

Oh My God 571

Chapter 571: Walk Straight Into The Trap

Xiong Wei and Su Lun sucked in a deep breath and did their best to control their expressions and emotions.

Both of them smiled at the same time.

“Now, gather your squads and prepare to move out so that we can capture Meng Chao and fight against the monsters!” Lu Siya said. “I will talk to Poison Scorpion so they will work with all of you. I trust that if Golden Tooth, Black Bone, and Poison Scorpion work together, the other middle-sized gangs and small gangs won’t make any noise.

“However, I’m very curious as to whether you have any specific plan to handle the situation. Where are you going to look for Meng Chao and his master? You’re not thinking about searching everywhere like blind fools, right?”

“Ever since the explosion in Leprosy Village, the leaders of the other gangs have gathered together to discuss things, and they’ve already set up a rather perfect emergency plan,” Su Lun said quickly. “Aside from setting up an isolation zone in the lair and locking down Leprosy Village, we’ve also located twenty-two locations, which are all important facilities. They also happen to be the places that are the easiest for the enemy to attack.

“Next, Gang Leader Xiong will personally lead the people to the twenty-two facilities and perform a thorough search to ensure that there are no holes in the security that Meng Chao and the abnormal beast could take advantage of.”

“That’s good.” Lu Siya nodded in satisfaction. She then changed her tone and said, “But I suggest that you add a twenty-third location and add a lot of forces to prioritize searching through it.”

Su Lun and Xiong Wei looked at each other. “Ms. Lu, which place are you talking about?”

“This one.” Lu Siya tapped the ground lightly with her toe. “The underground area of Mutual Gold Coliseum, specifically, the area right under us.”

“This place?” Su Lun’s eyebrows flew up. “The leaders of the gangs are all gathered in Mutual Gold Coliseum. There are plenty of people and resources gathered here. If Meng Chao really dared to sneak into this place, wouldn’t he be walking straight into a trap?”

“That’s why I’m saying that you don’t understand Meng Chao at all. If you didn’t have my help, it’d be impossible for you to capture him.” Lu Siya smiled. “Meng Chao is a really aggressive person. If he faces an enemy attack and the chance of performing a perfect dodge is less than 50%, he will usually choose offense instead of defense. He doesn’t care if he’ll be severely injured if he can deliver a fatal strike in exchange.

“It’s just as you said, Mutual Gold Coliseum is the command center of the gangs and the logistics warehouse. The moment he took this place down— No, as long as he damaged this place and created chaos here, the lair might end up destroyed entirely.

“With Meng Chao’s greed, he won’t take a fancy to those so-called ‘important facilities’. They’re not important to him.

“He will either not attack or attack the heart, and it’s this place!”

Su Lun looked enlightened.

Xiong Wei’s expression also became slightly more pleasant.

He slowly started to believe that it was the right choice to work together with Lu Siya.

Boom! Boom! Boom! Boom! Boom! Boom!

Suddenly, explosions came one after another from the edge of the lair. They were not far from Mutual Gold Coliseum.

The explosions came from different directions, and rolling smoke as well as brilliant fireballs rose into the air, causing the already complicated situation to become even more confusing.

“Meng Chao and the abnormal beast have attacked once more.” Su Lun’s expression turned stark white. “Hospitals, drug warehouses, water purification plants, and other important fundamental facilities in the lair are in the direction of the explosions. If these places are destroyed, the order in the lair won’t be maintained for long.”

“Then, Commander Su, hurry up and mobilize your forces to provide reinforcements and defend those places!” Lu Siya’s voice was just as calm as before. “But I’m going to be firm about my judgment. This is just Meng Chao throwing feints. No matter how fierce the explosions at the borders of the lair are, they’re just a diversion. His real goal is this place.”

Su Lun was stunned for a moment, then he asked hesitantly, “Why are you so certain that the explosions are just feints to capture our attention?”

“Because you’re still alive,” Lu Siya said.

Su Lun did not understand what she meant. “What do you mean?”

“If it weren’t a feint and Meng Chao really attacked, then at the moment you heard the explosion, you should have died,” Lu Siya said faintly.

At that moment, the distance between Meng Chao and Mutual Gold Coliseum was just one hundred meters. He was in the slums under the lair, and the place was like an ant’s nest.

Meng Chao wore a tattered, hooded cloak and a pair of goggles that were as dark as night. The cloak covered his face and hands, and he had meticulously put on a disguise that made it look like he had pus and rotten flesh. He looked disfigured and like his entire body was rotting away.

He had also shrunk the muscles and bones of his left leg, making it shorter than his right leg by two centimeters. He limped as he walked, and at first glance, it looked like he was really sick.

At that moment, he was a homeless man like many others who could be seen everywhere within the lair.

Even if his sister, Bai Jiacao, or his tutor, Gu Jianbo, stood in front of him, they would be unable to recognize him based on his looks or his posture.

With this disguise, he and A'Ji could swagger closer to Mutual Gold Coliseum through the underground tunnels. They did not need to go through the sewers or ventilation pipes, as they did before when they went to other places.

On their way, they were checked by three batches of armed gang members.

But there were just too many homeless people in the lair, and even if the lair was fortified, there were still plenty of men and women who could not find shelter.

The gangs could only do their best to point these people to the underground shelters, but not delay them so long as they did not run out and cause trouble. In such an urgent situation, it was impossible for them to check their identities one by one.

Meng Chao and the team had split into two groups. He and A'Ji served as the vanguards to see whether the secret tunnel leading straight to Mutual Gold Coliseum still existed.

Su Mulian and Song Jinbo stayed at the back.

Su Mulian could use the time together to tell him about what had happened in Leprosy Village, the will of the villagers led by Wild Wolf, and the tragedy that might happen nine hours later.

Song Jinbo was a local of the lair. He had been Saber Jin Wanhao's right-hand man for years, and even though things had not been going well for him the past few years, no matter what, he still had his ways. He naturally had some plans to solve the situation and good friends that he could trust to have his back.

The moment Meng Chao found a breakthrough point and concrete proof, Song Jinbo would stake the connections, resources, and the reputation he built over decades to work with him.

But at that moment, Meng Chao heard muffled explosions that came from everywhere.

He saw the ceiling above him tremble a little.

The intersecting cracks became larger and denser.

A few spiders were creating their webs at the corners, and they got so terrified that they climbed up their threads, crawled into the cracks, and disappeared.

The lair citizens in the area became restless.

Rumors flew everywhere, just like in Leprosy Village.

No one knew where the news came from, but all the grassroots citizens in the lair knew that an incredibly dangerous abnormal beast and human traitors who were tempted by the monsters, corrupted, and turned into puppets had made home deep in the lair. They were hiding around them and were about to turn the lair into a literal hell.

Some people said that monsters had already occupied Leprosy Village and were using rapid-growing fungal sheaths and plants to turn the city into a bloody forest.

Some people said that the monster had created a terrifying drug known as Deification Capsule, which could turn humans into monsters. The villagers had all been “turned” and had now become the most evil and terrifying monster army. They were about to rush out of Leprosy Village and rip apart as well as eat all the lair citizens.

Some people even said that the abnormal beast had not tempted the Leprosy Village, but the villagers had willingly joined the monsters, because the infectees’ descendents had always been so deformed and ugly that they did not look human, so they no longer thought of themselves as humans. They would kill all humans as monsters, for this was the only way they could vent the anger and resentment they felt over the decades of discrimination.

Other people said that it did not matter whether the villagers did it willingly or not. The village was already a chaotic vortex, and the monsters’ paradise. This was an undeniable truth.

Before long, the horrifying vortex was going to expand and devour everything around it, even tear down the order in the lair.

The major players sitting high up in the city never cared about the survival of the lowest class citizens. Now, they had even sent all their elites to the borders and left the lair citizens to their own devices.

If the lair people did not want to be torn to shreds, they had to save themselves.

There was only one way for them to survive, and that was to charge through the barricade at any cost.

If the dirty and smelly citizens of the lair rushed to the classy residential areas where the superhumans stayed, those powerful people would not continue ignoring them and would protect them at least for their own benefit, right?

Of course, the last view was not the main view. For the moment.

Most of the lair citizens still believed in order, the superhumans, and that the Survival Committee would definitely not abandon them.

Even the homeless people who had nothing had a hard time making up their mind to charge the barricade at the borders of the lair.

However, Meng Chao was not sure how much longer the lair citizens’ confidence in the superhumans and Survival Committee would last.

If the Vortex and its puppets started brutally attacking the lair’s fundamental facilities, resource warehouses, and densely populated residential areas and the monster puppets lurking in the gangs, such as ambitious people with high positions, like Red Brows Su Lun, continued fanning the flames and adding fuel to the fire, it would be far too easy for them to crush the lair citizens’ confidence toward the outside world and make the outside world misjudge the situation in the lair.

At that time, the entire lair would go through the same thing as Leprosy Village, and Meng Chao would be unable to do anything to bring it back from chaos and destruction.

Chapter 572: Fire in the Lair

“Did you hear? Even Meng Chao, who has grown really famous, was corrupted by the abnormal beast!” At that moment, Meng Chao heard a homeless person speaking while winking at his companion. “The abnormal beast turned Meng Chao into a monster with three heads, six arms, and loads of fangs. He’s no longer a human, and he even killed a few of his comrades!”

Meng Chao gulped.

Even if he thought with his toes, it was obvious that if it weren’t for Red Brows Su Lun fanning the flames in the dark and spreading false rumors about him, this sort of rumor would not exist.

“I heard it too. He was not corrupted by the abnormal beast, but—”

A number of homeless people were huddled up in a corner and listened as well as spread all sorts of rumors excitedly.

Every time a story passed to another mouth, the rumor got upgraded. In the end, it became something unrecognizable and terrifying, which made everyone feel like a disaster was imminent and they had nowhere to run.

Meng Chao also noticed something else.

More and more people were starting to cough.

Cough, cough, cough, cough, cough, cough!

Practically all the homeless people were coughing, and no one remained quiet for more than half a minute.

Even the armed gang members nearby were coughing and grumbling softly.

But they were not to be blamed.

The explosion and fire in Leprosy Village was just too great. All sorts of poisonous and chemical impurities had gone up in flames, and they turned into thick, dark smoke that spread all over the lair.

Aside from blocking sight and interfering with the wireless network, it also left countless heavily polluted particles in the air.

Most of the buildings in the lair were located underground, and poisonous particles were heavier than gas particles. Once the poisonous particles descended, they seeped underground through every hole they could find.

After decades of development, the population in Dragon City had grown abnormally, and it was the same in the lair.

Narrow spaces were overcrowded and were usually stuffed from three to five times or even more people than there should be in a room. So, the air was really polluted.

The underground space had always stank, and now, a large amount of highly polluted smoke had crept in from burning substances and entered people’s bodies through their noses and throats. They invaded tracheas, lungs, and esophaguses. This, naturally, affected people’s immune systems, and they coughed so much that their eyes became bloodshot. They could not stop for even a moment.

This was not a good sign.

For a long time, the lair had been the place with the densest population and worst pollution in Dragon City.

But what was amazing was that even though quite a number of residential areas in the outside world were affected by the zombie virus and Blood Flower spores, the lair seldom experienced any large scale cluster infections.

The gangs acted swiftly in such cases. They used methods that disregarded casualties and feelings of the lair citizens. The moment they found someone who seemed to be infected, they used the most brutal methods to “treat” and even “purify” them. This was one of the reasons why cluster infections were seldom seen in the lair.

The other important reason was that the law of survival in the lair was far more brutal than the outside world. During the decades of filtration when only the strong survived, the people whose immune systems were not strong and easily affected by the zombie virus just died.

Those who survived might have appeared dirty, deformed, and ugly, but their immune systems were much stronger than those of the citizens who lived in classy residential areas in the outside world.

It was as if they were born vaccinated and were immune to dozens of zombie viruses.

The people who could not stand the invasion of viruses and bacteria died in their cradles or even in their mothers’ wombs.

This was one of the reasons why the Survival Committee allowed the lair to manage itself.

If the lair was a ticking time bomb that might release more than ten thousand zombies at any moment, then no matter how great a price the Survival Committee had to pay, it would have cleared the lair.

Yet no matter how strong the immune systems of the lair citizens were, there was a limit to them.

When humans suffered major external injuries or were invaded by viruses, their immune systems would naturally plummet to the ground.

A lot of viruses and bacteria were already lurking in the lair citizens and waiting for the impenetrable immune systems to crack. Then, these viruses and bacteria would charge out like a flood through a cracked dam and show an absolutely horrifying outbreak.

Meng Chao’s former neighbor, Granny Wang, had not been in contact with zombies. She was only struck by a Demonic Halberd Pig in her stomach, which destroyed her immune system. Then, the zombie virus lurking in her body rose to the surface, and Granny Wang turned into a zombie.

Now, Leprosy Village was burning, and the heatwaves and smoke tormented the immune systems of the lair citizens.

Meng Chao noticed that as the coughs grew worse, many people’s eyes grew bloodshot, and snot started flowing down their faces.

Some people were already showing signs of a fever. They suffered from chills or were spasming a little.

Some people scratched the pus and rotting wounds on their bodies nonstop, as if they were suffering an itchiness they could not tolerate.

‘As the fire in Leprosy Village grows stronger, the smoke containing unknown impurities will continue spreading and sinking, and the immune systems of the lair citizens will also become weaker.

‘Before long, their immune systems will crumble, and they will be like the citizens outside. No, they will be even more susceptible to the virus and spore infections compared to the citizens outside.

‘The living environment in the lair is horrible. The underground layer is like a hornet’s nest. Humans stay together with pests. If they lose their powerful immune system that serves as their “firewall” and the abnormal beast releases a large amount of new zombie viruses and Blood Flower spores, and if the Deification Capsules start wreaking havoc...’

Meng Chao did not dare to imagine just how terrifying the situation would become.

The Noble Descent Hotel ambush he experienced half a year ago might have seemed to be filled with zombies and the undead, but compared to the future the lair might face, it was nothing.

The fundamental solution to this was the lair working together with Leprosy Village. They had to trust each other, gather all their manpower and resources, and get rid of the fire in the village.

But after listening for a long time, Meng Chao noticed that there was a major misunderstanding and bias between the lair citizens and the villagers.

On one hand, the lair was the largest slum in Dragon City. Aside from a small number of gangs that belonged to the middle or upper class, the lair citizens belonged to the bottommost level in Dragon City.

They looked down on the villagers to maintain psychological balance and ascertain their status of being human.

Otherwise, when the dirty, ugly, poor, and even homeless lair citizens looked at the brilliant superhumans, who were superior to them in every way, they would have a hard time finding their own place in the civilization.

On the other hand, the businesses in the lair and in the village overlapped in many areas.

There were only a few lucky people who could be attendants in monster coliseums, bate-fichas in gambling sites, or who were pretty enough to take part in the oldest profession.

Most of the lair citizens had to take up the hard, dirty, and tiring work that no one in the outside world wanted to do in order to survive, such as refuse classification, monster harvesting, special weapons creation, recycling trash and excretion, and opening up underground spaces. Such work paid very little, but was toxic and dangerous.

More than ten years ago, the lair citizens could still somewhat maintain their livelihood by relying on the hard, dirty, and tiring jobs, but as time passed, Dragon City’s population increased, and competition grew fierce. The citizens living outside were getting better at enduring hardships and there were less and less requests for work.

The lair citizens started to no longer care about not getting insurance, overtime pay, and holidays. They stopped caring about how dirty and dangerous their work was too. As long as they had food to eat, everyone was willing to work like cattle.

And the speed at which the strong took over the weak became much faster in the village and the lair compared to the outside world.

The younger generation of Leprosy Village was able to work more efficiently and withstand greater radiation and pollution.

The result of both the outside world and the village oppressing them was that the lair citizens lost most of their jobs. Aside from the lucky ones who joined the gangs and could rely on the tertiary sector of economy to put food on the table, the number of homeless people who had no job and no home kept on going higher.

Many lair citizens were naturally full of resentment in the face of such a situation.

They did not understand why things ended up this way.

Didn't they say that Dragon City was currently in a rare golden age of development after more than half a century of struggle?

The nine great mega corporations, cultivation families, and superhumans were enjoying their lives.

But why was it that their lives seemed to be no different from ten to twenty years ago, aside from the fact that they did not need to face zombies and monsters every day? If being honest, it even seemed like things were becoming worse than back then?

Millions of citizens outside had been working arduously for Dragon City, and it was the same in the lair. Yet where did all their hard work go?

The lair citizens could not find an answer to this question.

So, they could only point their aggression to the villagers who seemed to be even more inferior and lowly compared to them.

They believed that the villagers had snatched the jobs that should have belonged to them.

Even when the gangs introduced jobs that the mega corporations subcontracted to them, they usually offered them at an even lower price than before with the excuse that Leprosy Village could work harder, and their wages were even lower.

Some of the lair citizens were even transferred to Leprosy Village because of their jobs. They did not have anyone to rely on and became squirming piles of flesh that rotted away in the dark corners of the lair.

Many of the unemployed died soon after losing their jobs.

Before their death, however, they cursed Leprosy Village, and their curses lingered like ghosts in the ventilation pipes of the lair. They never faded away.

The misunderstanding between the lair citizens and the villagers was really deep.

It would not be easy to make them work together.

When Meng Chao realized this, he could only sigh in his heart. He originally thought that fire in the lair that cost a few hundred thousand lives in his previous life was just an accident, but it was no accident.

It was a scheme by the abnormal beast. He had to get to the root of the problem and kill the abnormal beast to solve this problem in its entirety.

But it was only at this moment that he obtained an in-depth understanding of the situation in the lair and Leprosy Village. Only right then did he finally learn that Golden Tooth Lair was a place with the worst and deepest resentment after half a century's worth of the city's development.

The lair was like a volcano stuffed full with crystal bombs.

It was easy to get rid of a visible fire, and it was not impossible to kill the Vortex.

But the task of getting rid of the anger that had been accumulating for years in the villagers and lair citizens as well as resolving the conflict in the lair so that the future of Dragon City could be changed was harder than trying to make pigs fly!

Amid the rising and falling coughs, Meng Chao sank into deep thought.

In the meantime, A'Ji crawled over from among a few homeless people on his arms and legs. He looked like an oil-drenched rat.

Chapter 573: Bayonet Sees Red

A'Ji had volunteered to search for information.

When Meng Chao saw that he came back in one piece, he sighed in relief and asked, "How was it? No one noticed you, right?"

"Of course not," A'Ji said mischievously. "Big Brother Chao, I noticed a pattern. The poorer a person is, the uglier they are. These homeless people are the poorest people in the lair, so they look even worse than the villagers. There's no way I'd be discovered while among them."

Meng Chao was slightly stunned.

He remembered that he had joined various upper class gatherings due to the invitations from Lu Siya, Ning Shewo, Yan Hengbo, and the others.

The well-dressed men and women had relatively beautiful faces regardless of their personalities and moral values. Compared to the lair citizens and the villagers, they were two completely different creatures.

Meng Chao shook his head and cast aside that boring and dangerous thought. "Did you discover anything?"

"Actually, I did," A'Ji said. "More than ten important facilities around the lair exploded simultaneously just now and started burning. The light and smoke makes it look like the lair was struck by a sandstorm. It's dark out there. The air pollution is getting worse, and you might not be able to see a monster that's strutting right in front of you."

“I think that the abnormal beast pretending to be you has attacked again.”

Meng Chao was silent for a while before he asked, “Did you personally see the smoke? What color was it?”

“I did. It’s really colorful. It’s like those thick but low-grade paints.” A’Ji thought about it for a moment before continuing. “There are plenty of unlicensed chemical engineering workshops in the village. When they dump liquid waste into the river of trash, that’s the color you see.”

“So, that means that the abnormal beast’s targets for the second round of attacks were warehouses with tons of crystals that are not of high quality so they have loads of impurities, as well as dangerous raw chemical materials.”

Meng Chao’s mind raced, and he immediately said, “Most of the buildings and inflammable items in the lair are located underground. There’s not enough oxygen, so they can’t burn down completely. Besides, the impurities in the inflammable items will make the smoke even stronger than tear gas. It will corrode human organs and immune systems.

“If my guess is correct, this is just the prelude to the abnormal beast’s second round of attacks. Once the fire grows bigger and the smog envelopes the entire lair, the abnormal beast will use even more brutal attacks.

“If Leprosy Village goes up in flames completely at that time and the villagers run out, even the Gods will have a hard time saving the situation!

“No, we must immediately find the gang leaders. Did you figure out who has the say in the lair right now?”

“Um, I did, but...” A’Ji hesitated for a moment before speaking. “I heard a lot of speakers screeching all over the place when I went to the surface. They said that the gangs have decided to work together and formed a temporary allied command center. Vice gang leader of Golden Tooth is in charge, so Red Brows Su Lun is the temporary highest commander. He has unified all of the fighting power, resources, and information in the lair.

“Since the lair has entered the highest state of emergency, logically speaking, all the people have the responsibility to fight, so even if you’re not a gang member, you have to listen to Red Brows Su Lun. So right now, Su Lun has the final say in the lair.”

Meng Chao scowled and said, “That’s impossible. Based on his experience, cultivation realm, and fighting strength, Red Brows Su Lun is far beneath Saber Jin Wanhao, so there’s no way his words can weigh a ton. He can’t even compare to Phantom Bear Xiong Wei. What right does he have to become the highest commander? How could he convince the people to listen to him? Would Phantom Bear Xiong Wei actually listen to him?”

“Then there must be some monkey business going under the table. In any case, Phantom Bear Xiong Wei is the vice commander of this temporary allied command center. By the looks of it, they’re working together happily,” A’Ji said in a troubled manner.

“Right now, there are two people who have the final say in the lair, but Red Brows Su Lun is a traitor in human skin and Phantom Bear Xiong Wei is deceived by him. He has a prejudiced impression of you and

thinks of you as the person who killed his son. The moment he sees you, he will probably act hysterically and won't stop until he kills you.

"We only have nine hours left. It doesn't seem possible for you to convince any of them to work with you within such a short time."

Meng Chao rubbed his face.

He, too, noticed that he seemed to have stepped into a deadend he could not get out of.

"But I managed to get an interesting piece of information," A'Ji suddenly changed his tone. "Someone said that an armored airship descended into the open-air arena in Mutual Gold Coliseum. It came crashing down like a dead weight. Soon after it landed, it exploded. The person who came in that armored airship has to be mad!"

"Armored airship?" Meng Chao's eyes lit up, and hope burned in them again. "The lair doesn't have any armored airships, so it must have come from the outside world. If these people came from the city, there wouldn't be any need for them to ride such a dangerous aircraft like an armored airship, considering it's so close. They could have just walked in or used a non-motorized glider to fly in.

"This means that the other party rushed over from the battlefield at the borders of Dragon City, which is far from the lair.

"Dozens of Heaven Realm superhumans had returned in failure from the lair. So, if that person dared to rush in regardless of the costs, they must have powerful soldiers under them. I knew it! The outside world couldn't have possibly given up on the lair!

"Did you find who the people in the armored airship were? Are there any Deity Realm superhumans among them?"

"I don't know about that." A'Ji scratched his head. "Besides, I don't think that we should be happy so soon, Big Brother Chao. Even if there are really Deity Realm superhumans among the reinforcements, the person they first came in contact with was Red Brows Su Lun, and with the power of first impressions, they will definitely believe in that traitor and schemer!

"Judging by the fact that Red Brows Su Lun was able to become the highest temporary commander and mobilize most of the resources in the lair, he has already deceived the leader of the reinforcements.

"Even if we knew who the leader of the reinforcements was and snuck into Mutual Gold Coliseum to appear in front of them, are you sure you'd be able to gain their trust?"

"Well..." Meng Chao rubbed his chin and quickly thought about how he could gain the leader's trust as well as reveal Red Brows Su Lun's true colors in one go.

At that moment, the sound of motorized armor came from the end of the tunnel.

A squad of armed gang members hurried over in that direction.

The homeless people in the area were intimidated by their murderous presences. They whispered to each other discussing the situation.

Meng Chao and A'Ji hunched their shoulders and listened for a while. They learned that the first order given by the highest commander was to mobilize most of the armed gang members and the healthy young adults in the lair to head to the areas with major fires to put them out and clean the areas behind the fire barrier.

As for the homeless people, they had to register themselves and would be given different tasks based on the conditions of their bodies.

The ones who were really poor, weak, and could not bear any burden would be sent even deeper to underground shelters to be managed so they would not cause any chaos when the lair descended into inevitable havoc.

Meng Chao and A'Ji cast each other a glance, then quietly went to hide at the back of the crowd.

When they saw another squad of armed gang members run past them, A'Ji could not help but say, "Big Brother Chao, this is a good chance. The strong gang members had gathered in Mutual Gold Coliseum before, but they've been sent outside the lair. The defense around Mutual Gold Coliseum must have become much laxer. It's a good chance for us to sneak in!"

"That's right. This is indeed a good chance for us, but it's also a good chance for the abnormal beast." Meng Chao narrowed his eyes. "I just heard from the homeless people that there are plenty of ammunition, relief aid, and medical resources in the coliseum. The open-air arena has the largest empty land surface you can find in the lair, too.

"If the underground space receives a destructive blow, all the lair citizens will run to the open-air arena to seek shelter.

"If I were the abnormal beast, no matter what sort of astonishing minor tricks I play at the borders of the lair, in the end, there would only be one target worthy of me attacking at full strength, and that is Mutual Gold Coliseum! Hurry, take me to the secret tunnel you found."

"Big Brother Chao, have you thought of a way to quell Phantom Bear Xiong Wei's rage, reveal Red Brows Su Lun's true colors, and obtain the trust of the reinforcements' leader?" A'Ji was surprised and delighted.

"Not for the time being," Meng Chao whispered, but his voice was firm. "But I believe that all schemes have flaws. If I haven't discovered any flaws, it just means that we're not close enough to the scheme yet."

'Red Brows Su Lun... It doesn't matter how flawless your disguise is, as long as I suddenly appear in front of you and clash swords with you, I will definitely rip off your disguise and see just how you look for real!'

While the gang members herded all the homeless people, Meng Chao and A'Ji stuck close to the wall and left the underground square.

They walked on their tiptoes through the dark, narrow, spider web-filled paths. Soon, they reached a place with a sign that said "Danger! Construction ahead". In front of them was a place under construction.

Once Dragon City transmigrated to the Other World, it was enveloped by fog. Since the people were surrounded by stretches of uncultivated land with monsters all over the place, they naturally thought about looking for space underground.

Dragon City never stopped moving underground. Since the lair was the largest slum, the population in its single square unit was around five times above that of the outside world, and there were countless diggers who called themselves moles among those people. They worked day and night digging tunnels.

Mutual Gold Coliseum served as the lair's newest landmark. The open-air arena was located at the highest level and was the only floor on the surface. The other dozen or so floors were all underground.

With Mutual Gold Coliseum at its center, an entirely new hornet's or ant's nest was born, and it was continuously expanding.

Even though the main building was already built and in business, the construction of the hornet's nest was far from over. It was likely that unless the endurance of the rock strata reached its limit and completely collapsed, the moles would continue digging downward endlessly. They would never stop of their own volition.

Chapter 574: Secret Tunnel

However, since an explosion happened in Leprosy Village and the entire lair was under full lockdown, construction work had stopped.

The strong diggers were naturally the best soldiers for the gangs.

They were all affiliated to the construction companies of the gangs, anyway. Right then, they just switched their pickaxes, impact drills, and rock crushers for more destructive cold weapons and guns to fight against monsters and maintain order.

The entire construction ground was empty. Only a few guards were patrolling the place.

"The secret tunnel I discovered is deep within the construction site, so we have to bypass these guards," A'Ji whispered.

Meng Chao released a wisp of spirit energy and quickly scanned the area.

He then vanished into the darkness.

When he reappeared, he had a plump rat with shiny fur and big ears in his hands.

Meng Chao pinched the rat's neck so that it would not make a sound.

Then, he tossed the rat behind the guards.

He used a ball of spirit energy to envelope the rat and created a spirit energy magnetic field that seemed like a buffer around it.

The rat landed gently. It was not injured, just scared, and started screeching while desperately running away.

The guards' attention was immediately attracted by the rat. They chased after it and went to investigate the corner where it disappeared.

Meng Chao and A'Ji used that chance to sneak into the construction site.

"It should be... here!"

A'Ji groped about the wall for a while before he looked over with pride.

Meng Chao also casually touched the spot where A'Ji touched and noticed faint bumps on the wall. They formed the word "Ji".

The marks were left by a knife or a screwdriver, but no one could see them under dim light.

Only the people with sensitive fingers could find the mark if they rubbed them against the wall.

A'Ji had said that it was a mark he left when he fled from Mutual Gold Coliseum last time.

They followed the marks and soon came upon two huge pipes.

One of the pipes had a diameter of more than two meters. Rumbling sounds came from within it, as if there was wind howling inside.

Most of the buildings in the lair were located underground, so air ventilation was a major matter that concerned countless families' lives.

Hence, the diameter of the ventilation pipes was around five times that of the ventilation pipes on the surface buildings. There were also large industrial fans spinning at high speeds inside them to ensure that the fresh air on the surface flowed underground.

Of course, since the lair was enveloped in flames and smoke right then, the air that was sucked underground was full of highly polluted and corrosive particles. When the people inhaled them, their lungs would begin to burn, and if they inhaled more, their world would begin spinning and they would have trouble breathing. It would feel as if their lungs had turned into hard plastic.

Meng Chao and A'Ji did not intend to sneak into Mutual Gold Coliseum through the ventilation pipes, because the rapidly spinning industrial fans in the ventilation pipes were difficult to deal with. The lair citizens had also installed filtration nets with alarm systems, high voltage electric nets, and other defense systems.

If normal pests entered the ventilation pipes by mistake, they would instantly be reduced to ashes.

Meng Chao and A'Ji did not want to experience what it felt like for their skins to crack and smoke to come out of their bodies.

The other pipe was much narrower.

There were no cables, optical fibers, or crystal cables inside it.

It led to ventilation pipes, machines controlling the industrial fans, and control panels. It was a maintenance pipe.

Even though its diameter was less than one meter, A'Ji, who was very small, and Meng Chao, who had absolute control over his body, did not find it problematic.

Before the guards rushed back, they bent their backs and crawled into the maintenance pipe.

They fumbled about the darkness and crawled forward for around ten minutes. They went past four forks on their way.

A'Ji shared that when he escaped last time, he left marks at each fork.

Just as he said, Meng Chao found crooked "Ji" carvings along the walls. Sometimes, there was an arrow along with the carving to point out which direction they should take.

With these marks, they traveled through the maintenance pipe and always took the right path in the 3D maze. They weren't wrong even once.

Finally, they reached the end of the maintenance pipe.

Meng Chao looked at A'Ji.

A'Ji pointed above him. "Up."

Meng Chao searched once more.

This time, he did not find a mark, but the crack of a sealed manhole cover. He soon located four large screws as well.

The screws were screwed tight, and the manhole cover was practically part of the pipe.

But this was not a problem for Meng Chao. He brought out a vial of adhesive liquid from his military backpack (which was basically a dimensional pocket at this point), and used a small brush to wipe it on the screw caps and cracks of the manhole cover.

Soon, the cracks connecting the manhole and pipe let out sizzling sounds.

When he tried twisting the screw caps, it wasn't that hard of a task anymore.

Meng Chao opened the manhole cover, which revealed a vertical shaft above them. It was dark and led to the surface, which was around one hundred meters straight up.

Similar structures were often HV and ELV electrical risers or an area to transport ammunition and other resources required for survival. When necessary, it could also serve as an escape tunnel.

Unfortunately, Mutual Gold Coliseum's affiliated facilities were not fully constructed yet. The walls of the vertical shaft did not have any ladders or holes to serve as handholds for climbing.

The walls were smooth with nothing on them.

Meng Chao checked the texture of the wall for how rough it was.

There was a layer of cement covering the vertical shaft. The wall was done in a crude manner and covered in bumps that were several millimeters in size.

With the small bumps available to hold onto, Meng Chao could easily climb up even if he was carrying several hundred kilograms on his back.

“Do you need me to carry you?” he asked A’Ji.

“No.” A’Ji shook his head in a stubborn manner. “I can do it.”

Meng Chao cast a deep glance at the boy and nodded. “Alright, I’ll go up first. Be careful!”

Then, like a huge gecko, he climbed up the vertical shaft without making a sound.

He had not painted his fingers with any glue or adhesive liquid, but even so, they stuck firmly to the rough cement surface.

Even the military backpack filled with ammunition and other items remained steady on his back.

Meng Chao climbed up dozens of meters in one go.

A’Ji followed behind him, but was clearly much slower. Slowly, the distance between them widened.

Meng Chao seemed to be focused on climbing and not paying any attention to the movements behind him.

Soon, the boy could no longer hold himself up. His arms trembled, and his palms started sweating. His hands slipped, and he fell.

Meng Chao heard the cry of surprise and immediately went to help him.

Unfortunately, while A’Ji shouted, he flailed his arms and missed Meng Chao’s hand trying to grab him.

He fell to the bottom of the shaft and landed with a loud crack from his left ankle.

“A’Ji!”

Meng Chao landed after him and frowned a little. He looked at A’Ji’s left ankle.

It was swelling like a bun that came straight out of a food steamer. The bump was huge and hot.

A’Ji was in so much pain that he grimaced, and tears welled up in his eyes, showing his pain and disgruntlement.

“I-I’m fine, Big Brother Chao. I can do it.”

He struggled and tried to get up, but it affected his hurt ankle, and he grunted. Tears and snot fell down like a flood.

“I-I don’t think I can climb up anymore, Big Brother Chao,” A’Ji said with a glum face. “I hurt my ankle, so I can’t catch up to you anymore. It’ll also be impossible for me to sneak into Mutual Gold Coliseum without alerting the guards.”

Meng Chao closed his eyes and touched the boy’s ankle. After a moment, he said, “Thank goodness you didn’t hurt your bones. You just sprained the tendons. You’ll recover after resting for a few days.

“Then, just wait here for me. I’ll leave you the emergency kit and some food. At the very least, it’ll help you get through today.

“If you don’t hear from me after tonight, it’ll mean that I’m most probably in trouble, so you’ll have to rely on yourself to survive.”

“Big Brother Chao...” A’Ji said guiltily. “It’s my fault for being so useless and falling from the vertical shaft. I... I don’t know what’s wrong with me either. I should have listened to you earlier and let you carry me up.”

“It’s fine.” Meng Chao smiled and slapped A’Ji’s shoulder a few times. “You’re still young, so there’s no need for you to take a risk in Mutual Gold Coliseum. In any case, we’re already directly below the coliseum. The distance is less than fifty meters. You can rely on me for everything else!”

“Yeah, I trust that you’ll definitely do it, Big Brother Chao!” A’Ji pointed at the dark vertical shaft above them. “Once you climb out of that vertical shaft, you just need to search for the place with the thickest scent. Then, you’ll find a drain. After walking along the drain for a while, you will have to climb out of a hole. Then, you’ll be in Mutual Gold Coliseum.”

Meng Chao nodded, pondered over his words, and asked, “The thickest scent? What does that mean? What sort of drain is it?”

“Um...” A’Ji said. “It’s a drainage or sewage pipe. We crawled through one like that in Leprosy Village.”

“Is it?” Meng Chao narrowed his eyes. “Then tell me the specifics. What is above this drainage pipe? Where does it lead to in Mutual Gold Coliseum?”

“I think... it should be a toilet,” A’Ji said.

Meng Chao stared at him expressionlessly.

“No, no, no, it’s not a human toilet, it’s the monsters’,” A’Ji explained hurriedly. “Mutual Gold Coliseum keeps and modifies lots of fierce monsters. These monsters are huge and eat a lot, so they naturally poop a lot too. That’s why their drainage pipes and toilets are huge as well. They’re the easiest way to sneak into the coliseum.”

“Fine.” Meng Chao stared at A’Ji and said in a profound manner, “We’ll settle this once I come back.”

He climbed up the vertical shaft again.

Without A’Ji tailing him, he was much faster than before.

When he reached the top of the vertical shaft, he did smell a thick, pungent smell.

Meng Chao had been in swamps filled with corpses in the wild and had dealt with much worse stink.

Besides, in his previous life, when he was in Ghost Tribe’s training camp, he had to go through various training that broke human limits. One of them taught how to block their senses and lurk in all sorts of horrible and harsh places as if they were rocks.

Mutual Gold Coliseum had only just opened, and plenty of its entertainment programmes were not open yet.

There were not many monsters locked up in it.

Besides, the excrement of monsters, especially superbeasts with strong spirit energy, was an incredibly valuable resource.

Just like how the poor countries on Earth dried cow dung to use it as fuel, the lair and Leprosy Village treated monster feces as items worthy of being recycled.

The monster feces that were sent into the drainage pipes had been treated a few times, so the area was not as dirty as Meng Chao imagined it to be.

Chapter 575: Close By

Five minutes later, Meng Chao climbed into a cage containing some monsters.

Since the diameter of the drainage pipe was large enough to allow an adult man to crawl in, anyone could imagine just how huge the monsters contained inside the cage were.

Meng Chao minimized his breathing and heartbeat. He also closed his pores to the point that no air escaped them. He stuck close to the wall and tiptoed forward.

With the help of the dim light, he saw two monsters lying at the center of the huge cage. They were Demonic Black Mountain Bulls, which were larger than elephants, had long fur, and horns covered in spirit tattoos.

These superbeasts were between Grade 2 and 3. They were brutal and fearless. When they were angry, even if their stomachs were cut open, they would still fight. They would not stop until the very last drop of blood flowed out of their bodies.

They were Nightmarish Beasts that even Hell Beasts did not want to provoke in the wild.

They were also superstars in monster coliseums, because they could always provide exciting fights.

Fortunately, once the lair entered the highest state of emergency, all the monsters locked in the coliseums were either given or injected with large amounts of tranquilizers. They also wore electromagnetic shackles and muzzles that locked their limbs and mouths. The bulls were sleeping at that moment.

Meng Chao did not wake the two Demonic Black Mountain Bulls.

He looked around and noticed that the underground space was about the size of a football field. It was filled with cages of all sizes, which had different monsters.

Most of the monsters were sleeping, just like the Demonic Black Mountain Bulls.

They had dozens of thick, semi-transparent tubes stuck on them, which were injecting tranquilizers nonstop to ensure that the superbeasts with powerful physiological parameters and energy would remain obedient and not cause trouble.

Aside from the tranquilizer, there were also metal bars with warning signs that read "Danger! High voltage". As flies hit them from time to time, Meng Chao could hear cracking sounds and see brilliant, blue sparks.

The flies disappeared without a trace in the blue sparks. They turned into smoke.

The defense system was used to suppress the monsters.

Fortunately, the Demonic Black Mountain Bulls were huge. There was also a lot of space between the cages, so it was easy for Meng Chao to move.

Meng Chao lurked beside a high voltage set of bars and calmly observed the CCTVs and the layout of the guards.

The monsters were all used for fighting, so they were biochemically modified and had electromagnetic shackles and even explosive collars. The level of danger they posed was far beneath that of wild monsters.

Hence, the lair did not arrange a lot of guards to keep watch over them.

Meng Chao easily found the blindspot of the guards' field of vision.

When two guards turned their heads away at the same time, he moved forward like smoke.

He found a few sets of fighting suits and hooded cloaks worn by the guards in the lounge beside the cages, which helped him change out of his smelly clothes.

Once done, Meng Chao pulled his hood over his eyes and strutted down the corridor away from the cages.

Of course, he was still on guard and listened to signs of breathing, heartbeat, and footsteps around him.

When he noticed someone getting close to him, he immediately searched for a place to hide.

Unless it was absolutely necessary, he did not want to meet up with anyone.

Mutual Gold Coliseum was a business conducted by the gangs, and it never had an overly strict organizational system.

The spirit energy magnetic field interference caused by the explosion in Leprosy Village also crippled the communication channels between the gang members.

Even though the gangs had already elected Red Brows Su Lun and Phantom Bear Xiong Wei as the highest and second highest commanders, they still had to rely on shouting to pass their orders.

Besides, explosions had occurred at the borders of the lair. A lot of the elites were sent over to put out the fires and stop the abnormal beast's attack. Everyone was in a panic, which made the openings in the coliseum's defense even more obvious.

Meng Chao climbed up two floors.

He found a few indoor arenas that were used as temporary warehouses. They were filled with weapons, ammunition, and survival resources brought from the outside world and gathered by the gangs.

It could be said that it was the ballast that ensured the stability of the lair.

After taking a few twists and turns, Meng Chao understood the general layout of the coliseum.

He returned to the floor with the monster cages and found a large elevated platform.

When the coliseum was open for business, the monsters that weighed dozens of tons or even more than one hundred tons would slowly be lifted by the large elevating platform. Then, they would be displayed in the large open-air arena in front of a few hundred thousand spectators.

Meng Chao believed that the open-air arena was the most important gathering place for the gang members because it could accommodate a few hundred thousand people even when the lair was already packed.

The people he wanted to find had to be there as well.

The movements of the elevating platform were too obvious, so he would not use it.

There were huge gears at the sides of the elevating platform, which were connected to steel ropes that were even thicker than his thighs. They led straight to the surface.

Meng Chao climbed up the steel ropes like the amalgamation of an ape and a gecko and soon reached the top.

There was only one thin layer of steel separating him from the surface.

The steel plate was not stuck in place. There was a crack in the middle, and it could be controlled by gears to open slowly to the sides. Then, the monster that was rising to the top would be revealed.

Since huge, violent beasts would often eagerly crash into the steel plates, the two steel plates were a little uneven. They could not be shut tight.

Through the crack, Meng Chao could see that the open-air arena was filled with gang members in motorized armor, and they were all armed to the teeth.

They were like soldiers being reviewed. All of them looked fierce and murderous.

Then, Meng Chao heard a voice from the VIP seats at the side of the arena. It had great projection, and the words used were very effective in stirring up emotions.

“The lair is at its most critical stage right now! If we still care about the difference between the gangs, we will only end up dead!

“Be it Golden Tooth, Black Bone, Poison Scorpion, or the other gangs, we’re all comrades connected by blood. We were born in the lair, and we’ll die in the lair, this is our destiny!

“It doesn’t matter whether the outside world has given up on us or not. We’ll never give up on ourselves, our parents, spouses, children!

“Don’t forget, human civilization revolved around gangs decades ago, during the dark era when zombies roamed, monsters appeared, order collapsed, and morality died! We signed an agreement with each other, and this is why we managed to pass down the flames of our civilization, even though it was tough!

“Today, let us rekindle the glory from decades ago and tell Dragon City that the gangs can do the things the mega corporations can do!”

The speaker spoke fervently, so it was no wonder why the gang members became motivated when they heard it. They beat the weapons in their hands as much as they could, making themselves sound like an army of thousands.

But when Meng Chao shrank his pupils and adjusted his angle to observe the speaker, he found himself so disgusted that he felt as if he had just swallowed a fly who flew out of a public toilet.

He knew that person.

Even if that person was reduced to dust, he would recognize the scummy scent on him.

Red Brows Su Lun.

The human traitor who willingly abandoned himself to evil and became a shameless puppet of the monsters...

...Wait, who was the person standing to Su Lun's left?

Meng Chao felt his heart skip half a beat.

He saw a person who should definitely not be present.

Even though she wore an awesome, heavy motorized armor, her chest plate was puffed out, and the emblem of Sky Pillar Corporation was on it. Her legs were longer than Meng Chao's, even though he was already 180cm tall. She had the ghost of a smile on her face, an aggressive gaze, and an invasive presence... All of it pointed to someone Meng Chao was incredibly familiar with.

"Lu Siya?" Meng Chao mumbled to himself. "She had stayed in her father's company to handle the mining bases that Sky Pillar Minerals had opened. Didn't those places get attacked by monsters? Why did she suddenly come to the lair?"

"Hasn't she always cared about the return rate of missions? The mission of protecting the lair is tough and thankless, so she should scoff at it, right? She should be staying at the borders of Dragon City and fighting the monsters happily so that the media would talk about her!"

"Could it be that she has been affected by me after staying with me for so long? Was she indirectly influenced and slowly understood the happiness of doing good things and not boasting about them? Does she now know the joys of contributing to Dragon City?"

No matter what, since Lu Siya was one of the reinforcements, then things were much easier.

By the looks of it, the outside world did not completely believe that he had killed Bullet Xue Rui and Rattlesnake Xiang Wei.

That was why they sent Lu Siya over to listen to his explanation.

Meng Chao felt delighted.

However, when he moved his gaze to Red Brows Su Lun's right, he frowned a little.

Phantom Bear Xiong Wei was a special class fighter whose strength was second only to that of Saber Jin Wanhao in Golden Tooth Lair. Killing was nothing to him since around twenty years ago, and he was a

fierce man who could stop a baby crying at night. Even though Meng Chao did not know whether he had reached the peak of Heaven Realm, it was obvious that now that he had killed that man's son, the stimulation would be enough for him to end up beaten to a pulp.

Meng Chao started thinking hard. 'How should I shake off Red Brows Su Lun and Phantom Bear Xiong Wei so that I can talk to Lu Siya alone and tell her the truth?'

Perhaps because Meng Chao found hope in Lu Siya, he became so excited that he forgot to control his breathing and heartbeat.

Since he was baptized by Red Radiance Jades and Blue Origin Crystals in the past, he immediately released a unique presence that was barely noticeable.

The others might have been unable to detect this presence, but as a Spirit Sensor and someone who was also baptized by Red Radiance Jades and Blue Origin Crystals, Lu Siya was slightly stunned and blinked in surprise.

The Queen Bee cast an unfathomable glance at the crack where Meng Chao hid.

Chapter 576: The Queen Bee's Thoughts

Meng Chao shuddered.

'Was I discovered?'

He suddenly felt that he was a little too rash. Right now, both he and his enemy did not understand each other, and he was too close to his target.

No matter what, he and Lu Siya were both cleansed by Red Radiance Jades and Blue Origin Crystals.

Their vitality magnetic fields had converged when the spirit energy crashed into them.

They fought side by side later on and experienced a series of shocking, bloody battles. They had literally faced death together, and during those moments, they shared a form of resonance that was similar to telepathy.

Besides, Lu Siya was a Spirit Sensor.

Meng Chao had absolute confidence that he could deceive everyone beneath Deity Realm, but he did not have the confidence to deceive Lu Siya.

He could not help but hesitate about opening the shaft and jumping out to explain things.

Most of the people in the open-air arena were Red Brows Su Lun and Phantom Bear Xiong Wei's people. Both of them had a motive to kill Meng Chao on sight.

Yet Meng Chao could not kill the gang members since they were just deceived and it would make things worse.

Meng Chao did not think that he could explain things clearly and make others believe him while screaming and dodging bullets.

He had to think of a way to talk to Lu Siya alone.

Perhaps she had that intention as well, because she only cast a brief glance at the spot where Meng Chao was hiding before she moved her gaze away and continued talking happily to Red Brows Su Lun.

It seemed like she had not discovered him yet.

'Did she really not notice me?' Meng Chao scratched his head. He could not quite guess Lu Siya's thoughts.

He thought about it for a while, then came up with a plan to test things.

He crawled down along the steel ropes.

The area locking up the monsters had polluted air and a dirty environment.

Aside from the large and fierce beasts, it also had a lot of pests, just like any other place in the lair.

Meng Chao quietly fired off a chain saber and soon captured a rat.

He pinned the rat under his foot so that it would not let out a single sound.

Then, he brought Bloody Saber out and used the tip of his chain saber to loosen its crystal.

Bloody Soul's core was made of the one and only Red Radiance Jade crystal marrow.

The crystal was fixed firmly in place, so there was no need for him to change it. Not that he could change it, anyway.

But to allow the Red Radiance Jade crystal marrow to release the strongest spirit energy impact, there were nine other holes on the saber, and different crystals were embedded in them. They could form complicated spirit energy magnetic fields of different attributes with the Red Radiance Jade crystal marrow.

The nine supporting crystals could be changed.

Usually, after one battle, the spirit energy contained inside would be completely drained, so the originally brilliant crystalline jewel would become a normal, gray and black stone that would crumble at the gentlest touch.

Meng Chao pressed down on the groove beside the hole, which would allow him to change the crystals. Then, he easily removed one Red Radiance Jade.

In the earlier fights, this Red Radiance Jade had released more than 70% of its spirit energy, so it looked dark and brittle.

Meng Chao clenched it lightly, and with a light crack, it turned into fine powder.

He mixed the powder into adhesive liquid made from a monster and covered the rat in it.

After that, he injected some spirit energy into it to make the molecular levels of the Red Radiance Jade powder tremble. The rat immediately started shining with a dark red light in the darkness.

Crystals had really strong radiation, but different crystals released different levels of radiation.

Experienced superhumans, especially mine explorers, could use different radiation levels to accurately determine the types of crystals they were handling.

Meng Chao believed that with Lu Siya's ability, she could instantly detect that there was something that reminded her of Red Radiance Jades sneaking around at high speed under Mutual Gold Coliseum.

This would be Meng Chao's signal to Lu Siya.

With this thought in mind, he sent the rat covered in Red Radiance Jade powder into a ventilation pipe.

He also used a really thin harvesting blade to leave a small gash on its butt.

The rat jumped in pain and immediately ran into the ventilation pipe.

Meng Chao climbed up the steel rope and returned to the area near the crack. He adjusted his angle and quietly observed Lu Siya.

Just as she expected, she soon reacted.

But against Meng Chao's expectations, after her expression changed, she leaned closer to Red Brows Su Lun and Phantom Bear Xiong Wei to say something to them.

Then, Su Lun and Xiong Wei became nervous.

Both of them gave quick orders.

The entire open-air arena roared with the engines of the motorized armor and the clicks of people loading up heavy weapons.

Lu Siya waved her hand, and together with Xiong Wei, she led the heavy armored fighters carrying all sorts of guns into the depths of Mutual Gold Coliseum through the tunnel under the audience seats.

Judging by their heavy footsteps, they were running in the direction of the rat covered in Red Radiance Jade powder.

'No way.' Meng Chao could not understand it. 'Lu Siya noticed my "tracks", and she immediately told Red Brows Su Lun and Phantom Xiong Wei? And she even personally led a large group of people with Xiong Wei to come after my life?

'Could it be that she believed Red Brows Su Lun's lies that I've come under the control of the abnormal beast and betrayed Dragon City?

'But she noticed me while lurking up here before. Why didn't she call the people over at that time?

'It's clear that if she had alerted the people back then, it would have been easier to capture me. As long as Phantom Bear Xiong Wei led thousands of armored fighters to charge at me, then even if I were made of metal and had multiple heads and arms, I'd still be squashed like a bug.'

Meng Chao could not figure out why Lu Siya had two completely different reactions within just a few short minutes.

At that moment, Lu Siya had already left his field of vision, so all possibility of them interacting with each other through their gazes and understanding each other's minds was gone.

Meng Chao wracked his brains, but he just could not figure out what Lu Siya was trying to do.

But then again, trying to figure out a woman's mind had always been harder than trying to stop the apocalypse.

Besides, this was Lu Siya, the Queen Bee.

However, Meng Chao noticed that when Lu Siya left, she created a perfect chance for him.

'Wait, Lu Siya and Phantom Bear Xiong Wei led the forces after the "me" who is crawling all over the place in the ventilation pipes.' The gears in Meng Chao's mind turned. 'But Red Brows Su Lun is the highest commander of the lair, and on the surface, he relies on his head to earn a living. He doesn't have a lot of fighting strength, so it's only natural that he would stay here to give orders instead of going to the frontlines to fight.

'There aren't many armed forces in the open-air arena. If I stake everything and launch a direct attack...'

Did Lu Siya intentionally lead Phantom Bear Xiong Wei and the other elites away to create a chance for him to kill the leader of the enemy forces?

The more Meng Chao pondered over this, the more ridiculous he found it.

Besides, he checked the time. There was less than seven hours before the deadline he had agreed upon with Wild Wolf.

Also, the number of floating particles containing heavy radiation and pollution were increasing.

This meant that the fires in Leprosy Village and the borders of the lair were not being extinguished. They were getting stronger instead.

Even if Wild Wolf was willing to wait for Meng Chao, the fire was not going to wait.

Meng Chao had to seize any chance to get rid of the Vortex and its puppets.

It was the only way he could unify the resources in the lair and make the people extinguish the fire together so they could save their home!

Meng Chao did not have the time to think.

He gritted his teeth and disappeared into the darkness once more.

Then, three minutes later, he found a suitable target—a Golden Tooth member who was alone.

It was a man in an airtight heavy motorized armor.

He had a large ammunition box on his back, a multi-turreted mortar on his shoulder and arm, and other heavy machine guns strapped around his body. It was a sign that he was a damage dealer in his squad.

However, if anyone wanted to fire eight heavy machine guns at the same time, they would need high specifications for the machine components of their motorized armor.

This meant that the highly sophisticated and complicated heavy armor could easily malfunction.

The man's armor seemed to have run into some small problem, which was why he had stopped and was behind his comrades.

Due to a coincidence, he ended up in Meng Chao's sights.

When Meng Chao saw that there was no one around, he shot out like a ghost from a cannon and quickly approached the Golden Tooth gang member from behind.

It was only when the tip of his palm touched the back of the Golden Tooth gang member's head that the man realized what was going on.

But it was already too late.

Meng Chao pushed forward gently, and his spirit energy crashed into the man's head like a huge, eighteen-wheel truck with cotton around it.

The man's soft brain tissues crashed hundreds of times against his sturdy skull, and before he could even grunt, he fainted.

Meng Chao dragged the man and the motorized armor into the storeroom he found in the corner.

He immediately checked the man's breathing and heartbeat. When he noticed that his physiological parameters were stable and showed no signs of danger to his life, which meant that he would not suffer any sequelae, Meng Chao sighed in relief.

"I'm sorry, Bro." Meng Chao patted the man's shoulder. He quickly activated the motorized armor, dragged the man out, and crawled in.

"Huff! Ha!"

Meng Chao growled, and spirit energy filled his body to increase his blood circulation so that his muscles would fill with blood and swell up. Even his bones started making cracking sounds and became bigger.

His size instantly matched that of the man on the ground, and he perfectly fit with the motorized armor.

Due to the major interference from the spirit energy magnetic fields, the communication channel only had white noise, so he was not worried about exposing himself.

Meng Chao stood up on unsteady feet and moved his limbs a little before he strutted to the open-air arena.

He came out in time to see Red Brows Su Lun entering the tunnel under the VIP seat. He had to have gone to the command center.

There were only two guards behind him.

There was no better chance than this.

Meng Chao made up his mind and strode over.

At that moment, the open-air arena filled with armored forces who were moving quickly.

They were reporting the newest situation to their gang leaders.

“Intruder!”

“Someone crept into Mutual Gold Coliseum through the ventilation pipe!”

Due to the severe air pollution, many people wore airtight gas masks to retain their fighting strength. Some even had compressed oxygen mixed with stimulants.

When Meng Chao mingled among them, he did not attract any attention.

He increased his speed and caught up to Red Brows Su Lun.

Chapter 577: Flip The Table, Destroy the Board!

The tunnel led straight to the VIP rooms prepared for VIP guests.

Meng Chao released his spirit energy to scan the area and immediately heard the faint breathing, heartbeats, and conversations in the VIP rooms on both sides.

The people inside were most likely the office and intelligence staff. They were currently anxiously gathering and analyzing the newest war reports.

Red Brows Su Lun did not seem to have noticed that there was someone following him.

But even if he did, it would not matter.

He quickly turned a corner and opened a door to a VIP room.

Meng Chao did not hear any other breathing or heartbeat in the areas ahead.

So, he quickened his footsteps.

It was only then that Su Lun heard the slightly urgent footsteps and sensed the murderous intent that spilled out of the cracks of Meng Chao’s heavy armor.

He was slightly stunned and turned around in slight puzzlement.

Meng Chao tore off his disguise, and his speed instantly increased ten times. Like a hungry wolf pouncing on a lamb, he knocked the two surprised guards into the wall and rendered them unconscious.

Then, without slowing down, he grabbed Su Lun and fell into the VIP room.

Meng Chao had just used his spirit energy to scan the room. It had only three heartbeats inside, and their vitality magnetic fields were relatively weak.

Even if they were superhumans, their cultivation realms would not be high. There was a high possibility that they were not martial artists, but strategists who used their brains to earn a living.

Just as he expected, when they saw a murderous heavy armor crashing into the room, the three strategists were stunned.

Crack! Crack! Crack! Crack!

The machine gun on Meng Chao’s heavy armor had a large diameter, and now, it acted like a hungry python that bit into the three strategists’ brows and neck.

When the bullets that were thicker than thumbs brushed past the three's chests, Meng Chao's killing intent had already mixed with his spirit energy, and like an invisible icicle, it crept into their brains.

The killing intent from the apocalypse was incomparably intimidating to low-grade superhumans.

The nerve endings of the three strategists' brains, spines, bones, and nerve endings froze over. Forget about moving, they even had a hard time breathing.

Red Brows Su Lun crashed into a couch in the VIP room.

The couch instantly shattered to pieces.

The man was also knocked off kilter. He grunted and coughed up blood.

But his expression remained as calm as ever, as if he was not surprised by the intruder's ambush.

He waved his hand for the three strategists to not move or speak so that they would not be killed.

Then, he licked the blood off his lips and stared at the intruder. "Meng Chao?"

"That's right." Meng Chao lifted the mask of the heavy armor and grinned. "Hi, Vice Gang Leader Su."

"You can't escape," Su Lun said gravely. "There are plenty of people moving up and down the tunnel. Very soon, they will notice the two unconscious guards outside, and you will die."

"I don't intend to run." Meng Chao smiled. "Let me ask you a question. When someone frames you for stealing and meticulously plans the item to be stolen, sets a trap for you, and even brings false witnesses to testify against you so that you would fall into a seemingly foolproof net, how will you explain things for yourself?"

"Heh, no matter what method you use to explain things, you're already in the enemy's trap. The correct answer isn't to hurriedly explain what is going on, but to look for the person who set you up, then beat him up to the point that his parents can't recognize him and he can't even speak.

"After that, he can slowly explain things. By then, you won't have to worry about what sort of troubles the person who framed you will bring you."

"I don't understand what you're trying to say," Su Lun said.

"You do," Meng Chao said. "When the plan is set up meticulously and you don't have the time to slowly decipher the complicated situation, playing the hooligan and overturning the entire chess board is also a way to destroy the trap.

"I know that if I killed you, others would probably not listen to me. It might even prove that I'm the monsters' puppet.

"But I would never be able to explain things clearly, anyway. If I let you stay around, who knows how else you'll slander me? Since you're the abnormal beast's right-hand man, I might as well just let the situation continue rotting and kill you. Then, I'll be able to somewhat hold back or interfere with the abnormal beast's scheme.

"No matter how I try to settle scores, I think killing you is the best way to do it, right?"

"I still don't understand what you're trying to say, Meng Chao. It seems like there is some misunderstanding between us." Su Lun still remained calm. He was even trying to give Meng Chao guidance. "Many things have happened in the lair over the past twelve hours, and some bad rumors have sprung up. Honestly speaking, I don't quite want to believe them. You're the hero of Dragon City, but you betrayed your comrades and your home?"

"So, if there is really a misunderstanding and you were set up by someone, why don't we sit down and talk about it so that we can explain things? Trust me, once we get down to the truth, you will obtain justice."

"Su Lun, do all scumbags in human clothing and traitors have such strong mental fortitude as you? Are all of them able to spew nonsense without batting an eyelid, just like you? Are they as greedy as you are? Or are you the only one like that?"

Meng Chao suddenly moved all of the gun muzzles, and an astonishing killing intent gathered around him. "But it doesn't matter what glib tongue you have or how good you are at lying, you're going to die today. Even if the Gods appear, no one can save you!"

When Su Lun faced Meng Chao's killing intent that was about to take physical form, his eyelids finally twitched.

Meng Chao's plan to use brute force and be completely unreasonable seemed to be against his expectations.

"Oh, there's one person who can save you, and that's yourself." Meng Chao suddenly changed the topic, "Honestly, I don't quite believe that you're a helpless military adviser, or rather, since you joined the monster civilization, you must have obtained some benefits. Even if you were never good at fighting, as a mole of the monster civilization who infiltrated human civilization, you should have more or else gotten yourself some power.

"I admit that I'm taking a gamble, but it's your fault for setting such a good scheme. Aside from this, I have no other method to deal with you.

"Now, let us take a bet and see whether you can dodge hundreds of spirit energy-laced bullets!

"If you can dodge them, it'll mean that you possess power that others don't know about and you will have to explain exactly how you obtained this power.

"If you can't, I'll sit on your mangled body and wait for people to capture me, then slowly explain to Lu Siya and Xiong Wei why I had to kill you. When you have too many debts, you stop worrying about another one, and when you've been slandered to the point your reputation is completely ruined, you won't mind another dark splotch. In any case, because of you framing me, I've already 'killed' a lot of people, so I don't really care if your name were added to that list."

"W-Wait."

Cold sweat finally broke out on Su Lun's forehead, but his eyes remained as calm as ever, and a mocking look that he usually kept carefully hidden showed up. "Before you kill me, don't you want to figure out something strange?"

“I knew that you had snuck in, so why would I take only two guards with me, strut to the depths of the tunnel, and give you the chance to attack me?”

Meng Chao’s pupils shrank.

Bang!

The door behind him shattered from killing intent that was ten times fiercer than his.

Queen Bee Lu Siya and Phantom Bear Xiong Wei stood outside quietly.

In the tunnel behind them were nearly one hundred fighters in heavy armor. They filled up the whole area.

There was also a large group of armed forces in the open-air arena; he could see them beyond the wide French window in the VIP room. They pushed over dozens of light and heavy anti-aircraft artillery and blocked even the cracks that could only accommodate flies.

Lu Siya and Xiong Wei’s faces were stark white.

Lu Siya’s face was shrouded in deep disappointment.

Xiong Wei was angry, but he could not hide his greed.

He looked like he wanted to eat Meng Chao whole without any cutlery or spices.

“I personally saw Xiong Ying’s corpse.” Lu Siya’s voice was like a gust of cold wind that came from the depths of hell. “His chest wound was left by Bloody Saber, wasn’t it?”

“Yeah...” Meng Chao stared at Lu Siya, then at Xiong Wei. Even though he felt resigned, he could only say something really cliché. “But let me explain.”

“Sure.” Lu Siya smiled. She activated her heavy armor and tapped the floor with her toes. “I’ll listen to you explain once I send you to the depths of hell.”

“Wait—”

Meng Chao still wanted to speak, but Phantom Bear Xiong Wei’s killing intent had already turned into spirit flames that could destroy cities. It went straight for Meng Chao’s skull, and he had nowhere to hide from it.

“Die, traitor!”

Xiong Wei’s weapon was a pair of motorized gloves made of special alloy and the bones of a Hell Beast.

Five hollowed monster fangs were embedded at the end of the gloves.

At first glance, they were like two huge bear paws that could destroy everything with ease.

Over the past few decades, plenty of monsters had died under Giant Spirit Bear Paws.

When Xiong Wei was sixty years old, he showcased his motorized gloves to the public. Within ten seconds, the monster fang-embedded gloves tore apart an abandoned heavy armored vehicle until it

was no more than the size of a fist. Then, he became a legendary martial artist who was only second to Saber Jin Wanhao in Golden Tooth Lair.

Meng Chao did not mind being brutally injured if it meant he could drag his enemy down to hell, but he did not want to end up being severely injured when Phantom Bear Xiong Wei was deceived and blinded with rage, especially when the real enemy, Red Brows Su Lun, was close to him.

When the attack came, he found that he no longer had time to draw his saber, so he could only swing two heavy machine guns to block it.

The two's spirit energies crashed into each other, and the two heavy machine guns instantly turned into metal twist bread.

Meng Chao's heavy motorized armor let out cracking sounds, signalling metal fatigue. A number of machine components and reactive armor cracked and flew away.

Even the red carpet made of monster pelt under his feet was torn by spirit energy, and a palm print that was more than one meter wide appeared on it.

The cement under the palm print was destroyed by the wind created by the attack.

Meng Chao coughed up blood.

He heard his joints moan.

Damn it. Phantom Bear Xiong Wei had actually drained his spirit energy regardless of the cost due to the shock of losing his son, and his fighting strength had reached the levels of Soul Breaking Saber Luo Wu!

Chapter 578: We'll Talk in Hell

Meng Chao toppled over from the force of Xiong Wei's attack, but he fell in Su Lun's direction. He wanted to use him as his hostage.

Su Lun didn't seem to be skilled in battle and unable to figure out what was going on in Meng Chao and Xiong Wei's swift fight. He stood in front of the French window with a dumbfounded expression.

When Meng Chao was about to grab Su Lun's shoulder, Lu Siya attacked.

Ever since she fought under Raging Waves with Meng Chao, then shone brilliantly in the case regarding Blessed Paradise's murderous pets and Noble Descent Hotel's ambush, she had obtained the favor of the Lu family's patriarch.

Besides, her father's status in Sky Pillar Corporation kept rising, and gradually, he became a core member of the second generation members, which gave him a lot of power.

Lu Siya became the most highly regarded third generation member in the Lu family and obtained a practically endless amount of resources from Sky Pillar Resources.

As a Spirit Sensor, she also had extraordinary talent.

And just like Meng Chao, she received a baptism from the Red Radiance Jades and Blue Origin Crystals.

Once that was added to an endless amount of support from the Lu family and Sky Pillar Corporation, the speed at which her cultivation realm increased was on par with that of Meng Chao after he went to train in the wild.

In the beginning, when she switched from a mine explorer to a martial artist, she could only control stones and gather them together into a large and clumsy stone dragon.

Every time she wanted to summon it or some spikes, she needed a lot of time to form her spirit energy magnetic field.

After she finished executing her skill, she also needed a lot of time to cool down to ensure that her spirit meridians remained stable.

But now, with a light snap, not only could she control hundreds of stones with different properties within a circular area of dozens of meters, she could even control reinforced concrete at will. They would change between gravel, cement, and stones whenever she wanted.

Meng Chao sensed the spike coming straight at his heart.

He could only pull his hand back and stare at Su Lun pathetically running behind Lu Siya and Xiong Wei.

“You don’t trust me?”

Meng Chao looked in disbelief at the spikes around him, then stared at Lu Siya, who was now very close to him, with a complicated expression.

“What do you think?”

Lu Siya cocked her eyebrows and stared deeply at him.

Their gazes were like two hungry snakes who had just gotten out of hibernation. They intertwined and bit each other. Then, the pain caused them to immediately separate.

Meng Chao was so angry that he let out a bark of laughter, and as if he had given up on himself, he swung his saber to cut at the spikes that Lu Siya had gathered.

The spikes cracked with a loud bang.

But it was useless, because at Lu Siya’s low-spoken word, countless willow-shaped spirit tattoos that seemed as if they were pure energy spread out from under her feet.

Wherever those willows went, the floor cracked. Reinforced concrete shot up and turned into large, monstrous, agile, and lively stone dragons.

Dozens of them pounced at Meng Chao at the same time.

They immediately tore apart his heavy armor.

A few of the stone dragons even tried to crawl around his limbs through the shattered armor and bind his body tightly. They would seal him in a slab of reinforced concrete.

Meng Chao could only escape from the armor by crawling out of it.

The heavy armor was soon devoured by the stone dragons and “swallowed” whole.

Once Meng Chao lost the protection of his motorized armor, he was like a broken boat that had no engine propelling it forward in front of the livid Phantom Bear Xiong Wei. He did not have any strength to fight back in front of the shocking waves.

Boom!

Xiong Wei delivered his second punch.

Even though Meng Chao dodged it in a flurry of motion, a terrifying palm print was left on the floor.

The cracks around the palm print kept spreading and becoming larger. They intersected and overlapped with each other.

And Lu Siya used the reinforced concrete that Xiong Wei destroyed to create even more stone snakes, stone dragons, and stone wolves.

Meng Chao could only roll thrice on the floor and dodge Lu Siya’s fatal attacks. Even so, the skin near his neck artery was torn to shreds.

If his reaction speed had been slightly slower, he would have lost at least a few hundred milliliters of blood, and the fight would have ended early. Everything would have also come to an end.

Meng Chao spat out a mouthful of blood-colored spit.

He blinked rapidly and used his tears to clear the sand that had entered his eyes.

He suddenly noticed something.

Lu Siya’s offense was quick and fierce, but she needed to use stones or reinforced concrete as a medium to bring out the full power of her spirit energy.

It was impossible for her to carry stones weighing hundreds of kilograms along with her, so she had to use whatever was around her, which was the reinforced concrete in the area, to create stone snakes, stone dragons, and stone wolves.

The result was that once she brought more reinforced concrete from the walls and floor around her to serve as the medium for the spirit energy to deliver explosive strength, the walls and floor became thinner and more brittle.

Phantom Bear Xiong Wei’s crazed attacks had also hit the ground time and again, which made the cracks wider.

This led to the floor becoming incredibly brittle. It looked like it had been gnawed down by pests.

Hence, when Lu Siya and Xiong Wei’s attacks came charging over once more and it looked like Meng Chao had nowhere to hide, he decided to risk everything. He gathered all his spirit energy under his feet and stomped down like a railway gun.

Boom!

The floorboard was punctured by his move.

He fell down one floor.

Xiong Wei missed and shattered the special anti-explosion window that was mixed with crystal powder with the shockwaves he created.

Lu Siya moved in front of the hole Meng Chao had created without hesitation and mobilized all the firearms on her motorized armor to start blasting at the hole.

Boom, boom, boom, boom, boom, boom!

Lu Siya's motorized armor came from the peak research lab in Sky Pillar Corporation. She had also installed dozens of brilliant crystals with offensive spirit energy magnetic fields in them, as if they cost nothing.

Her firepower was so great that it was on par with the heavy powered armor Meng Chao had just snatched.

In just a moment, dozens of lines of fire cut into the lower level where Meng Chao stood like burning scalpels.

Mixed among the bullets were quite a few armor-piercing shells, rockets, and napalm bombs. They blasted the lower level until it looked as brilliant as a fireworks factory that had just exploded.

Meng Chao wrapped his arms around his head.

All his hair was standing up straight like needles, and he brought out the full power of the Ultimate Style's super endurance and sensitivity. He danced among the swift bullets and fireballs, narrowly escaping Lu Siya's attacks, which all seemed to be after his life.

Lu Siya's crazed bombardment did not hit Meng Chao, but it was impossible for her to avoid the floorboards of the lower level.

The firearms of the modern era were far beyond a normal person's imagination.

The pitiful second basement floor was soon full of holes because of Lu Siya's crazed bombardment.

The VIP room above it was not big, so even if hundreds of gang members armed to the teeth were gathered in the corridor, there was only a limited amount of space. Lu Siya and Xiong Wei blocked the door tightly, so the others could not come in. Not that they had the courage to do so.

They could not see where Meng Chao had escaped, so aside from pounding on their chests in fervor and cheering, what else could they do?

Phantom Bear Xiong Wei was naturally livid. He wanted to go down and kill Meng Chao in a single blow.

But Lu Siya had a transcendent status among them. It seemed like she had descended into a killing frenzy, and the bullet storm completely blocked the hole in the floor.

Xiong Wei could not exactly ask her to stop firing and jump in front of her guns, right?

When Lu Siya's crazed bombardment finally came to an end, the space under the hole was filled with smoke, and light surged out of the hole. A large amount of crystal particles that were undergoing a

strong reaction were suspended in the smoke. They released shattered spirit energy ripples and interfered with Xiong Wei, Su Lun, and the others' vision as they tried to scan the area.

Xiong Wei blinked and stared for a long time, but he still could not locate Meng Chao in the smoke-covered space.

He heard cracking sounds.

“No! That brat cracked the floorboards of the lower level and escaped to the second basement floor!”

Xiong Wei growled and jumped down regardless of the cost.

Lu Siya jumped down without hesitation and followed close after him.

Their loyal followers went after them as well.

Then, Golden Tooth, Black Bone, and Poison Scorpion's elites jumped in, too.

Of course, some of the other people had reacted to the situation quickly and headed underground through other tunnels. They soon arrived beneath the VIP room.

Unfortunately, the underground space of Mutual Gold Coliseum was ten times larger than the surface area.

Meng Chao had also obtained inspiration from Lu Siya's bombardment. Instead of moving through the same floor, he blasted the reinforced concrete under his feet to escape further down.

A few times, he performed feints as well. He left holes on the reinforced concrete to make it look like he had jumped down to escape.

But in truth, he had gone to the side and lurked in the dark with Walking Corpse. Like a dead man, he observed coolly as his pursuers jumped into the wrong hole.

The pursuers passed him time and again, and gradually, they spread out through the dozens of basement levels under Mutual Gold Coliseum.

Since they lacked smooth communication, this meant that they could not receive effective commands. Aside from the elites Lu Siya and Xiong Wei led personally, everyone else had no unity. They did not pose any threat to Meng Chao.

Even so, the pursuers had the advantage of numbers and were familiar with the terrain under Mutual Gold Coliseum.

The point was, before Meng Chao could determine who was deceived by Red Brows Su Lun and who was the real monster puppet, he could not and would not take the initiative to kill.

He could only dodge and hide.

As the gang members spread out, the space he could use began to shrink.

Still, Meng Chao remained as calm as ever.

In fact, compared to when he had just snuck into Mutual Gold Coliseum, the spark of hope in his eyes had become brighter.

The underground space was dark and looked like hell. Meng Chao's eyes were on the dark ceiling as he waited.

It seemed like he was waiting for someone to arrive.

However, something unexpected happened again.

“ROAR!”

Suddenly, a deafening roar came from underground.

The incredibly violent roar made the entire corridor shudder. The hunger-laced roar was something a human could never make.

Just as Meng Chao had expected while stuck to the ceiling and his ear pressed against the ventilation pipe, he heard gunshots from the direction of the roars. Humans also started screaming in a panic.

“M-Monsters!”

Chapter 579: Transformation of the Beasts

‘Monsters?’

Meng Chao was stunned.

Before he could register what happened, he heard gunshots, grenade explosions, human screams and shouts, and monsters' deafening and brutal roars from the ventilation pipes that led everywhere.

It sounded like a monster horde had torn through a crack that led straight to hell and charged out.

‘That's impossible!’ Meng Chao thought. ‘Mutual Gold Coliseum is the most heavily defended place in the lair right now. The wanted criminals and former Reaper Squad members might be able to pretend to be gang members and sneak in, but how could a large horde of monsters infiltrate the place and lurk under the coliseum?’

But the rising and falling screams and the increasing dreadful, pained cries could not be fake.

Meng Chao soon smelled a strong scent of blood in the air.

He also recognized the smelly, primitive scent that came from monsters.

The underground space of the coliseum had turned into a monsters' paradise. Meng Chao gritted his teeth, pulled down his hood, stuck close to the wall, and headed to the place where the monster roars were the loudest and the smell of blood was the strongest.

Boom!

Strong light shone in the area ahead, and he heard a loud explosion.

Meng Chao followed the direction of gunshots and smoke. When he took another turn, he saw three gang members fighting against a monster.

There were a few corpses strewn around them. Their bodies were ripped in half even though they were still in motorized armor.

And the monster...

Meng Chao's pupils shrank.

A monstrous, demonic figure was reflected in the center of his pupils.

The monster's original form should have been some sort of feline. It was much larger now, however, about the same size as a rhinoceros or a hippopotamus.

What was even more terrifying was that it had countless sharp bone spikes. Blue liquid flowed on those spikes, making the creature look like a mutated porcupine.

Numerous sarcomas pulsed between the spikes, reminding Meng Chao of hearts.

Poison also flowed on the sarcomas and dripped on the floor. It sizzled, and wisps of black smoke rose into the air.

By the looks of it, aside from being poisonous, the monster's bodily fluid was also highly corrosive.

Just as expected, Meng Chao saw signs of severe corrosion on the mangled motorized armor.

It seemed like the gang members did not know the extent of the monster's abilities. They attacked from close range, and when the monster's bodily fluids touched them, the machine components of their motorized armor broke down. They could no longer move with agility and received fatal attacks.

'What sort of monster is this?'

Even if Meng Chao had memories from his previous life and searched through them for a long time, he still could not remember this monster's name.

This was not a monster born naturally in the wild!

'Wait...'

Meng Chao squinted and stared at the Skeleton Feline's neck.

Even though its bones and muscles continued multiplying in a deformed manner, Meng Chao could still see an electromagnetic collar with a needle inserted in the creature's spine on its neck.

'This is a sign that it was artificially modified and tamed. The electromagnetic collar then should have fried its spine when the creature went out of control.'

'This is a biochemical beast locked under Mutual Gold Coliseum!'

'But I thought all the biochemical beasts have been sedated and detained with electromagnetic shackles and high-voltage electricity nets. How did they run out and gain such deformed and scary appearances?'

'Why aren't the collars and other restraints working? Why is it still jumping around and growling?'

Meng Chao knew that to increase the excitement and novelty of the monster fights, the management of the coliseums loved changing the monsters' appearances.

For example, they would add mighty-looking armor, install a few cannons or do something else.

But the Skeleton Feline in front of him looked demonic. It far exceeded the limits of human aesthetics.

Besides, the poison and acid flowing down its body was too dangerous and difficult to control.

The creature's power was ten times that of a normal feline-type monster, so it was impossible for it to have been changed by normal modifications.

Wait, power that is ten times stronger...

Meng Chao's eyes went wide, and cold sweat broke out on his skin.

He knew what went wrong with the biochemical monsters that had been staying in their cages obediently just minutes ago.

'Deification Capsules! The appearances and symptoms of this biochemical beast are the same as those of the robbers who took Deification Capsules!' Meng Chao screamed in his heart. 'The Deification Capsule can instantly activate decades of vitality so a person would awaken to supernatural abilities for a short period of time. So of course it can do the same to monsters.'

'Besides, due to their physical constitution, they will always be several times stronger than normal people. Because of it, they can bear stronger doses of Deification Capsules or be injected with the drug. This would then turn normal monsters into superbeasts, from Grade One Nightmarish Beast to Grade Two or Grade Three beasts. Some might even become Hell Beasts for a few minutes!'

Meng Chao just knew that Deification Capsules were fierce weapons. There was no way the Vortex would give up on using them.

As for how the Deification Capsules turned the biochemical monsters into brutal creatures that looked completely different from before and how they broke free from the electromagnetic shackles, high-voltage electricity nets, and other heavy restraints?

Meng Chao only needed to remember the existence of Red Brows Su Lun, and it was no longer strange.

Mutual Gold Coliseum was something he suggested, and it was built with an investment from all the gangs.

Since Golden Tooth invested the most and was the strongest, Mutual Gold Coliseum's construction and management was mainly in Golden Tooth's hands. More accurately speaking, it was taken care of by Red Brows Su Lun.

He might have designed the defense system keeping the monsters locked up himself, but even if not, he would have at least examined it.

Whatever the case, he would know the most fatal flaws of the defense system.

There was also a possibility that he left a backdoor in the monsters' electromagnetic shackles and self-destruct chips so that he could inject viruses inside them.

When necessary, all he would need to do was press a button, and it would cripple the restraints that the others thought were foolproof.

'Su Lun released all the biochemical beasts under the coliseum!

'He also switched their sedatives into Deification Capsules so that they would instantly release their incredibly violent potential and become creatures that are even more terrifying than the beasts in the wild!'

Meng Chao saw through Su Lun's scheme.

But at such a critical moment, he could not think of any way to solve the situation.

On the surface, Su Lun's act of releasing hundreds of crazed biochemical beasts helped Meng Chao a lot.

The pursuers were now in a bind. When faced with the deformed monsters' fangs and claws, they naturally did not have the time to continue chasing after him, but Meng Chao would not thank Su Lun for it.

After all, this meant that a brand new and fresh "crime" had just been attached to Meng Chao's head.

The more terrifying thing was that when the attention of all the people in Mutual Gold Coliseum was gathered on the biochemical beasts who took Deification Capsules and Meng Chao, no one would have the time to take care of the warehouses filled with ammunition, high-grade crystals, and relief resources.

While Meng Chao was thinking about his options, the three gang members continued fighting against the Skeleton Feline.

The monster had caught them off guard and killed a few of their comrades at the start of the fight, but a lot of terrifying wounds were left behind on its body as well.

No matter how much it did not fear pain, the rupture of its tendons and bone fractures still severely impacted its movements.

The three gang members were also livid. With adrenaline stimulating their bodies, their fighting strength increased to the point that it did not lose to that of people who took in Deification Capsules.

With a loud roar, they moved over their comrades' bodies and fired madly at the Skeleton Feline.

It ripped the Skeleton Feline's skin open. Its growls turned into pained cries, and poison and acid gushed out.

With their companions' deaths serving as lessons, the three gang members had learned to maintain a certain distance from the Skeleton Feline. They were on guard against the adhesive liquid that came from its body.

In the end, the Skeleton Feline tore open their chest plates and corroded their masks and guns while struggling for its life, but it did not manage to injure them.

When the gang members looked at the pile of rotten flesh and the twitching monster carcass, they removed their masks, because they were heavily corroded and blocked their vision. They looked at each other and smiled, relieved that they got out of this disaster.

But their smiles soon became frozen, because they heard a new and heavier breathing from the depths of the tunnel.

This was a monstrous breath belonging to a creature even stronger than the Skeleton Feline.

A large lump of flesh moved slowly toward them from the darkness in the depths of the tunnel.

Its red eyes were filled with killing intent. Its hair stood up like steel needles and flowed with an adhesive liquid that looked like blood. Two curled-up horns were on its head, and they looked like burning battering rams. The creature's deformed and swelled up flesh even tore open its sturdy pelt and blocked all the crevices in the tunnel.

It was a Demonic Black Mountain Bull, a tyrant that had no fear even of Nightmarish Beasts.

After a large amount of Deification Capsules, its potential had exploded, and it became as terrifying as a Hell Beast.

When the monster fixed its red, emotionless, and hungry eyes on the gang members, even if they were experienced in battle, they still could not help but shudder.

Bang, bang, bang, bang!

They fired without hesitation.

But even if the shower of bullets hit the Demonic Black Mountain Bull, it could not pierce its pelt, not with all the hair standing straight like steel needles.

Even if a few bullets were lucky enough to seep between the hair, they only managed to plant themselves into the sturdy pelt, which was useless.

After all, even if they managed to tear through the pelt and rip the flesh and pierce the organs, it would be useless.

The Demonic Black Mountain Bull had always been a fierce creature that would fight until the last drop of its blood.

Now, the burning spirit flames spurred on by the Deification Capsule burned the last of its fist-sized brain!

“ROAR!”

The Demonic Black Mountain Bull was enraged by the humans' provocation. It released a deafening roar at the three gang members.

A storm with the smell of sulphur seemed to be stirring in its body, and it blew so strongly that the three gang members could not open their eyes.

While the world spun, they heard the Demonic Black Mountain Bull charge. Its hooves hitting the floor sounded like war drums from the king of demons.

The three gang members were enveloped by the shadow of death. They could not fight back and their minds went blank.

Yet as they despaired, they suddenly heard another sound aside from the king of demons' war drums. There was a whistle of a saber scratching the floor coming from behind them.

Chapter 580: Cut in Half!

In a daze, the three gang members saw something unbelievable in the neverending darkness.

A burning red saber seemed to have descended from the sky. It left incredibly dazzling sparks and electrical arcs behind it as it charged over like lightning.

In an instant, it moved past them and swung up, performing a nearly perfect arc that had an incline of forty-five degrees. It dug into the area under the Demonic Black Mountain Bull's head.

The red saber and Demonic Black Mountain Bull were moving at extreme speeds, so it looked like two high-speed trains had collided.

But one of the trains suddenly became shorter and went under the other.

The first train naturally flew up and was thrown off its original trajectory. It also lost the platform on which it had gone forward.

Due to the inertia from dozens of tons moving at high speeds, the Demonic Black Mountain Bull continued forward without stopping.

And the red saber that had swung up now swung down. It cut into the neck and went down, slicing the monster's stomach until it reached the thighs.

The red saber was full of spirit energy and activated crystals. After the change in the atomic electron shell of the metal, the saber turned into its second form and became a blade that was nearly three meters long.

Spirit flames, which were thousands of degrees Celsius hot, gushed out and made it longer by another three meters.

The Demonic Black Mountain Bull's organs were wrecked by the blade and flames. Its wound stretched from its stomach to its spine and all the nerve bundles between its vertebrae were cut.

No matter how strong the Demonic Black Mountain Bull's vitality was, it could not withstand an attack that cut its stomach and sliced apart its body.

When it was half a meter away from the three gang members, it finally came to a stuttering halt.

It looked down a little, and puzzlement shone in its red, beady eyes.

It was trying to check the wound on its abdomen.

But once it lowered its head, it no longer had the strength to look up.

There was only a rustle when the explosive strength hidden in the blade mixed with the pressure that had been accumulating in its abdominal cavity. Suddenly, the wound stretching from the bull's neck to abdomen exploded.

It was like a whale which had lain on a beach for a few days. Its organs had rotted and become overly swollen, which resulted in an explosion .

The Demonic Black Mountain Bull let out its final wail and slowly curled up into a ball, then breathed its last.

Its hot blood had sprayed on the three gang members' faces, and its incredibly foul breath caused them to shudder. It took them a moment to regain their senses.

Right then, the Demonic Black Mountain Bull's head started trembling again.

Even its eyes started moving slowly.

The three gang members shuddered simultaneously. They were worried that the Demonic Black Mountain Bull was not really dead yet and about to launch a last, desperate attack.

Then, they heard a sizzle, and a red saber with brilliant crystals in it suddenly shot out from above the Demonic Black Mountain Bull's red eyes.

Spirit flames gushed out like a volcano eruption, making the red saber look like the crystallized form of a lump of magma that weighed a few billion tons. It easily split the Demonic Black Mountain Bull's head in half.

The three gang members watched in dumbfounded silence. A young adult without any armor, just a tattered cloak and fighting suit, crawled out from within the Demonic Black Mountain Bull's split mouth.

When the young adult placed the burning red saber on his shoulder and casually cast his sharp gaze on them, the three gang members' hearts released cries of despair.

Just like when they faced the Demonic Black Mountain Bull earlier, they were now overwhelmed by fear of death. Each bundle of nerves in them wanted to flee from their bodies and run.

"M-Meng Chao!" the bravest of the trio called out in a quivering, hoarse voice.

Then, together with his two companions, he realized that something didn't match up.

'What's going on? Isn't these brutal monsters a trick played by the abnormal beast and isn't Meng Chao supposed to be the abnormal beast's puppet?

'Aren't we carrying out Red Brows Su Lun, Phantom Bear Xiong Wei, and Queen Bee Lu Siya's orders to capture Meng Chao, fight against the monsters, and defend the lair?

'Why didn't Meng Chao ambush us while we were stunned in fear and instead fought against the monster with us? If being honest... he had saved them.'

The three gang members were really puzzled.

But they did not dare to readily believe in anything Meng Chao said.

But there was something that was certain.

Meng Chao had descended among them like a God and instantly cut the Demonic Black Mountain Bull in half. When faced with an opponent like this, they had no will to fight.

“This place is too dangerous, you can’t handle it. Leave and run up.” While standing on the Demonic Black Mountain Bull’s head, Meng Chao looked at their emblems. They belonged to different gangs. He paused for a moment before he added, “Also, look for your gang leaders as fast as you can and tell them two things.

“First, absolutely do not believe Red Brows Su Lun.

“If you must choose a highest commander, Phantom Bear Xiong Wei, Queen Bee Lu Siya, or any other gang leader will do, but do not choose Su Lun! He’s the real monster’s puppet, a traitor in human skin!

“If you don’t trust me and insist on handing over all authority to Su Lun, make sure that there is at least fifty muscular men keeping an eye on him at all times, and I mean 24/7. Don’t let him out of sight for even a second. Even when he goes to the toilet, make sure that someone helps him take off his pants, flick his willy clean, and clean it. That should do, right?

“Second, pay attention to the warehouses.

“A lot of the indoor arenas in Mutual Gold Coliseum have been modified into warehouses. There are piles of ammunition, crystals, medicine, and relief resources in them. These things are the ballasts that ensure the lair’s stability!

“No matter how chaotic the borders of the lair are, how great the conflict between you and Leprosy Village is, and how many monsters who took Deification Capsules ran out, they’re all smoke bombs and deceptions used by the enemy. As long as the warehouses are fine, final victory will still belong to us.

“But if something goes wrong with the warehouses, such as the crystal bombs being detonated or the medical resources and relief resources being destroyed by fire, everything will be over, understand?”

After reaching the final sentence, Meng Chao scowled and shouted.

He used Fear Bomb while speaking, which made his words strike at the three gang members’ cerebral cortex like a warhammer, and they saw the image of the lair being destroyed overnight.

The three gang members were puzzled and shocked. They stuttered as they asked, “M-Meng Chao, are you...”

‘Are you a hero or a traitor? What do you want to do? Why are you helping us?’

“Because we’re humans.”

The three gang members’ puzzlement was written on their faces, so Meng Chao could understand their question without even hearing it.

But he did not have the time to explain it. He frowned and said firmly, “It doesn’t matter how many misunderstandings and conflicts we have, I can’t just watch humans fall in front of monsters!”

“...” The three gang members looked like they were struck by lightning and stood dumbstruck.

They just kept blinking.

This was the first time they truly used their eyes to see this young adult who had spawned many rumors but remained enigmatic and mysterious.

At that moment, Meng Chao heard heavy breathing and heavy stomps again. A pair of red eyes appeared.

There had been two Demonic Black Mountain Bulls.

The one still alive had mutated even more compared to the one Meng Chao had cut in half with just one slice.

Aside from possessing tusks that were like a mammoth's, it also had eight thick horns on its head, all of which shone with a metallic light.

It looked like someone had embedded a huge morning star stuffed full of explosives onto a main battle tank.

When it saw its companion's ghastly, severed carcass, the Demonic Black Mountain Bull let out a sad wail.

Its bones started growing with loud cracking sounds. Its body swelled up, and its killing intent turned so fierce that it almost lit up and burnt the air.

Meng Chao positioned Bloody Soul across his chest and shouted at the trio without turning his head back. "Go!"

He focused his full attention and fighting spirit on the area ahead of him. He did not care that his back was now completely exposed to the three gang members.

The trio first looked at his back, then shook from the monster's roar. They looked past Meng Chao's shoulder and looked at the monstrous Demonic Black Mountain Bull.

"Meng Chao..." They hesitated for a while before gritting their teeth. "Hold on. We'll bring more people here!"

Meng Chao did not answer.

The waves created by Bloody Soul were enough to show that he was determined not to retreat.

Due to the speed at which he swung his saber, wherever his blade went, the air would distort because of the increased temperature when the blade grazed the air particles. It was as if he had cut a rift in space itself.

Unfortunately, after the Demonic Black Mountain Bull saw its companion's severed carcass, it was on guard.

It lowered its head and did not give Meng Chao the chance to cut its soft chin, neck, and stomach with a slide under its body.

It used its sturdy horns, fangs, and skull to face Meng Chao's blade.

With a crack, Bloody Soul embedded itself into the Demonic Black Mountain Bull's skull.

The problem was, the Demonic Black Mountain Bull's skull was as sturdy as metal. And when he tried to cut it, his strength was distributed through the skull due to the bone's arc.

He merely cut through two-thirds of the skull's thickness, and Bloody Soul got stuck in the Demonic Black Mountain Bull's head.

Meng Chao was about to free his saber and summon his strength to pump destructive spirit energy inside it when the Demonic Black Mountain Bull turned its neck. Its head moved like a morningstar and rammed Meng Chao against the wall. Immediately after, its huge body—weighing dozens of tons—slammed into Meng Chao.

Boom!

The underground walls of Mutual Gold Coliseum were made of thick reinforced concrete, but when the Demonic Black Mountain Bull ate the Deification Capsules and drained its vitality in exchange for explosive strength, the walls became as brittle as the shell of a lava cake.

Meng Chao was pinned by the Demonic Black Mountain Bull and crushed the wall behind him.

Before he could cough up blood, the Demonic Black Mountain Bull slammed into the wall a second, third, and fourth time while he was still pinned on its horns.

No matter how many times the wall was hit, it did not seem to be able to stop the Demonic Black Mountain Bull from speeding up and destroying everything like a cannonball.

Meng Chao felt like he was an empty aluminium can under a hydraulic press that weighed ten thousand tons. In a moment, he was going to be crushed into something that was as thin as a cicada's wing between the Demonic Black Mountain Bull and reinforced concrete.