

Dawn of a New Era #Chapter 131: Conflict - Read Dawn of a New Era Chapter 131: Conflict

Chapter 131: Chapter 131: Conflict

The banquet hall is styled like a Western palace, with bright yellow and white walls and ceiling, and thick cashmere carpet on the floor. Under the soft lighting of the hall, Song Tingting, wearing a light pink ancient-style Chinese long dress, looked graceful and bright, just like a lady emerging from the ancient Jiangnan water village.

Even Chen Shouyi couldn't help but lose focus for a moment, but he recovered quickly as it passed:

"What a coincidence, someone gave me an invitation, so I came to have a look."

Song Tingting was filled with surprise and didn't wonder how he got the invitation.

She wasn't planning to come today, but after dinner, she eagerly went to look for her senior, only to find he wasn't home. With her parents persistently encouraging her, coupled with her curiosity about the mysterious martial artists, she decided to come along.

She never expected to see her senior here.

"Is this your girlfriend?" The young lady beside her covered her mouth and laughed.

"No, a neighbor!" Chen Shouyi replied.

The young lady glanced at Song Tingting and said "Oh" meaningfully.

Song Tingting's bright eyes dimmed slightly, but she quickly clenched her fists, reinvigorating herself internally. She believed that as long as she worked hard, it's only a matter of time.

Chen Shouyi didn't explain either, and then asked Song Tingting: "Did you come alone?"

"I came with my dad. He tricked me. This place is boring, but thankfully, I ran into my senior." Song Tingting said shyly with a smile.

Following her discreet gaze, Chen Shouyi glanced over at a group of somewhat stout middle-aged people chatting in the corner, among them a balding middle-aged man who seemed familiar, he'd seen him a few times in the elevator.

Is this Song Tingting's father?

Just then, a robust middle-aged man in a suit raised his glass and walked over smiling:

"Ting Ting, didn't expect to see you here?"

"Hello, Uncle Qian!" Song Tingting quickly and politely greeted him.

"Don't call me uncle, it makes me sound old." He shrugged his shoulders and said: "I'm Qian Yadong, just call me Brother Dong."

"Oh, hello Brother Dong." Song Tingting said.

Chen Shouyi glanced at him and said nothing.

"Who are these two?" Qian Yadong suddenly looked at the young man accompanying Song Tingting and the young lady beside her, smiling as he asked.

"This is my senior, and this is..." Song Tingting said.

"I'm Zhao Qing!" The young lady immediately smiled and extended her hand: "Hedong TV, Legal Report."

Qian Yadong shook hands with her and smiled at Zhao Qing: "Long admired, long admired, I often watch your program."

Then he turned to Chen Shouyi with courtesy, but saw the other party just nod coldly, a trace of displeasure flashed through his mind, and he quickly shifted his gaze,

Zhao Qing smiled gracefully and said: "Really? That would be my honor."

She naturally wouldn't take those words seriously, realizing it was polite talk. She understood the martial artist's target wasn't her, but the pretty young lady.

She couldn't help but wonder what the arrogant young man's mood was at this moment?

Probably felt like he swallowed a fly!

Thinking of this, she found it funny, but also felt somewhat sorry for him.

Sure enough, exchanging a few courteous words, the other party turned their attention to Song Tingting: "Heard from President Song that Ting Ting is now learning Martial Arts, want Brother Dong to teach you?"

He had just met Song Tingting, and at first sight, he was immediately moved. Compared to the mature women here, the budding Song Tingting was like a tender lily.

"No need to trouble Uncle Qian, I'll just learn from my senior." Song Tingting quickly said, glancing at Chen Shouyi.

Hearing this, Qian Yadong glanced at the indifferent young man eating lamb chops beside him.

Oh, it's a little girl's Martial Arts idol.

But this kind of rival is actually quite easy to deal with.

He spoke earnestly in an elder's tone: "Ting Ting, Martial Arts is very rigorous, the basics at the beginning are the most important. Once practiced wrong, it's hard to correct later, don't learn blindly from others."

"But, the senior is really skilled." Song Tingting quickly explained for Chen Shouyi.

Qian Yadong couldn't help but chuckle internally, and said:

"How would a beginner know if someone's skilled? This counts as Martial Artist Apprentice, in the eyes of martial artists, it's full of mistakes. You should ask your senior to practice in front of me, maybe I can point out one or two mistakes."

Even a fool knows this is inappropriate, fearing her senior would get angry, Song Tingting quickly said: "Thank you, Uncle Qian, but better not trouble you."

Qian Yadong smiled with his wine glass raised: "You didn't ask, how do you know your senior wouldn't want to? If not for me, usually, few martial artists would point out mistakes in ordinary people's practice."

After speaking, he looked at Chen Shouyi, curious to see what reaction this somewhat aloof young man would have—whether he would flatly refuse or take the opportunity for instruction. If it was the latter, he would think more highly of him.

Song Tingting looked hesitant.

At this moment, Chen Shouyi finally couldn't hold back, placing his plate with a light clang, he raised his head impatiently and interrupted:

"Oh come on, are you done yet?"

He endured once or twice, but repeatedly being used as a target to show superiority, even a Buddha would burn with anger. Does he really think I'm made of clay?

Where do you get such confidence to show off in front of me?

If he were truly powerful, he would endure, gritting his teeth, but this weakling Martial Artist Level constantly chirping was really infuriating.

As soon as he spoke, the surroundings went silent.

Zhao Qing was shocked, quickly covering her mouth and thinking in her heart: This is bad.

Song Tingting also looked worried.

Qian Yadong became furious, his smile stiffened, trying hard to maintain his image: "Sorry, what did you just say?"

"I told you to get lost, didn't you understand?" Chen Shouyi coldly retorted.

Perhaps the influence of slaughter gave him this effect, or maybe it's the side effects of his body strengthening too fast. On top of being young and vigorous, in daily life, he could maintain a calm and gentle demeanor like a harmless lamb, but once provoked, the brutality within him completely ignites like gasoline on Mars, burning fiercely.

Qian Yadong's face felt hot, his teeth clenched, a strong anger surged to his head, glaring at Chen Shouyi.

But the other's imposing manner was overwhelming, full of confidence, and uncertain of what backing he had, for a moment he hesitated.

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"President Song, why did you bring your daughter too? If I remember correctly, your precious daughter is only a senior high student, in such a rush." An elderly man in his fifties or sixties joked.

"Yes, President Song, you're not being fair, you said you'd arrange a marriage with my son, but now you don't care?" Another middle-aged man laughed.

"Old brothers, you guys are joking, talking nonsense?" Song Qiran sighed:

"Oh, I'm troubled now, the older my daughter gets, the more she worries me. She'll be a money-loser sooner or later."

Suddenly, a commotion broke out in the banquet hall.

"Hey, what's happening over there? Looks like a conflict."

"President Song, looks like your daughter is there too, better go check."

Song Qiran was startled, there are quite a few martial artists here. If conflict arises, his precious daughter might be affected, so he quickly trotted over, not caring about his image.

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"Won't back down? Then hurry and get lost!" Chen Shouyi noticed he was still glaring at him, anger surging.

Zhao Qing, with her small red mouth opened, couldn't understand what was happening here.

At first thinking it was an ordinary youth's arrogant fierceness, but now, the previously high-spirited middle-aged martial artist dared anger without daring to speak.

As for Song Tingting, worried and confused, was already trying to understand.

Qian Yadong's forehead veins throbbed, his face flushed, clenched fists creaking, the humiliation made him feel like a volcano about to erupt.

At that moment a tall man quickly walked over.

"Chen Shouyi, what's happening?"

Hearing a familiar voice, Chen Shouyi turned to see Wei Xiang. He didn't expect him to be here too, and his anger slightly eased: "Just a clown, babbling endlessly."

"Wei Xiang, are you trying to defend this kid?" Qian Yadong said bitterly.

"Defend?" Wei Xiang seemed to find something funny, with a grin: "Qian Yadong, I'm helping you. Considering our long-standing friendship, I advise you to leave soon, or you'll end up embarrassed!"

Chapter 132: Chapter 132: Young and Impetuous

He's known Wei Xiang for years, a senior martial artist, much stronger than him. If even Wei Xiang says so, then this young man is evidently quite powerful, at least stronger in Wei Xiang's eyes.

When did Hedong City have such a young and powerful martial artist?

During the banquet, several familiar gazes turned his way.

Qian Yadong was stuck in place, his face turning alternately pale and flushed, caught in an embarrassing predicament.

He wanted to retreat, but to be driven away like that, under everyone's eyes, and to walk away in disgrace, where would he put his face? How could he face anyone in the future?

If it were someone smooth in handling affairs, they would have given him an easy way out long ago. Unfortunately, he was dealing with the hot-blooded Chen Shouyi.

Faced with this martial artist level weakling, he wouldn't accommodate him at all.

Chen Shouyi raised his chin, glanced at him with disdain, then turned to Wei Xiang and said, "When did you arrive?"

"Just arrived not long ago!" Wei Xiang glanced at Qian Yadong, holding a wine glass, and laughed.

Feeling the burning gazes all around, Qian Yadong stood there with a gloomy face, his facial muscles twitching, fluctuating between anger and calm, and that contemptuous gaze was like a fuse, igniting his rage entirely.

"Screw you!"

"Be careful!" At this moment, Wei Xiang suddenly said, but his body didn't move at all, his lips curling into an amused smile.

Beside him, Song Tingting was scared pale, about to scream.

Actually, without needing any reminder, Chen Shouyi had already sensed the movement behind him.

His expression turned cold, he suddenly spun around and delivered a whip kick, heavily hitting the figure charging at his back.

Qian Yadong came fast, but left even faster, flying four or five meters away, rolling on the ground a dozen times before crashing into the buffet table, finally coming to a stop.

He wobbily stood up, holding the table leg, golden stars in his eyes, and after taking a few steps, his body went limp, clutching the tablecloth, he slid to the ground, scattering seafood all over the place.

The crowd, originally just watching the commotion, suddenly erupted in shock, their faces filled with astonishment.

A moment later, a familiar martial artist came over to help Qian Yadong up, glanced at Chen Shouyi. When Chen Shouyi's gaze swept over, he quickly avoided eye contact, not daring to look again.

He helped Qian Yadong towards the door, seemingly prepared to take him to the hospital.

Wei Xiang looked slightly surprised and said, "You've grown stronger."

"Just made a bit of progress." Chen Shouyi withdrew his gaze, picked up a plate, pierced a piece of lamb chop, and put it in his mouth.

Earlier, he didn't use full force with that whip kick, and before hitting, he pulled back more than half of his strength. If it were for real, with that kick, how could Qian Yadong stand up again, his head would have already exploded.

Song Tingting stood beside him, dumbfounded, heart pounding, her face flushed red.

Wasn't senior just a martial artist apprentice, how did he manage to kick the mysterious, powerful martial artist flying?

It looked like he kicked him, right!

She didn't see it clearly, only saw her senior's body move slightly, and the other party flew away.

"Tingting, why are you still here, it's already late, we should head back!" At this moment, Song Qiran finally snapped back to his senses, hurried a few steps, grabbing Song Tingting's arm.

Earlier, he ran into a few old friends, couldn't avoid chatting for a while, letting Song Tingting wander around randomly, didn't expect her to join where it was lively. He should have known that these martial artists were full of vigor and would start fighting at the slightest disagreement, he wouldn't have brought Tingting along.

"Dad, it's still early, I want to stay a bit longer." Song Tingting shook off Song Qiran's hand and said.

"Didn't you just say you were bored and wanted to leave?" Song Qiran said, bewildered.

At this point, Chen Shouyi heard their conversation, turned around politely, and said, "Oh, hello, Uncle."

"Oh, hello, hello." Song Qiran, not daring to neglect, quickly extended his hand.

How could he not recognize this person, wasn't this the young martial artist who just knocked the opponent down? Initially, he thought someone so young and already a martial artist must be arrogant and flamboyant, with a cold attitude, but unexpectedly, he was actually quite polite.

Hmm? Why does he look a bit familiar, like I've seen him somewhere before.

However, he didn't plan to chat more. After today's events, he decided to stay respectful and distant from this kind of person, way too violent.

"Then we'll take our leave first, Tingting, let's go!" Song Qiran said.

Beside him, Song Tingting was clutching her skirt tightly, trying to remain calm, afraid to expose anything in front of her father. On hearing this, she quickly said, "Okay, let's go back."

She thought it's better to leave now, anyway, there would be plenty of opportunities to meet later on.

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Song Tingting and her father left quickly.

"No wonder! That girl is quite pretty, just a bit too young." Wei Xiang laughed and then realized: "Oops, sorry, I forgot about your age!"

Chen Shouyi gloomily took a sip of coke: "Don't compare me to you."

"You're not still a virgin, right?" Wei Xiang gave him an odd glance.

Chen Shouyi paused slightly: "Can we not have this boring conversation."

"I know quite a few women here who are famous socialites, pretty open-minded, they won't require you to commit, and they really like fresh martial artists like you. How about I introduce a few to you?" Wei Xiang lowered his voice and said.

"Get lost!"

"Then I'm heading over there first, enjoy your meal by yourself." Wei Xiang chuckled and said.

Wei Xiang's tall and strong build was like a giant, intimidating, and unapproachable. Once Wei Xiang left, Zhao Qing cautiously came over, looking at Chen Shouyi in surprise: "You're also a martial artist?"

"What's so strange about that, aren't there quite a few martial artists here?" Chen Shouyi said as he ate.

"Then I must have been blind not to recognize you. Let's get to know each other again, I'm Zhao Qing." Zhao Qing extended her hand, her attitude no longer as casual as before.

"Chen Shouyi!" He extended his hand and shook hers.

Seeing that Chen Shouyi's attitude towards her didn't change from before, showing no signs of the fierce arrogance during the fight, Zhao Qing relaxed.

Her alluring eyes observed him curiously, unable to resist asking: "Your body doesn't look like a martial artist at all, I thought you were an ordinary person. Aren't martial artists usually very muscular?"

"Maybe I was born a bit lean." Chen Shouyi explained.

In fact, he wasn't that lean. Among ordinary people, he counted as being on the stronger side of normal, but compared to those other martial artists, he was still lacking.

Perhaps it's due to his balanced physical attributes, with agility and strength highly aligned, his muscles appeared tight and compact, densely packed like twisted steel wires, not protruding like those of typical martial artists, lacking that visual sense of pressure.

Following this, the two conversed casually.

After ten or so minutes, Chen Shouyi took a towel from a server's tray and wiped his mouth: "I'm full, I'll leave now."

"I'm leaving too, let's go together!" Zhao Qing got up and said.

The two of them exited the hotel.

"Didn't you drive here?" Zhao Qing asked, seeing Chen Shouyi heading straight for the taxi in front.

"I still can't drive." Chen Shouyi said.

Thinking to himself, he must get a driver's license someday, not having a car is too inconvenient.

"How about I give you a ride?" Zhao Qing suggested, her eyes twinkling.

"Thanks, no need." Chen Shouyi said.

It would be too troublesome for her!

Chapter 133: Chapter 133: New Edition

The next day, Sunday afternoon.

Chen Shouyi stood at the high-speed rail station exit, waiting and glancing at his watch from time to time.

He had not long returned home last night when Mrs. Chen called, saying they would arrive this afternoon. As soon as he finished lunch, he quickly rushed to the high-speed rail station.

After waiting for nearly two hours, his parents and Chen Xingyue finally came out, carrying large bags and small packages.

"Dad, Mom, Xing Yue!" Chen Shouyi called out eagerly.

"Brother!"

They had all gotten much tanner, but they looked even more spirited.

Chen Dawei refused Chen Shouyi's attempt to help with the luggage, smiling he said, "Go help your mom, didn't I say there's no need to come and pick us up?"

"I have nothing to do at home anyway."

Mrs. Chen also wanted to refuse but was intercepted by Chen Shouyi: "Mom, what's in here, it's so heavy?"

"Just some local snacks and specialties." As she spoke, Mrs. Chen complained, "Sigh, these days have thinned my legs. It's just paying to suffer!"

But seeing her radiant look, it was clear she didn't quite mean what she said.

"Brother, why don't you help me carry mine? My luggage is the heaviest, okay?" Chen Xingyue said discontentedly.

"You're a Martial Artist Apprentice, and you can't carry it?" Chen Shouyi glanced at his sister.

After a trip, she was noticeably more lively, clearly having completely moved past the previous shadows.

"Even as a Martial Artist Apprentice, I'm still a girl! No wonder you can't find a girlfriend!" Chen Xingyue huffed.

"Who says I can't?" Chen Shouyi chuckled, saying, "Your brother just hasn't found one yet!"

"Okay, you two stop arguing and be quiet," Mrs. Chen said, seeing Chen Shouyi heading straight out of the station, she couldn't help but ask, "Shouyi, aren't we getting a taxi?"

"I called a car over!"

Of course, the car was driven by Bai Xiaoling.

What's the matter with using official resources for private use?

Bai Xiaoling is his personal driver and liaison officer, isn't she?

By this time, Bai Xiaoling had long been waiting outside the car. Seeing everyone coming over, she hurriedly greeted, "Hello Uncle, Auntie, Xing Yue, you're getting prettier!"

"Oh my, Officer Bai, this is too much trouble!" Mrs. Chen said, flattered.

"We really appreciate it," Chen Dawei also said politely.

"Uncle, Auntie, it's my duty."

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Half an hour later, the car quickly arrived at the community, and the group took their luggage and stepped out of the car.

Just at that moment, a balding, slightly overweight middle-aged man also came out of an Audi, he instinctively glanced at them, and when he saw Chen Shouyi, his expression slightly froze.

Chen Shouyi also noticed him and politely said, "Hello, Uncle?"

"Ah, hello, hello!" Song Qiran was so surprised he couldn't close his mouth.

"Shouyi, you know him?" Chen Dawei asked curiously, and Chen Xingyue and Mrs. Chen also turned to look.

"Yes, I've met him a few times, they live next door. Let me introduce, I'm Chen Shouyi, these are my parents, and this is my sister. And this is Mr. Song," Chen Shouyi introduced.

Stunned by the flood of information, Song Qiran quickly reacted: "Hello Brother Chen, hello Madam, your son is promising, and your daughter is pretty, really enviable."

"You're too kind, Mr. Song. To be honest, we just moved in not long ago, always busy with business, never got around to visiting neighbors. We wanted to find some time, but ended up going on a trip, just got back today." Being a businessman, Chen Dawei smoothly replied with these pleasantries.

"The ones who should be embarrassed are us. My wife and I leave early and return late every day, didn't even know there were new neighbors. What business are you in, Brother Chen?"

"What big business, just a small restaurant near the community entrance to make a living," Chen Dawei quickly waved his hands.

"Brother Chen, you're humble, but with a son as a Martial Artist, you should enjoy some peace!" Song Qiran complimented, then suddenly remembered something, "By the way, where do you live?"

"502, how about you?" Mrs. Chen replied.

"What a coincidence, we're next door, 503. We'll have to keep in touch more often," Song Qiran said, and just as he finished speaking, he seemed struck by lightning, suddenly freezing.

He glanced at Chen Shouyi, thinking this kid had a pretty face, easily attracting naive young girls, and recalling his daughter standing by him last night, reluctantly leaving when called.

And thinking how several times his daughter went out at night only for a minute, returning strangely. Clearly, that's not enough time to go outside.

Along with always taking so many snacks.

Everything quickly connected in his mind.

Damn it!

It was you, you punk.

No wonder he was flattered when greeted as "Uncle", and now he gnawed his teeth in secret.

Seducing my daughter, Ting Ting is only sixteen!

Still in her senior year, this beast!

If the other party wasn't a Martial Artist who could take him down with a finger, he would've punched him long ago.

"Mr. Song, are you alright?" Chen Dawei asked concerned, seeing Song Qiran's changing expressions.

Song Qiran snapped back to reality, forcing a smile, "Oh, oh, nothing... just suddenly remembered some company affairs."

Luckily, the elevator reached the fifth floor, avoiding continued awkwardness.

Song Qiran watched them open the door next door.

"We'll go inside first, unless you want to come in and sit for a bit."

"Ah, no need, no trouble," Song Qiran quickly walked a few steps to his door, sighed, and then opened the door.

Zhang Jingyi, mopping the floor, stopped and asked, "Back so soon, didn't you say there was something at the company?"

"Already dealt with!" Song Qiran collapsed onto the sofa, asking, "Where's Ting Ting?"

"In her room doing homework?" Zhang Jingyi laughed.

Song Qiran wanted to call his daughter out to sternly scold her, but after thinking for a long time, he reluctantly gave up. First, this precious daughter was always obedient, never scolded or hit her. Second, at this age, during her rebellious phase, pushing her could backfire. He could only subtly approach the topic over dinner.

But whatever happened today, she can't go out, what would that look like.

...

After dinner, Chen Shouyi returned to his room and opened his laptop.

When the boot screen appeared, he opened a webpage, planning to read the news for a while.

But as soon as he opened it, he was surprised to find a big "Fourth Set of Body Refinement Thirty-Six Forms Released" on the Baidu homepage.

Delayed for so long, the Martial Arts Bureau finally released the fourth set?

Chen Shouyi pondered then immediately clicked with his mouse.

Soon a video appeared on the screen.

No ads. After loading, the formal video started playing.

The young performer in the video looked quite raw, seeming only about fifteen or sixteen, but his movements were immaculate, each gesture had a certain charm, indicative of mastering introspection, reaching the stage of embodiment.

The other party probably is a teenage genius Martial Artist.

However, Chen Shouyi only slightly surprised, considering there are 1.6 billion people in the country (this world has no birth control), geniuses aplenty, he didn't give it much thought, continuing to watch the video.

As the video played.

Chen Shouyi couldn't help feeling a stir inside.

Isn't this set the optimized version of the Book of Knowledge?

Although not identical, with slight differences in places, their similarity exceeded ninety percent.

PS: The next Chapter will still update in the afternoon.

Chapter 134: Chapter 134: Impact

"However, the Book of Knowledge itself is optimized from the basic framework of the Thirty-six Body Refinement Techniques. It's not surprising that the research results are similar to human findings," Chen Shouyi pondered:

"The optimized version of the Thirty-six Body Refinement Techniques is likely to influence Martial Arts as significantly as humanity moving from the steam age to the electrical age. It's foreseeable that starting today, the number of Martial Artist Apprentices will likely experience explosive growth, and in the coming years, the number of Martial Artists will also continue to increase, further strengthening human capability."

Chen Shouyi then visited other websites, finding that news, TV shows, entertainment channels, and various forums were filled with information about the new version of the Thirty-six Body Refinement Techniques. It was promotion from top to bottom by the authorities, with almost all media outlets putting in their efforts.

Just then, there was a knock at the door:

"Bro, open the door! Hurry up!"

Chen Shouyi quickly got up and opened the bedroom door. Seeing the excited Chen Xingyue in her pajamas, he had already guessed what it was about in his heart:

"What's up?"

"Bro, have you seen the news? The Thirty-six Body Refinement Techniques you taught me are almost like the new version!" As soon as she saw Chen Shouyi, Chen Xingyue couldn't wait to say.

So, she has noticed.

"I've seen it. What's surprising about it? The new version was developed through repeated experimentation on the original Thirty-six Body Refinement Techniques, so how different can it be from my own experiences?" Chen Shouyi said shamelessly with a calm face.

"But..."

This is the latest joint release by the Martial Arts Bureau and countries around the world. Many laboratories and scientists participated. If it were really similar to your own experience, wouldn't that mean all those scientists were doing fruitless work?

"Don't be so surprised. Once you've reached the state of introspection and body training, you'll roughly understand. How's your practice going now?" Chen Shouyi changed the subject subtly.

"I've made rapid progress recently." Speaking of which, Chen Xingyue immediately became a bit excited, "I estimate that within three years, I'll be able to apply for Martial Artist training, and I'll be able to catch up with you then."

My sister, you're overthinking it.

"Don't slack off in quiet introspection and body training; it's very important."

"I know, bro. I practice every night and at lunchtime," Chen Xingyue said.

...

Time rewound to an hour ago, Zhang Jingyi placed the dishes on the table and knocked on her daughter's bedroom door. "Time to eat; Tingting, stop doing your homework."

"Oh, I'm coming," Song Tingting's voice came from the bedroom.

Song Qiran tossed aside the newspaper he'd read several times and walked to the dining table. Soon he saw Song Tingting walking out of the bedroom:

"Mom, the dishes you cooked today smell great!"

"Eat as much as you want, you've lost a lot of weight from practicing Martial Arts every day recently," Zhang Jingyi smiled as she placed the chopsticks in front of Song Tingting.

"Okay, today I'll eat two bowls," Song Tingting said as she picked up the chopsticks.

During the meal, Song Qiran occasionally glanced at Song Tingting, as if wanting to say something.

"Dad, why do you keep looking at me? I can't even eat like this," Song Tingting said playfully.

"It's just that I've realized how much my daughter has grown without noticing," Song Qiran sighed.

Zhang Jingyi, not understanding, scolded him. "It's not your first time seeing her; why are you so sentimental? I find you quite odd today."

Song Qiran, filled with mixed feelings, said, "Do you know a new family has moved in upstairs in apartment 502?"

"I didn't know that; why?" Zhang Jingyi asked curiously. Nowadays, neighbors are distant. Many people don't even know how many people live next door or their names after years of living in the same place.

Song Tingting, who was eating, suddenly paused, her ears perking up.

"It's a family of four, and their daughter is about Tingting's age. I even know their son," Song Qiran continued.

"Who?" Zhang Jingyi asked curiously.

"Didn't I attend a banquet with Tingting yesterday? Their son was there too, and he got into a verbal dispute with a Martial Artist!"

"Oh!" Zhang Jingyi exclaimed, "Is their son okay?"

Song Tingting was biting her chopsticks, her brows slightly furrowed, thinking: So, the senior isn't living alone. He has parents and a sister. Should I still go today? I wonder if his sister is easy to get along with.

"Don't worry. Their son is fine. It was the Martial Artist who got hospitalized," Song Qiran concluded, feeling smug as he glanced at Song Tingting, who was lost in thought.

Hmph, you think you're keeping secrets, but in fact, everything is under my control.

Zhang Jingyi was surprised: "From what you said, their son isn't much older than Tingting. Is he a Martial Artist too? We should formally pay them a visit!"

Song Qiran was taken aback by this and asked, "A person with such an impulsive temperament, getting physical at the slightest disagreement—aren't you worried? I was actually considering moving to another house."

Zhang Jingyi looked at Song Qiran strangely, "What are you worried about? We haven't offended this Martial Artist. Besides, having a Martial Artist living next door makes us much safer. Recently, Hedong City hasn't been very peaceful. Let's buy a gift some other day and pay them a visit."

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Having finally managed to send his sister away, Chen Shouyi locked the door and sat back down.

He checked the time.

It was already 6:30. Had it been any other day, Song Tingting would have been knocking by now. It seemed she wouldn't be coming today.

He took the Shell Lady out of the briefcase and placed her on the bed.

She opened her eyes drowsily and quickly sat up.

"Oh Great Giant, I want to watch Prepared."

The Shell Lady was getting better at flattering him.

But Chen Shouyi liked this approach: "We'll watch after dinner."

"Okay!" The Shell Lady held two small glass beads in her tiny hands, idly bumping them together, producing a crisp sound from time to time. "Great Giant, when are we going back to my home?"

"In a few days." Chen Shouyi was taken aback—how did she start feeling homesick again?

"But I really should find a fixed alien world to train in. My progress in strength has slowed down recently," he thought.

After feeding her honey, Chen Shouyi played an animation for her.

...

Time passed quietly for a few days. During this time, information about the new version of the Thirty-six Body Refinement Techniques spread to almost every corner of Hedong City. Whether on billboards, television walls in squares, or even at the entrance of the neighborhood, banners were hung up.

Online posts and short videos sharing experiences and insights about practicing the new version popped up like mushrooms after rain.

In terms of promotional intensity, subsequent social impact, and topic relevance, it far surpassed the previous three editions. Some media even declared that humanity had already embarked on the path of self-evolution.

Even Mrs. Chen, who usually didn't pay much attention to news and current events, occasionally discussed it at the dinner table these days.

Chapter 135: Chapter 135: Purity

After dinner.

Chen Shouyi sat in front of the computer, skillfully logging into the Explorer Network to search for information about nearby spatial passages.

As a second-tier city on the verge of becoming a first-tier city, Hedong City covers an impressive total area of 16,000 square kilometers and has over a hundred spatial passages. In his district alone, a space of just over thirty square kilometers, there is one spatial passage.

From the downloaded materials on the Explorer Network, Chen Shouyi had a general understanding of this spatial passage.

Located ten meters underground, with a diameter of twenty-four or five meters, it was discovered after a massive collapse created by an earthquake eight years ago, forming a huge underground cavity.

Due to its early discovery, this spatial passage has been explored numerous times.

Its danger level is marked as "Moderately Dangerous."

The spatial passage he discovered in Dongning City was classified as "Mildly Dangerous."

"Moderately Dangerous" is one level higher than "Mildly Dangerous," making it a relatively low danger level.

If there are many otherworldly creatures nearby that can potentially threaten humans, it is considered "Moderately Dangerous."

Above that are "Highly Dangerous," "Catastrophic," and "Destructive" levels.

The newly discovered spatial passage in Mou Luo Town, Dongning, though small, is linked to deities and thus marked as "Catastrophic."

To Chen Shouyi's current strength, "Moderately Dangerous" doesn't pose much threat.

Most importantly, this passage is in the same district, just a dozen kilometers from his home, so he can come and go as he pleases.

He opened the electronic map of Hedong City to check the specific location of the spatial passage and the surrounding areas.

That's when he heard the doorbell from outside, and the living room quickly became lively.

"Shou Yi, come out quickly, we have guests." Mrs. Chen said outside the door.

"Oh!"

Chen Shouyi stood up and said, opened the side door, and found that the whole family of Song Tingting had come over today.

"Hello, Uncle Song, and this must be Auntie?"

"Hello, hello!" Song Qiran stood up with a stiff smile.

Zhang Jingyi secretly sized up Chen Shouyi. Influenced by Song Qiran's words, she had previously thought of him as big, rough, and ill-tempered.

But now, seeing him, she found he was quite a handsome young man, not too old but very polite. She beamed, "Auntie will take the liberty of calling you Shou Yi, hope you don't mind?"

"You're an elder, you can call me anything, I don't mind." Chen Shouyi said courteously.

"I heard that martial artists usually have concurrent posts. Shou Yi, which unit are you currently affiliated with?"

"The Lower District Public Security Bureau. There's not much to do usually." Chen Shouyi replied.

"Then we're part of the same system. Auntie works at the prosecutor's office!" Zhang Jingyi said with satisfaction, more pleased with Cheng Shouyi. She turned to Mrs. Chen on the side, "Sister-in-law, these kids are really good-looking, just like you."

Mrs. Chen laughed, unable to keep her mouth closed: "Oh, what's so good-looking about me? I'm old now. You're the one who looks beautiful, can't even tell that your daughter is old enough. You look like you're just thirty."

"Oh, it's all makeup. The base isn't as good as yours. If I don't wear makeup, I'm embarrassed to go outside. If you adorned yourself a bit, Brother Chen might get anxious." Zhang Jingyi said humbly.

"What's there to be anxious about? When we were young, he never seemed to care much."

...

Chen Shouyi watched blankly as the two women exchanged compliments back and forth.

How very skilled they are.

As for Chen Dawei and Song Qiran, they both just laughed along, unable to join the conversation, eventually chatting separately.

"Senior!" At this moment, Song Tingting couldn't help but call out.

"Oh!" Chen Shouyi snapped back to reality: "What's up?"

"Brother, have you known each other for a long time?" Chen Xingyue suddenly asked, glancing at the pretty Song Tingting beside her.

"Not very long." Chen Shouyi said: "Right, let me introduce you, this is Song Tingting, and this is my sister, Chen Xingyue."

"Hello!" Song Tingting quickly said warmly, "Where do you go to school?"

"I used to be a freshman in Dongning, but after moving here, I stopped attending classes."

"She got directly admitted to the Beijing Martial Arts Academy!" Chen Shouyi explained.

Song Tingting covered her mouth in surprise: "Junior, you're amazing to get admitted to the Beijing Martial Arts Academy as a freshman!"

Chen Xingyue blushed at the compliment: "It's nothing. My brother is the impressive one. He became a martial artist in his senior year."

"Senior year?" Song Tingting blinked, surprised.

"Yes, this year he even passed the Martial Artist Apprentice and Martial Artist exams consecutively. He's probably the youngest martial artist in Hedong." Chen Xingyue bragged for Chen Shouyi.

With her brother being such a blockhead and clueless about romance, she'd be worried that he'd never find a girlfriend if she didn't help out.

Song Tingting exclaimed and couldn't help but glance at Chen Shouyi. She thought to herself; So senior was in his senior year too.

Chen Shouyi quickly cleared his throat.

At this point, Chen Xingyue said, "It's too stuffy here, why don't we go talk outside?"

"Sure, sure!" Song Tingting quickly agreed. The living room was full of adults, and there were many things they couldn't discuss.

"Why don't you go, I'll stay here." Chen Shouyi hesitated. Two girls talking, what was there for him to join in?

Brother, acting like this, you're really going to be single forever. Chen Xingyue secretly criticized in her heart and said: "If you don't go, in the dark and gloomy, what if us two girls meet a bad guy?"

"Alright!" Chen Shouyi relented. He turned back and said: "Dad, mom, Uncle Song, Auntie, the three of us will go for a walk outside, we'll be back soon."

"Go ahead, go ahead!" Before Song Qiran could reply, Zhang Jingyi smiled and said.

With a martial artist accompanying them, there's nothing to worry about regarding safety.

Mrs. Chen also said: "You two take good care of Tingting."

"Got it."

...

The three walked out of the residential building.

The two girls walked ahead, chattering in whispers, while Chen Shouyi followed behind, bored.

"Did you watch the last episode of Happy World?"

"Yes, yes, that person was so funny."

After moving to Hedong, Chen Xingyue didn't go to school and had no close friends, spending almost every day at home.

One was worried about her brother, and the other wanted to please. The result was that they quickly became besties, chatting about everything.

"Xing Yue, what was the senior like when he was little?"

"My brother, well, he worked hard and diligently. He studied every day, practiced martial arts, and when he came home, he would help kill fish and chickens." Chen Xingyue said on behalf of her brother.

"He can kill fish and chickens?"

Chen Xingyue thought to herself, what's that? My brother has killed a lot of people, probably scare you to death if I said it out loud.

"You can't do it?"

"I've never done it before. Oh, by the way, does your brother have a girlfriend?" Song Tingting asked quietly with excitement.

"Him? Of course not... but I know many girls chase after him, since he's a martial artist, strong, and though he's not handsome, many people like that kind." Chen Xingyue whispered.

"The senior is very handsome!" Song Tingting immediately countered.

"Handsome? He used to be very dark, not noticeable at all, only recently he's gotten fairer." Chen Xingyue said.

"You've just gotten used to him!" Song Tingting said. She then suddenly leaned into Chen Xingyue's ear and whispered: "By the way, I've touched his muscles once, they're really strong."

"You pervert!" Chen Xingyue exclaimed, shocked: "You touched him?"

Song Tingting quickly covered her flushed face: "I was learning sword from the senior and needed to understand muscle strength, the senior agreed to let me touch him, it was purely innocent, I just touched him a few times!"

You all think I can't hear, huh.

Walking behind them, Chen Shouyi listened, his face turning red.

Chapter 136: Chapter 136: Strange Bird

The car turned the corner at a bustling intersection, and Chen Shouyi saw a thick isolation wall ahead, towering fifteen or sixteen meters high, extending indefinitely, a magnificent sight.

"Inside the isolation wall is the military zone," Bai Xiaoling explained as she drove, "The entire military zone has expanded to three square kilometers over the years, and the nearby residents have been relocated elsewhere."

After driving along the isolation wall for a few minutes, the car stopped at a giant iron gate.

Two rows of fully armed soldiers stood solemnly guarding the gate.

"My car doesn't have a pass, so I guess I can't go in!" Bai Xiaoling turned back.

"This is far enough," Chen Shouyi said.

He opened the car door and retrieved his luggage from the trunk.

"Be careful!" Bai Xiaoling got out of the car and couldn't help saying as she saw Chen Shouyi walking straight to the gate.

Chen Shouyi turned his head and smiled, "Yeah, head back."

...

Compared to the military defense zone Chen Shouyi had entered before, this one was noticeably more commercialized.

Inside, there was a supply supermarket specifically for explorers, along with a purchase point for precious herbs.

A logistic officer even specially delivered an exquisite full-color herbal guide marked with various purchase prices.

Chen Shouyi flipped through a few pages and found that all were priced per gram, even the cheapest otherworldly herb could fetch a whopping five thousand yuan per gram, while the highest could go for forty or fifty thousand per gram, to one's amazement.

"Do they not purchase meat here?" Chen Shouyi was suddenly curious and asked.

The logistic officer laughed, "We don't purchase meat; explorers are a precious asset to the country. Policies don't encourage explorers to take risks in hunting, to avoid unnecessary casualties, and the country bans the trade of otherworldly meat."

So that's why.

However, Chen Shouyi guessed that besides this reason, the biggest concern might be to prevent commercial invasion, causing explorers to lose the motivation to explore unknown spatial passages.

Even an ordinary otherworldly creature is far stronger than those on Earth, more nutritious for ordinary people. Once released, countless millionaires would flock, inflating prices sky-high.

When explorers can earn significant cash hunting in a low-risk spatial passage, who would take the risk of venturing into the unknown passage?

After all, people born to love adventure and thrill are few; most embark on adventures driven by profit.

Next, Chen Shouyi wandered around the supply supermarket.

The supermarket was small, mostly filled with military items like camouflage clothing, trenching shovels, portable ration packs, and some arrows.

Chen Shouyi spent over a thousand yuan buying a lighter specifically for use in another world and a military telescope.

As for food and arrows, he had already stocked up in advance, so there was no need to purchase more.

Then, Chen Shouyi entered a building with tight security, walked down a wide corridor, passing through several thick iron doors. A few minutes later, a round spatial passage with a diameter of over twenty meters appeared before him.

Inside, a long metal staircase extended from the passage mouth, reaching all the way to his feet.

Feeling his body awakening with strength, he took a deep breath and started descending step by step.

When he reached the fifth step, he suddenly felt his body sink, the surrounding space rapidly changing. When his vision cleared again, he was standing in mid-air, tens of meters off the ground, surrounded by dense forest. A few branches grew wildly, even extending above the staircase.

Gusty winds flowed chaotically around him, countless whirlwinds appearing out of thin air, then disappearing in an instant.

Chen Shouyi quickly held onto the metal railing of the stairs. If this were Earth, the ten meters fall would leave him unscathed, but in this otherworld under triple gravity, even with his current physique, he could easily break bones from the fall.

Watching the swirling winds around, he focused his mind, and the wind abruptly vanished.

He continued to walk down.

No one knew how long it had been since the lower steps were cleaned, accumulating a thick layer of dirt and fallen leaves, overgrown with lush weeds. His sturdy boots crunched on them.

The bottom of the steps was not anchored on the ground but constructed on an uneven mound. Chen Shouyi looked at the exposed steel rods, which hadn't rusted much even now; evidently, this mound was formed by collapse and fallen concrete blocks from above the passage.

He descended the steps, lightly crossed over the mound, and quickly reached the bottom.

Chen Shouyi glanced around. It was dimly lit; dense, primitive forest surrounded him on all sides. According to maps drawn by explorers before, he was in a flat area on the side of a mountain notch, walking east for four or five kilometers would lead to a gorge.

To the north was a deep, bottomless crevice extending for unknown kilometers.

But Chen Shouyi was not here to explore.

He opened his suitcase, fetched the War Bow components, quickly assembled them, and tied the quiver to his side. Then he carried the sword and marched towards the forest.

...

"Such annoying bugs!"

Chen Shouyi frowned slightly, flicking a bug that tried to land on his face with his finger; it shot off like a bullet, hitting a tree and exploding into vibrant liquid.

The forest was home to many animals, primarily agile small herbivorous ones. They would flee as soon as he came close.

After walking for over ten minutes, he chose an empty spot under a large tree to stop.

Then he released the Shell Lady.

"I woke up as soon as we arrived here," Shell Lady excitedly flew up and landed on Chen Shouyi's shoulder, her little face full of joy. "Good Giant, are we hunting the evil giant again this time?"

She really remembered all this time.

"No."

"Oh!" Shell Lady looked a little disappointed. After examining her surroundings, she quickly perked up again, "This doesn't seem like a small island; I want to check the area!"

Saying this, she pushed off and flew into the distance.

"Don't fly too far!" Chen Shouyi immediately called after her, worried because, in this forest, predators were abundant for a creature of her small size.

"Good Giant, I'll be good and return soon," Shell Lady said while flying.

She was indeed well-behaved, flying only a dozen meters before quickly returning, landing on Chen Shouyi's shoulder, trembling, "Good Giant, a mean bird is watching me, it wants to eat me!"

"Where?" Chen Shouyi instantly became alert, grasping the War Bow.

"On the tree ahead!" Chen Shouyi walked forward a few steps and followed the direction Shell Lady pointed. After discerning for some time, he noticed a peculiar green bird hidden beneath the leaves.

Though called a bird, it shared no resemblance with those on Earth.

It had a snake-like neck covered in scales, a flat head, and interlocking sharp teeth; it looked quite sinister and frightening, no wonder Shell Lady was terrified.

Its body was about twenty or thirty centimeters wide and likely half a meter from head to tail.

With Shell Lady's size, it could gulp her down in one bite.

It perched on a high branch, tilting its head, its fiery red eyes quietly observing below.

"Good Giant, this evil bird is watching me," Shell Lady tightly clutched Chen Shouyi's hair, shrinking on his shoulder, whispering her complaint.

Chen Shouyi nodded, said nothing, silently drew an arrow, slowly pulled the bowstring, and then quickly released it. With a sharp whistling sound, the arrow shot out like lightning.

The bird took a hit and fell, flapping its wings and dropping straight down.

On the ground, it struggled and screamed, appearing quite ferocious.

"This evil bird isn't dead yet!" Shell Lady exclaimed loudly, looking at the bird nearby, very nervous.

"What's the rush?" Chen Shouyi said, amused.

Saying this, he drew another arrow, approached, and shot, severing its snake-like neck. Even detached, the neck still twisted, mouth still opened and shut.

Then, Chen Shouyi shot another arrow, soon silencing the bird completely.

PS: Requesting monthly votes; just a little short of the tenth for the new book.

Chapter 137: Chapter 137: Courage

Next, the Shell Lady didn't dare to fly around recklessly anymore.

The radius of her movement quickly shrank to within five meters centered around Chen Shouyi. She cautiously looked around in all directions.

Sometimes when a strange little insect crawled out from the ground, it startled her so much that she screamed and yelled, acting all jumpy.

Since she grew up on that deserted island, where living creatures were pitifully few—not to mention animals, even insects weren't numerous—the most common were the shells on the beach and some crustaceans from the ocean.

However, she was so used to seeing those creatures that she was no longer surprised by them. Even though they seemed like giants to her, she wasn't particularly afraid. But most creatures in this forest she had never encountered before.

At first, every time the Shell Lady was startled, Chen Shouyi would help her by stomping the insects that scared her.

But after doing it repeatedly, he got quite annoyed. These insects were about the size of flies at their smallest and dung beetles at their largest.

Even with the Shell Lady's physique, as long as she was a bit braver, she could easily kick them away.

Finally, Chen Shouyi simply broke off a small tree branch, sharpened one end with his sword, then handed the slightly over ten-centimeter-long stick, which could barely be called a spear or a sword, to the Shell Lady:

"Next time you see an insect, stab it."

"But, good Giant, the insects are fierce and will bite me!" the Shell Lady said timidly, taking the small stick.

You've never seemed this timid when you lost your temper before.

Chen Shouyi, silently expressing his thoughts, encouraged her: "You even helped me kill the evil Giant before, you're the bravest!"

Perhaps recalling her past achievements, the Shell Lady became excited, her breathing quickened, and her small face blushed a bit as she exclaimed loudly: "Hmm, I'm Prepared, I'm not afraid of bad insects, I'm the bravest."

Holding the small stick, she bit her lip hard and silently steeled herself.

"Yes, you're the bravest. Look, there's an insect crawling out over there," Chen Shouyi pointed to an insect in the distance to motivate her.

It was a larva of some unknown insect, fluffy, with frightening patterns all over its body, and its dozen pairs of legs slowly crawled. Although its size was a bit large and somewhat scary, it posed no threat to the Shell Lady.

She looked over quickly and clearly hesitated.

"Go on!" Chen Shouyi urged, "Aren't you Prepared? Prepared is the bravest."

"I'm Prepared, I'm Prepared, I'm not afraid of bad insects, I will kill it, smash it, never let it bite people again." The Shell Lady mumbled fiercely to herself. But her feet wouldn't budge an inch.

All show, no go.

The mental victory method seems to work quite well for her.

Chen Shouyi couldn't help but give her a little push with his finger, resulting in her taking a step forward but retreating three steps.

After a long while, the Shell Lady suddenly made a crying face and turned back, saying, "Good Giant, I'm so scared, I'm really scared, boo-hoo!"

Chen Shouyi was at a loss for words in his heart.

This courage is smaller than a mouse's.

"Alright, alright, if you don't want to kill it, then don't." Seeing the teary-eyed Shell Lady, Chen Shouyi quickly comforted her, then walked over and stepped on the insect with a "splat," killing it.

After returning, the tears on the Shell Lady's face had mysteriously disappeared, and she mimicked Chen Shouyi's action, awkwardly thrusting her stick forward, raising her head and confidently said: "That bad insect was too big, too fierce. Next time I encounter a smaller one, I will definitely kill it."

Chen Shouyi no longer had any expectations for her. As long as she's happy.

He nonchalantly nodded: "Yes, you're the bravest."

Then, he walked to the side and stopped paying attention to her, continuing to practice the 36 Body Refining Techniques.

After one round, the dense Mysterious Power soaked through every part of his body, the intense numbness faded away, making him feel as comfortable as soaking in a hot spring, which worked far better than practicing on Earth.

He continued practicing, going through it twelve times until most of his energy was spent before he finally stopped.

At this point, he suddenly noticed that it seemed like the Shell Lady hadn't been startled for quite a while.

Alarmed at this thought, he immediately looked around and let out a sigh of relief when realizing it was just a false alarm. He saw the Shell Lady holding a small stick, patrolling around, when suddenly she seemed to catch a subtle noise. She quickly ran to a nearby pile of fallen leaves, gripping the stick with a vigilant look.

A few seconds later, a small black beetle the size of a fingernail crawled out from under the leaf. The Shell Lady screamed and dashed forward.

She swung the stick at the beetle relentlessly.

With just one strike, she cracked the beetle's shell, and with a second strike, its insides splattered, rendering it immobile. She continued to hit it over a dozen times until the beetle was thoroughly smashed and unrecognizable before stopping excitedly.

Chen Shouyi was stunned.

Did she take some kind of stimulant?

How did she become so fierce!

At this point, the Shell Lady noticed Chen Shouyi and quickly ran over to show off: "Good Giant, I've already killed a-a-a... a bad insect."

Chen Shouyi didn't bother to count how many "a's" that was, and asked curiously, "Why aren't you afraid anymore?"

The Shell Lady proudly stated: "I'm not afraid of those bad insects anymore!"

Look at her go!

Nevertheless, when thinking about it, given the Shell Lady's size, she really wouldn't fear any small insects. The fear was merely because most of the insects here were completely new to her.

...

When Chen Shouyi arrived, it was already afternoon in this other world.

He only stayed for five or six hours, and the sun began to set gradually. As the light rapidly dimmed, he checked the sky and immediately packed his bags to head back.

The forest darkened faster than outside.

Before setting off, the light inside was still quite bright, but after walking for a few minutes, it was already pitch black.

A sinister air, like mist, gradually rose from the ground and spread in all directions.

Deep in the forest, it seemed as though pairs of glowing green eyes were greedily staring over.

Chen Shouyi gripped the sword hilt tightly, scanned coldly around, quickened his pace, and headed toward the passage. Before long, he could see the passage entrance from afar, and he quickly stepped up onto the passage stairs.

At that moment, a beast's roar, like a steam whistle, echoed from afar.

The Shell Lady shivered in fear, clinging tightly to Chen Shouyi's hair.

This sound was deep and prolonged, as if even the air was resonating, clearly indicating that this creature was colossally large.

Standing on the stairs, Chen Shouyi looked into the distance, but unfortunately, apart from the forest leaves vibrating slightly, he couldn't see anything.

The roar lasted more than a minute before stopping, and once it ended, the previously noisy forest fell into an absolute silence, with not a sound to be heard. Listening intently for a while, he couldn't pick up any particular noises.

He breathed a slight sigh of relief, certain that the creature was still very far away from here.

The danger assessment of the passage was only a rough evaluation made based on the Explorer's exploration within a five-kilometer radius centered on the passage. Even if there is no oversight, it will change over time and circumstances. "Medium Danger Level" may become "High Danger Level" anytime, or even disaster level.

"Next time I come, I have to be more careful, definitely cannot venture deep into the forest," he mused to himself: "However, as long as I stay near the passage, it shouldn't be too dangerous."

Begging for monthly votes ahhhhhhhhhh

Chapter 138: Chapter 138: Threat

Since entering January, the weather has grown colder day by day, often dropping below minus five degrees, even reaching minus ten degrees.

Chen Shouyi got up early in the morning, and outside a thick layer of snow had already accumulated.

In the Jiangnan region, snow is always a rare occurrence.

Especially such heavy snow.

The snow is really white and soft!

Even Chen Shouyi couldn't help but grab a large handful of snow, molding it into a snowball, and played with it in his hand.

This year's climate is quite unusual, meteorological experts predict that this winter will be about ten degrees colder than previous years, the southern regions are fairing better, but for the northern folks, it will definitely be a tough winter to endure.

Especially since now most areas haven't regained power, heating supply will probably have issues too, people freezing to death cannot be avoided.

Chen Shouyi moved around a bit and returned to his room, where the warm air hit his face,

"Brother!" Chen Xingyue, wearing pajamas, emerged excitedly from the bathroom, "It's snowed so heavily today, shall we build a snowman later?"

"Do you think I'm as childish and bored as you?" Chen Shouyi raised his chin and said with disdain.

Watching Chen Shouyi walk into his bedroom and quickly lock the door, Chen Xingyue gritted her teeth in anger.

...

On January 15, Xin Changfeng, Governor of Jiangnan Province, attended the groundbreaking ceremony of the Hedong Bay Nuclear Power Plant, and when meeting with representatives of the project partners, he pointed out that actively advancing nuclear power construction is an important measure to ensure energy safety and supply. In the plan, within the next three years, five nuclear power plants will be successively initiated in Jiangnan Province..."

"The nationwide conscription work for 2016 officially begins and runs until March 5. The target group for conscription primarily includes young people with a high school (including vocational, technical school) graduation level or higher education, with priority given to young people with high education backgrounds and Martial Artist Apprentices."

"In response to foreign journalists' questions, a spokesperson for the Ministry of Foreign Affairs formally announced that the number of nuclear bombs in Great Xia Country has exceeded ten thousand, and has preliminarily formed nuclear strike capabilities against other worlds. Great Xia Country is now one of the few nations capable of nuclear deterrence against other worlds."

Chen Shouyi watched the webpage, his eyes flickering.

In these months, the whole world has been in turmoil, under the shadow of war, the changes in a few months have even surpassed those of the past few years, with various technologies sprouting up like bamboo shoots after the rain.

The atmosphere of war is getting heavier and stronger.

With a thought, countless tiny specks of dust on his desk rose into the air, swirling and flying into the nearby trash bin, even his hair slightly floated.

...

At nine o'clock, he closed his laptop, picked up his suitcase, and walked out the door.

"Brother, you're going out again, will you come back for lunch?" asked Chen Xingyue, who was already in the living room practicing sword.

"No."

"Oh!"

...

As he walked out of the building, Bai Xiaoling's car was already parked outside, Chen Shouyi placed his luggage in the trunk, opened the door to the back seat, and got in.

"Still heading to the passage?" Bai Xiaoling asked predictably.

These days, Chen Shouyi has been going to the other world every day, either in the morning, noon, or afternoon.

Chen Shouyi silently nodded.

As the car drove out of the neighborhood, he suddenly noticed a familiar figure out of the corner of his eye, Chen Shouyi narrowed his eyes slightly, a trace of coldness flashed: "Wait, I need to get off."

The car quickly stopped by the roadside.

Chen Shouyi opened the door and walked towards that figure.

...

Qian Yadong walked quickly on the street, his face gloomy.

Over the past ten days, a sense of oppression has weighed heavily on his heart; every time he meets other martial artists, he can always feel their strange glances.

Hedong City is large, but the martial artist community is very small.

Since the conflict at the banquet with a young rascal where he was kicked into the hospital, this matter has been exaggerated and spread rapidly, as one of the main figures of the incident, he has long become the talk among martial artists over tea and meals, and as one trying arrogantly to bully young martial artists with a negative image.

In these ten days, he has been staying in most of the time, scarcely attending gatherings with familiar martial artists, and his temper has grown increasingly irritated.

He naturally harbors deep hatred toward Chen Shouyi, and has thought more than once about revenge.

However, this time he wasn't here for revenge, it was merely a coincidence passing by.

While walking, Qian Yadong suddenly felt his neck being forcefully embraced by someone's arm.

Startled at heart, he struggled fiercely, yet unable to break free,

"It's you." Qian Yadong glanced back and found it was Chen Shouyi, his pupils unconsciously contracted, and he spat hatefully: "What do you want?"

"I'd like to ask what you're doing here?" Chen Shouyi asked coldly.

Qian Yadong's face was dazed, suddenly breaking into crazy laughter: "Haha, so you live here."

"Courting death!" Family is his untouchable taboo, Chen Shouyi's eyes flashed with viciousness, exerting force suddenly.

Qian Yadong instantly felt an indescribable massive force gripping his neck, his cervical bones creaked as if about to snap, his face started to flush, and his forehead veins bulged.

Seeing Chen Shouyi's cold and brutal expression, he couldn't help but shiver, instinctively feeling that if he didn't relent, the other would actually kill him.

Qian Yadong managed to say with difficulty: "... Don't... be mistaken!"

Seeing Chen Shouyi's arm relax slightly, Qian Yadong gasped for breath like a fish brought ashore, saying with lingering fear: "Don't act rashly, I'm just passing by, I truly didn't know you lived here, nor did I intend any revenge."

"Really just passing by?" Chen Shouyi confirmed.

"Really passing by, I'll swear on my mother."

Looking at his expression and what he said earlier, Chen Shouyi seemed to have truly misunderstood, but he didn't intend to apologize, he released him, warning: "Don't let me see you here next time, or I'll kill you."

Qian Yadong's body trembled slightly, eyes cast down, deeply burying all the humiliation and hatred in his heart.

"What, not convinced?" Chen Shouyi coldly snorted, suddenly waving his hand like a phantom, and turned to leave, calling back after several steps: "Consider it a lesson given."

After Chen Shouyi got in the car and vanished from the street, only then did Qian Yadong lift his head, spitting in hatred: "Damn it, one day, you'll regret it!"

Then he noticed nearby pedestrians occasionally pointing at him, and Qian Yadong's forehead veins bulged, the suppressed anger instantly surged, his complexion turned ferocious: "What the hell are you looking at, what's so interesting?"

The crowd quickly dispersed.

It's really been a streak of bad luck lately.

Qian Yadong straightened his clothes, ready to leave, but then his expression froze.

He noticed his shirtfront was stained with blood and felt a faint soreness around his throat; instinctively touching it, he was horrified to find a chunk of flesh missing from his neck.

"When did this happen?"

His body tensed, suddenly recalling that young man's warning before he left, along with a mysterious gust, a chill rose from his tailbone and spread through his body in a flash, his body turned icy cold.

PS: Caught a cold today, not in a good condition, a bit late.

Chapter 139: Chapter 139: Prey

Hedong City is already covered in snow, but the alternate world remains as warm as spring.

Chen Shouyi carefully hides among the plant clusters, trying to lower his body and moving slowly forward, while the thicket of leaves and intertwined vines around him keep him well concealed.

Shell Lady squats on his shoulder, gripping Chen Shouyi's clothes tightly, looking more nervous than he does, her little face tense, even her breathing halted.

More than a hundred meters ahead, an animal resembling a moose is leisurely eating the red wild fruit among the shrubs.

Its body is brown-black, with yellow and white spots as camouflage, its fur reflects a faint sheen as if oiled, and its coarse, slender tongue flexibly avoids the small thorns of the shrub, gently curling to scoop a large pile of wild fruit into its mouth.

Looks so fat!

Recalling the taste of creatures from the alternate world, Chen Shouyi can't help but swallow.

Ever since Chen Shouyi boldly tasted the meat of creatures from the alternate world, he has never carried food with him.

However, he doesn't hunt all kinds of creatures; typically he excludes reptiles and amphibians, as on Earth, most poisonous creatures belong to these two categories. He generally hunts herbivorous mammals.

He moves more cautiously, slowly inching forward.

At this moment, the prey seems to sense something, stops eating, and starts looking around, its hooves as white as snow stepping restlessly, alert ears perked up, constantly turning.

Chen Shouyi quickly hugs the ground, staying completely still.

The creature observes for a while, finding nothing, and after a while, resumes eating the wild fruit.

Chen Shouyi remains motionless, this prey seems to be eating, but most of its attention is alert to its surroundings.

After it finally lets its guard down, Chen Shouyi continues crawling forward, and when he's only sixty or seventy meters away, he rises silently from behind the trunk of a large tree, quietly draws a bow and arrow from behind, aiming before suddenly shooting an arrow.

It lets out a pitiful shriek and runs a few steps before falling to the ground, struggling violently.

Chen Shouyi rushes over quickly, twists its neck decisively, ending its misery completely.

"Good Giant, you're amazing," Shell Lady says excitedly.

Chen Shouyi smiles indifferently and begins to head back with the prey.

Upon returning to his usual spot, he pulls out a sharp knife and skillfully slices open the prey's fur, peeling the whole skin off and tossing it aside, then extracts the innards and places them on the skin.

He's not planning to eat these parts; who knows what unknown toxins might be lurking inside. After detaching the prey's head, he wraps the innards in the skin, walks to a corner dozens of meters away, digs a hole, and buries them.

He gathers the collected dry wood to one side, takes out a portable gasoline can, pours some gasoline after unscrewing it, and uses an alternate-world specific lighter to set it on fire.

The flames are weak but burn well, making them last longer.

Chen Shouyi rubs salt and sesame oil on the prey, skewers it with a stick, and begins roasting it.

In about ten minutes, the fat starts to drip one by one, occasionally igniting sparks on the flames.

The tempting aroma gradually fills the air, and when the prey turns golden brown, Chen Shouyi sprinkles cumin and Sichuan pepper on it.

He continues roasting for a while.

He can't wait to tear off a leg and take a bite.

For ordinary people, the flesh of alternate-world creatures is too dense, difficult to chew.

But for Chen Shouyi, it feels just right, with a special chewiness and aroma, and once eaten, it fills the stomach for longer, with both hind legs consumed, Chen Shouyi starts to feel a bit full.

He tears up the remaining meat and packs it into airtight bags, putting them in his suitcase.

Suddenly, the wind picks up around him, tree branches sway, creating a rustling sound.

Chen Shouyi pays it no mind and zips up the suitcase.

Suddenly, he freezes, his body unable to move, sensing he's being stared at by something, a strong feeling of unease rising in his heart.

Fortunately, this sensation doesn't last long, disappearing almost instantly, as if an illusion.

Yet Chen Shouyi knows it's no illusion.

He immediately looks up at the sky; through the dense foliage, he glimpses a massive silver figure gliding slowly across the sky, darkening it.

"Is it a bird?"

This thought crosses his mind, and after about half a minute, he feels the creature has flown far away.

Chen Shouyi quickly climbs a tree, standing on a branch at the top, brushing aside leaves before seeing a distant large silver creature with terrifying flesh wings hovering above the forest.

It's a creature that's bird-like but not a bird, resembling dinosaurs that evolved into birds in ancient times.

It's covered in silver scales, shimmering under the sun, with a splash of vibrant mane on its neck, a snake-like tail swaying gently behind.

Mysterious, beautiful, elegant, stunning.

These are all the words he can use to describe it, like a creature flying out of a mythical world.

Chen Shouyi estimates it's over thirty meters long from head to tail; excluding the tail, its body alone is over twenty meters.

...

It floats down to the leaves with a grace unfit for its size, as if its massive body weighs nothing, then its head inches into the forest, its body gliding within, quickly disappearing from sight.

Chen Shouyi watches the forest sway gently, a dozen seconds later, the massive figure flies into the sky again, now with prey hanging from its feet.

It flaps its wings high, flying farther and farther away, soon becoming just a dot.

Chen Shouyi wipes the cold sweat from his forehead and slowly climbs down the tree.

"What creature is this?" Chen Shouyi asks Shell Lady with a glimmer of hope.

Shell Lady shakes her head, pale with fright, "I don't know, but it's scary."

I know that too.

He feels somewhat lucky for his small size.

A creature of this size eats astonishing amounts, tens of tons of meat at once; humans probably wouldn't even fill its teeth gaps. Otherwise, he would have become its prey earlier.

But nothing is absolute.

This incident reminds him he needs to find a safe place to practice.

Staying directly under the tree like now is too dangerous.

What if it suddenly gets curious about him and wants to try a taste?

It's best to find a cave!

Chen Shouyi stops practicing for now and starts searching for a suitable target.

The terrain is at a mountain depression, with peaks rising and falling not far ahead; there should be caves there.

Chen Shouyi carries his bow and arrows, cautiously moving forward.

Shell Lady's hearing and vision are far sharper than Chen Shouyi's; any slight noise doesn't escape her ears. With her guidance, Chen Shouyi can always avoid the territories of powerful beasts in advance.

Of course, it's not without drawbacks.

Her idea of what is powerful often doesn't align with Chen Shouyi's, causing him to go quite a distance.

But for safety's sake, he has no choice but to endure.

PS: Head hurts, wrote quite late.

Chapter 140: Chapter 140: The Boy Who Cried Wolf

"I hear the breathing of a Giant Beast up ahead!" the Shell Lady whispered nervously into his ear.

"Good giant, we can't move forward anymore, let's head this way."

"Retreat, retreat, you'll be eaten!"

Chen Shouyi walked for half an hour, only to find he had circled back to where he started.

Damn!

He glanced at the Shell Lady, who was still cautiously looking around.

He was speechless.

Isn't this too cautious? At this rate, I won't be able to go anywhere.

This time, Chen Shouyi decided to stop listening to her random commands.

When the Shell Lady shouted nervously that there was a Giant Beast ahead, Chen Shouyi continued moving forward boldly. Half a minute later, a creature the size of a puppy scurried out of the bushes in a panic.

As the Shell Lady issued a warning of being eaten, an arrow shot out like lightning and swiftly pierced through the head of a fierce beast.

A fierce wind swirled around him, making his body blur. A colorful snake-like creature lurking opportunistically in the bushes was blown away by the wind before it could even approach.

The wind he controls now has reached level seven, making it impossible for such lightweight creatures to get close to him.

He continued forward, unstoppable, like a god slaying demons, where all the wild beasts either fled or were killed with one strike.

A top-tier Martial Artist in the human world could still hold a middle-low position in an alien world, practically a small boss. As long as he didn't encounter powerful supernatural beings, his basic survival skills were sufficient to ensure safety.

The Shell Lady, initially startled, quickly quieted down and eventually became silent.

After a dozen minutes, the Shell Lady suddenly shouted again, "Oh no, good giant, we can't go any further, there's something very big and bad ahead."

Not again!

Completely immune to her "false alarms," Chen Shouyi didn't take it seriously and continued walking forward.

After walking several hundred meters and just rounding a large tree,

he abruptly stopped, his heart nearly skipping a beat.

A Giant Beast resembling a lizard, six to seven meters long, stood towering and watching him fiercely.

Its body was covered in yellow and green scales, with a grotesque head full of lumps like bumps. Its amber eyes devoid of emotion stared coldly at Chen Shouyi, while its scarlet tongue darted in and out.

At this moment, they were only four or five meters apart. The fearsome head was almost close enough for Chen Shouyi to smell the rancid odor it emanated. The Shell Lady, forgetting about Chen Shouyi, flew up frightfully and darted into a nearby tree hole.

Heart pounding wildly, Chen Shouyi didn't dare move, silently regretting not heeding the Shell Lady's warning.

...

Perhaps having never seen such a humanoid, the Giant Beast cocked its head, watching Chen Shouyi warily with its large amber eyes but made no move.

However, this caution, born out of vigilance, did not last long. After all, to it, humans were too tiny to pose any real threat. It decided to taste this prey it had never encountered before.

Its heavy body began to move slowly, its limbs like four pillars pressing into the soft ground.

As it moved, Chen Shouyi did too. He let go of his suitcase, fixing his gaze on the Giant Beast's eyes, and began backing away slowly.

There was no time for any idle thoughts.

Moreover, compared to the giant he encountered during the Martial Artist combat assessment, this lizard seemed significantly weaker, which calmed Chen Shouyi slightly.

Without showing any sign, he drew an arrow from his quiver.

But as soon as he notched the arrow and started to draw the bow, the Giant Beast moved in an instant, its vicious head darting toward him. Its head was the size of an SUV, and the approaching wind carried an indescribable rancid stench.

On the brink of peril, without thinking, Chen Shouyi dropped the half-drawn War Bow, gripped his sword hilt, and leaped to the left. Mid-air, he drew his sword and, after rolling on the ground, immediately stood up.

Almost simultaneously, a patch of nearby brambles was bitten off by a blood-filled maw, and with a slight tug, the entire patch was uprooted.

The giant lizard chewed a few times and swallowed, its limited intelligence puzzling it since it didn't sense the sweet blood flowing down its throat, only pain and bitterness.

However, Chen Shouyi's actions were uninterrupted. Once standing again, and while the opponent was distracted, he pushed off hard with his feet, charging under its belly.

Its belly's white scales aligned neatly, reflecting a faint multicolored sheen in the refracted light, looking horrifying upon closer inspection.

But Chen Shouyi had no stray thoughts, taking just a few steps to get under its belly.

The giant lizard was five to six meters long, but lying flat on the ground, it wasn't tall. The highest point, its head, was just two to three meters above the ground, and the throat area was less than two meters.

This height was easily reachable for Chen Shouyi.

Gripping his sword with both hands, he sprinted forward, the air parting rapidly on either side.

In his rapid advance, his muscles tensed, and he swung the sword fiercely in the next moment.

A sound like tearing cloth echoed, the feel of the blade was decidedly rough, but with his immense strength, there wasn't any hesitation as it sliced through, leaving a massive bloody gash.

The entire throat of the Giant Beast was nearly half cut open. After landing such a blow, Chen Shouyi didn't pause and, with another step, ran out from under its belly, sprinting dozens of meters away before stopping.

He clutched his Long Sword, panting heavily, his eyes fixed on the giant lizard, which was now in dire straits.

Blood gushed from its wound as though from a high-pressure faucet, and the giant lizard clearly felt something amiss, letting out a series of hissing sounds, which only hastened its death.

Within half a minute, it bled out and finally collapsed with a thud, kicking up a cloud of dust.

He exhaled lightly, feeling that dealing with such large creatures wasn't as difficult as imagined.

Besides its initial lightning-fast attack, its responses and movements were rather clumsy, no different from ordinary humans, much less challenging than the giant from the assessment.

As long as the opportunity was grasped, it was entirely possible to land a fatal strike.

Soon, the Shell Lady, who had been hiding in the tree hole, finally flew over unsteadily, "Good giant, you're so powerful."

Chen Shouyi hummed with slight pride.

Then, he went back to pick up the War Bow and retrieved his suitcase.

"Next time, when you find something this big, let me know. If it's smaller, then don't bother telling me," Chen Shouyi said, pointing at the massive twitching corpse.

"Okay!" the Shell Lady responded, tilting her head thoughtfully before adding, "What about something slightly smaller? Should I tell you?"

"Yes!" Chen Shouyi replied.

"What about a bit smaller than that?"

"Yes!"

"And a bit smaller than that?"

"Yes!"

"So..."

Are you done yet?

Chen Shouyi quickly interrupted:

"If it's smaller than twice my size, then don't mention it."

Chen Shouyi then asked, "By the way, how do you find them?"

"I didn't see them, I heard them," the Shell Lady said proudly. "Their breathing gives them away; loud breathing means big, quiet breathing means small."

"You're really amazing!" Chen Shouyi gave her a thumbs up, genuinely complimenting her.

The Shell Lady beamed with joy, gave him a peck on the cheek, and said, "Good giant, you're also very powerful."

Probably learned it from cartoons.

Unable to resist, Chen Shouyi touched his face and laughed, "I'll reward you when we get back."

"Is it a big gemstone?"

"It's definitely a big gemstone!" Chen Shouyi agreed affably.

"Smooch, smooch, smooch!" The next moment, his face received several more kisses.