

Dawn of a New Era

#Chapter 41: Power Outage - Read Dawn of a New Era Chapter 41: Power Outage

Chapter 41: Chapter 41: Power Outage

Half past five in the afternoon,

Hotel reception.

"You've made a mistake calculating. How can you charge me for two days? I only stayed one day, and I'm not sleeping here tonight!" a middle-aged man argued with the receptionist.

"Sir, according to regulations, after noon it automatically counts as the next day. Moreover, it's already half past five, and you're only now checking out, far exceeding the stipulated time." the receptionist hurriedly explained.

"What a ridiculous rule! I haven't even used the room, yet I have to pay? And a small hotel like this, could it even be fully booked?" The middle-aged man slapped the table hard, making a loud noise, his emotions stirred.

Facing this potentially violent guest, the receptionist felt a bit scared and quickly explained carefully:

"Sir, it's really not possible. Even if I wanted to refund you, the guest room system automatically counts the next day; I can't personally cover the costs for you."

"Don't try to fool me, as if I don't understand these things. It's just a matter of adjusting. If you can't decide, then call your boss or manager!"

...

At this moment, the hotel's glass door was pushed open, and a teenager walked in slowly.

The middle-aged man heard the sound, instinctively turned his head and glanced. It was a somewhat handsome, young teenager, wearing crumpled and dirty clothes, with patches of black and white, as if he had rolled in the mud.

The most amusing part was that despite his age, he carried a briefcase, mimicking an adult.

However, for some unknown reason, watching his expressionless face and his steady steps made the man a little nervous; he didn't dare to breathe heavily.

"Hey handsome, you're back!" the receptionist greeted the teenager warmly.

The formerly expressionless teenager immediately smiled: "Busy? Tomorrow or the day after I might have a package arriving. Can I trouble you to sign for it?"

"Sure, no problem."

"Then I'm going back to my room."

The teenager glanced at the middle-aged man and continued walking up the stairs.

As soon as the teenager left, the middle-aged man felt instantly relieved, although the interruption had dissipated much of his previous dissatisfaction and anger.

...

This teenager is, of course, Chen Shouyi.

Upon returning home, he took off his clothes and trousers and went to the bathroom for a shower.

He held a towel and wiped his hair in front of the mirror.

The boy in the mirror had a slim, tight muscular physique, with smooth lines and not a trace of excess fat.

Even the muscles at the ribs, back, and neck, which are hard to train, stood out one by one.

With a gentle movement, his muscles rolled like mercury,

"The skin seems even better." Chen Shouyi examined his increasingly smooth and radiant skin, furrowing his brow slightly.

It's not that he's unhappy; who wouldn't want good skin?

The problem is the time frame for his initial excuse for leaving home has mostly passed, and explaining it is still a problem.

Whatever, there's still a few days left. I'll think of an explanation then.

...

He changed into clean clothes, opened his briefcase, and released the Shell Lady, who immediately demanded to watch cartoons once the tape on her mouth was removed.

Habit is a formidable force. Initially, the Shell Lady used to be furious for half a day when tied up, but now she's long since grown accustomed to it.

Chen Shouyi turned on the TV and switched to cartoons, and then ignored her.

Subsequently, he took out his phone, logged into Weapon Treasure, while silently analyzing the situation of the Barbarian Tribe near the island.

At the end of today's battle, the Barbarian's morale suddenly plummeted, and they fled, clearly frightened by him.

Plus, the death of the Barbarian Clan Leader.

Under normal circumstances, the Barbarian's tribe should experience chaos for a while.

Even if a new leader is elected immediately, due to inadequate prestige, organizing another war in the short term would be impossible.

This means that the island's Spatial Passage, though exposed under the Barbarian's sight, is actually safe.

At least, it's safe for a period of time.

This battle has greatly increased his confidence; as long as no more Barbarian Clan Leader-like individuals appear, with a War Bow in hand, a siege of this scale could result in many deaths.

With this in mind, he felt assured.

He swiftly searched using the keywords for arrows and filtered the results.

Soon, a list of shops appeared on the webpage.

Switching to a new phone resulted in much smoother performance, with no more frequent lags.

There were many types of arrows available.

Including Speed Arrows, Armor-Piercing Arrows, Spin Arrows, Heavy Arrows, Whistle Arrows, totaling over ten types.

Each type varied significantly in length, quality, and arrowhead.

For example, Spin Arrows had a small propeller-like blade at the tail; the arrowhead sacrificed a certain amount of speed for better stability, improving precision, and while spinning at high speed, also enhancing lethality.

Of course, even the same type of arrow can vary in appearance from different shops, resulting in significant price differences.

Fortunately, compared to the expensive War Bow, arrows were much cheaper.

The most expensive cost just over three hundred yuan apiece, easily affordable for him.

Chen Shouyi quickly ordered one hundred Speed Arrows, twenty Spin Arrows, and ten Whistle Arrows from a specialty store established by a renowned large cold weapon company.

Whistle Arrows emit an extremely sharp whistle during flight, not particularly deadly. The reason for purchase is Chen Shouyi believes this piercing sound could instill panic among the Barbarians.

The total cost was twenty-eight thousand yuan.

He willingly paid, as purchasing quality goods was essential for survival.

Just then, the room's lights suddenly went out, and even the TV went black.

Power outage?

He couldn't remember when the last power outage happened in Dongning City; it seemed it hadn't occurred in a long time.

Before Chen Shouyi could wonder,

the Shell Lady was already pounding the pillow with her hands and shouting: "Prepared! Prepared! Prepared!"

Prepared my butt, it's a blackout, don't you see.

But apparently, for the Shell Lady, there seemed to be no concept of power outage in her mind.

"Stay here, don't shout, and I'll show you 'Prepared' later," Chen Shouyi told the Shell Lady.

Without bothering about her dissatisfaction, he turned on his phone's flashlight and prepared to ask at the reception.

Opening the door, he found that a few people had already come out into the corridor.

"I just checked, the entire outside is out of power. Was there a power outage notice for Dongning City today?"

"Never heard of it, maybe the lines aged."

"Forget it, may as well go to bed early!"

"It's still early, just seven o'clock, can you sleep?"

Listening to the conversations, Chen Shouyi stopped.

It seems that there really was a blackout.

PS: Please recommend, please bookmark!

Chapter 42: Chapter 42: Mutation

Since the power's out, there's no need to ask anymore.

Chen Shouyi simply stepped back and returned to his room.

As soon as Chen Shouyi came back, the Shell Lady started making a fuss again, like a persistent mosquito, buzzing non-stop.

She's really into cartoons now.

Every day, as soon as she returns to the hotel, she insists on watching, rain or shine.

Chen Shouyi was getting really annoyed; she's becoming more and more unruly.

He didn't want to use the glass bead to calm her down anymore, fearing she'd get too used to it. Seeing his phone still had enough battery, he irritably said:

"Watch, watch, watch! I'll let you watch right away."

He found an episode of Peppa Pig on the video app and picked one at random.

After all, she wouldn't care as long as she had something to watch.

He placed the phone in front of the Shell Lady.

But as soon as she glanced at it, she started making a fuss again, looking dissatisfied:

"Little Peiqi, it's Little Peiqi, I want Big Peiqi!"

Now she's being picky, aren't they all the same damn thing!

Chen Shouyi was utterly frustrated, his temples throbbing:

"Watch it or go to sleep!"

Seeing the giant was getting angry, the Shell Lady immediately quieted down but pouted angrily.

However, she soon got absorbed in the cartoon, focused entirely, oblivious to her earlier irritation.

Listening to the silly, cute dialogue in the cartoon.

Chen Shouyi sat on the edge of the bed, staring blankly into space. For some reason, he felt a bit vexed, as if something bad was happening.

He sat quietly for more than ten minutes.

At this moment, he vaguely felt a hint of unusual sensation in his body.

It was as if a weak power was stirring within, like a seed frozen throughout winter, now slowly sprouting as the spring breeze blows.

This feeling...

His expression changed, confirming, and immediately opened the panel.

Seeing that his innate ability still showed as "Self-Healing," not changing to "Natural Healing," he breathed a sigh of relief.

But soon, he stood up abruptly.

His expression turned serious, with disbelief.

He was shocked to find that the words "Self-Healing" had turned a lot dimmer compared to the others, showing a semi-transparent trend.

At this point, the Shell Lady started yelling again:

"Peiqi, Peiqi, Peiqi!"

Hearing the Shell Lady causing a ruckus again, Chen Shouyi suddenly had a bad feeling.

He hurriedly grabbed the phone and found the signal was already gone.

Both the network signal and mobile signal had completely disappeared.

Even the phone screen was flickering slightly from time to time, as if the voltage was becoming unstable.

He tossed aside the phone and grabbed the hotel-supplied lighter from the nightstand.

He flicked it, but it didn't ignite.

Agitated, he shook the lighter and flicked it again, finally igniting it.

Looking at the feeble flame, barely a centimeter high.

He stood still as if plunged into an ice cellar.

The lighter still had more than half of its liquid gas.

Perhaps he was born with a destructive desire; he has loved playing with fire since childhood. Although he doesn't smoke, he often randomly flicked this lighter.

He clearly remembered that just yesterday, the flame could still reach several centimeters high.

Of course, it might be due to insufficient pressure inside, but combined with the transparent lettering of his inherent ability, there was only one possibility.

...

He sat back on the bed, feeling a bit chaotic.

The Shell Lady's endless noise only added to his anxiety.

It seemed other hotel guests also noticed the loss of phone signal, as voices outside gradually became noisy.

Chen Shouyi felt he couldn't sit still any longer, grabbing the noisy Shell Lady, tying her up, and packing her into his briefcase.

Staying in the room meant being shut off from information.

He decided to go out and take a look.

The hallway was crowded with people, seemingly all the guests had come out, filling the air with noisy conversations.

Most of these people were strangers, perhaps not even having seen each other before, yet at this moment, they conversed without barriers, comforting each other's unease.

Although unexpected, everyone had experienced blackouts before.

But a power outage accompanied by no network or phone signal was far from normal.

"Young man, are you heading out?" A middle-aged man nearby, noticing that Chen Shouyi looked ready to leave with his briefcase, asked curiously.

"It's too stuffy in the room, going out to look around, and maybe find something to eat."

"You shouldn't go out now, it's pitch dark," a woman with light makeup kindly advised.

"I'll be careful, it should be fine!" Chen Shouyi said with a smile.

Joking aside, as a Martial Artist Level expert, he had nothing to fear.

Chen Shouyi quickly left the hotel.

The cars on the street were completely jammed, forming a motionless line of traffic.

Many drivers simply opened their car doors, squatting on the street, smoking cigarettes anxiously, or chatting with each other.

Not far away, a fight was happening, drawing quite a crowd.

His heart grew heavier.

He didn't know if it was just Dongning City or the entire world.

If it's the whole world?

He couldn't even begin to imagine.

The Mysterious Force Field in the other world would reduce electronic activity capability, even just by reducing it a little. Chemical reactions would slow down, electrical currents would require higher voltage, and low-level electromagnetic waves would find it harder to travel through the air.

The entire human society would likely undergo drastic changes, possibly even regressing in civilization.

He looked at his phone, fortunately, it still had power, indicating the impact hadn't yet reached a catastrophic level.

I wonder how things are at home?

At this moment, he finally couldn't resist the wave of homesickness, pausing his steps, turning around, and deciding to visit home.

He walked quickly, and after ten minutes, he saw that all-too-familiar house.

The restaurant downstairs had long closed, its iron shutters tightly shut.

This certainly had the cautious style of Mrs. Chen.

He looked at the pitch-black windows upstairs, emotions surging, unable to restrain himself, he shouted loudly, "Dad! Mom! Little sis! Are you there?"

He shouted for quite a while before a window finally opened. Mrs. Chen poked her head out, surprised:

"Shouyi, why did you come back?"

"Have you eaten? Let me get the door for you!"

"No, no, I just came to check in. I'm leaving right away; the training camp is strict about curfews at night, and they have room checks. I'll have to go back soon."

"You silly child, running around even with a blackout. Since you're here, hurry back." Mrs. Chen said with concern.

Then Chen Dawei also poked his head out:

"Don't put too much pressure on yourself. It's no big deal if you don't pass the Martial Arts Apprentice assessment. You've lost so much weight."

"Dad, I'm really strong now!" Chen Shouyi fought back an odd tone in his voice, showing off his arm.

His emotions were slightly stirred, his eyes somewhat red.

These days, he had been bearing unimaginable pressure.

Especially this intense battle today, the fear of narrowly escaping death, the fear of death itself, he could only keep it bottled up inside, like a tightly drawn bowstring, with no one to confide in.

Facing his closest family now, he finally displayed his inner vulnerability.

"Stop bragging, hurry back!" Mrs. Chen interrupted.

"Is little sister home?"

"Yes, she's at home!"

Just as Mrs. Chen finished speaking, Chen Xingyue also poked her head out: "Brother, you're really close to passing the Martial Arts Apprentice assessment."

"Of course, I've been working really hard lately, you'll be shocked!"

ps: Behind in recommendations, asking for some recommendations!

Chapter 43: Chapter 43: Murder Case

When Chen Shouyi returned, there were already military police patrolling the streets.

He saw quite a few thugs taking advantage of the chaos to loot and smash things, being swiftly knocked to the ground by the police, handcuffed without any resistance.

As a state apparatus of violence, the military police system has always been focused on absorbing Martial Artist Apprentices from society.

The civil service positions within the police system often have a basic requirement of being a Martial Artist Apprentice.

If you join the military, you start with the rank of Warrant Officer.

Additionally, many workplaces, state-owned enterprises, prioritize recruiting these individuals.

After all, even a Martial Artist Apprentice is akin to a killing machine to ordinary civilians. If they become malicious, they have enormous power to disrupt social stability. Naturally, the state will not allow such power to go unchecked.

In fact, even if you go nowhere, just registering as a Martial Artist Apprentice automatically makes you a member of the militia in your place of household registration.

For instance, his sister Chen Xingyue is now part of the militia in the neighborhood where they live.

Of course, this militia identity is merely a formality.

Usually, there are no obligations to fulfill, and life goes on as normal. But if the local area experiences severe turmoil and the presence of Barbarians, assistance is needed to maintain order, and one might even need to head to the battlefield.

Naturally, if it comes to this point, it means the situation is extremely dire.

...

Pedestrians hurried by, hearts filled with fear.

Traffic remained hopelessly clogged on the streets, with no sign of moving, so many drivers left their cars and walked home.

When Chen Shouyi returned to the hotel, he found the hallway still full of people; it was clearly not bedtime for most.

"I went to check, it was terrible. His whole body was stabbed more than a dozen times, blood flowing all over."

"There's a power outage, the cameras can't monitor anything, who knows if they'll catch the culprit."

"Someone died here, it's unnervingly creepy, if it weren't for the outage making it hard to find another hotel, I'd have left already."

"Same here, I'll probably have nightmares tonight!"

People in the hallway discussed animatedly.

Chen Shouyi listened with a surprised expression.

No wonder, his nose had detected a faint bloody smell on his way in.

"Hey brother, what are you talking about? Did someone die here?" Chen Shouyi couldn't resist curiosity and asked a young man when he reached his room's door.

"Did you not check it out?"

"I just got back from outside!" Chen Shouyi explained.

From the descriptions given by the other guests, Chen Shouyi learned that during his time out, someone had indeed died here.

The deceased was also a guest on this floor, not far from Chen Shouyi's room.

After the power went out, he was chatting in the hallway, for some reason got into a conflict with someone, first fought, perhaps anger flared, and then the killer wielded a knife. After realizing there was trouble, the killer swiftly fled.

By the time police arrived, the body was already cold.

Darkness often magnifies the evil within people's hearts.

Makes one incredibly bold, the so-called heated moment is exactly like this.

Apart from a sigh of regret for the deceased's worthless death, Chen Shouyi didn't care much.

He had no relationship with the deceased, not even an acquaintance.

Considering that today he'd just killed over a dozen Barbarians, the death of one here didn't bother Chen Shouyi at all.

He entered his room and closed the door.

Then he released the Shell Lady, placing her beside the pillow.

This time she was really angry, turned her head away, ignoring Chen Shouyi.

On a usual day, Chen Shouyi would have turned on the TV or used Glass Beads to appease her.

But today, he truly didn't have the mood.

He turned on his phone's light, lay on the bed exhausted, not wanting to move at all.

Too much had happened today, making him feel utterly drained.

The Shell Lady, having fumed for a while with no reaction from Chen Shouyi, finally couldn't hold it any longer.

She stood up, glancing at the lying Chen Shouyi, felt a stir, then grabbed his shirt corner, flipping herself onto his chest.

She deliberately bounced around a few times, loudly saying, "#@% the Giant, Prepared, I want it Prepared!"

The word before "Giant" surely wasn't anything pleasant, likely something like evil or odious.

Chen Shouyi glanced at the increasingly bold Shell Lady, lazily replied, "It's not Prepared today!"

"Why not Prepared today?" The Shell Lady persisted.

"Prepared also needs rest, it's tired too!" Chen Shouyi casually made up a reason.

The Shell Lady looked dubious:

"Then how long does it need to rest, does it take several sunrises and sunsets?"

"I don't know either."

At this point, Chen Shouyi suddenly felt somewhat heavy.

He could only hope that tomorrow would be better.

Seemingly influenced by the atmosphere, the Shell Lady quieted down. She looked at Chen Shouyi, blinked in confusion, saying, "Giant, are you unhappy?"

Chen Shouyi gently nodded, honestly not wanting to talk.

"Then I'll dance for you!"

With that, she started dancing energetically.

Chen Shouyi was quickly amused, her dance lacked aesthetic beauty, it was just random waving of hands and feet, more like some kind of ritual than a dance.

Where did she learn this from?

Speaking of which, this was the second time he'd seen her dance.

The first time was just when he caught her; she inexplicably started dancing.

Back then, there were flying spots of light around, almost fooled him.

Seeing Chen Shouyi laugh, the Shell Lady became even more enthusiastic.

Initially, Chen Shouyi didn't mind, observing this exotic dance with a relaxed face, but the longer he watched, the more serious his expression grew.

As she danced, a mysterious atmosphere seemed to descend.

With a stirring heart, he suddenly turned off his phone's flashlight.

The next moment, he noticed specks of starry light appearing around the Shell Lady.

They shone intermittently, sometimes bright, sometimes disappeared.

Carrying a magical atmosphere.

Of course, compared to when she first danced, where the brightness of the light points was clearly visible even in daylight, these light points were so weak they were almost imperceptible.

Only in this pitch-black room, they were faintly visible.

But this is Earth.

Even though the Mysterious Force Field is slowly eroding here, its concentration is still pathetically low.

This can be seen from his Natural Healing talent not manifesting at all.

Yet even in such conditions, she could still display some supernatural abilities, although they were as weak as nothing.

"Where did you learn this?" Chen Shouyi couldn't help but ask.

"I've known since birth!" The Shell Lady stopped, her little face showing off proudly.

Chen Shouyi was skeptical internally.

Thinking carefully, this Shell Lady is indeed quite mysterious.

He was no longer the naive person who had just set foot on an alien world island, thinking everywhere was filled with creatures having supernatural powers.

In fact, even for the alien world, supernatural abilities aren't common.

At least, none of the Barbarians he had encountered had shown any supernatural abilities, or perhaps hadn't even used them before dying.

The only one with supernatural abilities was the Shell Lady.

Like her ability to fly, although her flight wasn't fast, slower than a fly.

Like her ease in finding golden sand buried in the dirt, as if she inherently knew where it was.

And her astonishing eyesight, able to effortlessly see hundreds to thousands of meters away, spotting Barbarians on a canoe even amidst the storm.

If she wasn't so small.

Perhaps it would've been her capturing him, not the other way around.

Thinking this way, Chen Shouyi couldn't help but feel a surge of anticipation and eagerly asked:

"Does this dance have any purpose?"

"Don't you think it's beautiful!" The Shell Lady replied adorably.

"Pretty can't be eaten!"

"Sleep now!" Chen Shouyi said crossly to the boasting Shell Lady.

ps: Seeking recommendations

Chapter 44: Chapter 44: Seeing Ghosts

One o'clock in the middle of the night.

The second floor corridor of the silent hotel was pitch dark.

Carrying a faint sense of eeriness.

An eerie figure paced continually in the corridor.

His whole body was covered in blood, his blue-white face like that of a corpse bore a hint of confusion.

Where is this place?

Who am I?

He seemed to have no memory of anything prior.

He wandered back and forth, looking around bewilderedly, it took him quite a while to realize he was in the hotel's corridor.

He felt his thoughts were sluggish, many things he couldn't remember.

He also felt very tired, very weak, he needed a good night's sleep.

He stepped forward towards his room, mimicking the action of opening the door, then walked inside.

In fact, he passed through the door as if his body had become phantom-like.

The room was a double room, besides him, there was also a colleague.

Suddenly, he remembered that he was a mechanical engineer, here in Dongning City with the company's old master because their company's machinery had problems, here to inspect for the client.

The colleague was still awake, tossing and turning in bed, apparently struggling with insomnia.

As he looked at the colleague, gradually, for some reason, a strong resentment arose within him.

His calm face became twisted and hideous.

...

"Ghost!"

A sharp scream echoed throughout the corridor.

Following it, the door was flung open with a bang: "Help, someone come quickly!"

Chen Shouyi was abruptly awakened from his sleep by the scream.

The Shell Lady curled beside him was also stirred awake, squinted at Chen Shouyi, and then turned to continue sleeping.

What happened?

He hesitated for a moment, quickly dressed.

Picked up his phone and turned on the flashlight.

Once the door opened, he keenly sensed a vague chill in the air as if cold air was blowing.

But it lasted only a moment before these cold breaths dispersed from around him.

A short distance away, a fifty or sixty-year-old man collapsed to the ground, apparently terrified, clutching his head and trying to shrink towards the wall.

He was speaking in a tone of fear, his voice trembling and his whole body shaking.

"Please, don't come over!"

"Xiao Zhang, grievances have heads and debts have owners, it wasn't me who killed you, I'll definitely burn incense and kowtow to ask for forgiveness when I get back."

"I didn't help you, but I have elderly and young ones to care for, I'm scared too!"

In the eerie cold night, the man's voice was exceptionally creepy.

...

But what made Chen Shouyi feel strange was that he couldn't see who the elder was talking to, as if there was an invisible figure before him.

By this time, plenty had already opened their doors a crack, peeking towards here.

After a while, perhaps seeing Chen Shouyi standing in the corridor unbothered, a few, eventually with some courage, ventured out, whispering and pointing at the old man.

"Isn't this person the colleague of the one who died earlier?"

"Seems like it, has he gone mad? Ghost, what ghost? Why haven't I seen one?"

"Maybe he's done something guilty!"

Every time there's no shortage of spectators for a spectacle, soon the corridor became gradually lively, yet none dared approach the old man, only observing from afar.

Better to believe it exists than to not believe, is the common thought among most.

Honestly, faced with such an eerie event, Chen Shouyi also felt a bit unnerved.

Since the extraordinary change last night, the world began becoming somewhat different.

Luckily, this fear was only a smidgen, as he's killed more than a dozen Barbarians himself, even carrying bodies, his courage was naturally not comparable to ordinary people.

Chen Shouyi gritted his teeth, braved himself, walked towards the elder, wanting to see what this ghost was like?

Fear stems from mystery, someone like him who often appears in strange worlds will need to face such things sooner or later.

Besides, he believed even if there were ghosts, with the current low density of the Mysterious Force Field, strong ghosts couldn't appear, especially one that had recently become a ghost.

"Young brother, don't go over there, in case there really is a ghost," a young man nearby kindly warned as Chen Shouyi prepared to go over.

"No worries, I haven't seen a ghost from childhood, I'll check it out," Chen Shouyi smiled and said.

Ignoring further warnings, he walked forward.

As he approached, the chilling breath dispersed rapidly.

His qi and blood surged all over, to these chilling breaths, he was like the blazing sun.

Not even reaching the elder,

He felt slightly disoriented mentally, the next moment, he faintly heard a scream filled with resentment and despair.

Uh, seems it's gone!

The corridor was still the original corridor, just seemingly lacked its eerie and grim atmosphere, gaining some liveliness.

When he originally came over, his spirit was tense, his heart fluctuating.

Who would've thought it was as easy as pie, didn't even exert effort, and the other party just fell.

"Old man, are you alright?"

He patted the trembling elder who emitted the smell of urine, evidently having been frightened into peeing himself.

"Don't... don't kill me!"

"Old man, did you have a nightmare? Ghost, what ghost?"

The elder heard Chen Shouyi's voice, after a while, raised his head cautiously, looking around with some neurosis.

He was slightly overweight, with heavy bags under his eyes, unhealthy puffiness on his face as if he hadn't slept for several days.

...

After a bustle, Chen Shouyi returned to the room.

Checked the time; it was already half past one in the morning.

He looked at the Shell Lady still calmly asleep and chuckled at his earlier tension.

Compared to the other world, such ghosts were probably not even worth mentioning.

He guessed that even if he hadn't gone over, probably it couldn't harm people.

But he was puzzled why the elder could see it while he and others couldn't?

For some reason, he recalled rumors online about people prone to seeing ghosts.

Though mostly groundless, two points applied to the elder.

Such as the weak and ill elderly, and those often troubled with insomnia, the elder matched both, plus the ghost targeted him, so this might be why he could see it.

Anyway, no point overthinking!

Continue sleeping.

...

A night without words.

The next day Chen Shouyi woke, found the power still out, signals and network still interrupted.

He went to the bathroom with some heaviness in heart to wash up.

Returned dressed, packed Shell Lady in the briefcase, and left the room.

Cars continued to clog the streets, a night passed and roads showed no signs of clearing.

Chen Shouyi noticed many workers repairing lines beside the road.

Besides police, the streets were also filled with armed soldiers.

A grave atmosphere, akin to the oppressive feeling before a storm.

Carrying his briefcase, Chen Shouyi walked heavily, not long after reached a newsstand.

Without the internet or TV, information could only be accessed through newspapers.

A usually quiet newsstand now had a rare long line.

Everyone exchanged rumors and speculation, each more imaginative than the last.

Some said underground giant Spatial Passage interfered,

Some claimed solar flare storms,
while others even prophesied the apocalypse.

Chen Shouyi listened in while queuing, waited several minutes, finally bought the day's newspaper.

Yet after skimming through, he found no useful information.

The paper simply mentioned power outages and network breaks, and reported urgent repairs underway to ensure public welfare.

No specific timeline was given, nor any mention of Dongning's status beyond.

Large portions were devoted to assuring adequate supplies citywide, independent emergency power activated at water plants, securing resident water use, urging the public against panic and hoarding.

PS: Please recommend ah ah ah

Chapter 45: Chapter 45: Panic Buying

I hope nothing major happens!

Chen Shouyi crumpled the newspaper into a ball and casually tossed it into the trash can.

The next stop, he immediately hurried to the bank.

Before reaching the entrance, he saw that the entire bank lobby was already jam-packed with people.

Seeing this scene, Chen Shouyi felt a bit relieved.

Because things hadn't reached the worst-case scenario yet.

Since the bank was still open, it implied that the bank was equipped with an independent power system, and only the mobile network was down; at least fiber access could still function normally.

Chen Shouyi noticed that the ATM machines were not operational.

He guessed it might be to slow down people's cash withdrawals.

It could be due to insufficient cash reserves, or to delay public panic buying.

As he walked into the bank lobby, he found it crowded with people, even more chaotic than train stations during the Spring Festival.

But upon reflection, it made sense.

With the rise of mobile payments, fewer people use cash; many rarely have opportunities to use cash, and they don't carry much cash on them.

Now that mobile networks are down, these people are the most anxious.

He quickly took a number and queued up.

The cash in his hand wasn't much, about three to four hundred yuan.

In such a situation, having more cash on hand is prudent.

Plus, he's unsure if the invasive field from another world will worsen, and if there's a total power and internet outage, this money might become inaccessible.

As time went on, the number of people in the bank lobby not only didn't decrease, but seemed to be increasing.

It wasn't long before the bank security, with hoarse voices, reminded the public that each person could withdraw a maximum of ten thousand.

The crowd erupted in noise, and some began to argue fiercely.

"Why can I only withdraw ten thousand? It's my money, can't I get it out?"

"What can ten thousand do? Who knows how long the power will be out, and what if the bank runs out of cash?"

...

Fortunately, although emotions were high, it had only been a short time since the power outage, and the situation hadn't escalated into chaos.

Most people still retained their rationality, aided by the soldiers and police patrolling the streets nearby.

In the end, under the calming efforts of security, although many were reluctant, tensions gradually subsided, and no serious incidents occurred.

Chen Shouyi didn't mind much.

He got his money easily, and doesn't place as much importance on money as adults do.

If it were before, even ten thousand would be a fortune.

Besides, he still has the gold from the small island.

In turbulent times, gold retains value much more than cash.

...

He queued the entire morning until it was finally his turn.

After withdrawing the cash, Chen Shouyi headed straight to the nearby supermarket.

In fact, most people who withdrew money had the same destination.

Even though newspapers urged people not to panic buy, avoiding it entirely was impossible without purchase limits.

Driven by inherent crisis awareness, people tend to believe unfavorable news, compounded by mass panic, making panic buying unavoidable.

When Chen Shouyi arrived at the supermarket, it was already crowded, with everyone frantically purchasing like there was no tomorrow.

Including Chen Shouyi.

His cart was full, mostly with drinking water, various sealed packaged foods, and durable compressed biscuits.

Originally, he wanted to find candles, but couldn't find any, likely already snatched up.

He ended up taking a bottle of cooking oil.

If the power outage continued into the evening, perhaps creating an oil lamp would be a good idea.

His phone's battery was low, so he turned it off.

The remaining charge would be crucial when needed.

Chen Shouyi wasn't worried about home; his mother was always cautious, and every time there was a panic buying event, she was involved.

...

Carrying large bags, when he returned to the hotel, he didn't find the front desk attendant, presumably also gone shopping.

He placed the items in his room and sighed with relief.

Remembering the near-stampede scene in the supermarket, Chen Shouyi felt a lingering fear.

This is crazy.

If it were just a power outage, it wouldn't trigger such panic buying.

But the invasive field from another world made chemical reactions sluggish, evident in countless details.

For example, home gas flames weakened, cars easily stalled and accelerated slowly, even smokers felt the smoke lacked potency; these unsettling phenomena were naturally not exclusive to Chen Shouyi's observations.

...

He let out the Shell Lady and first gave her some honey water.

Then he gnawed on a few compressed biscuits and a package of braised pig's knuckles, finishing lunch.

Time was already two-thirty in the afternoon.

He didn't plan to go out again today.

Now, with military and police everywhere, if he went to the spatial passage at the abandoned building, he would likely be questioned.

For safety reasons, staying in the room was best.

"Is Prepared back yet?" asked the Shell Lady, her nose pinched as she drank the honey water, licking her lips hopefully.

She had obviously become addicted to cartoons, unable to extricate herself.

"Not yet," Chen Shouyi replied.

Upon hearing the giant's harsh news, the Shell Lady was extremely upset; she sighed, her expression downcast.

But she was quiet, not shouting like yesterday.

Seeing her pitiful appearance, Chen Shouyi almost couldn't resist giving her a glass bead for comfort.

Fortunately, he remained determined and unmoved.

Both remained silent, exchanging no words.

After a while, Chen Shouyi boredly opened the panel, glancing at the "Basic Self-Healing" title, relieved to see it was no more transparent than yesterday.

Finally, he glanced at the knowledge section, ready to close it, when suddenly information flashed through his mind, his expression caught in surprise.

The Book of Knowledge reminded him that the Thirty-six Body Refinement Exercises and Meditative Self-Training could be re-optimized.

Chen Shouyi felt a surge of excitement.

He had waited a long time for this.

He only then realized the Energy Accumulation had reached 3.04.

Is each optimization two points more, or triple the previous amount?

He pondered but decided to let it go.

These details were inconsequential; the priority was deciding which to optimize first.

The Thirty-six Body Refinement enhances physical attributes, naturally crucial!

While Meditative Self-Training strengthens body control and increases perception, equally indispensable.

He thought it over and ultimately decided to optimize the Thirty-six Body Refinement first.

Although Meditative Self-Training is important, its current effect is still quite noticeable and sufficient.

The Thirty-six Body Refinement had slowed in progress since his body's transformation.

Of course, compared to others, his progress speed was still remarkable, but much like going from driving a Ferrari daily to a Passat, the contrast was unsettlingly unbearable.

He glanced at the Shell Lady, seeing her still sighing.

He laid back on the bed, closed his eyes.

Then he immediately selected "Thirty-six Body Refinement" for optimization.

The familiar dream returned, he rehearsed the Thirty-six Body Refinement repeatedly amidst the gray fog, his movements subtly adjusting with each practice.

As time passed, the changes in the Thirty-six Body Refinement grew larger, eventually becoming unrecognizable.

During the final practice, his mind became serene, thoughtless and undisturbed, appearing awake yet in a meditative state.

In a trance, a mysterious aura seemed to arrive!

PS: Seeking recommendations, seeking collections