

The Sacred Ruins

#Chapter 41 - Read The Sacred Ruins Chapter 41

Chapter 41: Butchery in Town

An odor of blood spread with the wind that blew through the quiet and secluded jungle.

Eyes opened, the dead man laid stiff in the pool of his own blood. The slit on his throat was a deep one, so no matter what power his mutation had granted him, the man was as good as dead.

Chu Feng's heart was beating fiercely. Although a camp of furious fire was burning bright in his chest, he still felt rather queasy by the killing. All in all, it was his first time that someone died in his own hands.

Chu Feng took a deep breath and calmed his moody sentiment. He kept his cool while striding towards his next target.

The woman had been as mad as March Hare. An eye for an eye, and in a time like this, being soft-hearted would only get him killed by the enemy.

Chu Feng moved stealthily across the forest, using trees as his cover as he freely prowled around like a leopard hunting for its prey.

The suffering he had to endure in the depth of the primitive mountains allowed him to keep his composure even while he was fervently committing manslaughters for the first time in his life.

Another mutant!

The mutant in sight had an arm of abnormal size. His upper body was stalwart, making him look more like an ape than a human. His hair hung down to his waist, loosely banded with a stalk root. This primitive man laid on his stomach on a sand dune, attentively looking in a particular direction.

As hunters, the dormant mutants were all patiently waiting, poised for a fight.

However, none of them was aware that they had long stepped down from the position from a hunter. Now, they were the prey at the mercy of Chu Feng's deadly strikes.

Chu Feng tightened up his muscles and closed off all the air pores throughout his body. Although he had the power to instantly strike down his opponent, he wanted to wait for the perfect opportunity to take them by surprise.

As the hunter of this game, he wanted his prey to be fully submissive and die without challenging him with a fight.

Puff! With great power and precision, the blade slit through the throat of that mutant with giant arm. The blade glanced by his throat at such a speed that a huge volume of blood was drained from the man's jugular at only a split second.

Chu Feng's hunt for men had become habitual and ruthless. Killing had become his second nature.

However, this particular mutant seemed to have been in possession of an exceptionally robust vitality. Even though the blade had lacerated the connective tissues between his head and his shoulder, he still struggled and managed to turn around with a twitchy and wicked face. His brawny torso grew even larger as his arms expanded at an exponential rate.

His body suddenly grew hairy with a thick layer of black fur sprawling from his face down to his feet. A pair of buckteeth stuck out from inside of his mouth, turning his appearance all the more horrifying, making his struggle before death all the more morbid and horrid.

He wanted to roar, to groan, to clamor, but sadly, he was unable. He struggled in a flurry to keep his dangling head from rolling off from its position. The cold glitter gleaming in his eyes screamed recalcitrance as well as desperation. Clearly, he wanted to fight back, and he also hoped his misery would go away by itself.

Chu Feng was taken aback. Even as the head of this beast had been almost dislocated from its position, he still had the tenacity to start a mutation and hope to defeat him with his last breath.

The man had morphed into a giant ape whose hands had both gained the size of a wheel.

Clonk!

Unfortunately, Chu Feng did not even give him a chance as he struck with a fatal blow. With a fling of his arm, the black dagger flew from his hand, hitting the head of his opponent before piercing his skull. This time, the mutant could no longer move an inch. He tumbled on his back with his eyes wide opened.

Chu Feng darted forth. With great speed and precision, he snared the tumbling mutant with his hands. Chu Feng gently laid down this tall and bulky mutant, afraid that the noise would alarm the others.

He unsheathed his black dagger and mopped the dribbling blood. Like a professional killer, Chu Feng was once again on the road, seeking for his next target.

Chu Feng's expression was cold and emotionless. It reflected the anger and hatred that boiled in his chest. Marching on, Chu Feng tried to justify his killing. "If they want me to die, then they should die before me," Chu Feng mumbled.

Soon later, he took down another two with equal cruelty.

The woods, however, had seemingly turned out to the bloodshed happening within it for all there had been. Little by little, even the roars of beasts and the chirps of birds died out. The place suddenly came to a deathly stillness.

Chu Feng noticed the eerie silence around him, realizing that this might be the sign of something ominous. His heartless killing might have caused his cover to be blown, exposing his position to the enemy.

Silence should have never belonged to a forest of such a size, especially when beasts of all kinds were residing amidst.

Suddenly, a numbness overcame Chu Feng's alerted body. Then, it became an unspeakable pain. The sharpness of the ache felt like a lance had pierced through his entrails from his back, but the pain did not feel substantial; instead, it was a warning of something fatal coming in his way.

Chu Feng realized the forthcoming danger. Then, like a leopard with unparalleled agility, he speedily scurried off into the depths of the jungle.

Boom!

Almost at the same time, the spot where he had just stood flared with firelight. A rocket had landed there, devastating the trees, the boulders, and the bushes, leaving almost nothing behind. A verdant peak was instantly degraded to a barren wasteland.

Chu Feng caught sight of a mutant who was fluttering his wings in the air right above him. The mutant noticed him too. Carrying a sizeable rocket launcher, he was looking down right at him.

Boom! The weapon was fired again. "He's here." The fluttering mutant called out as he fired.

None of the mutants knew the look of their target, but they had been ordered to kill whomever stepped into their ring of encirclement.

The deathly silence was shattered as enemies surged from all directions. More than a dozen of shadows glanced by. It was the enemy tightening their ring of encirclement.

Boom!

The winged man fired his rocket from mid-air, suppressing Chu Feng to a disadvantageous position.

The immense firepower pulverized boulders and shattered woods. The forest soon turned into a field of scorching barren earth.

However, none of the rockets landed on target. Chu Feng's uncanny ability to foresee danger rendered the slow-firing rockets almost useless.

Meanwhile, the other mutants were also quickly closing in from their positions. Then, there came a fearsome rumble of a helicopter from the distance. It was the noise of a military-grade helicopter with devastating firepower.

"You're a dead man now!" bellowed someone.

At the same time, the mutant in mid-air was also searching for his target. Having missed two consecutive shots one after another sent chills through his spine. "What sort of monster is this?" he thought. "That perceptual skills of his are beyond human!"

He had once met with an old Wushu master during his training at the Deity Biomedical Group. That master had once said that there had been, in the past, many people who are masters at their perceptual skills. Their instinct to dodge a menacing blow aimed at them allowed them to easily leave a combat situation unharmed.

"Is this the master to whom he was referring?" cried the winged man from within.

The man's hair stood on end, goosebumps formed on his arms, and shiver ran up his spine. He knew that their whole campaign of encirclement and suppression on this man would end in a miserable failure. With that level of instinct, he could be harmed by no one.

Suddenly, he felt his scalp prickling under his hair. He felt frightened from the tips of his hair to the marrow of his very bones. It was a feeling of being watched by something atrocious, something bloodcurdling.

But he was in mid-air! Who would have the ability to harm him? However, he still tried to violently flutter his wings and shoot into the height of the sky.

However, everything was too late for him. There came a shadow of something dashing skywards in his direction. The shadow came with great speed and agility. Like a giant ape, the shadow used the branches of a tree as a platform, then with a vault and a leap, the shadow reached the winged man's height. The man could finally see the shadow as a silhouette of a man whose hand was clutching onto a black dagger, fiercely wielding it at him.

Boom!

Clonk!

Two kinds of sound split the air, then in the next moment, there came the head of that winged-man rolling. The man's headless body plummeted onto the ground as boiling blood spewed out of that gaping red opening of his.

The other mutants caught sight of this scene just in time. All were dumbstruck and astounded. What kind of monster were they going up against? How cruel and cold-blooded was he?

They hastily raised their heads, noticing a shadow glancing by. It was a man brandishing a cutting dagger, but it soon disappeared behind the leaves of the trees' crowns.

Fear of failure and death loomed large in the mind of a lot of mutants. They had encountered a monster whom they had naively wanted to ambush and kill, but now, everything seemed to suggest that their prey had turned into a hunter. Moreover, their own lives were now at the mercy of that monstrous man.

Boom!

The helicopter finally arrived at the scene. High-caliber bullets came raining down at the forest below. At the blink of an eye, many trees had been destroyed then seen tumbling down.

However, there was still no sights of their target. The man disappeared again.

In a mansion at a county town.

Wan Qing was pacing up and down the empty hallway. Her mind could not relax from its restless state until the death of her enemy was confirmed. She feared that Lin Naoi might learn the facts that she wished to bury. She also feared that her enemy might come to seek for his revenge.

"Relax, Wan. Come and have a taste of this wine. It's really fine."

Mu, the young man who was still sitting on his couch, still maintained his composure.

At the same time, his communicator rang as well. It was someone keeping them abreast of the developments of their assassination attempts.

"Target in sight. But..."

Mu was notified of the death of those five mutants. This was another tremendous loss both for him and the company.

“What are you waiting for? Take that drug I’ve given to you guys. Take it, then even Kong Kim wouldn’t stand a chance against you,” Mu ordered.

After hanging up the phone, the smile on the young man’s face weakened. The cheerfulness was replaced by coldness. “Sure enough, it is a master. He may even well qualify to be on the list of top one hundred mutants in the world.”

“Is he this powerful?” Wan Qing was taken aback. The man’s conjecture made the level of her discomposure all the more elevated.

If a master like this was allowed to escape scot free, what followed would be an endless flow of disastrous aftermath for the future.

“Take it easy. I won’t let him escape. Amongst those people I’ve sent to fight, many were on par with the level at which he was; especially after taking the drug I’ve given to them, their fighting skills will skyrocket. Taking him down will not be a problem.”

“Are you sure about the effectiveness of your drugs?” Wan Qing asked.

“Yes, I am. The drugs will allow our fighters to unleash all their potentials. Their fighting capacity will enhance tenfold.” Mu replied. He looked warm and cordial. “I know that the drugs are still in the testing stage, but why don’t we honor that son of a b*tch as our very first testing subject?” Mu’s tone turned piercingly cold.

In the forest.

Chu Feng noticed a few detectors hidden in some inconspicuous places. He had destroyed dozens of them, but more were discovered one after another.

At the same time, the encirclement was also tightening up.

Having killed five mutants, there were still thirteen left. “Eighteen versus one, plus all those firearms. You damn sure knows how to play the bully, don’t you?” Chu Feng cursed under his breath.

Although none of the remaining mutants seemed to have given much thoughts about their appearances when mutating, with all being ugly and odd-looking, their powers were all of undeniable formidability and explosiveness.

All of the thirteen mutants had a unique body and a unique power. Some had grown three meters in height, while others had a petrified body that could transform everything it touched into a stone like itself. There was also a mutant surrounded in blazing flames with lava flowing under his feet. At the same time, there was also a ball of blaze burning like an aura above his head.

The transformed mutants tightened their encirclement. The helicopter was still hovering overhead, poised to unleash its devastating firepower at any moment.

The mutants had taken their drugs, then almost instantly, they could sense that their power was drastically improving. They groaned, roared, and clamored in an almost uncontrollable and delirious excitement while their eyes were filled with aggression and hostility.

In the distance not far from the scene, there stood an old chemist who had been hiding under a heap of withered leaves and observing the developments of the fighting for all this time. Having seen the effect of his drugs on these mutants, he cheered in a jaunty manner.

At the same time, he rung up the people in the county town.

“The effect of the drug is very positive. Their bodily function has increased by at least eight times!” The chemist sounded fairly thrilled.

“Very well!” Mu gave affirmation to the chemist’s achievement. Although he sounded as calm as he always was, the expression on his face suggested that he was very delighted by this piece of report. The prospect of a glorious victory made him hysterically thrilled.

In the forest, the old chemist was struggling to crawl forward while using the withered leaves as a cover for him to get closer to the battleground. He then frowned after carefully observing the mutants with a binocular. “Hopefully, the mutants won’t get too deliriously excited as a result of the drug. Too dramatic of a fluctuation in mood might bring out some negative effects,” he murmured to himself.

This was still a problem on which he needed to improve.

The transformed mutants felt the surge of power within themselves. The growth of their ability made them puffed with confidence and pride. They walked swaggeringly with boastful confidence, besotted with the acquirement of their new power.

“What... What is that?!” An unearthly cry of a mutant suddenly roused the others from their world of imagination. The entire squad of mutants paused to a standstill, in awe of the sight ahead of them.

A formidable black yak formed shadow above Chu Feng’s head. It roared, groaned, and bellowed, bringing about a breath of primitive air to a modern battleground.

This was the ultimate form of Chu Feng’s Demon Ox Boxing Style. It fully displayed itself in face of the forthcoming danger. At the same time, Chu Feng also engrossed himself with the practice of the special breathing rhythm. This was his trump card that allowed his power to enhance tenfold once used.

Usually, Chu Feng stayed relatively conserved about unleashing his full potential. Even at times when his life was threatened by a formidable opponent, he would rarely couple the breathing rhythm to the unleashing of the black yak.

However, the situation now allowed no way out but to resolve to the thorough unleashing of his full power.

“They are in a delirious state which means that their mental state must be near the stage of collapse. Clearly, this is an expected shortcoming of their commitment to fully unleashing their power, but this is also something I can use against them,” Chu Feng babbled.

The mutants marched on while their eyes, though blank as a dead fish, were all filled with wild fury and clear signs of near insanity. Each step of their march was firm and determined, echoing their profound determination to kill that obstinate obstacle in their way.

In the next minute, almost everyone committed into their killing actions without prior consultation.

Roar!

It was a blaring roar that could frighten the heaven and startle the earth. Like a deafening thunder, it ruptured the still air that persisted around the stationary woods. It withered the leaves and cracked the trunks, with power no less than a blasting rocket.

It was the roar of the ancient yak. The roar transmitted a sequence of deadly sonic waves into the mutant horde.

“Ah...”

What followed the deadly sonic wave was when the true horror began. The fluctuating mental states of the empowered mutants now came onto the verge of collapse. Both mentally and physically, the mutants were in profound agony.

Blood was seen spewing out of their eyes and ears. Some clutched onto their crackling skulls, while others tumbled and dropped to their deaths in an instant.

The roar itself was not a deadly kind. If these mutants had been in their usual state, the sonic waves would have dealt little harm to them. However, their state of mind after the secondary mutation was like a stretched-out elastic band on the brink of snapping. The roar was the last straw that broke the camel’s back. Their suffering was temporal, but their death was imminent.

“NO!” The old chemist cried a tragic cry. For him, this was perhaps the most miserable failure in the course of his creation. The shortcoming of his drug had been expected, but

for it to be the ultimate undoing of these noble mutants was a truly devastating blow to him.

He wanted to put up a fight against Chu Feng, but the thrusting sonic wave soon incapacitated him.

At a mansion in the county town.

Wan Qing regained her composure after hearing back from the latest report that the drug had been exerting a substantial effect on the enhancement of the mutants' power. An almost tenfold improvement on these mutants' capability would certainly bring about a devastating fight for both parties, but it would also be the one for Chu Feng to accept his demise.

She was now fully convinced that even Kong Kim would not pose as a match for this team of highly empowered mutants.

The gloomy look on her racy face finally turned to a cheerful one.

Mu remained rather composed. Although the fluctuation in his emotion was evident only moments earlier, he turned once again to the calm and elegant man whom he had always been. His smile was mild. "Let's just wait for our homecoming soldiers to report on their glorious victory. They would not only be the meritorious statesman who had rendered the outstanding service of disposing that so-called master, but will also be the main force of our company when going toe-to-toe with Bodhi Genes... Oh dear, you have no idea how expectant I am right now!"

"So am I." Wan Qing smiled.

She raised her goblet, then cheerfully exclaimed, "for glory and victory!"

"For glory and victory!"

Chapter 42: The Heartless and the Merciless

"Clonk!"

The two clinked glasses to success.

Wan Qing lifted the goblet to her peachy lips and decorously sipped her win. Then, she set the goblet aside before seating herself by a grand pianoforte. Her slender fingers skimmed over the black and white keys, giving birth to a tuneful and silvery piece of impromptu.

Mu swooped out a crystal bottle from his pocket. It only had the size of a thumbnail, but the blue substance within gave off a dreamlike color, exuding a peculiar shine of an unusual color.

This was a new type of drug that enabled that horde of mutants in the depth of the woods to unleash all their potential. This was a naturally occurring substance, but one that was difficult to extract. The astonishing effect, on the other hand, proved that all efforts that had gone into the production of this drug was worthwhile.

Mu's flashing eyes were mildly gazing at the substance in hand. He displayed the look of a pilgrim in the face of a holy god. With profound admiration, he lovingly handled this piece of crystal bottle while waiting for news of victory to pour in.

"Everything is destined," he murmured.

In the woods, amongst the thirteen survivors, four had almost instantly tumbled and dropped dead. Blood was gushing from both of their ears and eyes.

They had been in a shaky mettle at the time of Chu Feng's discharge of his sonic waves. The waves acted as a stimulus that provoked the mutants to go beyond the limits that neither of their body nor their mentality could bear.

"Ah..."

The others, though alive, were all suffering from profound agony at every breathing second. Their facial expression turned ferocious and feral. Some were busy clutching to their crackling skull while writhing in agony. Their lives were no better than the fate of their dead comrade.

Some mutants chose to knock their head against the tree trunks around them. As the unending battering thump continued, the trunks of many trees snapped and tumbled.

The blue drug was undeniably a potent one. It could grant its user power as well as suffering and death. The miserable death of the dead and the profound suffering of those who were still alive were all the indirect result of this dreary drug.

"This drug is the fruit of my painstaking work. It is not a failure. It just needs improvement. I'll make it perfect. I can make it perfect..." the old chemist muttered to himself. He tried to stand on his feet, but his enfeebled body eventually crumpled down. He threw himself flat on the soggy floor of the humid forest while blood continued pouring from his mouth.

He did not take the drug, so his mental state still stayed relatively calm; however, all in all, he was just an old man without any mutated power, so in face of Chu Feng's deadly sonic waves, he was also critically injured.

“Hahaha...” Suddenly, one of the mutants turned around. He was a three-meter giant with a colossal body. Saliva was drooling from the corner of his mouth while his pupils gradually dilated.

The strenuous fluctuation of his mental state had turned him into a madman. Muddleheaded, the giant mutant had lost all consciousness and became a walking corpse.

Puff!

The mutant reached out his arm and swooped up the old chemist. He

gored and trampled on the chemist until finally, with sheer brute force, the crazed mutant tore the chemist’s body apart. Screeching shrill cries, the chemist soon died of his own creation.

Chu Feng could not endure seeing this gory scene. Even though his own killing from moments earlier was nevertheless gory, it was nothing of this degree of ruthlessness and brutality. The forest had become a madhouse, catering for this combination of insanity and gore. The scene made Chu Feng’s blood boil.

On the ground were another few mutants writhing in pain. Some

had started tearing into each other, exchanging deadly blows and unleashing their entire scheme of tyranny onto one another. The madhouse had turned into a chaotic battleground with no rules set and no decimations between enemies and allies.

At last, Chu Feng was resolved to deliver his final blow to end all misery and suffering for these mutants. He walked with big strides into the disorderly horde with the black dagger in hand. At the blink of an eye and at the beat of a heart, all the rampaging mutants were now turned peaceful, albeit headless.

If Chu Feng had allowed these madmen to leave the forest for the villages nearby, tremendous inflictions on those towns and villages would have ensued.

Besides, Chu Feng had never wanted to let off these mutants in the first

place. “Anyone who had ever wished me dead would die before me.” This was the motto that Chu Feng would keep for life.

“Cold-blooded and heartless. You’re not a man. You’re an animal!”

Beneath the pile of dead mutants, a man suddenly opened his eyes and exclaimed. He had managed to stand up. Although he was vacillating and staggering on his feet, his consciousness had returned. He was aware of Chu Feng’s killing of his comrades, but

in his eyes, there was an evident look of alarm and panic, in addition to his anger and vexation induced by the witness of the killing.

“I’m an animal? What about you? Ambush a single man with all these firepower and advantage in numbers. Is this what a real man would do?” Chu Feng rhetorically asked.

“Kill!”

The mutant vented out a blaring cry. Although his pupils had started dilating, the dogged man still braced himself to fight his enemy to the death.

It was not him being fearless or wanting to die an honorable death, but because he knew that without fighting for his life, this man who was posing in front of him would soon claim his life without a doubt. Only by putting up a desperate fight would there still be a slim chance of survival.

Suddenly, his body started petrifying. Then, his whole body turned into a formidable mountain of stone; however, this mutated form of his did not seem to slow him down. Each step was accompanied by a thumping boom that trembled the earth and shivered the trees. Enveloped in a dusty cloud, the stone man looked both terrifying and mystical.

Everything he touched or landed his feet on was petrified to a stone-like substance without exception.

Clonk!

Chu Feng nimbly wavered his dagger. Afraid that, upon contact, he might be rendered into a human-shaped stone and sealed under a petrified layer for eternity, Chu Feng avoided the use of his formidable fists.

The black dagger glanced by the stone man’s palm, lacerating the tendon that connected his petrified thumb to the rest of his stone hand. Blackish red blood poured out from the cut. The stone man wavered his traumatized hand, pluming a screen of yellowish mist that surged towards his enemy.

The billowing mist took Chu Feng by surprise, but he quickly restored his composure and employed Demon Ox Boxing Style. When the yellow mist finally arrived at his body, there was only a negligible numbness running through his arm.

The mist was what rendered others into a stone, but its effect was expelled by a peculiar power Chu Feng extracted from the boxing style.

Chu Feng could feel the existence of a secret power enveloping around the skin of his body when Demon Ox Boxing Style was employed. The power deflected the yellow mist and allowed him to stay harmless from the mist’s petrifying power.

Chu Feng was now a man with no scruples. He had proven that the stone man's power was, though terrifying, ineffective when used against him.

Pong!

After rounds of clashes, Chu Feng finally landed his formidable fist on the man's chest. The sheer force that it delivered sent the man flying like a weightless kite. Then, after a sequence of crackling noise, the structure of the stone man lost its integrity and completely disintegrated in mid-air.

Clonk!

The fragmented body part that consisted of nothing but stones plummeted to the mushy floor of the humid forest. Blood was seen oozing out of the conspicuous cracks left on the stones, while the misty yellow fog slowly dissipated into the void. The formidable stone man was dead, alright, but the dreary scene left by the battle was a fearsome one nevertheless.

"I don't mind whether you're a freak or a monster, it would only take me a single strike to kill you anyways," Chu Feng calmly said.

Now, the only one left was the one whom Chu Feng had previously perceived to be the most perilous: the one whose feet swathed in lava. But, as of this moment, he was almost completely incapacitated. He tightly clutched to his skull, sitting listlessly by an old tree.

He was the only survivor thus far, and he was also the most powerful of all. Even though there were clear signs that signalled his mental breakdown, his consciousness was still intact. The lava granted his complexion a ruddy color. He gazed at Chu Feng with his crimson pupils that screamed profound hatred and anger.

"All dead. Stamping on the bones of these mutants with hands stained with the blood of my comrades... I had never guessed that you were the so-called master behind these all."

He recognized Chu Feng since he had once seen his photo. He was the leader of this team of expediting mutants, so naturally, he knew some of the unmentionable secrets

"Time for you to go," Chu Feng said to him. This was not a clamorous remark, but rather like a solemn elegy chanted in a grim tone.

Boom!

The mutant's body suddenly unleashed rays of blazing flames. The flames soared skyward, reaching a height of at least ten meters. The blaze incinerated every tree into plain ashes at the beat of a heart.

He was eager to fight, even if it meant a miserable death for him. Propelling himself with the last set of physical strength that was left in him, the mutant pounced himself on his enemy. His fist turned into a fearsome pool of scorching lava, fiercely pouncing its way towards Chu Feng.

That pool of lava underfoot melted the earth that formed the floor of this forest. Soil and boulders had both reached their boiling points, melting away as this flaming beast glanced by.

Chu Feng secretly admired the sheer power that this blazing beast could deliver. Had he not been incapacitated long before he could unleash his real power, Chu Feng would have long become a dead man now.

However, his body's status quo could not allow him to make use of any of his power or abilities. The severe headache coupled with an enfeebled body made him a weaker man than an ordinary person.

After so many rounds of life-or-death battles, Chu Feng had trained to become an experienced fighter. He stood firm on his feet, waiting for his opponent to seek his own doom like moths flying into flames. Then, as the blazing man finally came closer, Chu Feng skilfully maneuvered his limbs, and summoned the black yak once again. It emerged above Chu Feng's head like a black aura that lit the darkened woods. As Chu Feng wavered his fist forwards, the yak dashed at its opponent simultaneously.

Boom!

The fight ruined all that were present on this hill. Ancient trees had their trunks split in half, while the shorter bushes were incinerated into void. A sizeable explosion had just happened as the shadow of the black yak clashed with the flaming figure. It destroyed everything in its path and those around it.

"Ah..."

Enshrouded in flames, the fire man was still hovering above a pool of molten stones; however, he had been profoundly traumatized. Grasping to his unbridled hair, the mutant coughed blood and suffered in great agony. His head felt like on the edge of exploding because of the combat. The black yak ran through his body, crashing his soul and shredding his organs. He was bleeding from his mouth, nostrils, eyes, and ears.

At the same time, a sizeable indentation also formed on his chest. Half of his upper torso had caved in and sunken into a gaping hole that had formed on his back.

“It was the drug... the drug had killed me!” The mutant roared and groaned. His eyes were burning in rage while his face was twitching in agony, but he still could not bear the thought of giving in to his enemy. However, he had also realized that he was a mere skeleton, with neither skill nor power. His fearsome appearance was only an empty shell with no substances within.

At the same time, Chu Feng also sensed danger coming. He looked up and noticed that the helicopter had been homing back towards him, poised for another round of strafing run.

The pilot of the helicopter had only just recovered from the blasting of Chu Feng’s sonic waves. As a non-mutant, it was a truly terrifying experience for him. Although he had been staying relatively distant from the battleground as the mutants were marching, he still almost had a complete mental breakdown because of the devastating power of Chu Feng’s sonic attacks.

While the action on the ground reached a white-hot stage, the helicopter had been struggling all this time to keep itself stable in the air in the hands of an unconscious pilot; but finally, the pilot regained his senses and decided to come back for another strike on his target.

Boom!

The forest detonated under the intense fire raining down from the helicopter.

Bullets were coupled with rockets, showering the region with sheer devastation.

This provided a perfect cover for the fire man to flee in panic helter-skelter. However, as soon as he turned his back, a sudden chill ran through his spine. The frosty feeling at his back soon became numbness before he could realize that amidst this rain of bullets, Chu Feng had beheaded him with the same black dagger that had claimed the lives of many of his trusty comrades. In shock and terror, the hideous head fell rolling, free from the restraint of the body. The head now lived as a free entity, though lifeless, it would enjoy the rest of its existence on the soggy floor of a humid forest before eventually rotting away into another despicable speck of mud.

Having dealt with this last mutant, Chu Feng hastily retreated into the dense forest in the surrounding, still calm and composed.

Soon later, he found a den of enemies in a negligible pit, all equipped with serious firearms. Unfortunately, none of the weapons fired a single bullet before all of them had their throat slit by Chu Feng’s merciless blade.

Moments later, the roaring turbine of the hovering helicopter sounded again. Chu Feng borrowed one of the rocket launchers from his dead enemies, then boldly swaggered

out of the pit. Without a hint of scruple, Chu Feng fired the rocket straight at the helicopter.

Boom!

In mid-air, the wreckage of the helicopter burned with a glaring light. It then completely disintegrated into a collection of blackened metal frames, plummeting out of the sky into its demise.

In a mansion at a county town.

The music produced on the piano was a perfect reflection of Wan Qing's mastery in music. The melodious sound was trickling sluggishly like a small brook. At times, it sounded like a butterfly dancing lightly to the beautiful sunshine and rose.

Every note carried a distinguishable character, with all subtly teasing the sense of its listeners while staying as a joyful tune composed by a virtuoso musician.

This reflected Wan Qing's state of mind. Clearly, she was in an up spirit.

The music stopped. She turned to Mu, and with a visceral smile, she asked, "Has the news of our victory arrived?"

"Not yet, but soon." Mu smiled back. He was confident that his men's victory had been fixed since the start of his deployment.

Meanwhile, the communicator suddenly came back to life. It rang a tune of great liveliness. The two smiled at each other, ready for celebration.

"Dead... Everyone... They're dead!" On the other end of the line, there was the voice of a terrified man. His sentence was stuttered and fragmented, and his breathing was heavy and intrusive. He still sounded alive, but he was in no good shape.

"What did you say?!" Mu leapt to his feet from the couch.

"Every one of our mutants had been killed by... by that monster!"

"Stay calm and tell me what just happened!" Mu's rosy cheeks turned pale. He loudly scolded at the caller, giving him another chance not to confirm his fear.

"No... no... don't kill me... let me go..." These were the last words of that man. They were said in profound terror, but they soon ended abruptly. Nothing could be heard anymore.

In the forest.

Chu Feng picked up the communicator of the dead man beside him. He attentively listened by his ear, but there was no sound coming. It was all still and hushed. The other side of this line had turned muted.

Without uttering a word, he stood still in the middle of this once chaotic battleground with the communicator in hand.

At last, the call was abruptly cut.

Chu Feng went back to the dense forest once again, searching for his killers. There was then another few going down. All were equipped with heavy firearms, and all were dead without firing a bullet from their firearms

Half an hour later, the restless forest finally came to a rest.

Chu Feng mopped off the blood stain on the blade of his black dagger, then shovelled it into his knee-length boots. Trampling underfoot the blood-stained earth and the entrails-sprawled ground, Chu Feng was once again on the road, setting off for the county town.

Chapter 43: Fear

In a mansion at a county town.

By a French window, the setting sun casted its slanted rays into a vast living room where a man and a woman were standing in deathly silence. The room itself, on the other hand, as the setting sun continued to refract and reflect off the glamorous household utensils displayed in the room, had turned rather cozy.

Wan Qing's rosy cheeks had turned all pale and washed out. She had heard the conversation. She heard the helpless and terrifying call from the other end of the line. The report that was delivered was, perhaps to her, more terrifying than the man's unearthly shriek.

Every mutant was dead. All were murdered. How did this happen?

All eighteen mutants were all devastated by a single man. What an extraordinary battle achievement, and it would indubitably cause a tremendous sensation if this were to be known by the public.

An extraordinary battle achievement usually meant the rise of another superpower!

The fact that all eighteen mutants had taken their power enhancing drugs yet were still single-handedly defeated by a man alone made everything even more insidious and horrid.

Wan Qing was completely dumbstruck. It was not long ago when she was still indulging in the joy of the thought that her messy business would be neatly dealt. Now, all there was left to her were worry and great concerns.

If this man were to find her for revenge, would she be able to fend him off?

“Monster!” Her face was pale as a sheet as she spelt out her curses. Indeed, anyone with such power would indubitably qualify as a monster: a monstrosity that existed beyond reason.

The sound of that man’s call of terror, as well as those desperate last words, were still echoing in her mind; it caused her to tremble and be paralyzed in fear. They were indeed the sound of death.

Mu became taciturn. He slouched in his couch, voiceless and equally terrified. “How’s this happening?”

He suddenly turned around with a cold face. His blood ran cold, striking chill into everything and everybody in this hallway. The intruding sunrays had dissipated, giving the piercing coldness the freedom to take dominance in this room.

For Mu, this was possibly the worst outcome of the entire operation. His frame of mind was understandably shaky. The usual appearance of a visceral smile was no more; instead, he was all grim-faced and glum-looking. Clearly, he was in a bad mood.

It was a team of eighteen mutants. For him, they were the principal force of his organization. Now that they were all dead, what else were there left to him?

Nothing.

“I never expected this to happen. Who is he? How could he possibly kill eighteen mutants all at once, let alone the fact that they had all taken the power-enhancing drug?” Wan Qing nervously mumbled.

Clonk!

Mu smashed his goblet on the floor, then heavily trampled on the shattered fragments of the glass.

“Goddamn!” he growled and bellowed.

The smile on his handsome face was no more, along with his class and composure. For him, this was an inexcusable failure as well as a shameful one. It was a hefty loss to him too.

“Don’t be mad, Mu. Let’s think of some ways to redeem all these,” Wan Qing said. She postured as calm and clear-headed, but beneath that veneer of composure, there was the profound mixture of fear and panic.

Meanwhile, a man appeared in the hallway. He looked in his fifties, but he displayed quite an opposite image to that of a typical middle-aged man. He was lean and slender, and his face was clear of wrinkles. The only sign of aging was those tufts of silver hair. “This is not your fault, Mu. No-one would have expected this to happen.”

He was right. A team of eighteen mutants with each empowered by the newly developed drug would sweep off an army of enemy as one would do a mat, let alone a single man.

With such a strong line-up, ambushing a single man should not have turned out in this way.

“Then, there must be something wrong with our line-up. Uncle Wen, I’m relying on you and your men to investigate what had happened. I want details.” Mu’s expression was still all gloomy and despondent.

“There is a possibility that Kong Kim might be involved in this. Isn’t there a team of fighters sent out by Bodhi Genes in that area?” Wan Qing suggested.

Uncle Wen was taken aback by her suggestion, but he did not immediately reply. Following Mu’s order, Uncle Wen instructed his men to go on a field trip to investigate the true cause of death of those eighteen mutants.

Meanwhile, Mu was frowning. He was also growing suspicious of the possibility that Kong Kim might have already arrived at the area.

“Go! Go search for signs of Kong Kim’s presence,” Mu coldly said.

Uncle Wen nodded in agreement. He arranged a team of a few people who worked under his direction and those with whom he had connections to scope out the movements of the troops deployed by Bodhi Genes.

A helicopter took off from its landing pad, hastily dashing towards the forest eighty li away.

These team of investigators were not skilful mutants or Kung Fu masters, but they were quite adept in their investigating skills.

Finally, they arrived at the area where the battle had just ceased. The scene was a truly blood-curdling one. Eighteen mutants were all lying lifelessly without a head.

Clearly, they were all killed by the same killer, and all, except for a few, had died without resistance. Judging by the traces and marks left on the trees and the ground, they concluded that amongst the eighteen mutants, only few fought their enemy before their eventual demise.

The rest were not even remotely a match to their opponent. All were beheaded seconds after the fight broke out. This conclusion made them terrified.

“Is this the work of Kong Kim? Has he arrived?” someone suggested.

There was something in what he said. In this world, only the Big Four, namely Kong Kim, Silver Wing, Fire Spirit, and White Tiger, could wreak such devastation on their opponents. At least, this was what’s known to the public.

Later, they conducted a thorough search in the depths of the woods, but nothing could confirm the identity of the killer. Chu Feng had thoroughly cleaned up the murder scene so that even the slightest clue that could suggest his involvement in this sequence of heinous killing would be wiped clean.

In a mansion at a county town.

Mu had been updated with the latest report from his expedition team, but clearly, he was unimpressed by the team’s lack of useful findings.

“All of the eighteen mutants had been beheaded in a similar fashion by the same weapon. Whoever the killer was, he was both swift and fierce, having the upper hand throughout the fierce battle,” Uncle Wen later reported.

“I’ve heard that Kong Kim used only two weapons. One of them is a pestle that could be used to tame a beast, while the other being a blade of unparalleled sharpness,” Wan Qing said.

Meanwhile, a secret report arrived at the doorstep. Upon reading, Uncle Wen’s look on his face suddenly changed drastically.

He handed it over to Wan Qing. “What? Kong Kim had really arrived this morning without anyone’s notice?” It came as a shocking news to everyone.

“Kong Kim has arrived!?” Mu flew into a fury. His face twisted out of shape because of anger, then driven by profound exasperation, he smashed his fist onto a wooden table next to him, almost splitting it in half.

He could no longer stay elegant and refined in his manners. Now that his skulking arrival was confirmed, the perpetrator of the heinous killing this morning should undoubtedly be him.

In face of his Buddha Blade, the eighteen mutants all seemed so insignificant, even after having taken the drugs.

“According to reliable sources, Kong Kim had indeed gone out from his hotel to the nearby mountains after he arrived, and he still hasn’t returned yet. However, we still cannot confirm that he was indeed heading towards our men’s encirclement this morning,” Uncle Wen reported.

“Kong Kim, I will not let you off this time!” Mu was exasperated. The fierce look on his face had totally subsided the gentle and refined manner in both of his speech and his deportment. There was a fire of fury burning ablaze in his chest.

“What about that man? Did he never come into our men’s encirclement?” Wan Qing had doubts about that “master” behind Chu Feng’s back.

Then, she realized that Chu Feng’s death could be easily attributed to the fierce battle between Bodhi Genes and Deity Biomedical Groups that had broken out in that area. Chu Feng was just an unlucky innocent killed amidst the exchange of fire.

Some harm inflicted on the bypassing innocent was totally unavoidable when two opposing forces go head-to-head. There was no-one to blame. Chu Feng died because he was just down on his luck.

It was quite a relief to her. There was nothing worth worrying. That “master” behind Chu Feng’s back would never know the truth with regards to the death, so he would have no alternatives but to give in.

Out of the dense woods, Chu Feng finally had the county town in sight. His speedy pace slowed down at last.

“What a vicious woman! If I was to just kill her, it would bear no difference to me just letting her off. Death is too light a punishment for her heinous doing,” Chu Feng mumbled to himself.

Chu Feng recalled the pick-up lady with whom he just met. She was still so young. Her freckled face made her look so sincere and innocent. She was a cheerful girl too. The smile on her young and innocent face was so pure and visceral. But who would have thought that she would die such a gory death? “You deserve better, girl.” Chu Feng sighed.

There was a fierce look in his eyes. Although he was a cold-blooded murderer in the face of his enemy, there was still a soft spot in his heart. He could not bear to see the bullying on the small and the weak, especially when they were also good and kind-hearted people.

“I won’t let you get off so easily this time. You will eventually die, but I’ll make sure that before you say your last words, your life will be spent in sheer horror and fear,” Chu Feng viciously cursed.

He took out his communicator and rung up Lin Naoi.

The call was soon picked up.

Chu Feng was simple and straightforward. He asked her who had been using her communicator for the past few days.

Lin Naoi was baffled, asking him what had led him to ask; but Chu Feng did not answer. He abruptly hung up the call.

Meanwhile, Wan Qing left the mansion, heading for Lin Naoi’s hotel.

“Has Chu Feng called you before?” Lin Naoi asked beside a French window. She was looking at the distance while her jade-like skin shone under the glittering rays of the late morning sun.

“Oh, yes, of course. After he knew that it was not you, we ended the call just after a few light exchanges of words,” Wan Qing replied in a tone that made her sound rather at ease. Indeed, there was no more troubles back at home after the incident that resulted in the seemingly accidental death of Chu Feng. Wan Qing was still enjoying her ease of mind.

“Really? Is there anything you’re hiding away from me?” Lin Naoi turned around. She had a beautiful hair. It hung loosely on the sides of her swan-like and snow-white shoulders. A slightly frosty look on her fine and delicate face coupled with her cold yet exquisite eyes exerted quite a degree of pressure on Wan Qing.

“No. Of course not, my mistress.” Wan Qing showed an astonished look.

“Based on my knowledge of Chu Feng’s personality, there must have been something going wrong between you two,” Lin Naoi said.

“Has he arrived already? What did he say to you? It would be so petty of him to have complained anything about my manners. I was just being a bit inconsiderate in my choice of words, but I really didn’t mean it,” Wan Qing spoke in a careless way. She knew that the man would never arrive nor would he ever complain anything to her mistress about her.

“No, he hasn’t arrived yet, but based on the call he made to me just now, it sounded more than just some complaints about your deep-rooted prejudices against him.” Lin Naoi stared at her.

“Just now?!” Wan Qing was taken aback. The quivering of her fingers almost cost her to drop the teacup in her hand, but she managed to cover up her emotion immediately.

The smile on Lin Naoi’s face turned colder. “Tell me.”

“What? No. There’s hardly anything between us two,” Wan Qing silently told herself to stay calm and collected, but in her mind, her fear and terror had almost reached a boiling point. How come that man was still not dead yet?

What on earth had happened. She felt ever so frightened. Was she going to face him now?

Her heart trembled as her mind shivered in fright. Many ideas and theories cropped up in her mind. “What if he really was alive? What was she going to do?”

She could feel chill running through her spine; then, the chilling turned to numbness, paralyzing her whole body.

She was like a frightened dog who wanted to flee from its master’s punishing hands, but under her mistress’ gaze, how could she?

“Chu Feng will arrive in a minute,” Lin Naoi said. In fact, Chu Feng had not told her when he would arrive. She was not even sure if he would arrive at their appointment, because she could feel the fury behind his words during that brief call.

The moment she was informed of Chu Feng’s imminent arrival, Wan Qing could feel her whole body coming out in a cold sweat. She had to stay, since there was no way for escape. For her, the minutes before Chu Feng’s arrival was going to be a prolonged period of insufferable torment and wretchedness.

Fear started to overcome her senses. She knew that nothing would stay hidden once the truth was told. Even if she could still stay relatively safe under her sister’s wing, she would need to pay a hefty price.

Chapter 44: The Scheduled Meeting

“Are you feeling quite alright, Wan Qing?” Lin Naoi asked. It was supposed to sound caring and attentive, but it lacked the necessary warmth.

Wan Qing’s heart started thumping. She knew that this was the typical tone used by Lin Naoi to express her dissatisfactions with her. Her words sounded warm and indifferent at the same time.

“Yes... Yes, indeed. I didn’t rest well last night, and I feel a bit unwell. But you shouldn’t worry, it was nothing but a chill.” Xu Wan forced a smile to appear on her frail face. She

stood up, wanting to express her apology to her mistress. She decided that when the situation allowed, she would seize the first chance to absent herself from the interrogation and free herself from any further accusations.

However, before she could open her mouth to talk, Lin Naoi passed her a bottle of blue drug, asking her to take it, before demanding her to take a rest in the hotel. Clearly, Lin Naoi did not want her to leave just yet.

Wan Qing's heart skipped a bit when she saw that bottle of blue liquid drug. It had the volume and the appearance of the same drug Mu had in hand.

Moreover, it was not long ago when the mutants had also taken them!

Was she implying something? Wan Qing grew more nervous minute by minute. She felt uncertain about her mistress' intention, and this uncertainty made her inwardly disturbed.

"This is a newly developed drug. It could enhance one's immunity and energy level. You should immediately see the effect after taking it," Lin Naoi calmly said.

Wan Qing was taken by fright. She took it from her mistress' hand then carefully examined it. The drug's slightly lighter color seemed to suggest that it was a different one to the drugs taken by the mutants, but she was still rather nervous.

"Wan Qing, what have you actually done to him. Don't try to hold it back. I want no secrets between us two." Lin Naoi gazed at her.

Wan Qing smiled back at her mistress, but her heart still trembled in terror. She could think of many possible outcomes if she chose to unveil the truth. She knew the natural disposition of her mistress. Even though she would not be together with Chu Feng, she would still not like the idea of him being harmed by a third-party.

Everything would have been much easier if Chu Feng had died in her set-up. There were Bodhi Genes and Kong Kim lingering in the area, so blaming them for his death would have been the perfect solution to the mess she had caused on herself. However, to her terror, Chu Feng was still well and alive.

"We did bicker and squabbled last time he called me. I said he would never prove to be a match to you, and as I've expected, he's now wanting for a comeback." Wan Qing's voice was timid and soft. She cast a sidelong glance at Lin Naoi, then continued, "I really don't think he is a great match for you. You guys are from two different worlds."

She tried to conceal parts of her wrongdoings with lies and side-tracking. It was her desperate attempt to play for time. Even at the presence of Chu Feng, she would still make the attempt to deny everything she had done.

“You are such a disappointment!” Lin Naoi calmly said these words. Her great composure as she spoke made the listeners unable to tell the true meaning behind the words.

Wan Qing’s mind was perturbed and restless. She felt something had gone right. She knew that her mistress was not the stupid kind with whom to be fooled around. Even though she had not heard anything regarding the senseless operation, nor had she collected any substantial proofs, she must have had her own suspicions.

Just then, Lin Naoi’s communicator started ringing.

“The little girl whom you sent out for me had been treated with an intense bombardment on our way back. She died a miserable yet honorable death.” Chu Feng’s voice came through the communicator.

Although Lin Naoi had conjured theories and conjectures about what might have happened to some extent, she had never dreamt of something so outrageous. She spined on her heels, and faced Wan Qing with a surveying look. The glaring rays projecting out of her fetching eyes reached Wan Qing’s guilty conscience and pierced her frail heart.

“Ah!” The soul-piercing stare pricked her heart and her eyes like a cutting needle, unsettling her greatly.

At the same time, she also heard the voice of that man: the man whom she wished to die but who was still left breathing air. Her fear was thereby confirmed.

How was this happening? Was he not in the car then? This was the moment when both the fear and the resentment reached a boiling point in her mind. Why was he still alive? Nothing would have been left posing against her if he had died. She would then be able to walk away from her past evil scot free.

There were people who always tried to attribute their undoing to others and never looked for the wrongs in themselves.

“Mu, you should be here to save me,” Wan Qing silently prayed in her heart. It was all because of her willingness to lend Mu a helping hand that all these troubles were brought about on her.

“Uncle Qian, take her into custody. Don’t forget that she is a mutant, so lock her with the all the latest invention of our alloy yokes and shackles,” Lin Naoi calmly ordered her to be taken down.

This came like a bolt from the blue. It hit Wan Qing like a thunderbolt. Her face instantly turned pale, and her rosy cheeks had now lost their color. She was both terrified and fearful while her ears were buzzing with sound.

She knew that only the most atrocious criminal who had committed guilty sins beyond forgiveness would be damned to such a heartless punishment. The yokes and shackles were both casted with scarce metal. They ensured no-one would run free from their confinement so that in the end, the worst possible form of retribution could be imposed on them.

A slightly opulent old man leisurely ambled in. He had a kindly look. He was an affable man who was always amiable to others, but now, the look on his face was nothing but solemn. His devotion to his mistress compelled him to carry out her order without questioning.

“Naoi, how could you treat me like this?!” Wan Qing exclaimed.

“You are my closest assistant. I treated you like my kin. I gave you the authority to act on my behalf when I’m not available to communicate with the outside world. You could have done everything you wanted, but this time, you crossed my bottomline,” Lin Naoi indifferently said.

Lin Naoi had a tall and thin physique. That lanky figure of hers was much desired by every one of her beholders. At times, even Wan Qing herself was envious of her mistress’ otherworldly beauty. The cold elegance of her mistress could easily turn to a cold-hearted indifference when anger crept in. The look of her was biting frosty.

Wan Qing was a pretty woman as well, but she could always feel a sense of inferiority in the presence of her glamorous mistress. The lack of confidence turned to sheer fear when Lin Naoi picked up her imposing manner. She was so frightened that not a single word could be spoken from her mouth.

Lin Naoi wavered her hand, signalling for Uncle Qian to take her away.

“Where are you, Chu Feng? I want to pick you up.” Lin Naoi rung up her past lover.

“Already in town.”

“I was planning to be treated by you for some local speciality, but forget about it, the treat is on me this time,” Lin Naoi candidly offered.

Chu Feng understood to what Lin Naoi was referring. She wanted to express her apology to him.

He replied with an address, and after a while, a red sedan stopped at the roadside beside him. The window rolled down, and the rosy cheeks of his past lover cropped up. “Hop in!” Lin Naoi said.

Chu Feng looked around the car, then said, "Red? This was not quite what I expected of a coldly elegant person like you. Your frostiness used to make me think that you drove a blue car."

"You've really got a mouth on you, don't you? Still the same Ol'Chu Feng I used to know and..." Lin Naoi paused, then she showed a light-hearted smile. The way she dressed was quite different too. It was not an exquisite dress, but rather a mix-mesh of hot pants and t-shirt. The clothes were nothing luxurious or even branded, but her attire was nothing in poor taste either.

Shortly, they arrived at a restaurant.

The diner was a quiet and cozy place. It played a mild and mellow tune in the background, allowing the conversations between the guests to be undisturbed. There was also a crystal chandelier hanging down above the marble floor. Obviously, the place was of no match with a restaurant in the metropolis, but this might qualify to be the best diner in town. Most importantly, the place was tidy and clean.

Exiting the car, the two walked into the diner abreast. Lin Naoi had been plainly turned out today. The unusual casualness displayed by Lin Naoi's hot pants and t-shirt naturally caught Chu Feng's eyes.

However, this sense of casualness also clearly showed her superb figure. She was 170 centimeters tall, and most of that height was contributed by her straight and well-proportioned legs. The legs were also snow-white, making the pair both seducing and dazzling.

"What's wrong?" Lin Naoi crooked her head and asked.

"We've parted for so long, so I wanted to have a better look at you, but there is something dazzling me, and I don't know what it is." Chu Feng smiled.

It had always been the sheer brazenness of Chu Feng that rendered her speechless; however, the brazenness was portrayed and spoken with confidence as if justice were on Chu Feng's side. One could comment that Chu Feng was an open and sincere kind, and it was wrong to call him an impudent and no-good son of a b*tch.

"You really haven't changed," Lin Naoi replied with a visceral smile. She did not distaste Chu Feng as a person. They made acquaintance with each other all thanks to the openness that was dictated by Chu Feng's unique characteristics in the first place.

At school, who but Chu Feng would have dared provoke her? Chu Feng was the kind who was not afraid of courting troubles, so he had the edge over the other pursuers who were too careful to pluck up their courage to make themselves at least known to her. The biting frostiness inherent to her was the obstruction for many to make a move.

Chu Feng, on the other hand, was a different animal. He could easily make an impression of himself in anyone's mind if he wanted. He behaved himself with a cheeky insolent manner for the first time they met. Taking over her seat, folding her name card into a paper airplane, then permitting the plane to take off with a gentle blow in front of him, sending her name card into the air outside. All these was still some vivid scenes engraved on her mind.

Chu Feng did have left a first impression of himself in the girl many loved, albeit a horrid one at first. However, Lin Naoi had never been quick to take offense, so naturally, although it was shocking to see such discourteousness portrayed on her, it was not a stumbling block that could impede the two from furthering their relationships.

"Come! Let me really have a look at you. I want to see what have changed and what haven't to you." Chu Feng smiled. He took the opportunity to further his wanton aggression by sizing her up from top to bottom. The fervent stare percolated every cell of the blushed girl, from her charming eyes to her alluring neck, then down went the passionate look of a lover to the very bottom of the girl's feet.

"Stop it. Sit!" Even if Lin Naoi was born with a frosty nature who would normally only show a little of her smiling face, the clowny, albeit brazen, nature that Chu Feng portrayed had really cracked her up.

"How lovely your smile is, girl. It is a feast for the eyes!" Chu Feng said. He pulled out the chair for Lin Naoi as a show of his gentility, then gently pressed her down on her shoulders.

In the near distance, Uncle Qian was watching. The physical contact raised his eyebrow, but then he went on to his own business, leisurely slouching in his chair, looking outside and pretending to have seen nothing.

"I'm sorry!" Lin Naoi whispered as the two were sitting down.

"Don't be. Look! I'm still well and sound. It's... just a shame to see that young girl... you know, it's so saddening to see such a young soul fading away. She deserved better." Chu Feng shook his head.

"Yes, indeed. Her family will get compensation, and I will try to offset the damage with whatever I can do." Lin Naoi knitted her fine brows in thought. Although she seemed cold from the outside almost all the time, her heart was still warm and kind.

Chu Feng nodded.

"What other trouble has she inflicted on you lately?" Lin Naoi asked.

"A woman who grew vines in her palms. A bat. A spider. A monster with a scaled skin. A gang of scoundrels and armed soldiers... They all have come to visit me lately. Oh, I will

say this. I feel I've never been so popular in my life ever since that call to that woman was made," Chu Feng spoke in a careless way.

Lin Naoi straightened her back. Her eyes were resplendent with thoughtful flares, then she turned to Uncle Qian and said, "Watch her with extra vigilance. And, no-one is allowed to approach her!"

"Roger!" Uncle Qian hopped on his feet and walked away.

"I will make her answer to the wrongs that had been done to you." Lin Naoi solemnly looked at Chu Feng.

"How will you punish her?" Chu Feng asked.

Lin Naoi combed her beautiful head of hair, revealing the jade-like texture of her forehead. Her eyes turned cold and said, "She had gone too far this time, so I will first remove that privilege of hers as a mutant."

Chu Feng was astonished. One could disable the mutated power of a mutant?

"But, I will still ask for your understanding and forgiveness, because the punishment that follows will take some time before they can be executed. My uncle will be marrying her sister soon, and I had been, in the past, urged to take good care of her on behalves of my sister and my future brother-in-law. So, I need to discuss with them first before deciding on which specific form of punishment she will have to endure," Lin Naoi patiently explained.

"What is the most severe form of punishment?" Chu Feng furthered his queries. His resentment for that woman was now almost insufferable to some extent.

"The most severe form will ensure that... she will never show up again," Lin Naoi answered.

Chu Feng nodded before saying, "But I'm worried because the person who always have my back has an explosive temper. I'm worried that he would perhaps do something about her before her call of justice arrives."

The look on Lin Naoi's face slightly shifted. It was the look of profound curiosity which was hard to find on someone who was devoted to a life of indifference and frostiness. She asked, "I had always been curious to ask, who was the helping hand? Of course, it is your right to keep quiet on this."

"He's... my parents' friend. You know, they live in that metropolis in the north, so did I. I came back for a vacation. He used to be a serviceman once, but he was discharged lately from active military service because of some mutations happening to him that made him incredibly strong. It's been quite a while since my parents and I had last met,

so out of sheer family affection, they asked this man if they could leave me in his care. This request, to which he gladly agreed, sent him here. He will escort me back to that metropolis in the north soon though,” Chu Feng said.

He felt it was right to remain low-key for now. It was a lesson learnt from those not-so-subtle mutants who died a miserable death because of their arrogance and their tendency to bloat.

In this brave new world, staying dormant in one’s own cave was better than to flaunt and show off the skills that were still in an embryonic state.

At the same time, he was not too desperate to attract Lin Naoi with his ability to fight off mutants and identity as a non-mutant superpower. He never wanted to prove anything. It was of his best interest to stay true to himself and to the ones around him.

Love is love. It was meant to be a true affection of the purest and the most chaste sort. It was an abstract, yet true construct that should not be mingled or contaminated with marks and titles. Whether he was a superpower or not, or whether his acquired power had turned him to a mutant or not should have never been the contributing factor to one’s love for another.

Perhaps this would only exist in his illusion of love, but this was what he valued and what he pursued. It was true love, after all, that would prove to be long-lasting and heart-felt. He did not want to shamelessly exchange his new identity for anything.

“So, there is someone behind your back?” Li Naoi thoughtfully nodded.

“It was also him who objected the idea of me boarding the car you sent for me, and that’s why I’m here right now breathing air at the same table as you.” Chu Feng sighed.

Meanwhile, Lin Naoi’s communicator rang. It displayed the name of the caller as Mu.

She answered the call, and on the other side, there was the soothing voice of a man. His voice was a feast to ears, but at the same time, it also sounded solemn and serious.

“Naoi, I think we may have to go against Bodhi Genes earlier than we thought.” He told Lin Naoi that Kong Kim had managed to set up an ambush this morning that claimed the lives of many of his henchmen. Even though the eighteen mutants had taken the drug they were allocated with, this team of leading fighters is all wiped out clean.

“Alright. I will talk to you later.” Lin Naoi hung up the call.

Her knuckles were knocking on the table, looking thoughtful and reflective. The two both paused after the call ended, sitting face-to-face. Her charming face started becoming increasingly alluring with each minute passing by in silence. In addition to being snow-white and lustrous, her cheeks were soft and delicate too.

“What’s wrong? Has someone made things difficult for you?” Chu Feng asked.

“The man who stands on the tip of the pyramid, Kong Kim, as you might have heard, killed eighteen of our men, just as the car sent for you got bombarded on its way here. How coincidental.” Lin Naoi forced a smile.

As if there had been rays of glittering luminance projecting out from her eyes, her pupils looked ever so gleaming and twinkling. Then, she raised her head, reading the look on Chu Feng’s face as she said, “Tell me, the person behind your back was the killer, wasn’t he? Tell me about it. I won’t blame him for it.”

“Kong Kim? This boy... this boy never disappoints, doesn’t he?” Chu Feng blurted out. It was beyond all his expectations to hear that Kong Kim had been thought to be part of this.

He then continued, “That henchman of mine never came to blows on our way here. He has been staying with me for the entire duration of our trip. His suspicion was only confirmed once we saw what was left of that wretched car, but I guarantee you that he had never been part of any of these senseless killings.”

“It was still sad to see them die in the hands of a super-mutant. Although I might hold some grudge against them because, bloody hell, they wanted to kill me... but all in all, I do still feel... regretful about their... passing-away.” Chu Feng did not say much, but he was confident that the words he had spoken would, in the end, serve him well.

Being caught in a whirlpool or getting involved in a maelstrom of war was the last thing for which he desired. It was time for him to just stand by and watch as those who wanted to avenge for that team of dead mutants sought their vengeance on Kong Kim.

“I’m so sorry, Kong Kim. Those lots deserved to die, so it was not your fault. But... you know what, I won’t complain if you can just take the blame for me!” This was his innermost thoughts and feelings. He was truthfully thankful for the “kindness” that Kong Kim selflessly offered.

Lin Naoi’s watch was still on him, but she did not choose to go deeper into the business. The two moved on from this topic.

“Fancy anything particular to eat?” She faintly smiled. Between those cherry-like lips were her sparkling teeth. It was this instant where this visceral smile had thoroughly displayed her true beauty. It was a breath-taking sight for its beholders.

But, it only took a sentence for the mood of the scene to be all shattered into the void.

“Attendant! Get me ten kilos of beef!” Chu Feng wildly shouted like a feral beast.

A few black lines crawled up on Lin Naoi's snow-white forehead. Chu Feng's rapid degradation in his demeanors from that of a gentleman to nothing short of a caveman happened all so fast. Luckily, this was not a deluxe diner, and there were no others around. Otherwise, how disgraceful this would have turned out to be!

"Did you die of starvation in your past life?" She was frustrated, but her exasperation soon turned to a fit of uncontrollable laughter.

"You don't know, but hear me on this. I have never been so desperate to eat beef or anything that have anything to do with a cow or an ox lately. But, sadly, I can't. I can't eat any beef at all! My mouth waters when I think about beef... Oh man, oh man... Today is a good day. Today, I am going to EAT BEEF!"

Lin Naoi was all lost in laughter. "No problem! I never knew you are such a die-hard fan of meat. But this is easy. I will get you a whole table of meat. All kinds of them! Pork, chicken, fish..."

"No! BEEF! JUST BEEF!" Chu Feng gave a stern rebuff.

Juxtaposing this juvenile demeanor with that earnest look on his face cracked her up even more. This guy never felt shy about anything. He did as he pleased. Nothing was pretentious, and nothing there was overly affected about him. His humor had really lit up her day.

However, she did have gotten it wrong this time. Chu Feng was indeed a ravenous man for beef. He was a desperate one for the taste of a juicy bite of steak or a nice chunk of stewed beef. He had cut all ties with beef ever since that bastard of a cow chose to join his family.

Chapter 45: Dormancy

Beef braised in brown sauce, spiced beef, curry beef... and of course, how could a set of beef dishes be complete without a few dozens of other beef dishes of all sorts.

The table would have already been flipped if Yellow Ox had been present on the scene.

This was a sheer provocation, since not even one dish was the same as another. Most importantly, every dish had been wholeheartedly cooked with beef as the main ingredient. The proficient cook had made a whole lot of variety out of a single kind of meat. How marvellous this was!

Even the side dishes and the soup were custards of beef. The banquet culminated when twenty roast skewered beef were served as a dessert for Chu Feng.

Chu Feng enjoyed his dishes with a guilty conscience. He felt somewhat diffident when he was reminded of Yellow Ox in his mind. If he were to eat every dish of provision here, would that husky smell of beef be distinguished by the sensitive calf?

The obstinate calf would risk his life with him if he were to be found out about his edacious devouring of its friends' meat.

However, the guilt had not overpowered his desire for the love of beef. His ravenous mouth was full of both pulverized meat and praises. He was ever so thankful for the cook of this diner to prepare him with such feast of a meal.

The two whispered to each other as they ate.

They whispered the old stories that happened in the past. Their schools, their classmates, and their schoolmates, all of which granted them with endless topics for the conversation to flow. However, when it came to their personal relationship, the two chose to falter and swayed their topics after having just scratched the surface.

Chu Feng noticed Lin Naoi's deliberate attempt to alienate herself from recalling the past that happened between them. She gained a flat tone whenever their past was mentioned.

Chu Feng had an optimistic and sunny personality, but this did not mean that he was an utterly shameless guy. He had never tried to win anything from her, or prove himself to be anything in front of her. He kept a casual mind when conversing with this past lover of his so that the two could easily keep themselves away from any embarrassment that could potentially arise during their conversation.

Their chattering conversation lasted long. Everything, from back in their college days to the upheavals that happened lately, was mentioned.

Chu Feng sighed with deep feelings. He sighed for the sightings of many strange occurrences that happened all so fast that almost everything which he had once considered as norms were now suddenly subverted to something utterly different. The world had turned into a strange one in a matter of days.

Lin Naoi seemed a bit apologetic. She spoke candidly that she already had a premonition of this upheaval that had swept the globe, but she had not expected it to progress to such an extent.

In this post-civilization era, during its endless years, mystical occurrences driven by some mysterious forces had occurred many times. Every one of them influenced the world to quite a major extent. However, for the ordinary, the cause and the meaning of any of these occurrences could not be comprehended or understood.

However, the Deity Biomedical Group knew the unmentionable secret behind the scenes. They were the only people who knew the truths.

But, this seemed to have been pertaining to a taboo of some sort, so Lin Naoi seemed to have scruples in continuing to inform an outsider with intelligence on which he should never have laid hands. She did, however, dropped Chu Feng a hint or two, but she was unable to reveal every detail of the truth.

Chu Feng paid close attention to the words Lin Naoi said when she raked up something from the past. Chu Feng then carefully reflected upon these words, looking for special meanings that might help him soon.

At last, Lin Naoi asked Chu Feng if he was going to leave this town for some other places. The metropolis in the north, for instance, would be a good option. The Taihang Mountains would evolve into a battleground shortly, with the death of many in the horizon.

“Perhaps I will leave for somewhere safer in a few days,” Chu Feng said. He candidly told her that he had really been dazzled by the many news on the internet speculating a potential “war” that would break out at the region of Taihang.

Chu Feng then went on with a genuine look on his face, reminding Lin Naoi of taking good care of herself in a time like this. After all, the world had become an imminent battleground joined by the most powerful and the deadliest from across the nation.

Lin Naoi nodded as a form of agreement. She would take care of herself. She said that she had originally wanted to escort this past lover of hers to a safer place outside this warzone.

However, knowing that he was under the protection of a master behind his back, and that the master would personally escort Chu Feng to a metropolis in the north, the need for her to persist in seeking a way out for Chu Feng herself was rather unnecessary.

“I know there is danger in the Taihang Mountains, so I won’t dash in there and court troubles for myself.” Chu Feng smiled.

“Not only that.” Lin Naoi shook her head. She was reminded of something, but she hesitated for a while, carefully wording her sentences before she told Chu Feng the truth.

“The company had seen some unusual events lately.” The words that followed shook Chu Feng with a start.

“Many beasts and birds of prey were evolving. They are becoming increasingly intelligent, like a man cast off the yoke that was once restricting the development of their

intelligence. Their level of intelligence is drawing closer and closer to that of us, humans.”

These were the observations the company had gathered only recently.

Chu Feng believed the words she said. After all, the Deity Biomedical Group was a giant in its field. They were in control of almost all the resources that were inaccessible to the public.

“Mutants crop up in hordes in recent times. There were voices of discussion about them echoing everywhere on the internet; however, no-one had paid attention to the evolution of these animals. They kept a low-key profile, with many hibernating in their dens, poised for the moment to come.”

Lin Naoi’s words shocked Chu Feng tremendously.

Words such as “hibernating” and “poised” elevated those animals to a much higher order compared to what they were used to be. Chu Feng was also reflecting on a question: “What are these animals planning to achieve with their intelligence level unlocked?”

“We have managed to capture a few of these animals. They were all very extraordinary, and very intelligent. Their intelligence was on par with, if not higher than, that of a man. Some even behaved better than a man when it comes to learning and imitation.”

Her face grew grave when talking about this.

“This is quite worrisome.” Chu Feng pushed aside the dishes on the table. His mind was oozing with worries and concerns. He was reminded of many things that had recently happened. His fingers kept tapping on the wooden surface of the dining table as he fell in a muse.

“I’m sure there are more mutated beasts and birds of prey than mutated men out there!” Lin Naoi asserted.

These words tugged at Chu Feng’s heart strings even more than all that were previously mentioned. What she said should be the reality. All in all, those beasts and birds lived in the wild. To them, the mutated bushes and grass were more ubiquitous, and the special fruits, as a result, became more accessible to them than to a human being.

“The future seems so grim to me.” Chu Feng sighed.

“That’s why I need you to go to a metropolis,” Lin Naoi said.

However, there was still a question that lingered in his mind. He noticed that the government had remained relatively taciturn lately besides some occasional press briefings to appease the public. What were they concerned about?

“Excuse me for speaking bluntly,” said Lin Naoi, “but the government had always been in the know during all those past upheavals. However, they were unable to make the inside story known to the public. However, trust me, they had always been keeping a close watch on its citizen, and they would do whatever they can to protect us from harm.” Lin Naoi paused for a moment.

“They will act soon in the future. But I think the consequence of them getting explicitly involved in this would be huge.” Lin Naoi made this judgement.

The conversation between the two lingered on. The lunch lasted for a few hours.

“Oh yes, if you find it hard to tell your uncle about it, let her out if someone offers to bail her out.” Chu Feng suddenly digressed to this topic.

Lin Naoi looked at him without a response.

“Don’t look at me weirdly. I advised you this because that mutant who has been having my back for all this time, like I said before, has an explosive temper. I was worried that he had already planned on doing some stupid things to avenge for me. What if that woman somehow dies under your watch? Then you will have to bear the blames for her ‘accidental’ death,” Chu Feng said. He then added, “Is she your friend?”

“She refers herself as my bestie in front of others,” Lin Naoi answered. She then frankly added that she had been on intimate terms with a man named Mu.

“Understood!” Chu Feng said.

At last, the two rose and took their leave, but before the two parted, Lin Naoi calmly approached him. Then, to Chu Feng’s surprise, Lin Naoi wrapped her arm around his waist. She did not keep this hug-like gesture for long, but it was, undoubtedly, the most intimate gesture that had ever occurred between the couple.

“I said you owed me a hug... so... is this your redemption today?” Chu Feng sighed. He knew what the hug meant.

“Spending time with you had always been the most joyous memory in my life. However, that said, I hope you understand that I have never found myself having that kind of special feeling for you,” Lin Naoi calmly said.

Lin Naoi had a tall and lanky physique. Her hair was smooth to the touch and pleasing to the eyes. Her cheeks were snow-white with a lovely rosy undertone. Although she had a frosty temperament, those pair of cherry lips and her slight build coupled with her

inducing legs made her seem a bit gorgeous in a flirtatious way while maintaining a sense of cold elegance.

“Compensating me with just a hug to offset the damage dealt by your underling, then raking up those old things in the past for which even I held in contempt... Don’t be like this... and don’t worry... I... I know that the luck by which we were first brought together had long ended, so I won’t bother you for what you have no interest in.” Chu Feng shook his head in mixed feelings.

These were the words he had been told from the very beginning, and now they were truthfully confirmed.

Lin Naoi combed her hair, then the two walked out of the diner abreast. “I will give you a lift home,” Lin Naoi offered.

“Thank you, but it’s okay. I know you are busy, and I know that there are plenty of things which you will have to deal with. But still, it would be lovely if you can find me a car,” Chu Feng said.

“Alright,” Lin Naoi agreed. With a war right in the horizon, there were indeed many preparations for her to get busy in.

A silver sedan pulled out of a corner. There were two mutants in the car escorting Chu Feng back home.

Chu Feng exited the car when it finally arrived at his house. He waved at them to express his gratitude, then he saw them driving off speedily.

“Argh... I think I smell like beef.” He stopped by the gate and sniffed his collar. The smell was quite intense indeed.

“Let me get down to some proper business first.” Chu Feng turned around and headed off for the forest. On his way to its depth, Chu Feng dug out some high-caliber firearms from their hideouts.

These had all been the harvest of some of the most recent sieging at the enemies. He had been hoarding quite a number of them.

Chu Feng practiced shooting for what remained of that afternoon. Bullets were fired at consecutive shots until finally, his shots started to get dead accurate.

Ever since the beginning of his practice of that special breathing rhythm, every facet of his bodily function has been dramatically enhanced. In addition to that, the mastery of the Demon Ox Boxing Style also proved to be quite an effective method in building up a strong constitution.

After hours of shooting training, with the help of his acute sights and terrifying instincts, he had almost become the most outstanding shooter alive.

Chu Feng then set off for the county town. He arrived there by the fall of dusk.

He stood in the distance, studying the site at which most of the mutants from Deity were located. He silently watched like a predator as the unaware mutants went on with their business.

Their housings were scattered all around in the small town. Clearly, this was their strategy to prevent themselves from being bombarded by someone with firearms.

However, these mutants were only acting with caution in mind. Chu Feng supposed that people from Bodhi Genes would probably never engage in destructive activities in a frenzied manner in an area where civilians concentrated.

Fighters from the two groups had clashes during daytime, and no-one had ever expected the night to be any less frantic.

Late at night, the fight broke out as expected.

Chu Feng stayed hidden on a high ground, then when the clashes reached its most chaotic climax, he moved in stealthily under the cover of the dark night. He kept a distance from the fighting scene. His superhuman eyesight allowed him to catch every detail of the fighting happening on the battleground in sight while staying inconspicuous from those engaged in fights.

The many things he had learnt from Lin Naoi today had included the face of Wan Qing. She had shown him a photo of her, depicting every detail of her facial features. He waited and watched for a long while before finally he found her scurrying away amidst the combative crowd. Chu Feng said someone would bail her out, and sure enough they did.

“Did Mu put her on bail?”

Chu Feng observed the fighting scene in the distance. That woman was a mutant with quite a formidable strength. At this very moment, every memory from the past called back to his mind. His hatred culminated when the bright smile of that young girl emerged before him, then soon vanished into the void after a blinding explosion. Chu Feng’s blood ran cold in his veins. He raised his gun, aimed at that abomination in the distance. With resolute, he pulled the triggered.

Boom!

A splash of blood splattered, then a blood-curdling scream came after.

Chu Feng walked away without looking back at the tragic scene, vanishing into the darkness of the night as the fighting continued.