions had left the place without hesitation, so they had to be heading to the material warehouse right now to rob it!

Meng Chao remembered the devastating scene he saw in the developing land.

The robbery itself was secondary.

The most crucial thing was that if Ning Lang and his companions ate too many Deification Capsules, their aggressive nature would blow up, and they would turn into killing machines. Before they ended up killing themselves, they would kill a lot of innocent people!

“No, I have to stop Ning Lang!”

Meng Chao blew away the ashes and brought all the scraps back to the surface.

He regained his phone signal.

Even so, he still could not contact Ye Xiaoxing and Lu Siya.

Naturally, Meng Chao had a lot of other powerful fighters' numbers saved in his contacts.

He knew plenty of powerful people who had great fighting experience, be it his tutor or tutoress, Soul Breaking Saber Luo Wu, the elites in Yan Organization, the Broken Star Club, or Blue Home.

It was not a difficult matter for Meng Chao to make a few calls and summon hundreds of superhumans to his side.

The problem was that he did not know Ning Lang's precise target.

Crystals and monster materials were the most crucial cultivation resources.

There were more than one thousand material warehouses of varying sizes such in Dragon City.

If the map was still in perfect shape, perhaps he could determine the precise location of the warehouse based on the streets and buildings around it.

But now, there were only scraps of paper left, and he could not even find the correct order to piece them together.

Unless he had a set of very precise data about Dragon City's buildings, a supercomputer with great computational abilities, and a professional analyst, it would be difficult for him to find the answer in a short amount of time.

He swiftly swiped down his list of contacts.

Suddenly, he saw a name.

Shen Yupeng, an outstanding member of the third generation of Universe Corporation, one of the nine mega corporations in Dragon City.

He worked in the Supernatural Tower as a secret police officer in the adjudicator court and was in charge of superhuman criminal cases.

It was rumored that he was an adjudicator, which meant that he was a super law enforcer who was a police officer, judge, and executioner in one package. He was in charge of investigation, trying a person, and enforcing the law.

Meng Chao got to know Shen Yupeng in the Blessed Paradise murderous pets case.

Even though Universe Corporation and Sky Pillar Corporations were rivals, Shen Yupeng and Lu Siya seemed to have some sort of vague competition between them, and the old and well-established adjudicator court and the newly risen research department fought non stop over the authority to enforce the law and increase their annual budget, this did not stop Meng Chao from being friends with Shen Yupeng in private.

In Meng Chao's words, the more coattails he could ride, the better.

Lu Siya's coattails were really comfortable, but he would not give up on the entire forest for just one tree.

Through Shen Yupeng, he could form a good relationship with Universe Corporation and the adjudicator court. When it was necessary, he could use his judgment toward the future to influence and even save more secret police officers and adjudicators.

To Shen Yupeng, it was also beneficial to befriend Meng Chao, because he was the leader of the Broken Star Club and a committee member of Blue Home. It could help him gain more information when looking for as well as capturing lost people.

Besides, Meng Chao was one of the youngest Heaven Realm superhumans in Dragon City, a superstar who was rising to the sky. There was no reason for him to not pay attention to Meng Chao.

All of them were adults, so it was impossible for something as absurd as "I'm not going to be friends with you because I have a grudge with Lu Siya, and you're close to her" to happen.

After the conclusion of the Blessed Paradise murderous pets case, Meng Chao had met up a few times to eat with Shen Yupeng and exchanged some information with him.

When Meng Chao moved to the family apartment of the abnormal beast research department, Shen Yupeng sent a congratulatory gift over for his move after he heard of the news, so he could be considered to be very particular about their friendship.

Besides, even if Meng Chao did not look at their relationship and thought about it objectively, it might be more suitable for Shen Yupeng to handle this case.

First of all, Meng Chao currently did not have any proof that the Deification Capsule was related to the abnormal beasts.

If it had nothing to do with abnormal beasts and was just a superhuman criminal case, it should logically be handed to the adjudicator court.

Second, Ning Xing mentioned that some of Ning Lang's debt collectors came from the lair.

When Meng Chao investigated the Blessed Paradise murderous pets case last time, he went deep into a lair with Lu Siya, but they ended up offending the local gang and had to rely on Shen Yupeng to get out of it unscathed.

This proved that Shen Yupeng had deeper ties with Golden Tooth Lair compared to Lu Siya.

This also meant that he was more likely to find related clues.

With this thought in mind, Meng Chao no longer hesitated. He gave Shen Yupeng a video call.

This time, the call went through really quickly.

But on the other side of the screen, Shen Yupeng's face was covered in dirt, and his hair was a mess. It caught Meng Chao by surprise.

In his memories, Shen Yupeng was a cold man who loved dressing in a metallic gray trench coat. He had eagle-like eyes and a hooked nose.

In other words, he looked really manly, really secret police-y, really adjudicator-y, and really bold, amazing detective-y.

Even if he did not sleep for three days and three nights while working on a case, once he finished it, he would come out at four or five in the morning to eat some congee. He might look sleepy, be covered in stubble, but he would still look really manly.

Meng Chao had never seen Shen Yupeng look so unkempt and exhausted.

He could not help but be filled with admiration for him. "Big Brother Peng, are you working on a major case? Am I bothering you?"

"No, you aren't." On the screen, Shen Yupeng shoved a metal shovel into a trash dump. "I'm doing volunteer work, clearing the underground pipes and trash dumps in the old residential areas in the western part of the city."

Meng Chao thought that his ears were deceiving him. "Do the secret police have to do this too?"

"The secret police are superhumans and also civil service servants. Of course we need to selflessly help normal citizens. Besides, I'm also part of the Shen family and represent the image of the Shen family and Universe Corporation," Shen Yupeng explained seriously.

"Over the past half a year, Dragon City has been doing a competition of who can become model superhumans. The main goal is to promote the harmony between superhumans and normal citizens. Many of the superhumans who strive to improve have to think about how to help normal citizens aside from cultivating.

"Your 'Big Sis Ya' is very active in this. Through voluntary work, she has left a deep impression on all the citizens, and all of them are praising her right now.

"My determination isn't as great as that of your 'Big Sis Ya', but I can't fall too far behind her, right?"

"Well..." Meng Chao scratched his head. "Big Brother Peng, I know that the secret police work day and night nonstop. If you spend time doing voluntary work, will it affect your efficiency of capturing lost people?"

"Well, it's a problem of our abilities if we can't capture lost people, and it's a problem of our attitudes if we don't help normal people. Which do you think is more important, abilities or attitude?" Shen Yupeng stopped talking for a while. "Enough with the chatter. Tell me, what's going on?"

“It’s like this...” Meng Chao ignored Shen Yupeng’s grumbles and sent the pictures of the scraps. He also gave the briefest description of his discoveries. Then, he said, “That means that I’ve discovered at least three cases on my side. One is an illegal selling of not-yet-approved gene medicine. One is intentional murder, and one is an ongoing robbery. The last might turn into a murder committed during robbery, so it should be under the jurisdiction of the adjudicator court, right?”

Shen Yupeng’s expression became stern.

“Of course it is.” He looked down to check the pictures Meng Chao sent to him and frowned. “But these scraps are too scattered and blurry. Even if we want to find the corresponding buildings’ blueprints through the database and make comparisons, it’ll take a lot of time. We might not be able to locate the building before the robbery. Do you have clues? If you can minimize the area of search, it would save up a lot of time.”

Chapter 457: Offending Someone Powerful

“More clues?”

Meng Chao thought, ‘I can’t predict the future, you know? How would I know which material warehouse Ning Lang and his companions are going to rob?’

But when he thought about it carefully, he found that he could actually minimize the area of search by using the process of elimination.

First, he excluded the warehouses belonging to the Supernatural Tower, Red Dragon Army, and the four great research centers.

The reason for it was simple. Those raw materials warehouses belonged to the government, so their defenses would be tight. There would be plenty of elites and really good security systems.

It was most likely that Ning Lang and his companions were normal people. Even if they ate the Deification Capsules and gained superhuman powers for a short while, they would still be unable to win against veteran superhumans.

If there were three or more superhumans who were above one-star in the warehouse, the group would have a hard time succeeding.

But even if they managed to succeed, they would be hunted down at full force by the government, so they would not be able to run free for long.

The same logic applied to the materials warehouses of the nine great families, Dragon City University, and the alliance of the five universities. They could be excluded as well.

The super forces that ruled their own industries were also existences that Ning Lang could not afford to offend.

But Meng Chao did not think that Ning Lang would choose any random, small industry’s materials warehouse either.

Based on the scraps of paper, the warehouse was pretty large.

Besides, when it came to a robbery, they had to choose a fat pig so that they could steal to their hearts' content.

Otherwise, once they cleared their debt, they would not have any money left to let their families live good lives.

They needed a large warehouse that had a lot of crystals and monster materials, relatively lax defenses, and its guards had to be weak as well. There were not many warehouses, or rather, industries that fulfilled these two completely different criteria at the same time.

Meng Chao told Shen Yupeng his thoughts. Then, he said, "I think that Ning Lang is targeting a new industry that is developing rapidly and is a nouveau riche who just rose to power over the past few years. That industry has some money, but hasn't yet increased its fighting strength and awareness. Basically, it's rich, but dumb. Big Brother Peng, please choose the industries based on this train of thought, and I think you'll definitely find your target."

"Alright. Give me five minutes." Shen Yupeng hung up.

Reality showed that when it came to specialized fields, one had to hire specialists to do it.

After just three minutes, Shen Yupeng called him back.

"I did as you asked and chose the industries that are rich but dumb and are owned by the nouveau riche. We also compared the pictures you sent to the building blueprints in the database, and we did come up with something," Shen Yupeng said. "And the truth is, you're right. The materials warehouse that Ning Lang is prepared to rob is a new industry called Superstar."

Meng Chao smiled. "I know, right?" But he was dumbfounded the next moment. "WHAT?!"

"Makes sense, doesn't it?" Shen Yupeng said calmly. "You know, there hasn't been any other industry in Dragon City that is as much of a nouveau riche as Superstar in the past year."

Meng Chao cursed really viciously.

'You're actually stomping on MY tail?! You're robbing ME?!'

But when he thought about it carefully, it made sense.

Over the past year, after buying over Prosperous and Spirit Creation Creatures, Superstar had grown bigger at a rapid pace, and it was now in control of most of the middle-grade and low-end harvesting jobs in Dragon City.

To provide different gene medicine to the Ultimate Style practitioners and the Broken Star Club members and to provide raw materials to the research team in Spirit Creation Creatures, Superstar gathered a large amount of high-grade crystals and Nightmarish Beasts' flesh and blood in its warehouse.

To a certain extent, Superstar's raw material warehouse was even more valuable than the safes in the banks.

And Superstar was indeed a nouveau riche that had an endless amount of wealth. Yet the only person who could be considered a powerful fighter in the company was Meng Chao himself.

However, Meng Chao paid most of his attention to Agricultural University, the Broken Star Club, Blue Home, the abnormal beast research department, and other places. Recently, he had also gone to train in the wild.

Forget about the security system in the company, he did not even know how many raw materials warehouses Superstar had, because it was developing too quickly!

Now that he thought about it, Qin Hu was in charge of Superstar's security system. He had used his connections to find a group of retired hunters to be the company's guards.

But if hunters had real skill, none of them would want to go to Superstar to be security guards!

Those who were willing to go were all in their seventies and eighties, sick of risking their lives, and had gone back to Dragon City to live out their retirement years.

That, or they were heavily injured, had dropped in their cultivation realms, or were no longer suited for the high-intensity life of swinging their weapons around.

Even so, Qin Hu might still be unable to have each warehouse equipped with two of these old or handicapped superhumans to serve as security guards with the rate of their development.

But there was no way around it. Before this, Meng Chao never expected that Superstar would end up as a target for others!

"I was too careless!" Meng Chao slapped his head and felt really regretful.

"Since we've found the target, it'll be easy now. I'll bring a squad over right now."

While saying that, Shen Yupeng sent the precise location of the warehouse to Meng Chao.

"I'll get there immediately!" Meng Chao read the map and found that Shen Yupeng was still a distance away from this particular materials warehouse that belonged to Superstar.

Meng Chao himself was closer to it.

But that made sense since Ning Lang had chosen to be here. It was because the place was well-hidden, but also quite close to the target, which made it easy for them to often go and observe the site and search for openings.

Meng Chao immediately ran.

On his way, he called his dad. "Dad, it's me. Did we buy a new warehouse at Five Blessings Street? Anyway—"

It was quiet on Five Blessings Street. No pedestrians, cars, or buses were on the empty road.

Occasionally, some construction vehicles, garbage trucks, or large trucks passed by. Their crystal engines roared and tore through the silence of the night.

Ning Lang lurked in the bush by the road and used his binoculars to stare at the end of the road. He seemed to be waiting for a certain truck to appear.

By his side, his two companions were so nervous that their legs trembled and their teeth clattered. They tried to endure it, but they could not, so one of them whispered, "Big Brother Wolf, are we... are we really doing it?"

"Duh."

Ning Lang stared at his two companions coldly with a sharp gaze.

He had originally been a very handsome young man. His appearance had even been quite feminine.

But the intersecting scars left by knives caused his lips to turn up, which revealed two sharp canines. It destroyed his handsome face, causing him to constantly look as if he was gritting his teeth.

"I was the one who killed just now, but you two have blood on your bodies too. Do you think that you have any way out of the situation now?" Ning Lang said coldly. "Wake up, we have no other path now. It's only by getting those monster materials, high-grade crystals, and gene medicine that we can solve all our problems!"

"But..." His two other companions were still hesitant.

"No buts!" Ning Lang drew closer to them. He stared at his two companions with bloodshot eyes. Each of his scars squirmed as if they were alive. He hissed, "These crystals, monster materials, and gene medicine are what we deserve! We've developed the land for so long in the wild, killed so many damn insects and monsters, and saw so many of our friends die, but we ended up with nothing. Is that fair?"

"We're not stealing. We're just getting back what we deserve. With the large number of scars we have, dying once in the wild, suffering so much while training, and the courage to risk our lives, it's only fair that we get this bit of cultivation resources!"

"I-I'm saying that this is Superstar's warehouse. Superstar's Meng Chao is rumored to be a ruthless person who has a really twisted mindset. He loves cutting monsters into bits and eating them raw. He doesn't even cook them," one of his companions said in a quivering voice. "We can't afford to offend such a lunatic."

Ning Lang snorted coldly. "No matter how strong Meng Chao is, as long as we act swiftly and don't leave any traces behind, no one will know that we did it."

"What about the Six Knife Scars?" His other companion gulped. "Many people saw him come to collect his debt from us, but we killed him under the trash site. Even though the others might not know about this, it's still a fact that they mysteriously disappeared. His boss won't let us go."

"Besides, even if we really do manage to steal a large number of high-grade crystals and monster materials, we can't just take them to return our debts. If we did, everyone would know that we robbed the warehouse."

"Then... we won't pay off the debts." A red light flashed in Ning Lang's eyes. He cackled viciously. "Who said that we're going to pay off our debts after we get so many cultivation resources? If we use those

cultivation resources for ourselves, our strengths will definitely reach a higher level. At that time, we'll kill the Six Knife Scars' boss and those damn debt collectors. That will do."

His two companions shuddered.

Clearly, Ning Lang's suggestion was not within their plans.

"That's..."

One of his companions was about to say that what he said was different from what they planned, but Ning Lang suddenly narrowed his eyes and said softly, "Quiet, it's here!"

Not far in the distance, a refrigerated truck with the words "Superstar Resource" painted on it drove over.

Ning Lang flipped his palm over, and three green Deification Capsules appeared on his palm.

Compared to the Deification Capsules Meng Chao saw in the developing land, the three capsules in his hand were larger, greener, and sparkled more. They looked even more enigmatic.

Fear appeared on the two companions' faces.

But uncontrollable greed also flashed in their eyes.

"Don't worry, the Deification Capsules may be dangerous, but their main danger is in draining the body of strength. If you don't replenish spirit energy in time, your cells' potential will be completely wrung out and you'll die of fatigue," Ning Land said with a cold sneer. "The second generation capsule contains a unique slow releasing mechanism.

"It can last longer, and the power it gives us is stabler and more controllable. You just need to replenish yourself with a large amount of monster flesh, gene medicine, and high-calorie nutritional fluid before you're drained. Then, you'll be fine.

"Think of our friends. So many of them died in the wild to protect us and let us retreat. We're the survivors, we're the wandering ghosts in the mortal world, yet do you want to say that we shouldn't even take this bit of risk?"

Chapter 458: Consecutive Accidents

Ning Lang was tempting them and forcing them to take action, and soon, his two companions took the Deification Capsules.

He threw his head back and crushed the capsule as well. The drug was like ice and fire as it trickled down his throat.

Whoosh!

Hot waves gushed out simultaneously from their orifices.

Their blood vessels and nerves bulged out. Spirit tattoos appeared on their skins in a zig-zagging manner, and they showed great, explosive power.

The three people's faces turned as hideous and twisted as those of demons.

They looked at each other. All of them wore really exaggerated demonic leather masks. They checked their equipment one last time and calculated the speed of the truck and the distance between them.

Soon, the truck with the huge refrigerator behind it charged past them.

The three people moved like ghosts. They quietly shot out of the bush and crawled under the truck.

The roars from the truck axles and wheels did not affect their movements.

They were like geckos with glue painted on their limbs as they stuck to the undercarriage of the truck.

The truck driver knew nothing. He just brought the three robbers into Superstar's raw materials warehouse.

Since the company had been developing too quickly and they had never encountered any major crimes against them, Superstar's management and security team were rather lax regarding their defenses.

Once they went through the standard checkup, the security quickly let the truck through. It went into the warehouse, and eight harvesters surrounded it.

As the trio were at the undercarriage, they could clearly see piles of refrigerated monster flesh in the warehouse, along with crystals that were placed quietly in piles with spirit energy accumulated in them. They also saw gene medicine that had gone through preliminary refinement and had to be sent to pharmaceutical factories and biochemical labs for further refinement.

Aside from the harvesters, there were only four security guards in the warehouse.

One of them had faint spirit energy around his body. Based on the aura, he was just a one-star superhuman at most. He might not even have gone through a lot of life-threatening battles.

"Attack!"

At the moment the door to the warehouse was shut, Ning Lang brought his palm down.

His two companions immediately brought out dozens of round ceramic balls from their backpacks and tossed them to various corners of the warehouse from under the truck.

The ceramic balls rolled about everywhere with clunking sounds. They were distributed evenly throughout the entire warehouse.

Before the Superstar harvesters and security guards registered what was going on, the dozens of ceramic balls shattered at the same time. They first released a blinding light, then thick smoke gushed out. In an instant, it obscured the lights, blinded human vision, and darkened the CCTVs.

The smoke also seemed to contain poisonous and corrosive components that suffocated people. They coughed viciously, and their eyes turned red.

The harvesters and security guards were caught off guard. They coughed and screamed.

Ning Lang and his companions' leather masks had goggles and filters. Their protective effects were even stronger than those of the military-grade gas masks.

Ning Lang swung his arm back and stuck a remote-controlled bomb to the undercarriage of the truck. Then, he shot out from under the truck with his companions like bloodthirsty panthers.

One person had yet to inhale the poisonous smoke. He noticed the three robbers with monstrous masks on them and remembered his job. He swung his crackling stun baton and charged at them.

Some people also tried to use the walkie-talkies and phones to call the police or ran for the surveillance room in the corner of the warehouse to use the landline to request for reinforcements from Superstar's headquarters.

Someone also tried to sound the fire alarm to let the world know about the accident in the warehouse.

Ning Lang laughed savagely and kicked the security guard who pounced on him more than ten meters away.

With the stimulation from the Deification Capsule, his muscles had grown nearly a size bigger.

The camouflage fighting suit had originally been rather loose on him, but now, it was tight. It formed really fierce muscle lines, which made him look murderous.

His two companions' rationality was already destroyed by the Deification Capsule. The hesitation from before was gone, and all that was left in their eyes was a murderous spark.

Of course, they could not make it in time to stop the security guards who fled back to the surveillance room to call for the police.

But the security guards soon found out that the communication lines to the outside world, their phones, walkie-talkies, and the fire alarm were all strangely silent.

At that moment, the fourth robber with a demonic mask climbed down like a large lizard from the ceiling of the warehouse.

Since they had long since decided on Superstar's materials warehouse being their target, Ning Lang and his companions performed really detailed research and preparations to rob the place.

That included research on the routes taken by the transportation trucks, their shifts, the fighting strength of the security guards, their shifts, and the communication lines to the outside world in the warehouse, along with the equipment.

Before the operation, one of them lurked above the warehouse for three days and nights to understand all of the communications in the warehouse just so that he could cut them all off in time.

Ning Lang believed that within half an hour, the warehouse would not be able to release any information to the outside world.

Everything here would belong to him!

"Toss out all of the normal monster flesh in the refrigerated truck and get all of the Nightmarish Beast materials, crystals, and raw gene medicine in it. For safety's sake, we must leave the place in twenty-five minutes." Ning Lang strode forward and kicked away two security guards who pounced on him. He

laughed savagely at the remaining people. "These belong to your boss, but your lives are your own! Don't move. If you do, I'll kill you!"

His words proved effective.

Most of the security guards and harvesters looked uncertain.

They were just normal people.

Ning Lang and his companions' bodies, strength, and the monster-like thick killing intent they released were things that only superhumans possessed.

If normal people went up against superhumans, even if they had good weapons or heavy firearms, their chances of victory would still be close to zero.

Besides, the robbers were right. The goods belonged to their boss, but their lives were their own.

Even though Meng Chao was really charismatic, he was not strong enough to make them so loyal that they would die for his company.

Dragon Citizens had fought in the Monster War for decades. If they faced a fierce monster and had their families behind them, plenty of normal people would be willing to jump into the fray and even die fighting the enemy.

But they now faced criminal superhumans.

If they broke the iron-clad rule that superhumans were not supposed to attack normal people, the Supernatural Tower and adjudicator court would take care of them. There was no need for them to sacrifice their lives in vain, right?

The harvesters and security guards looked at each other at a loss. No one was willing to go and play hero.

But the superintendent of the security guards was still hesitating. He was a one-star superhuman who was injured heavily in the fog and had retired to live out the rest of his life.

Based on his position and strength, he should fight a little, right?

Ning Lang was able to sense his uncertainty.

The bloodthirsty smile on his face turned even more hideous.

Ever since he was attacked by the insect swarm and monster horde in the wild and witnessed his friends being eaten by insects, his understanding toward life and death had become completely different when compared to that of normal people.

The survival of the fittest, the law of the survival, and murder would forever be the rule of survival.

If he had sufficient time, he did not mind killing all the people here.

But he did not want any accidents to occur, so to seize the time to rob the place and retreat, he did not mind letting these people stay alive.

But if he wanted everyone to listen to him, the superintendent had to die.

With this thought in mind, Ning Lang arrived in front of the superintendent with just two steps.

The superintendent's experience and fighting instincts were first-class, but his body had been trampled by monsters too many times in the wild, so most of his fighting strength was gone. He could barely swing his weapon, and the blade missed its target.

Ning Lang's steel-like elbow crashed into his chest, causing his spirit energy to scatter. He coughed up blood and fell down.

Ning Lang moved quickly. He seized the superintendent's ankle and dragged him back while he was airborne.

The Deification Capsule moved around his blood vessels, nerves, muscle fibers, and even bones like lightning, causing his organs to scream, howl, and roar madly.

He could no longer control his bloodlust. His right index finger and middle finger kept twisting and mutating until it turned into two sharp bone blades. He was going to stab the superintendent's despair-filled eyes with them.

When the superintendent's eyeballs and brains were about to be pierced through by the bone blades, the other security guards and harvesters had yet to catch up to what was going on. Forget about saving the man, they had not even registered the situation.

Ning Lang heard rustling sounds behind him.

He instinctively lowered his head, but something still rammed into his back. It was as if a cannonball had hit his spine. Because of the great pain, the bone blades diverted from their trajectory and grazed the superintendent's right eye socket. They drew two lines of blood.

Ning Lang was shocked and angry. When he turned his head to look, he saw that the thing that hit him was something that could be seen everywhere in the warehouse—half of a frozen Demonic Halberd Pig's thigh.

Someone had opened up a crack in the shut door of the warehouse.

With the faint light from the street lights outside, he could see a person with messy hair that had stood up because of static. He had sunglasses on his face. Even so, they could not hide the angry look in his eyes. The static around him sucked in dust, which made his body blurry. His aura was mysterious and powerful, and he was walking toward them slowly.

No. He was not walking over.

His feet did not touch the ground. He stood in the air and was drifting over!

"Heaven Realm!"

Ning Lang felt his skin crawl, and in an instant, his fear reached its peak.

But his mind instinctively came up with the perfect plan for a crime, including what he should do to retreat if he was unfortunate to run into a powerful superhuman.

“Kill him, or we’re dead!”

All three of his companions shouted acknowledgement at Ning Lang.

If this were any other moment, his three companions would rather surrender themselves to the police or the adjudicator court instead of fighting against Heaven Realm superhumans.

But right now, their central nervous systems and even their cerebral cortexes were submerged in burning drugs. Their rationality was completely consumed by murderous desire, and they lost their logic and ability to make decisions.

With the obstruction by the smoke bombs, they did not even see how the superhuman came. They just thought that the reinforcement was like the superintendent and was a low-grade superhuman who was heavily injured before.

The three robbers who took the Deification Capsules immediately charged at him with loud growls, like beasts who charged out of a cage.

Ning Lang took a few steps back and hid behind a huge rack. He pressed the button on his belt.

Boom!

The high-energy crystal bomb that was hidden on the undercarriage of the refrigerated truck blew up!

Chapter 459: Surprising Robber

The heavy truck had all sorts of refrigeration and harvesting equipment in it, and it weighed dozens of tons. Even so, it was sent flying high into the air. The ceiling was reduced to a mess because of the impact, and even the entire warehouse shuddered a little.

Then, the liquified crystal fuel in the truck ignited. Together with the destructive energy from the crystal bomb, it turned into a huge fireball.

The fireball tore the truck to shreds before turning into millions of mini fireballs that spilled down like rain.

The flames were filled with rampaging spirit energy and were like napalm bombs on Earth. They even resembled the samadhi fire spoken in legends as they spilled out freely all over the warehouse.

It has to be known that the raw crystals in the warehouse were all incredibly unstable, ticking time bombs.

If they were stored carelessly, it would be too easy for them to release all their energy.

When the shockwaves of the explosion spread out, everything instantly started burning, and the entire warehouse turned into a sea of fire in just a short few minutes.

The temperature in the warehouse immediately rose by dozens of degrees Celsius.

Once the monster materials started burning and formed fatal biochemical reactions with the raw liquid of the gene medicine, a burnt and poisonous stench rose into the air.

A few of the security guards and harvesters had been sent flying by the explosion. Even if the Dragon Citizens' body constitutions were insanely powerful, they still could not stop coughing up blood. They covered their heads and climbed away.

Whoosh! Whoosh!

The automatic fire control system released jets of water, but it was all in vain.

In the face of the fierce flames, this amount of water was basically someone trying to put out a raging fire with a cup of water.

Meng Chao subjugated the three robbers who pounced on him in just a second.

Then, all he could do was watch the warehouse with a dumbfounded expression.

The stunned look on his face soon turned into words: "Everything went out of control!"

Meng Chao's original plan was to arrive during a crucial moment, since he knew Ning Lang's target and set out soon after them. He would then turn the tides alone and avoid all losses. After that, he would earnestly persuade Ning Lang to realize his wrongdoings and surrender to the adjudicator court. He would also persuade him to tell him the truth about the Deification Capsules.

He couldn't be blamed for being too optimistic, though.

When he faced opponents at Lin Chuan and Gao Ye's level in the past or Supernatural Entities like the White Spirit, Earthquake, and the Demonic Abyss Eye, he had solved his problems based on this plan.

Meng Chao was already used to fighting against enemies who were stronger than him.

But the robbers were just normal people who temporarily gained supernatural abilities with the Deification Capsules.

With his current state, they were basically handing themselves over to him, so he could just use his charisma to subjugate them.

He did not expect that while the three robbers acted according to his plan and basically surrendered to him, the last person who looked like Ning Lang would act decisively!

Meng Chao had not even moved a single finger when Ning Lang viciously pressed down on the detonator. He did not even give Meng Chao the time to run his mouth off.

Where were his moral principles?!

The three robbers were struggling to their feet.

Meng Chao gritted his teeth and delivered a few kicks in succession, which dislocated all their joints. He did not even have the time to tie them up. He had to chase after the last robber.

At the moment the explosion happened, Ning Lang ran to a corner of the warehouse at the speed of a panther performing a 100m dash.

By the looks of it, he wanted to escape through the ventilation duct.

Meng Chao would not let him succeed. With a snort, he attacked first and sealed off the path leading to the ventilation duct.

But Ning Lang seemed to have anticipated this. He turned around and without hesitation fled to the wall of the warehouse.

Meng Chao snorted coldly.

When it came to storing monster materials and raw crystals, they had to prepare all sorts of complicated conditions, such as constant temperature, constant humidity, and constant pressure. Then, they had to also consider the problems of smell, radiation, and spirit energy fluctuations. The walls of the warehouse were much sturdier compared to those of normal buildings, and some parts of the walls were even embedded with lead plates and other metals.

Even if Ning Lang temporarily had the power of a one-star superhuman, it was impossible for him to create a hole in the wall.

When Meng Chao saw that Ning Lang was running faster, just like a train that had its brakes broken, he was certain that he would not be able to turn back and would crash into the metal plate that would bounce him back.

In an instant, Meng Chao came up with thirty-seven methods on how to capture Ning Lang alive once he bounced back.

The problem was that he had to subjugate him instantly without giving him the chance to fight back.

It was not for Meng Chao's sake, but that Ning Lang might get injured.

If Ning Lang struggled, he would end up wasting a lot of his vitality. In the end, it might cause his organs to collapse or even burn. Then, the clue would go cold.

Everything moved according to his plan.

Ning Lang was about to crash into the wall.

But against Meng Chao's expectations, with a deafening roar rose, Ning Lang actually blasted a hole in the wall, and it was more than half a meter's diameter long!

Whoosh!

Ning Lang seemed to have expected the hole to appear. He jumped up and crawled out through the hole.

Meng Chao was stunned silent again.

Ning Lang had actually set up crystal bombs on the external walls of the warehouse without even Meng Chao noticing.

They had actually planned their retreat so meticulously!

They also had the ability to carry out their entire plan while avoiding the CCTVs and security guards' eyes!

The robbers' computational abilities and executive abilities were a little over-the-top, no?!

Through the hole, Meng Chao could vaguely see Ning Lang running madly into the distance. He was about to jump over the last fence.

There was no time to think. With much more grace than Ning Lang, Meng Chao jumped out of the hole as well.

Then, he saw four ceramic balls bounce high off the ground.

Meng Chao's pupils shrank into two dots.

He knew what they were—Sky Shockers, anti-monster bounding mines.

Hundreds of carefully made alloy shards were contained inside, along with incredibly fine metal shrapnel, which were a hundred times more numerous than alloy shards.

With the push from the impact wave caused by the explosion, the alloy shards would tear through the monsters' flesh, and the metal shrapnel would stab into the monsters' eyes, nose, ears, mouth, and every hole, so the monsters' sensitive nerve bundles would taste the sharpest and most long lasting pain possible.

This sort of anti-monster mine was made to deal specifically with strength-type monsters with thick skin, like the Demonic Halberd Pigs and Iron-armored Rhinoceroses.

In truth, during the day, the Dragon Fang Commandos had used them to fight against the monster invasion at the forward operating base of Soaring Dragon Constructions.

Meng Chao did not expect that he would taste how the monsters were treated so soon.

BOOOOMMM!

Four anti-monster mines exploded at the same time, and the metal wave came at him from all directions. Even if he instantly activated his spirit energy and formed a defensive spirit energy magnetic field, some of the metal powder still seeped in, causing the corners of his eyes and nostrils to feel really itchy and pained. He could not help but sneeze a few times in succession.

After the final sneeze, Ning Lang had already jumped over the fence.

“Bastard!”

Meng Chao was livid now. With a growl, he drew Bloody Soul and slashed down fiercely in the direction of Ning Lang.

He was more than ten meters away from the fence, and the blade would naturally be unable to touch it, but the saber glare that charged out cut the fence in half with a loud howl. The collapsed reinforced concrete immediately pinned Ning Lang under it.

But Ning Lang's muscles and bones had been strengthened, so it only made sense that he would not be pinned by the collapsed fence. With just a brief struggle, he got up to his feet again.

But while he was struggling, Meng Chao had already rushed over in anger. He spread his fingers wide apart and went to grab Ning Lang's neck.

Ning Lang was like a trapped beast in a desperate situation. He could only turn around and fight with his life on the line against Meng Chao.

But their disparity in strength was not something that could be closed by just a fearlessness toward death.

Crack! Crack! Crack!

Meng Chao did not use Bloody Soul. He just used the dorsal side of his left hand and broke Ning Lang's right arm.

Then, he lowered his shoulders and crashed into Ning Lang, sending him flying. He also grabbed his backpack.

With a casual fling, a large amount of murderous weapons that were as sinister and fatal as the anti-monster mines fell out.

"Holy crap..." Meng Chao gasped in amazement.

A residential area was close to the material warehouse.

If he had not been the one who discovered the robbery but an Earth Realm superhuman who was one to two levels lower than him, he would have fallen for Ning Lang's tricks if he were careless, and once Ning Lang ran into the densely populated residential area, the consequences would be dire.

It was highly likely that he would drag dozens and even hundreds of innocents to the grave with him!

With this thought in mind, Meng Chao narrowed his eyes and stepped on Ning Lang's chest. He searched him from head to toe and found a lot of diabolical and ruthless trinkets as well as one metal tube that contained three Deification Capsules. Then, he finally sighed in relief.

Ning Lang was still struggling.

At that moment, even if Meng Chao had removed his demonic leather mask, his face would still be as monstrous as that of a demon.

Unfortunately, even demons needed to breathe.

And Meng Chao knew the physiological structures of monsters like the back of his hand. He had also mastered one hundred ways for monsters to asphyxiate and faint.

He pushed down on Ning Lang's neck artery, and Ning Lang was knocked unconscious when Meng Chao was only at the third method.

When Meng Chao sensed that his heart was still beating steadily and he showed no signs of his body temperature increasing drastically, he sighed in relief.

Fortunately, by the looks of it, Ning Lang was not going to die of organ failure or self-immolation.

But...

Boom! BOOOOMMM!

A series of shocking explosions came from behind him.

The ceiling of the material warehouse was thrown off by the impact and landed beside Meng Chao with crackling sounds, just like a meteor shower.

Meng Chao turned his head around and looked at the colorful fire pillars that rose into the air, and he could not stop the muscles at the corners of his eyes from twitching.

Even though he stopped the robbery, all the raw materials stored in the warehouse were destroyed overnight. His company suffered a tremendous loss this time round!

Five minutes later, Shen Yupeng brought his secret police squad, but they were too late.

The special fire trucks from the fire station arrived on time and surrounded the burning warehouse. They started releasing fire extinguishing bubbles fused with mithril-based stabilizing solution at the fire.

Meng Yishan, Qin Hu, Xie Xiaolei, and the other managers of Superstar also arrived one after another. When they saw how tragic the warehouse looked as it burned, they scowled.

The burning of monster materials, raw crystals, and raw liquid for gene medicine was different from a normal fire disaster. It involved problems such as air pollution and soil contamination. The cost from the follow-up would be incredibly high.

When they saw that Meng Chao had arrived at the site earlier than they did, they were stunned, then hurried over and asked him the details.

Chapter 460: Confusing

The good news was that their harvesters and security guards were all safe. Even though some of them were pretty badly burned, at least their lives were not in danger.

The medical field in Dragon City was much more advanced than when it was on Earth. With the help from all sorts of valuable medicine extracted from monsters, they might not even have scars left on their bodies.

The bad news was, aside from Ning Lang, the three other robbers were all engulfed by flames, and all the materials in the warehouse were burnt to ashes.

As for the others, Meng Chao did not know much more compared to the other three.

He was in a really bad mood right now.

It was not just because of the warehouse going up in flames and suffering a major loss.

In truth, while this warehouse was filled with all sorts of cultivation resources, most of them were still the flesh and bones from normal monsters and Nightmarish Beasts.

Even the raw crystals and raw liquid for gene medicine were cheap stuff for beginners.

After all, Superstar was still focused on the middle and low-end market. It had only started pushing into the high-end market.

The Tyrant Mammoth Meng Chao hunted during the day in the wild was a Grade Six Hell Beast that was only one step away from becoming an Apocalyptic Beast, and its thigh was even thicker than Meng Chao himself. That thing alone was already worth half of the materials in the warehouse.

But that was not the problem of money.

He could lose the money, but he could not afford this embarrassment!

Ever since he became a superhuman, every time, he fought against enemies who were stronger than he was. He jumped around in a lively manner in front of enemies who were far more superior than he was, like Lin Chuan, Gao Ye, the White Spirit, Earthquake, and the Demonic Abyss Eye. He spat in the face of death like a maniac, and he never died. He even managed to launch counterattacks in the end.

He did not expect that after he reached Heaven Realm and even trained hard in the wild for three months, he would nearly lose... to a person who could not even be considered to be a proper superhuman during his first battle back in Dragon City.

He was the youngest Heaven Realm superhuman in Dragon City. All his dignity was gone.

“Dad, don’t you think the security system of our company’s material warehouses is too lax?” Meng Chao scrunched up his nose and smelled a lot of valuable materials burning in the fire. In an act that could only be considered as him venting his anger on someone innocent, he said, “Silver Dragon Grass, Colored Bronze Stones, the spines of Lightning Dragons... There are so many valuable materials stored here, and in the end, we only have one one-star superhuman guarding the place, and he’s...”

Meng Chao originally wanted to say that he was a retiree who came over to make some contribution in his remaining years, but he thought about it and did not say it.

“Meng Chao, don’t blame President Meng for this. It’s my fault.”

Xie Xiaolei’s face was as calm as water as he came forward to explain the situation.

He had once been the president of Spirit Creations Creatures and Gao Ye’s partner.

After Gao Ye turned into the Supernatural Entity, Earthquake, the first thing he did was to destroy the labs of Spirit Creations Creatures. He had even nearly killed Xie Xiaolei, and in a stroke of luck, Meng Chao had saved him in time.

With Gao Ye causing this stir, even if Spirit Creations Creatures did not end up going bankrupt, it would still not be suitable for them to get into contact with core biochemical modification projects and construction projects anymore. They could not conduct their business.

After the abnormal beast research department acted as the middleman, Meng Chao’s Superstar bought over all the core assets of Spirit Creations Creatures.

Speaking of which, Spirit Creations Creatures’ collapse was not considered the fault of the company itself. Xie Xiaolei himself was still really good at managing businesses and expanding it.

Meng Chao, his father, and Qin Hu might be working together, but as Superstar continued growing, it slowly grew out of what the three of them could control, and so they decided to just let Xie Xiaolei take the reins and use his talent however he wanted.

In any case, the core value of Superstar was Meng Chao's strength and connections.

As long as his fighting strength continued increasing, Meng Chao believed that with how smart Xie Xiaolei was, he would not readily play any tricks under the youngest Heaven Realm superhuman's nose.

Xie Xiaolei was indeed a business elite who was really good at making strategies.

He definitely played a major part in Superstar being able to monopolize half of the middle and low-end market in Dragon City so quickly.

Recently, he had been ambitious and wanted to enter the high-end market. This was something Meng Chao and the others supported.

After all, once Meng Chao reached Heaven Realm, he needed more high-grade cultivation resources.

He did not have his own material accumulation channels, and he could only buy them in the market or rely on the abnormal beast research department supporting. But it made him feel like he was controlled by others.

The harvesting, preparation, storage, and other aspects of high-grade materials required a different environment compared to middle-grade and low-grade materials.

The warehouses that were originally used to store middle-grade and low-grade materials might not be suited to store high-grade materials.

Hence, with Xie Xiaolei taking charge, Superstar had been recently buying or renting warehouses, and they got themselves five new material warehouses in one go.

The one in front of them was one of them.

But they expanded too quickly, and the upgrading of the material warehouses was related to a series of trifling technical problems. All the Superstar upper management, including Xie Xiaolei, had been working round the clock all the time. But in the end, their security system did not manage to catch up, and this was a fatal oversight.

"Meng Chao, this isn't President Xie's fault. It's mainly under my jurisdiction." Qin Hu also came forward to explain with an awkward look on his face.

He was formerly the boss of Prosperous. After Prosperous was taken in by Superstar, he became the second largest shareholder in Superstar, but his main focus was in the Broken Star Club. Usually, he did not pay much attention to Superstar.

However, due to him being a veteran hunter, he knew a lot of retired powerful fighters, which was why he had always been in charge of the security in Superstar.

Qin Hu told Meng Chao that suitable guards were not that easy to find.

Normal security guards were not a problem to find. Dragon City's unemployment rate was really high, but all of the citizens knew martial arts. They were like elites in martial arts novels who were born talented and were grandmasters of their generation. By just offering three thousand yuan a month, they could basically hire a section with extra powerful soldiers by Earth standards.

But it was incredibly difficult if they wanted to hire superhumans to be security superintendents.

It was not just a matter of money, the more important thing was their cultivation and fighting experience.

To superhumans, if they still had room for growth, money was forever going to be the last thing they would consider.

These were the things that they treated as important factors as to whether they would take up a job: whether they had room for growth in a job, whether they could continuously gather experience during the job, whether they could polish their fighting skills, whether they could increase their cultivation realm, and whether they could overcome their limits.

For example, if they joined a superhuman fighting squad and went to the wild to hunt monsters, they could earn money and even become stronger. They could also get to know other powerful superhumans and expand their connections. If they killed a high-grade superbeast or found a new crystal mine, they could even become rich overnight and rise to power in one go.

Even if the starting salary for this sort of job was lower, the danger rating was a little higher, and the work environment was a little harsher, there were still plenty of superhumans who would flock to it like bees to honey.

But becoming a security superintendent to defend a warehouse?

They could not see any room for growth in this!

If this warehouse was not attacked by monsters or lost people all year long, wouldn't that mean that the security superintendent would not be able to get the chance to fight for an entire year?

The path of cultivation was like rowing a boat upstream. If the superhuman really did not fight in any real fights in a year, his fighting strength would have long plummeted to the drain!

Meanwhile, Dragon City was also currently performing a tactical counterattack.

The Red Dragon Army, four great research centers, nine great mega corporations, Dragon City University, the alliance of the five universities, and all the forces of power were expanding happily. They set up countless forward operating bases in the wild.

Unlicensed pathfinding teams were also everywhere.

Superhumans with the slightest bit of ambition would either want to join these forces or gather up their own forces to form their own pathfinding squad and test their luck in the wild.

Even a one-star superhuman would be like hotcakes wherever they went.

The graduates this year also had a starting salary that was 30% higher than the past year.

With just a good offer, Superstar had no choice. They also did not have the ability to find a sufficient number of superhumans to protect their own warehouses.

"Of course, it's not that we're not looking. It's just that we haven't found them yet." Qin Hu stopped talking for a while and said, "More accurately speaking, we've already hired a suitable security force,

and they'll come to work three days later. We've also signed a business deal with Zhao Feixuan, and he'll be upgrading the defense system in Superstar's warehouses fully. But who would have thought that someone would seize the chance to rob us during this crucial moment?"

"Yes. They hit us accurately, right where it hurt." Xie Xiaolei smiled bitterly and said, "We have plenty of warehouses. They either have their defense systems already fully upgraded and already have elites guarding them, or they're warehouses storing normal materials that are large and heavy, like Demonic Halberd Pig meat or Iron-armored Rhinoceros meat. Even if robbers steal it, they won't be able to take them away!"

"But this warehouse has a lot of valuable but lighter materials. We haven't been able to upgrade the security system yet, and someone targeted it!"

The more Meng Chao listened to it, the more solemn his expression became.

"So, you're saying that we have a lot of warehouses that are more valuable and have tighter defenses, and they can't possibly be robbed. We also have warehouses that have laxer security systems and are less valuable than this, but there's no need to rob them. But this one was just the best target?" Meng Chao pondered over this for a moment and asked, "How many people know the details about this warehouse?"

Xie Xiaolei and Qin Hu looked at each other and said, "There shouldn't be many. Aside from the higher-ups in the company, only the frontline harvesters and security guards know. Of course, some of our business partners know. After all, it's not some business secret. We never paid too much attention in this field."

"No matter how much you don't pay attention to this, this information shouldn't have been available to any Tom, Dick, and Harry." Meng Chao frowned and mumbled, "That's strange. Ning Lang and his companions are just normal people who have just taken the Deification Capsules and awakened to supernatural powers for the time being. They came from a temporary settlement, so how did they get such precise information?"

No. It was not just a problem about information.

The burnt blueprint and the map of the streets around it was not hand drawn. It was printed by a machine, and it was a very precise and standard map.

Only strong organizations like construction companies, the urban planning administration department, the adjudicator court, research department, and the Red Dragon Army could have blueprints like this in store. Normal robbers would already be considered good if they could draw a general map.

Also, Ning Lang had a lot of equipment on him.

Even though Dragon City did not forbid the use of large-scale murder weapons and the citizens were able to buy even family-version rocket launchers in supermarkets as they gained more resources, Ning Lang had managed to set up napalm bombs beforehand, cut off the communication systems in the warehouse, and even set up mines on his path of retreat.

His tactical abilities were far beyond that of normal robbers.

Of course, the most important thing was the Deification Capsule.

This was a drug that could make normal people temporarily gain supernatural abilities. It was an advanced piece of technology that was far beyond the current era. Where did it come from?