

Dawn of a New Era

#Chapter 21: Shedding Skin - Read Dawn of a New Era Chapter 21: Shedding Skin

Chapter 21: Chapter 21: Shedding Skin

The entire transformation lasted for over ten minutes, and his body heat gradually subsided.

At this moment, his attributes had changed to:

Strength: 12.6 (10)

Agility: 12.8 (10)

Physique: 13.5 (10)

Intelligence: 12.3 (10)

Perception: 10.8 (10)

Willpower: 11.4 (10)

Except for willpower and perception, the remaining attributes showed a significant increase, with some even gaining two points.

He tightly clenched his fists, a surge of powerful strength flooding through his body.

Not only that.

His five senses became sharper, his mind more agile, and even those difficult problems on yesterday's monthly exam that he couldn't solve were now crystal clear with just a thought.

Even time seemed to slow down considerably in his eyes.

...

The gravity, three times that of Earth, now felt not much greater than Earth's to him, and he felt he already possessed some self-defense capabilities.

He stood up, preparing to explore the area.

Leaning on a stick, he walked with careful steps along the mountainside.

The newfound strength seemed not easy to control.

The usual habit of exertion was now seriously mismatched with his powerful body, either too much strength or too little; he nearly fell several times.

Fortunately, after walking cautiously for more than ten minutes, he slowly began to adapt.

This was a desolate small island, only about one square kilometer in size.

Apart from a mountain peak in the center, the surrounding area was ocean, with no animals on the island except for some small ant-like insects breeding on the grassland; there were no other creatures.

This let him breathe a sigh of relief, indicating that this place was quite safe.

He made a brief observation around the mountainside, noticing it was nearly two in the morning.

He started to return.

When he returned to Earth through the passage, he suddenly felt light as if he were about to float away, stumbling lightly as he walked.

At first, he walked slowly, then began to run.

Falling several times, he got up and continued running.

On the deserted, empty streets, Chen Shouyi ran excitedly, laughing as he ran, his speed increasing, like a gust of wind racing through the streets, quickly arriving home.

He opened the door, tiptoeing back to his bedroom.

Closing the door, he flopped onto the bed, rolling around a few times; today's adventure made him feel thrilled and excited.

He silently chuckled a few times, unable to resist opening the attributes panel again.

The increased attributes hadn't returned to their original state, and the talent option was still there. Only "Natural Healing" was replaced by "Basic Self-Healing."

He clenched his fists, the skin of his palms creaking under the tight friction.

Everything was real.

He truly became stronger, unimaginably powerful.

Then, a question suddenly occurred to him, and the excitement quickly faded.

"Should I report this spatial passage?"

Chen Shouyi was hesitant; deep down, he absolutely didn't want to. No one would want to.

It's said that Martial Arts Academy apprentices will enter a concealed spatial passage for training, which indicates that the unique environment of the other world can greatly enhance the strength of apprentices.

Now, his attributes had surpassed the standard of a Martial Artist Apprentice, even nearing that of a Martial Artist.

For example, the assessment for male Martial Artist Apprentices requires bench pressing 200 kilograms, and now, based on his attributes, he estimates he can reach 290 kilograms, just one step away from the Martial Artist's 300-kilogram standard.

Moreover, his agility was 0.2 points higher than his strength, fully reaching the Martial Artist standard.

Regarding physique, it was the strongest attribute among all his attributes, reaching an astonishing 13.5.

But he ultimately hadn't passed the Martial Artist Apprentice assessment. Even if he passed, he still had to wait more than five months to enter the Martial Arts Academy.

During this time, a spatial passage accessible only to himself strongly attracted him. He felt if he could train quickly under three times gravity, his strength would undoubtedly improve further.

However, an unguarded spatial passage in the city was somewhat dangerous.

That night, he tossed and turned, his mind struggling, until near dawn when he finally drifted off to sleep.

He hadn't slept long when his biological clock woke him up on time.

Though he only dozed off for a while, Chen Shouyi felt refreshed, without any sleepiness from staying up all night.

He picked up his phone to check the time, finding the screen still off. Hastily, he turned it on again, relieved to see it light up quickly; apparently, the otherworldly environment hadn't damaged it.

"Well, only delayed by ten minutes or so."

He quickly dressed, heading to the bathroom to wash up.

Chen Xingyue was already in the bathroom, wearing a cute bunny pajamas, groggily brushing her teeth.

"Morning!" Chen Shouyi greeted, then took out his toothbrush to start brushing his teeth as well.

Chen Xingyue rinsed her mouth, spat out the white foam, glanced at the mirror, suddenly saying, "Bro, you're peeling."

"Oh, really!" Chen Shouyi looked closely for a while and indeed found it so.

Mysteriously, there was a lot of old skin on his face, patchy in places. He ignored brushing his teeth, biting the toothbrush, pinching a piece of dead skin, and tore it off in front of the mirror, resulting in a large expanse coming off with a rip.

He paused, noticing the skin beneath was red, white, and smooth, tender as a baby's.

He came to his senses, noting Chen Xingyue's surprised expression, calmly saying, "Maybe I got too much sun yesterday."

"Weren't you taking an exam yesterday?" Chen Xingyue questioned immediately.

"The sun during noon, the faucet was too big when washing hands, wetting my pants, so I dried off in the sun for a while," Chen Shouyi explained seriously, finding his thoughts extremely agile now, lying without even thinking.

"Bro, you're disgusting."

Chen Xingyue said with a face full of disdain.

"Who's fault is it for your strong curiosity? Besides, it's not like I peed my pants, just water! What's so disgusting about that? In elementary school, once when you were urgent, you even..." Chen Shouyi immediately retaliated.

Seeing Chen Shouyi about to bring up her embarrassing childhood incident, Chen Xingyue's face turned red with embarrassment and anger: "If you say another word, I won't talk to you anymore."

Her earlier doubts vanished without a trace.

Watching Chen Xingyue flee in embarrassment, Chen Shouyi felt triumphant. It was the first time he won a verbal battle against this sharp-tongued sister.

After Chen Xingyue left, he quickly closed the bathroom door and forcefully scrubbed his face in the mirror, peeling off the entire skin.

Looking at his reflection in the mirror, he felt slightly unfamiliar.

He looked a bit handsome, with rosy lips, white teeth, and skin as smooth as jade. Under two thick eyebrows were a pair of bright, dark eyes.

Compared to his previously slightly dark, ordinary appearance, it was like a complete transformation.

In the mirror, Chen Shouyi felt no joy, only surprise.

"How am I supposed to go out like this?"

"When my parents see me, will they believe it's from sunburn if I continue explaining?"

He looked at his arm, gently rubbed it, and immediately rubbed off a large piece of dead skin, estimating he had shed skin all over.

He quickly took off his clothes, showered, and scrubbed off the dead skin all over his body.

Back in his bedroom, he sat on the bed with a face full of worry.

How was he going to explain this?

He couldn't stay in the bedroom forever, nor could he avoid his family altogether.

Then he saw the bedroom window, had an idea, and went over to open it, looking down.

Below was a small alley, four or five meters above ground. Chen Shouyi felt with his current physique and strength, he should be fine jumping down. As for explanations, maybe he could say he returned to his slightly dark skin after a day in the sun!

Watching passersby gradually move away, with no one behind, he took a deep breath, made a decision, and with his arm on the window, jumped down.

With a "thud," Chen Shouyi landed easily, his feet barely bending, as if he had jumped from half a meter high.

The passerby ahead, hearing the noise, thought something fell from the sky and turned back suspiciously, but found nothing but a person behind.

Chen Shouyi smiled at them, then went near a restaurant and shouted from a distance:

"Mom, I'm going out with classmates; I'll be back tonight."

"Alright, be careful on the way," Mrs. Chen, mopping the floor, replied instinctively to Chen Shouyi's voice.

She realized something was off after speaking; when did he leave?

By the time she reached the door, Chen Shouyi had long disappeared without a trace.

PS: Ask for recommendations, ask for collections, ask for rewards. It's said when fans reach a hundred, the fan value on the mobile app will change.

Chapter 22: Chapter 22: Mysterious Creature

He wandered all the way, surrounded by a myriad of sounds, vibrant colors, and a heightened sense of smell.

On this street he had walked countless times, so accustomed to it, yet now it appeared novel to his eyes, as if the whole world had become colorful and vivid.

Unknowingly, he found himself at that abandoned building once more.

He paused, hesitated for a moment, and taking advantage of the distracted passersby, he swiftly dashed towards the abandoned building.

Soon he expertly found his way to the spatial passage, entering the alternate world again.

Breathing in the thick air here, a sense of power seemed to reawaken within him, and a familiar feeling arose spontaneously.

He glanced at the attribute panel, noticing that the initial Self-Healing had transformed into Natural Healing once again.

By now, it was already afternoon in the alternate world, approximately around two o'clock Earth time, when the sun was blazing.

He took a few steps, readapting to the gravity here, then practiced the thirty-six styles of body training exercise several times to loosen up.

Under three times the gravity, this kind of training was more strenuous, each movement demanding massive physical exertion.

Fortunately, he was no longer the same as before; among all his attributes, his physical strength was the most formidable.

He practiced a full five times before he felt slightly fatigued.

However, he dared not waste too much energy here, so he quickly stopped, picked up the stick he had left yesterday, and continued to explore the small island.

Although he had roughly surveyed it yesterday and found no apparent danger on this island,

he did not dare lower his guard.

The alternate world was vastly different from Earth.

Compared to Earth, although there was no difference in material elements in the alternate world, the entire world held a mysterious force field, which the Barbarians called Power of Nature or Original Force.

It was omnipresent, penetrating every atom and even more intricate structures of matter.

It could greatly interfere with the movement of electrons, causing them to struggle in losing or gaining, making any chemical reaction sluggish, or even almost impossible to ignite a flame here.

Logically, such a world should be a dead world, with no life able to survive here.

Yet, in reality, the alternate world was teeming with life.

According to the most common explanation by scientists, this mysterious force field can easily be disturbed by living organisms, from the simplest microorganisms to advanced intelligent beings, they all manifested active biochemical reactions.

Even in death, souls could exist independently, unable to perish over a long time.

Ghosts, phantoms, and even more fearsome Natural Spirits, which on Earth were merely legends, yet in this world, they truly existed and were everywhere.

And in such an environment, the creatures here, not only the animals but even many plants, possessed individual consciousness or even intelligence, and some had the ability to move.

.....

Chen Shouyi ascended towards the mountain top cautiously, step by step, with his stick in hand.

Inevitably, this was a truly desolate island, overgrown with weeds and wildflowers, with only oddly shaped rocks, not a single tree, making him suspect the island had only recently emerged from the sea.

In no time, he reached the summit.

The fierce sea wind tousled his hair as he stood surrounded by an endless ocean, a sight that filled him with serenity and joy.

Unable to resist, Chen Shouyi let out a loud shout, venting his excitement.

After some time, he descended from the mountain and returned to the beach.

The tides surged and retreated, constantly washing over the shores, while a few crustaceans scuttled across the sands, occasionally presenting glimpses of vividly colored shells reflecting brilliant hues under the sun.

He was immediately captivated by the colors of the shells, which compared to those on Earth, appeared not only more bizarre in shape but also far more brilliant and colorful.

Always intrigued by the objects of this alternate world, he decided to take one back, intending to use it as a decoration in his bedroom.

Chen Xingyue would be green with envy if she saw it.

He meticulously selected a suitable target, intending to choose the most beautiful one.

Then suddenly, his eyes lit up.

It was a palm-sized shell, resting on a massive rock over a meter above the waterline, radiating a rainbow of colors in the sunshine, exuding a mysterious sheen, standing out among the shells.

Moreover, the shell was half-open and half-closed, with its surroundings quite dry, indicating it was a dead object.

Having a natural sense of caution towards the creatures here, seeing it as a dead object meant no psychological burden.

He quickly stepped forward and picked it up from the rock.

Yet, before he could examine it closely, something unexpected occurred.

The shell suddenly opened, and a tiny figure hovered an inch above it, moving hands and feet in a dance, with sparkling light fragments swirling around.

Startled by this sudden anomaly, Chen Shouyi's eyes widened immensely, nearly tossing the shell away in shock.

Fortunately, he soon realized this mysterious entity seemed to pose no threat to him.

She detached from the shell, floating mid-air, surrounded by twinkling lights, appearing quite mysterious and elusive. However, her body was too small, merely the length of one of Chen Shouyi's fingers, giving him little sense of threat.

Chen Shouyi suppressed his fear and scrutinized the mysterious creature closely. She had human-like female facial features and a body, completely naked.

From her peculiar behavior, he slowly deduced that she seemed to be dancing.

"What kind of trick is this? Does she think acting all mysterious will scare me away?"

He curiously touched her with his finger. Indeed, the Shell Lady was nothing but a paper tiger, immediately knocked back into the shell by his touch, curling up in fear and quickly beginning to sob.

However, Chen Shouyi had little sympathy for strange creatures.

"Humans must be discovering this kind of creature for the first time. If this was uploaded to a video website, it would probably cause a sensation." Looking at the sobbing Shell Lady, an idea suddenly occurred to him.

But this idea only briefly crossed his mind before he immediately abandoned it.

If he uploaded such a creature online, and it was investigated, this spatial passage would inevitably be exposed.

He hadn't decided yet whether to report this spatial passage.

He decided to observe for a while longer. If it was truly dangerous, he would report it immediately. If not, he would delay for some time.

After all, the spatial passage has probably existed for quite some time. If there were any risks, they likely would have emerged long ago, and it wouldn't wait until now.

...

At this moment, the Shell Lady's expression changed unpredictably. Suddenly, as if resolved, she gritted her teeth and took advantage of the "Giant's" inattention, flying up from the shell and darting away.

She left behind a trail of beautiful, fragmented glimmers, desperately flying towards the ocean.

But she hadn't flown even half a meter before she felt darkness above her. Suddenly, a fierce wind arose, and the next moment, her body was seized by a giant hand.

"Ah!" A shrill, desperate scream erupted from the Shell Lady, twisting her face in terror.

Her scream was like the ringing hum of a tuning fork, even making Chen Shouyi's ears itch.

Then he stuffed the miraculous Shell Lady back into the pretty shell, tightly closing it. The continuous screams immediately became muffled and elongated.

Chen Shouyi felt quite pleased; capturing this mysterious creature greatly intrigued him.

He decided not to linger on the beach any longer, returning to the passage entrance.

Suddenly, he noticed the Shell Lady had become quiet. Minutes ago, he could still feel her forcefully beating against the shell. Now, there was no sign of movement.

"Could she be suffocating?" He gently shook the shell.

He could just feel a slight roll inside, but no further reaction.

He quickly opened the shell slightly and discovered the Shell Lady had indeed fainted, tears clinging to her pale face, with traces of fear still evident.

Fortunately, Chen Shouyi could still see her chest faintly rising and falling, which relieved him.

Chen Shouyi rubbed his chin, thinking:

"Looks like I need to change my method of confinement."

His gaze fell on the weeds on the ground, and he immediately had an idea.

Soon, he found a tough vine on the ground, stripping off its skin, and twisting it into a long, thin rope. Chen Shouyi pulled it forcefully, discovering it to be extremely sturdy, unable to tear it even with all his strength.

Then, he picked up one of the Shell Lady's feet.

Curious, he glanced between her legs and was instantly dumbfounded, his face flushing:

"It's...it's just like a woman's!"

His heart raced, quickly averting his gaze forcibly, trying not to focus on it, until his hands trembled as he tied the rope around one of her feet, finally breathing a sigh of relief.

Although in reality, he had secretly watched quite a few small videos, seeing it in person was still a first for him.

Fortunately, the Shell Lady was so small that the initial image was the only shock, and soon his mind calmed down.

He placed the Shell Lady in his hand, occasionally toying with her body using his fingers.

Not long after, she finally woke up.

She groggily opened her eyes, stretched lazily, seemingly confused about the situation, until she saw a pair of enormous eyes.

She screamed again, her body soaring into the air as she tried to escape.

Unfortunately, she hadn't flown far before a rope yanked her back.

This reminded him of his father catching sparrows for him as a child, but he never managed to keep one alive; they would die after a few days of play.

The Shell Lady collapsed onto the ground in despair, tears streaming, and after a while, she began to speak, her tone alternately passionate and furious as well as mournful and lamenting. Unfortunately, her voice was so soft, merely like the buzzing of a fly.

Chen Shouyi leaned closer, trying to hear more clearly.

The next moment, the Shell Lady spat at him.

PS: Seeking recommendations, seeking bookmarks, seeking rewards!!!!

Chapter 23: Chapter 23: Golden Sand

Chen Shouyi wiped the spittle off his face, feeling as if he were a wicked villain.

But he wasn't planning on releasing her.

He caught her with his own skills, why should he let her go?

He placed the Shell Lady on the ground, tying the other end of the hemp rope to a blade of grass.

Then, he picked up a wooden stick, ready to practice Swordsmanship.

He immediately felt the difference compared to practicing on Earth.

Under the gravity of this world, every exertion felt sluggish and heavy, his muscles were as stiff as a rusty machine, making it quite strenuous. It was as if he had returned to the days of first learning Swordsmanship, no longer smooth and seasoned as he was on Earth.

Moreover, after only a few minutes of practice, his muscles would start to cramp, and his body would spasm, forcing him to rest for a while.

However, the harsher the environment, the more apparent the training results.

He could feel that if he could master his skills in this alternate world, his Swordsmanship might reach a new level.

...

During this time, while Chen Shouyi wasn't paying attention, the Shell Lady continuously tried to escape.

At first, she was sweating profusely trying to undo the rope on her feet, but unfortunately, the knot was a dead one, and combined with her weak strength, she couldn't untie it despite her efforts.

Then, she aimed at the blade of grass.

What was a blade of grass to Chen Shouyi was thicker than her thigh to the Shell Lady.

No matter how hard she pulled or even tried to bite it with her teeth, she exhausted all her strength without breaking it.

Finally, she gave up. The gentle breeze played with her fine hair, gently swaying as she sat helplessly on the ground, her face filled with despair and numbness. Perhaps thinking about her bleak future, a tear slowly slid down her face, woeful and pitiful.

Gradually, she began to feel hungry. She flew to a nearby flower bush, drank her fill of nectar, and then sat back down, resigned to her fate.

...

Time gradually passed, and as the sun started to set, Chen Shouyi felt hunger gnawing at his stomach and finally stopped. He realized he had made a mistake, thinking he should have brought some food with him.

Then, he turned around to see the Shell Lady holding a grain of sand, tossing it up and down, seemingly entertaining herself.

At first, Chen Shouyi didn't pay attention until a glint of gold caught his eye, and he sharply sensed something amiss.

He walked over, startling the Shell Lady so much that she quickly dropped the sand and retreated.

However, Chen Shouyi's target wasn't her but the sand she dropped.

He carefully picked it up, the grain of sand was just slightly larger than a sesame seed, yet it glowed with a golden hue.

This captivating color made his heart race.

"Gold!" Chen Shouyi nearly exclaimed in shock.

There was gold on this small island!

He quickly examined the ground's sand and soil, but found nothing.

"Where did you find it?"

"@ ¥ # % & ; ; @ " The Shell Lady shook her head desperately with a face full of tears, speaking in a strange language like a weak mosquito.

Judging by her expression, it was clearly a non-answer.

Chen Shouyi calmed himself down, pointed at the golden sand, then pointed at himself, making a gesture meaning it belonged to him.

He patiently communicated several times, but the Shell Lady still looked bewildered.

Chen Shouyi thought for a moment, realizing he needed to make a gesture that was universal and easily understood between the two worlds.

He pondered for a while, then suddenly had an idea.

The next moment, he opened his mouth, pretended to put the golden sand in his mouth, chewed a few times, and swallowed, while in reality, the sand was clutched between his fingers.

Then he looked at the Shell Lady, his face ferocious and tooth-baring.

His mouth was like a bloodthirsty maw to the Shell Lady, and indeed she was terrified, retreating desperately, her face white as a sheet.

Quickly, she seemed to understand something, glanced around, and suddenly took flight.

After flying a few meters, she landed, and without much searching, quickly grabbed a golden grain of sand in her palm, then flew back hurriedly to place it ingratiatingly into Chen Shouyi's palm.

He was overjoyed, knowing there was indeed more here.

Yet his expression revealed nothing, continuing to pretend to put it in his mouth, then glaring at the Shell Lady.

The poor Shell Lady, not even having a moment to breathe, frantically flew around, searching everywhere.

Watching for a while, Chen Shouyi was surprised. He noticed that the Shell Lady seemed to have a keen intuition, allowing her to accurately locate golden sand buried in the grains of sand.

He saw more than once the Shell Lady digging away the surface soil to retrieve the golden sand from within.

In a short time, the pile of golden sand in Chen Shouyi's hand grew from two pieces to eighteen, with the smallest being the size of a needle point, and the largest as big as a mung bean.

But the Shell Lady could no longer fly, sitting on the ground, drenched in sweat.

Seeing her utterly exhausted state, Chen Shouyi finally felt a bit embarrassed, and stopped coercing.

The hungrier he got, he decided to go outside to eat.

He glanced at the Shell Lady, hesitated for a moment, but still decided to let her stay here.

He placed the shell where she had originally been hiding next to her. With the protection of this shell, he believed that she shouldn't encounter any danger, at least not from insects, as she could completely hide inside.

...

Soon, he put on a nonchalant face and left the dilapidated building.

He took out his phone and turned it on.

Soon, a series of messages popped up.

He took a look and found that they were all from Zhang Xiaoyue.

"So bored!"

"What are you doing?"

...

"I had the food Dad cooked today, it was so terrible!"

Chen Shouyi showed a slight smile on his face and quickly replied: "Sorry, I was just practicing Martial Arts, just saw this now, what are you up to?"

Not long after, a message came back.

"I was napping and got woken up by you, so annoying!" Zhang Xiaoyue lay on her bed, holding her phone, her cheeks slightly puffed, quickly typing with her fingers.

Speaking of which, she only really got to know Chen Shouyi this month when they entered senior year three, before that, she hadn't had much impression of him.

He was a boy easy to overlook, with not much presence in class.

Until one day, he suddenly amazed everyone with a sword thrust performance in Martial Arts Class, she then gradually started to pay attention to him.

Later, when they encountered Barbarians at the bookstore, he held her by the wrist, protecting her with a calm face as they squeezed out of the crowd, she suddenly felt that this boy had become magnetically attractive to her.

...

"That's definitely because your sleeping posture is wrong!" Chen Shouyi replied with a smile.

"Then tell me, what sleeping posture should I use?"

Chen Shouyi couldn't help but think of some off-color jokes on the internet, quickly typed: "There are so many postures, even more than the Thirty-Six Body Refinement styles."

Immediately feeling it was inappropriate, he quickly deleted it, just as he did, a reply came from the other side.

"You're so dirty, didn't think you'd be so naughty."

Chen Shouyi was taken aback and quickly sent a sweating face emoji.

He found a spicy hot pot shop, ordered food, and continued messaging: "What are you talking about? I don't understand at all!"

Chen Shouyi ate spicy hot pot while smiling and replying to messages. During the meal, they exchanged dozens of messages, feeling like they had endless things to talk about.

Finally, with great effort, he ended the conversation: "I've got to practice Swordsmanship now, talk later!"

"Mmm, give it your best!"

After reading, Chen Shouyi turned off his phone, feeling immensely motivated.

...

The Shell Lady sat on the shell, leisurely swinging her feet, seeing that terrible Giant returning once again.

She quickly shrank back into the shell.

Chen Shouyi glanced over and found seven or eight more pieces of golden sand next to the shell, shiny and eye-catching, obviously collected during his absence.

He didn't expect the Shell Lady to have such a sense of awareness.

Chen Shouyi thought it seemed he should treat her better in the future, she's like a hen that lays golden eggs!

In a good mood, he patrolled around the small island to digest his food.

Then continued practicing Swordsmanship.

Time passed quickly, and night gradually fell in this alternate world.

There was no moon, not even starlight.

Earth has yet to determine what kind of world this alternate world is, it seems completely unlike the normal universe.

Except for the "sun" which seems somewhat normal, no other celestial bodies can be seen.

But it's not completely devoid of light here.

Chen Shouyi saw countless glows on the ocean, sometimes gathering, sometimes dispersing, like ribbons, like auroras, seductive yet spectacular, shocking yet mysterious.

Even the little island itself, tiny sparks of light rose amidst thin mists, exuding a magical aura.

At this moment, he faintly heard someone singing, the voice ethereal and mournful, seemingly coming from afar across the ocean, causing one to stop and listen.

Yet Chen Shouyi felt a chill, the night in the alternate world is terrifying, a world full of ghosts and spirits, countless dossiers on the alternate world repeatedly stress this point.

He looked back at the Shell Lady, only to find she was already hiding inside the shell.

PS: Please recommend.

Chapter 24: Chapter 24: Well-Intentioned Lie

Chen Shouyi felt his hair stand on end; he dared not stay here any longer and decided to leave immediately.

Before leaving, he untied the rope, scooped up the Shell Lady along with the shell, and quickly walked out of the passage.

Leaving the Shell Lady here—if she died, or escaped—it would be a pity.

In no time, he left the unfinished building.

Amidst the hustle and bustle of the busy street, with people coming and going, and cars flowing like a river, Chen Shouyi softly sighed in relief.

Compared to the treacherous and unpredictable alternate world, Earth gives him more a sense of security. There are no mysterious creatures or ghosts here, which puts him at ease.

He looked at the shell in his hand and found that the magical, colorful shimmer it once emitted had now completely dimmed, the vibrant colors gradually fading, the surface becoming mottled.

Chen Shouyi was momentarily stunned, suddenly realizing.

No wonder this shell was so beautiful, and no wonder the Shell Lady chose it as her home—this shell was anything but ordinary.

Regrettably, after arriving on Earth, its extraordinary features had faded, leaving only the mundane.

However, he did not feel regretful.

All along, he did not even know what use the shell had.

Thinking of the Shell Lady inside, he gently pried open a small gap in the shell.

Fortunately, she was still alive; she was just curled up inside, her face full of fear, trembling all over, evidently terrified by the change in environment.

Seeing she wasn't dead, Chen Shouyi felt reassured.

Passing by an accessory store, he suddenly had an idea and went inside.

It was the first day of National Day holiday, and the store was quite crowded. Most people inside were women, though some men were accompanying their girlfriends. There were very few like Chen Shouyi, who entered alone.

He browsed slowly, quickly picking out a roll of tape, a roll of nylon rope, a small pair of scissors, and found a few sets of small-sized Barbie Doll clothes. Unfortunately, he couldn't find any underwear, so he had to make do.

While paying, the cashier couldn't help but glance at him after seeing the five or six Barbie Doll outfits.

Half a minute later, Chen Shouyi walked out of the accessory store expressionless and headed to the supermarket to buy a bottle of honey.

Earlier, he had noticed the Shell Lady seemed to eat flower nectar; he figured honey should be fine too. Given her appetite, she should be easy to feed.

...

When he walked out of the supermarket, it was only three in the afternoon. The sun remained scorching, and Chen Shouyi suddenly felt at a loss.

Seeing his still fair skin, despite nearly half a day of sun exposure in the alternate world, seemed to have little effect. His thirteen-point-five physique nearly made him immune to ultraviolet damage.

He turned on his phone, chatting with Zhang Xiaoyue while aimlessly wandering around until dusk, deciding then to head home.

"Mom, I'm back." After greeting, Chen Shouyi quickly walked upstairs while Mrs. Chen was not paying attention.

This time of day, when the restaurant was busiest, Mrs. Chen was carrying dishes when she saw a flash of movement and heard footsteps running up the stairs. She shouted crossly after his retreating figure, "You're not eating?"

"I already ate at a classmate's house." He suddenly stopped, thought of an idea, and decided to tell a harmless lie.

The stairs had no light, the darkness being his best cover, as he confidently turned around, "Oh, by the way, Mom, my Martial Arts Apprentice physical test has passed; only Swordsmanship and Archery need a bit more work."

"Really, son, you passed the physical test?" Mrs. Chen was overjoyed to hear it. She had always been worried about her mediocre son, concerned he might achieve nothing in life. She hadn't expected such a pleasant surprise after he entered his third year of high school.

"Mom, haven't you noticed I've gotten much stronger recently? So I'm planning to take a break from school.

In the past few days, I've done some research and found a crash course training institution that offers intensive pre-test training with a high success rate, so I want to enroll."

"If it's helpful, then by all means enroll. How much does it cost?" She was frugal in some areas, but when it came to her children's education, she was incredibly generous.

"It costs about eighteen thousand, for fifteen days." Chen Shouyi hesitated briefly before naming a price. There were many such pre-test training courses; this price was reasonable and not too low to arouse suspicion.

"But I need to stay out!" he feigned hesitation lastly.

"You're already grown and still afraid of staying outside? When should you enroll?" Mrs. Chen, in good spirits, playfully teased him.

"Tomorrow morning."

"That soon? Luckily, I still have some funds in my account. I'll transfer the money to you once I'm done with the chores!"

In the darkness, watching his mother's face full of smiles, so gratified, Chen Shouyi suddenly felt a lump in his throat, feeling like crying.

In his memory, nothing had ever made his parents feel gratified; it was only disappointment after disappointment.

"But it will never be so again. You will be proud of your son." He wiped his eyes, turned, and returned to his bedroom, locking the door behind him.

...

He sat in front of the desk in a daze, lost in thought.

Suddenly, he remembered something and quickly took the shell out of the plastic bag.

The Shell Lady lay inside, motionless, her eyes swollen and empty, devoid of any spirit.

Her mouth had been taped shut, and her hands and feet were bound together.

Chen Shouyi gave a dry laugh, thought for a moment, then picked her up from the shell. Under her numb gaze, he cut the nylon rope binding her hands and feet with a small scissors.

Then he tore off the tape from her mouth.

He picked up the Barbie Doll clothes he had bought earlier, deciding to dress her.

Being stark naked was extremely distracting and often made him feel awkward—putting on clothes was more natural.

He gingerly lifted her arm to put on the shirt, fearing he might accidentally break her.

In truth, there was no need for such caution; she was sturdier than he imagined. After all, she was a creature from a three-times gravity environment, not as fragile as she seemed.

As he dressed her, the Shell Lady remained motionless, allowing him to pose her at will, her spirit seemingly broken.

Since feeling the change in her surroundings and realizing she had lost all her abilities and could no longer fly, she had become utterly despairing and numb.

After finally managing to dress her in a princess gown, Chen Shouyi wiped the imaginary sweat from his brow and exhaled a sigh of relief.

"Oh, right, I almost forgot about the honey."

He quickly took the honey out of the bag, scooped a small spoonful with a metal teaspoon, diluted it with some warm water, and placed it in front of her.

The teaspoon was longer than her height, and the spoon was three times the size of her head.

The Shell Lady's nose twitched slightly, then she turned her head away, remaining motionless.

Seeing her unwillingness to cooperate without force, Chen Shouyi couldn't help but poke her a few times with his finger, making her roll around on the desk, but the Shell Lady remained silent and unmoving.

Finally, Chen Shouyi gave up and stopped paying attention to her; after all, starving for a day shouldn't kill her.

He took the Wooden Sword from beneath the bed and resumed Swordsmanship practice.

He had barely completed a single forward stab.

The Wooden Sword pierced through the air, producing a sharp whistling sound, and he promptly stopped.

A moment later, there was a knock at the door.

"What's up?" Chen Shouyi said in a low voice with his body pressed against the door.

"Brother, you're back! What was that noise in your room just now?"

"It's nothing, just something from outside. I don't know what it was either."

"Oh, it startled me!"

His sister quickly left, and Chen Shouyi sighed in relief.

He looked at the sword, then at his own hands; while practicing in the alternate world, he hadn't had a clear sense of his own strength until now, realizing the extent he had reached.

That strike just now probably approached the speed of sound.

He suddenly realized how wise it was to have an excuse to leave for a while; staying here longer would even make practicing Swordsmanship a problem, to say nothing of other issues.

Chapter 25: Chapter 25: Archery Dojo

Late at night, all was silent!

In Chen Shouyi's bedroom, the Shell Lady who had been lying motionless on the desk suddenly sat up slowly.

She looked down at her body in the princess dress, and the beautiful colors finally brought some emotion to her eyes. She stood up, took a few light steps, and then gracefully spun around, watching the dress float up like flower petals.

A hint of joy appeared on her small face.

But thinking of her current predicament, she immediately restrained her smile.

She quickly walked to the giant spoon, and smelled the somewhat pungent sweet scent with a slight look of disdain, but the hunger in her belly and the upcoming escape plan made her pinch her nose and drink several gulps, so sweet that she frowned deeply.

She burped, rested for a moment, and felt her strength gradually returning.

She immediately began to take action.

She looked down from the desk from time to time, finding huge gaps everywhere.

Fortunately, in this peculiar world, although her innate abilities had completely vanished, it also made her body lighter.

She secretly encouraged herself, gritted her teeth, aimed at the place where the giant had been sitting, and took a bold leap.

Her body traced an arc and landed on the chair, rolling a few times before standing up.

Easier than she had imagined, her courage grew.

At that moment, a loud creaking sound suddenly came to her ears. She quickly dodged behind the chair leg, holding her breath, her small face turning pale with fright.

Fortunately, the "giant" just turned over, and soon the heavy breathing resumed.

It wasn't until a long time had passed that she dared to continue her movements with cautious steps, quickly reaching the door.

The door had a gap of about four to five millimeters above the floor.

Her eyes lit up upon seeing this, and she quickly moved forward. Such a gap was more than enough for her petite body.

Her heart was filled with joy, almost feeling like jumping for joy. She immediately lay on the ground and started crawling forward.

Head went through!

Soon, her chest went through as well!

Her excitement grew, but just as she was about to push forward and escape this hellhole, she suddenly found herself unable to move, as if something was holding her back. She struggled hard but didn't budge at all.

...

Early the next morning, before the sky was light, Chen Shouyi woke up.

He immediately looked at the desk and noticed that the Shell Lady was missing.

Frightened, he hurriedly searched around and finally found her stuck in the door gap, her fluffy princess dress snagged by a wooden splinter in the gap. If not for this, she might have actually escaped.

He retied the Shell Lady, sealed her with tape, feeling scared in hindsight, and started considering buying a cage for her.

...

He woke up earlier than usual today, with his parents and sister still asleep. He quickly washed his face, brushed his teeth, and returned to his bedroom.

After packing his luggage, he jumped out of the window again at seven o'clock.

"Mom, I'm leaving, tell Dad for me."

"Got it, study well, don't worry about home," Mrs. Chen shouted from the busy restaurant.

"Where's Shouyi?" Chen Dawei came out, tying an apron upon hearing the sound.

"He left early."

"That kid, I wanted to talk to him! He's been coming and going mysteriously for these few days, never to be seen."

...

After leaving home, Chen Shouyi first went to the supermarket, purchasing a bunch of food and a large amount of drinking water. He then booked a single room for fifteen days at a small, secluded inn and stored his luggage.

He calculated the time and, until eleven o'clock, quietly entered the alternate world again.

Last night, while surfing the web on his phone, he had already roughly learned that a day in the alternate world lasts about 40 Earth hours.

Sure enough, when he entered, it was just dawn there.

The fog on the mountain and that eerie singing had all disappeared, as if they had never existed.

He untied the Shell Lady, leaving only nylon strings to bind her legs, continuing to coerce her into collecting golden sand for him.

Back in the familiar environment, the Shell Lady felt her innate abilities returning. She tested and flew around a bit, her small face filled with joy. She flew around happily, searching for golden sand, seemingly completely forgetting her captivity.

Perhaps she had resigned herself to her fate.

Chen Shouyi continued his practice.

Here he had a huge advantage—his innate ability of Natural Healing could quickly repair muscle strains and also quickly alleviate muscle fatigue, allowing him to withstand more intense and dense training.

He had discovered this phenomenon the previous day—each time he practiced until his muscles twitched, within seconds, the muscle fatigue would subside.

In the past, it would have taken at least four to five hours.

Every move in Swordsmanship involved a series of muscle groups in the body. While extremely powerful, practicing was also quite laborious, and muscles fatigued easily. Very few Martial Artist Apprentices could practice continuously for over five minutes.

Generally, practice would last for about three to four minutes, and before reaching muscle fatigue limits, a ten-minute rest was needed. An hour of practice was mostly spent resting.

But he had no such constraints, meaning compared to others, he had more practice time.

.....

Time flew by, and two Earth days had passed in the blink of an eye.

At noon, he left the inn quickly while carrying a bag.

Immediately after, he went to a nearby gold shop to cash in the gold collected by the Shell Lady over these days.

The gold had already been secretly melted into gold bars by him to avoid unnecessary trouble since the golden sand was too dazzling and made people suspect he might have found a gold mine.

During this period, since he changed his exploitation method from sheer high-pressure intimidation to material incentives such as various styles of dresses, beautiful glass marbles, and some colorful trinkets, the Shell Lady's efficiency and enthusiasm in collecting golden sand increased significantly.

In just a few days, she collected more than a pound of golden sand.

Seeing the ATM screen showing a deposit of a staggering 110,000.

Chen Shouyi's heart pounded.

Although 110,000 might not be much, in Dongning, where even the housing prices in this fifth or sixth-tier city reach close to ten thousand, 110,000 could only buy a bathroom.

But for Chen Shouyi, whose small savings never exceeded more than 3,000 growing up, it was a fortune.

...

He hadn't just come out to sell gold this time.

Though he lied to Mrs. Chen, pretending he needed to undergo a closed pre-exam training, this lie had to be maintained as passing the Martial Artist Apprentice exam was a must.

Now his physical fitness was no longer an issue; his Swordsmanship improved greatly with the practice under triple gravity, and it should be enough to pass. Only Archery remained.

However, he wasn't inclined to enroll in a tutoring class again.

Firstly, there wasn't enough time.

Secondly, such an inefficient teaching method didn't suit him.

...

Half an hour later, in front of the door of Chuan Sheng Archery Dojo.

Chen Shouyi got out of the taxi. This was the largest archery dojo in Dongning City.

Many Martial Artist Apprentices practiced here, and sometimes even Martial Artists could be seen.

"How are the fees here?"

The girl at the front desk smiled and said, "We offer annual cards, semi-annual cards, quarterly cards, and monthly cards. The monthly fee for a monthly card is 4,500. If you get an annual card, there's a 50% discount; for a semi-annual card, it's 20% off..."

"Do you have any daily or time-based rates?" He quickly interrupted her sales pitch.

"Of course, we have session cards, 300 per session, valid from 9 AM to 9 PM. Additionally, personal coaching and massage services are charged separately."

"Please make me a session card."

"May I see your ID, please?"

Chen Shouyi took out his ID, paid, and quickly received a temporary membership card.

Before even reaching the entrance, he already heard the dense "thud thud" sounds of arrows hitting the target.

The entire archery dojo covered a vast area, and a glimpse down the side corridors revealed a breadth of nearly a hundred meters, spanning over ten thousand square feet.

Today was during the National Day holiday, the peak trading time, and the entire venue was full.

Not only were there men and women in sporty attire but also muscular hulking figures, elderly people, and even many children.

It was apparent that most of these people were quite amateur.

Compared to Swordsmanship, which is extremely difficult to start, Archery is easy to learn but difficult to master, so even many people uninterested in Martial Arts use archery as a regular leisure activity.

However, there are also quite a few experts here.

ps: The next Chapter will be adjusted to 5 PM, and future updates will also be at this time. Also, requesting recommendations for the new week.