

R. Paradise 871

Chapter 871: Ineffective and Restrained

Kinuhata Saiai did not seem to have changed much to the naked eye. However, looking closely, one would notice she was standing mid-air, about ten centimeters off the ground. She was not floating but rather encased in a ten-centimeter-thick layer of nitrogen that formed an invisible armor around her.

"I am going in," Kinuhata Saiai said, her body bending slightly. Although her strength and agility were not particularly high, the nitrogen armor significantly boosted her destructive power. She did not use her body to drive the armor; her superpower controlled the nitrogen armor. In other words, Kinuhata Saiai's attack power and speed were independent of her physical fitness; the strength of her superpower determined them. The nitrogen armor dragged Kinuhata Saiai into battle, with her brain issuing commands to the armor.

When Su Xiao noticed Kinuhata Saiai standing mid-air, he immediately sensed something unusual. He had been waiting for a response for a long time without any news, which made him impatient. Moreover, the enemy would not give him time to wait.

Rather than wait for the enemy to attack, Su Xiao chose to take the initiative.

Boom!

Asphalt debris flew beneath Su Xiao's feet as he disappeared from his original position, targeting Mugino Shizuri. Kinuhata Saiai had used some powerful ability, making it unwise to confront her directly. Moreover, compared to Kinuhata Saiai, Mugino Shizuri's attack power was stronger and more threatening.

As Su Xiao disappeared, several green barriers appeared around Mugino Shizuri, protecting her. The previous encounter had left a deep impression on her. However, the fact that her opponent had withdrawn his slash just before striking her indicated he did not want his weapon to touch her Meltdown.

The enemy's power, speed, and even aura were terrifying. Mugino Shizuri had never encountered a user with a similar superpower. More importantly, the enemy was elusive.

While Mugino Shizuri was considering her strategy, the sound of a rushing wind came.

"He is coming!"

Several green spheres appeared around Mugino Shizuri.

The rushing wind grew louder, and a long knife surrounded by dozens of hexagonal energy shields slashed toward her.

Zzzzz...

The long knife, enveloped by the energy shields, cut into the green barrier. The barrier emitted high heat, rapidly decomposing the energy shields. Unlike the particle beam cannons, the green barrier had stronger corrosive and decomposing abilities, capable of melting and decomposing even bullets instantly.

The green barrier completely dissolved the dozen or so energy shields. Fortunately, the Dragon Flash managed to penetrate the barrier, but Su Xiao felt significant resistance, a strong suction force. The green barrier was not as fragile as it seemed; it contained an electronic field.

It was not surprising that Mugino Shizuri could control an electronic field. Like the third-ranked Railgun, she belonged to the electronic control category, albeit a different branch.

Under the powerful electronic field, the Dragon Flash became extremely heavy, with a downward suction force. If Su Xiao's strength had not been sufficient, the Dragon Flash would have been pulled from his grasp.

Su Xiao's right arm muscles slightly bulged as he slashed upward against the powerful suction.

Splat.

Blood spurted as a large portion of an arm was severed, and blood splashed onto Mugino Shizuri's pale face.

Mugino Shizuri's expression twisted in pain as she felt an unknown energy invade her body, like an electric current without the characteristics of electricity.

A faint pain spread through her body as the 'current' dissipated, causing little harm.

"Getting this wretched thing into my body... damn it!"

The pain enraged Mugino Shizuri while Kinuhata Saiai, rushing towards them, twitched at the corners of her mouth. She felt something was off with that statement.

The energy invading Mugino Shizuri's body was Qing Gang Ying's energy, which should have inflicted substantial true damage under normal circumstances.

However, Qing Gang Ying's true damage requires extinguishing the enemy's energy first.

Surprisingly, Mugino Shizuri's body contained almost no energy or significant amounts of mana. Her body, altered by repeated superpower development, had little to no mana despite her high intelligence attribute. All superpower users seemed to have very little mana or energy, possibly suppressed by technology developed by Aleister Crowley.

After severing a portion of Mugino Shizuri's arm, Su Xiao sidestepped.

Swoosh—

A beam cannon shot past Su Xiao's ear, so close he could feel its heat.

"Die!"

Mugino Shizuri screamed as a dozen beam cannons targeted Su Xiao. He swung his arm, deploying all his counterattack shields to defend himself.

He was puzzled as to why the Qing Gang Ying energy had such a weak effect, as if it could not find its 'prey.'

Boom!

The beam cannons hit the counterattack shields, and Su Xiao, taking advantage of being pushed back, used the Apostle's Eye to analyze Mugino Shizuri's attributes.

Comparison of intelligence attributes... complete. My intelligence is 0.98 times that of the enemy. Due to the enemy's unique intelligence attribute, full data has been acquired.

Data as follows:

Name: Mugino Shizuri

Category: Human (875 times superpower development)

Health: 86%

Mana: 0/50

Strength: 6

Agility: 6

Stamina: 5

Mutant Intelligence: 80

Charisma: 48

Skill 1: Meltdown (Passive/Active/Superpower LV.40): Electron and light show both 'particle' and 'wave' properties. Mugino Shizuri can manipulate the 'ambiguous electron state' between the two, causing atomic destruction. The balance is extremely difficult to manage (the emission is neither an electrical wave nor a particle but the electron itself).

Skill 2: Mutant Intelligence (Passive LV.36): After repeated superpower development, the superpower user's intelligence attribute mutates, no longer generating mana but a proportion of additional health and strong computation ability. Most high-level superpower users are akin to walking computers.

Skill 3: Death Particle Cannon (Active LV.32): Can fire a 'Death Particle Cannon' via the Meltdown ability, featuring high penetration and temperature. Penetration: 32, additional 350 high-risk damage, speed: 29.

Skill 4: Electron Field Control (Active LV.20): Can manipulate the electron field, interfering with other forces or attracting most metals.

Skill 5: High-Resistance Brain (Passive Lv.25): Immune to mental control skills with less than 80 points attribute release. The duration of other controls was reduced by 30%.

Skill 6: Death Particle Cannon Diffusion (Passive Lv.32): Can diffuse the Death Particle Cannon, consuming 'diffusion support semiconductors.'

Skill 7: High-Speed Neural Reflex (Passive Lv.18): Repeated superpower development causes beneficial evolution in the brain, increasing neural reflex speed by 17%.

Skill 8: Death Queen (Active Lv.6): Consuming Body Crystals, superpower rampage, continuously releasing the Death Particle Cannon 360 degrees without any dead angle until stamina is exhausted. Lasts 20 seconds. Complete exhaustion and coma after use, reducing maximum health by 2% each time.

After reviewing Mugino Shizuri's attributes, Su Xiao understood superpower users better. Their intelligence attribute mutates through superpower development, using superpowers with physical strength and brain calculation instead of mana.

That 0/50 mana indicated that Qing Gang Ying had some effect, but Mugino Shizuri's mana was too low. This was Qing Gang Ying's weakness: it cannot cause damage without energy to extinguish. True damage occurs when extinguishing energy destroys the enemy, which is unavoidable damage.

While Qing Gang Ying was almost ineffective, Su Xiao had another ability effective against superpower users: aura release. The passive ability of aura release increased the enemy's stamina consumption by 27%. Since superpower users used stamina to activate their abilities, this was crucial.

Seeing Mugino Shizuri gasping heavily, Su Xiao knew his aura release ability was working.

Though Mugino Shizuri was strong, her strength, agility, and stamina were too low. Once her stamina was depleted, it would be over for her.

Chapter 872: Death by Reflex

Su Xiao was repelled by the beam cannon, gliding in mid-air for a distance before landing.

As soon as he landed, Saiai Kinuhata somehow appeared behind him.

"It's done."

Mugino Shizuri, whose cheeks were splattered with blood, sneered and directed several more beams at Su Xiao.

As the beams attacked Su Xiao, a small white fist swung towards his head. Don't underestimate this small fist; it could easily smash a tank.

Thud!

Kinuhata's fist struck Su Xiao's counterattack shield, causing the circular shield around him to dent into the ground, raising a cloud of dust.

Boom, boom, boom, boom...

Several beams bombarded the shield. Su Xiao, his eyelids lowered, glanced sideways at the shield, noticing faint cracks appearing on it.

"Strong attack, but the trajectory is too direct, and the attack signs are obvious."

Su Xiao murmured, retracting the shield. He was testing the strength of the superpowered attacks.

Based on Mugino Shizuri's attack power, a Railgun stronger than her could break the shield with one full-power hit. However, the Railgun's attack signs were even more noticeable, making it difficult to hit Su Xiao.

Realizing Su Xiao had retracted the shield, Mugino Shizuri and Kinuhata were taken aback. What they didn't know was that the shield limited Su Xiao's speed to some extent.

"Gamble for one minute."

Su Xiao sidestepped lightly, dodging Kinuhata's kick and a beam at the same time.

Boom!

The beam struck Kinuhata's nitrogen armor, causing her to step back a few paces but leaving the armor undamaged. The nitrogen armor was now twice as thick as usual, its strength increased by at least ten times, though this enhancement was due to drugs and could only last for a few minutes.

Several shields appeared around Su Xiao, and he immediately disconnected his energy link to them. This way, the shields could exist independently for up to a minute, allowing him to move freely.

The shields floated around, positioning themselves near Mugino Shizuri.

Mugino Shizuri became cautious and started blasting the shields with beams. Without Su Xiao's energy supply, the shields weren't sturdy and shattered quickly.

These shields weren't for attacking but for aiding Su Xiao's rapid movement.

Su Xiao's leg muscles tensed slightly as he leaped onto a shield. This shield was now an independent entity, not sharing gravity with Su Xiao, allowing him to stay airborne.

Taking a deep breath, Su Xiao gripped his long knife tightly and pushed off with his feet, his figure disappearing.

Boom, boom, boom, boom...

The sound of stomping and sonic booms melded into one. Su Xiao leaped between the shields, becoming a black shadow weaving around Mugino Shizuri.

Both Mugino Shizuri and Kinuhata couldn't keep up with Su Xiao's movements. In desperation, they moved closer together.

Suddenly, Su Xiao appeared in front of Mugino Shizuri, his Dragon Flash gone, his arms now covered in a protective layer of energy shields, like two pale blue energy bracers.

Su Xiao's body arched mid-air like a drawn bow, and he punched at Mugino Shizuri.

Several green barriers appeared around Mugino Shizuri, capable of melting and decomposing most materials or energy and containing a strong electric field. Attacking with a knife was unwise, so Su Xiao used his fist instead.

His energy-shielded fist struck the green barrier.

Crack, crack, crack...

The moment his fist made contact with the barrier, cracks appeared on the energy shield. Fortunately, the shield was formed by consuming 400 mana points and was extremely sturdy.

Su Xiao's fist broke through the green barrier, and this time he didn't feel any suction. Not using a knife proved wise.

Bang!

Su Xiao's fist struck Mugino Shizuri's chest, causing several ribs to break with a crisp snap. The force penetrated her body, tearing a round hole in her back. This was Su Xiao's control over his power, inflicting greater damage without sending the enemy flying.

Mugino Shizuri's eyes widened. She couldn't understand how the enemy figured out how to counter her defense so quickly.

The battle had only been going on for less than five minutes. This was the difference in combat experience and intelligence.

With a wail, Mugino Shizuri spat out a mouthful of blood, mixed with fragments of her internal organs. She glanced down at her chest, one side noticeably swollen.

"Daring to mess with me, I..."

Mugino Shizuri reached for her collar, trying to pull something out, but Su Xiao, already close, wouldn't give her the chance.

Su Xiao sidestepped a beam, which grazed his cheek, leaving a burn mark.

Ignoring the beam, Su Xiao stepped forward, extending his left arm to grab Mugino Shizuri's right forearm.

Crack.

"Ah!"

Mugino Shizuri's forearm twisted unnaturally, causing her nearly to faint from the pain.

But it wasn't over. Su Xiao grabbed her collar with one hand and kned her in the abdomen.

Bang, Mugino Shizuri spat out another mouthful of blood-mixed bile, seeing stars.

Suddenly, Mugino Shizuri tilted her head back, glaring at Su Xiao. Green light balls appeared around her, highly unstable and ready to explode. She intended to perish together with Su Xiao.

However, being so close to Su Xiao, with her weak close-combat abilities, she stood no chance.

Su Xiao's arm arched, delivering an uppercut to her jaw. Mugino Shizuri's eyes rolled back, and the green light balls vanished.

With a thud, Mugino Shizuri collapsed. She had multiple broken ribs, damaged internal organs, a fractured forearm, a broken jaw, torn ligaments, and a severe concussion. If she was rescued in time, she might survive, but she'd lose her ability to boast forever, needing a straw to eat from then on.

The slaughter knife appeared in Su Xiao's hand, and he instinctively placed it against Mugino Shizuri's throat, almost reflexively cutting it.

Splat, blood spurted out as Mugino Shizuri's throat was slashed.

When the warm blood splattered on Su Xiao's face, he paused, realizing he had intended to leave a survivor. However, his long-standing habit made him instinctively ensure the enemy posed no threat during combat.

[You killed Mugino Shizuri (Esper)]

[Mugino Shizuri ranked fourth among Espers, gaining 5.6% World Source, totaling 5.6% World Source.]

[Your talent 'Soul Eater' activated, permanently increasing mana by 30 points, now at 3146 max mana.]

[You obtained a treasure chest (Light Gold).]

...

Su Xiao picked up the treasure chest on the ground. It proved that Espers' development direction was too extreme. Facing a well-rounded enemy like Su Xiao, most Espers were helpless.

Of course, this also had to do with Mugino Shizuri's ability, which leaned towards offense with obvious defensive weaknesses. If it were the top three Espers, it wouldn't be so easy, especially the first-ranked one. Their defense was nearly unbeatable.

The top-ranked Esper was known as Accelerator, with the ability to manipulate vectors through physical contact, controlling the direction of all energies, including electricity, heat, and kinetic energy.

In other words, they could manipulate the direction of slashes as well.

Chapter 873: Shout of Injustice?

In the original work, a weakness of Accelerator is mentioned: when about to hit him, suddenly change the attack direction to the opposite of the original target point.

It sounds simple but is very difficult to execute in practice. The person who exploited this weakness was Accelerator's esper developer, who knew Accelerator's abilities inside out. Because of this, they could avoid Accelerator's powers. For someone facing him for the first time, hitting Accelerator was nearly impossible, requiring extensive calculations of angle, force control, and more.

Fortunately, Su Xiao didn't have to deal with Accelerator for now. Whether they would face each other later was unknown, but Su Xiao was already troubled by such an almost unsolvable ability.

Standing beside Mugino Shizuri's corpse, Su Xiao looked towards Saiai Kinuhata in the distance.

Kinuhata was slowly retreating, the bloody lesson telling her she wasn't a match for this man.

Whoosh~

The sound of air being torn apart came, and in less than two seconds, Su Xiao had already dashed in front of Kinuhata.

Dragon Flash appeared in his hand. Using a knife against Mugino Shizuri was unwise, but against Kinuhata, it was highly effective.

Su Xiao held the knife in one hand, the blade flashing in the night as he slashed at Kinuhata's neck. Kinuhata immediately controlled her nitrogen armour to tilt her head aside.

Ding.

Dragon Flash sliced past Kinuhata's ear, an invisible piece of armour flying off and dissipating in the air, a few strands of her short brown hair drifting down.

With one slash, Kinuhata's nitrogen armour was pierced. If Su Xiao couldn't break through a Level 4 esper's defence with one strike, he wouldn't have a chance to complete his promotion task. Even though Kinuhata had enhanced her nitrogen armour with drugs, it still couldn't withstand one slash from Su Xiao.

Feeling the night breeze on her face, Kinuhata was initially surprised, but then her eyes darkened. Her nitrogen armour couldn't even withstand one slash. If she continued to fight, she would surely die. As for escaping, the enemy was too fast.

Glancing at Mugino Shizuri's corpse, Kinuhata's determination grew. Her teammate was dead, and fleeing was meaningless; she could only continue to fight.

"Super Kinetic Punch."

Kinuhata controlled her nitrogen armour to punch, with jets appearing on the invisible armour, accelerating the punch.

Her slender fist created wind pressure, causing Su Xiao's coat to flutter. He held Dragon Flash horizontally on his left side.

Boom!

The soil beside Su Xiao's right foot splashed, showing the power of Kinuhata's punch. Though Kinuhata's movement speed wasn't fast, her punch speed was. If even a long-range esper like Mugino Shizuri had such quick reflexes, Kinuhata, a close-combat esper, was even more rapid.

Su Xiao's body gradually bent to the right to deflect the force.

Blocking Kinuhata's punch, Su Xiao kicked at her side.

Boom!

Su Xiao's foot stopped about ten centimetres from Kinuhata's side, blocked by the nitrogen armour. Although the kick didn't hit her body, the impact caused Kinuhata to roll to the side.

What is strength? Power, agility, stamina, intelligence, without any weaknesses. As for charm, well, that's another story.

Attack power, defence, close combat, long-range, and resistance to various attributes, Su Xiao wasn't lacking in any of these, with attack power, close combat, and dashing being particularly strong.

Su Xiao wasn't unique in this. Any solo player had to have such qualities, or they wouldn't survive several derivative worlds.

One could say that Su Xiao had no other strengths besides close combat but no obvious weaknesses. It's like a barrel: the water it holds is determined by the shortest plank, not the longest. Having no weaknesses is also a form of strength.

Boom, boom!

The sounds of impact continued. Wrapped in her nitrogen armour, Kinuhata was like a toy, occasionally having pieces of her armour slashed off by Su Xiao or kicked away. Facing an opponent like Su Xiao, who had no obvious weaknesses, Kinuhata felt nothing but despair. From the beginning of the fight, she had been searching for Su Xiao's weakness but hadn't found any. Additionally, for some unknown reason, she felt constant fear, which accelerated her stamina consumption. She was already panting.

Two minutes later.

With a crack, Kinuhata's nitrogen armour shattered. She fell to the ground like a broken doll.

Her hand supported her on the ground, and Kinuhata tried to stand up, but a foot pressed down on her back.

"The turtle shell is broken; there's no point in struggling."

Su Xiao didn't plan to kill Kinuhata immediately. It wasn't because of her cute appearance. He had just slit the throat of the big-chested lady, let alone this flat-chested girl. Kinuhata could be described as having less than a couple of ounces of meat on her body. Su Xiao wasn't interested in such a childlike figure.

"The will of a friend, I can't, cough cough..."

Su Xiao exerted more force with his foot, preventing Kinuhata from resisting further.

"After fighting for so long without any response, it seems your boss doesn't care about your lives."

Su Xiao lit a cigarette, considering his next move. Killing people continuously without a reasonable identity to integrate into this world was unwise.

Whoosh~

As Su Xiao was pondering, a girl appeared out of thin air. Suddenly, Su Xiao's foot felt empty; Kinuhata had vanished.

Su Xiao's pupils contracted slightly, and the faint red aura around him thickened.

About ten meters away, a girl in a middle school uniform was holding Kinuhata in a princess carry. The newcomer was Kuroko Shirai, a Level 4 esper with spatial abilities known for her sense of justice.

Kuroko stared at Su Xiao, cold sweat dripping down her cheeks. She felt that this man was not from her world. No, it should be said that his life was entirely different from hers.

Although Kuroko was a high-level esper, she was inherently kind. She wouldn't even hurt others without reason, let alone kill.

A girl who had never killed facing Su Xiao, the result was predictable.

The faint red aura around Su Xiao seemed to form a beast grinning at Kuroko.

Kuroko squinted her eyes, realising the 'beast' she saw was just an illusion.

"Judgement...not good."

Clang!

With a flash of the blade, Kuroko vanished from her spot, reappearing dozens of meters away, while Su Xiao appeared where she had been.

A ten-centimeter-long, chopstick-thin metal rod appeared in Su Xiao's knee.

"Don't move, or I'll teleport that thing into your heart."

Teleporting the metal rod into the enemy's knee was already a harsh move for Kuroko.

Su Xiao pinched the metal rod between his fingers, clenched his fist, and pulled it out of his knee, blood splattering. He remained expressionless throughout as if it wasn't his knee.

Seeing this, Kuroko's face twitched, thinking the enemy was ruthless. That cold and indifferent demeanour wasn't a facade; it was a natural attitude, as if getting injured was common.

Su Xiao looked at Kuroko, puzzled about why she appeared there. Was it a shout of injustice?

Chapter 874: Slippery

"3Q Chinese Network, the fastest update on Reincarnation Paradise!"

"Spatial abilities, not easy to deal with."

Various energy shields of different sizes appeared around Su Xiao, arranged chaotically to create a refraction effect. Although he had abilities to counter spatial ones, their cooldown time was too long. In a place like Academy City, spatial ability users were abundant, so he didn't plan to use them for now.

"This guy..."

Kuroko Shirai was stunned. After just one exchange, the opponent had figured out how to counter her abilities. With her vision obstructed, calculating the enemy's position became difficult. The semi-transparent energy panels refracted light, misleading her judgment of distance, causing errors in her spatial movement, and potentially leading to fatal mistakes, such as teleporting a metal rod into the enemy's brain.

Kuroko was overthinking it. If it weren't the first time encountering her abilities, and the attacked position wasn't lethal, the extremely intuitive Su Xiao, whose instincts were sharper than a beast's, wouldn't have been injured by her, let alone fatally.

"Such combat experience, a monster existing purely for battle. No, I must take this child away; she's seriously injured."

Kuroko glanced at the severely injured Saiai Kinuhata in her arms, who was coughing up blood and looked like she could die any moment.

Boom!

A loud explosion came, and Su Xiao charged directly at Kuroko. He didn't understand why she appeared, but compared to Kinuhata, Kuroko was more suitable as a bargaining chip for negotiation, showing more "sincerity."

Hearing the explosion, Kuroko instinctively felt something was wrong and immediately used her spatial ability to teleport. Her maximum teleportation distance was 80 meters, and she could carry up to 130.7 kilograms. Considering Kinuhata's and her sizes, it was uncertain if they weighed 130 pounds, let alone 130.7 kilograms.

Kuroko's teleportation not only had an 80-meter limit but also paused briefly after each teleport, meaning she couldn't completely shake off Su Xiao's pursuit.

Carrying Kinuhata, Kuroko teleported repeatedly while Su Xiao leaped between buildings at high speed.

However, Kuroko's teleportation ignored obstacles and maintained a certain distance from Su Xiao, avoiding his aura and allowing her to teleport for a long time.

Academy City had many buildings, ideal for Kuroko's teleportation. Realizing this, Su Xiao extended his perception in a fan shape, continuously locking onto the spatial fluctuations ahead. Frequently teleported by Reincarnation Paradise, Su Xiao was very familiar with spatial

fluctuations. Kuroko's spatial abilities were too immature compared to Reincarnation Paradise's teleportation.

The chase began, and Kuroko couldn't shake off Su Xiao despite countless teleports.

"What kind of ability is this, a humanoid radar? And what was with that phone call?"

Kuroko was confused. Earlier, she had been shopping at a 24-hour unmanned store, buying some very mature lingerie, when her phone rang. The caller was a woman who informed her that a murder was about to happen in Academy City's Seventh District and gave specific details.

As a member of Judgment, Kuroko was responsible for maintaining order in her affiliated campus, though she often patrolled outside the campus without complaints.

Initially, Kuroko thought it was a malicious prank from a jealous classmate, but after receiving some photos, she realized it was no joke. The images of destroyed buildings and a blood-stained severed arm indicated that the call was likely truthful.

After careful consideration, Kuroko called the police and rushed to the scene.

Upon arrival, she first saw a corpse with a slit throat. The sight of blood made her stomach churn, and the scene continually assaulted her nerves.

From there, things were simple. Kuroko used her spatial ability to rescue Kinuhata and then immediately started fleeing. Sensing Su Xiao's presence, she knew she couldn't fight him. They were on different levels of combat ability and attitude towards battle.

Su Xiao fought with pure intent to kill and eliminate obstacles, unlike her purpose of subduing enemies without harming them. She couldn't kill.

Kuroko's greatest strength was knowing who she could fight and who she couldn't. Her current enemy was a warrior from the dark world. Fighting without intent to kill was laughable.

Since fighting wasn't an option, she had to escape.

Clang!

The blade slashed, and Kuroko vanished.

Su Xiao stopped on a rooftop, stepping hard enough to scatter gravel. Kuroko was slipperier than an eel.

"Girl, let's talk. I promise... I won't hurt you."

Su Xiao smiled, revealing his white teeth. He truly didn't plan to kill Kuroko. Killing Mugino Shizuri was fine since she was from the dark side and sought him out. But killing Kuroko, a "sunlit" person, was a different matter, almost a direct challenge to a certain someone.

"Hey, that smile makes you look like a villain."

Sweating, Kuroko retorted and teleported away.

"People believe lies more easily than the truth sometimes."

Su Xiao sat at the edge of the rooftop, exhaling smoke. He didn't continue the chase. He was waiting for someone.

Whoosh~

Another girl appeared, making Su Xiao frown. Why were all the ability users he encountered women?

This was a twin-tailed girl in revealing clothing, draped in a denim jacket, with bandages wrapped around her chest and a large part of her abdomen exposed.

"Hello, I'm Awaki Musujime. I mean no harm, just a messenger."

Awaki, sweating profusely, wasn't oppressed by Su Xiao's aura. Like Kuroko, she was a spatial ability user. Once, she accidentally "buried" one of her feet into a wall during a spatial move.

Having a body part teleported into a wall wasn't simple; her foot nearly fused with the concrete due to spatial compression. She fainted instantly, and after extensive treatment, her foot was saved. But since then, she has experienced intense anxiety and fear during spatial moves, always recalling the horrific sensation of bones, muscles, and nerves rubbing against concrete.

Hearing Awaki's words, Su Xiao felt relieved, thinking his wait was finally over. Operating within Academy City was extremely dangerous for him without joining the scientific side.

Chapter 875: Negotiation

Dead silence fell over the deck. Koala and Reiz Max exchanged glances, both having the same thought: "Maybe we should retreat for now."

The ship hadn't sunk. The seawater flooding into the lower cabins had been frozen. Amu was already stationed there, and Su Xiao had deliberately "let go" of that Celestial Dragon.

Koala heard a splash within half an hour as Su Xiao climbed back onto the ship, drenched.

Two CP0 members had pursued him this time, and neither escaped. Eddie K was responsible for combat, while the woman was likely support. Her combat strength wasn't high, and if Su Xiao guessed correctly, she was the one who tracked him.

"Ptui!"

Su Xiao spat out the seawater and touched his chin, still sore from a hard punch earlier. To successfully eliminate Eddie K, he set up a trap. He used a legendary item called [Mental Pollution], causing Eddie K to become confused and recklessly attempt to save the Celestial Dragon without assessing the risk.

Such is combat even though Eddie K was almost as strong as an Admiral, a wrong decision led to his death.

Moreover, Su Xiao discovered that Exile was extremely useful in real battles. A single hit could leave the enemy severely injured or dead and combined with his sword skills, once the enemy fell into a disadvantage, their chances of turning the tide became slim.

After tossing Eddie K's body into the sea, Su Xiao turned to Koala and Reiz Max.

"Continue explaining why you came to find me."

Sitting on the ship's edge, Su Xiao watched as Bubu climbed back on board and started shaking off water, splashing Su Xiao in the face.

Su Xiao, Bubu, and Amu had efficiently dealt with the two CP0 members before fully unleashing their power.

"Well, okay."

Koala jumped down from the cabin and began speaking, "We were tracking you earlier, and I sincerely apologize for that. As for our purpose in finding you, you probably have an idea."

"I can provide you with finished products, and there's no issue with the technology. The prerequisite is that you can manufacture alchemical bombs."

"There's no problem with that. What do we need to pay for such technology?"

Koala's eyes sparkled with interest. Reiz Max remained silent; he had tracked Su Xiao earlier but didn't intend to participate in the negotiation. His encounter with Su Xiao on the island was purely coincidental.

"What do you need to pay? I haven't thought about that yet, but..."

Su Xiao's tone shifted, directly skipping the matter of compensation.

"If I join you, I might consider not asking for compensation."

"Join us?"

Koala was visibly stunned. She had never considered recruiting Su Xiao into the Revolutionary Army because he was too dangerous, both according to rumors and his recent actions against the CP0 members.

"I've been hunted by the World Government recently, which is why I collaborated with Doflamingo. Clearly, working with that pirate wasn't reliable. So now, I need a force to help fend off the CP departments."

"Um..."

Koala was conflicted. She understood the reasoning, but whether due to a woman's intuition or something else, she felt that Su Xiao joining the Revolutionary Army wasn't a good idea.

"Since you're not interested in the weapons I provide, let's drop it. However... you just witnessed me kill a CP0 agent."

Su Xiao smiled amiably.

"We can pretend we didn't see anything, right, Reiz?"

"Ah?" Reiz Max snapped out of his daze and quickly agreed, "Yes, we can act like we didn't see anything. Revealing this would only cause trouble."

"See, he'll forget it."

Koala forced a smile. She had come to discuss business but found herself entangled in such matters.

Suddenly, Koala realized that Su Xiao might have anticipated this situation, prompting her to ponder deeply:

"Why does he want to join the Revolutionary Army? To escape the World Government? Impossible. This man dares to kill a Celestial Dragon and wouldn't fear the World Government. Is there some ulterior motive? Come on, Koala, figure it out. You can do it."

"I once heard that verbal promises can be very fragile."

"Who said that? It's a wrong notion. People need to maintain basic trust in each other. Whoever said that must be a villain."

Koala's thoughts were interrupted, and she had to respond to Su Xiao.

"I said it."

Su Xiao lit a cigarette as a sea breeze blew, the weather is unusually clear.

"Ah?"

Koala was taken aback.

"I just said that."

"Well..."

The situation became extremely awkward, so much so that Koala wanted to jump into the sea to escape.

"I was just kidding. Usually, I don't kill people randomly. You can leave anytime."

"Yes, I believe you."

Koala glanced at the large bloodstain on the deck.

"I only make weapons for my affiliated forces. As for the weapon technology, the last person who tried to copy it was named Dr. Vegapunk."

"Wait a moment."

Koala signaled Reiz Max to continue negotiating with Su Xiao, at least to stall him.

"Mr. Kukulín, your swordsmanship is impressive."

Reiz Max forced a smile.

"..."

"Uh, let's change the topic. Do you like gambling?"

"..."

"Cough, the weather is nice today."

Reiz Max exhaled deeply. His impression of Su Xiao was of a ruthless killer and an old schemer, with Eddie K's tragic death as evidence. Such a strong agent fell in just a few minutes.

Koala soon returned her expression indicating a positive outcome.

"If you join us, you'll make weapons for us for free?"

Koala crouched down, patting Bubu's head, in stark contrast to her wary stance towards Su Xiao. Bubu turned his head, his expression saying, "Don't touch me."

"I can temporarily provide you with some technology regarding explosives."

Su Xiao took out a seawater-damaged paper. Seeing this pre-prepared item, Koala felt even more manipulated.

"These are the initial blueprints and samples of alchemical bombs. Whether you can replicate them is your problem."

Su Xiao handed the blueprints and three alchemical bombs to Koala. These blueprints were outdated technology he had discarded long ago, not used since Tier 3.

Seeing the alchemical bombs, Koala's smile widened. These were excellent for sinking ships, often used by the Navy.

[Hint: The Hunter has joined the Revolutionary Army faction. Subsequent tasks will begin upon the Hunter's arrival at the Navy Headquarters.]

Chapter 876: Conditions and Bargains

After a moment of silence, Su Xiao continued:

"There is only one clue about the Codex: a Level 0 Esper named Motoharu Tsuchimikado in Academy City. Finding him will lead me to the next clue. That's why I'm here in Academy City."

Su Xiao revealed some information that might have been exposed during his actions, such as an unknown Codex and the clue involving Motoharu Tsuchimikado, all of which were true.

Su Xiao's attitude was to pose as a member of some organization. He only showed his martial strength, while his alchemical skills would be revealed "accidentally," possibly as a life-saving measure.

"As for the Codex, according to existing information, it's extremely dangerous. If it can't be safely transported, I suggest destroying it."

Having stated his purpose, Su Xiao waited for Aleister's response.

"Where are you from?" Aleister asked a tricky question that could jeopardize the negotiation if not answered correctly.

"An organization for clearing and investigating magical and strange entities. We are a demon-hunting family responsible for eliminating mages and their creations. I'm the third generation."

Su Xiao extended his hand, letting Qinggang Ying's energy flow.

"My power doesn't suit magic or science. It's a legacy power system."

Su Xiao was confident that Aleister could sense the unique nature of Qinggang Ying energy, which specifically targeted casters. Su Xiao contacted Aleister, who despised magic, hoping Aleister couldn't decipher Qinggang Ying's energy.

"I see. Your words need verification, but your power qualifies as a mage's nemesis."

Aleister's attitude remained unclear. Sensing this, Su Xiao offered an enticing deal.

"As thanks for entering your territory to seek the Codex, I can assist you with tasks during my search. The reasons are irrelevant; just provide the time, place, and target's features or photos. Whether killing or rescuing, I can handle it while searching for the Codex."

If Aleister hesitated before, Su Xiao's offer now piqued his interest.

Imagine a powerful subordinate who asks no questions about tasks and acts decisively. Such a subordinate is invaluable, especially since Su Xiao is stronger than 99% of Aleister's directly controlled subordinates, like Accelerator and Touma Kamijou, whom Aleister manipulates indirectly.

Su Xiao's straightforward offer was different. The task, time, place, target—no other questions.

However, Su Xiao's perfection was suspicious. He knew this, so he had shown his flaws—anger and suspicion—during his interaction with Awaki Musujime, traits Aleister would have noticed via surveillance. This was intentional on Su Xiao's part.

"You seem sincere. For now, you have the right to operate in Academy City. In return, you need to do something first."

As Aleister finished speaking, Su Xiao received a prompt.

[Hint: The Hunter has joined the Science Side faction: Academy City.]

[The faction store is now open due to joining the Science Side faction.]

[Faction store location: unknown, to be found by the Hunter.]

[Hint: Completing Aleister's commissions can earn faction contribution points.]

[Hint: Faction contribution points will be crucial when dealing with Motoharu Tsuchimikado.]

Seeing these prompts, Su Xiao felt relieved. Joining the Science Side made his future actions easier and related to his Tier 3 promotion task. Without autonomous action in Academy City, completing the task was impossible.

"Before meeting Motoharu Tsuchimikado, you need to do something. And remember, he is an important piece to me," Aleister added, clarifying that while Su Xiao could meet Tsuchimikado, harming him was off-limits.

The room fell silent, and Bubu eyed the metal pipes with a gnawing desire. Su Xiao stepped on Bubu's paw, making Bubu's dog face crinkle, silently saying, "Master, don't worry. I won't bite. Bubu isn't dumb."

Before long, Awaki Musujime teleported Su Xiao out of the Windowless Building.

As the night breeze blew, Su Xiao took a deep breath. Although the outcome wasn't exactly as planned, his objective was achieved.

"So, we're partners now?" Awaki Musujime, who received the directive, looked crestfallen. She didn't want to partner with Su Xiao.

"Seems like it. So, what's the task?"

Su Xiao remembered Aleister's words about completing a task before meeting Motoharu Tsuchimikado.

"Task?" Awaki Musujime looked puzzled.

Screech~

A black car braked nearby, and a man in a white trench coat with yellow hair and a tattooed cheek stepped out.

"Is this the place? Hmm, should be right."

The man looked at Su Xiao and Awaki Musujime. Noticing his gaze, Awaki turned away, seemingly annoyed by him.

Su Xiao recognized him from the original work as Amata Kihara, leader of the Hound Dog unit and Aleister's direct subordinate. Despite his violent nature, he possessed a genius intellect, having helped develop Accelerator's abilities and created methods to counter them.

"Here are the documents. Do whatever you want with them."

Amata Kihara tossed some documents to Su Xiao, who caught them and looked through the car window at its interior.

In the back seat sat a girl with brown hair and military goggles, reminding Su Xiao of someone: the Level 5 esper, Mikoto Misaka. Of course, this girl wasn't Misaka but her clone.

Without further ado, Amata Kihara left, seemingly in a hurry.

Watching the departing car, Su Xiao pondered, deducing the current timeline.

The documents were straightforward: a highly special girl named Index was being hunted and had escaped into Academy City. Specific details weren't provided.

The documents only mentioned that Index encountered a boy named Touma Kamijou in Academy City. The two became friends.

Touma Kamijou, the protagonist of this world, was potentially a Child of the Plane.

Last night, a magician appeared in Academy City, fought Touma Kamijou, and lost. Despite being a powerless Esper, Kamijou had an invincible ability called Imagine Breaker, which nullified all supernatural powers upon contact. This event occurred last night.

Kamijou defeated the magician, but the magician had an accomplice beyond Kamijou's capability.

According to the documents, Kamijou would confront the accomplice tonight. Su Xiao's task was to repel or eliminate the magician's accomplice.

"They're using me as a grunt. Let's go, bandaged chest girl."

Su Xiao headed into an alley, and Awaki Musujime's mouth twitched at the nickname.

"It's to prevent my feminine features from hindering combat! They bounce around when I run. If not for the unappealing look, I'd have cut them off."

Awaki Musujime followed, seething but helpless.

Chapter 877: Touma's Little Brother

Ten minutes ago.

In the Seventh District, near the student dormitories, on a shopping street.

The street was unusually quiet at night, but the empty crossroad, several dozen meters wide, seemed strange.

In this unusual scene, a spiky-haired boy walks down the street. He was of average height, wearing a white shirt and black pants, looking slightly tired.

"Sigh~ I've been encountering so many strange things lately; it's unlucky."

Unluckiness seemed to be a daily occurrence for this boy. His misfortunes couldn't be explained scientifically. A single outing could result in stepping in dog poop three times, getting mugged once, experiencing a car accident once, narrowly avoiding being hit by falling flower pots twice, and losing money four times while shopping.

Events that most people rarely encountered were daily occurrences for this boy. Because of this, he developed an extraordinary sense of crisis. For example, he avoided walking near tall buildings, didn't go into deserted alleys, always watched his step, and never jaywalked—if he did, the car accident rate would be over 98%.

The boy's name was Touma Kamijou, a boy with extremely bad luck but overflowing with romantic entanglements.

From a young age, 138 hospitalizations taught Touma that the world was dangerous, at least for him. However, he still loved life and enjoyed helping others, often calling himself a "hypocrite," but he was a passionate and kind-hearted boy.

The street's silence caught Touma's attention. It was too unusual. His first thought was that a major natural disaster was imminent and that he had somehow missed the warning. This wasn't ridiculous for Touma; it was a normal part of his "peaceful" life.

"Absolutely... no one around?"

Touma started to panic. The street was empty, and even the shops and malls at the crossroads were silent. More concerning was the lights in a nearby mall were still on, indicating that people had been there recently but had suddenly evacuated.

"This is bad."

Touma's body tensed, his face turning pale.

Tap, tap, tap...

In the silent street, the sudden sound of footsteps was especially clear.

"It's just a rune to keep bystanders away."

A female voice came from behind. Touma instinctively turned and saw a tall woman with a single braid holding a long-sheathed sword. The sword was at least 1.5 meters long, and the woman's attire was even more peculiar.

She wore jeans and a white T-shirt, a simple outfit, but on her, it appeared unique. The left pant leg of her jeans was almost completely torn off, revealing her long, pale leg, with just enough fabric left nearly to expose her underwear. The white T-shirt was tied up, exposing her abdomen and lower back.

From her outfit, figure, and physique, she looked like a voluptuous woman over 20 years old. In reality, she was only 18, named Kanzaki Kaori, a key player on the magic side known as a "Saint." A "Saint" could use some of the powers of the Son of God.

Most "Saints" were physically strong mages, using magic as support and physical strength as their main combat method.

Kanzaki Kaori fought with swordsmanship, using her long sword, "Seven Heavens and Seven Earths," as her main weapon.

"You are..."

Touma sensed danger, especially after hearing the word "rune." He recalled the magician he fought last night and guessed that this woman might be an ally of that magician.

Indeed, living in constant peril had heightened Touma's sense of danger.

"My name is Kanzaki Kaori. I don't want to reveal my other name unless necessary."

Hearing the warning in her words, Touma tensed, ready for combat. Defeating a magician yesterday made him a bit overconfident.

"To be direct, I hope to protect that child before revealing my magical name. You should know who I mean."

"What if I refuse?"

"Sorry."

With that, Kanzaki made a motion to draw her sword.

Shing! A sharp light flashed, and Touma saw a nearby half-meter-thick iron pillar cut in half.

Seeing this, Touma felt a chill but still charged forward. His only combat ability was "Imagine Breaker." Despite his opponent's strength, he wouldn't give up the girl, Index, believing these people had malicious intent.

A few minutes later, Touma, who was full of fighting spirit, lay on the ground with over a dozen shallow cuts on his right arm. Kanzaki Kaori stood over him, pressing one foot on his chest, her face cold, showcasing their overwhelming power difference.

"Why don't you kill me? If you wanted to, I would have died many times already. If you hesitate to kill, it means you have a conscience. So, you should understand that chasing and attacking a girl with a sword is unforgivable. I won't hand her over."

Unable to fight, Touma resorted to talking.

Touma misunderstood; Kanzaki wasn't trying to kill Index but to "protect" her, tied to a crude lie and Index's identity.

Index: A nun of the Anglican Church, raised in the St. George Cathedral in England, now 14 years old. She possessed perfect memory, tasked with memorizing 103,000 magical grimoires.

Such an important person was tightly controlled by the Anglican Church, which fabricated a lie: Index's brain had limited capacity and could only store one year's worth of memories after memorizing the grimoires, requiring annual memory wipes to prevent death from memory overload. This kept Index's memories at the point she memorized the grimoires, making control easier.

This lie could fool the naive, and surprisingly, some believed it deeply, enduring the pain of Index forgetting them every year to "protect" her. Kanzaki Kaori was one of them.

Index had escaped, and Kanzaki Kaori and Stiyl Magnus were pursuing her. Stiyl was the magician Touma had defeated.

With the memory wipe deadline approaching, they needed to find and save Index quickly by erasing her past year's memories.

Index's injuries were Touma's fault. His right hand's power damaged her protective clothing, "Walking Church," making Kanzaki think she couldn't hurt Index and leading to the accidental injury.

Thus, Kanzaki Kaori, trying to protect Index, ended up fighting Touma, who also wanted to protect her.

"You think I want to do this? What do you know? How much do you know about Index?"

Kanzaki, previously cold, suddenly lost her composure, guilt from hurting Index, and the imminent memory wipe deadline, making her unable to stay calm.

Chapter 878: Do You Want to Get Me Killed?

"Perfect memory ability, that's exactly what it is..." Kanzaki Kaori explained Index's situation to Touma Kamijou. The more he listened, the more he felt something was off. Although he was just a high school student, he found the idea of a brain overloaded with memories a bit far-fetched.

"Are you kidding? I'm Index's friend; I won't let you hurt her again. Besides, if you know all this, why don't you explain it to her? Why not—"

"Shut up, an outsider. Don't act like you know everything. You've known Index for less than 48 hours."

Kanzaki Kaori was angered by Touma's words. She bent her long, beautiful leg and kicked Touma in the face. With a bang, saliva flew as Touma was kicked dizzy. In reality, Kanzaki had been holding back; otherwise, this kick could have sent Touma's head flying.

Holding her sheathed sword, "Seven Heavens and Seven Earths," Kanzaki began beating Touma, yelling something as she did. She was venting her frustration at being unable to help Index, but poor Touma bore the brunt.

"Hey, you over there."

The sudden voice made Kanzaki stop her actions. Touma was already beaten into a pulp.

A man and a woman approached from a distance. The man had a cigarette in his mouth, and the girl beside him held a military flashlight. Seeing the smoking man, Kanzaki instinctively gripped her sword tighter and whispered to Touma:

"Run, don't ask why, just escape quickly. The person coming is different from me. If he's your enemy, he won't hold back."

Kanzaki's side profile faced Touma, who was confused. He had just been beaten to a pulp by her, and now she seemed to be protecting him. Could he have been beaten into a hallucination?

The man and woman drew closer.

"First time working together. Need my help?" the girl asked.

"If you don't want to die, stay at least 300 meters away," the man replied.

"Then I'll just watch."

The girl walked away, spinning the flashlight in her hand.

The newcomers were Su Xiao and Awaki Musujime. They had intended to find a vehicle, but there weren't many in Academy City. Neither knew the public transport system well, so they arrived late.

"Who are you?" Kanzaki no longer cared about Touma. After initial contact, she realized Touma meant no harm. In contrast, the faint red aura around Su Xiao indicates he is a dangerous person who has killed many.

"..." Su Xiao remained silent. Aleister's orders were to drive Kanzaki out of Academy City or kill her. According to the original story, she wouldn't leave until Index's situation was resolved.

Su Xiao suddenly vanished and reappeared in front of Touma, squatting down. Kanzaki was about to act but realized Su Xiao's target seemed to be her, not Touma.

"Who are you..." Touma was almost unconscious.

"You don't need to know for now."

Su Xiao picked up Touma and tossed him to Awaki Musujime. Although Touma was the main character and killing him would yield great rewards, any contractor familiar with the "Index" world wouldn't target him. Touma's combat power at the point of death was enough to kill any contractor in this derived world, including Su Xiao.

Dealing with a protagonist whose risks outweighed the benefits, Su Xiao chose minimal contact. If not for this mission, he wouldn't have approached him.

"Take him away."

As Su Xiao spoke, Touma disappeared and reappeared beside Awaki Musujime. The mission required bringing Touma to a safe place; Aleister valued Touma highly.

"Where to?" Awaki poked the unconscious Touma with her flashlight. He weakly raised his arm, signaling to wait.

"Anywhere you want, as long as he doesn't die. You could even throw him in a public toilet for all I care."

Su Xiao stretched, sensing Kanzaki wouldn't be easy to deal with.

"Wait, you can't take him."

After initial contact, Kanzaki realized Touma was a good person. As for the newcomers, the girl didn't smell strongly of blood, but the man nearby had a faint metallic scent, indicating he had likely killed someone recently.

Indeed, Su Xiao had slit Mugino Shizuri's throat an hour ago, so the blood scent was expected.

"As a courtesy and by request, I'll give you three options: kill me, die here, or leave Academy City. Of course, these are my positions. You can choose none of them."

Su Xiao's hand rested on the hilt of his sword, Dragon Flash.

"I choose to defeat you and then save someone important."

"Then you choose to kill me. Don't say, 'Defeat me.' I won't be defeated before I die."

Su Xiao drew Dragon Flash. Seeing this, Kanzaki bent her body, ready for battle.

Touma struggled to stand 300 meters away just as they were about to fight.

"You're with that guy, right? Stop him. We don't need to fight each other..."

Touma looked at Awaki Musujime, who tilted her head, seemingly contemplating something. She was thinking about where to teleport Touma for fun. A girls' bathroom? A sewer? A satellite tower? Awaki had a naughty side.

"Hey, you... bandage girl? Stop your companion."

As soon as Touma spoke, a vein appeared on Awaki's forehead. She had tolerated being called "bandage girl" by Su Xiao, knowing she couldn't beat him. But now, even this weakling dared to call her that.

"Spiky head, do you misunderstand something? You don't naively think that man is helping you, do you?"

Awaki sneered, continuing:

"Stop him? Are you joking? That guy is a monster. I don't want to die, so I won't interfere or try to stop him. That would be suicidal. Do you want to get me killed?"

Awaki swung her flashlight, hitting Touma's head.

Bang!

A drop of blood flew, and Touma collapsed, unconscious. Su Xiao, ready to fight Kanzaki, noticed but didn't intervene. Awaki's maximum teleportation distance was 800 meters, so he might return even if she teleported Touma away. Knocking him out was a good choice.

Noticing Su Xiao's gaze, Awaki forced a smile.

"I thought this would better control the target."

"Yes, if he wakes up, hit him again. As long as he doesn't die, it's fine if he becomes brain-damaged."

"No problem."

Awaki wiped the blood off her flashlight, revealing two sharp little white teeth as she smiled.

"Is a life-or-death battle necessary?"

Kanzaki's fighting spirit seemed weak, making Su Xiao frown. It wasn't that she had no fighting spirit; it was that her thoughts seemed naive.

Index's importance to the magic side was undeniable. Such an important person running to the science side, thinking they could retrieve her without force, was naive.

The Anglican Church sending Kanzaki indicated their negotiations with the science side had failed, forcing them to send their "nuclear weapon" level combat power, Kanzaki, a Saint.

Qinggong Ying's energy surged along Dragon Flash. Su Xiao held the sword, pointing it diagonally at the ground, his muscles gradually tensing.

The situation had escalated to the point where words were unnecessary. Su Xiao joined Aleister's faction, providing Aleister with a direct combat force and eliminating the need for more complex methods to keep Index, also known as the "Forbidden Text Catalog." Using force was more straightforward.

As long as the "Forbidden Text Catalog" was kept, Su Xiao could carry out some extreme tasks in Academy City, with Aleister turning a blind eye. This unspoken agreement was already in place.

Chapter 879: Despicable?

On the spacious street, the traffic lights changed periodically. It was an ideal battlefield for combat.

Kanzaki Kaori still hadn't drawn the long sword in her hand. Instead, she held the scabbard with one hand, while the other hovered near the hilt.

"Salvare000."

Kanzaki Kaori uttered a strange title. This was her magic name, meaning "the saving hand of the forsaken." Magic names were a tradition among magicians, announced before they fought with all their might, though the exact reason for this was unknown.

After declaring her magic name, Kanzaki Kaori's fingers curved.

Zing.

A sound like a sword ringing out was heard. Starting from Kanzaki, three slashes appeared on the road in front of her, with the wind pressure spreading around. One of the slashes moved straight towards Su Xiao.

Ding!

A spark flew off Dragon Flash, which Su Xiao held in front of him. He extended his left arm, which was covered with a metal bracer, as if grabbing something.

Crack, crack, crack...

A grinding sound came from Su Xiao's hand. His hand was now wrapped in an energy shield, grabbing something incredibly sharp. If it were just the King's Respect bracer, it might not have withstood this thing's cutting power.

Su Xiao was holding a steel wire, so thin it was almost invisible. He pulled on the wire, and Kanzaki Kaori, standing several meters away, braced herself with a powerful step, leaving deep footprints in the asphalt.

From this pull, Su Xiao judged that Kanzaki's physical strength was formidable, at least on par with his own.

As for her previous attack, Su Xiao had analyzed it based on his combat experience: the steel wire, invisible to the naked eye, was about 90 to 120 meters long, with at least three strands hidden in the scabbard. There was a mechanism in the scabbard to control the wires. According to the original story, there were seven such wires.

"He caught Seven Flashes' attack trajectory. This is troublesome."

Kanzaki Kaori pressed a mechanism on her scabbard, detaching the steel wire Su Xiao was holding from the scabbard.

Normally, Su Xiao would have charged forward for close combat, but this time he wasn't in a hurry. His opponent was also a close-combat fighter with a similar combat style, using long swords and metal wires. Before engaging in close combat, he needed to understand her abilities and physical attributes. The Eye of the Apostle floated beside him, observing Kanzaki Kaori.

The information was as follows:

Name: Kanzaki Kaori

Category: Human

Health: 100%

Mana: 2530

Strength: 77

Agility: 83

Stamina: 79

Intelligence: 83

Charm: 8

Skills:

Saint Physique · Slayer:

Active Effect: Increases movement speed by 100%, nerve reaction speed by 30%, and physical strength by 47 for 7 seconds.

Passive Effect: Increases health by 4000, mana by 700, all attribute resistances by 20, and provides 20% immunity to all magical damage and 100% immunity to divine damage.

Seven Flashes:

A mid-to-long-range sword technique/special martial art using seven enchanted steel wires for attacks or creating barriers.

Note: Enchanted steel wires have three attributes: sharpness, basic durability, and strength enhancement.

Note: Seven Flashes has no cooldown time.

???

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Only Flash:

Kanzaki Kaori's one-hit kill sword technique, requiring activation of Saint Physique. If it hits, it deals weapon attack power x 7 strength attribute x 3 agility attribute x 4 damage.

Note: Only Flash possesses divinity, with 50% of the damage being holy damage, ignoring 75% of physical defense.

???

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After reviewing Kanzaki Kaori's information, Su Xiao's pupils contracted slightly. These attributes and skills seemed very strong!

Most of her abilities were manageable, but her agility and intelligence at 83 were quite troublesome. As for her "Saint Physique," it was an incredibly powerful bloodline skill.

The strength of "Saint Physique" wasn't in the increased health and mana but in the boosted movement speed and nerve reaction speed. Although it lasted only 7 seconds, activating it during Only Flash would make it extremely deadly. Not to mention the insane speed, the 30% increased nerve reaction speed alone was enough to challenge Su Xiao.

He couldn't let Kanzaki hit him with Only Flash. Being killed by one strike wasn't just possible; it was very likely.

Su Xiao tossed aside the steel wire. Fighting Kanzaki required caution regarding her speed. An attribute of 80 was a significant threshold, and surpassing it made a noticeable difference.

He flourished Dragon Flash in his hand, his calf muscles tensing, cracking the asphalt beneath his feet.

Boom!

Su Xiao left a circular depression in the ground, launching himself towards Kanzaki like a cannonball.

From several hundred meters away, Awaki Musujime watched as Su Xiao seemed to teleport, reappearing in front of Kanzaki Kaori.

Awaki's dynamic vision couldn't keep up with Su Xiao's speed, but Kanzaki could. She saw Su Xiao's sudden approach and was confident she could move even faster.

They were about two meters apart, a bit too close for a sword strike but still manageable.

Su Xiao's slash was unhindered, but Kanzaki struggled. Her long sword, similar to a nodachi, was too long for such close quarters.

Kanzaki tried to step back, but Su Xiao seized this moment, not really a flaw, to slash at her.

Su Xiao raised Dragon Flash high, striking down from above. Kanzaki's leg was still in the air, and even if she could block, it would unbalance her.

The blade of Dragon Flash cut through the air with a chilling wail.

The timing of this strike made it difficult for Kanzaki. Her lifted leg hadn't yet landed, and taking a hit now could make her fall. In close combat, falling was almost fatal.

Kanzaki raised her sheathed sword, the blade peeking out a bit to meet Dragon Flash.

Su Xiao's strength, including equipment bonuses, was 79, while Kanzaki's was 77. Their strength was almost equal, both at the level of monstrous strength.

Boom!

A loud explosion and a rumbling sound echoed simultaneously. The former was Kanzaki's method to counter the attack, and the latter was the clash of their swords.

The collision of the blades created a shockwave that spread from the impact point, cracking the surrounding road. The shockwave pushed Awaki Musujime back several steps, her mouth agape in astonishment.

"Are these two really human?!"

Ignoring Awaki's shock, Su Xiao held Dragon Flash with both hands, pressing down with all his might. Kanzaki spread her legs, one hand on the hilt and the other pushing the blade, blocking the attack. The scabbard of Seven Flashes had flown off somewhere.

Crack, crack, crack...

The blades ground against each other, creating a harsh, screeching noise.

Kanzaki hadn't fallen. In the moment before blocking Su Xiao's strike, she had activated Saint Physique for 0.2 seconds, making her suspended leg move at supersonic speed and stomp the air, using the recoil to maintain her balance. The explosion sound was from this supersonic movement.

Kanzaki felt the force on her sword and the precision of Su Xiao's previous strike. For some reason, her heartbeat quickened, and her skin turned slightly red. She was excited, surprising even herself.

"What are you suppressing? Using a sword but not wanting to kill is foolish. You actually enjoy fighting, don't you?"

Su Xiao's words hit a nerve, and Kanzaki bit her lip, knowing he had struck a chord.

"I..."

Bang!

Kanzaki suddenly felt a sharp pain in her side. Su Xiao had kicked her exposed waist with full force, targeting her weak spot.

Su Xiao rarely spoke during battle. When he did, it meant he had found a psychological weakness in his opponent and used words to distract them, exploiting their moment of distraction to strike.

"Despicable!"

Kanzaki staggered back, clutching her side. Su Xiao's kick had been full force, and the location was a weak spot. Trying to breathe, she felt a stabbing pain.

"..." Su Xiao remained silent. The "verbal distraction" tactic was effective when used occasionally, but not repeatedly.

Moreover, when Kanzaki cursed "despicable," Su Xiao's passive ability, Aura Release, activated. Psychological fluctuations affected the Willpower attribute.

Realizing this, Su Xiao smiled. Making an opponent's psyche waver could temporarily weaken their Willpower, a new discovery for him.

The consequences included 27% increased stamina consumption, 5 points reduced physical defense, and an 8% chance of skill failure. These debuffs were significant for close combat, especially the increased stamina consumption, which was the most lethal.

Chapter 880: Despicable?

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Agility: 83

Stamina: 79

Intelligence: 83

Charm: 8

Skills:

Saint Physique · Slayer:

Active Effect: Increases movement speed by 100%, nerve reaction speed by 30%, and physical strength by 47 for 7 seconds.

Passive Effect: Increases health by 4000, mana by 700, all attribute resistances by 20, and provides 20% immunity to all magical damage and 100% immunity to divine damage.

Seven Flashes:

A mid-to-long-range sword technique/special martial art using seven enchanted steel wires for attacks or creating barriers.

Note: Enchanted steel wires have three attributes: sharpness, basic durability, and strength enhancement.

Note: Seven Flashes has no cooldown time.

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Only Flash:

Kanzaki Kaori's one-hit kill sword technique, requiring activation of Saint Physique. If it hits, it deals weapon attack power x 7 strength attribute x 3 agility attribute x 4 damage.

Note: Only Flash possesses divinity, with 50% of the damage being holy damage, ignoring 75% of physical defense.

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After reviewing Kanzaki Kaori's information, Su Xiao's pupils contracted slightly. These attributes and skills seemed very strong!

Most of her abilities were manageable, but her agility and intelligence at 83 were quite troublesome. As for her "Saint Physique," it was an incredibly powerful bloodline skill.

The strength of "Saint Physique" wasn't in the increased health and mana but in the boosted movement speed and nerve reaction speed. Although it lasted only 7 seconds, activating it during Only Flash would make it extremely deadly. Not to mention the insane speed, the 30% increased nerve reaction speed alone was enough to challenge Su Xiao.

He couldn't let Kanzaki hit him with Only Flash. Being killed by one strike wasn't just possible; it was very likely.

Su Xiao tossed aside the steel wire. Fighting Kanzaki required caution regarding her speed. An attribute of 80 was a significant threshold, and surpassing it made a noticeable difference.

He flourished Dragon Flash in his hand, his calf muscles tensing, cracking the asphalt beneath his feet.

Boom!

Su Xiao left a circular depression in the ground, launching himself towards Kanzaki like a cannonball.

From several hundred meters away, Awaki Musujime watched as Su Xiao seemed to teleport, reappearing in front of Kanzaki Kaori.

Awaki's dynamic vision couldn't keep up with Su Xiao's speed, but Kanzaki could. She saw Su Xiao's sudden approach and was confident she could move even faster.

They were about two meters apart, a bit too close for a sword strike but still manageable.

Su Xiao's slash was unhindered, but Kanzaki struggled. Her long sword, similar to a nodachi, was too long for such close quarters.

Kanzaki tried to step back, but Su Xiao seized this moment, not really a flaw, to slash at her.

Su Xiao raised Dragon Flash high, striking down from above. Kanzaki's leg was still in the air, and even if she could block, it would unbalance her.

The blade of Dragon Flash cut through the air with a chilling wail.

The timing of this strike made it difficult for Kanzaki. Her lifted leg hadn't yet landed, and taking a hit now could make her fall. In close combat, falling was almost fatal.

Kanzaki raised her sheathed sword, the blade peeking out a bit to meet Dragon Flash.

Su Xiao's strength, including equipment bonuses, was 79, while Kanzaki's was 77. Their strength was almost equal, both at the level of monstrous strength.

Boom!

A loud explosion and a rumbling sound echoed simultaneously. The former was Kanzaki's method to counter the attack, and the latter was the clash of their swords.

The collision of the blades created a shockwave that spread from the impact point, cracking the surrounding road. The shockwave pushed Awaki Musujime back several steps, her mouth agape in astonishment.

"Are these two really human?!"

Ignoring Awaki's shock, Su Xiao held Dragon Flash with both hands, pressing down with all his might. Kanzaki spread her legs, one hand on the hilt and the other pushing the blade, blocking the attack. The scabbard of Seven Flashes had flown off somewhere.

Crack, crack, crack...

The blades ground against each other, creating a harsh, screeching noise.

Kanzaki hadn't fallen. In the moment before blocking Su Xiao's strike, she had activated Saint Physique for 0.2 seconds, making her suspended leg move at supersonic speed and stomp the air, using the recoil to maintain her balance. The explosion sound was from this supersonic movement.

Kanzaki felt the force on her sword and the precision of Su Xiao's previous strike. For some reason, her heartbeat quickened, and her skin turned slightly red. She was excited, surprising even herself.

"What are you suppressing? Using a sword but not wanting to kill is foolish. You actually enjoy fighting, don't you?"

Su Xiao's words hit a nerve, and Kanzaki bit her lip, knowing he had struck a chord.

"I..."

Bang!

Kanzaki suddenly felt a sharp pain in her side. Su Xiao had kicked her exposed waist with full force, targeting her weak spot.

Su Xiao rarely spoke during battle. When he did, it meant he had found a psychological weakness in his opponent and used words to distract them, exploiting their moment of distraction to strike.

"Despicable!"

Kanzaki staggered back, clutching her side. Su Xiao's kick had been full force, and the location was a weak spot. Trying to breathe, she felt a stabbing pain.

"..." Su Xiao remained silent. The "verbal distraction" tactic was effective when used occasionally, but not repeatedly.

Moreover, when Kanzaki cursed "despicable," Su Xiao's passive ability, Aura Release, activated. Psychological fluctuations affected the Willpower attribute.

Realizing this, Su Xiao smiled. Making an opponent's psyche waver could temporarily weaken their Willpower, a new discovery for him.

The consequences included 27% increased stamina consumption, 5 points reduced physical defense, and an 8% chance of skill failure. These debuffs were significant for close combat, especially the increased stamina consumption, which was the most lethal.