

## Dawn of a New Era

### **Chapter 46: Chapter 46: Joy Begets Sorrow**

The time in the dream realm felt long, but in reality, it was as brief as a momentary lapse.

Chen Shouyi opened his eyes, lying on the bed, quietly reminiscing about the memories in the dream realm.

This time, the optimization of the Thirty-six Forms of Body Refinement had changed significantly. Not only did the movements become more complex and difficult, but there was also a mysterious flavor added.

He speculated that this might be due to changes in Earth's environment.

Without the invasion of the Mysterious Force Field and the support of this environment, this optimization might have been a different version altogether.

He couldn't help but have a sudden whimsical thought: what would happen if the optimization occurred while being on the small island in the otherworld?

The concentration of the Mysterious Power there was higher, possibly leaning more towards the Mysterious Force Field.

However, a guess remains a guess; unsubstantiated guesses are always castles in the air.

Chen Shouyi decided to stop thinking about it.

Feeling a bit impatient, he quickly got up, took a stance in the small room, and began practicing.

He didn't feel it during the dream, but upon practicing in reality, he found it difficult, extremely difficult!

All the movements seemed to defy the logic of human movement, with the center of gravity constantly shifting, often putting the body in highly unbalanced states, and at the same time having to maintain a clear state of meditation, the mind calm as a still lake.

Fortunately, the most difficult part, entering a clear state of meditation, he had experienced countless times in the dream world, so for him, it was not difficult, and he could easily enter that state.

But the key was that every time he performed a movement, his body felt as if it was struck by an electric current, tingling all over, with an unbearable itch.

Moreover, as the movements continued, the tingling and itching would accumulate and intensify, severely disturbing his state of mind.

Any slight disturbance in the mind would interrupt the movements.

At the beginning, Chen Shouyi could only practice up to the twelfth form before he couldn't continue.

His body went numb, his skin covered in goosebumps, and his muscles twitched incessantly as if having cramps.

The most unbearable part was the itch, not from the skin but from the muscles, even the bones, which couldn't be scratched or relieved, driving him nearly mad with frustration.

Yet it was exactly this intense reaction that made Chen Shouyi feel the powerful effect of this second optimized version.

Despite the various discomforts on his body, he gritted his teeth and persisted.

He would take a half-minute break after a few rounds of practice, waiting for the tingling sensation to subside slightly before continuing.

After half an hour, he could already practice up to the twenty-first form, his whole body feeling stiff when he stopped, his scalp tingling.

Two hours later, he managed to get to the thirty-third form, but with a slight disturbance in his mind, his body stiffened, and he fell heavily to the ground, unable to move.

...

The Shell Lady, feeling utterly bored, suddenly saw the Giant fall down. She immediately brightened up, let out an "Ah," and jumped off the bed like a flea, swiftly running over on her little legs.

"Giant, what happened to you?"

As she spoke, she squatted down and sneakily picked up a Glass Bead that had dropped from his pocket.

Chen Shouyi didn't notice at all.

"Nothing!" He lay there for a while and then recovered.

Seeing him stand up, the Shell Lady backed away several meters with her little legs, standing under the bed, her eyes fixed unblinkingly on his pocket.

Chen Shouyi didn't mind, got up, and continued practicing.

He still didn't believe he couldn't master this set of movements.

A minute later, he fell heavily to the ground once again.

In the next instant, the Shell Lady's eyes gleamed. She ran over quickly again, employing the same trick, smiling broadly as she said, "Giant, are you okay!"

This time, so many fell out that she couldn't hold them all, picking up one only to drop another.

The Shell Lady tried hard to gather all the beads, feeling extremely delighted yet increasingly anxious, completely forgetting about the passage of time.

"These jewels are mine!" At this moment, a thunderous voice rang out, startling the Shell Lady so much she froze, dropping the beads all over the place.

Unnoticed, the Giant had already sat up at some point.

"No! No! No!" The Shell Lady quickly grabbed two beads again, clinging to them, turned her head, and tears started to fall.

"It fell out of my pocket, so it's mine." Chen Shouyi stated the facts, reasoning with her. Earlier, he had wondered why the Shell Lady had suddenly become so kind and realized it was for the Glass Beads.

"But... but I picked them up." The Shell Lady pouted, crying.

"But they are still mine!" Seeing her looking so aggrieved, Chen Shouyi changed the topic: "However, if you help me pick them up, I can give you one."

At this moment, he felt a bit like a black-hearted capitalist.

Upon hearing this, the Shell Lady immediately stopped crying, looking a bit hopeful: "What if the jewels fall from your pocket again next time? Will I get a reward if I pick them up?"

"There won't be a next time. I'll put the jewels somewhere else."

The Giant's cruel reply made the Shell Lady burst into tears again. She sobbed, wiped her tears, crouched down, and picked up the scattered jewels one by one, placing them into Chen Shouyi's hand.

"There's one by your foot," Chen Shouyi said sharply, noticing her heel was uneven.

The Shell Lady's tears flowed even faster. She reluctantly moved her foot, picked up the Glass Bead, and hatefully placed it in Chen Shouyi's hand, shouting, "Damn it, Giant, here you go! Here you go! That's everything, truly everything."

Chen Shouyi carefully checked the ground, feeling a little uneasy; only then did he take out all the Glass Beads from his pocket.

The dazzling glow captivated the Shell Lady, making her subconsciously hold her breath.

Chen Shouyi kept his promise, gave the Shell Lady one, then counted them in front of her and went to the bedside table to place the dozens of pea-sized Glass Beads in the drawer.

The Shell Lady followed the Glass Beads with her eyes until they disappeared, then pretended not to care, turning her head.

When the Giant approached, she retreated under the bed, casting a glance at the dark corner of the first Glass Bead she had picked up and feeling secretly pleased.

Now she had two.

...

By evening, at five o'clock, Chen Shouyi finally completed practicing the Thirty-six Forms of Body Refinement in one go.

In the next moment, he felt a mysterious energy descend upon him as if he vaguely sensed a faint yet omnipresent mighty force, soaking into every organ, every tissue, every muscle, and seemingly every cell of his body.

The tingling in his body quickly faded, replaced by a warm sensation, leaving every part of him comfortable.

...

After taking a shower in the bathroom, Chen Shouyi went out again.

The streets were still jammed with cars; some restaurants had closed, but most were still operating normally. Chen Shouyi saw an open fast-food restaurant nearby and was about to go in when he felt someone watching him.

His senses were now sharp, and he immediately turned his head.

A cute girl in a short skirt stood on the street, somewhat uncertain, "Brother?"

"Xing... Xing Yue, what are you doing here?" Seeing his sister suddenly, he couldn't help but feel flustered, but quickly regained his composure.

"Brother, shouldn't I be asking you this question? Aren't you supposed to be at boot camp?" Chen Xingyue scrutinized her somewhat unfamiliar brother with suspicion, but her tone remained blunt.

"The power went out today. After training for most of the day, the teacher informed us the boot camp had to be postponed for a few days. I was just about to go home."

Chen Shouyi frowned and said, "By the way, things are so chaotic right now. Why aren't you staying home instead of running around?"

With Chen Xingyue around, he was quite reassured about home because, after all, she was a Martial Artist Apprentice, far beyond an ordinary person's capabilities.

"Do you think I wanted to? It's because mom asked me to check if the supermarket here still had things we could buy," Chen Xingyue said. For some reason, facing her brother's reprimand, she felt a bit nervous.

"Couldn't buy anything at home?" Chen Shouyi asked.

"We did, but mom thought it might not be enough."

PS: Recommendations for the new book are really important.

## **Chapter 47: Chapter 47: Uncle Wang**

Before Chen Xingyue could question again, Chen Shouyi quickly found an excuse and left in haste.

Once back at the hotel, he couldn't help but sigh repeatedly.

The days of freedom were over.

He initially wanted to hold out until the agreed "training period" ended, but he didn't expect such bad luck, being caught by Chen Xingyue.

After sitting for a while, he had no choice but to pack his luggage.

Looking at the big and small bags of food he had bought today, Chen Shouyi thought for a bit and decided to leave them here.

For one, buying these things without a reasonable explanation could easily arouse his parents' suspicion. For another, with six days left in his two-week hotel reservation and money not being an issue, it made sense to keep a place for supplies rather than check out.

Moreover, his delivery address was written for the hotel room, and with the current situation, who knew when it would arrive.

Checking out would be inconvenient by then.

...

"Dad! Mom! I'm back."

The restaurant's door was closed, clearly signaling the business had ended for the day.

Upon hearing Chen Shouyi's shout, the iron shutter was pulled open shortly after, with Mrs. Chen and Chen Dawei coming out to greet him.

"Shou Yi, why are you back?" Mrs. Chen asked.

Chen Shouyi quickly recounted his earlier excuse.

"I guess there should be a holiday. I didn't feel it yesterday, but everything seemed strange when I woke up this morning. My heart's been all over the place." Mrs. Chen's voice carried a trace of unease.

"Stop being superstitious and talking nonsense." Chen Dawei casually shifted the topic and laughed, "You left for a few days and got a lot fairer and more handsome."

The inevitable question came, and Chen Shouyi composed himself, quickly responding, "The training is all indoors, probably because I haven't been in the sun for a long time."

"Seems like you should indeed get less sun, you look much better now." Mrs. Chen also chuckled.

After that, both didn't bring up Chen Shouyi's changes again, nor did they dig deeper. Instead, they asked about the training situation.

Was the food good?

How's the relation with other trainees?

Was the training effective?

Chen Shouyi had already prepared his answers on the way there, responding one by one.

He passed the "test"!

He had a lot of other contingency plans, unused for now.

Chen Shouyi suddenly felt touched, realizing that the seemingly insurmountable issues for oneself may not be of priority for parents, as long as one is healthy and safe, that is enough.

...

After a while, Chen Xingyue came back, but not with good news; although there were still many daily necessities, the shelves of supermarket food items were already empty.

"Luckily, I bought a lot in the morning!" Mrs. Chen said with foresight.

Chen Shouyi thought his mother was overreacting; as a family running a restaurant, staple foods like beverages and grains were always stocked, likely enough for a family of four to last more than a month without panic-buying.

After dinner, as Chen Shouyi and Chen Xingyue went upstairs, Chen Xingyue suddenly said mysteriously.

"Brother, let me tell you something, Uncle Wang who runs the grocery store in our community died last night after you left!"

"Oh, he seemed quite robust usually, how did it happen so suddenly?" Chen Shouyi said with some surprise.

This area was rural before becoming part of the city, and he was familiar with most neighbors.

However, knowing them was as far as it went; sincerely caring would be pretentious.

Chen Shouyi was initially just surprised, thinking this was it, but what Chen Xingyue said next took a strange turn.

"They say it was a cerebral hemorrhage, by the time they found him, he was barely alive. Last night, when his family was sitting vigil, his two sons, whom you know aren't very devoted, left to sleep at midnight!"

Chen Shouyi nodded, there was no electricity last night, and with just candlelight, without exceptionally filial children, it would indeed be uncomfortable to stay for long.

"But when they woke up in the morning, they found that Uncle Wang's body was gone! Guess where they found it?"

"Where?" Chen Shouyi prompted, already feeling surprised himself.

"They finally found it at the east gate of the community, half a kilometer from their home, isn't that strange?"

Chen Shouyi nodded.

A body wandering by itself, if this was before, he'd have brushed it off as rumor and nonsense.

Yet after encountering a ghost last night, he knew the world had indeed changed.

"It's best not to go out at night from now on." He advised his sister.

Chen Xingyue, uncomfortable with her brother's concern, replied awkwardly, "Of course I know."

Then she lowered her voice and asked, "Bro, do you think there are ghosts in the world?"

"Don't you know the otherworld is full of spirits and ghosts at night?"

"I mean on Earth?"

"What if there are ghosts, are you scared?" Chen Shouyi gave her a sidelong glance.

"I... Of course, I'm not, I was just asking." Chen Xingyue feigned nonchalance after being provoked by Chen Shouyi's look.

"Do you really want to know?"

"Actually, last night I really encountered a ghost; it was around one or two o'clock. I was suddenly woken up by the urge to pee, and upon waking, the air felt chillingly cold, and the window was open, I found it strange since it was clearly shut last night..." Chen Shouyi intentionally lowered his voice to create an atmosphere.

"I don't believe your ghost story, just keep making things up, I'm going back to my room." Satirized, Chen Xingyue fled in haste.

Chen Shouyi found it amusing, surprised by his sister's fear of ghosts.

...

Chen Shouyi returned to his long-missed bedroom.

He released Shell Lady from his briefcase.

The Shell Lady, smitten with the familiar yet unfamiliar environment, was dumbfounded: "Giant, are we staying here tonight?"

Chen Shouyi nodded, knowing this place wasn't as soundproof as the hotel, a conversation would soon attract someone knocking at the door.

"Why not stay in the usual spot?" The Shell Lady asked urgently.

"Why ask why?" Chen Shouyi couldn't help but lower his voice.

"B-but, my... my gem." Shell Lady stammered.

"Isn't the gem in your hand!" Chen Shouyi replied without patience.

"But I only have one... one gem!" The Shell Lady pitifully showed the glass bead in her hand.

Accustomed to her pitiful count of one, Chen Shouyi looked skeptical: "When did you have two gems?"

Whenever Shell Lady obtained glass beads from him, it could only end up in two places.

First, held in her hand without letting go even while sleeping or eating.

Second, secretly stored in the clam treasure box buried in the sands of the otherworldly island.

She never left things in the hotel room.

"I-I didn't take it from you... Nonetheless, I have one... one gem." The Shell Lady, feeling guilty, turned her head.

Surely, this is the classic "The money is not buried here" scenario.

Chen Shouyi nearly laughed, how could she take his glass bead with such boldness.

Fortunately, he rarely quarreled with her; making her upset would be a headache. It was just a glass bead, so he generously pulled one out and placed it in her hand: "Here, happy now?"

The Shell Lady beamed with joy, gripping it tightly, her face immediately brightening with delight.

...

In the middle of the night, a strange sound suddenly woke Chen Shouyi.

It sounded like someone in the toilet straining hard to defecate, making a labored "uh" and "uh" noise.

At first, he thought someone at home was constipated.

However, after listening for a while, he felt something was wrong; the sound seemed to come from outside the window and was gradually approaching, along with the sound of shoes scraping against the ground.

Even though it was just October, the weather was still warm, so he hadn't closed the window, and in the quiet of the night, the sound was extraordinarily clear.

Curious, he stood up and looked out the window.

What he saw made his hair stand on end.

With a 13.8 physique, his vision was much sharper than an average person. In the dim moonlight, he could clearly see a strange figure slowly making its way toward him.

He was dressed in a mourning suit, a dark gray one, with golden Chinese characters for longevity clearly written on it.

The face was pallid blue, with the cheeks severely sunken, appearing somewhat sharp and unkind, the mouth slightly open revealing several yellowish bad teeth. The eerie "uh uh" sound came from his mouth.

"That's... Uncle Wang!"

## **Chapter 48: Chapter 48: Sonic Boom**

Under the hazy moonlight, in the dead of night.

This slowly walking corpse gives people a strong sense of eeriness.

Although the ghost last night was unsettling, it wasn't seen directly, as if separated by a layer, and could not bring him deeper feelings.

However, this bizarre corpse is right before our eyes.

Bizarre and unsettling!

At first sight, even Chen Shouyi felt a shiver run down his spine.

Perhaps it had been dead for a day, Uncle Wang's corpse was already somewhat decayed, he could faintly smell a light stench of rot.

At the far end of the alley, a few bold figures were secretly observing, not daring to approach.

Chen Shouyi guessed that they should be relatives from Uncle Wang's family.

Encountering this kind of midnight corpse resurrection event, their family must be quite frightened.

According to the local custom, after a person dies, there's a vigil the next night, holding the funeral until the third day's dawn before sending to the crematorium.

But given the current situation, traffic is blocked on the streets and there's a power outage, who knows when they can be transported to the crematorium for cremation.

Uncle Wang's emaciated corpse slowly approached, soon beneath his window, the stench intensifying, nauseating.

The corpse did not stop, soon walked far away.

After watching for a moment, Chen Shouyi returned to the bed, barely lying down when voices were heard outside.

"Who's there?"

"Stop!"

"Or I'll shoot!"

Since last night, Dongning City's main streets have had military patrols day and night, noticing Uncle Wang's oddity, soon the quiet night was punctured by several dull gunshots, turning noisy.

Chen Shouyi didn't go out to join the commotion, he opened his eyes, quietly watching the ceiling.

Suddenly he thought of Zhang Xiaoyue, wondering how she's doing.

Unfortunately, since the internet broke down, they hadn't contacted each other in quite some time.

...

Next day, the electricity still didn't return.

The streets became increasingly desolate, aside from workers everywhere repairing lines, pedestrians sparse, fear prevailing.

In the morning, Chen Shouyi went to school, only to be disappointed finding it was closed, gates shut tight, no one inside.

He then went to Zhang Xiaoyue's apartment complex, lingered for a long time, looked at his phone with no signal, finally had to leave helplessly.

Chen Shouyi didn't know which building or apartment Zhang Xiaoyue lived in.

Even if he knew, he couldn't just show up recklessly.

Unconsciously, he found himself near the abandoned buildings again, noticing traffic police posting notices everywhere.

Chen Shouyi leaned in to take a look.

The notice was about traffic jams.

It required all cars left on the road by noon tomorrow to be attended by their owners ready to cooperate with the unblocking, failure to do so or inability to start the car would result in it being treated as scrap.

Most cars here could still be driven, the ones truly immobile were few, however, it was these stalled cars that prevented the entire traffic flow.

This time they meant business.

Which makes sense, if cars were left on the streets, the congestion could continue indefinitely, not only hindering travel but also complicating efforts to restore city order.

...

Mingshan Park's mountain top.

There's a giant ginkgo tree.

October was nearing mid-month, the ginkgo leaves started to turn yellow, fluttering like butterflies as strong winds swept through.

Suddenly, a phantom seemed to flash by.

Accompanied by a piercing air shriek.

Before these leaves hit the ground, they were shredded by a small sonic boom.

A teenager in a gray T-shirt, holding a branch, stood under the ginkgo tree, eyes sharp.

The sword must be precise, and even faster.

Compared to stabbing a bouncy ball, leaves are lighter, their motion more varied, easily affected by the sword's air currents, but his fast thinking and lightning-speed sword strike minimized these disruptions.

He glanced at the branch in hand, the tip now shredded into fibers by sonic booms from his full-power strikes.

This place is on the mountain top of Dongning City's largest park, Mingshan Park,

Due to the armed forces on the streets, Chen Shouyi couldn't go to the abandoned building's spatial passage, but came here to practice. Luckily this place was quiet now, hardly anyone comes here.

...

Since enhancing again, with various attributes complementing each other, his sword speed increased nearly fifty percent.

During today's practice, he found he finally broke the sound barrier.

"However this sonic boom thrust imposes a heavy load on the body, by the final thrusts, I feel a terrifying resistance, like stabbing an iron plate, just after dozens of strikes, my body feels somewhat numb from the recoil," Chen Shouyi frowned slightly.

"Fortunately, martial arts forcefully mobilizes more muscles to exert power, evenly distributing the counterforce among them."

Actually, with his strong physique, if it were another martial artist with similar strength and agility, stabbing once or twice would make them spit blood, and even in other worlds, his Natural Healing ability makes such impacts barely noticeable, hardly present.

Then came distant conversations and laughter.

Soon, a young couple holding each other approached.

"It's too quiet here, not a single person, I'm so scared."

If there were people, I wouldn't have come, the young man thought:

"With me here, what's there to fear? There's an ancient ginkgo on the mountaintop, said to be hundreds of years old, wonder if the leaves have fallen."

Thinking of her boyfriend's strength, the girl's worries eased somewhat, but still disliked these deserted places: "Let's have a look and leave soon, I heard security isn't good lately."

"Eh, seems like someone's here!" the young man said, sounding a bit disappointed.

The girl looked at the other's face, quite handsome, but still a bit inexperienced, probably a student, didn't seem like a bad person, then heaved a sigh of relief:

"Really? What's he doing?"

"Probably wandering around!"

"So annoying!" Chen Shouyi looked at the couple, frowning slightly, had to stop reluctantly.

He walked to a nearby pavilion and sat down to rest, waiting for them to leave, planning to continue practicing later.

The couple held each other under the ginkgo, soon began kissing, and the young man's hand became increasingly indiscreet.

"No, don't do that, someone's here?"

"I'll drive him away, then..."

The young man whispered a plan to the girl.

The girl immediately hit him, face turning red with embarrassment.

He chuckled and headed towards Chen Shouyi.

"Buddy, do me a favor, give us this spot."

Chen Shouyi curiously looked at the pavilion: "Such a big place, still not enough for you to sit?"

The young man frowned, annoyed: "I mean, leave here, go play somewhere else, as a favor to me."

Chen Shouyi understood, feeling a bit irritated.

"Who are you, why should I favor you?"

Finally found a place to practice, not bothering you, yet you have the audacity to push it.

The young man was stunned, didn't expect this high school-looking youth to refuse.

Have high schoolers become so arrogant?

"Hell, don't understand human speech? Don't act entitled, looking for trouble?"

Chen Shouyi's anger flared, already feeling irritable from the oppressive atmosphere these days, now ready to explode.

"I'll beat you up!"

He suddenly kicked the young man's thigh, who clearly practiced martial arts, reacted swiftly, immediately stepping back, yet too late, his thigh struck heavily by the toe, a tingling numbness spreading, dropping him to one knee.

"I was wondering why someone so young was so brazen, didn't expect him to be skilled." Frowning for several seconds, the young man stood up, furious: "That kick was solid, but compared to a real martial artist apprentice, still a long way to go."

ps: Sorry it's late, asking for recommendations

## **Chapter 49: Chapter 49: Money-Grubber**

As soon as the words were spoken.

Chen Shouyi, who was still sitting in the pavilion, moved like the wind.

Before the young man could react, Chen Shouyi's left foot sprang like a coil, kicking heavily into the opponent's stomach, sending him flying two or three meters before he rolled to the ground.

He rolled several times, his face ashen, his body curled up like a shrimp, beads of cold sweat streaming down his forehead as if his intestines had been kicked out.

Even among Martial Artist Apprentices, there are differences. There are greenhorns like Chen Xingyue, who have just passed the assessment, and then there are Senior Martial Artist Apprentices like Wang Ruyue, who are close to becoming Martial Artists.

However, right now, it seems that even Wang Ruyue wouldn't fare much better against the enhanced Chen Shouyi.

The mere reaction speed and agility were enough to crush.

In the distance, a girl who had wanted to run over to dissuade her boyfriend from hitting others, saw this scene and couldn't help but cover her mouth in shock and stop in her tracks.

Chen Shouyi glanced at the girl, coldly smirked, and took a few steps to stand before the young man.

Grabbing a handful of his hair, he lightly patted the young man's face.

Faced with such humiliation, the young man's neck muscles bulged with rage, eyes glaring: "Your mother!"

"Martial Artist Apprentice? Haha, when you become a Martial Artist, come speak to me about 'giving me face.' Maybe then I'll consider your face."

The young man's pupils contracted violently. He had intended to threaten a bit, to save face, but now the words stuck in his throat, unable to come out.

Chen Shouyi released the young man, and after a few steps, as he brushed past the girl, he turned his head and said coldly:

"This place is yours now!"

The girl was so frightened her face turned pale and her body froze, only coming to her senses after he had walked ten meters away, quickly running to her boyfriend.

...

Walking on the mountain path steps.

Looking at the lush trees on either side.

The restless feeling in Chen Shouyi's heart gradually calmed down.

Reflecting on his actions just now, ever since the two slaughters, he has felt his own aggression growing heavier.

There was even a moment earlier when a trace of killing intent arose in his heart.

Fortunately, at the last moment, he restrained some of his strength and changed his intended kick from the chest to the stomach.

Otherwise, with his ferocious power, even if the opponent was a Martial Artist Apprentice, he might have died on the spot.

He couldn't help but warn himself: he must not lose his head again in the future; whenever possible, try to avoid physical confrontation.

If by any chance someone dies and it gets discovered, he might have no choice but to wander the world.

...

The fourth day of a power outage.

After dinner.

The candle burned quietly on the desk, occasionally sputtering with tiny sparks.

He pressed his phone, but no boot screen appeared; the last bit of remaining power had finally drained away.

The only good news in the streets today was that the traffic jam was finally cleared this afternoon.

During the clearing process, Dongning City was in considerable chaos, with numerous cars breaking down and being ruthlessly crushed into iron pancakes by road rollers, causing many people to become emotional, nearly inciting a riot.

It wasn't until a large number of military police were deployed that the situation was suppressed.

However, this sparked restlessness in the hearts of many people. Just in a neighborhood not far from his home, a young couple was forced into their home and murdered by masked men at dusk, only discovered when blood seeped out the door.

...

At that moment, there was a knock on the door outside.

"Brother, brother, quickly open the door, I need to talk to you."

Chen Shouyi quickly put the Shell Lady, who was bored playing with two Glass Beads, into a briefcase, then swiftly zipped it up.

After doing everything, he went and opened the door: "What is it?"

"Why are you so slow in opening the door? What were you doing, not doing something disgusting, were you?" Chen Xingyue eyed both sides suspiciously, as if trying to find some evidence, having just heard the sound of a zipper.

"Don't force your filthy thoughts onto me, speak up if you have something to say." Chen Shouyi said impatiently.

In the end, Chen Xingyue couldn't find any useful handle, so she had to tell the truth:

"Uncle Wang and his wife just came to the house."

"Uncle Wang?"

"It's Wang Debiao, the eldest son of Uncle Wang?" Chen Xingyue hurriedly explained.

"What is he here for? Didn't their family just finish dealing with the funeral?" Chen Shouyi asked in confusion.

"It's not finished yet, originally, after the roads were cleared this evening, they planned to go for the cremation, but the national highway over there is still blocked, so they came back. And besides, yesterday Uncle Wang's corpse went missing again, fortunately, the police found it, fired a few shots, and they brought it back." Chen Xingyue said cautiously.

"Their family is really unlucky, but what does this have to do with you? You're unrelated, after all, what are you trying to say?" Chen Shouyi listened, feeling perplexed.

Intimidated by Chen Shouyi's way of speaking, Chen Xingyue found herself on the losing side of the argument quite quickly. Having been out for a while, she found her brother's way of speaking increasingly adept, which she found unsettling.

"I'm a Martial Artist Apprentice, you know, people here know about it, so they want to invite me to quell the evil energy. Mom and Dad told me to decide for myself."

"What's the point of going? Our parents are considerate people, and after decades of being neighbors, it's natural they can't refuse outright, but what face do you need?"

"Yeah, that's what I thought too!" Receiving sharp criticism from her brother, Chen Xingyue forced a laugh and finally spoke her mind.

Seeing her expression, Chen Shouyi, thinking sharply, knew the outcome: "You agreed? How much are they paying to hire you?"

"I mainly wanted to exercise my courage."

She still tried to cover it up.

"How much?"

"Five thousand!" Chen Xingyue laughed awkwardly.

My dear sister, I didn't expect you to be such a money-grubber, selling yourself for just five thousand.

Chen Shouyi said mockingly: "Since you agreed, then go on, Uncle Wang was shot a few times last night, today he probably can't stir up any trouble!"

From last night's observation, "Uncle Wang," though terrifying in appearance, actually posed no real danger. His slow pace couldn't even catch up with a three or four-year-old child.

"You're not expecting me to go with you, are you?"

Chen Xingyue instantly nodded vigorously.

"Dream on?" Chen Shouyi dashed her hopes: "With that time, I'd rather be sleeping."

"One thousand, I'll split one thousand with you."

"How generous of you, taking four thousand and leaving your brother with just a thousand." Chen Shouyi gave Chen Xingyue a sideways glance and said.

"Two thousand!"

He sneered, unmoved.

"Three thousand at most; you'll take the bigger share, alright?" Chen Xingyue said angrily.

"Deal, but you said it!" Chen Shouyi immediately agreed.

Though he no longer cared much for such a small amount of money, he was still concerned about his sister going alone. Moreover, he wanted to see up close what abilities such a bizarre thing might have.

"When do we go?" Chen Shouyi asked.

"We're going right now!" Chen Xingyue said resentfully.

Though she was reluctant, having spoken, it wasn't easy to take back her words. However, inwardly, she let out a sigh of relief. She really wouldn't have dared to go alone.

"Then wait a moment while I change clothes."

After Chen Xingyue left, Chen Shouyi immediately closed the door.

He found a jacket and put it on.

You never know, such bizarre things might have corpse poison like the zombies in the legends?

If accidentally grabbed, at least there's the clothing as a barrier.

Of course, he thought his chances of being caught were incredibly low given his reflexes, yet caution never hurts.

Next, he fetched an old down jacket he hadn't worn in ages and laid it under the bed.

Then he took out the Shell Lady from the briefcase.

After a brief negotiation.

Finally, Chen Shouyi secured one night of freedom for the Shell Lady for the price of a pea-sized Glass Bead.

She cheerfully held the Glass Bead as Chen Shouyi bound her with thin ropes, sealing her mouth with tape and placing her onto the down jacket spread beneath the bed.

ps: Seeking recommendations, ah ah ah.