

Ability 321

Chapter 321: Checking into the Hotel_2

Communicate with them about this matter, and prepare ahead to welcome the Pathfinder from the Celestial Master's Mansion.

That evening, after concluding the midday security affairs meeting, Song Xiangdong hurriedly convened an emergency meeting about online public opinion.

This meeting was held in the hall, with all seats occupied.

A huge screen connected the internet police and public relations departments nationwide.

Each participant was the highest-ranking member of the regional public opinion control department, qualified to attend this meeting.

There was only one host, Song Xiangdong.

The atmosphere was serious, and before the meeting started, all attendees signed an S-level confidentiality agreement before being allowed to enter and join the video conference.

Song Xiangdong briefly introduced the main content to everyone.

There was widespread online propaganda about the Celestial Master's Mansion experiencing an earthquake, the collapse of stone statues, and the emergence of Immortals, which could easily cause cognitive disruption and mislead the public, requiring nationwide intervention.

The meeting lasted more than three hours, discussing dozens of plans and issues.

It was not until the early morning, around one o'clock, that the meeting adjourned.

The adjournment marked the beginning of the intervention in public opinion.

The process started quietly, with the intervention taking place during the deep night without public awareness.

Ordinary citizens only noticed after waking up the next morning.

"Huh? Where's yesterday's front-page headline?"

"What's happening? Where are the discussions about the Celestial Master's Mansion on major forums?"

"Last night, everyone was rushing to report, major influencers were speaking, but this morning there's no trace anymore?"

"Holy crap, there's not a single piece of information about the Celestial Master's Mansion online!"

"You can only find historical data when searching online!"

"Could we have remembered incorrectly?"

"Look, the official account of the Celestial Master's Mansion has issued a statement!"

"The demolition and upgrade of the central stone statue at the Celestial Master's Mansion triggered a misunderstanding, please do not further spread the misinformation. The public should not panic. After the renovation, visitors are still welcome to climb and visit Dragon Tiger Mountain, but the mountain is temporarily closed before completion. If...

An official notice was published through the Celestial Master's Mansion's public account.

The entire network received the announcement instantly.

It quickly became a hot topic again, but this time it was for clarification rather than sensational speculation.

"No wonder those messages disappeared in one night."

"I figured, those earlier videos didn't have any official certification and were spread without proper investigation, causing so much impact! Damn those eyeball-grabbing paparazzi!"

"I agree with the above statement. Many platforms will do anything for traffic, but true or false, it can only serve as a reference and can't be entirely believed or completely disbelieved!"

"Yes, we should trust the official statement from the Celestial Master's Mansion. Whether it's true or false, they're trying to protect us ordinary people."

The online discussions led to widespread debate, with both sides holding their views, unlike the previous one-sided situation, gradually diminishing the topic's heat.

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At Atlantis, halfway up the mountain.

After an hour of waiting, a brand-new bus ascended from the base of the mountain.

Three other ambulances followed closely behind, arriving in front of the group.

The driver, Xiao Hei, and a few slightly injured students were placed in the ambulances, while the rest boarded the bus.

Though everyone was still shaken by the earlier incident, the new bus had passed the steep slope and was now on flatter terrain, allowing their nerves to relax.

This time, the bus drove directly to the Atlantis Grand Hotel, which, though not five-star, was still a four-star establishment.

Its proximity to Atlantis University was its main advantage, just a few minutes' walk away, which is why Hao Jianhua chose to stay there.

"Rooms can be single or double, freely combined."

"Send me the list of double rooms; the rest will default to single rooms."

"I must emphasize, you can only stay in Block F. Regardless of whether you have cash, you cannot stay on other floors alone, as Block F provides security protection from Atlantis University's affairs department."

After getting off the bus, Hao Jianhua instructed the group and followed another school leader, leading the students into the hotel.

The students were excited, the day's unpleasant events had vanished.

Surprisingly, they were not assigned to four-person rooms in the dormitory area but to single rooms in a four-star hotel, which astonished them.

The entire block F was booked for them.

They immediately submitted their lodging preferences.

Hao Jianhua's assistant soon arranged all the lodging information.

By the time they arrived at the hotel, it was already late, so there were no activities planned for that night, and everyone retreated to their rooms.

Lin Beichen did the same, his room was 204, the fourth room on the second floor.

As he approached his room and prepared to open the door, he discovered An Xiaoran was next door in 205, while Hao Jianhua was in 203.

Lin Beichen smirked coldly, the coincidences were truly uncanny, surrounded on all sides.

Without thinking much, he pushed open the door and stepped inside.

The room was quite spacious, featuring a large 2.2-meter bed, a floor-to-ceiling window by the bed, with a balcony outside the window equipped with a chair that could be rocked on.

Additionally, there were common domestic furnishings like a TV, fridge, air conditioner, wardrobe, etc. ... the overall style was quite familiar.

He put down his backpack and opted to freshen up first.

After the vehicle overturned in the afternoon, he had accumulated some dust on his body.

After the shower, Lin Beichen took out a book on human electrification and tried to annotate it with his understanding, making it easier to compile in the future.

Regarding the topic for this academic exchange, Lin Beichen hadn't prepared anything.

Unlike other students who had prepared dozens of topics and several gigabytes of material, aiming to enhance academic understanding.

Lin Beichen, on the other hand, was only interested in exploring new energy elements, not in exchanging academic topics, so he hadn't prepared at all.

If he were forced to participate in the exchange, Lin Beichen thought he might as well use this book to discuss human electrification.

Ding-dong, ding-dong!

Ding-dong!

Ding-dong!

Just as Lin Beichen had written a few annotations, the doorbell rang.

Through the peephole, he saw a waiter with a dining cart, and his stomach growled uncontrollably.

After a long day of travel, he was indeed hungry.

He opened the door, and the waiter skillfully and politely placed the dishes on the table and then left.

As Lin Beichen closed the door, he glanced down the hallway and saw four or five waiters pushing dining carts, delivering food to each room.

The delicious aroma filled the hallway, and Lin Beichen's stomach growled again. He didn't think much of it and returned to the table.

He lifted the dining cover to reveal an entire roast duck from the Imperial Capital!

Accompanied by several sauces, a glass of red wine, a small bowl of rice, and a plate of fruit.

"Principal Hao really thought this through, worrying about us not liking the food by arranging dishes from the Imperial Capital. Nice, thumbs up!"

Lin Beichen commented, feeling famished, he tore off a whole duck leg, dipped it in the sauce, and took a bite.

"Hmm, the flavor is so authentic it's almost surreal; is this really Atlantis?"

Quickly finished the duck leg and sipped some red wine.

The wine was not strong, slightly sweet, almost like juice with a hint of alcohol, classified as a sweet wine.

At this moment, the doorbell rang again.

"Could there be more dishes coming?"

Lin Beichen wondered, putting down the wine glass and wiping his hands with a napkin before going to open the door.

But it wasn't the waiter, it was An Xiaoran.

"I got some anti-inflammatory alcohol and cotton swabs from the front desk. The bite mark on your shoulder... let me help you apply them!"

"Just give them to me, I'll do it myself."

Lin Beichen declined, worried about causing misunderstandings late at night.

"Wait, can I come in and talk to you?"

"Today on the bus, I saw a beam of light shoot out from your palm."

Chapter 322: Got Food Poisoning from Eating Roast Duck

These two sentences left Lin Beichen stunned at the door for a moment.

He didn't expect them to come from An Xiaoran.

At that time in the image, he remembered that almost everyone in the entire compartment had closed their eyes.

And An Xiaoran, she jumped directly onto him, he could feel her whole body trembling in fear.

"Then come in."

Lin Beichen led her inside, wanting to test how much she actually saw.

"Tell me, what do you mean by a ray of light shooting out of my palm?"

"Just like swoosh, as if... it should... have come from your palm."

"A ray of light, and then it exploded, and I was too scared to open my eyes and see clearly."

"Can you really generate electricity from your body?"

"And your bite mark, you might have trouble with it yourself, to show my apology, let me help you."

An Xiaoran blinked and spoke, her eyes eventually lingering on the bite mark on his shoulder, feeling a bit guilty.

It was a mix of shyness and anger.

Angry because it wasn't intentional, but afraid that Lin Beichen might tell everyone she bites randomly, and talk about rabies vaccines.

Rabies vaccines, just the name shows its meaning—comparing her to a rabid dog!

Shy because she wanted to apologize, trying to seek his forgiveness, hoping to turn hostility into friendship and end the matter.

However, An Xiaoran had never apologized to a boy before, mainly because she had never done anything wrong.

But Lin Beichen didn't care about these.

"No need to be scared until you hallucinate."

"I'm human, how can I emit lightning? I'm not the Flash, if I could shoot lasers I'd still be studying at Imperial Capital University!"

Lin Beichen thought it was necessary to fabricate a reason to cover it up. If it wasn't a critical moment, he wouldn't choose to reveal his ability to control lightning.

At least not in front of classmates, it would have too much impact.

"Maybe...you were hallucinating..."

An Xiaoran scratched her head, even she thought it was unscientific.

How could a person emit lightning!

But what she saw seemed real, and after the ray of light shot out, there was a huge explosion, everything felt so natural.

An Xiaoran shook her head, forcing herself to dismiss this thought, afraid that Lin Beichen would laugh at her again for having issues in her head.

Her eyes shifted and saw the table with half-eaten Imperial Capital roast duck, and An Xiaoran was shocked.

"Hey, why does your dinner have Imperial Capital roast duck, fruits, and red wine?"

"Mine's just pitiful, only a serving of fried noodles..."

"Too unfair, I'm going to complain to the principal, it's too biased!"

While speaking, An Xiaoran took out her phone and immediately snapped pictures of the food on the table, wanting to use them as evidence to accuse the principal of favoritism.

"Yours is fried noodles?"

Lin Beichen was a bit surprised, having assumed all students' dinner arrangements would be the same.

"Uh, you cannot blame the principal, I ordered it myself via phone at the front desk. If you're hungry, you can share with me."

"Anyway, it's a whole one, I can't finish it alone."

Lin Beichen hurriedly explained.

He guessed Hao Jianhua might have specially arranged it, as maybe he was the only one still paying attention to him, special arrangements were possible.

If An Xiaoran sent it out and caused dissatisfaction among other students, it would make Hao Jianhua embarrassed, so he made up an excuse.

"Honestly, the fried noodles here are really bad."

"Then I won't be polite!"

An Xiaoran put on gloves, tore off a duck leg, and put it to her mouth, repeatedly praising the taste.

Actually, An Xiaoran wasn't sure why, she usually ignored other boys, let alone actively made friends.

Meeting Lin Beichen, she continuously suffered frustrations!

First, the seat change refusal from him.

Others were scrambling to switch with her, but he wouldn't even consider it.

On the bus, just hugged him out of fear for a little while, and bit him a bit, now he wanted her to pay for rabies vaccine, accusing her of biting people randomly.

Now seeing the Imperial Capital roast duck, indeed hungry all day, An Xiaoran naturally dropped her usual aloof posture.

"Wait, save me some!"

Lin Beichen was startled, she was really unreserved, tore off a duck leg, and eyed the duck wing.

Lin Beichen also put on gloves, first tore off a duck wing and put it to his mouth.

"This taste is special, just the smell opens up your appetite, the more you eat, the tastier it gets, making you not want to stop!"

An Xiaoran said while dipping the wing in sauce and sending it to her mouth.

Lin Beichen found that in this aspect of eating, he surprisingly matched with An Xiaoran.

"Indeed, very tasty, having Imperial Capital roast duck in Atlantis is rare, feels like ordering another one."

"Then let's order another one!"

"I'll treat."

An Xiaoran spoke while chewing, pulled out a tissue to wipe her mouth, and got up to go to the room's phone to call the front desk.

Lin Beichen hurriedly stopped her.

"No need, there are fruits after the meal, and there's some rice, if you're still hungry, go ahead, I'm done."

"Ordering too much and not being able to finish it is wasteful."

"No problem, we can pack it and eat it tomorrow morning."

An Xiaoran still went up to the phone ready to order another.

Lin Beichen panicked a bit, not knowing who ordered the Imperial Capital roast duck that was delivered to his room, unsure if it was Hao Jianhua.

Chapter 323: Eating Roast Duck and Getting Poisoned_2

If you call the front desk and it doesn't go through, then we'll be exposed.

Without thinking, he jumped over the chair and pulled An Xiaoran over, bringing her back to the dining table.

"No need for that, especially before bed. You shouldn't eat too much, or you'll sleep poorly and gain weight easily."

"Weren't you here to apologize? The bite mark on my shoulder has turned purple. Hurry and put some lotion on it for me!"

Lin Beichen, without much choice, decided to divert attention.

"Oh, okay."

"Let's make it clear; after this, we won't mention this incident to anyone ever again."

An Xiaoran put the phone back on the base, pulled out a cotton swab and some lotion she had prepared earlier.

Lin Beichen pulled his shirt down slightly, revealing a conspicuous bite mark.

Even though his physique was stronger than most and he maintained a good level of body fat, he hadn't formed a defensive layer when he was bitten.

Muscles in a state of tension and relaxation are completely different. Only in moments of crisis would a defense mechanism be triggered.

This bite had indeed gone deep into his flesh.

"Wow, I didn't realize I bit that deeply. Haha, you can even see both of my canine teeth."

An Xiaoran was scrubbing and couldn't help but laugh, admiring her handiwork.

"Hurry up. Once you're done, go back to your room. It's not good if someone sees us."

Lin Beichen felt quite uneasy. He could feel her delicate, somewhat cold hands, giving him an inexplicable feeling.

He had never experienced this before, and his skin began to form goosebumps, feeling very uncomfortable.

"Don't you feel a stomachache?"

An Xiaoran's fingertips stopped, and she placed the lotion back on the table with her other hand, clutching her stomach.

She felt a sudden cramping pain in her abdomen.

It felt like being burned and pricked by needles.

Then she started feeling her head becoming heavy, her limbs weak, as if she had lost all her vitality and spirit.

"It hurts so much!"

In no time, An Xiaoran was clutching her stomach, curling up on the chair.

"Huh? I feel it too!"

Suddenly, Lin Beichen also detected something unusual. His stomach felt like it was burning and being pricked by needles!

His stomach seemed to churn violently, followed by dizziness and lethargy spreading through his body.

His stomach ached with a burning pain, his limbs gradually turned numb, and his head swirled in a haze.

"It hurts so much!"

"It hurts a lot."

An Xiaoran curled up and fell from her chair onto the ground, unable to move.

She discovered that every time she moved, it felt like thousands of ants were tearing at her, and her stomach felt like it was being pulled until her intestines were about to break.

Lin Beichen also suffered immensely, though his condition was slightly better than An Xiaoran's. Clutching his stomach, he tried his best to stay clear-headed.

Then he saw the plate of Imperial Capital roast duck on the table and immediately sensed something was wrong.

That was the only food both he and An Xiaoran had eaten.

Besides, the roast duck from the Imperial Capital arriving at this time was quite suspicious. It's highly likely someone poisoned it to kill him.

Someone wanted him dead!

The poison was incredibly potent, causing severe abdominal pain, weakness, and dizziness.

Lin Beichen felt that it was nearly impossible to get out of the door in his condition, as every movement inflicted immense suffering.

Since someone intended to kill him, calling the police now would likely lead to further danger before an ambulance could arrive, as the perpetrator would come to finish the job.

"Who could it be?"

Lin Beichen murmured to himself, the escalating pain making it impossible to think clearly. Without immediate action, even someone with his strong constitution couldn't endure much longer.

Let alone An Xiaoran, who was far more vulnerable and already curled up on the ground.

Without much thought, he summoned a crimson barrier and sat cross-legged, focusing on the Fire Element within him.

At the same time, he drew the Fire Element from his heart and directed it towards his abdomen, instantly feeling the heat flow from his heart to his stomach.

Looking down, he saw a fist-sized red orb glowing within his abdomen.

"Not hot enough!"

Continuing to concentrate the Fire Element in his abdomen, it expanded from a fist-sized ball to fill his entire stomach.

His entire abdomen glowed with a crimson light.

Now, Lin Beichen's objective was to use the Fire Element to temper his abdomen.

The Fire Element could produce extremely high temperatures, which would accelerate metabolism, enhance blood flow, and expedite the excretion of toxins through sweat.

This is why people develop fevers when they catch a cold; the body's natural antibodies battle the virus, causing the body temperature to rise.

The higher the temperature, the less hospitable for viruses, allowing the body's defenses to function better.

Lin Beichen could feel his abdomen heating up intensely, his body turning so red that he looked like a blazing furnace, sweat pouring from him as if it were raining, soaking him instantly.

The steam enveloped his skin, his pores opened fully, speeding up metabolism. Every cell seemed to come alive, breathing energetically.

A layer of gray-black sweat expelled from his abdomen.

The stabbing pain in his stomach lessened slightly.

But it only halted the progress of the symptoms; eliminating the poison completely would take more time.

Seeing An Xiaoran curled up on the ground, frowning in pain, Lin Beichen felt compassion.

He was already in such agony, imagining how much worse it was for her as a weaker person.

Quickly moving to her side, he positioned her in a meditative pose, though she seemed to have already passed out, her body limp, unable to sit up straight.

With no other option, Lin Beichen placed a chair to support her and then sat in meditation behind her, placing his palms on her back.

Lin Beichen had no certainty; while the Fire Element worked within himself, he was unsure if it would work within her.

He could only follow techniques from traditional martial arts, trying it as an experiment.

After reaching the Third Realm, his internal element storage had increased.

Now he continuously channeled Fire Element from his heart to his palms and then slowly into her body through her back.

It worked!

A small flame, visible through her skin, glowed with a crimson light.

Lin Beichen attempted to control the Fire Element within her, finding it challenging, as there was resistance and it was not as smooth as within his own body.

It took considerable effort to manage the Fire Element, but he gritted his teeth and directed it into her abdomen, gradually increasing the input.

The Fire Element expanded within her abdomen, making her whole body glow faintly, with a red hue illuminating her frame.

Soon, Lin Beichen sensed the Fire Element working within her body.

Her body temperature rose slowly, and sweat began to seep through her skin.

Gray-black sweat started oozing from her abdomen.

"As expected, it's not a food allergy but poison!"

Lin Beichen stared at the gray-black sweat, confirming his suspicion.

They had been poisoned in the same way, both from eating the Imperial Capital roast duck.

If he couldn't use the Fire Element to purify his abdomen and accelerate his metabolism to expel the toxins, he might have collapsed from the pain and died.

The poison dose was substantial, enough to kill at least two people, showing the intent to kill without a doubt.

Over half an hour had passed, and the gray-black sweat still hadn't stopped seeping out.

However, the color gradually lightened, returning to the normal sweat color.

An Xiaoran also started to regain consciousness, and her abdominal pain had significantly lessened.

"Boss, can you lower the sauna temperature? I feel like I'm going to be cooked!"

"Why does my stomach feel like it's on fire?"

Chapter 324: Are you using Inner Strength!

An Xiaoran had awakened, but was still in a haze.

She felt like she was in a steam sauna, surrounded by mist, which was actually her evaporated sweat.

The temperature was much higher than in a sauna, especially in her abdomen, which felt as if boiling water might be there; it was very hot to the touch.

Strangely, there was no sensation of burning inside her abdomen, only an intense heat.

This feeling was peculiar, as if it could enhance blood circulation and speed up metabolism, making her feel refreshed.

Slowly, An Xiaoran emerged from the foggy state, recalling that she had seemed to suffer from food poisoning, experiencing severe abdominal pain and weakness that led to fainting.

It was only then that she felt a pair of burning hot hands on her back.

Lin Beichen heard her call, assuming that the poison was still lingering and affecting her brain, so he intensified the activation of the Fire Element.

Now that An Xiaoran had stopped speaking, Lin Beichen gently opened his eyes and retracted the Fire Element from her body back into his own.

Unable to resist, he flicked her forehead playfully.

"Why did you flick me?" An Xiaoran turned back, looking at him puzzled.

"I worked so hard using my inner strength to expel the poison from your body, and you thought I was a sauna operator!"

"Yeah, well, it was pretty comfy, dear guest."

"Stop bragging, inner strength? You just wanted to take advantage of me!"

"Why do you come so close? Wasn't it your hands on my back just now? It must have been you!"

"Poisoned?"

An Xiaoran turned around in doubt, suddenly realizing it might be true.

Her abdomen pain had started after eating the Imperial Capital's roasted duck, a strange pain, worse than usual food poisoning. It didn't just cause stomach ache but also dizziness, weakness in limbs, and aggravated pain with movement.

But how could she recover from poisoning on her own?

Moreover, she felt a warm stream entering her abdomen from her back, which dissipated with his hand's withdrawal.

But the pain inside her body had significantly reduced, blood circulation seemed smoother, giving a refreshed feeling.

"Do you really have inner strength?"

"Is inner strength really a thing in this world?"

"Are you an expert from outside this world?"

"Unbelievable!"

An Xiaoran's eyes widened in astonishment as she scrutinized Lin Beichen, searching for any extraordinary signs but found him to be a regular person, except with perfectly defined muscle contours and an attractiveness.

Other than that, he seemed like a typical person, somewhat young-looking, far from what an expert might be, more like a top student.

However, excluding this idea, An Xiaoran couldn't comprehend how she expelled the toxins from her body.

Examining the gray-black sweats from her pores, she felt terribly amazed.

To have expel the toxin through sweat pores.

Suddenly, An Xiaoran felt extremely thirsty, her lips dry to the point of cracking — she hadn't felt it while speaking, but now she only wanted water.

She saw a cup of wine, a plate of fruit, and a bottle of water on the nearby table, but when she tried to get up and grab it, she found herself utterly powerless.

Weak to the extreme, as if she hadn't eaten for days, unable to muster any strength.

Struggling to reach the table with great difficulty, she thought about how she got poisoned by eating these items.

Now planning to eat them?

Another round?

An Xiaoran shivered, quickly withdrew her hand, and sat down honestly on the floor.

Looking at Lin Beichen, she noticed he was in a meditation posture, eyes closed, not looking at her.

Apparently, maintaining this position for a long while, as he had not responded to her last few sentences since he spoke.

An Xiaoran curiously waved a hand in front of his eyes, but he didn't react; however, she noticed he was sweating all over.

Touching his forehead, An Xiaoran was startled by the burning heat; his temperature was such that even his sweat had turned into mist.

Stunned, she stood still for a moment, finding it hard to believe what she was seeing.

A human body reaching such a high temperature, she became worried about Lin Beichen but dared not disturb his meditation.

An Xiaoran felt confused and conflicted.

Should she call an ambulance or report to the police?

But she was indeed poisoned earlier, then her abdomen got hot, and the pain vanished; she thought Lin Beichen might endure similar experiences and eventually expel the toxins.

After all, poisoning is not a small matter; she shouldn't act rashly before understanding it better.

She decided to wait for Lin Beichen to awaken and discuss it.

Meanwhile, she struggled with the last bit of strength to crawl to the water dispenser for some drinking water.

Meanwhile, on Lin Beichen's side.

After flicking her forehead and speaking a few words, the abdominal pain intensified, forcing him to meditate immediately, concentrating the Fire Element in his abdomen.

This time, he did not cause much spectacle, only gathering a small amount of Fire Element in his abdomen to avoid revealing the fiery glow inside.

In fact, he had already retracted the crimson light barrier while channeling the Fire Element to An Xiaoran, suppressing the Fire Element to an invisible degree and honing it inside her abdomen.

Chapter 325: Are you using Inner Strength!_2

And now, as he converted it to his own body, it remained invisible.

But because of this, the process became slow and strenuous. The previous time he helped An Xiaoran, controlling the Fire Element was challenging due to it not being his own body, leading to significant consumption.

By this point, he was finding it hard to hold on. The toxins in his body hadn't been completely expelled, and he could only grit his teeth, hoping the Fire Element within would fully expel the toxins before being completely exhausted.

For over half an hour, Lin Beichen's abdomen continuously exuded gray-black sweat. His clothes were drenched to the point where they could be wrung out, and fog swirled among his hair.

The Fire Element ran back and forth through his intestines, generating high energy to remove the toxins, which were expelled from his body through metabolism and sweat.

From the outside, Lin Beichen appeared motionless in his meditation. But internally, the dense Fire Element roamed through his body in a controlled pattern.

However, toward the end, this Fire Element gradually thinned until it completely disappeared.

Lin Beichen slowly opened his eyes. At this moment, even someone as powerful as him felt incredibly weak, with no strength left in his body.

Moreover, his mouth was particularly dry, as the body's fluids had long been expelled, leaving him dehydrated.

As Lin Beichen opened his eyes from meditation and restored his vision, he found An Xiaoran's face right before him, blinking her eyes as she stared at him.

"You're awake?"

"Are you okay? Want me to call an emergency number?"

"Do you really have Inner Strength? Speak up!"

"Are you very thirsty?"

"Yes!"

An Xiaoran fired off a series of questions, but Lin Beichen had no time to respond except for nodding at the last one.

"Here's some water, but first answer my questions!"

An Xiaoran looked resolute, having anticipated that Lin Beichen would experience what he went through upon waking. She prepared drinking water for him in advance, using her last bit of strength.

Lin Beichen glared at her. He wanted to get up but gave up after several attempts.

Perhaps if he had simply expelled the toxins from his own body, it wouldn't have depleted the Fire Element, and his physical strength wouldn't be exhausted.

"If I hadn't just helped you expel those toxins, or if I had been selfish and helped myself first before coming back to help you, you might already be dead. If not dead, your organs would have failed, leaving permanent damage."

"And now you still want to make a deal with me?"

"You... I... Forget it, just don't die of thirst!"

Faced with Lin Beichen's barrage of questions, An Xiaoran had no reason to rebut, so she handed him the water.

Lin Beichen took the cup and drank it all in one go, letting out a rare sigh of relief before lying down on the carpet.

He had never felt so weak, which terrified him.

Standing up was extremely difficult.

And this was only the first day in Atlantis, where he had already encountered a series of events.

First, the bus's four brake pads inexplicably broke, then he was delivered a whole roast duck from the Imperial Capital with dishes suited to his taste, and finally, he was poisoned.

An Xiaoran had inadvertently joined in, sharing the roast duck, which meant he had to expend a lot of Fire Element to help her expel her body toxins.

Upon reflection, it was clear that someone in Atlantis was targeting him, wanting him dead!

But who could it be?

"Move over, give me some of the carpet!"

"What are you doing?"

"Men and women should not be in close proximity. Are you going to sleep here with me at night?"

"Go back to your own room!"

An Xiaoran looked at the only piece of carpet Lin Beichen was lying on, which still had a cushion that could be used as a pillow. Naturally, she wouldn't choose to lie on the bare floor.

"Do you think I want to? My limbs have no strength, and my last bit of energy was used up bringing you water."

"I don't care, just move over a bit!"

"You can't seriously... You can't seriously make a girl sleep on the floor, can you? It's easy to catch a cold and get damp. What if I get sick or develop rheumatism?"

An Xiaoran's eyes started to blur, her tone filled with grievance. She held back her tears.

She had never been rejected like this since childhood. She had never been in a room with a boy late at night, competing for a small piece of carpet...

She was considered one of the campus beauties, with people chasing after her enough to fill a bus.

Her family was well-off, owning several properties in the Imperial Capital. Her father did business in Atlantis. She had never faced such coldness.

"Alright, alright, my bad, my bad."

"Here, the cushion's for you too."

Lin Beichen saw her blinking, almost tearing up. He couldn't stand this kind of pure girl being wronged.

Using the last of his strength, he turned over, making a bit of space for her.

"One rule: no one mentions what happened tonight, ever!"

"Who cares!"

"No, not only tomorrow, but we also never mention it again. Pretend it never happened."

"Sleep or not? If not, give me back the cushion."

"Sleeping, sleeping..."

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In an imposing skyscraper in Atlantis.

"Hei Yi, are you sure the poison you gave him can kill him?"

"It's not a poison, but a synthetic chemical."

"Colorless, tasteless, it corrodes the stomach, and makes limbs weak. It will cause a painful death without the strength to even walk out the door!"

"No one has survived this substance!"

In Griffin's office, he conversed with a slim woman in black tight-fitting clothes.

Griffin had great faith in Hei Yi's abilities. She had carried out many missions with zero mistakes and was well-liked.

She was one of his most prized disciples.

"How will you know if he ate your food?"

"I inquired with those computer guys in the hall before we left and learned about his preferences."

"Tonight, there's no need to sneak in, to avoid leaving any trace. Just wait till tomorrow and see the medical staff carrying out his corpse with a white sheet. Then you'll know the mission is accomplished."

Griffin nodded in satisfaction.

Poisoning was better for it didn't involve indiscriminate killing or risk causing conflict between the two countries.

It was easy to administer and hard to guard against.

Even if he was a Superpower User, able to withstand bullets and possessing superior combat skills, it wouldn't matter if you attacked from within, destroying his organs.

Every person has weaknesses; he couldn't believe Lin Beichen wouldn't die!

The night dragged on.

Many slept soundly; some stayed up, watching the night scene.

Griffin was among the latter.

The chance of capturing Lin Beichen alive was very small and would risk exposure.

Killing him and presenting the corpse was his final bottom line.

He silently awaited dawn, eager to see medics carrying Lin Beichen's corpse out with a white sheet.

That scene played countless times in Griffin's mind that night.

Finally, the sun rose as usual.

A ray of sunlight shone through the floor-to-ceiling window, hitting Griffin's face.

He lifted his head and stared out the window, lighting a cigar and taking a heavy drag.

At that moment, Hei Yi walked in, handing him a steaming cup of milk.

She placed it on the desk, then started typing on the keyboard of Griffin's desk, opening security camera footage of Lin Beichen's hotel corridor on the second floor.

For a professional assassin, hacking into a hotel's security cameras was child's play, and they could do it without leaving a trace.

"Mr. Griffin, why don't you rest? The cameras will record everything. I'll call you when there's an outcome!"

"No, I want to witness that moment myself."

Griffin declined Hei Yi's offer.

He took a drag of his cigar, calculating in his mind how to respond if Lin Beichen's autopsy revealed evidence of Superhumans in the Great Xia Kingdom.

Unbeknownst to him, Lin Beichen slept very comfortably in his room.

The night's chill caused the two of them to unconsciously huddle together for warmth.

With only one cushion for a pillow, Lin Beichen had pulled An Xiaoran's arm over for his head.

As a ray of sunlight came in through the window.

An Xiaoran woke up first. The sharp pain of a thousand ants gnawing at her arm roused her from sleep.

Chapter 326: The Death Warrior Can Make a Move Now!

Severe pain made An Xiaoran afraid to make a sound, forcing her to endure the numbness.

She tried to quietly pull her arm out, and then quietly slip away.

Because she discovered that after a night of rest, her strength had returned. Although still weak, walking shouldn't be a problem.

The biggest problem was that, upon waking up, she found herself so close to a guy spending the night together!

When she woke, her hand was even unconsciously hugging him...

Her other hand was being gripped by Lin Beichen as a pillow, something that had never happened before.

A scene she didn't even dare to imagine!

Last night's exhaustion made her not want to think about anything, just wanting to sleep. By morning, it was too late to regret; her first time sleeping next to a guy had happened just like that.

Looking at the sleeping Lin Beichen, An Xiaoran didn't want to wake him, to avoid making eye contact and feeling unbearable embarrassment.

But she found that her arm simply couldn't be pulled out, and after a few failed attempts to pull it out quietly.

Helplessly, An Xiaoran took the only cushion, then lifted Lin Beichen's head and quickly pulled out her hand, while smoothly placing the cushion under his head.

But, this action made Lin Beichen open his eyes.

"Huh???"

Lin Beichen looked at her with a face full of confusion. From his angle, her long hair hung down, her face was very close, her skin was fair and smooth, and her chin had a defined outline.

This scene scared An Xiaoran so much that she quickly pulled back her hand and avoided his confused gaze.

In that moment of eye contact, An Xiaoran felt her heart beating fast, and her cheeks uncontrollably felt hot.

Even though she didn't know if her face was red, she had seen enough TV dramas to know that feeling her cheeks heat up meant she was blushing.

Of course, this scene couldn't be seen by Lin Beichen, so she turned her head to look elsewhere, not daring to stay longer, and got up to leave the room.

But her weakness made her stumble, almost falling, and she could only hold onto the wall to barely open the door.

But just as she opened a crack, An Xiaoran hesitated.

She worried if going out like this would be seen by other students, and if they saw, the misunderstanding would be deep.

Up until now, she still had the reputation of being single, imagine what it would be like if word spread.

An Xiaoran shook her head, trying to keep her mind clear and not think about those troublesome things.

One hand pressed against her ear, she leaned close to the door crack to listen for any movement in the hallway, and finding no footsteps, grasped the moment, pushed open the door and walked out.

But, her worries still came true.

And it was scarier than she imagined.

If it was other students, it would be a misunderstanding at worst, but An Xiaoran, the moment she stepped out met Principal Hao Jianhua!

Hao Jianhua had just closed his door and was about to leave, looked up seeing the disheveled An Xiaoran coming out of Lin Beichen's room, with a slight sinister smile on his face.

This smile was indescribable, but it was very creepy!

Seeing this, An Xiaoran shivered all over, and quickly tiptoed back to her room, closing the door without looking back.

Hiding behind her door, she dared to breathe heavily, kept patting her chest to calm herself, shaking her head to forget what just happened, but obviously, it was impossible.

"Oh no, oh no, oh no."

"That was the principal!"

"Oh my god An Xiaoran, how could you be so unlucky!"

"With that principal's mouth, by tomorrow all the teachers will know!"

"If all the teachers know, then all the students will know, and even my dad would know..."

Thinking of this, An Xiaoran gasped, and she completely freaked out.

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Outside the door, Hao Jianhua was curious, seeing that Lin Beichen's room door wasn't shut, he went up and pushed the door open a crack, seeing Lin Beichen just waking up, stretching lazily.

"Young man, remember to use protection, don't be too indulgent!"

Hao Jianhua said with a sinister smile, and retreated and closed the door.

Leaving Lin Beichen with a confused face, scratching his head, not understanding the meaning of his words.

Without thinking further, he stretched tiredly, turned, and walked into the washroom.

At Griffin's office, Griffin and Hei Yi were staring intently at the surveillance screen.

"Why did a woman come out?"

"Their principal looked in and it's fine?"

Griffin, full of doubts, looked at Hei Yi, seemingly the outcome didn't develop as he expected.

Hei Yi was also shocked, repeatedly switching camera angles, replaying the footage of An Xiaoran coming out and going into the room.

"There's no reason!"

"This woman went in at 22:31 last night, stayed all night without coming out."

"She left the room at 6:46 in the morning, their principal checked at 6:50."

"It's not right, Griffin, look, this woman's limbs are obviously weak, possibly a post-poisoning symptom!"

Hei Yi pointed at the moment on the screen when An Xiaoran barely managed to return to her room, supporting herself with the wall.

Griffin watched the screen, frowning, then turned his questioning gaze to Hei Yi, seeing a very confident face.

"Is it possible, the woman was weak, but the target was strong, because of a night of passionate activity?"

Hei Yi took a deep breath to calm himself down, indeed thinking it was not impossible, simultaneously marveling at the young man's stamina nowadays.

Chapter 327: Death Warrior Can Take Action Now!_2

But in the next moment, she shook her head to dismiss this thought. No one had ever survived her poison.

"I'm going to infiltrate and investigate."

"Hold on!"

"Going now will only leave traces and alert the target."

"Wait a little longer!"

Griffin stopped Hei Yi, who was ready to leave.

In his opinion, Hei Yi's poisoning methods were indeed reliable, so they could only wait for the surveillance footage and observe quietly.

For Lin Beichen, after freshening up, he changed into clean clothes.

Standing by the window, he examined his internal condition.

He could feel that his body was still somewhat fatigued and his spirit was a bit lackluster.

There was a sense of emptiness akin to kidney essence deficiency, but it was much better than last night, with more than half of his strength restored.

Thinking of this, Lin Beichen couldn't help but marvel. He had rarely, if ever, experienced fully depleting the Element within his body.

This made him realize that he needed to further elevate his Realm to harbor more Element until one day it becomes endless and inexhaustible!

Moreover, this time, expelling poison from his body was his first attempt. He had gained new insights into the use of Fire Element, even being able to channel Elemental Power into others' bodies to help them eliminate toxins.

This sparked a business idea for Lin Beichen—setting up a street stall, posing as a reclusive expert with profound Inner Strength, capable of stimulating blood circulation and dispelling internal toxins.

It would surely be profitable, but whether he'd be arrested by the anti-fraud center was another matter.

After all, Inner Strength might be deemed fraudulent to some extent. If it's true, it could expose his cultivation, causing trouble for the Security Agency and creating crises for himself.

Without thinking further, Lin Beichen was clear about his motive for coming to Atlantis. Academic exchanges would start tomorrow; today was just for acclimating to the environment.

It was early morning; it was time to go out and explore, hoping to seize the opportunity for discovering the fourth Element.

Opening his phone's navigation, he was relieved to find that foreign countries still provided location services.

First, he saved the hotel's location, then looked around. Besides Atlantis University, there were no notable buildings.

Lin Beichen decided to go with fate and wander wherever destiny led him, as long as he had the hotel's location saved, he wouldn't fear getting lost.

Opening the door, many students were moving around in the corridor.

In the lobby, many students couldn't stay idle, wandering around and inquiring.

Outside the hotel, guards were standing watch, clearly informing Lin Beichen that he needed Principal Hao Jianhua's permission to leave the hotel.

He needed to get travel approval.

Lin Beichen didn't plan to exit directly through the main door; he just wanted to look around.

He understood that many students participating in Atlantis University's event were abroad for the first time. Not allowing them to wander outside was actually for their good.

However, Lin Beichen didn't fall into this category; his purpose in coming to Atlantis was different from theirs.

Avoiding the crowd's view, he reached the back kitchen, finding a window that led directly to the avenue outside. He had noted this spot when the bus arrived.

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On Griffin's side, he watched Lin Beichen on the surveillance, walking around freely, as if nothing had happened, exiting his room and wandering in the lobby.

"You can check if he ate your poison."

Hei Yi was shocked by the result. Seeing Griffin's grim face, she dared not delay and immediately got up and went to check.

Arriving at the hotel, disguised as a cleaner, she sneaked into Lin Beichen's room.

Seeing only the remains of a duck rump on the dining table, Hei Yi fell into deep thought.

It was impossible he didn't eat!

Even the bones were gnawed clean, made entirely to Lin Beichen's taste.

"How could he be fine?"

Hei Yi looked around the room in surprise, noticing Lin Beichen's discarded clothes.

Approaching, she took the clothes in hand, seeing a blackened patch on the abdomen area, emitting a pungent burnt smell.

Hei Yi fell into deep thought again, some guesses forming in her mind, though it was unexpected.

But one thing was certain: Lin Beichen must have eaten the Imperial Capital roast duck and was definitely poisoned, but how did he casually walk out the door?

The stain on the clothes looked like a synthesis chemical substance volatilized.

"Could it be, he expelled the toxin from his body?"

"Impossible, human white cell antibodies can't withstand chemical substance corrosion on the organs."

"He must be on the verge of collapse."

Hei Yi reported this result to Griffin, then cleaned the room and left.

Griffin was shocked on hearing this. Though aware of superhumans' abilities beyond normal humans, he was still deeply startled.

At the same time, spies outside the hotel sent him the latest information.

"Finn Group, the target has left the hotel and is heading towards Century Square!"

"We were just looking for a way to lure him out for the kill. Now he's walked out himself."

"I don't believe he could eat poison without any damage!"

"Keep tracking, dispatch Death Warriors, await opportunities to strike!"

"Should we leave him alive?"

"No, kill him on sight!"

In response to his subordinate's query on the phone, Griffin decisively replied.

Lin Beichen's appearance had repeatedly caused Griffin losses, even several reliable assistants who had never failed met setbacks with him.

Leaving him alive would only lead to more unexpected changes. It was better to kill him, a corpse is better than continuous failure and getting nothing.

Hei Yi pushed the door open, seeing Griffin's extremely grim face, his eyes bloodshot and feral.

Seeing Griffin's expression, Hei Yi was not only startled but frightened. Being at his side for years, she had never seen him like this.

"Finn Group, I heard you mobilizing death warriors outside, is that true?"

"Should we consider the consequences?"

"Death warriors do not care about the occasion or method, they only aim to kill the target!"

"Starting with a death mission might cause significant impacts, is it worth the risk for a student from Great Xia Kingdom?"

"I won't change what I've decided."

Griffin turned his back, looking out the window, lighting a cigar and taking a deep drag, calming his mood for a while.

He motioned for Hei Yi to withdraw.

He just wanted to be alone quietly.

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Great Xia Kingdom, Security Agency.

Song Xiangdong was holding the regular national security meeting in the conference room as usual.

But at the critical moment, the phone in Song Xiangdong's pocket rang, it was an emergency call.

Internal emergency calls could bypass phone mute.

Song Xiangdong frowned, paused the meeting, and chose to answer the call first.

"Xiangdong, be prepared, Celestial Master's Mansion, someone has arrived!"

"What? How many? Why is it me here?!"

"Currently two, and another one is on the way, Xu Zhenxiao is also on his way."

"Where are you? I'll come right away!"

In the conference room, everyone looked at Song Xiangdong.

Song Xiangdong's conversation was very animated and loud, but they didn't know what happened to make the Security Agency's Director so emotional.

"You all continue the meeting, report the resolutions to me later for approval."

Song Xiangdong hurriedly instructed a few words, put on his uniform, and headed to the location provided by North China Region's Preacher Fu Daoyi.

Outside the Security Agency reception hall, Song Xiangdong saw Fu Daoyi's figure, the two exchanged glances.

Then their eyes turned to two people beside Fu Daoyi.

Two middle-aged Preachers in Daoist attire, clothes tattered, faces haggard, clearly having experienced long journeys and exhaustion.

But their eyes were firm, exuding a sense of righteousness, giving an immediate feeling of Daoist disciples from their appearance and demeanor.

Fu Daoyi was himself a generational Daoist inheritor, deeply influenced by Daoist culture since childhood. He could discern authenticity at a glance.

The identities of these two, undoubtedly confirmed before notifying him to come, Song Xiangdong had no doubt.

The two Preachers approached and saluted Song Xiangdong.

Chapter 328: A Military Aircraft Lands in Front of the Celestial Master's Mansion

Without waiting for their introductions, Song Xiangdong began to ask questions first.

"I heard there are three of you, why are only two here?"

"Where is the third person?"

"Must all three of you arrive, and meet at the same time, for the destination to truly take effect?"

Song Xiangdong asked while looking at Fu Daoyi.

Song Xiangdong did not know much about this ancient pathfinding method, and had only learned a little from Fu Daoyi.

"Indeed, all three routes must converge together, following the guidance of the Jade Token. Only then will this be the final destination. Not one can be absent!"

Fu Daoyi explained this pathfinding method.

He was also very shocked, not expecting that the Pathfinders from the Celestial Master's Mansion would end up at the Safehouse. He had thought they would go to the other two commercial outposts in the North China Region.

One of which has significant connections to Daoism, being the last business location of an apprentice to the Celestial Master who left ancient texts.

To this end, Fu Daoyi personally went to investigate, asking if there were any methods left to resolve the crisis of the Celestial Master's Mansion stone statue.

But no method to resolve the crisis was found.

Still, it was better than the Safehouse, as Fu Daoyi felt that Song Xiangdong had already deviated from Daoism. In his generation, the tradition had already faded significantly, not to mention leaving any secret hints.

Even Daoist culture itself, Song Xiangdong had almost entirely forgotten, or had very little contact with since childhood. Perhaps in a few years, the North China Region contact point would remove the Safehouse from its list.

Song Xiangdong and Fu Daoyi exchanged a glance, both had made their decisions.

With no immediate sign of the third Pathfinder arriving, they decided to take the two who had arrived to stay at the Safehouse lodge.

Soon, Xu Zhenxiao, the Supervisor of the three military regions, hastily ended his inspection tours and arrived at the Safehouse.

The three gathered in a secret chamber to discuss the anomaly of the Celestial Master's Mansion stone statue.

Fu Daoyi and Xu Zhenxiao both focused their attention on Song Xiangdong.

"Xiangdong, you really need to recall if your father or any relatives involved in Daoism left any clues or said any obscure words to you."

"Although two out of three have arrived, it confirms that the Safehouse is the final contact point for this mission."

"The ancients often passed down teachings orally. Since the Safehouse is determined as the final contact point, the method of resolving the crisis must also come from the Safehouse!"

"Xiangdong, think carefully!"

"This concerns the entire situation, the impact of which we don't need to elaborate on."

"No matter what you remember, you should speak it out so we can analyze it."

"Maybe it's something you didn't understand at the time, a riddle, a word, a painting, an artifact..."

"I know nothing!"

Faced with the two elders' inquiries, Song Xiangdong was completely at a loss.

Having interrogated a lifetime of suspects, Song Xiangdong felt like he was the suspect being interrogated by the two elders today.

Regarding ancient texts and ways to resolve the crisis, Song Xiangdong had no idea.

As for any obscure instructions left by Daoist relatives and friends, Song Xiangdong tried hard to recall several times, but ultimately shook his head, having no clue at all.

He even doubted if there was some mistake!

"The Celestial Master of the Mansion did have some means hundreds of years ago, able to perceive the Yin and Yang of the world, foreseeing some events."

"If no ancient texts were left, it's very likely that through divination, it was determined that the Safehouse would resolve this crisis."

"Some divinations reveal secrets that cannot be directly spoken or written down. I think choosing the Jade Token for guidance was a way to obscurely indicate the results of the divination!"

"Ultimately, the crisis of the Celestial Master's Mansion stone statue would be resolved using the Safehouse as the remedy!"

Xu Zhenxiao explained, stroking his beard.

His guess was not without reason.

It came from nearly eighty years of studying Daoist culture and the secrets he had enlightened from it.

Although much had been lost over the years, transferred multiple times,

"Divination?"

"If that's the case, and it's determined that the Safehouse would resolve this crisis, but I have no clue at all!"

Song Xiangdong was confused. The burden on his shoulders caught him unprepared.

Originally, he thought he had faded out of Daoist tradition, and the final destination should have been at other Daoist-related sites in the North China region.

Why did it end up being his place?

Hundreds of years ago, when the tradition was prosperous, Celestial Masters and disciples of the Mansion indeed had some extraordinary means, able to understand secrets of the past and future.

It could be passed down for a thousand more years until peaceful times when the tradition gradually faded from people's sight.

This time, the guidance of the Jade Token bypassed the constraints of rules and order, pointing out the fated outcome in advance.

Seeing Song Xiangdong's completely clueless reaction, Fu Daoyi and Xu Zhenxiao were not overly surprised.

They hadn't counted on finding clues left by previous Celestial Masters along this Safehouse route.

If the final destination was chosen as the Safehouse, there must be a causality, possibly relying on people or circumstances to resolve the crisis.

Not by any remaining methods but by human affinity, opportunities, and coincidence!

Chapter 329: A Military Aircraft Lands in Front of the Celestial Master's Mansion_2

Just as everyone was discussing, one of Xu Zhenxiao's two disciples outside the door knocked a few times, the knocks were rhythmic, actually a sort of code.

Two knocks in quick succession, followed by a pause, then three more knocks.

Upon hearing this sound, Fu Daoyi and Song Xiangdong looked slightly puzzled.

But the old man with the cane, Xu Zhenxiao, his expression turned serious instantly.

"The third Pathfinder has arrived!"

"We can confirm the final destination is the Security Bureau!!"

Xu Zhenxiao stood up, his tone solemn and certain. In the airtight room, his voice echoed in Song Xiangdong's ears like a tremor.

It was thought that there might be a change, but now with three Pathfinders present, it could be almost certain that the Security Bureau was responsible for resolving the crisis of the Celestial Master's Mansion's stone statues shaking.

"No need to think about it. Perhaps there is no legacy left behind. We set off tonight!"

Xu Zhenxiao spoke in a stern and determined voice, his unwavering gaze fixed on the two of them. After making his decision, he walked out with the aid of his cane.

Fu Daoyi and Song Xiangdong were left in the room, clearly unprepared and somewhat dazed.

"What do I need to prepare? Paper, pen, ink, sword?"

"A military? Or airplanes and cannons?"

"I don't know anything at all!"

After Xu Zhenxiao, the Supervisor, left, Song Xiangdong looked at Fu Daoyi, the Supervisor of the North China Region, and expressed his doubts.

In terms of military strength, Song Xiangdong indeed had substantial backing.

But he had no idea how to begin, what to use and what not to use, how to act, how to resolve this crisis - he knew nothing.

It was like an ordinary person being suddenly told one day that he was the chosen one to save the world, how could he not be confused?

Fu Daoyi shook his head and sighed. He was equally confused, though slightly better than Song Xiangdong.

In his heart, he firmly believed that the Sect Leader of the Celestial Master's Mansion from hundreds of years ago could foresee the future. He had never doubted this.

Being one of the supervisors of the five major war zones, he naturally knew some Daoist heritage secrets unknown to the public.

"We can only take it one step at a time. How to resolve it, we'll have to see first."

After speaking, Fu Daoyi also left the room, leaving Song Xiangdong standing there in confusion.

But time did not allow much for thinking, with dusk and sunset approaching, it was time to prepare an operational plan.

That night, a military plane took off from the local area, heading to the nearest airport to Dragon Tiger Mountain.

The moment it landed, it attracted a lot of attention from airport personnel.

It could be said it caused a considerable stir.

Many people took out their phones to film, reporters arrived shortly after to live broadcast, but Song Xiangdong had informed the local airport's security personnel in advance.

In a short while, major reporters were intercepted outside, and travelers were notified that they could only watch and not take photos.

After all, it was quite rare for a military plane to land at a civilian airport.

After disembarking, more than a dozen military jeeps formed a row and drove over in an orderly manner.

At this time, a full moon hung high, the night grew deeper, nearing one in the morning, with few vehicles on the road, everyone was asleep.

Song Xiangdong and his team took the jeeps from the airport, heading straight towards Dragon Tiger Mountain without pause.

After two hours of travel, they arrived at the foot of Dragon Tiger Mountain around three in the morning, the surroundings were utterly serene, no one around except for a military helicopter waiting on an open ground.

Though the night was quiet with the pleasant sounds of crickets, under the foot of Dragon Tiger Mountain, dozens of jeeps' lights illuminated the entire area.

The helicopter's rotor started to spin, the engine roared throughout the mountains.

Xu Zhenxiao, Fu Daoyi, Song Xiangdong, two accompanying disciples, and three Pathfinders boarded the helicopter first.

If they had to climb the mountain by foot, it would take at least a day and a half for a strong person, resting midway for a night to reach the summit the next day.

But Song Xiangdong and the two elderly were far from their prime.

Despite Dragon Tiger Mountain being surrounded by mountains with its treacherous terrain and turbulent weather, the military helicopter's performance and pilot training were outstanding.

Ordinary civilian helicopters couldn't take off and land in such an environment.

This was part of Song Xiangdong's early preparations.

The helicopter took off and in just over ten minutes, they arrived at the summit, landing in front of the vast Observation Platform.

Outside the Celestial Master's Mansion, personnel from the Security Bureau had already arrived, including guards, all armed and standing in line to welcome them.

Xu Zhenxiao couldn't help but glare at Song Xiangdong, feeling that such a spectacle was unnecessary in front of the Celestial Master's Mansion.

Stepping off the Observation Platform to the door of the Celestial Master's Mansion, they were greeted by Guantian Celestial Master, who had lit a lamp early to welcome them, and beside him was the current Sect Leader and Guantian Celestial Master's direct disciple.

Seeing the old man with the cane, Guantian Celestial Master showed respect and saluted, Xu Zhenxiao returned the salute with Daoist gestures.

Fu Daoyi and the current Sect Leader exchanged greetings as well.

Song Xiangdong, not knowing what was going on, couldn't tell much, only knowing the accompanying disciples by Xu Zhenxiao understood that the gestures varied by seniority.

Guantian Celestial Master's respectful gesture towards Xu Zhenxiao was slightly above the forehead, indicating Xu Zhenxiao's higher realm.

Fu Daoyi's exchange with the current Sect Leader indicated they were of equal rank.

After some formalities, Guantian Celestial Master led the way, explaining the whole process of the incident along the way.

He also expressed his shock.

A few hours before their arrival, a helicopter suddenly hovered over the Observation Platform, from which dozens of armed special forces descended.

Someone handed a fax notice, Guantian Celestial Master learned that the final destination sought by the three Pathfinders was the Security Bureau.

He was deeply shaken!

This path-finding method was recorded in ancient texts passed down by successive Sect Leaders, but the final contact point was unknown to him.

They could not send people to follow the Pathfinders as it was taboo, only to wait quietly!

During this period, Guantian Celestial Master tried countless times to consult various ancient texts, but found no method to calm the statue's anomaly.

Earlier, he had tried everything, yet couldn't close the black hole swallowing the statues.

He recounted all these experiences to Xu Zhenxiao and his team in detail.

Though it was late at night, with a hint of moonlight faintly illuminating the way insufficiently.

Under these circumstances, dozens of elders from the Celestial Master's Mansion stood along the road holding lanterns.

They finally reached the courtyard, before the black hole.

Dozens of lanterns lit up the entire courtyard.

Seeing the pitch-black, seemingly bottomless black hole for the first time, despite his mental preparation, Xu Zhenxiao stood stunned.

Fu Daoyi and Song Xiangdong were petrified, their eyes fixed on the roughly ten-foot-wide elliptical black hole.

A wooden fence had been set up around the black hole to prevent anyone from getting too close, as no one knew what danger it might trigger.

Guantian Celestial Master had sealed off the path up and down Dragon Tiger Mountain, making sure no one from the outside knew about the situation.

Even the special forces arranged by Song Xiangdong could only stand guard outside the Celestial Master's Mansion.

Regarding the mission, Song Xiangdong hadn't told them a word, maintaining the highest level of secrecy.

The group observed the black hole for over half an hour, increasingly feeling its depth and the absence of any light, the mystical way it appeared on the stone slab, swallowing the statues beneath, incredibly fantastical.

Such a miraculous phenomenon greatly shocked Xu Zhenxiao as well.

Near a century old, having seen the world's grandness, he should have been undisturbed, but today he was visibly astonished.

Chapter 330: Straighten Out in This Life!

That day, the group observed the black hole that appeared out of thin air in the courtyard until the sky slowly brightened and the stars vanished.

Feeling that there was nothing more to be discovered and already a bit tired from traveling day and night, they stayed in the guest rooms of the Celestial Master's Mansion for the night.

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Atlantis, near the university.

Lin Beichen looked at the unfamiliar scene in front of him and the pedestrians of different skin colors.

The sense of loneliness in a foreign land arose from his heart.

Whether it was the architectural style or the facades of the shops in the alleys, all were very different from those in the Great Xia Kingdom.

Except for those familiar global chain stores, the rest were mostly unseen back home.

Walking along, he came to a small stream, with most pedestrians wearing headphones, rushing past without stopping. Only a few elderly people sat by the riverside, chatting and laughing.

Lin Beichen himself didn't know where to go or where he might feel the presence of new elements; everything was left to fate.

Fortunately, during his university classes, he reached the highest level in Atlantis's language courses, making basic communication no problem. With some time, he might even pass the eighth level or higher.

He could read road signs and storefront labels.

Following the stream, he arrived at a wide lake surface where the stream collected, forming a lake about the size of two or three football fields.

In the middle of the lake was a pavilion, surrounded by water and connected by only a wooden bridge. As there was no one around, Lin Beichen walked over.

In the center of the pavilion, only a bamboo mat was laid out, unlike the stone tables and benches common in the Great Xia Kingdom.

Lin Beichen sat down cross-legged, with the breeze lifting the aquatic grass on the lake surface, carrying the fresh scent of nature. freewebnovel_com

Lin Beichen closed his eyes and entered a state of enlightenment.

Quietly, he felt the presence of the surrounding elements, hoping to discover new elements in this foreign land.

Slowly, his mental realm became ethereal, naturally blocking out the surrounding noise, leaving only the sound of the breeze over the lake and the flowing river.

After sitting for more than half an hour, Lin Beichen felt very disappointed.

This place, with its clear air and spiritual land, would have had many elderly fishing if it were in the Great Xia Kingdom. But in Atlantis, pedestrians seemed to be in a hurry and uninterested in leisurely activities. It was a rather special day.

The entire lakeside was sparsely populated.

Even the elderly who had been sitting by the stream earlier had disappeared.

Lin Beichen felt a twinge of suspicion, a sense of alertness flashed in his mind, a feeling of unease emanated from deep within; this was very unusual.

Suddenly, a special iron net shot out from underwater, spread out in the center of the pavilion, and instantly enveloped Lin Beichen, moving with extreme speed.

Although Lin Beichen sensed something, it happened too suddenly. The net came from underwater behind him, and after being wrapped, a great force pulled him underwater before he could tear the net apart.

The whole process took less than three seconds; it happened in the blink of an eye. A person disappeared from the pavilion and was dragged into the lake, vanishing beneath the surface.

No one noticed that Lin Beichen was being continuously dragged deeper underwater by the iron net.

He was pulled down to a depth of over ten meters, seemingly not having reached the bottom yet.

A sunken ship came into Lin Beichen's view as he continued to descend, with the net's pulling force connected to the ship via a line.

At the lake bottom, near the not-so-large ship, appeared more than ten figures, each holding a sharp long knife still emitting a cold shine underwater.

Over ten people surrounded Lin Beichen.

The iron net continued to tighten until it securely bound Lin Beichen, the ship's paddles then stopped spinning.

Over ten people, dressed in diving suits and carrying oxygen tanks, saw Lin Beichen firmly trapped in the net.

Two of them put away their long knives, took out handcuffs, and approached, worried he might escape, adding three layers of handcuffs to his hands and feet.

Only then did the group breathe a sigh of relief, gathered around, and looked at the securely bound Lin Beichen, as if admiring their masterpiece.

Griffin's order was to immediately pierce Lin Beichen with long knives upon capture, ensuring his instant death.

But the dozen Death Warriors felt that the specially reinforced iron net was several times stronger than forged steel!

The cable used on bridges was made of this material, but it was compressed and even stronger. Plus, several pairs of handcuffs were added, making it impossible for an average person to escape.

This series of restraints was the greatest respect for a Superpower User.

The group weighed their long knives, eyes united, waiting for Lin Beichen's oxygen to run out, anticipating the scene of him struggling desperately but unable to break free, until he finally died of suffocation.

For this reason, they did not immediately use the long knives to stab him.

But to their shock, something astonishing happened.

Five minutes!

Ten minutes!

Twenty minutes!

Approaching thirty minutes, more than ten people looked at each other in shock; this far exceeded normal human breath-holding capabilities.

But Lin Beichen showed no signs of trying to escape or becoming agitated, instead remaining very calm, with closed eyes as if resting.