

## Dawn of a New Era

### Chapter 26: Chapter 26: Common Language

Actually, it's quite simple to identify who is an expert; just see if there are many spectators. Generally, experts always attract a lot of attention.

Chen Shouyi wasn't in a hurry to practice; he observed one person after another.

At this moment, he paused as he noticed a large group of people gathered ahead, even attracting glances from several nearby Archery Dojo coaches.

This was an indifferent middle-aged man, with a lean and compact physique. Underneath the casual sports short-sleeve shirt, his exposed arm muscles were fine and closely-knit, resembling tightly wound steel wires. Every time he shot an arrow, it emitted a sharp whistling sound.

His actions were filled with rhythm, as if carrying a certain pace. Although the speed of his shooting was neither fast nor slow, it gave people a continuous feeling like flowing clouds and water.

Chen Shouyi quietly watched for quite a while and then walked to the rest area, leaned back on a seat, closed his eyes as if resting his mind. He sat there for two hours. When he opened his eyes, that middle-aged man was already gone.

However, he didn't mind, as he had already gotten what he wanted.

"Is there anything you need help with?"

"I want a 300-pound bow!"

Chen Shouyi received a bow and three quivers of arrows and went to an empty spot.

He tested the force of the bow and found it a bit light for his current strength, but he didn't intend to change it since a 300-pound bow was the test standard for male Martial Artist Apprentices.

Generally, an ordinary adult could only pull a 40 to 50-pound recurve bow. Once a bow exceeds 100 pounds, it goes beyond a Hunting Bow into the realm of a War Bow. The power of a 300-pound bow at medium to short range could rival that of a rifle.

Similar to swordsmanship, archery also has a set of standard power exertion and movements, but it's much simpler than swordsmanship and tests one's eyesight,

intuition, and prediction ability more. There aren't many tricks, besides innate talent it just requires practicing repeatedly.

For someone as skilled in swordsmanship as him, getting started was no challenge.

He closed his eyes and recalled the muscle memory of that middle-aged man in the Memory Space earlier.

The next moment, he opened his eyes and immediately started shooting arrows.

The movements were smooth and seamless, incredibly perfect!

The arrow swiftly flew out, disappearing without a trace.

Chen Shouyi shook his head and shot another arrow; this time it hit the target, but only registered as a one-ring.

The third arrow missed the target again.

The fourth arrow hit three rings!

And by the fifth arrow, he could generally hit the target.

He continuously drew and shot arrows. With his strong physique and endless strength, a 300-pound bow was effortless for him, causing almost no exertion.

In no time, he had finished the arrows in three quivers.

He gathered more arrows, adjusted the distance of the target position, and continued shooting without resting.

For safety, each archery position here was separated by walls so one could retrieve arrows anytime.

His proficiency improved visibly and rapidly. By the time the Archery Dojo closed, his archery level had moved from (uninitiated) to initiated (10).

...

At half-past nine in the evening, he carried a briefcase and returned to the hotel.

Just as he was about to go upstairs, the receptionist called him: "Young man, your package has arrived."

"Oh, thank you!" Chen Shouyi thanked and hurriedly went back to his room with it.

He closed the door, sat on the bed, and tore open the package. Inside were three thick books.

"Common Phrases for Communicating with Barbarians"

"Universal Dictionary of the Otherworld"

"Learning Barbarian Language with Pictures"

For some reason, within the currently explored regions by human nations, the language in the otherworld seems to be singular. Regardless of the spatial distance between Barbarian Tribes, whether the tribe believes in deities, or even among some other intelligent beings different from barbarians, the language is nearly the same.

This is an utterly incomprehensible phenomenon, beyond human reasoning.

Many scientists have conducted countless studies on this. Only in recent years, with the rapid development of genetics, has a more credible explanation been made. Studies found their genes have significantly more effective segments related to language, almost dozens of times more than humans, yet their linguistic capabilities are not stronger than humans at all.

In evolutionary terms, this phenomenon is a severe waste, a huge redundancy.

Some scientists speculated an astonishing hypothesis that their genes might be able to inherit language information.

However, since its inception, this hypothesis has been highly controversial because it can lead to an even more bizarre conclusion.

That is, all creatures in the otherworld originated from the same source.

This origin isn't like Earth, where the first organic molecule emerged from the primordial ocean soup.

The "origin" of otherworldly life should at least be an intelligent being capable of language communication. After "it" perished, "its" cells and genes began to disperse. Countless lives evolved from this foundation.

And "its" language was inherited through genes.

...

However, for Chen Shouyi, regardless of how mysterious and unimaginable the origin of otherworldly creatures might be, at least for him, he didn't have to worry that the Shell Lady's language was some obscure and strange dialect beyond his ability to handle.

Thinking of the Shell Lady, Chen Shouyi quickly opened the newly purchased, brand-new briefcase.

Took out the bound Shell Lady from inside.

He tore off the tape stuck on her mouth and cut open the ties on her hands and feet.

The Shell Lady moved her hands and feet, gave Chen Shouyi a resentful glance, and turned her head in anger. But when Chen Shouyi handed over a colorful glass bead, she immediately beamed with joy.

She held it up to the light, gazing at the changing, enchanting colors, and the more she looked, the more she liked it, making her feet on the edge of the table sway back and forth involuntarily.

These glass beads, like those used in children's bead strings, were quite cheap, only thirty yuan for a large box, and Chen Shouyi bought a box with several hundred, if not a thousand, in various colors.

Chen Shouyi reckoned they could last a long time.

After feeding her honey, Chen Shouyi placed her by the pillow, turned on the TV, and switched to cartoons.

And then he left her be.

She is now quite captivated by TV, especially cartoons. Even though she couldn't understand, she watched with fascination just from the visuals, her eyes not blinking.

Meanwhile, Chen Shouyi picked up the easiest book, "Learning Barbarian Language with Pictures," and began earnestly learning the otherworldly language.

After a while, he suddenly said to the Shell Lady, "Bo Zha Luo Ke Ba Duo!"

In the book, this sentence means: "We are friends!"

However, the Shell Lady seemed oblivious, her eyes fixed on the cartoons, fully engrossed.

Chen Shouyi took the remote, turned off the TV, and repeated it once more.

The Shell Lady was furious, stood with her hands on her hips, and loudly shouted, "Bei Qi! Bei Qi! Bei Qi!"

She no longer feared this giant much, as long as she could find enough golden sandstones for him, no matter how presumptuous she acted, he wouldn't mind, except, of course, when she's bound and confined.

"Bei Qi?" Chen Shouyi was not at all concerned with the Shell Lady's anger. He listened intently to this slight sound, silently pondering in his heart, and quickly took out the dictionary to search by phonetic sound, but unfortunately, after searching for a long time, the meaning was still unclear.

Could there be a pronunciation error?

"Bei Qi, Tai Qi, Pei Qi, Pei Qi!"

"Pei Qi!"

At that moment, he suddenly recalled the cartoon she just watched, a flash of inspiration: "Peppa Pig!"

## **Chapter 27: Chapter 27: Defense**

Chen Shouyi was a bit annoyed and glared at her.

However, the Shell Lady was unfazed, placing her hands on her hips and repeatedly shouting, "Prepared, prepared, prepared..."

Chen Shouyi was so irritated that his teeth itched. This Shell Lady had become increasingly mischievous lately. How hard could it be to respond properly?

He considered scaring her a little, but ultimately decided against it. The Shell Lady had been busy helping him earn one hundred ten thousand yuan these past few days and was already quite exhausted. Especially after being tied up for most of today, he decided to let her relax.

Besides, there's no rush at the moment.

He helplessly picked up the remote control and turned the TV back on.

"Prepared!" The Shell Lady immediately quieted down and returned to her original position upon seeing the familiar screen reappear.

Chen Shouyi continued reading. His intelligence now was as high as 12.3, which could be considered that of a genius, a far cry from before. In just over an hour, he had memorized more than a hundred vocabulary words and familiarized himself with a few conversational sentences.

During this time, he also made a phone call to his mom and exchanged a few text messages with Zhang Xiaoyue.

Recently, due to his mysterious nature, he often went long periods without contact, preventing his relationship with her from rapidly warming up as expected, remaining lukewarm.

Just then, the landline phone on the bed suddenly rang.

Chen Shouyi got up and answered the phone. Without waiting for the other party to speak, he quickly said:

"I don't need services, thank you!"

Then he hung up. Every day he stayed in the room, he would receive such calls. Initially, Chen Shouyi thought it was room service, so he asked more questions one time but ended up astonished and speechless.

I really am still too young!

...

Chen Shouyi continued reading until eleven o'clock, practiced the Thirty-Six Techniques of Body Refining over a dozen times, and after taking a shower, noticed the Shell Lady was still watching TV, even changing sitting positions once.

He immediately took the remote control and turned off the TV. The Shell Lady jumped up angrily, attempting to watch again but immediately deflated upon seeing the rope in the other's hand.

Chen Shouyi beckoned her with his finger, and the Shell Lady understood him, tear-filled eyes extending her leg.

Soon, Chen Shouyi used a rope to tie her leg, the other end connected to his arm.

He went forward to turn off the lights.

With a "click!" the room swiftly dimmed.

Listening to the giant's huffing breath beside her, the Shell Lady lay quietly for a while.

Then she slowly stood up, carefully scuttling to the pillow, looked at the detestable big face, compared her small fist, hardly larger than a mung bean, and glared viciously with grit.

After venting for a moment, seeing the rope on her feet, she sighed dispiritedly and returned to sleep at the bed corner. Soon, sleepiness came over her, and faint snores gradually sounded.

But Chen Shouyi didn't sleep; he merely entered a deep state of silence.

In his mind, countless lines spread like a network throughout his body, the image quite simple without any excess details.

Ever since entering the deep silence to hone his body "full muscle practice" seven or eight days ago, this scene hadn't changed, but today, it quietly shifted.

As time passed, shadows started appearing between lines, gathering some texture, evolving from a flat picture into three dimensions.

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The next morning, as he was awakening, he felt a wonderful sensation rising.

He did not open his eyes, silently sensing everything around him.

He found he could intuitively perceive nearby objects, absent any images or light, yet possessing a strong sense of what existed around him, even the approximate shapes.

He could sense the Shell Lady half a meter to his right, clutching the sheet corner, sleeping soundly in a tight ball.

He sensed a coin seemingly wedged in the seam behind the bed.

The only drawback was this perception range was quite short, roughly only one meter, beyond which things swiftly blurred.

Chen Shouyi startledly opened his eyes, fully awake.

Glancing at the Shell Lady beside him, he found her sleeping posture exactly matched his perception, then hastily lifted the mattress and indeed found a one-yuan coin in the gap.

He swore he never knew a coin was left there.

He opened his attribute panel.

Discovering the level of "Deep Silence Body Cultivation" had jumped from (Proficient 2) to (Proficient 10).

Perception also increased by 0.1 points, adding to the 0.1 from two days ago, it has already reached eleven points.

Since the Book of Knowledge modified his body, perhaps because he became much stronger, the speed of his perception's progress quickened significantly. In just three days, he increased by 0.2 points.

Among all the changes, the most suspicious one is perception.

In his understanding, perception is similar to the legendary Spiritual Power, also related to a person's intuition or sixth sense.

But before, this attribute hadn't shown any effect at all, or perhaps its effects were subtle and not obvious.

"It seems that eleven points is the watershed for perception?" He looked at the number eleven and thought to himself.

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He dressed and was on his way to the bathroom.

He keenly noticed that his body seemed to have gained a touch of control. Even just casually walking, his muscles operated like a gear system, closely interlocking, moving in coordination, naturally and effortlessly.

This feeling was quite amazing, feeling every fiber of his body under his control, his whole body seemed to be renewed. He had a strong intuition that today his speed in drawing the sword would be half a degree faster than yesterday.

...

Youth Martial Arts Training Center.

"Wow, Chen Shouyi, you've changed a lot!" Accompanying her boyfriend, Guo Qianqian came over and showed a hint of surprise upon seeing Chen Shouyi. If it weren't for his face still being the same, she would've almost thought it was someone else.

She couldn't find any trace of the shy image in her memory. Now, his eyes were sharp, his demeanor steady, standing out in the crowd like a crane among chickens. Even her handsome boyfriend beside her seemed dull, as if he was just a passerby in front of him.

"Really, maybe it's because I changed my clothes." Chen Shouyi smiled, subtly changing the topic, "Didn't you go out during the National Day holiday?"

"We originally planned to go out with my parents the day before yesterday, but halfway, the highway was closed. I heard it was due to military maneuvers, needing to close the road for half a day, so we came back."

"That's really unfortunate!" Chen Shouyi commented, not thinking much of it.

"Yes, yes, by the way, do you remember Zhu Shaoqiang from our class before, the tall one?"

"The sports committee member, right? Of course I remember, what's up?" Chen Shouyi thought for a moment and recalled.

"He enlisted in the army."

Chen Shouyi was slightly stunned but not surprised. Recently, recruitment propaganda had started once again.

On the large screen at the nearby cross street, he had seen military recruitment ads playing before he came over.

Since the world fusion with another dimension twenty years ago, the shadow of war had been looming over humanity. The number of armies around the globe has been maintained at large scales, and in a great country like the Great Xia, the size is astonishing.

Its regular standing army is as many as six hundred thousand. Even in a small city like Dongning, a regiment of soldiers is stationed nearby.

Actually, that number is what's left after gradual reduction over the years. If it were back when the worlds first fused, the Great Xia Country's military force once reached as high as ten million, nearly entering a state of combat readiness.

Luckily, it was just a false alarm in the end, and the war between the two worlds has always been kept within small scales.

Perhaps somewhat excited, once Guo Qianqian started talking, she couldn't stop, and seeing nothing else was going on around, Chen Shouyi had no choice but to engage in the conversation with her.

Originally sitting and looking at his phone, Lin Feng's expression grew darker and his fists clenched tighter, until he finally stood up with a bang, his leg knocking the chair, making a harsh sound.

Chen Shouyi looked over immediately.

For some reason, Lin Feng felt a huge sense of pressure, like a basin of icy water, instantly calming his somewhat heated mind, reminding him of the disparity in strength, and his built-up momentum rapidly dissipated.

"What's wrong?" Guo Qianqian asked.

He avoided Chen Shouyi's gaze, affectionately wrapping his arm around Guo Qianqian, and said, "I just saw a pair of platinum couple rings, extremely beautiful, got a bit too excited. Let's take a look together later, and if they're satisfactory, we'll buy them."

Guo Qianqian was indeed attracted, and the two leaned in to chat quietly.

At this moment, the tutorial teacher finally arrived.

"During the National Day holiday, I wonder if everyone practiced diligently. If you're determined to pursue the path of Martial Arts, diligence is indispensable.

No more chitchat, today we will learn something new: how to defend.

Defense generally falls into three types: distance defense, body dodging defense, and weapon defense.

Distance defense, as the name implies, is accomplished by retreating beyond the range of attack, with defense thus naturally achieved.

While everyone might think it sounds simple, it actually requires certain skill, because the opponent's sword speed is often much faster than your retreat speed. This requires not only agility in basic steps but also anticipation, with high demands on eyesight."

At this, the beautiful instructor looked at Chen Shouyi: "Chen Shouyi, put on the Protective Suit, and demonstrate with me."

PS: Next Chapter will still be at five o'clock in the afternoon. Also, please give some recommendations.

## **Chapter 28: Chapter 28: Praise**

"Yes, Teacher!"

Chen Shouyi immediately went over to put on the Protective Suit, and a few minutes later, he stood in front of the beautiful teacher.

"Everyone, watch my demonstration closely!" The beautiful teacher saw that Chen Shouyi was ready and thrust her sword forward.

Chen Shouyi felt that the opponent's sword was somewhat slow, and he didn't feel any pressure at all. In the next moment, he slid backward as if gliding, easily dodging the beautiful teacher's thrust.

He had been in the alternate world for half a day in the morning, and even now felt a lightness underfoot. Against such a speed of sword thrust, evading was almost effortless.

The beautiful teacher froze for a moment, her beautiful eyes glanced at Chen Shouyi.

According to her teaching plan, this wasn't supposed to happen; he should not have been able to avoid it completely, being clumsily struck so she could then explain the reason for the failure, letting all the students understand clearly.

This way, she could also demonstrate her teaching capability.

But unexpectedly, the kid dodged it.

She snapped back to reality and had to continue, "Well, Chen Shouyi didn't do too badly, let's try again!"

Unfortunately, Chen Shouyi was oblivious to the thoughts in the beautiful teacher's mind and quickly stood in front of her again.

As soon as he stood still, she lunged forward, the Safety Sword whistling softly as it swiftly thrust forth.

Before the sword was even thrust, his body instinctively reacted; his leg muscles burst with speed, his slide faster by thirty percent than before, once again easily avoiding it.

Perhaps due to his improved perception, his intuition had become more powerful. As soon as the opponent moved, before his mind could react, his body instinctively dodged.

The sword tip was an inch away from Chen Shouyi, but that inch seemed like a great divide.

All the students watched in awe, their hearts stirred.

"This is impossible!" The beautiful teacher's eyes widened slightly, her heart greatly shocked.

If the first time could be dismissed as her carelessness, underestimating his true strength.

But this time, although she didn't fully exert herself, she gave seventy to eighty percent, and took advantage of his lack of preparedness, yet surprisingly he dodged again.

This kind of terrifying nerve reaction and split-second pre-judgment capability even made her feel overshadowed.

She looked at Chen Shouyi, and through the mask, she seemed to see a faint smile of smugness at the corner of his mouth:

"Good, very good, Chen Shouyi, well done, try again."

Her voice seemed to come from between her teeth.

She couldn't believe this.

Even the most oblivious person could sense the beautiful teacher's mood wasn't quite right; Chen Shouyi noticed her previously gentle and calm face now expressionless, with an air of alienation, and he suddenly realized.

No matter how gentle a woman looks, she's still a woman!

He hurriedly stood properly, bracing himself.

The beautiful teacher's face darkened, saying nothing, her sword thrust again, slicing through the air like lightning.

This time Chen Shouyi restrained his bodily instincts, purposely slowing his actions by half a beat, just lifting his foot when he heard a "slap!" sound, causing a tingling in his chest.

The beautiful teacher's face softened a bit: "This time Chen Shouyi didn't do so well, now let's analyze why he failed to defend this time.

First, his mind wasn't focused, his gaze was dull; it's a grave mistake to be distracted in a fight.

Second,...

Next,..."

Chen Shouyi stood there, expressionless!

After the explanation, the beautiful teacher dismissed Chen Shouyi.

During the next demonstrations of body evasion and weapon defense, Chen Shouyi didn't get another chance to go up.

After class, just as Chen Shouyi was about to leave, the beautiful teacher called out to him.

"Chen Shouyi, wait a moment!"

"Teacher Wang, what can I do for you?"

She adjusted her hair, seeming somewhat hesitant to speak: "Actually... with your current level, you don't need to come to class anymore."

Chen Shouyi was taken aback, somewhat understanding what she meant, but said reluctantly, "But there's still a lot I haven't learned yet!"

The beautiful teacher blushed slightly, quickly saying:

"You misunderstood, what I meant is that your learning ability is so strong, staying in class for regular learning is a bit of a waste. I can take a few evenings when I'm free to personally guide you; how do you feel about that?"

Chen Shouyi felt a surge of joy at this, having long found the efficiency in class too low, so if this was possible, it couldn't be better.

He quickly said respectfully, "Thank you, Teacher Wang."

"That's good, note down my phone number, 1348392####, I'll only coach you for three evenings, so give me a call beforehand when you're available."

Chen Shouyi quickly took out his phone, noted down the number, dialed it back, and then said, "I'm free tomorrow night, how does that sound, Teacher Wang?"

"Tomorrow, huh!" The beautiful teacher hesitated for a moment, but finally nodded: "Then come over, I live at Shanshui District, building 12, room 1201, call me when you arrive."

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After returning, Chen Shouyi entered the alternate world once more.

It was still morning in the alternate world.

The ground had accumulated a small pile of golden sand again, clearly, the Shell Lady hadn't slacked off after he left.

He sat on the ground, planning to relax for a while when a thought struck him, and he pulled over the rope binding the Shell Lady, drawing her back from a distance.

"Pozbalokbado!"

"We're friends!"

"Pudo!" The Shell Lady gave him a sideways glance, turning her head, puffing indignantly.

Carefully listening, Chen Shouyi happened to recognize this word as a swear word, roughly meaning bastard, scoundrel.

Chen Shouyi didn't mind, only feeling excited, as he could finally communicate.

He spoke again:

"Pulolanzeikaku!"

"I bring peace and friendship!"

As soon as she heard this, the Shell Lady became agitated, pointing her small finger at Chen Shouyi, passionately rattling off a heap of words, and even spat at him in the end.

Chen Shouyi wiped away the saliva without care, listening closely but struggling to understand it.

Noticing her mood becoming unstable and uncooperative.

Chen Shouyi had his own way to handle it; he quickly felt in his pocket and pulled out a small Glass Bead, waving it in front of her, and she immediately calmed down.

Yet he also felt this kind of talk was somewhat inappropriate.

He retrieved "Common Phrases for Communication with Barbarians" from his briefcase, flipping through it until he found a suitable short phrase.

"You look really beautiful!"

The moment he finished speaking, the Shell Lady froze, her eyes wide, as if struck by lightning.

Soon after, Chen Shouyi noticed her skin reddening visibly.

Seeing the effect, Chen Shouyi was invigorated, quickly flipping through the book for another phrase.

"You really are a kind-hearted girl."

"You're incredibly hardworking!"

"Even the sun above is not as radiant as you."

...

Chen Shouyi continuously searched for similar short phrases.

Brought up alone on a small island, the Shell Lady had never heard such praise; her face grew increasingly red, her head lower and lower, soon looking like a boiled crab, seemingly about to steam.

### **Chapter 29: Chapter 29: Ambush**

After a long while, Chen Shouyi finally let go of the Shell Lady, who was flustered as if drunk from the praise.

He stood up and stretched lazily.

Suddenly his body stiffened, and his pupils constricted sharply.

On the distant sea, without anyone noticing, a canoe appeared, with two Barbarians paddling it, seemingly coming this way.

"Barbarians!"

He snapped out of it, his body shivering, and quickly lowered himself.

Since his body was modified once, his eyesight had significantly improved. Although the canoe was more than a kilometer away, he could still discern it clearly.

This canoe was quite large, Chen Shouyi estimated its diameter to be four or five meters, about ten meters long.

One could imagine how massive and towering the tree they felled must have been.

The two Barbarians on the canoe wore beast hide around their waists, with their upper bodies entirely bare. Chen Shouyi didn't see if they carried any weapons, but their bronzed, muscular frames clearly showed their strength.

His heart beat violently, and his breath was rapid; fear in his heart caused him to shiver slightly.

Since the bloody incident in the bookstore, especially hearing about the death of Zhou Shaofeng, a Senior Martial Artist, he developed a phobia of Barbarians. Even though he

knew not every Barbarian could be as strong as that one, his mind subconsciously equated them.

"I can't stay here, I must report the passage."

Chen Shouyi quickly stuffed the books and other miscellanea on the ground into his briefcase, grabbed the bewildered Shell Lady, and hurried to the nearby passage entrance.

After a few steps, he returned to the underground parking lot, continuing to run wildly outside.

But gradually, he slowed down, and as he neared the parking lot entrance, he stopped.

There seemed to be a strong urge in his heart, surging straight to his brain, making his entire body surge with blood.

Could he really give up this Spatial Passage just like that?

Abandon the golden sand on the island?

Just because of the sudden appearance of two Barbarians with unknown strength?

His current physical condition had already basically reached the martial artist's standard, not far off from the Barbarians.

Moreover, perhaps their strength wasn't entirely unknown.

Chen Shouyi suddenly had a thought, looked around, quickly leaned his back against the wall, and his mind rapidly entered the Gray Mist Space. He immediately saw the two Barbarians on the canoe in the Memory Leaves.

...

Before long, he opened his eyes.

In his physical intuition, the two Barbarians were slightly stronger than him, but only so much stronger, no more than 1.5 times, far weaker than the mysterious Barbarian from the bookstore back then.

This gave him much more courage, wasn't it possible to fight if he was careful?

His heart beat violently, his face struggling. This was not just sparring; it was a battle for life and death, where if his luck was bad, he might really die, but thinking about abandoning the small island and the gold made him grit his teeth severely, and he ran swiftly towards the passage.

He planned to first see the specific situation and act accordingly.

As soon as he entered the other world, he immediately found a stick lying on the ground.

This stick was no longer the rough one he picked up at the construction site; this one was carved from a small tree here when he was bored, as hard as iron.

Although it wasn't sharpened, as long as it was fast enough, flesh wouldn't be able to block it.

He lay in the grass, looking at the canoe.

By this time, the canoe had slowly approached the small island.

After more than ten minutes, the canoe finally touched the beach and began to ground.

The two Barbarians jumped off, pulled out an arm-thick rope, waded through waist-deep water to the shore rock, and tied it to secure it, lest the canoe be washed away by the rising tide.

The two Barbarians seemed very pleased as they looked at the small island, talking non-stop, occasionally bursting into coarse laughter, and turned to retrieve a leather-like object from the canoe, quickly heading up the hill.

Chen Shouyi noticed they weren't carrying any weapons, which was undoubtedly good news for him.

But it also meant that this small island wasn't their first visit. As Barbarians living in the Barbaric Tribe era, awareness of danger in unfamiliar environments was almost essential.

If they weren't sure there was no danger here, they wouldn't be this careless.

But another doubt arose in Chen Shouyi's mind.

Why had they come here?

Looking at what appeared to be a water-storage leather bag, he thoughtfully glanced towards a small pond over a hundred meters away.

Could it be to fetch fresh water!

The more he thought, the more likely it seemed; the small pond was the only water source on the island, barely ten meters in circumference, yet incredibly deep and

invisible to the bottom. For safety, Chen Shouyi usually avoided it, even if thirsty, preferring to bring bottled water.

If there was any place likeliest as their destination, it could only be the pond.

He took a deep breath, set aside the Shell Lady carelessly, then held the stick in his hand, crouching, quietly yet swiftly moving towards the pond amid the grass concealment.

Half a minute later, he crouched again.

Chen Shouyi's judgment was right; they seemed to have just come to fetch water.

The two Barbarians walked familiarly, chatting and heading towards him.

The Barbarians didn't align with human aesthetics, at least these two didn't; rugged faces, unbearably ugly.

One, slightly older, showed forehead wrinkles, with prominent yellow buck teeth, nostrils turned upwards.

The other was in his prime, but cross-eyed with a face seemingly smashed by a brick, entirely flat.

The two of them had no vigilance at all, probably not expecting that on this desolate island, someone was lurking in the bushes, ready to take their lives.

Within a few minutes, they arrived at the edge of the pond.

They immediately squatted down and began to fill their bottles with water.

At this moment, Chen Shouyi, with murder in his heart, didn't even consider letting them take water and leave. The island wasn't big; not even one square kilometer. From the top of the hill, he could see the entire island at a glance.

They might come today for water and again in a few days, possibly bringing more people. At that time, if he wasn't careful, they might spot him or sneak closer. That would be dangerous.

Either abandon this island or take out these two Barbarians to eliminate the hidden threat. He had only two choices.

"Now's the time!"

His heart pounded violently, adrenaline surged, his eyes a bit bloodshot. Suddenly his expression turned fierce, he pushed off with his feet, darting out of the hidden bushes like an arrow leaving the bowstring.

In just a few steps, he traversed more than ten meters.

The older Barbarian seemed to sense something, instinctively turning his head.

He saw a stick rapidly approaching his eyes, and the next moment, it pierced his throat swiftly. The momentum didn't stop, breaking through the neck bone and exiting from the back of his neck.

At this moment, Chen Shouyi felt no fear. The entire process was like lightning, so fast that it couldn't be covered by thunder. Only then did the other strong Barbarian react, letting out an angry roar and lunging ferociously at Chen Shouyi.

Yet Chen Shouyi felt oddly calm, not a trace of panic from his first combat experience. He swiftly withdrew the stick from the Barbarian's throat, agilely stepping back.

The Barbarian lunged into thin air, his body inevitably paused for a brief moment, not yet ready to make another move.

A standard lunge and thrust, the stick pierced through his chest like a bolt of lightning.

Without lingering at the spot, after one successful strike, he quickly withdrew and retreated.

The ample wound on his chest, as thick as a child's arm, spurted out a large amount of blood.

However, this injury wasn't enough to kill him immediately.

He roared, his voice thundering, face fierce, without even glancing at the wound, striding towards him with large steps.

But after just a few steps, his pace grew slower, finally unable to support himself, and he slowly knelt on the ground.

The entire fight was over in just a few seconds.

Of course, if it were a real battle, the two Barbarians wouldn't have been so vulnerable. On the one hand, they were unarmed; on the other, the situation occurred too suddenly, catching them completely off guard.

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When the two Barbarians were completely dead, Chen Shouyi breathed a sigh of relief, sitting on the grass.

His hands were trembling slightly, beyond his control.

During the fight, he was entirely focused, with no distractions, only the thought of killing in his mind. But now, as he sobered up, he felt a sense of fear.

He felt as if he had been a different person just now, without a hint of hesitation, struggle, or fear. He found it hard to believe that such a violent instinct was hidden deep within him.

After all, he had no personal vendetta with these two Barbarians, only a conflict of interest.

Their presence was obstructing his path!

Perhaps it was also influenced by the propaganda. On Earth, the image of Barbarians was almost akin to demons, always associated with slaughter and bloodshed. Upon seeing them, besides the urge to flee, he only had the desire to kill them.

Slowly, he calmed down. Just two Barbarians, killed and that's that, he decided not to think too much about it.

He stood up, quickly regaining his composure.

Sometimes the panic after killing isn't from the act itself but from the consequences it brings. On this alien world island, the death of two Barbarians, or even two humans, wouldn't be noticed by anyone.

But these two corpses needed to be dealt with. Not only would they start to smell, but in case more Barbarians came, it would confuse them somewhat.

He stepped forward, lifted the bodies, and proceeded towards the mountain with heavy steps.

The stranded canoe was still tied up in its original place.

He waded through the seawater, placing the bodies onto the canoe.

The canoe was quite spacious, and if squeezed, it could comfortably seat over ten people.

On it, he found dozens of large and small sea fish, a rough fishing net, two paddles, several pieces of blackened food that looked like yams, and two long spears.

Looking at the over three meters long, sharp-ended and peculiar long spears, Chen Shouyi felt a burst of gratitude. If these two Barbarians had been armed, the fight might not have been this easy.

He made two trips, carrying all the bodies onto the canoe.

Then he untied the rope, and as the tide rose, he mustered all his strength to push the canoe forcefully into the sea.

He was aware that the canoe and the bodies on it still posed a risk.

But the canoe was too large and too heavy to completely dispose of the bodies, and leaving it would be even more dangerous.

Watching the canoe gradually drift further away.

He silently prayed, hoping this event had come to an end, and that both sides would remain undisturbed.

...

After watching for a long time, he exhaled deeply, carrying the two long spears in his hand, and turned to walk back.

When he reached the vicinity of his passage, the place where he had been staying, he discovered that the Shell Lady was gone.

He broke into a cold sweat.

Earlier, filled with excitement and focused, as he rushed to the pond to ambush, he hadn't bothered to retie the Shell Lady, leaving her casually tossed aside.

Now she had obviously taken the opportunity to escape.

ps: Asking for recommendations!

### **Chapter 30: Chapter 30: Countermeasures**

I should have been more cautious!

Chen Shouyi hurriedly searched all over and almost combed through the entire island before he finally found her at the beach, thanks to a silk thread dangling from mid-air in the distance.

She was flying over a hundred meters in the air, desperately heading toward the sea. Seeing Chen Shouyi chasing after her, she was instantly frightened and flew higher.

"Come back!" Chen Shouyi was a bit anxious and shouted loudly in a somewhat unfamiliar lingua franca.

The Shell Lady glanced back at Chen Shouyi and continued to fly forward without looking back.

Feeling anxious, Chen Shouyi quickly used an old trick, fumbling through his pocket to retrieve a glass bead.

"Gem!" he shouted loudly.

He had made a point to remember this word as it allowed him to communicate effectively with the Shell Lady.

The Shell Lady paused in the air, hesitating, but after a few seconds, she overcame the temptation and continued flying decisively.

"More!" he shouted loudly.

He quickly rummaged through his pockets again, digging out a few glass beads smaller than mung beans from the pocket seams and showed them in his palm.

The Shell Lady hesitated once more, remaining still in the air for a long time.

"Big!" Chen Shouyi urged again. However, he hadn't carried large glass beads with him; he needed to buy them outside, hence he was only making a hollow promise for now.

This word "big" finally broke through the Shell Lady's last inner struggle. After hesitating for quite a while, she slowly descended.

Seeing one end of the nylon rope hang down, Chen Shouyi quickly grabbed it and couldn't help but breathe a sigh of relief.

The Shell Lady drifted slowly to the ground, turning her head away from him.

Understanding her cue, Chen Shouyi quickly crouched down and placed the glass beads on the ground.

Unexpectedly, the Shell Lady didn't even glance at those glass beads and shouted repeatedly: "Big! Big! Big!"

"'Big' your ass!" Chen Shouyi retorted irritably. The earlier "big" was in the lingua franca, while the latter was in Chinese.

He grabbed the Shell Lady and quickly walked back to the camp.

The Shell Lady struggled ceaselessly in his grasp, angrily saying something loudly, but unfortunately, he couldn't understand a word.

Chen Shouyi took her back near the tunnel entrance, took out rope and tape, skillfully tied her hands and feet, sealed her mouth, and put her in his briefcase.

"You've really got some nerve!"

Before leaving, he checked his clothes and found no bloodstains, then exited the tunnel,

Walked onto the street, looking at the bustling pedestrians, Chen Shouyi suddenly felt a sense of otherworldliness, as just moments ago, he was killing, on the brink of life and death, yet now it was so peaceful and calm.

He exhaled a breath, and the previously slight oppressive feeling quickly dissipated.

He first went to buy a box of large glass beads, then returned to the hotel where he was staying.

Back in the room, he released the Shell Lady.

She let Chen Shouyi untie her bindings, her expression wooden, unmoving, sulking.

She was obviously very angry; before long, silent tears began to flow down her face.

In fact, thinking about it, she could have escaped from the clutches and returned to freedom, but unfortunately, in the end, she foolishly couldn't resist the temptation and fell into the trap. Worse still, the promise wasn't fulfilled, and she was treated even more roughly.

The heartbreak and regret are self-evident.

Looking at the Shell Lady, Chen Shouyi pushed her roughly with his finger.

She lay back on the bed, staring numbly at the ceiling.

Looking at her expression of utter despair, Chen Shouyi found it amusing and stopped teasing her. He waved a hand in front of her, then stuffed a glass bead as big as her head, with a beautiful design, into her arms.

The formerly tear-streaked, sulky little face instantly turned from cloudy to clear. She was elated and looked at Chen Shouyi, quickly hugging the glass bead tightly, not letting go.

Chen Shouyi chuckled, picked up the remote control, turned on the TV, switched to the animation channel, and left her be.

...

He needed some quiet time now.

All along, because there was no real danger on the island, he hadn't prepared much.

To him, the island was just a place for practice.

Aside from a wooden stick and a kitchen knife that barely counted as weapons, he had no other means of defense. After all, who would have thought that this desolate island would be visited by barbarians?

But the appearance of these two barbarians today completely shattered his previous illusions.

The island is not safe; the presence of barbarians indicates that there must be a barbarian gathering area nearby, perhaps from a nearby island or a continent.

If two barbarians came today, perhaps more will pass by tomorrow; no one can guarantee that this will be the last time.

Chen Shouyi dared not hope that he would have today's luck every time; he had to be prepared.

At least until he could match their strength, he did not want to give up this island of another world.

Luckily, although the country tightly controls weapons for those not Martial Artist Apprentices, as long as weapons aren't carried in public spaces, no one cares.

He immediately took out his phone and logged into Weapon Treasure.

This is a professional cold weapons B2C e-commerce website.

Chen Shouyi's outdated phone slowly loaded the webpage, making him wait anxiously.

After over a minute, the webpage was finally fully loaded, with only one hiccup along the way.

He felt it's time to buy a new phone.

He immediately searched for war bows over 300 pounds. In cold weapons, when it comes to efficiency in killing, bows and arrows naturally come first, no other weapon can compare.

Soon he found out that he had far less money than he had imagined, as war bows were more expensive than swords, with even the cheapest one priced over thirty thousand.

Moreover, a 300-pound war bow was too light for him; especially under triple gravity, it couldn't shoot far, with limited power, besides regular practice and Martial Artist Apprentice examinations, it wasn't very useful.

After weighing the pros and cons, he decided instead of buying an apprentice-level bow of 300 pounds, he should rather buy a strong bow that truly suits his strength. He immediately filtered for bows over 500 pounds, which are meant for Martial Artists.

As soon as the webpage loaded, the string of zeros behind each war bow price, despite having anticipated it, still dazzled Chen Shouyi.

150,000!

This is the price of the cheapest war bow, thanks to the National Day promotion and a 15% discount.

The medium-priced ones range from five to six hundred thousand, with the highest reaching over 4 million.

After selling gold, he received 110,000 plus the 18,000 sent by Mrs. Chen, deducting his expenses over the days, leaving him with only over 120,000. He originally thought he was quite wealthy.

But he hadn't expected he couldn't even afford a war bow.

His curiosity got the better of him, and he clicked on the most expensive one. It was a stunning war bow with beautiful lines and a sci-fi vibe, featuring a smooth nano-carbon fiber bow body and tendons from mysterious creatures of another world.

According to the shop's description, the mysterious tendons still retained life activity, so its power didn't collapse on Earth as it did with inanimate objects, only lying dormant. When used in another world, the arrows would converge light streams, increasing speed and power.

Chen Shouyi knew this phenomenon, as both he and the Shell Lady were in similar situations. Many abilities of otherworldly creatures come from their genes, functioning in both worlds, just not manifesting.

This war bow not only looked impressive but was also powerful, unfortunately, he could not afford it, only secretly drooling.

He resisted the urge to take another look and firmly closed the webpage.

Then he opened the second-hand cold weapons trading market.

The prices here were much cheaper, though the quality wasn't guaranteed, yet for the cash-strapped Chen Shouyi, he couldn't afford to be picky.

He soon found a shop with a fairly good reputation and chose an 80% new war bow and an alloy sword, chatted with customer service for a few assurances on the quality with return options, and quickly placed the order.

Looking at the total price of 105,000, Chen Shouyi couldn't help but sigh at how quickly money was spent.

Luckily, money came easily for him, so he didn't feel much pain.

Moreover, the Shell Lady's diligent labor over this period had collected quite a bit of golden sand for him, although he hadn't precisely weighed it, Chen Shouyi estimated it to be as much as half a pound.

Seeking recommendations, ah ah ah