

## Dawn of a New Era

### #Chapter 51: The Intruder - Read Dawn of a New Era Chapter 51: The Intruder

#### **Chapter 51: Chapter 51: The Intruder**

"Still not dead?"

Chen Shouyi was surprised and instinctively looked at the corpse's eyes.

His eyes were half-open, half-closed. Through his eyelids, perhaps due to the lighting, Chen Shouyi vaguely felt as though the eyes of the corpse were emitting a faint, eerie glow.

He watched for a while, then retreated back into the courtyard.

It wasn't out of fear, but rather because the smell was too unbearable.

As Chen Shouyi sat down, Chen Xingyue leaned close, whispering, "Did you find anything?"

"It's right there, can't you go and see for yourself?" Chen Shouyi glanced at her and said.

"Don't be so stingy, just tell me already."

"Don't talk about death, be careful or it may come true!"

Chen Xingyue was a bit startled:

"Brother, if you keep doing this, I won't talk to you anymore."

"I'm not teasing you anymore," Chen Shouyi said earnestly in a low voice, "The hand is still moving, but it's tied up. I doubt there's anything for you to worry about today."

Chen Xingyue immediately breathed a sigh of relief.

...

Time slowly passed, and the moonlight seemed to grow ever colder.

During this period, the old man couldn't hold up any longer and was persuaded to go to sleep.

Around one in the morning, a thumping sound came from the mourning hall as the corpse began to struggle.

Everyone immediately halted, looking at each other in bewilderment, faces filled with uncertainty.

After a long pause, Uncle Wang's second son, Wang Dewen, summoned his courage, went to peek into the mourning hall, and came back pale: "It's... it's fine, dad tied it up well."

Everyone breathed a sigh of relief upon hearing this.

Chen Shouyi keenly noticed that his sister, who had been tightly clutching at her pants, also relaxed her little hand.

He couldn't help but find it amusing; if she was so scared, why come out in the first place?

...

The thumping and banging continued, growing more intense.

Accompanied by the corpse's efforts causing deep "mmh mmh" sounds from its throat, it was quite spine-chilling in the still and quiet midnight.

But Chen Shouyi only felt bored.

Yet he could only continue to endure it.

He even somewhat hoped that Uncle Wang might break loose, to liven things up a bit.

Unfortunately, in such a low-magic environment, Uncle Wang was powerless even though he had the will.

...

It's unsure how long they endured it, but dawn finally broke, and the corpse's movements gradually calmed down.

On the way back, Chen Xingyue yawned and cheerfully skipped, saying:

"And just like that, five thousand bucks are earned, didn't think it would be this easy."

"You only get two thousand; the other three thousand is mine." Chen Shouyi mercilessly burst her bubble.

"No need for your reminder, you money-grubber!" Chen Xingyue snorted coldly, "Had I known it was this simple, I would have come alone."

Instead of snagging the five thousand herself, now she couldn't even keep half.

"Without me, would you have dared to come?" Chen Shouyi shot his sister a sidelong glance and said.

He had long since seen through his sister's tough exterior but weak heart.

"Oh, what wouldn't I dare, can't be bothered to argue with you."

"Ah, easily made three thousand; wonder how I should spend it?" Chen Shouyi posed in contemplation, looking punchable.

"Brother, you're really annoying, you know that?" Chen Xingyue gritted out through clenched teeth behind him, glaring at his backside, itching to kick him.

"Calling your brother annoying, I was almost considering not taking it."

"Brother, you are my dear brother, you are the best." Chen Xingyue instantly changed her tune, shamelessly said.

...

Being a 'rich man' with over two hundred thousand in his fortune, how could he genuinely feel right about taking the hard-earned money from his sister? He was merely teasing her earlier.

When they arrived home, they found their parents were already up.

Seeing the traces of sleepiness on their faces, it was clear that they too had spent a worrisome sleepless night.

"Don't come in yet, jump over the fire basin to get rid of bad luck." Mrs. Chen, superstitiously, lit a bunch of dried mugwort in a broken pot.

...

After napping a few hours in the morning, Chen Shouyi woke up feeling refreshed.

After lunch, he grabbed his briefcase and headed back to the abandoned building.

Military and police were still patrolling nearby, but this time Chen Shouyi couldn't hold back.

Having not been to the deserted island for the past few days made him a bit worried about the Barbarian's movements.

Taking advantage of the police's moment of inattention, his figure flashed as he dashed towards the abandoned building.

The journey was surprisingly safe, until he reached the underground parking lot.

His expression turned slightly unsure.

The ground of the parking lot was covered in a thick layer of dust, stepping on it leaving clear footprints. Previously, only his footprints were there. But now there was an additional pair.

His expression became grave as he followed the footprints step by step forward.

The person's intent was clear, following his footprints until they disappeared at the end of the passage.

"Has someone finally found this passage?"

Though surprised, Chen Shouyi wasn't really caught off guard by all this. The abandoned building wasn't in some secluded, deserted location but near a street, and anyone observant could easily spot his unusual movements.

He took a deep breath to calm himself down.

Quickly, he noticed some strange things.

The other's footprints led only in one direction, implying the person was still inside, yet dust had already accumulated on them, having about the same thickness as his most recent footprints.

When was the last time he went to the alternate world?

It's been over four days already.

Faint suspicions arose in his heart.

The person probably was already dead.

But thinking any further would be pointless; it was better to go in and see for himself first.

Chen Shouyi stepped into the passage, and as the scene changed.

He immediately saw a corpse before his eyes.

The corpse lay face down, wearing a suit, looking like a white-collar worker.

At first glance, Chen Shouyi looked at the shoes the corpse was wearing. The pattern on the shoes was identical to the footprints; obviously, this was the person who discovered the passage.

He had been dead for some time, the body somewhat bloated and decaying, his feet twisted at an unnatural angle, clearly unable to withstand the gravity here, collapsing suddenly to his knees.

Chen Shouyi instinctively noted the distance of the corpse from the passage, a good twenty meters.

He couldn't figure out how this person managed to get so far.

With thrice the gravity, it was quite hazardous for ordinary people. Tripping on Earth might just scrape some skin, but here, at a minimum it would result in fractures, at worst, it could be fatal.

It wasn't until Chen Shouyi noticed a pile of golden sand glistening a little ahead in the sunlight that he understood.

"Men die for money as birds die for food" indeed holds true.

It's likely the person risked going further upon seeing his pile of golden sand.

Yet this golden sand weighed less than half a kilo, worth perhaps forty or fifty thousand at most, but it cost him his life.

However, for Chen Shouyi, it was a fortunate thing.

...

The corpse, though somewhat rotting, had to be dealt with.

Having witnessed Uncle Wang's strange transformation, Chen Shouyi had become quite sensitive to corpses. Even in Earth's environment, bizarre changes occurred, let alone in this alternate world with higher mysterious power.

He held his breath and grabbed one of the corpse's legs, dragging it down the mountain.

After about ten minutes, he threw the corpse into the sea and then carefully washed his hands.

On the way back, he spotted a wallet, presumably dropped during the corpse's dragging process.

The wallet lay open, revealing the photo inside.

He initially had no intention of bothering with it. Even if there was money, he wasn't interested but seeing the photo in the wallet, he couldn't help but crouch to take it out.

It was a photo of a family of three.

The picture showed a lovely little girl sitting on her father's shoulders, smiling happily.

Suddenly, Chen Shouyi crumpled the photo into a ball and threw it forcefully into the distance.

"I didn't kill the person!"

## **Chapter 52: Chapter 52: Setting Out to Sea**

Feeling slightly agitated, Chen Shouyi walked to a hidden cave, gently parted the dried grass covering it, and revealed two well-wrapped oiled paper packages inside.

The large oiled paper package contained parts of the bow and arrows.

The narrow oiled paper package contained the alloy sword.

He reassembled the strong bow, tested the tension of the bowstring, and found no slackness at all.

He wasn't surprised, as a Martial Artist's war bow was a practical weapon designed to adapt to various environments. Durability and ease of maintenance are fundamental requirements, unlike traditional bows, which are more delicate even after prolonged exposure to sunlight and rain with little impact.

Of course, correspondingly, the price is also high.

A war bow costs as much as a car.

...

Holding his weapon, he walked to the entrance of the passage and released the Shell Lady.

Returning to the small island, the Shell Lady cheered excitedly, flying wildly through the air.

Chen Shouyi ignored her and moved aside to start practicing archery.

After a few shots, he realized he was somewhat out of sorts, unable to calm down.

...

He stopped and stood in place, slightly lost in thought.

Ever since discovering this passage, Chen Shouyi has been under immense pressure. On one hand, he knew that the presence of this passage posed a significant risk to Dongning City, but on the other hand, he didn't want to give up monopolizing the passage and the benefits it brought him.

Because of this, when discovering barbarians on the island, his first thought wasn't to temporarily avoid them but to go back and risk killing them. Even the second time, when a large number of barbarians appeared, he tried to handle it alone.

He nearly lost his life for this.

In doing so, aside from correcting his mistakes to prevent more barbarians from entering Dongning City, he also harbored thoughts of continuing to hide the passage.

Of course, he ultimately succeeded by chance, salvaging an impending collapse of the situation, so he logically continued.

...

However, the corpse of an intruder he encountered today and that photograph had finally made him feel some unease.

Although he could find a hundred reasons to convince himself that the person died from his own greed, unrelated to him,

he knew that, to some extent, this person was the first to suffer due to his concealment of the passage.

After all, he was just a seventeen-year-old boy, his heart not yet hardened.

Though he was already steeped in blood, the feeling of killing a barbarian and killing a fellow human were inevitably different.

One was a backward primitive race from another world, while the other was his own kind.

Just like how people who claimed to be civilized after the first industrial revolution could slaughter Native Americans but be polite and gracious to a stranger after putting down their muskets.

Because they didn't consider the former to be the same race.

...

Of course, he didn't feel much guilt, but the incident made him somewhat alert.

Someone self-entering the passage and dying had nothing to do with him.

But what if a barbarian came out when he wasn't around?

At this point, a thought suddenly crossed his mind:

"How about visiting the barbarian's island to investigate the situation there?"

"If there's not much danger..."

Undoubtedly, he had a strong gambling nature in his character.

His gaze turned cold as he pondered the risks involved:

"Compared to the rain-soaked slaughter last time, I am now stronger, and my physical fitness is almost comparable to an ordinary barbarian. Even without a bow and arrow, even if it's not a sneak attack, I am confident I can easily kill them one-on-one."

In terms of hunting, Chen Shouyi can't compare to the barbarians who make a living from it. But when it comes to killing, compared to the Martial Arts Killing Art developed by countless scientists over the past two decades on Earth, the barbarians who still rely on physical instinct are far inferior.

It's like an old farmer living by the land can't produce as much as a college student who studied agriculture.

An old woman who has cooked for decades can't compete with a newly graduated technical school chef.

The efficiency of knowledge recognition in a technological society is many times more than that of the barbarians.

...

He glanced at the sky, noting it was still not noon.

He didn't intend to keep practicing and called the Shell Lady, heading down the mountain.

Reaching the seaside rocks, he untied one of the boat's ropes, took off his pants, and waded through the seawater.

Fortunately, the sea was somewhat high tide today, so the canoe wasn't stranded.

If it weren't for this, he would worry that he couldn't move the massive canoe.

He placed his weapon and briefcase inside and climbed into the canoe.

Under the sun's scorching heat these few days, the stench inside the canoe had diminished significantly.

He grabbed the wooden piece resembling a paddle and vigorously rowed in the seawater.

"It's moving! It's moving!" The Shell Lady seemed quite excited, quickly shouted.

The canoe slowly turned around in place.

Looking at the excited cheering Shell Lady, Chen Shouyi said somewhat angrily, "Stop shouting, be quiet."

Somewhat embarrassed.

How the hell is this boat supposed to be rowed?

He scratched his head, trying to recall those scenes he's seen of rowing boats.

Seems like it's supposed to be rowed east and west.

But this method is only suitable for small boats.

A canoe over four or five meters wide obviously couldn't be rowed like that; running back and forth would be exhausting.

Thankfully, he could gradually figure it out.

He experimented repeatedly, taking a full half-hour before finally controlling the direction.

Chen Shouyi took out a common language dictionary, flipped through it, and found the pronunciation of the word "island," which isn't commonly used, then said to the Shell Lady, "Fly and see nearby islands, there will be a reward."

"A gem?"

The Shell Lady's eyes brightened and quickly asked. Seeing Chen Shouyi nod, she flew up excitedly, flying higher and higher until she reached over a hundred meters in the air before descending.

Luckily, the rope tied to her was long enough.

"Yes, very far, very far!"

"That way!"

The Shell Lady pointed immediately.

Chen Shouyi continued to row the boat.

The canoe was quite heavy and moved rather slowly. He estimated it could only travel a dozen or so kilometers per hour, slightly faster than walking.

It's hard to judge direction on the sea, and it wasn't long before he lost his sense of orientation.

Fortunately, the Shell Lady kept confirming the direction; otherwise, there's no compass, and he might've gotten lost.

After rowing for over two hours, he finally saw a hint of green on the sea horizon.

The green gradually grew larger.

Before long, he noticed there was another canoe in the distance.

"A giant!" The Shell Lady's vision was sharper than his, calling out loudly.

That meant two of them. He immediately changed direction, rowing towards that canoe.

The canoe was the barbarians' only sea transportation tool. He decided to get rid of this canoe first.

The two drew closer, slowly.

Perhaps thinking the similar-style canoe belonged to comrades, a barbarian stood up as if to greet.

Now, the two were still 600-700 meters apart, quite blurred in vision, only seeing a tiny figure, unable to discern specific features.

Seeing this, Chen Shouyi had a thought, immediately taking off his shirt, going bare-chested like the barbarians, preparing to obscure their vision.

Feeling his skin seemed too white and clean, visibly an anomaly at close range.

He gritted his teeth, looked around fondly, and soon scooped out a piece of brown solidified mud, not knowing what it was, but despite its foul smell, quickly smeared it on his face and body.

He took out his dead cellphone, used its screen to check himself, then covered any missed parts carefully.

The Shell Lady pinched her nose, disdainfully sitting afar.

Chen Shouyi hoped it'd have some effect.

By then, their canoe altered direction, wanting a peaceful interaction, beginning to head towards him.

The distance between them continued to narrow.

Five hundred meters, three hundred meters.

He could faintly hear the barbarians' rough shouting.

Chen Shouyi slightly bowed his head, rowing composedly.

After 150 meters, the barbarians aboard seemed hesitant, slowing their rowing gradually.

At 100 meters, a barbarian finally screamed in terror.

"It's that demon!"

(Demon is an interpretative translation)

The two immediately turned back, perhaps too panicked, clumsy in action. The canoe spun in circles amid confusion.

By then, Chen Shouyi raised his head, placed the paddle aside, grabbed the nearby war bow, nocked an arrow, drew the bow instantly.

His gaze was sharp, mind undisturbed.

As the canoe slid another dozen meters, he instantly released the bowstring.

...

PS: Asking for recommendations, ah ah ah

### **Chapter 53: Chapter 53: Shadows**

In an instant, arrows rained down.

In just five seconds, Chen Shouyi fired eight arrows in succession.

Unfortunately, only five arrows hit the target.

A distance of seventy to eighty meters is still a bit too far for him. Coupled with the canoe swaying unpredictably in the sea, the hit rate is even lower.

Fortunately, the quantity made up for everything.

Seeing both barbarians fall, he let out a breath, placing the War Bow aside.

Then, he continued to row, slowly approaching the canoe,

The Shell Lady, who had been scared and hidden away, now saw there was no danger. Without waiting for Chen Shouyi to lure her out, she eagerly flew out of the cabin, actively flew to the distant canoe to survey, and quickly flew back in a panic, saying:

"Oh no, oh no, one giant is dead! One giant is still alive."

Can you not be so startled? I was wondering what happened!

Chen Shouyi looked at the Shell Lady, who was anxiously alerting him of the situation ahead, feeling a bit speechless in his heart.

Aside from one being shot in the head and dying on the spot, the other merely had two arrows shot into the chest; there's no way to die so quickly!

He slowly rowed his boat, and a minute later, he finally approached the canoe.

The still alive barbarian was continuously spitting blood from his mouth, his eyes filled with terror.

With one hand holding the rope, and with sword in hand, Chen Shouyi leaped onto the barbarian's canoe.

The barbarian struggled vigorously a few times, but the two barbed arrows in his chest had already drained all his strength.

"How many people are in your tribe?" Chen Shouyi stepped forward, pointing the sword at his throat, and asked coldly.

The barbarian's eyes widened in anger:

"Siklo, Hobigo Subada, will kill you."

He mumbled something, then suddenly spit blood, and fell completely silent.

Chen Shouyi focused intently, only able to understand the last few words.

His expression turned somewhat serious.

Even though he couldn't understand the beginning, from the latter words, he could already tell this Barbarian Tribe undoubtedly had backup, and was sure they could kill him.

He didn't bother with processing the canoe, immediately jumping back.

Taking out the universal dictionary.

Quickly searching based on pronunciation.

Not long after, he found the first sentence.

It's a word meaning soul; hell and evil, contextually, it apparently referred to him, likely meaning evil.

Is this how the barbarians view him?

He fell into a silence inside.

He continued to search for the latter sentence. The barbarian said it quite ambiguously, forcing him to base his search on rough memory.

In the end, only found two syllables, one meaning tree, and the other holy or sacred, but in the rest of the search, he couldn't find the matching one.

"Holy tree?"

"Or sacred tree?"

They seem to mean the same thing.

"In other words, this tribe has a tree that will kill him." Chen Shouyi pondered.

If on Earth someone said a tree would kill you, Chen Shouyi would definitely scoff.

But in this world, some powerful plants possess extraordinary abilities, even capable of roaming the land like animals.

This made him recall the mysterious item he obtained from the barbarian Clan Leader, which resembled a pit.

Dark shadows loomed in his heart.

He looked at the distant island.

Its lush greenery looked like a verdant forest from afar.

But perhaps looking for too long, the forest in his eyes suddenly turned somber, shrouded in a layer of shadow.

He quickly blinked and looked again, only to find everything was back to normal.

"An illusion or psychological factor."

Chen Shouyi was somewhat unsure.

However, today's trip was rushed, and time is insufficient. He only came to scout, not intending to set foot on the island.

He left at noon, and now it's estimated that about three hours have passed, even if it took the same amount of time to return, it would be dark on Earth.

After observing for a while from afar, he decided to head back.

To make plans again in the next couple of days.

He tied the other canoe to his with a rope, then started rowing back.

Dragging a canoe made his speed even slower, taking five hours to return to the island.

Before leaving the island, he took a bath by a nearby pond, washing off the dirt and removing the few blood marks from his clothes.

As he exited the passageway.

Aside from a few independently powered buildings glowing, it was already pitch dark outside.

The power was still out.

The streets were desolate, with only a few sparse cars emitting thick exhaust, passing by. On the entire street, only he was walking.

Of course, there were also a few policemen.

Due to his suspicious behavior, Chen Shouyi was questioned by the police several times along the way.

Fortunately, his slightly youthful face was the best camouflage.

Who would have thought just moments ago, he killed two barbarians without a trace of fear, and handled a human body.

"Don't wander the streets, understand? Where's your home? Go back quickly!"

"Okay, okay, I'm heading home right now!"

...

"Dad! Mom! I'm back, open the door quickly."

"Better die outside, why come back? What time is it now?" With the roller door jerked open, Mrs. Chen scolded with a darkened face.

"Mom, there really was an event today, went a bit far, couldn't make it back in time." Chen Shouyi ducked, hurriedly slipping in through the roller door.

"Then tell me what event?"

"Can't say, it's important!" Chen Shouyi tried to gloss over it.

Mrs. Chen, uncertain where her thoughts wandered, suddenly softened her attitude: "Still, you shouldn't come back so late; it's dangerous outside. Nearby, another person died today."

"Mom, what are you worrying about? If it wasn't for the current inability to take assessments, I would already be a Martial Arts Apprentice!"

Feeling Mrs. Chen's anxiety, Chen Shouyi suddenly found it necessary to show his strength a bit; otherwise, each time he returned late, his parents would be on edge.

He looked left and right, picking up a dish from the dining table, and like snapping a biscuit, he easily broke a piece off, then squeezed it between his fingers, seemingly ready to crush it.

"What are you doing?" Mrs. Chen was startled, calling out urgently:

Before she finished, Chen Shouyi had already rubbed his fingers, and with a creeping crushing sound, countless powder scattered down.

"Show me quickly, isn't your hand cut?" Mrs. Chen worriedly grabbed Chen Shouyi's hand.

Chen Shouyi opened his hand, revealing that apart from being slightly red from exertion, his palm was entirely unharmed.

"See, nothing at all." Chen Shouyi rubbed his fingers, a bit smug.

With a physique of a astounding 13.8, his seemingly infant-like delicate skin was actually extremely tough. An ordinary person wielding an ordinary knife, even if not using full force, would not likely be able to stab through it.

"Bam!" Chen Shouyi felt a pain on the back of his head.

"Who do you think you are, I can't control you now? Do that again next time and watch your skin!"

PS: It's a new week, please recommend!

## **Chapter 54: Chapter 54: Preparations**

Morning street newspaper.

"This is going to be chaos."

"I'm afraid there's going to be war!"

"We still don't know what to do in the future?"

The newspaper stand was surrounded by people, everyone looked grim and worried.

This morning, an astonishing news spread wildly, making the whole Dongning City restless and anxious.

"Give me a newspaper!" Chen Shouyi handed over a dollar.

"Here you go!"

Chen Shouyi took it and only glanced at it, feeling his heart sink involuntarily.

"The president made an important speech, urging the public not to panic, overcome all difficulties, unite as one, maintain social stability, trust the government, trust our military, trust our scientists, difficulties are only temporary..."

"Professor Cao, an academician at the National Science Academy, a renowned expert in radio technology and Dean of the School of Information Science at Beijing University, said in an interview that the invasion of this otherworldly force field caused only minor impacts, and we can recover wireless networks by readjusting standards and increasing electromagnetic wave emission levels."

"Civil aviation suspension notice: Effective immediately, for passenger safety, all flight routes will be temporarily suspended until aircraft technology retrofitting is completed."

"With road clearings, major markets in this city have become lively again. Our reporter interviewed many citizens in the market, and they all stated that life is stable, supplies are sufficient, and aside from power outages, there are no other impacts."

...

The thing everyone least wanted to happen finally occurred.

The invasion by this otherworldly force field didn't just affect Dongning City, nor a specific region, but impacted the entire country and even the whole world.

Originally, he was excited that his agility and perception both increased by 0.1 points today. But now he felt no excitement at all. He crumpled the newspaper heavily in his heart and threw it into the trash can, leaving the newsstand hastily.

...

Cold Light Weapon Shop.

Chen Shouyi twisted and turned for a while, finally finding a professional store selling cold weapons that was open.

The arrows he ordered for delivery last time still hadn't arrived, he didn't know when they would come?

But he couldn't afford to wait any longer.

"Welcome, this way please." A young woman in a short skirt said sweetly, showing her thighs.

The store was decorated in an antique style and looked quite high-end.

Behind the counter, a middle-aged man with a scruffy beard, likely the owner, was gently wiping a bright, water-like long sword with silk.

"What do you want to buy?" Noticing Chen Shouyi entering, he raised the sword slowly into its scabbard and asked in an indifferent tone.

Chen Shouyi glanced at the dozen or so gleaming swords on display and then looked away: "Do you have arrows here?"

"Of course, we have arrows. Did you bring your documents?" The middle-aged man raised his eyebrow and asked.

Chen Shouyi wasn't surprised, whether buying online or in a physical store, purchasing weapons required real-name identification. He had already brought his ID card as he left home, so he took it out from his wallet immediately.

"I think you misunderstood, I'm referring to the Martial Artist Apprentice qualification certificate, the ID doesn't work now. Things are getting tight recently, haven't you seen the notice outside?" He pushed the ID card back.

He didn't expect things to be this strict now. It's probably due to the recent deterioration in law and order. Chen Shouyi frowned slightly and said:

"I can add more money!"

The middle-aged man smiled: "I don't need money, nor do I want trouble."

"I'll pay triple!"

"Go home, you're still young. It's better not to mess with these things, I won't sell it to you." The middle-aged man said, quite principled.

He wasn't a person who took advantage of others. If a small amount of money landed him in trouble, it would be disastrous.

"Really not selling?" Chen Shouyi confirmed.

"Not selling, no amount of money will work." The middle-aged man was quite stubborn: "You should go home."

At this moment, Chen Shouyi looked at the sword by the counter within reach of the middle-aged man and asked:

"Are you an apprentice martial artist? Is this your sword?"

"What do you want to say?" The middle-aged man wasn't surprised.

Having run this store for five or six years now, people around just need to inquire a little about his situation, ordinary people usually wouldn't cause trouble here.

"I don't mind if I take a look!"

Chen Shouyi said with a smile, as soon as he finished speaking, his hand suddenly moved like a phantom. The next moment, the long sword originally on the counter had unexpectedly appeared in his hand, as if it had always been there.

He gently pulled it out, flicked a finger at it, and the thick spine of the sword murmured in vibration. He praised:

"It's truly a good sword, must be expensive?"

The middle-aged man suddenly froze in place, looking at the sword in the other's hand like seeing a ghost, then looking at the empty counter, he could no longer maintain his previous calm and stammered:

"It's...it's okay, not...not very expensive!"

"The law and order isn't great now, we often hear about deaths. You don't have power here, so your store's cameras aren't working, right?" Chen Shouyi said leisurely while he inspected the store as if he was really preparing to act.

"Y-yes, yes!"

The middle-aged man felt increasing pressure, sweat pouring off his forehead, then as if he just remembered, he hurriedly said:

"Oh, right, you're here to buy arrows?"

Chen Shouyi shook his head:

"But you won't sell them to me."

"Then you...must have heard wrong."

...

Within minutes, after Chen Shouyi left, the middle-aged man sat down heavily on his chair, his back soaked through.

"Brother-in-law, was that person really that frightening? He didn't look like it!" The young woman in a short skirt remarked in surprise at her brother-in-law, usually quite assertive, now looking like a sheep relieved from the wolf's jaws.

"What do you know, with that kind of skill, I couldn't even react. He's at least Martial Artist Level, and people like that won't hesitate to kill. I'd estimate he has a few deaths on his hands."

"Should we call the police?"

"You really want to die quickly, huh!" The middle-aged man was immediately infuriated by the naive suggestion of his big-breasted, small-brained sister-in-law. Not even considering the lack of evidence, people like that aren't easily caught!

...

With an incredibly cheap price, Chen Shouyi successfully bought a big bundle of arrows and hurriedly walked down the street.

Soon, he entered a military supply store.

The owner was clearly a military enthusiast and was quite enthusiastic about Chen Shouyi's questions.

On the owner's suggestion, Chen Shouyi bought a complete set of jungle gear, including jungle camouflage suits, helmets, and goggles, and learned a simple technique for applying face paint.

...

"Hey handsome, you're back! Looks like you haven't stayed over the past few days!" The pretty receptionist brightened up seeing Chen Shouyi and asked.

This young handsome guy clearly had money, booking a half-month stay at the hotel and coming intermittently. Like this time, not showing up for three days but not canceling the reservation, obviously not short of money.

Only a pity that he was a bit young.

"I went home for a bit. The delivery hasn't arrived yet?" Chen Shouyi asked.

"Still hasn't, but with the highway reopened, it should be just a day or two now."

"Let's hope so!"

After chatting a bit, Chen Shouyi returned to his room.

Before leaving last time, he had informed the receptionist not to clean in these days.

Therefore, after three days away, the floor had gathered quite a bit of dust.

He didn't call housekeeping services, just tidied up a bit himself, since he wasn't going to stay here much recently.

He noticed the food he bought days ago was still there, saving him a trip for purchasing supplies for tonight's venture into the other world.

Before heading out this morning, he had already told his parents he wouldn't be returning home, under the pretense of staying at a classmate's for a couple of days.

However, he couldn't go to the other world yet; its day lasts forty hours, and it was still in the long night phase.

He had to wait until six p.m. Earth time, when it would be morning over there.

Thus, he needed to rest up in the hotel for a while.

He opened his briefcase and released the Shell Lady.

PS: Asking for recommendations here, fell quite behind today. Also, thanks to An Zhi Komorebi for the reward!

### **Chapter 55: Chapter 55: Natural Spirits**

Nowadays, the Shell Lady feels nothing about being bound and confined like this.

To her, the briefcase has become a place to sleep, and it's safer than sleeping inside a shell as she did before.

Awakened by Chen Shouyi's movements, she lazily opened her eyes and yawned.

Once she saw her surroundings clearly, she was instantly wide awake, her eyes darting around. As soon as the Giant left to pack his things, she immediately flipped herself upright and jumped off the bed, quickly running to a corner under the bed, fumbling around until a glass bead appeared in her hand.

She gently wiped away the dust on the surface and looked at the crystal-clear, perfectly round, mesmerizing glow, feeling a thrill she couldn't contain.

She had thought that she would never get this lost gemstone back again.

She had even secretly felt sad about it more than once.

Unexpectedly, as soon as she opened her eyes, a delightful surprise arrived.

However, this time, she couldn't let the Giant discover it.

Suppressing her excitement, she quickly ran out from under the bed.

She glanced up at a corner of the blanket hanging down, jumped with all her might, leaping thirty or forty centimeters into the air, grabbing the hanging blanket, and quickly climbed back onto the bed.

Her face was flushed, feigning nonchalance, she glanced at Chen Shouyi, and seeing he wasn't paying attention, quickly hid the glass bead inside her princess dress.

Chen Shouyi was completely unaware of the Shell Lady's little actions. He was placing all the luggage into the newly bought backpack.

There were still four or five hours until six in the evening.

He took out a Universal Language Dictionary, leaned against the bed, memorizing words while conserving energy.

With an intelligence now as high as 12.6, studying had become quite easy for him. Even memorizing vocabulary had become an enjoyable task.

A language often reflects the level of material civilization behind it.

The more precise and detailed the language, with fewer ambiguities, the more advanced and developed the material civilization is, and vice versa.

This Universal Language, clearly, is quite crude.

Each word has several meanings.

For example, the word for sun can also mean sunlight, daytime, brightness, male, and various other interpretations, each requiring context to understand its meaning.

The entire Universal Language Dictionary contains only about a thousand words, yet its meanings are all-encompassing.

However, a backward civilization doesn't necessarily mean weakness.

In fact, in a world like this with an environment that inhibits chemical reactions, developing productivity is quite difficult. Even after another ten thousand years, things might still remain the same.

If Earth is a material world composed of the four fundamental forces: electromagnetic force, gravity, weak nuclear force, and strong nuclear force, then this world is a supernatural world composed of five fundamental forces.

In such a unique environment, the upper limit of biological power can be elevated to produce all kinds of extraordinary abilities, even leading to the birth of deities.

...

Chen Shouyi memorized the dictionary for an hour, finally feeling a bit sleepy, so he lay down for a short nap.

When he naturally awoke, it was already half-past five.

He ate five pieces of compressed biscuits and three cans of meat to deal with dinner.

He then unhesitatingly shouldered the backpack containing arrows and jungle gear, and prepared to tie up the Shell Lady again.

It was then he keenly noticed something unusual about the Shell Lady, her legs seemed to not come together tightly.

"What are you hiding in there?"

The Shell Lady tightly covered her skirt, shaking her head innocently with all her might: "Nothing, I don't have a gemstone."

She couldn't even lie convincingly.

Chen Shouyi was dumbfounded, but he didn't want to lift her skirt and pretended not to see it.

After all, they'd need her to guide them at sea later, and if he angered her and she refused to help, it would be troublesome.

...

He placed the Shell Lady, who was beaming with a mischievous grin, back into the briefcase and zipped it up.

Leaving the inn, it was already dark outside, the streets sparsely populated. Pretending to hurry, he briskly walked.

Reaching an unfinished building, he swiftly made a turn towards the building when the patrolling police weren't paying attention.

...

In the other world, it was just dawn, the sun had yet to rise, but the light was already brightening.

The sky was cloudless, which was undoubtedly a good omen for Chen Shouyi.

Not wasting any time, he retrieved his weapons from the cave and immediately prepared to board the ship.

By this time, the sun was slowly rising over the sea, like a large fireball bathing in the ocean, creating a spectacular view.

Breathing in the damp, cold, and salty air, Chen Shouyi felt a slight thrill.

Taking up the oar, he rowed towards the sea.

...

With experience from the last time, his speed was faster this time. After rowing for about two hours, the small island was already in sight from afar.

However, he didn't find any dugout canoe this time.

Perhaps the disappearance of a canoe yesterday made the Barbarians wary, or perhaps it was on the other side of the island.

Chen Shouyi wasn't in a rush, knowing he'd find it eventually.

This action was quite dangerous, and before coming, he had already planned the operation in his heart.

First, never venture deeply into the island before ensuring safety.

Ever since hearing about that "Sacred Tree" from the mouths of the dying Barbarians yesterday, he felt uneasy. There were too many mysterious things in this world, countless creatures that could cost him his life.

Second, destroy all the Barbarians' dugout canoes.

He planned to circle the island, knowing he'd find them eventually.

In fact, this was his primary goal today. Once this step was completed, the passage would be relatively secure, possibly for half a year to several years.

...

The saying "you can't reach a mountain even if you run a horse" applies to a small island as well. By the time he truly approached the shore, another hour had passed.

He tied the beached dugout canoe to a rock on the beach.

Then he removed his clothes and changed into jungle gear, applying camo paint on his face.

As soon as he set foot on the island, the Shell Lady felt anxious. Standing on Chen Shouyi's shoulder, she clutched his hair nervously and whispered in his ear:

"Giant, it's dangerous here, let's go back."

Hearing the Shell Lady's warning, Chen Shouyi felt a chill in his heart.

Indeed, he also felt an oppressive sensation since landing on the island, similar to the low pressure before a thunderstorm, making it hard to breathe.

"Where is it dangerous, did you see something?" Chen Shouyi asked solemnly.

The Shell Lady had some mysterious abilities, perhaps she could truly see something?

The Shell Lady nervously whispered, "Yes, many, many!"

"Where?"

"Everywhere!" The Shell Lady pointed at a big tree in front, then at a rock not far away:

"They're hiding, they'll come out after sunset."

Chen Shouyi was bewildered. If she pointed at a tree, he could understand, but pointing at an ordinary rock and calling it dangerous was beyond common comprehension.

"What are they?"

"Spirits, there are strong Natural Spirits here."

Chen Shouyi suddenly understood. He had heard about Natural Spirits, many science programs specifically introduced these mysterious entities before.

In fact, it's a term translated directly from the Universal Language. On Earth, they're also called ghosts.

These things are almost ubiquitous in this world, where there are living beings, there are Natural Spirits. They mostly come from the souls of dead animals, lacking much intellect, driven by instincts alone.

They hide in trees, rocks, and underground during the day.

Weak ones secretly feed on the blood of dead creatures, unable to approach living beings, these Natural Spirits are pretty much considered trash.

However, some Natural Spirits are inherently powerful, possessing mountains and rivers, parasitizing life in their territories like leeches, devouring souls, and even being worshipped as Mountain Gods or Water Gods.

Those are truly terrifying.

When people refer to Natural Spirits, they usually mean the latter, as the former aren't even worth mentioning.

The small island near the passage is mostly lifeless, with few of these entities.

But here, with dense vegetation and vibrant life, these entities are apparently abundant.

Fortunately, it's daytime now. Aside from those that have already developed divinity, no other Natural Spirits can move during the day.

He boldly approached the rock the Shell Lady pointed at.

He indeed felt a slight chilling sensation.

He looked at the distant forest, no wonder the environment here felt gloomy, as if sunlight filtered through it, leaving no warmth.

PS: Asking for recommendations, ah ah ah.

## **Chapter 56: Chapter 56: Shipbuilding Workshop**

Upon hearing that they were only Natural Spirits, Chen Shouyi actually felt a bit relieved.

These things were far less intimidating than the "Tree of Sanctity," which the Barbarians had threatened with before dying and made him feel apprehensive.

Moreover, if it were truly that terrifying, the Barbarians wouldn't have survived until now.

It's a simple kind of logic.

"There's nothing to fear. It's sunrise now, so before night falls, we'll be back already," Chen Shouyi comforted the Shell Lady.

The Shell Lady nodded vigorously, whispering nervously, "I'm not scared."

"If you behave well, there will be a reward later."

The Shell Lady nodded again, forcing a slight smile.

It was evident that even her favorite gemstones couldn't ease her anxiety this time.

Without concerning himself further with her, Chen Shouyi checked his equipment one last time before setting out.

He then carefully listened to the surroundings.

But he found that it was quite silent around, except for the sound of waves from the sea; even the usual chirping of insects and birds in the island's forest was scarcely heard.

No, it wasn't scarce; it was nonexistent!

The entire island was so quiet it felt serene, giving off an ominous vibe that made his heart race.

Glancing at the nearby forest, he immediately dismissed the idea of entering it.

Chen Shouyi exhaled lightly, then crouched down along the coast, cautiously moving forward.

However, he wasn't overly fearful, as most land-based plants are afraid of high-salinity environments. The fact that not a single plant grows on this beach shows that this holds true in this world as well.

"As long as I stand on the beach, no matter how powerful the Barbarians' 'Tree of Sanctity' is, it shouldn't be able to harm me. At worst, I can always run towards the sea."

He moved forward cautiously, constantly on alert for any movements around him.

The Shell Lady remained silent throughout, not making a sound.

Chen Shouyi could feel her tension; her body, sitting on his shoulder, was trembling slightly.

Inwardly, he thought: This little one, saying she's not afraid, but she's actually shaking like a leaf.

...

After walking slowly for about ten minutes, a winding stream that flowed from the distant forest into the sea appeared ahead.

The stream was over a meter wide and crystal clear. Given its width, calling it a river wasn't accurate; at most, it was just a creek.

He reached into the water and felt its warm touch.

Clearly, this creek originated from a geothermal spring, so he surveyed the area and memorized its location.

Given the island's size, this was likely the only freshwater source here. Following this creek could very well lead to the Barbarians' location.

He continued forward.

After walking for a few more minutes, he suddenly laid on the ground.

The Shell Lady was so scared she clung tightly to his hair, nearly falling off.

But at that moment, Chen Shouyi couldn't care about that.

He quickly scanned the area with his eyes and noticed a large boulder not far ahead, causing his heart to stir as he stealthily crawled towards it.

After crawling for nearly two minutes, he finally reached the boulder and exhaled.

Then, using the boulder for cover, he crouched down to carefully observe the distance.

A vast construction site lay ahead.

Over a dozen Barbarians were busy working fervently.

This must be a shipbuilding yard for the Barbarians.

Chen Shouyi saw three large logs already cut and laid out in a row on the beach to dry.

One of the logs was already being carved.

Evidently, after losing a large number of canoes, the Barbarians immediately intensified their construction efforts.

In the morning sunlight, these Barbarians were sweating profusely, their skin turning shiny from the sun.

Things were just as Chen Shouyi had suspected before.

This group of Barbarians' productivity level was still in the Stone Age. The tool they used for carving was just a hard stone with its edges ground to a sharp point, which they held in hand to repeatedly hammer at the logs.

He noticed there was a large road extending deep into the forest near the shipyard. It's obvious that these huge logs were rolled along the road to the seaside.

He lowered his gaze and carefully observed the situation there, not missing any details.

There were a total of sixteen Barbarians there.

The only weapons they had for self-defense were Long Spears and carving stones; they didn't carry Short Spears.

He didn't see any particularly strong Barbarians among them. Most were small and weak, even less impressive than the ordinary Barbarians who initially came to the island.

But upon thinking further, in such a primitive tribe, strong Warriors hold a very high status and obviously wouldn't be here carving canoes.

These people were probably just ordinary Barbarians.

Yet Chen Shouyi didn't act rashly.

The Barbarians were over two hundred meters away, far beyond his optimal attack range, and there were no boulders to provide cover in the open area ahead.

Attacking in this kind of terrain was simply impossible; he would have to engage them head-on.

One has to admit, despite their primitive production skills, Barbarians are indeed intelligent beings; apart from their lack of productivity, they are not short on wisdom, and their hunter-gathering lifestyle makes them more sensitive to environmental safety than people living in peace.

The shipyard was built here, evidently considering the safety of the location.

Chen Shouyi pulled out an Arrow from the quiver and toyed lightly with its sharp head, unable to make up his mind.

Facing sixteen Barbarians at once was just too risky.

If only there were fewer of them!

Fortunately, a breakthrough came quickly.

After waiting for about ten minutes, one Barbarian seemed ready to slack off and said something to his companion, then put down the stone he was holding; soon after, three more Barbarians followed him, laughing.

The four of them chatted and laughed as they walked this way.

Chen Shouyi turned and leaned against the rock, his breathing becoming increasingly calm. He slowly nocked an Arrow to the bowstring and glanced at the Shell Lady, finding she had covered her eyes like an ostrich.

Gradually, the Barbarians' voices grew louder.

"The sun is so hot; let's go for a good soak in the water later."

"Sure, I know where there's a fruit tree ripe with fruits. We can pick a few then."

...

As soon as the corners of his eyes caught sight of the Barbarians, Chen Shouyi suddenly stood up and released an Arrow.

The Arrow let out a sharp whistle, immediately piercing through one Barbarian's head.

Taking advantage of the moment before the other Barbarians realized what happened, he quickly shot another Arrow, again taking out a Barbarian with a headshot.

By this point, the remaining two Barbarians finally reacted, grabbing their Long Spears and rushing towards him.

These Barbarians were already walking towards the boulder, so they were very close.

Only about seven or eight meters apart.

Such a distance is almost nothing for either Chen Shouyi or the Barbarians; it could be crossed in the blink of an eye.

There wasn't time to shoot another Arrow. Chen Shouyi simply dropped the War Bow, drew his Long Sword, and in the blink of an eye, slightly shifted his body to easily dodge the blood-stained black spear tip from one Barbarian. At the same time, he stepped forward, the Long Sword flashing like lightning.

A cold light flashed by!

The sharp blade swiftly cut through the Barbarian's neck, and blood spurted out.

Feeling the sensation of the sword slicing through flesh, Chen Shouyi's expression remained calm. After successfully striking with one sword, he didn't pause at all. Using the yet-to-fall corpse as a cover, he moved like a ghost to the last Barbarian's back.

At this moment, that Barbarian was anxious and sweating bullets, searching for his suddenly missing enemy.

The next moment, he felt a chill on his neck, and all his strength rapidly drained away like a punctured balloon.

Chen Shouyi withdrew his Long Sword, giving it a gentle shake to flick off the blood from the blade's tip.

It was only at this moment that the two corpses fell one after the other.

"It's... it's that evil one!"

The large commotion finally caught the attention of the distant Barbarians, and suddenly everyone showed a look of fear; a few cowardly Barbarians even began to flee.

Chen Shouyi picked up the War Bow again, looking at the group of Barbarians, with a shade of coldness quite unmatched by his youthful face.

Successfully fighting two Barbarians hand-to-hand with Short weapons had greatly boosted his confidence.

At the same time, the low morale of the Barbarians greatly eased his original tension.

He moved instantly!

Pressing hard with his toes, he kicked up a cloud of sand behind him, then like an arrow leaving the bowstring, he swiftly charged at the group of Barbarians.

### **Chapter 57: Chapter 57: Bluffing**

Rumors tend to become exaggerated and distorted during their spread.

Chen Shouyi didn't know how the barbarians who escaped last time had painted and portrayed his fearsome image after returning.

When he charged forward, he found that apart from five individuals who stayed behind with the courage to fight back, the rest of the barbarians were already fleeing desperately into the forest in terror.

These people couldn't be caught, so Chen Shouyi deliberately slowed his pace.

From a sprint to a jog, eventually walking forward.

His previously hurried breaths gradually evened out.

In contrast, the breathing of the barbarians opposite grew more and more rapid.

The five barbarians held long spears, forming a semicircular formation. This might be a defensive tactic against a powerful beast, but facing Chen Shouyi with his bow and arrows ready for ranged attack, such a stance was simply suicidal.

Within a hundred meters, he swiftly drew an arrow and slowly pulled the bowstring.

At seventy meters, he released the bowstring, sending an arrow flying out.

The next moment, a barbarian groaned, clutching his pierced chest, and collapsed slowly to the ground.

What followed was a complete massacre.

He continuously drew his bow, shooting with a steady and rapid rhythm.

Some barbarians attempted to charge over, only to immediately fall with their heads pierced by his arrows. Others attempted to escape but were similarly taken down with arrows chasing their backs, the only slight danger was a spear thrown by a barbarian before his death.

However, Chen Shouyi didn't even move, and the spear landed on the beach, several meters short of hitting him.

This spear wasn't a short spear made for throwing. Unlike the previous clan leader, the barbarian wasn't strong enough; each spear was about three meters long and quite heavy, meant for dealing with beasts and couldn't be thrown far.

Within seconds, all five barbarians had fallen.

He walked over, preparing to pull the arrows from the bodies of the barbarians.

The air began to stir with wind.

Starting as a breeze, it quickly turned into a gale, with branches swaying and leaves rustling loudly in the nearby forest.

At the same time, an incredibly oppressive aura spread out.

Chen Shouyi sensed something was amiss and immediately stood up.

Only then did he realize that unbeknownst to him, his surroundings had turned gloomy.

There were no clouds overhead, the sun still hung high in the sky, but the light seemed considerably diminished here.

"Giant, let's go back!" Shell Lady said with a trembling voice, shivering all over.

Chen Shouyi said nothing, his expression grave, his heart equally terrified. He quickly stepped back along the beach a few paces.

He realized this "Tree of Sanctity" was far more powerful than he had imagined. Its mere presence left him with no will to resist.

His feet soon reached the seawater, ready to dart into the ocean at the first sign of danger.

Having grown up in Jiangnan Water Village, he was naturally adept in water.

Even if the "Tree of Sanctity" pursued, he could escape smoothly.

After all, a tree couldn't swim.

At this point, he keenly observed a phenomenon: the closer he got to the sea, the brighter the light seemed, and the oppressive feeling became weaker.

It seemed this approach was ineffective.

The gale subsided quickly, and the light soon returned to normal.

Everything calmed down, as if nothing had happened.

Chen Shouyi stood by the sea, tense for a long time, and only relaxed when no further movement occurred.

The aura just now was truly terrifying, like facing an enraged fierce beast from the barbaric wilderness, which filled him with intense fear.

Yet, it felt like much ado about nothing, a storm in a teacup.

...

The Tree God was agitated.

Recently, its followers had been decreasing rapidly.

In just a few days, nearly a tenth of them were gone.

That was nearly a tenth.

Since it began to be worshipped by the Barbarian Tribe and gradually gained consciousness, it had never suffered such a huge loss.

Yet, it was utterly helpless against that invader.

It was not an animal but a tree, a tree that was simply tremendously large.

Its immense form and terrifying weight made it impossible to move.

Although it had grown stronger since developing divinity—its trunk harder, its perception range more expansive, gradually covering the entire island.

It even possessed some supernatural abilities; for instance, it could now alter the climate within a certain range, ensuring favorable weather and reducing the impact of natural disasters.

It even had some precognitive ability.

Through the barbarians' faith, it formed a preliminary domain of faith, driving away those eerie natural spirits.

These abilities allowed the barbarians to grow and thrive rapidly.

In just over a hundred years, the tribe had grown from a struggling community of over a hundred to a large tribe of over three hundred.

Yet, these abilities had no effect when faced with a strong enemy.

At most, it could attempt to intimidate; when intimidation failed, it was left with no options.

...

Under the huge tree at this time.

A large number of barbarians were kneeling on the ground, trembling with fear at the sudden rage of the Tree God. Some children and women were so frightened they wet themselves, wailing and crying.

The aged wizard lay prostrated on the ground respectfully, ceaselessly communicating with the Tree God.

Suddenly, he entered a trance, becoming half-asleep. After a short while, he woke up, stood shakily, and said in a sorrowful voice:

"The evil one has come, do not approach the sea."

...

As the saying goes, when both parties fear each other, they are equally wary.

Chen Shouyi observed for a long time before relaxing slightly, feeling increasingly apprehensive about the forest.

He pulled the arrows from the bodies and returned them to the quiver.

Then he continued along the coast while keeping a close eye on any movement in the forest not far away.

However, since the outburst earlier, nothing abnormal had occurred, and there were no barbarian attacks.

He felt more and more at ease, moving forward swiftly.

On the other side of the island, he found two more canoes out fishing near the coast.

He circled the island afterward but didn't find more.

These were probably all the canoes of the Barbarian Tribe.

Having located his targets, he eagerly pushed the canoe back into the ocean.

As the island receded, Chen Shouyi finally breathed a sigh of relief, his body relaxing completely.

The previous pressure had been immense, several times nearly causing him to flee, but in the end, he escaped unscathed.

...

For a time after, Chen Shouyi attempted to lure and attack the two canoes like the previous day, but unfortunately, they were too close together. Once the other noticed anything amiss, they immediately fled; ultimately, he only succeeded with one canoe.

He gave chase for a while, but alas, he was just one person, while their canoe had two people, so they were much faster.

Moreover, the barbarians didn't flee towards the island but sailed further into the vast sea.

Chen Shouyi could only bemoan his uncompleted feat, unable to do more.

## **Chapter 58: Chapter 58: Experience**

On the way back, the Shell Lady returned to her usual lively self.

She chattered excitedly by his ear without stopping.

At one moment, she talked about how many Giants had died, then about how many hidden Natural Spirits she had just discovered. She even mentioned seeing a few large trees and some beautiful little flowers.

Having lived on a deserted island since childhood, such experiences were undoubtedly thrilling and novel for her.

Chen Shouyi paddled the canoe, with another captured canoe trailing behind.

He did not speak.

He glanced back at the small island in the distance, his expression silent.

This operation could be described as mostly completed; except for the escaped canoe, the Barbarians' ability to cross the sea had suffered devastatingly.

Even the remaining canoe could be dealt with next time.

Before long, the safety issue of the passage could be completely resolved.

However, there was no joy in his heart; instead, it was somewhat heavy.

Chen Shouyi could not clearly say what exactly caused it.

Was it the terrifying Mysterious Power on the island, or this time's reckless slaughter of the Barbarians?

Perhaps it was both.

...

Fortunately, he was not someone who was particularly compassionate, and those living in this world would find it hard to sympathize with the Barbarians.

Upon returning to the small island, these repressed emotions instantly disappeared.

Since twenty years ago, when Earth and the parallel world began to merge,

the slaughter between humans and Barbarians had never ceased for a moment.

According to the published information, about two million people globally died each year from Barbarians' slaughter; if adding deaths caused by invasions from other parallel world creatures, the number approached three million.

This ranked first among all non-natural causes of death.

...

Chen Shouyi tied the two canoes firmly and returned to the passage entrance.

In total, coming and going had taken him nearly ten hours, and it was just noon in the parallel world.

Meanwhile, on Earth, it was already around four in the morning.

He possessed great physical strength, having stayed up an entire night without feeling tired.

Therefore, he did not rush back.

He ate some food he carried with him and began training.

He assumed a stance and practiced the Thirty-Six Stances of Body Refinement.

After only one round, Chen Shouyi noticed the difference between the two worlds.

When practicing on Earth, every time a round was completed, the Mysterious Power could be sensed, though it was quite faint and barely noticeable.

Here, however, the sensation was quite intense, as if his entire being was immersed in this vast and majestic power, with delicate strands of force continually burrowing into his body.

He felt as if his body had been renewed after just one round of practice.

"Does practicing the Thirty-Six Stances of Body Refinement in the parallel world indeed yield such remarkable results?" Chen Shouyi pondered.

He was somewhat shocked by this strong effect and couldn't help but open his attribute panel, only to realize he had somewhat overestimated it.

No matter how abundant the Mysterious Power was, one practice surely couldn't produce noticeable improvements.

However, his will increased slightly by 0.1, reaching 11.9.

This clearly resulted from his experiences on Barbarian Island today.

Chen Shouyi continued his training.

After practicing five times consecutively, he exhausted all his strength, with his muscles beginning to twitch uncontrollably.

Exhausted, he breathed heavily and lay directly on the grass.

He blankly eyed the Shell Lady, who was diligently searching for golden sand in the distance.

One must admit, the Mysterious Being on Barbarian Island displayed a force that left him with immense pressure and unease.

This force was so frightening that it even incited meteorological changes, far exceeding his comprehension.

He had never encountered such an existence where the aura alone was enough to make him tremble with fear, almost turning to flee.

At that moment, inspiration surged within him, and he suddenly closed his eyes.

His consciousness entered the Gray Mist Space.

He looked at today's Memory Leaves on top of the tree and quickly immersed his mind into them.

...

The formidable aura appeared just as he was bending down to retrieve arrows from a Barbarian's corpse.

The surrounding light darkened, and a violent wind swept the small island.

Through a third-person perspective, he observed everything.

Strangely, even though he hadn't entered his own body and was merely in a conscious state, he could still feel the presence of this aura.

In fact, he had long realized that the imagery within the Memory Space wasn't simply his mere memory.

For example, the normal human eye can only perceive two-dimensional images; the sense of depth is caused purely through light and shadow effects. This is why 3D images can deceive human eyes.

If something is obscured by another object, the human eye cannot see it.

Logically, since the eyes cannot see, naturally, it shouldn't appear in memory.

However, the Book of Knowledge's Memory Space defied this logic.

Although memory remains memory, seemingly unchanged, once the mind dives into it, one would find that the memory presented isn't two-dimensional but three-dimensional.

It resembles a real space; he could see more details that memory couldn't reveal and even enter someone else's body with his mind.

This far exceeded the scope of memory.

...

Nevertheless, for Chen Shouyi, this was undoubtedly a good thing; he didn't mind and soon turned his gaze toward the island's forest.

The "Tree of Sanctity" mentioned by the Barbarians, as the name suggests, should indeed be a tree.

He wondered if he could find it in the Memory Space?

His mind swiftly flew ahead.

Each towering tree flashed rapidly behind him.

The trees on this small island had grown for countless years. Trees requiring two people to embrace were a common sight, even those with a diameter of three to four meters weren't rare.

However, he soon lost interest in further observing the forest.

The deeper he ventured, the more suffocating the aura felt, with such an overwhelming sense of fear that it made one suspect that this wasn't a memory but a real world.

After flying about two kilometers, within a dozen seconds, he suddenly halted.

His gaze settled not far away, and his heart trembled!

In his view was a massive, tower-like being hundreds of meters tall, standing conspicuously on the small island. Its enormous canopy nearly covered one or two square kilometers, forming a dense green web.

He forcibly suppressed the obscure and oppressive aura it emitted, observing the terrifying tree up close.

Leaves, green like jade, glimmered in the sunlight, creating a splendid display of phenomena.

He noticed countless fine airflows, like spiritual serpents, weaving between the leaves, even affecting more distant areas.

In fact, its presence was extraordinarily prominent.

Even from the sea, it could be identified at a glance.

It was extraordinarily lofty.

Yet, viewing from a distance, who would imagine that this vast, one or two square kilometers of verdant forest came entirely from a single tree and not a forest?

At least Chen Shouyi wouldn't think in that direction.

"I want to see how powerful you truly are!" Chen Shouyi thought to himself.

Immediately, his mind fearlessly plunged into it.

"Boom!"

It was as if a bomb exploded inside his mind.

Chen Shouyi's consciousness instantly faltered.

PS: Asking for recommendations arghh.

### **Chapter 59: Chapter 59: Accident**

Chen Shouyi just felt his mind go blank, and by the time he came to his senses, his spirit had already been flung tens of meters away.

He was shocked in his heart, as this was the first time he encountered such a phenomenon, with his consciousness completely unable to reside within.

"I don't believe in this nonsense!"

He endured the oppressive aura and plunged in again.

The result was the same as last time, but this time he was flung even further away.

After his spirit got flung twice in a row.

His mind became somewhat drowsy, and his thoughts began to slow, as if countless pieces of information were blocking his mind, swelling it up, yet upon closer inspection, they seemed to disappear without a trace.

Realizing that his spirit was somewhat exhausted, Chen Shouyi immediately gave in.

He exited the Gray Mist Space.

When he opened his eyes, he felt a splitting headache, his brain seemingly about to explode, swelling in waves.

Only after a long while did his spirit gradually recover.

"Ouch!" Chen Shouyi stood up, clutching his still faintly aching head.

After taking a few steps, his face showed slight surprise, and he couldn't help but stop in his tracks.

For some unknown reason, he felt a hint of strangeness.

"An illusion?"

Chen Shouyi thought his spirit hadn't recovered yet, so he rubbed his face, trying to make himself more spirited.

Then he opened his eyes again, only to find the feeling remained.

He seemed to have developed a peculiar sense of affinity with the unseen, untouchable air around him.

As if!

He could control the air.

At this moment, the vision displayed by that mysterious giant tree flashed in his mind:

"No way!"

A crazy idea emerged in his mind as he cautiously reached out a hand, holding it gently, feeling the air split into several streams gently slipping through his fingers. His mind instinctively grasped the trajectory of the airflow and its subsequent changes.

A thought crossed his mind, and soon a miracle happened.

One stream of air that was about to escape suddenly changed direction, circling around his finger.

He really seemed to be able to control it!

Feeling the airflow circulating round and round between his fingers.

Chen Shouyi's eyes widened in excitement and disbelief.

Is this a supernatural ability?

But how is it possible?

He was merely in the Memory Space where his spirit momentarily entered the mysterious giant tree and was immediately flung out, his mind a blank, hardly gaining any memory or insight; he even doubted whether he lasted half a second.

What's more, is supernatural ability so easy to learn?

He had invested his spirit into the Shell Lady in the Memory Space before.

In fact, he had long been envious of her innate abilities.

After all, this is flight we are talking about.

If as a child he dreamed of suddenly gaining the ability to fly, he'd wake up laughing from the dream.

For terrestrial creatures, it's a long-standing dream.

Yet he gained nothing.

The Shell Lady's innate ability cannot be learned through physical memory like Swordsmanship.

...

Chen Shouyi suspected it was due to absorbing that mysterious substance similar to a fruit pit, which, upon reflection, seemed to be the seed of the giant tree.

This explained a lot!

He guessed that after absorbing the seed, it not only transformed his body but also granted him a similar ability as the tree.

Perhaps because of the small quantity, the ability was hidden and couldn't be triggered for a while. Yet this temporary inhabitation of the spirit, though his mind was blank, seemingly allowed him in his subconscious to absorb many insights from the other entity's body memory.

It was like a catalyst, an inducement that smoothly activated his ability.

Filled with joy, Chen Shouyi immediately checked his attribute panel.

Behind the innate ability column, besides Natural Healing, there was indeed one more.

Atmospheric Control (Weak)

As for the word "Weak", he quickly dismissed it with a glance.

After all, this is a supernatural ability; having it is good enough, what more could you wish for?

Although this isn't the first time he's gained a supernatural ability, Natural Healing is also a supernatural ability and much stronger than Atmospheric Control.

However, to Chen Shouyi, this passive and understated ability couldn't compare to this active, demonstrable ability.

Can't show off, can only be secretly pleased, what's the difference between having it or not?

...

Excited by his discovery, he immediately began experimenting with enthusiasm.

The wind is elusive and hard to capture, its trajectory changes with the slightest disturbance.

But with the ability of Atmospheric Control, Chen Shouyi gained a kind of premonition, a sort of instinct. He could clearly discern the airflow's path and impending changes, and after just a bit of practice, he could already somewhat control the wind.

After half an hour, he could form a half-foot-high, crooked, twisted, constantly spinning small vortex in his palm.

...

This seems...

Not very useful!

After his experiments, Chen Shouyi found his ability quite weak.

He could only control a range of about a meter around him, which was also the extent of his perception, and its mightiest force could only stir a breeze strong enough to make tiny hairs wavily tilt.

Perhaps it might let him appear more dashing with flowing hair as he strolls.

Of course, on Earth, even this slight breeze might be impossible.

Just then, the Shell Lady called out loudly:

"Giant, come over here, it's huge, huge, I can't move it."

Chen Shouyi's concentration broke, causing the vortex to rapidly dissolve; he didn't mind and immediately looked in her direction.

He saw the Shell Lady seemed to be strenuously attempting to move something heavy, bent over, her steps staggering, her face flushed red.

What had she found?

Curious, he hurried over.

Upon reaching her, he discovered that the Shell Lady had found a naturally formed elliptical gold nugget slightly larger than a pigeon's egg, with high purity. Even without removing the surface sand, the bright golden sheen was visible.

Chen Shouyi picked it up swiftly, weighing about half a pound, though that's its weight here; in terms of mass, it would be around a hundred grams. He glanced at the still blushing Shell Lady.

What strength!

This piece of gold wasn't much smaller than her body, yet such a small being could carry it.

"Jewel! Jewel! Jewel!" The Shell Lady saw Chen Shouyi admiring the gold, not giving out rewards, and couldn't help but fly up to his face, loudly demanding.

Originally he should have paid her a small jewel by weight, but witnessing this natural gold piece, he couldn't help but feel generous, pulling out a large Glass Bead and directly pressing it into her arms.

The Shell Lady instinctively held it tight, her eyes widened, overwhelmed by a huge surprise, leaving her mind slightly dizzy, swaying midair, and Chen Shouyi was a bit worried she might fall.

Chen Shouyi always kept a strict control over the Glass Beads, not easily releasing them.

Since he last bought a box of large Glass Beads, he had only given the Shell Lady one; this made the second.

...

The Shell Lady had a simple way of evaluating the value of jewels.

First, by looking at how pretty they are; the prettier they are, the more precious they naturally are. Compared to the monotone small jewels, the large ones are much prettier, filled with diverse colors like a frozen rainbow, quite miraculous.

Secondly, by size; a large jewel could easily match ten small ones.

It's unquestionable.

The Shell Lady's delight was imaginable.

Immediately, she didn't mind Chen Shouyi anymore, clutching the large Glass Bead tight, drunkenly flying into the bushes.

Suddenly, she dropped straight down.

Before Chen Shouyi could exclaim, she struggled back up, often sneaking glances at him.

Chen Shouyi immediately understood.

He averted his gaze, and a few seconds later, found the Shell Lady vanished into the underbrush.

He couldn't help but chuckle inwardly; evidently, the Shell Lady went to stash her treasure.

PS: Seeking recommendations ahhh

## **Chapter 60: Chapter 60: The Ritual**

Next, Chen Shouyi continued to experiment with the ability to control the atmosphere for a while, and then completely gave up the delusion of developing this ability.

Its pathetic attack power couldn't even blow down a small Shell Lady, and could only deal with ants at best.

Initially, he thought this ability was just a chicken rib, useful only for showing off.

But not long after, Chen Shouyi discovered that this ability was not entirely useless.

He discovered this when he was practicing his sword skills afterward.

...

His sword speed is extremely fast now. After an increase of 0.1 in agility, his pure thrusts can consistently break the sound barrier on Earth. Even in this different world with triple gravity, he can reach speeds of around 300 meters per second.

At such speeds, the air essentially becomes similar to a liquid.

When thrusting, he could clearly feel the strong air resistance, severely hindering further speed improvement.

But today, he discovered that, several times, when thrusting, the resistance weakened significantly.

It seemed that as the sword pierced forward, some air would automatically part to the sides in advance as if an invisible force was dividing it all. Moreover, it required no conscious control on his part, and this ability seemed like an instinct, completed subconsciously.

...

"Hiss hiss hiss!"

He thrust his sword several times and then stopped, frowning in deep thought.

"Why does the resistance decrease a lot at times, but only a little at others? There must be a key to this!"

After a long while, he thrust out another sword strike.

This time, the speed of the thrust was even faster, but the sound made as the sword tip broke the air was almost the same.

Afterward, he thrust several more times; when casual, the resistance was great, but when fully focused, the resistance was much less.

"It seems the more focused and concentrated the mind, the more the resistance weakens, allowing for faster thrusts."

He keenly noticed the difference.

Upon discovering this phenomenon, Chen Shouyi immediately started to focus his concentration intentionally.

In this aspect, he has always had a great advantage. Whether it be entering a meditative state or optimizing the thirty-six forms of body refinement, both require focusing.

This allowed him to easily enter a highly focused state when doing something.

He continued thrusting his sword, becoming more and more focused, and his mind gradually became undistracted.

After practicing for who knows how long, suddenly his entire being reached a peak concentration, and he fiercely thrust out a sword. He felt that with this thrust, he achieved an unprecedented level in both speed and technique.

Faintly, it seemed as if a pale cyan conical surge of energy burst out instantly from the sword tip, flying three or four meters before dissipating into the air.

"What was that just now?" He sharply sensed the anomaly and could no longer maintain his state of mind, promptly stopping.

Only then did he feel a bit mentally fatigued, with a faint headache, as if something had flowed away with that sword thrust.

He turned around to find Shell Lady to confirm, but she hadn't been paying attention at all.

Ever since obtaining the large glass bead, she's been eagerly searching for gold everywhere.

"Never mind, if it happened once, there surely will be a second time," he thought to himself.

He continued to practice his sword skills, but unfortunately, this state seemed elusive; until the different world's sun was setting, he didn't manage to manifest it again.

...

Chen Shouyi changed back into his original clothes, stashed the weapons and backpack into the cave, repacked Shell Lady into the briefcase, and then walked out of the passage entrance.

It was only 2:30 in the afternoon on Earth.

The streets were sparsely populated.

As the power outage continued, Dongning City inevitably became increasingly desolate, no longer bustling as before.

Chen Shouyi looked at the shops on both sides that still had no electricity.

No surprise there.

This power outage wasn't simple.

It wasn't just an issue with a specific line or area; most lines across the entire nation were experiencing problems.

Not to mention, replacing the aging power cables was already becoming a scarcity in the market.

Chen Shouyi even doubted whether Dongning City could procure enough cables.

Even if they could be bought, replacing all would not be a task that could be completed in just a few days.

Moreover, the intrusion of the mysterious force field significantly increased power transmission loss, so even if all lines were restored to normal, the power that used to supply the whole nation would now barely sustain 50-60%.

The entire nation would face widespread power shortages.

And Dongning City, as a small city ranked five or six in importance, was neither an important industrial base nor had any strategic value. Even if the lines were repaired, it was unlikely to be powered anytime soon.

...

In mid-October, the temperature was already chilly.

Chen Shouyi hurried home with his briefcase in hand.

After crossing an intersection, he suddenly noticed a crowd in front of an office building, with many police officers visible through the crowd's gaps.

"What's happened?" he muttered to himself.

He quickly hurried over and soon detected a faint bloody scent from a distance.

His expression changed; the place was just a few steps from his home, could something have happened?

"Why are you pushing! Getting in my way!"

"Ah, sorry, excuse me, coming through!"

The young lady who complained was about to continue berating when she saw Chen Shouyi's handsome, youthful face and swallowed her words.

Apologizing as he went, Chen Shouyi gently parted the crowd, squeezing his way forward.

With his astonishing strength now, a normal person's hundred-pound weight was nothing; he could lift them with one hand and throw them several meters away.

Soon enough, he reached the front.

A line of caution tape had been erected at the office building's entrance, and several police officers with somber expressions were carrying stretchers out of the building.

On the stretchers were bodies already placed in body bags. He saw five or six bodies being loaded onto a police van in just a short while.

"It's truly pitiful; all the dead were girls aged fifteen or sixteen, over twenty bodies in total."

"Society is getting more and more chaotic, this never happened before."

"Seems like it was some cult ceremony, by the time they were discovered, the people were already dead, it's simply inhumane."

Upon hearing the word "cult," Chen Shouyi's heart tightened.

For the past twenty years, cults have been a target of global crackdowns, especially those worshipping otherworldly deities, which are strictly prohibited. Any discovery equates to a major case.

As the internet became more widespread and surveillance grew tighter over these years, such cults gradually disappeared, seldom heard of.

It was unexpected they'd resurface.

And in Dongning City, they performed such bloody and brutal rituals.