

Dawn of a New Era #Chapter 141: Purge - Read Dawn of a New Era Chapter 141: Purge

Chapter 141: Chapter 141: Purge

Only by truly venturing deep into this mountain forest did Chen Shouyi realize that the environment here was far more complex and dangerous than that of the Barbarian Island in Dongning.

He held his breath and carefully skirted around a pile of dung that was more than a meter high, like a small hill, with flies buzzing around it, emitting a foul stench.

The presence of such dung suggested the existence of a giant beast nearby.

Chen Shouyi had no intention of disturbing it. Guided by the Shell Lady, he cautiously bypassed this area.

...

Soon after, Chen Shouyi crouched behind a clump of bushes, gazing into the distance at a cliff covered in vines.

A gentle breeze stirred the vines slightly, revealing a dimly visible, pitch-black cave entrance intermittently.

The entrance, with a diameter of about three meters, was spacious enough for Chen Shouyi.

But he did not act rashly.

"O-o-one!" whispered the Shell Lady in his ear.

Chen Shouyi counted that she said "one" twelve times, indicating that there were at least twelve creatures inhabiting the cave.

Judging by the size of the cave, the inhabitants were unlikely to be huge creatures.

He held his bow, pulled it taut, and immediately shot an arrow.

The arrow flew more than a few dozen meters away in an instant, shooting straight into the cave.

Then, he quickly ducked, remaining motionless under the cover of the shrubs, listening intently.

A scream echoed from the cave, followed by a commotion, as if countless voices were rising and falling.

Intelligent beings.

Chen Shouyi felt a slight heaviness in his heart. Although the distance was quite far, and the noises were cacophonous, he couldn't discern their exact words.

But these sounds, with varied and melodious tones, were clearly not sounds that beasts could make.

As time ticked by, about five minutes later, a stocky, 1.5-meter-tall humanoid creature cautiously emerged from the cave, clutching an arrow.

Its skin was gray-black, hair sparse on its head, eyes small and sharp, and nostrils large. Most striking was a mouth full of sharp teeth, with lips that could almost reach its ears, creating a ferocious and evil appearance.

This creature was clearly not of good nature!

Chen Shouyi hesitated for a few seconds, but confident in his own abilities, he decided to make a move.

Not only did he frequently operate in this area, but the presence of these creatures was a potential threat, and he was also quite intrigued by their cave.

He stealthily drew an arrow, nocked it, took aim for a moment, then abruptly loosed it.

At a distance of seventy to eighty meters, it was almost impossible for his current archery skills to miss.

After a sharp whistle, the arrow pierced straight through the deeply wrinkled forehead of the creature, which didn't even have time to cry out a warning before it collapsed backward.

Chen Shouyi calmly retrieved another arrow, waiting for the second one to appear.

After a few seconds, perhaps hearing the thud of the body hitting the ground, another gray dwarf emerged from the cave. Seeing its companion's body, it was about to shout in alarm when Chen Shouyi released the bowstring once more.

This time, however, it was slightly off. The gray dwarf was already wary, and it shied just before being hit, the arrow grazing its scalp and tearing away a large patch, even slightly fracturing its skull.

But it wasn't fatal.

As Chen Shouyi swiftly fetched a third arrow, it finally warned its companions:

"Enemy..."

Before it could finish uttering a word in the common language, the third arrow went right through its throat, taking away the rest of its words.

Chen Shouyi unhurriedly drew a fourth arrow.

Mere seconds later, a large group of gray dwarves, brandishing various wooden sticks and long spears, surged out with ferocious expressions.

Chen Shouyi loosed another arrow, toppling one of the gray dwarves at the forefront, but this also completely revealed his position. The horde of gray dwarves charged at Chen Shouyi ferociously, none of them retreating.

Chen Shouyi was not panicked. By now, he was battle-hardened, and such a small-scale confrontation was not enough to overwhelm him.

After shooting down three gray dwarves with three arrows, Chen Shouyi drew his longsword and sprang out.

He focused all his energy, spirit, and concentration, with Sword Qi constantly flickering at the tip of his sword.

With a few strides, he was upon the leading gray dwarf.

With a swift slash, the gray dwarf holding its wooden stick hadn't even reacted before it was cleaved in two along with the stick.

A gray dwarf beside it lunged at him with a savage grin after he killed the first.

Chen Shouyi lightly dodged, his figure brushing by like a phantom.

The next moment, the gray dwarf's head was sent flying.

Chen Shouyi advanced rapidly, movements ghostly and elusive, with sword shadows occasionally flashing through the air.

In no time, like a tiger descending a mountain, there was no match for him; any gray dwarf he touched perished. These intelligent creatures were even weaker than the average barbarian, and for his current strength, no more challenging than chopping wood.

After ten seconds, Chen Shouyi delivered a thrust.

As a faint azure Qi Force quickly traversed over two meters, piercing through the chest of the last gray dwarf, the battle finally concluded.

This last gray dwarf had not yet fully expired and was swiftly finished off with another stab from Chen Shouyi's sword, immediately killing it.

...

Bodies lay scattered haphazardly, with spilled entrails and intestines among them, producing an exceptionally foul smell.

Chen Shouyi glanced around, covering his nose as he approached the cave entrance.

He pushed aside the concealing vines at the entrance, gripping his longsword cautiously as he stepped inside.

Though the Shell Lady assured him there were no creatures inside, he dared not let his guard down.

...

Upon entering, Chen Shouyi was instantly struck by the cave's stunning beauty.

Contrary to his expectations, the interior wasn't dark; the cave walls and ceiling emitted a lovely glow, making him feel as if he were standing amidst the stars, innumerable twinkling lights illuminating the cave.

It was a karst cave, with stalactites covering the floor and ceiling, extending quite deep.

However, the deeper one went, the narrower it became; the first dozen meters were three to four meters wide, swiftly tapering down to a small passage only about a meter wide.

"So many gems!" cried the Shell Lady, suddenly excited, her face flushed, "Mine, all these gems are mine."

She floated up dazedly, flying toward the cave ceiling, grabbing a glowing spot with both hands, pulling with all her strength.

Even Chen Shouyi was initially deceived by the lights, thinking they were genuine gems.

But upon closer inspection, he realized they were merely green fluorite, and of rather poor quality, with low transparency.

Chen Shouyi examined the cave, picked up a piece of fluorite, then retreated.

The odor inside was extremely unpleasant; these gray dwarves had abysmal hygiene habits. Not only did they have strong body odor, but they also relieved themselves inside.

If not for the sufficient light inside and his ability to see in low light, he might have stepped right into it.

...

"Come out quickly, let's go!" After waiting for half a minute, seeing that the Shell Lady hadn't emerged, Chen Shouyi urged loudly.

"Hurry up, the gems inside are all fake."

With repeated urging, the greedy Shell Lady, clutching a small piece of fluorite in each hand, finally flew out, suspiciously asking, "Are they really fake? You're not deceiving me, Giant, are you?"

"Of course they're fake. I wouldn't want a single one of these," Chen Shouyi said, waving the piece of fluorite in his hand.

With such things being mistaken for gems, how could he use glass beads to entice anyone in the future?

"Are they really not gems?" The Shell Lady studied the two pieces of fluorite in her hands, which no longer glowed and resembled ordinary stones, feeling increasingly uncertain.

"If you want, this one is for you too."

Saying this, Chen Shouyi handed the piece in his hand to the Shell Lady.

Upon taking it, she almost plummeted to the ground under the unexpected weight but immediately turned red, struggling to fly back up and landing on his shoulder.

The more generous Chen Shouyi acted, the more unsure the Shell Lady felt.

She inspected the three pieces of fluorite repeatedly but quickly lost interest, saying, "Well... I don't want them either."

With that, she threw away all the fluorite pieces in her hands and dusted off her little hands.

P.S.: Ask for monthly votes ahhhhh

Chapter 142: Chapter 142: The Second Mutation

Late at night, all was silent.

Chen Shouyi sat cross-legged on the bed, entering a deep meditation.

His breathing was long and distant, each inhale and exhale lasting over a minute.

In a state of unconscious awareness, a complex and awe-inspiring image became increasingly clear in his mind. The strands of muscle were delicate yet dense, full yet dimensional; he could see not only the surface muscles but also within, observing the fine blood vessels, various nerve endings, tendons between muscles, and lymphatic tissue.

There was no distinction between inside and outside, as what appeared in his mind was a four-dimensional image.

At this point, it seemed that a certain stage had been completed, as the scope of the image in his mind began to slowly spread. From the edges, countless dark intersecting lines started to extend inward, gradually outlining a general shape...

...

After ten minutes, Chen Shouyi opened his tired eyes, a hint of joy flashing across them.

After waiting so long, he had finally completed the "flesh refining."

Chen Shouyi sat up from the bed and extended his arm.

He saw the muscles in his forearm starting to pulse fiercely at will, like the joyful undulating keys of a piano during play.

Not just the arms.

Whether limbs, back, or feet, even the thin muscles behind his fingers that were as fine as a cicada's wings, he could control them precisely.

Of course, he could do this before, but today it seemed easier and effortless.

He stood up and moved his body, feeling like all the muscles were more coordinated and during exertion, it was as if a layer of lubricant had been added, creating a very smooth sensation.

However, Chen Shouyi felt that more than anything, this was a self-induced illusion.

Practice is a gradual process of reaching a natural culmination.

There wouldn't be any sudden leaps within a short time, just like being unsatisfied after eating nine buns but feeling full with the tenth; the reason for fullness is not the tenth bun but the previous nine.

He opened the attribute panel and found that perception had reached 12 points.

Meanwhile, his time training in the other world had also increased his agility by another point, reaching 14.3.

He took a final glance at the knowledge tab and was about to close the attribute panel when he was slightly stunned, discovering his swordsmanship had unconsciously reached "Mastery: 1."

"When did this happen?" He thought to himself, greatly surprised.

His progress in swordsmanship had stagnated for a long time; after reaching "Proficient: 20," no matter how much he trained, he couldn't advance. Chen Shouyi initially thought about using energy points for optimization but unexpectedly had already quietly crossed the threshold.

"It looks like completing 'Deep Meditation to Self-Refining - Flesh Refining' is the cause!" He pondered.

Feeling slightly excited, he picked up his sword, but realizing it was deep night, he reluctantly put it down.

Forget it, there's no rush.

...

The next day at six, Chen Shouyi awoke automatically due to his biological clock.

He opened his eyes and lay in bed for a long time without getting up.

A gentle breeze slowly flowed through the room.

In the bedroom, the air conditioner, which had been specially turned on to prevent Shell Lady from getting cold, had long since stopped unknowingly, making the sudden breeze seem quite chilly.

Of course, with his non-human physique, he was long unaffected by such cold, but at this moment, his mind felt eerily frozen, as if falling into an ice cave.

Chen Shouyi stared blankly at the white ceiling, motionless, lying for a full half hour before stopping the control of the breeze, woodenly getting up to dress.

He looked at the switch on the door, holding onto a sliver of hope, pressed lightly, but the light was still motionless!

The second mutation finally arrived!

He walked heavily to the bathroom.

Chen Xingyue was brushing her teeth, glanced at Chen Shouyi entering, and said indistinctly, "Brother, why did you get up so late today?"

"There's no electricity today!" Chen Shouyi said.

"I know, I woke up from the cold at dawn," Chen Xingyue said calmly, without much reaction.

"I mean there's no power!" Chen Shouyi repeated.

"Brother, you're acting strange, what's the fuss about no electricity? It will come soon." Chen Xingyue said.

Chen Shouyi felt like he was talking to someone who didn't understand, truly exhausted: "Where are Mom and Dad?"

"They went to the restaurant, of course!" Chen Xingyue said inexplicably.

Chen Shouyi frowned slightly, left the bathroom, and quickly went to the balcony to pull open the curtains.

Outside was covered in white snow; it was still early, and there weren't many people in the community.

Meanwhile, Chen Xingyue finished washing up, walked out of the bathroom, returned to her bedroom, and shortly came out holding her phone, briskly walking out: "Brother, look at my phone, it won't turn on, is it broken?"

Chen Shouyi took a look, pressed the power button, but the phone showed no response: "It's useless, throw it away!"

"I'm not as rich as you!" Chen Xingyue gritted her teeth angrily, irritatedly said: "I'll take it to the phone repair shop, maybe the battery's the problem."

Saying that, Chen Xingyue marched toward the door.

"Don't go out today," Chen Shouyi quickly stopped her, "Wait, I'll call Mom and Dad back."

"Brother, what's wrong with you today, acting all mysterious!"

Just then, the door opened, and Father Chen and Mrs. Chen walked in breathlessly carrying big bags, immediately saying upon seeing them, "Come help get things from below, we hired a three-wheeler!"

Apparently, the elevator wasn't working either, fortunately, they managed to carry so much up to the fifth floor.

"Parents are indeed sensitive to this kind of situation," Chen Shouyi thought silently.

After arranging the goods, the four went downstairs.

Chen Shouyi only then realized they bought quite a lot, just the bags of 25-kilogram rice were ten, other vegetables, and meats almost filled a whole tricycle.

He lifted the rice bags onto his shoulder, stacking six, then grabbed two more and headed back upstairs.

The elderly tricycle rider laughed, commenting, "Looks refined, but strong, good at heavy lifting!"

"It's just brute force," Chen Dawei pulled out his wallet, handed over three bills.

The elder took the money, held it against the light, and said, "Alas, the world's becoming chaotic."

...

In one day, all of Hedong City descended into chaos.

Supermarkets and food markets were looted clean.

In just one day, there were numerous crimes like vandalism, robbery, murder, malignant and ubiquitous.

Even a closed bank near Chen Shouyi's home was forcibly damaged by rage-driven citizens, robbed of all its cash.

During the last mutation, banks at least hadn't lost electricity and could still dispense cash, but this time, even banks' backup power systems failed to function properly.

A regular family usually doesn't have much cash at home, most of the money is typically placed in banks.

But when money can't be withdrawn from the bank, no amount, even billions in the bank, is merely numbers, not even that. Someone having billions in the bank could become penniless overnight.

When the hard-earned money risks becoming void, the panic and anger can break all restraints, driving individuals to unimaginable acts.

Global turmoil erupted simultaneously, not only in Hedong City or the Great Xia Country.

Until evening, heavily armed soldiers took to the streets, enforcing martial law, and Hedong City's order gradually stabilized.

Chapter 143: Chapter 143: Stern Times

All day long, Chen Shouyi stayed at home and didn't go out, except for accompanying his parents on a trip to the bank, which yielded no results.

Mrs. Chen filled all the containers at home that could hold water with tap water.

Although Chen Shouyi felt it wasn't necessary in his heart, even if the tap water were completely cut off, he could get water from the other world.

But he did not persuade, instead he helped to fill the water.

"There are over four million left in the bank, who knows if we can take it out, if only we hadn't put it in the bank." During this time, Mrs. Chen repeatedly murmured, and several times tears fell from heartache.

The newly opened restaurant in the family is rented, and not much money was spent on renovation. Originally, this money was planned to be saved for when Chen Shouyi gets married, so they could buy a small place to live with their daughter, and give this large one to him as a marital home, but they never thought such a thing would happen.

"Don't worry, the bank's customer data is still there, maybe in a while, there will be some clarity." Chen Shouyi didn't know if they could still get this money, or if it had completely disappeared into thin air, he could only comfort them like this.

"The state certainly won't let such a thing happen, otherwise society would be in chaos." Chen Dawei also tried to console them, sighed, and then asked Chen Shouyi, "How much do you have saved in the bank?"

"Several hundred thousand?" At this time, Chen Shouyi could only speak conservatively.

In fact, he still had as much as 2.5 million on his bank card.

The family didn't feel like cooking at noon and only briefly satisfied their hunger with snacks.

In the evening while cooking, Father Chen found that the electronic ignition of the gas stove at home couldn't ignite the natural gas, and it was only when Chen Shouyi took out the special lighter that it finally ignited.

This kind of lighter is filled with a highly flammable gas, capable of being ignited by just a spark, and can be used normally even in the other world.

The gas stove's flame was crimson, which is a sign of reduced flame temperature, but fortunately, it could still successfully cook food.

During dinner, Song Tingting from next door and her mom came over to visit, appearing extremely worried.

Song Qiran didn't come.

Through inquiry, it was learned that the other party is the head of Hedong City's steam turbine group, now also Jiangnan Province's largest steam engine manufacturing company. At this moment, the importance of such a company is extremely evident, already concerning industrial maintenance and the nation's lifeblood.

The era is about to undergo drastic changes, after today, the only thing human civilization can rely on is the steam engine, and at this moment, the other party is probably already incredibly busy.

...

Night fell, and the temperature became increasingly cold.

Even in the bedroom, the temperature had already dropped below zero.

Shell Lady, with rough skin, was merely wearing a thin princess dress and seemed to feel no cold in the air at all, she was very excited jumping around on the bed, playing vigorously as the mysterious power invaded, and the most excited was her.

She kicked off from the bed, her body suddenly leaping more than a meter high, then held her breath forcefully, her little face flushed, and after a brief moment of suspension, she slowly floated down.

"Great Giant, I can almost fly here." Shell Lady said excitedly.

Chen Shouyi didn't pay her any mind, gazing at his attribute panel for a long time, his "Elementary Self-Healing" had completely disappeared, replaced by the two semi-transparent talent abilities "Natural Healing" and "Atmospheric Control (Elementary)".

With a thought, a breeze arose out of thin air, transformed into a tornado swirling in his palm for half a minute, then with a casual wave, the tornado quickly dissipated, merged into the air, hidden without a trace.

Chen Shouyi sighed lightly.

The world is different now, he is different, Shell Lady is different, and presumably those gods from the other world are also different.

He had never felt the approach of war and the uncertainty of the future as he did at this moment.

Suddenly, gunshots rang out from outside.

Chen Shouyi drew back the curtains, opened the window, a gust of cold wind howled in, invigorating him, and the gunshots became clearer.

He had heard many gunshots before, whether from rifles, pistols, submachine guns, or machine guns, but there had never been a gunshot so odd, carrying a sense of weakness and powerlessness.

"Great Giant, look at me, look at me, I'm almost able to fly." Shell Lady couldn't help but urge when she hadn't received attention for a long time.

Chen Shouyi came back to his senses, closed the window, glanced at Shell Lady, "Flying well, keep it up!"

Shell Lady immediately smiled brightly, continuing to bounce around.

...

Early the next morning, Zhang Jingyi led Song Tingting to knock on Chen Shouyi's house door.

"Sister-in-law, I'm afraid it might be a bit chaotic outside today, I'm planning to let her take a day off. We can't trust her to stay home alone, I wonder if she could stay at your place." Zhang Jingyi explained her intentions, as she is a civil servant and needs to be on duty at such critical times.

Mrs. Chen said, "There's no issue at all."

"That's really troublesome, Tingting, quickly greet Auntie!"

"Hello Auntie!" Song Tingting quickly said sweetly.

"No need to be polite, treat it like your own home." Mrs. Chen looked at Song Tingting dressed in a thick down jacket, carrying a backpack and charmingly smiling, and she felt increasingly delighted as she looked, saying, "Xing Yue, Tingting is here."

"Oh!" Chen Xingyue happily opened the bedroom door, "Tingting, come to my room."

Song Tingting glanced disappointedly at the other closed bedroom door, then quickly ran over.

"Xing Yue, where's Senior?" As soon as she entered the bedroom and closed the door, Song Tingting couldn't help but ask.

"He went out early, he'll probably be back by noon, don't worry about him."

...

Hedong City, this city that was bustling just the day before, quieted down completely the next day, filled with a desolate and oppressive atmosphere.

There were no more cars on the road, pedestrians were sparse.

Chen Shouyi carried a briefcase, passing by the nearby community bank that had been looted, the bank's front doors still open, seats in the lobby scattered everywhere, the bulletproof windows of the counters shattered, and glass littered the ground.

Bloodstains still visible on the floor of the lobby, clearly suggesting people were injured or worse.

But now there were already four soldiers standing guard at the bank's entrance.

Ten minutes later, he found a high-end cold weapon shop still open and walked in.

"Welcome!" A young clerk greeted.

Chen Shouyi walked inside and found the business surprisingly good, with people buying weapons everywhere.

But thinking about it, in chaotic times, the best businesses to run are either food or arms. Although it's not yet chaos, given the circumstances, it's likely near.

"Go get your boss!" Chen Shouyi said.

The young clerk glanced at Chen Shouyi, seeing him young but confident and imposing, hesitated, then said, "Please wait a moment!"

Soon, a slightly overweight middle-aged man emerged from the office, glanced at Chen Shouyi, and tentatively said, "Hello, hello, I'm Zhao Linfeng, the owner of this store. Are you looking to purchase weapons or...?"

"Is there someplace more private?" Chen Shouyi asked.

"Apologies, please follow me."

They walked to the office:

"Do you have Martial Artist Level War Bows?" Chen Shouyi got straight to the point after sitting down.

...

A minute later, Chen Shouyi left the weapon shop regretfully.

But he was psychologically prepared, and it wasn't disappointing.

The number of Martial Artists in Hedong City could be counted on one hand, and they almost all buy through the martial artists' internal network, without demand, naturally, there's no market.

He had been ready to use the gold he had to see if he could exchange it for a Martial Artist Level War Bow, but now he needs to reconsider.

ps: Asking for monthly tickets ah ah ah ah

Chapter 144: Chapter 144: Anti-Aircraft Guns

His current war bow was only five hundred pounds, which converts to about 225 kilograms.

With his current strength of 600 kilograms in both arms, it was simply too light and too weak.

In the past, Chen Shouyi did not mind. Although there were occasional invasions by otherworldly creatures in Hedong City, overall it remained peaceful.

In the past two months, there had been only two cases of otherworldly creature invasions in the lower district, with a total death toll of less than a hundred people, which was just a small portion for a district with a population of nearly a million and an annual death toll of close to five thousand.

However, with the advent of the second mutation and the sudden decrease in the power of firearms, the originally strong defenses at the passages quickly became vulnerable.

The standoff between humans and deities was soon broken. It might happen tomorrow, or it might be months away, but whether it was a day or a few months, war was inevitable.

The current chaos is just the twilight before the darkness; the real crisis has yet to arrive.

The storm is brewing. The only thing he can do is become stronger to protect his family in the coming chaos.

...

Then, with a sliver of hope, Chen Shouyi visited several cold weapon shops, only to return disappointed each time.

Walking down the street, an idea suddenly struck him, and he couldn't help but curse himself for being foolish. Why did he have to go to a cold weapon shop to buy?

He thought of two people.

Cao Zhenhua and Fang Shengjie!

The former, a member of the Pantheon lurking in Hedong City, had been killed by him long ago, and the latter was missing, likely deceased, though their relics might still be around.

Chen Shouyi took a mental note of this.

...

Back at the apartment building, he habitually walked to the elevator.

But upon seeing the extinguished electronic display, he realized and sighed slightly.

Quickly walking up to the fifth floor, he took out his key and opened the door:

"Dad, Mom, I'm home."

Hearing his voice, Chen Dawei and Mrs. Chen came out of the kitchen, Mrs. Chen eager to ask, "Why are you back so late? How is it outside?"

"It's fine, not much chaos!" Chen Shouyi said.

The streets were full of soldiers; it would be strange if chaos erupted.

"That's good, that's good!" Mrs. Chen breathed a sigh of relief.

"Oh, by the way, Officer Bai came over earlier!" Chen Dawei said.

"Did he say what it was about?" Chen Shouyi asked.

"Not really!"

Now the city's transportation was completely halted, and although walking was still possible, the only mode of transportation left was bicycles, making it unlikely they could get a hold of him in time if something happened.

Chen Shouyi then put this matter aside.

He opened the door to his bedroom and saw his suitcase nearby, giving himself a light pat on the forehead. He almost forgot there were still some items in there.

He quickly unzipped the suitcase and took out a large packet of roasted meat wrapped in a plastic bag. He untied the bag and took a sniff. There was no strange smell, and there were even some traces of frost on the surface.

Thanks to the recent cold weather, this packet of roasted meat stayed in the suitcase for two days without spoiling.

He took it to the kitchen, and Mrs. Chen instinctively took it from him: "What is this, so heavy."

"Meat from the otherworld, supposed to be quite nourishing."

"Did you go to the otherworld?" Mrs. Chen reacted sharply, asking.

"I just walked around the edge of the passage, it's not dangerous." Chen Shouyi explained.

"No danger, huh? One mishap, and it's a big deal. Don't go there again!" Mrs. Chen warned.

She didn't believe any of her son's reassurances now; if she didn't keep an eye on him, he'd fly too close to the sun.

"Did you hear me?"

"Heard you!" Chen Shouyi replied helplessly.

Just as he was about to escape back to his room, the door to his sister's room opened, and Song Tingting came out.

She had already taken off her bulky down jacket, wearing a form-fitting green sweater that accentuated her curves. Seeing Chen Shouyi, she said happily, "Senior, you're back."

"Ah, you're here too." Chen Shouyi retracted his gaze and asked with a smile.

"I didn't go to class today. My mom asked me to come over to your house. I'm currently practicing swordsmanship with Xingyue."

"Work hard then." Chen Shouyi said.

Just then, there was a sudden sound of cannon fire from outside, short and dull.

It was anti-aircraft artillery.

Chen Shouyi didn't have time to speak and quickly walked to the balcony.

In the distance, a massive giant bird circled above the city, numerous shells exploding into black smoke beneath it.

The weather had been bad lately, with clouds overhead. This giant bird hovered below the cloud layer, suggesting it wasn't flying too high, maybe only about a thousand meters, but the anti-aircraft shells clearly couldn't reach such heights now.

The giant bird circled fearlessly, refusing to leave, and slowly flew nearer.

"Senior, what is that?" Song Tingting asked fearfully beside him.

Chen Shouyi didn't speak, his expression grim.

It suddenly occurred to him that many spatial passages weren't on the ground but located in the sky. If humanity's military might could fully exert itself, these issues wouldn't be too problematic. However, now these passages were likely completely undefended.

"What's going on?"

At that moment, his parents and Chen Xingyue also heard the commotion outside and rushed out.

Watching the anti-aircraft artillery set up throughout the city repeatedly explode in midair, smoke spreading, they stood there dumbfounded, their minds blank for a long time.

Chen Dawei looked for a while and feigned a relaxed demeanor: "Nothing major, nothing to see here."

...

During dinner.

The anti-aircraft artillery continued to fire, though it became fainter, as the bird seemed to have flown somewhere else.

Mrs. Chen suddenly said, "We seem to be running low on rice. Should we go buy some more?"

"We have enough rice at home to last us six months. You're just worrying for nothing. The country has so much reserve grain; they're not going to let us starve." Chen Dawei said.

Mrs. Chen felt relieved listening to this but didn't let it show: "How do you know? What if things get chaotic?"

"Mom, isn't it the case that both brother and I are here? In a few years, I'll be a martial artist too." Chen Xingyue said, picking up a piece of unknown meat and putting it in her mouth: "What is this meat? It's so tough, I can barely bite it."

"Your brother brought it from the otherworld, it's supposed to be very nourishing!" Mrs. Chen said, turning to Song Tingting: "Tingting, don't be shy, eat up, make yourself at home."

"Thanks, Auntie!" Song Tingting quickly said.

...

At night, in the bedroom.

Chen Shouyi held the long sword, slowly executing each sword strike, the blade emitting an invisible sharp light.

A gentle wind suddenly rose out of nowhere, spirit-like, tugging at a napkin on the tissue box, rustling. Soon, the wind tugged the napkin out, and it floated towards Chen Shouyi.

The next moment, his wrist blurred, countless sword lights intertwined rapidly, forming a sheet of silver light.

The napkin slightly paused in midair, then turned into dozens of shreds, fluttering down. Before they hit the ground, another breeze blew over, sweeping the shreds into the trash can.

"My swordsmanship used to be grandiose but, compared to those veteran martial artists, lacked finesse. No matter how hard I practiced, it was always twice the effort for

half the effect. But now that I've completed the meat refining, everything seems to come naturally."

Looking at the almost identically sized shreds in the trash can, Chen Shouyi thought to himself.

ps: Sorry, I came back late today.

Chapter 145: Chapter 145: The Deal

Hushan District.

This is a villa area, a self-built residential neighborhood belonging to the Third Investigation Bureau.

Chen Shouyi rode his bicycle and was stopped by the security guard at the entrance: "Who are you looking for?"

Chen Shouyi didn't waste words, directly taking out his Security Consultant ID from the Downtown Police Substation: "Do you know where Director Cao's family used to live?"

The Security Consultant ID was almost identical to a police officer's ID, and the security guard immediately cooperated: "Hello, officer. Their family moved away long ago. After Cao Zhenhua's incident, their house was confiscated, and his wife and son also left."

"Do you know where they went?" Chen Shouyi quickly asked.

"I'm not too sure about that!"

At this moment, Chen Shouyi noticed a young security guard nearby who seemed hesitant to speak. He turned and asked: "Do you know?"

"I... I saw his wife once when I passed by Qingyi Lane. It seems they've moved there." The young security guard, face turning red, stammered.

"Where is Qingyi Lane, is it far?"

Although the young security guard was puzzled by how unprofessional the enquiry seemed, he still cooperated: "Not far, not far. Follow this road, turn right at the intersection, then left at the third corner, and you'll be there."

Next, Chen Shouyi asked for the names of his wife and son.

Thankfully, since Cao Zhenhua was once the director of the Third Investigation Bureau, his family naturally received focused attention from security. If it had been an ordinary Martial Artist, these two security guards might have just recognized their faces.

...

The cold wind howled, leaden clouds densely packed overhead.

Chen Shouyi pedaled leisurely on his bicycle, a few snowflakes drifted down, landing on his face, melting into a chill.

He looked up at the sky.

It's going to snow again.

Qingyi Lane arrived quickly, Chen Shouyi pushed his bicycle, asking door to door.

With his Security Consultant ID, the process went smoothly; even if some didn't know, they were exceptionally helpful. It didn't take long for him to find out where Cao Zhenhua's widow had settled.

He locked his bicycle at a corner of the alley and walked into an old, rundown house where even the wall paint was peeling off.

Going up to the second floor, he knocked on the door.

Soon, the door opened a crack, and a young lady stood warily at the door: "Who are you, who are you looking for?"

"Are you Miao Huilan?" Chen Shouyi asked with slight surprise.

Cao Zhenhua was around forty, yet his wife seemed not even thirty, quite young; Chen Shouyi guessed it might be a second marriage.

The young lady grew more alert upon hearing this: "You've got the wrong person; I don't know anyone named Miao Huilan."

With that, she attempted to close the door.

Chen Shouyi quickly put his hand against it: "Don't be nervous, I mean no harm."

The young lady pushed hard against the door, her face red with exertion but unable to budge it: "If you keep this up, I'll scream for help!"

Chen Shouyi had no choice but to show his Security Consultant ID, and the lady instantly became compliant, her strength waning.

Taking the opportunity, he pushed the door open and walked inside.

He glanced around; the furnishings were quite simple, indicating the family's difficult situation after Cao Zhenhua's exposure.

"Mom, who is this uncle?" At that moment, a five or six-year-old boy with a tiger-like head appeared from the bedroom, showing a hint of hostility toward Chen Shouyi.

"Little Tiger, don't come out. Go play in your room," Miao Huilan instructed sternly.

"Oh!" The boy was startled and quickly ran back to his room.

After a lengthy silence, Miao Huilan spoke coldly: "What do you want to ask? I don't care about Lao Cao's matters. We know nothing about what he did or what crimes he committed."

She assumed the police had found new leads and came to investigate.

Chen Shouyi sat on a shabby sofa and stated bluntly: "Sister-in-law, I think you misunderstood! I'm not here to investigate this time; I'm here for personal reasons. Cao Zhenhua should have left some belongings, right?"

"What belongings? Didn't you already take away all the belongings?" Miao Huilan replied evasively, clearly on guard.

Chen Shouyi shook his head, took out a golden ball roughly four centimeters in diameter from the briefcase, and lightly placed it on the nearby table, producing a soft thud: "This is gold, weighing about 3 kilograms.

Of course, its purity is only over 80%. By the way, do you know the current gold price? Before the power outage, I recall it being 541 per gram. Now that society has started descending into chaos, it's likely much higher."

"What do you want?" Miao Huilan's breathing quickened slightly, a flush appeared on her face. After a moment, she spoke.

"Cao Zhenhua's weapons!" Chen Shouyi replied sternly: "His weapons are still here, right?"

Seeing Miao Huilan hesitate while looking at the gold, Chen Shouyi observed her reaction, feeling pleased in his heart. It seemed the weapons were indeed still there, though she was suspicious about the authenticity of the gold.

Noticing her uncertainty, he grabbed the gold and squeezed it with force; the entire golden sphere instantly flattened like soft clay, with deep finger impressions on its surface, then pushed it over: "Gold is relatively soft; you can verify its authenticity."

Miao Huilan glanced at Chen Shouyi in surprise, having initially thought he was just an ordinary cop, not expecting him to be a powerful Martial Artist.

However, she wasn't shocked by the squeezing of gold; she had seen such feats often, considering her husband Cao Zhenhua was once a great Martial Artist.

She took the now pancake-shaped gold, suddenly feeling its weight align closely with Chen Shouyi's claim. After a rough examination finding no leads concealed inside, she relaxed and smiled: "His weapons are still here; wait a moment."

She carried over a stool, placed it at the door, climbed on, and opened a hidden wooden window in the bathroom's air-space layer.

After a strenuous effort, she took out a large leather bow bag and two sword boxes, both covered in dust.

"These are all his weapons!"

"I need to check them." Chen Shouyi said.

He opened the bow bag, took out one of the bow limbs for a look; it was very light, clearly made of carbon fiber composite material. He checked the markings: 800 pounds, and was satisfied.

He quickly assembled the bow, adjusted it, then exerted great force to draw the bowstring, feeling its impressive strength far beyond five hundred pounds, and it suited him perfectly as his hands showed no tremor.

"The bow is great!" Chen Shouyi nodded.

He disassembled the bow again, placed it back in the bag, then picked up one of the sword boxes, drawing the sword from within.

A sword with a nano-hardened coat; the blade showed little wear, much better than his heavily chipped hardened sword, saving him from having to buy another.

Next, he examined the other sword.

The moment he picked it up, he felt his hand slightly sink.

This sword weighed over ten kilograms; examining it, the gray-black long sword had a thick spine, and reflecting in the light, fishscale-like dense patterns at the edge that were extremely smooth with no hint of roughness.

At first glance, it appeared to be an ordinary Alloy Sword, but Chen Shouyi instinctively felt the sword was anything but ordinary.

He firmly flicked it with his finger, the sword hummed dully, the sound faintly perceptible.

Such a hard material.

"Is there something wrong with this sword?" Miao Huilan asked nervously: "It was Lao Cao's favorite sword when he was alive!"

"No problem!" Chen Shouyi replied.

"Then the price?" Miao Huilan probed, attempting to bargain.

Though she was unaware if the price was high or low, Chen Shouyi's generosity impressed, offering such a large piece of gold right away, instinctively prompting her to want more.

"Sister-in-law, are you dissatisfied?" Chen Shouyi smiled: "Don't be greedy; your weapons are all second-hand, used for four or five years, worth at most a third of their original value. Even if they were bought for three million, now they wouldn't be worth even a million.

Moreover, this bow is a great Martial Artist's War Bow; if I don't buy it, I believe you won't sell it easily as no great Martial Artist would use a second-hand bow. This gold alone is worth at least one hundred fifty thousand, and combined with the two swords, is more than enough to cover payment."

"No... not at all!" Miao Huilan exclaimed, startled.

Chapter 146: Chapter 146: The Decline of Civilization

Chen Shouyi carried a bow bag and sword case, walking out of the old-style corridor apartment.

Fine snowflakes fell gently, it was already snowing outside. Chen Shouyi restrained the urge to use his innate ability, allowing the snow to fall on him. In just a few steps, a layer of white snow had gathered on his shoulders.

What terrible weather.

The past few days have been getting colder and colder.

He exhaled a long breath of white mist, hung the bow bag and sword case on the bike's handlebars, unlocked it, got on, and hurried back home.

This place was in the suburbs, some thirty to forty kilometers away from his home. If he didn't hurry, it would be dark by the time he got there.

On the way, one could see relief stations set up by the city government from time to time.

Not only were they full of people inside, but there were also long queues at the entrance. Some people were holding umbrellas, while others let the snow fall on them directly. In such cold weather, everyone wore coats or down jackets, yet still shivered, their faces pale and blue.

The banks still couldn't offer withdrawals, and most companies had completely closed down. Without any source of income and with many people having little cash saved—mostly living paycheck to paycheck—

Without relief, the entire Hedong City would likely fall into chaos in an instant.

Chen Shouyi remained silent, pedaling his bicycle quickly, speeding along the road.

...

Three steam trucks covered with tarps drove towards him.

The engine resembled an old steam locomotive, white smoke puffing out, with six pairs of linked rods turning constantly, creating a huge noise. Chen Shouyi stared at these gigantic vehicles in a daze until they passed by him, bringing him back to his senses.

Back at the residential district, it was already five o'clock, and the sky had just turned dark.

The snow on the ground was already over half a foot thick,

Riding his bike into the parking lot, he glanced around at the rows of cars covered in a thick layer of gray snow. He parked in the corner, locked the bike, brushed the snow off his shoulders and hair, and steam rose from his body.

...

At night, the flame of a candle as small as a bean flickered weakly on the computer desk.

Chen Shouyi pulled out the strange alloy sword, wiped off the oil from its surface, and examined it closely.

Under the dim light, the blade shimmered with a fine, scale-like pattern, with no flaws as if it had never been used, emitting a cold glare.

He gently caressed the blade with his fingers.

"Hiss!"

Suddenly feeling a slight pain, he looked at his forefinger to find it had been cut, and blood slowly oozed out.

What a sharp sword.

A hint of astonishment flickered in his mind, knowing that with his physique, even a nano-hardened matte sword requires some force to cut the skin, yet this sword just lightly grazed it and caused an injury.

Suddenly, he stood up and swung the sword towards the corner of the table, the blade slicing through the computer desk's composite board smoothly, hardly making a sound, feeling almost no resistance as the corner fell off.

"No wonder, I heard from Cao Zhenhua's wife that the previous owner was fond of this sword, it's definitely not an ordinary metal," Chen Shouyi thought deeply.

He flicked a few sword flowers, feeling more and more satisfied. A sword over ten kilograms would seem too heavy for a Martial Artist, but for him, it felt just right, not affecting the speed of his swing at all.

From now on, I'll use this sword.

He placed the sword back into its scabbard, looked at the cut on his finger, and found it had completely healed.

...

"Big gemstone, one—one—one!"

"Big gemstone, one—one—one!"

The Shell Lady was sitting on the bed, in front of her were four crystal balls, and several glass beads and small glass beads, counting them with rosy cheeks in self-entertainment. After being calmed by a large crystal ball, she temporarily stopped insisting on watching cartoons.

"Small gemstone, one—one—one!" The small glass beads were particularly numerous. She counted for more than two minutes, nearly running out of breath.

Chen Shouyi almost laughed, correcting her: "One, two, three, four, that's how you count!"

The Shell Lady raised her head slightly, looking at Chen Shouyi with a gaze full of disdain, saying: "You stupid giant, you shouldn't count like that!"

Chen Shouyi felt a tightness in his chest.

Your idiotic math skills actually scorn mine.

"Why not? One, two, three, four, five, six, seven, you know that, right?"

"I know!"

"Try counting!"

The Shell Lady sneered disdainfully as if trying to prove the stupidity of a giant through intellect. She pretended to count.

"One, two, three, four..." She stopped at four, picking up the fourth small glass bead: "See, it's just one, why do you insist on calling it four?"

...

In the blink of an eye, a few more days had passed, and the approach of the Spring Festival was getting closer.

However, in present-day Hedong, there wasn't the slightest feeling of festivity associated with the upcoming Spring Festival, only a progressively oppressive atmosphere day by day.

As soon as a young clerk from the neighborhood committee posted a recruitment notice at the entrance of the district, a crowd quickly gathered around.

Chen Shouyi went downstairs, curious, to take a look.

Most of the jobs being recruited were for general workers in mechanical factories, though there were some positions with higher benefits, such as mechanical maintenance, mechanical engineer, mechanical designer, but all required certain professional skills and knowledge, making most people in the community look on as if out of reach.

He looked up into the distance and saw that unconsciously, several smoke-emitting chimneys had emerged nearby.

Chen Shouyi had never been one to lament the past, but at this moment, he felt an unexplained heaviness.

He could clearly feel that the glorious material civilization of humanity was rapidly declining. Perhaps this was a turning point towards another kind of splendor, or perhaps it was permanent downfall.

...

In the afternoon, someone started promoting the Barbarian God's faith in the district. This person, holding a tin horn, loudly declared that believing in the gods was humanity's only way out, the start of humanity's glory. If humanity insisted on resisting the gods, humans would face extinction, and the whole world would fall into hell, fervently claiming to have seen the gods with their own eyes.

Instantly, it attracted quite a crowd.

But a few hours later, police arrived to take the man away.

As he was being taken away, he shouted and yelled frantically.

Claiming he had been appointed the gods' representative, arresting him was desecration.

...

"If worshipping the gods truly guarantees safety, then maybe it's not impossible to believe." Mrs. Chen said worriedly after specially going downstairs to see the commotion.

People in the country have always been pragmatic and utilitarian about faith, for most, as long as there's benefit, whichever god is worth worshipping.

"This should only be said privately, you can't say it outside." Chen Dawei advised.

"I'm not a fool, I was just saying it casually!" Mrs. Chen glared at him.

At this moment, the anti-aircraft guns outside started sounding again, and Chen Shouyi walked to the balcony. A few small dots in the sky were constantly circling. Over the past ten days or so, the invasion of creatures from the other world had grown increasingly severe.

"Stop watching, come and eat!" Mrs. Chen said.

ps: Sorry, I've been having a bit of writer's block lately.

Chapter 147: Chapter 147: Rampaging Spirit

Hedong City seemed to have turned into a stagnant pool, with the atmosphere becoming more oppressive by the day.

Early the next morning, Father Chen and Mrs. Chen finally couldn't hold back any longer. They called upon Chen Shouyi, borrowed a tricycle, and went to the market to continue their purchasing.

Upon arriving, they found soldiers stationed everywhere outside the market, creating a solemn atmosphere.

Inside the market, the stalls were pitifully few, and aside from one government-supplied grain and oil store where prices hadn't risen, all the vegetables and meat were outrageously priced, several times more than before the transformation.

"Why is everything so expensive? Who can afford this? And it doesn't even look fresh," Mrs. Chen picked up a cabbage, and upon asking the price, found it was nine yuan per jin, leading her to exclaim in shock.

"I say, this really isn't expensive, sister-in-law. Even I didn't get it much cheaper wholesale, just earning some hard money," said the vendor.

"But it's never been this expensive, it's almost as expensive as meat used to be," Mrs. Chen argued.

A vendor, slightly impatient, responded, "If you want it cheaper, then go buy in the suburbs; it's much cheaper there. In the countryside, it's almost like free."

Chen Shouyi frowned slightly, city living wasn't easy, especially given the current situation.

The transformation hadn't had much impact on agriculture or maybe not much impact in the short term.

However, with Hedong City's population exceeding ten million, such a mega-city was originally established on the basis of efficient modern logistics. Before the transformation, vegetables and meat from nearby bases could reach the city center in a few hours, so there wasn't much price difference between the suburbs and the city center.

But now, the logistics level has regressed worse than even the feudal era; from car transportation back to tricycles, increasing logistics costs tens or even hundreds of times. No matter how cheap things are, once logistics costs are added, their prices soar.

Though Mrs. Chen looked distressed, after some bargaining, she ended up buying a large pile of cabbage for eight yuan, a cut of meat, over ten jin of eggs, two barrels of oil, and five 25-kilogram bags of grain before leaving the market.

"This little bit of stuff cost over three thousand yuan!" Mrs. Chen lamented, sitting in the tricycle, "Next time, we must buy in the countryside."

"Mom, let it be, expensive is expensive." Chen Shouyi said while pedaling the tricycle, "With soldiers enforcing martial law in the city, it's still relatively safe. We don't know how things are in the countryside. In a few days, I'll get my salary; it should be enough to get by."

Mrs. Chen frowned, just about to speak, but noticed a few passersby on the roadside glancing at them occasionally, eyes filled with undisguised greed and covetousness, making her swallow her words.

Seeing this, Chen Shouyi coldly swept his gaze a few times. It was lucky that soldiers and police could be seen occasionally on the road, so no one without sense dared to rob them.

In times of chaos, strict laws were enforced. Except for the first day after the transformation, some took advantage of the chaos to loot and kill, but once soldiers took to the streets and enforced martial law, especially after executing some troublemakers on the spot, it deterred others from committing evil openly.

Of course, those crimes hiding in the shadows couldn't be stopped.

With such an oppressive atmosphere, life became harder day by day, and many were filled with fear and confusion about the future.

Moreover, communication had become blocked; instead of knowing world affairs without leaving home, now information from beyond a few kilometers was inaccessible. Living in the city felt like being stranded on an isolated island.

No one knew what was happening outside.

Had the war already started, or was it still peaceful?

Restlessness, panic, and unease pushed people to the brink, so even someone previously gentle and elegant could unleash their inner demon in an instant. In these days, one could hear of killings everywhere.

...

Chen Shouyi pedaled the tricycle, returning to the neighborhood, and saw a few police officers carrying a body in a corpse bag to a specially modified large tricycle. Two bodies had already been placed there.

One was small enough to be a child; this was clearly a family of three.

Groups of neighborhood residents whispered and pointed from a distance, no one daring to approach.

"Stop looking, it's bad luck, let's go!" Mrs. Chen urged uneasily.

Chen Shouyi acknowledged, retracting his gaze, and continued pedaling. Before long, they arrived downstairs.

He hoisted five bags of grain onto his shoulder and grabbed a cut of pork and two barrels of cooking oil with both hands, then walked up the stairs with Mrs. Chen.

...

"Mom, brother, you're back. Where's Dad?" Chen Xingyue asked.

"Your dad went to return the tricycle!" Mrs. Chen said, appearing a bit anxious.

"I have something to tell you. The police just came by, someone died on the ninth floor," Chen Xingyue said.

"I saw it on the way home. It was someone from our building?" Chen Shouyi asked in surprise.

Ten minutes later, Chen Dawei returned. Upon hearing the news, he couldn't help but sigh, "Do you think it might have been someone from our building?"

He wasn't too worried, not only because his son was a Martial Artist but his daughter was also a Martial Artist Apprentice. Regular thugs were no match for his family.

"I don't think so. People here seem very friendly," Mrs. Chen said.

"Mom, you can never truly know someone's heart," Chen Xingyue said, curling her lips.

...

After lunch, Chen Shouyi stayed at home for a while but quickly grew restless. Being cooped up at home every day was driving him crazy.

As he walked, he unknowingly ended up near the Haunted House.

Suddenly, he felt a strange sensation, something seemed off. Though he was over a hundred meters from the Haunted House, he already sensed a faint eerie aura. He looked toward the Haunted House's direction, feeling as if even the light was dimming.

Unexpectedly, it had become this severe!

This Natural Spirit was growing increasingly powerful.

He noticed that the alley's cement road was covered in thick snow. Apart from a few sporadic footprints, there were no other traces, clearly showing that this area had seen little foot traffic recently.

Chen Shouyi hesitated briefly, intending to walk into the alley to check out the Haunted House, but after a few steps, he was stopped by soldiers patrolling:

"Entry is banned."

He felt a chill in his heart, took out his Martial Artist Certificate, and asked, "What happened inside?"

Upon inspection, the soldier's expression turned solemn, replying, "It's haunted in there; many people have died. Nearby residents have been moved elsewhere uniformly. To prevent panic among nearby residents, please don't spread rumors."

"Isn't anyone handling this?" Chen Shouyi asked, puzzled.

"The Bureau of Paranormal Investigation came by two days ago, but they were unsuccessful, so for now, it's isolated, waiting for final resolution."

Though they said unsuccessful, when the two returned, one was ashen-faced as if severely frightened, while the other was completely mad.

Chapter 148: Chapter 148: Chaos (Part 1)

On the third day, Chen Shouyi finally understood what the soldiers referred to as the final disposal.

After a massive demolition of nearby buildings, dozens of tons of napalm bombs were launched at the area where the Haunted House was located.

Despite the influence of the otherworldly forces, causing electronic activities to become sluggish and chemical reactions to slow down, human weapons still wielded considerable power to this day.

The fire burned all night, gradually subsiding only by dawn, turning the entire half-kilometer radius into scorched earth.

When Chen Shouyi came back to this now ruins-scattered area, the eerie cold aura had completely dissipated.

This powerful Natural Spirit had turned to dust and ashes.

...

"Senior, I'm going to intrude on your home again today." Song Tingting sweetly greeted upon returning home.

"Oh, it's winter break, right? Welcome, welcome!" Chen Shouyi smiled and said, as the security on the street was decent, the nearby high schools continued their regular classes.

"Yes, the break started just yesterday."

The two chatted for a few more words before Chen Shouyi returned to his room.

Soon after he sat down, a knock was heard on the door. Opening it, he saw Song Tingting, and Chen Shouyi couldn't help but ask in wonder, "What's the matter?"

"Senior, can I come in?" Song Tingting asked, holding back her shyness.

Thinking about the Shell Lady still sound asleep in the briefcase, Chen Shouyi quickly said, "There's nothing much to see, come on in!"

Song Tingting entered the bedroom and gently closed the door.

Chen Shouyi's expression momentarily froze.

"Wow, what a huge bow! Is this the kind martial artists use?" Song Tingting exclaimed in surprise, looking at the giant war bow mounted on the wall with its string removed.

Chen Shouyi instantly came back to his senses and said, "Yes!"

Actually, it's a bow for great martial artists.

Song Tingting observed for a while, then sat gently on the edge of the bed, looking pitiful, "Senior, you haven't taught me sword practice for a long time."

"What, Xing Yue didn't teach you?" Chen Shouyi asked.

"She did, but I still think your teaching works best. Can you guide me again?"

Saying this, Song Tingting stood up, took off her heavy coat, instantly revealing her shapely figure underneath. She practiced the lunging thrust with her bare hands and said, "Look and see if I'm doing anything wrong."

Glancing at her, Chen Shouyi noticed that compared to when she first started learning, her moves had improved a lot. Except for her lack of explosiveness, her skills were quite decent, clearly indicating she had been practicing diligently during this time.

"You've made great progress recently!" Chen Shouyi praised her.

"But I feel my force isn't smooth enough, Senior, please help me take a look."

"Alright!" With nothing else to do, Chen Shouyi sat on the bed, watching Song Tingting practice repeatedly and occasionally correcting her movements.

As he watched, Chen Shouyi's eyes couldn't help but wander to her lively bouncing chest.

Developed really well!

At this moment, he suddenly heard a burst of gunfire, startling Chen Shouyi to his feet. He quickly walked to the window and drew the curtains aside.

Taking just one look, the unease in his heart was swept away.

A monster resembling a car-sized spider was racing swiftly down the opposite street. A group of soldiers fired at it continuously from behind cover at a crossroads building, but not only were few bullets hitting the target, but the power of the rifles had also significantly decreased after the mutation, failing to penetrate its defenses as bullets bounced off its tough outer shell.

Seemingly angered, it suddenly leaped forward, jumping to the crossroads. Its speed was so fast that before the soldiers could react, it was already moving towards them with its scythe-like six legs.

What ensued was a total massacre.

Its sharp front legs became its most deadly weapon, with only a light jab pinning a soldier's body to the ground, leaving them helplessly struggling.

The last soldier, retreating while firing desperately at it, was left with bullets dancing off its hard shell, sending sparks flying.

As if sensing pain, the monster let out a hoarse screech, pouncing on the soldier, savagely biting off the soldier's head alive. With its mouthparts continuously wriggling, brain matter oozed out.

Chen Shouyi's face darkened as he quickly grabbed the sword from the desk, opened the window, and turned back, saying, "Inform my mom and sister not to go outside."

Despite feeling frightened, Song Tingting nodded frantically.

"Help me close the window."

Before Song Tingting could understand the meaning behind it, Chen Shouyi had already leaped down.

This was the fifth floor!

Song Tingting nearly fainted from shock, her face turning pale as she rushed to the window, quickly looking down.

She saw Chen Shouyi rolling to offset the force before standing firmly on the ground, covering her heart as she sighed in relief.

Five floors were roughly fifteen to sixteen meters high.

For someone like Chen Shouyi, possessing a physique approximately six times that of an ordinary person, jumping from fifteen to sixteen meters was like an ordinary person jumping from two meters, a piece of cake.

Once he steadied himself, he started sprinting at full speed.

As he ran, his heart grew increasingly heavy.

He noticed that the surrounding gunfire hadn't stopped, indicating there were more monsters this time.

Chen Shouyi didn't go through the residential area's main gate, instead lightly jumping over the wall, choosing the nearest route.

On the street, his eyes quickly darted around, and indeed, he found another one in the distance.

Damn it!

How could so many giant insects from the other world appear all of a sudden?

He guessed they weren't coming through the already army-guarded passages but from a nearby undiscovered one, as otherwise, there would have been signs beforehand, even in a rush.

But there was no use wasting time thinking about it now. Killing one of them first took priority.

He charged towards the nearby crossroads.

The monster hadn't left, contentedly chirping while feasting on the "delicacy" at its feet, digging into its feast with two sharp front legs, shoving the corpse into its fearsome mouthparts, gnawing away as if no one else was around.

Its hearing was quite sharp, sensing the disturbance nearby, its actions halted, and it whirled around abruptly, its headless corpse tossed to the ground. Seeing the rapidly approaching Chen Shouyi, its mouthparts trembled frenziedly, letting out a hoarse, unpleasant screech, while its two front legs, longer than the other six, slightly waved in the air.

Chen Shouyi's sprint speed rapidly slowed into a jog, then a walk.

He approached step by step, slowly drawing his sword.

Only up close did he feel the monster's immense and grotesque presence. Standing about 2.5 meters tall with a body the size of a round table, its eight dark legs, as thick as calves, were covered in dense orange-yellow spikes. Its complex gigantic mouthparts wriggled continuously like a meat grinder.

The distance between the two closed quickly.

Fifteen, ten meters.

Finally, the monster could no longer hold back, raising its sharp spear-like front legs, the remaining six racing forward at Chen Shouyi.

Its speed was extremely astonishing, its massive body akin to a car charging at high speed.

But that wasn't nearly enough.

Just before contact, a cruel smile tugged at Chen Shouyi's lips. Dodging its charge with nimble movement, he stepped forward instead of retreating, his sword flashing and one of its legs was neatly severed.

The sword was indeed remarkably sharp, so much so that Chen Shouyi felt almost no resistance slicing through the leg.

The two swiftly passed each other.

With inertia, the monster ran another four to five meters before turning around.

No sooner than it turned, its cold compound eyes reflected a rapidly approaching figure. In the next moment, one of its swinging front legs was cut off, dark green blood flowing out.

It screeched loudly through its pain, thrusting its remaining front leg toward him.

Chen Shouyi sidestepped lightly to avoid it, simultaneously slicing away the other front leg with his sword.

At this point, it finally felt fear, hastily retreating.

Its front legs were its weapons; losing them reduced its combat power by more than half.

But at this moment, Chen Shouyi couldn't let it escape.

With a cold harrumph, he suddenly dashed forward, leather boots exploding, his body leaping nearly ten meters as easily as if it were only a step away, bringing his sword down like lightning upon the quickly retreating monster's head.

When Chen Shouyi returned to the street, the giant spider from another world that had been on the other end of the street was nowhere to be seen, evidently having gone elsewhere.

Gunshots and screams echoed continuously around him, and the place was already in chaos. Clearly, there were still many giant insects rampaging around, causing casualties among civilians and soldiers every moment.

In the nearby residential buildings, many figures stood cautiously by the windows, looking around with panicked expressions.

This disaster had struck so suddenly. Just a moment ago, it was peaceful here, as calm as a pool of dead water, yet in the next moment, it was as if they had entered a horror movie.

At this moment, a familiar screech made Chen Shouyi's face change.

Following the sound, he took several strides and darted into the residential area. On a lawn, a giant spider, which had entered from who knows where, was slowly pacing, as if it were a lion patrolling its territory, its cold compound eyes sizing up the towering residential buildings around it.

Perhaps catching sight of the terrified figures in the windows, it moved its legs and walked to the base of a residential building. Its front legs lightly touched the wall. In the next moment, several sharp legs plunged into the wall like spears, climbing upward step by step along the structure.

Its climbing wasn't fast, but combined with its round-table-sized body, it wasn't slow at all.

In just a few strides, it reached the second floor. Through the window, its indifferent compound eyes greedily surveyed everything inside. Two front legs, like Death's scythes, slowly slid over the glass window, which could not withstand such immense force, cracking quickly with a sinister sound.

Inside, a pair of young couples were already paralyzed with fear on the ground, wriggling backwards desperately like two meat insects, filled with despair.

The giant spider seemed to watch their struggle with keen interest, delaying its attack.

Just then, its cold compound eyes suddenly turned 180 degrees, attempting to assess the situation behind it. Like a precision machine, its mouthparts trembled slightly, emitting a hissing warning sound.

It keenly sensed danger approaching. As it hesitated between choosing food or dealing with danger,

a human figure soared through the air while running at high speed. Mid-air, a sword light flashed like a fleeting rainbow, slashing downward.

In the next moment, its entire back was cut open by a single sword stroke.

The severe wound on its back made the giant spider emit a sharp screech. It could no longer support itself and fell from the second floor, nimbly flipping to land on the ground.

Despite sustaining a fatal injury, it did not die immediately.

Insects have always had resilient life forces, and this powerful insect from another world was no exception.

However, it had already lost all fighting spirit, dragging a few-meter-long colorful intestine as it attempted to escape,

only to be caught up in a few strides by Chen Shouyi.

Sword strike!

Legs severed!

While running, Chen Shouyi delivered three consecutive sword strikes.

Three legs on one side, each over two meters long, were completely cut off. Before its body could tilt and fall, Chen Shouyi swiftly advanced a step, aiming a fierce thrust at the spider's thorax and abdomen.

Suddenly, a wild wind arose.

A high-speed sword shadow, nearly twice the speed of sound, flashed like an afterimage.

The sword did not cause a sonic boom, only a brief whooshing sound. If it hadn't been for the immediate outward dispersion of the airflow around the sword tip, creating a vortex of wind, its terrifying power would have been unimaginable.

In the blink of an eye, the sword pierced the giant spider's thorax and abdomen. With a bang, blood and flesh splattered, a bowl-sized bloody hole blasted open.

Chen Shouyi quickly stepped back a few paces after withdrawing the sword.

Yet, he was still splattered all over by the giant spider's bodily fluid.

Feeling nauseated, Chen Shouyi wiped his face and then looked at the exaggerated bloody hole caused by his previous sword strike.

"After the mutation, as my wind control ability somewhat recovered, the speed of the direct thrust with the bow steps has increased by at least twenty or even thirty percent, making the power much greater," he thought to himself.

"This is despite the hard shell of this otherworldly giant spider; if it were an ordinary person, one sword strike would probably blow their entire body into two pieces."

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"Brother, are you hurt?" Chen Xingyue opened the door and asked worriedly, seeing Chen Shouyi covered in colorful liquid.

Chen Shouyi had been patrolling around the neighborhood, having killed three giant spiders in total, but his body was also splashed all over with their blood.

"I'm fine, it's just a bit smelly." Before entering, Chen Shouyi took off his torn jacket, threw it at the doorway, rolled up his sleeves, and walked in barefoot; as for his shoes, they had already shattered completely during the intense activity.

Mrs. Chen and Father Chen both breathed a sigh of relief.

"It's good that you're not hurt, good that you're not hurt," Mrs. Chen muttered.

Song Tingting stood silently aside, her beautiful eyes almost glued to Chen Shouyi, soft and tender as if they would melt into water.

Unfortunately, Chen Shouyi only glanced at her, with no mind to pay attention, pausing for a moment before hesitantly saying, "I came back to get my bow; I'm going out again in a while."

Mrs. Chen felt a pang in her heart, wanting to say something, but Chen Dawei, standing beside her, pulled her and intercepted, "You're a Martial Artist, not an ordinary person. If

you want to go, just go! Don't worry about us, the building is so big and tall, we can run to other floors if there's danger."

Mrs. Chen wanted to say more but finally sighed and said, "Be sure to be careful."

Chen Shouyi's eyes slightly reddened, nodding heavily.

He entered the bedroom, took down the large Martial Artist Level War Bow from the wall, equipped the bowstring, adjusted it, picked up two quivers filled with arrows, hung them by his waist, and then left the room.

"Mom and Dad, I'm leaving now, I'll be back." Chen Shouyi said, walking to the door.

"Don't act rashly, be smart, and run if you meet danger!" Mrs. Chen urged from behind.

"Don't worry, I won't take unnecessary risks!" Chen Shouyi replied without looking back.

"Senior, your shoes!" At this moment, Song Tingting picked up a pair of Chen Shouyi's sneakers from the shoe cabinet and ran out after him.

Chen Shouyi, who had already reached the stairway, paused and was about to say there was no need when a moist sensation, like a dragonfly touching the water's surface, brushed across the side of his face, leaving him stunned.

Song Tingting's face was flushed, but her autumn-water-like eyes boldly met Chen Shouyi's as she softly said, "Senior, you must come back!"

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Chen Shouyi carried a pair of shoes, walking up the stairs, his heart pounding; he couldn't help but touch his cheek. He could still feel the moist and soft touch clearly.

For some reason, he suddenly thought of Zhang Xiaoyue.

Realizing he hadn't thought of her for quite some time, only the beautiful memory of his first love remained in his heart.

As he descended the stairs, listening to the dense gunfire from afar, all stray thoughts dissipated instantly from his mind.

Chen Shouyi's expression became serious. Looking at the shoes in his hand, he casually threw them to the ground, then quickly walked barefoot towards the sound of gunfire in the distance.

No need to waste the shoes.

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"Boom!"

With a thunderous explosion, an arrow flashed like lightning, instantly embedded into the fat abdomen of a distant giant spider, bursting open a small hole.

The giant spider's body stiffened, struggled weakly a few times, and then completely went limp.

Hidden behind the wall of the building, Chen Shouyi's eyes flickered with a trace of surprise.

What tremendous power.

An 800-pound War Bow, at close range, was incredibly lethal. With senses far sharper than the average person, he even noticed that when the arrow entered, the relatively soft abdomen slightly swelled, causing a wave-like shock. Evidently, the supersonic arrow, when entering the body at high speed, created an air bubble effect, expanding the internal wound, causing even more terrifying damage.

Watching the giant spider twitching all over, unable to crawl.

The efficiency of this slaughter was several times higher than using a sword!

Chen Shouyi sighed inwardly, quickly regaining his composure. He listened intently, and a few seconds later, he got up and walked quickly in the direction of the sound.

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On the fourth floor of an office building, two high-speed machine guns were mounted on the windows, frantically cross-firing at a giant spider. A large number of bullets hitting the giant spider's body caused sparks to fly, its body staggered under the impact of the bullets, growling in rage.

After more than ten seconds, cracks began to appear in its shell, with green blood slowly seeping out.

One of the soldiers quickly loaded a grenade into the rifle and fired it fiercely at the giant spider.

With a bang, a ball of flame exploded on the street.

The giant spider let out a sharp screech.

When the flames dispersed, the giant spider was seen charred all over, its shell shattered and broken, green blood flowing freely.

Finally feeling fear, it turned and fled rapidly. The soldiers manning the machine guns hurriedly adjusted their aim.

Unfortunately, it moved too fast, and by the time they re-aimed, it had already run dozens of meters away. The machine gun continued firing a few shots in pursuit, but considering the dwindling ammunition, they had to give up reluctantly.

After the mutation, the power of firearms greatly diminished. Take the rifle as an example, before the mutation, a rifle's muzzle velocity could reach a thousand meters per second. It could penetrate a 3.5-mm thick steel plate at 700 meters, but now, post-mutation, the muzzle velocity only reached over 400 meters, with effective lethality rapidly reduced to around 100 meters.

"Damn beast!" a soldier angrily took off his helmet and cursed.

A silence settled over them.

In just these few hours, who knows how many soldiers had died at the hands of such creatures. Just from what their team saw from afar, it was no less than dozens.

In this oppressive atmosphere, a sharp shriek suddenly rang out.

The soldiers startled, hurriedly looked over, only to find that the giant spider, already far away, suddenly shuddered and collapsed.

Soon after, a figure carrying a Giant Bow appeared in their sight.

He seemed to walk like a normal person, but each step spanned seven or eight meters. In just a breath, he had crossed the wide six-lane road and disappeared from sight.

...

It was still winter, with filthy, dirty snow piled on the roadsides yet to melt, already frozen into ice. Chen Shouyi walked barefoot, feeling no cold at all, his whole body steaming with heat, his skin flushed red.

Shards of glass littered the road, with body parts and bloodstains visible here and there.

Arms, pale intestines, half-eaten corpses.

The whole city was suffused with a faint bloody smell, making one feel like being in a hellish battleground.

At this moment, a dull explosion sounded from afar.

Chen Shouyi stopped in his tracks, quickly looked towards the distance.

But high-rise buildings blocked the view, and he couldn't see a thing.

The number of troops stationed in the Hedong District wasn't small, with well-equipped armaments, large numbers of tanks, armored vehicles, self-propelled artillery, armed helicopters, and even plenty of missiles, enough for a medium-intensity war.

But after the mutation, apart from personal weapons that could still be moved by manpower, these armaments had become ornaments, completely immobilized, with mobility next to zero.

He glanced for a moment, then withdrew his gaze.

He didn't stray too far from his neighborhood, only venturing around the surrounding area.

As for going further, he could only apologize, he couldn't let his family fall into danger.

...

A few minutes later, Chen Shouyi killed another giant spider that broke into a shopping mall.

Before the chaos, this mall was still operating. Almost all the shops on both sides had their iron shutters torn apart, with countless clothes scattered on the ground, accompanied by numerous fragments of bodies, flesh, and blood nearly soaking the floors.

He continued to walk forward for a bit, vaguely feeling some unease. There was too much minced flesh, obviously not the work of just one giant spider. Listening carefully, he indeed faintly heard the rising and falling sounds of chewing.

He immediately felt the urge to retreat, quietly pulling out an arrow and began to slowly back away, while remaining vigilant, looking around. The mall had a circular layout, allowing a view from the first floor to the top floor, yet he saw nothing.

Just then, he keenly heard a series of crisp, chaotic clattering sounds.

Chen Shouyi's heart tensed, recognizing the noise as the knife-like legs of giant spiders moving on the ground, and by the sound, there were quite a few of them, or it wouldn't be so chaotic.

He quickened his pace, retreating rapidly towards the mall's entrance, an arrow slowly nocked on the bowstring.

Suddenly, he spun around sharply, without looking, following an instinctive intuition, swiftly nocked and fired an arrow towards a spot on the third floor. The giant spider, still mid-air, was pierced through the chest and abdomen by the swiftly flying arrow, crashing to the ground.

However, this was just the beginning.

The next moment, seven or eight giant spiders, like dumplings dropping into boiling water, leaped from various floors.

Not only from the front, but also from behind.

These giant spiders, possessing a certain intelligence, attempted to encircle him.

Shit!

Chen Shouyi's heart pounded wildly, never expecting so many giant spiders to be gathered inside a single mall.

This is freaking like a party!

Sensing the danger, Chen Shouyi's mind became extraordinarily calm.

He even had the spare capacity to discern the order in which each spider landed, and the next moment, swiftly drew and nocked an arrow.

His agility had already reached 14.3, nearly six times that of an average person.

From the moment Chen Shouyi reacted, to drawing out the first arrow, and fully drawing and firing it, it took only 0.15 seconds.

The first-floor height of the mall was five meters. In Earth's gravity, how long would it take for a giant spider to jump from the second floor?

A full second.

Such a length of time, for Chen Shouyi, was enough to pull the bow six times and shoot six arrows.

This was for those jumping from the second floor; quite a few spiders were jumping from the third or fourth floor.

For a time.

All that was heard were explosive "booms" echoing continuously in the mall, pounding against the eardrums.

During the first and second arrows, Chen Shouyi felt some nervousness, but by the third and fourth arrows, he became increasingly relaxed, and his aim steadily improved.

The piercing screeches of the giant spiders sounded one after another.

The last spider, still seven meters from the ground, was instantly pierced through the head by an arrow, its massive body knocked several meters sideways by the enormous impact, before crashing heavily to the ground.

Feeling his heart still pounding heavily, Chen Shouyi wiped the sweat from his forehead.

Damn, gave me a fright.

Then he pulled out another arrow, finishing off the few giant spiders that hadn't been hit lethally and were still struggling to escape.

Just as he was about to leave this hellish scene, Chen Shouyi suddenly felt something watching him.

ps: Please vote for the monthly ticket ahhh!

Chapter 149 149: Chaos (Part 2)

When Chen Shouyi returned to the street, the giant spider from another world that had been on the other end of the street was nowhere to be seen, evidently having gone elsewhere.

Gunshots and screams echoed continuously around him, and the place was already in chaos. Clearly, there were still many giant insects rampaging around, causing casualties among civilians and soldiers every moment.

In the nearby residential buildings, many figures stood cautiously by the windows, looking around with panicked expressions.

This disaster had struck so suddenly. Just a moment ago, it was peaceful here, as calm as a pool of dead water, yet in the next moment, it was as if they had entered a horror movie.

At this moment, a familiar screech made Chen Shouyi's face change.

Following the sound, he took several strides and darted into the residential area. On a lawn, a giant spider, which had entered from who knows where, was slowly pacing, as if it were a lion patrolling its territory, its cold compound eyes sizing up the towering residential buildings around it.

Perhaps catching sight of the terrified figures in the windows, it moved its legs and walked to the base of a residential building. Its front legs lightly touched the wall. In the next moment, several sharp legs plunged into the wall like spears, climbing upward step by step along the structure.

Its climbing wasn't fast, but combined with its round-table-sized body, it wasn't slow at all.

In just a few strides, it reached the second floor. Through the window, its indifferent compound eyes greedily surveyed everything inside. Two front legs, like Death's scythes, slowly slid over the glass window, which could not withstand such immense force, cracking quickly with a sinister sound.

Inside, a pair of young couples were already paralyzed with fear on the ground, wriggling backwards desperately like two meat insects, filled with despair.

The giant spider seemed to watch their struggle with keen interest, delaying its attack.

Just then, its cold compound eyes suddenly turned 180 degrees, attempting to assess the situation behind it. Like a precision machine, its mouthparts trembled slightly, emitting a hissing warning sound.

It keenly sensed danger approaching. As it hesitated between choosing food or dealing with danger,

a human figure soared through the air while running at high speed. Mid-air, a sword light flashed like a fleeting rainbow, slashing downward.

In the next moment, its entire back was cut open by a single sword stroke.

The severe wound on its back made the giant spider emit a sharp screech. It could no longer support itself and fell from the second floor, nimbly flipping to land on the ground.

Despite sustaining a fatal injury, it did not die immediately.

Insects have always had resilient life forces, and this powerful insect from another world was no exception.

However, it had already lost all fighting spirit, dragging a few-meter-long colorful intestine as it attempted to escape,

only to be caught up in a few strides by Chen Shouyi.

Sword strike!

Legs severed!

While running, Chen Shouyi delivered three consecutive sword strikes.

Three legs on one side, each over two meters long, were completely cut off. Before its body could tilt and fall, Chen Shouyi swiftly advanced a step, aiming a fierce thrust at the spider's thorax and abdomen.

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In the blink of an eye, the sword pierced the giant spider's thorax and abdomen. With a bang, blood and flesh splattered, a bowl-sized bloody hole blasted open.

Chen Shouyi quickly stepped back a few paces after withdrawing the sword.

Yet, he was still splattered all over by the giant spider's bodily fluid.

Feeling nauseated, Chen Shouyi wiped his face and then looked at the exaggerated bloody hole caused by his previous sword strike.

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Chapter 150 150: Chaos (Part 3)

"Boom!"

With a thunderous explosion, an arrow flashed like lightning, instantly embedded into the fat abdomen of a distant giant spider, bursting open a small hole.

The giant spider's body stiffened, struggled weakly a few times, and then completely went limp.

Hidden behind the wall of the building, Chen Shouyi's eyes flickered with a trace of surprise.

What tremendous power.

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