

Battlefield 101

Chapter 101: Top Hunter (Purple)

The ink-black night enveloped the world, with the full moon hanging high, casting a cold ghostly light.

Under the moonlight, a figure swiftly darted by, black wings sprouted from his back, with each flap stirring up gusts, moving so fast that he appeared as a fleeting black line across the night.

Behind him, a mantis chased relentlessly, its wings, thin as a cicada's, appeared semi-translucent in the moonlight, yet possessed astonishing power with rapid vibrations, persisting in pursuit.

Whoosh~

A bullet shot backward, silent as a whisper.

The mantis twisted its body, executing a nimble roll, letting the bullet brush past.

Qin Tian turned to look back, confirming his tactics were correct.

Activating the Night Demon Wings increased his speed by 200%, while the mantis lost its terrifying ground-based explosive power, unable to catch up with just its pairs of translucent wings.

If he hadn't purposely held back, slowing down, he would have long since left the mantis far behind.

Whoosh whoosh whoosh~~

Three bullets formed a pin-shaped path, blocking the mantis's escape route.

The mantis decided against dodging, vibrating its wings, using its hard shell to tank the Shadowstrike sniper shots.

Clink clink clink~~

The Spiritual Energy bullets hit the carapace, unable to penetrate, only leaving shallow white marks.

Qin Tian frowned, aiming at one of the mantis's compound eyes, draining his Spiritual Energy, Physical Ability, and Spiritual Power, pulling the trigger twice in quick succession.

Clink!

The first bullet was sliced apart by the mantis, the smooth cut showcasing its incredibly precise and swift sword technique, not expecting a follow-up bullet.

Moreover, this bullet was augmented by the Burning Embers Critical Strike.

Bam!

The bullet hit the compound eye precisely, and with a bang, the eye exploded, causing the mantis, so calm and assassin-like until now, to finally let out a sharp screech.

"Now, the hunter and the prey have swapped places."

Qin Tian smirked slightly; on the ground, he wasn't a match for the mantis, but the sky was the Night Demon's playground.

The hunt began.

Whoosh whoosh whoosh~~

Bullet after bullet shot towards the mantis; under the intense pain, the mantis's response lagged, one bullet hitting another compound eye, while two more perforated the translucent wings.

The wings lacked the hardness of the carapace and shattered directly into pieces.

Without the support of its wings, the mantis screamed as it plummeted to the ground.

Swish!

A black figure flashed; Qin Tian appeared above the mantis, gun pointed, pulling the trigger continuously.

The first bullet was sliced by the mantis, the second as well.

With Black Wings flapping, Qin Tian, like a ghostly apparition, appeared around the mantis, sending bullet showers to vital points, eyes, head, joints...

In the air, the wingless mantis couldn't dodge, no matter how fast it swung its blades, unable to fend off bullets from all directions.

Bam!

A bullet slipped through an eye wound, exploding inside its head.

The mantis's head instantly burst open, its body plummeting even heavier to the ground.

Bam!

The headless mantis landed on a mound amidst a cloud of dust.

Evolution Points surged by 21,000, a purple orb drilling into Qin Tian's body.

Name: Top Hunter (Purple)

Type: Passive Talent

Introduction: As a Top Hunter, you possess an extremely keen sense of aura. When prey approaches, you can sense and lock onto its presence immediately, tagging it as prey. During a chase, your hunter's bloodline activates; your aura dramatically withdraws, speed increases by 70%, and attack power increases by 50%. If prey is isolated, each attack will definitely deal 120% critical damage. When pursuing multiple prey, each kill increases all attributes by 5%, stacking up to 10 times. In stealth, your first attack increases damage by 100%, with a chance to ignore defenses, inflicting real damage directly.

The mysterious power flowed within, Qin Tian's eyes flashing, a wild and cold aura spreading from within him.

It was the aura of a Top Hunter.

Soon, the body modification completed.

"This talent suits me perfectly."

Qin Tian's mouth slightly curved; the Top Hunter talent, though not enhancing his physical attributes as much as the Night Demon or Barbaric Dominator Body, provided sharper perception and significant buffs when facing single or multiple enemies.

In future encounters, the first thing to do is tag enemies, drastically receding aura, increasing speed by 70%, attack power by 50%.

In one-on-one fights, each attack will also deal 120% critical damage.

This series of chained buffs skyrocketed combat power instantly.

Furthermore, he was inherently skilled at Stealth, and the first attack post-Stealth could deal an additional 100% damage, with a chance of true damage.

Immensely powerful.

Thank you, little mantis.

Qin Tian glanced downward at the headless corpse.

This mantis was formidable on the ground, possessing terrifying explosive power and a hard carapace, making it a tough opponent.

Fortunately, the mantis underestimated him and chased him into the sky.

In the sky, although the mantis was fast, its translucent wings couldn't match his Night Demon Wings.

The crucial point was, despite its explosive physical traits, the mantis lacked Spiritual Energy abilities like other Spirit Beasts, leaving its unprotected compound eyes as a fatal flaw.

Qin Tian tossed the mantis's body into the Spatial Bag, then with a flap of Black Wings, flew towards the Mist Plain.

Whoosh

The fierce wind hit his face.

Quickly, Qin Tian saw the spider army.

In the white mist, hundreds of spiders carried unconscious people, marching in rows. Ahead of them, five yellow insects, over ten meters long with drill-like heads, wriggled, clearing paths leading underground.

In the high sky, Qin Tian gripped the Shadowstrike tightly, the Thermal Perception revealing the yellow insects' forms clearly. Locking onto one insect's head, he marked it as prey, activated the Burning Embers Critical Strike, and forcefully pulled the trigger.

The bullet spun rapidly towards its target, hitting with precision.

Bam!

The insect's head exploded, viscous liquid raining down like a torrential storm, with a green light orb flying up, entering Qin Tian's body.

At that moment, all insects and spiders turned their heads upward.

Under their watchful eyes, Qin Tian remained unfazed, repeatedly pulling the trigger.

Headshot, headshot, and more headshots.

All yellow insects died, and spiders were picked off one by one.

Despite the spiders' fury, spewing spider silk above, the silk couldn't reach Qin Tian high in the sky.

Green light balls, like fireworks, rose into Qin Tian's body, Evolution Points continuously refreshed.

Just when Qin Tian thought he could annihilate the spider army this way, a will filled with wrath descended, striking his soul like a heavy hammer.

Puh!!

Qin Tian spat a large mouthful of blood, with blood seeping from his eyes and ears, his head feeling like it was splitting, causing him to cry out in pain.

Chapter 102: Seeking Help, Sand Control

So painful!

Qin Tian's face was deathly pale. This was his first time enduring such a pure spiritual attack; it felt like several knives were violently stirring in his mind, leaving him breathless from the pain.

Whoosh~~

Black Wings flapped, soaring skyward like a rocket, flying farther and farther.

Stopping thousands of meters high in the air, seeing no more spiritual attacks, Qin Tian wiped his nosebleed and finally sighed in relief.

"Thankfully, I almost fell."

A strong sense of fear filled Qin Tian's heart.

Spiritual attacks have a range; the farther the distance, the less the damage.

If he had been flying a bit lower just now, he might now be a soul-less shell.

Spiders, mantises, invisible insects

And an incredible amount of spiritual power

Qin Tian suspected the mastermind was likely a rare Beast Taming Spiritualist.

Beast Taming Spiritualists are a niche stream among Spirit Mages.

During the cultivation of spiritual energy, they focus on enhancing spiritual power and form contracts with Spirit Beasts using secret techniques, letting the beasts fight for them.

Some powerful Beastmasters can even open up a personal beast taming space with some spatial artifacts, keeping numerous Spirit Beasts with them to summon when needed in battle.

However, this combat style also has some unavoidable flaws and hidden dangers.

First, nurturing Spirit Beasts consumes a lot of resources; the more the beasts, the greater the consumption. If these resources were invested in oneself, the effects would be more significant; but if they are spread across several beasts, the enhancement is quite limited.

Moreover, Spirit Beasts have thoughts of their own, and in battle, they cannot be commanded as precisely as robots by the Beastmaster. Coordinating multiple beasts is a major challenge; any miscoordination could lead to disastrous consequences.

Finally, Beastmasters who invest all their time and energy into their beasts themselves become weak points in the combat system, making them vulnerable.

Because of this, the path of the Beastmaster has always been a niche, maintained only by certain bloodline families.

No doubt, those people taken away by the spiders have surely been brought underground, either as food or for some other use.

Although Qin Tian wanted to rescue them desperately, he was indeed powerless at the moment.

"Forget it, let's assess the situation first."

Qin Tian calmed down, and when he was in a better state, he activated the Night Demon Bloodline, creating a crow doppelganger, flapping its wings, diving downwards.

The crow pierced through the clouds, through the fog, and finally landed on the ground below.

The spider army was nowhere in sight; even the spider and large bug Qin Tian had just shot were gone, along with the citizens of Mist Town.

"Sorry."

In the sky, Qin Tian's expression darkened. As the commander of the 137th Battalion, protecting the people was his duty and mission; yet, despite his best efforts, he couldn't protect them in the end.

"No, this must be reported quickly, and have someone sent for rescue."

Qin Tian thought, but suddenly, he realized a grave issue.

Who should he report to?

His direct superior was Yan Qing, but Yan Qing hadn't replied to him in several days.

As for the other military superiors, could they really be trusted?

Qin Tian frowned deeply. The former commander Liu Dalong went missing, along with several Spiritualists, yet so much time had passed, with the Military Department doing nothing about it, as if they completely ignored this matter.

Moreover, the government parallel to the military also remained silent.

Mist Town seemed like an isolated island, forgotten by everyone.

During this time, he received a transfer order, appointing him as the acting commander of the 137th Battalion, without any form of communication, and his superior Yan Qing hadn't been in touch at all.

The whole process was rushed and bizarre.

After arriving at Mist Town, the state of the whole town made him more uneasy; a mist caused everyone to fall asleep. If not for his Body of Ten Thousand Poisons, which made him immune to certain substances in the underground water, he might not know whether he would live or die by now.

"Who can I truly trust?"

Qin Tian's eyes flickered intensely; at this moment, he realized his biggest problem—his network was too narrow.

Besides Yan Qing, he couldn't find anyone to communicate with and trust.

The Earth Dragon Team members, and his classmates in the Special Warfare Department, did not have the capability to get involved.

After considering, maybe only one person was worth a try.

Qin Tian opened his smart bracelet and dialed a number.

"Hello~"

On the other end, a deep voice with a trace of sleepiness answered.

"Principal Zhang."

Qin Tian's voice was heavy: "There is something I'd like to ask of you."

...

"What, you were transferred to Mist Town as acting commander? How come I don't know about it?...The former commander went missing, no one dealt with it, what on earth is the Military Department doing?...What, another few hundred people were taken? Okay, I'll contact someone right away."

Zhang Meng hung up the phone, no longer sleepy, waves rising in his heart.

He knew Yan Qing recently attended a secret meeting, unable to communicate with the outside for a short period, so before the trip, Yan Qing entrusted him to take care of Qin Tian.

But right when Yan Qing was away, Qin Tian was suddenly transferred to a border town as an acting commander, and this town was evidently in the midst of a vortex.

Zhang Meng knew clearly that if Yan Qing were around, this transfer order could not have been implemented.

Someone must have bypassed the Seventh Bureau, using underhanded means to move Qin Tian and throw him into a pit.

But what could their motive possibly be?

Qin Tian was just a Clone, having no real value.

Could it be that someone intends to take advantage of the situation, using Qin Tian as a wedge to strike against Yan Qing?

But even if they captured Qin Tian, what could they use to threaten Yan Qing?

If I help Qin Tian, would it play right into some people's schemes?

Zhang Meng's mind was jumbled; with different identities and perspectives, his considerations were entirely different from Qin Tian's.

Qin Tian's purpose was to have Zhang Meng find reliable people, whether from the military or elsewhere, to send someone to rescue the citizens as soon as possible.

But Zhang Meng, having experienced countless brutal battles and witnessed many power struggles, worried about deeper layers.

Due to differing thoughts, some matters may not develop as Qin Tian expected.

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Returning to the camp, as the mist gradually dissipated, no one in the military camp woke up.

Qin Tian couldn't wake them, so he had to temporarily return to the room, waiting for Zhang Meng's response.

Seizing this opportunity, he first evaluated the gains from tonight's battle.

First was the skyrocketing 120,000 Evolution Points, mostly obtained from hunting spiders.

In addition, he acquired four new talents:

[Light Distortion] Green, [Spider Silk] Green, [Top Hunter] Purple

And a talent gained from killing the big yellow bug

[Name] Sand Control (Green)

[Type] Active Skill

[Introduction] You can control sand, making it flow according to your will

Chapter 103: Ice Condensed Divine Jade, Death Warrior

120,000 Evolution Points can transform any Blue Skill into a Purple one

or can enhance all his Green Talents to Blue.

However, Qin Tian is not ready to use these Evolution Points yet.

In different scenarios, talents that are rarely used may become effective.

For example, in the forest before, it was fortunate that he preserved a few thousand Evolution Points, allowing him to upgrade [Thousand Faces] to [Illusion], which led to the feat of annihilating the Vampires.

Therefore, these Evolution Points can be temporarily reserved, waiting to be purposefully enhanced according to the development of the situation.

For Qin Tian, the most important thing currently is to find a way to compensate for his weakness in Spiritual Power.

If this problem is not solved, he will be unable to confront the mastermind behind the scenes.

Among the numerous talents, none is related to Spiritual Power.

Strengthening talents is a dead end.

Fortunately, Qin Tian has another path to take.

Military Points Exchange

Back on Alpha 7 Star, he amassed a total of 70,000 Military Merit Points,

After exchanging for Spirit Essence Pill, Black Frost Blade, Secret Technique, Life Spirit Liquid, he still had 18,200 Military Merit Points left.

He has kept these Military Merit Points unused, waiting to use them as circumstances dictate.

Now is the right time.

The Military Merit Points exchange system operates independently, with no interference from anyone.

Thus, Qin Tian can confidently browse and choose, without worrying about resource constraints.

He carefully explored the Silver Gray Star's Military Department treasury, filtering out items related to Spiritual Power.

Eventually, Qin Tian set his eyes on one item.

Ice Condensed Divine Jade

This item is from the Leng Family, one of the Nine Great Holy Bloods.

The Leng Family are masters of ice and snow, where their coldness transcends temperature, freezing the soul itself.

Among the Nine Great Holy Bloods, the Leng Family is adept at dealing with souls.

For instance, the "Frost Meditation Technique" cultivated by Qin Tian was created by the Leng Family.

Ice Condensed Divine Jade is a soul-protecting treasure crafted by the Leng Family, which keeps its wearer calm and has a soul-protection function. In the event of a Spiritual Attack, the Divine Jade activates automatically, forming a mental shield, and also aids in Spiritual Power cultivation.

The price of Ice Condensed Divine Jade is exorbitantly high, costing 15,000 Military Merit Points.

You should know, the Shadowstrike Rune Spear only costs 2,600 Military Merit Points, and with it, Qin Tian has defeated several Tier Four and even Tier Five formidable enemies, while the price of the Divine Jade is nearly six times that of Shadowstrike.

It's imaginable how high the quality of this jade is.

Qin Tian did not hesitate and immediately placed an order.

The Ice Condensed Divine Jade not only assists in resisting Spiritual Attacks but also aids in daily mental cultivation, making it perfectly suited to his current needs.

No regrets with the purchase, no worries about being cheated.

Soon, a successful order confirmation was given by the system, and due to its high price, the Ice Condensed Divine Jade would be dispatched from the Silver Gray Star warehouse and delivered to him in the shortest time possible.

As time slipped quietly by, the sky gradually lightened with a subtle glow.

The mist that lingered throughout the night began to transform under the gentle caress of this soft light.

Initially, the white mist was thick and dense, like an invisible wall, tightly encasing the world, with visibility less than three meters, engulfing everything in chaos.

But at this moment, the mist seemingly enchanted by a spell, became lighter, intertwining strands weaving, and then slowly settling, the once-thick fog transformed into an ethereal scene, resembling a fairyland on earth, mesmerizing people and momentarily disconnecting them from worldly disturbances.

This is the renowned magnificent scenery of Mist Town that attracts numerous tourists.

"Huh? How did I fall asleep?"

The on-duty soldier slowly opened his eyes, scratching his head. While this should be a terrifying incident, he merely paused briefly, then continued his watch, as if what happened was an insignificant trifle.

Inside the barracks, soldiers rose one after another. They glanced at the white mist outside the window, expressed brief surprise, and then quickly assembled as usual.

Qin Tian stood by the window, watching the rapidly assembling troops outside, eyes flashing with a subtle glint.

The morning drill proceeded as usual, with no sign of Qin Tian throughout.

It wasn't until a military flying device descended over Camp 137 that the soldiers saw their Camp Commander Qin.

The cabin door opened.

A tall, upright soldier walked out from the flying device, immediately spotting Qin Tian, walked over rapidly, saluted, and said:

"Major Qin Tian, here are your items, please verify and receive them."

"Alright."

Qin Tian presented his credentials, swiped them on the machine to confirm identity, then received a sealed iron box from the soldier.

"Thank you," Qin Tian said.

The soldier saluted again, left without tarrying, directly boarded the flying device, departing under the gaze of all soldiers.

For a moment, many soldiers cast their eyes on Qin Tian and the iron box in his hand, curiosity plain in their gaze.

What on earth could warrant a military flying device being dispatched specifically to Mist Town?

It must be something incredibly valuable.

Returning to the office, just as Qin Tian sat down, he heard a knock on the door.

Qin Tian's eyes flickered, and he said:

"Come in."

Squeak.

The door creaked open, and Zhao Nuo walked in.

"Camp Commander Zhao, is something the matter?" Qin Tian asked.

Zhao Nuo smiled and said: "Camp Commander, I knocked myself out drinking last night and didn't take care of you properly when returning, so I came to apologize. Did you rest well last night?"

Qin Tian: "It was alright, just some pesky bugs annoyed me, I swatted quite a few to death."

"Oh, there were bugs? I'll immediately order a full camp cleanup today, and not a single bug will be spared," Zhao Nuo said angrily.

Qin Tian nodded: "I'll leave it to you, Camp Commander Zhao."

"I guarantee completion of the task."

After speaking, Zhao Nuo's gaze flitted to the iron box before Qin Tian, asking: "Camp Commander, is this something exchanged from the military treasury? I'm quite curious, may I know what's inside?"

"This?"

Qin Tian wiped the smooth, cold surface of the iron box and said slowly:

"Inside are some anti-bug items, particularly effective against those hidden deep, yet always giving themselves away."

Hearing this, Zhao Nuo's expression subtly changed, and he awkwardly said:

"Camp Commander, what do you mean by that?"

Qin Tian lifted his gaze, his tone inexplicable:

"Since I arrived, first Tu Changsong questioned my strength in public, then during the company training, someone forced my hand, and last night, poison was found in my meal. Camp Commander Zhao, it

seems you've been involved every time something goes wrong, and now, seeing me exchange Military Merit Points for materials, you couldn't wait to come here. Your little schemes are somewhat clumsy."

After hearing these words, Zhao Nuo's facial expression vanished immediately, eyes turning cold, and he said slowly:

"Qin Tian, you're much trickier and smarter than I expected."

Qin Tian said blandly: "Thanks for the compliment. Also, stop staring at the iron box, the item inside has long been hidden away."

Zhao Nuo's eye corner twitched, and after staring at Qin Tian for a few seconds, he coldly said:

"Qin Tian, in this world, relying on wit alone doesn't get you far."

"Oh, really? Then tell me, what should one rely on?" Qin Tian said calmly.

"Relying on ruthlessness, hatred toward others, and even more so toward oneself."

As the words fell, Zhao Nuo suddenly struck his chest fiercely, colliding with the glass and falling downwards.

At the same time, a furious, shrill voice echoed throughout the military camp.

"Qin Tian, we had no grudge or enmity, yet you would kill me for power!!"

A moment later, numerous soldiers rushed over upon hearing the noise, only to see Zhao Nuo uttering a wretched cry, blood mixed with pieces of internal organs gushing out of his mouth.

Seeing this, the soldiers swiftly turned their heads and saw a familiar figure next to the shattered window.

It was indeed Camp Commander Qin!

Qin Tian stood by the window, looking at the troops quickly assembling outside, a gleam flickering in his eyes.

He really was a Death Warrior, this was trouble.

Chapter 104: Absconding Out of Guilt

Swish

A group of soldiers stood by Zhao Nuo's corpse. Zhao Nuo's eyes stared wide open at the sky, filled with unwillingness, his shirt ripped open at the chest, clearly displaying a massive bloodied handprint.

Deputy Battalion Commander Zhao is dead.

He was killed by Camp Commander Qin due to issues of power.

The soldiers stood frozen, the piercing, angry voice echoing in their minds.

"Qin Tian, I have no grievances against you, yet you kill me for power!!!"

Indeed, after Camp Commander Qin arrived, both major and minor affairs were still being managed by Camp Commander Zhao. Ye Zhongyi, Master Liucheng, and Tu Changsong, the three Spiritualists, weren't very convinced by Camp Commander Qin.

As the top leader, Camp Commander Qin definitely felt displeased with this. In a fit of anger, he killed Camp Commander Zhao.

Murdering comrades is absolutely a capital crime in the military.

Does power truly make people lose their rationality?

Swoosh~

A figure suddenly appeared beside Zhao Nuo's corpse.

Everyone looked closer; it was none other than the culprit, Camp Commander Qin.

Swish

All at once, the soldiers backed away as if avoiding a plague, their eyes filled with complex emotions: anger, confusion, and fear.

Qin Tian crouched down, examining Zhao Nuo's injuries.

The blow Zhao Nuo hammered on his chest wasn't hard enough to cause death; his quick demise must have another reason.

"Stop!!!"

At this moment, an angry shout came from the side.

Ye Zhongyi, Master Liucheng, and Tu Changsong, the three Spiritualists, rushed over in anger, glaring at Qin Tian.

"Qin Tian, you ungrateful scoundrel."

Tu Changsong glared at Qin Tian like a vicious wolf, speaking hatefully:

"Camp Commander Zhao treated you sincerely, willing to hand over military power to you. Because you're unfamiliar with military affairs, he took the responsibility for you."

"And now, you kill Old Zhao just to seize back military power."

"Camp Commander Zhao was truly blind to believe in you all along."

Qin Tian stared at Tu Changsong, his gaze deep and mysterious.

Zhao Nuo was a Death Warrior, and always inseparable from Zhao Nuo, Tu Changsong had a big suspicion too, maybe even a pawn of the mastermind.

After Zhao Nuo's suicide, I am undoubtedly the prime suspect. Zhao Nuo's death would certainly be reported to the Military Department, and the investigation team would soon arrive at Mist Town.

By then, I would be detained.

Once detained, I would be at the mercy of others.

Qin Tian believes, that after orchestrating this for so long, the mastermind first transferred him to Mist Town, then made Zhao Nuo commit suicide. He definitely won't let me go easily, instead wanting something from me.

Looking at it now, the greatest possibility is that piece of Amber.

"No, I can't stay here any longer."

Qin Tian thought secretly, staying here would just fulfill Zhao Nuo's wish. Yan Qing is absent, and Zhang Meng alone as Deputy Headmaster can't protect me.

Run, must run.

Even if I carry the identity of a wanted fugitive, I can't fall into the trap.

"Zhao Nuo wasn't killed by me; he committed suicide. I will explain to the superiors."

Qin Tian said calmly and then headed towards the office.

Bang!

Tu Changsong stepped across in front of Qin Tian, gritting his teeth, saying:

"You think your background is strong enough to bury this matter? Let me tell you, no way!"

"I will inform the superiors, make sure to severely punish you, a villain harming comrades. Today, you're going nowhere, stay here obediently."

Bang

Ye Zhongyi and Master Liucheng immediately moved their steps, surrounding Qin Tian.

"With us here, you won't escape!" Ye Zhongyi said sternly.

The three Spiritualists took the lead, and suddenly more soldiers gathered, forming a wall of people, encircling Qin Tian completely.

"A life for a life!"

Master Liucheng shouted, raising his arms.

"A life for a life!"

"A life for a life!"

The soldiers shouted in unison, their angry denunciations like a tsunami, surging towards Qin Tian.

Yet, Qin Tian stood tall, his gaze calm and steady, like an ancient, immovable reef, unyielding to the crashing waves.

"A life... for a life!"

Tu Changsong eyed Qin Tian, then quickly advanced, flames igniting on his fists, resembling two fireballs charging at Qin Tian's face.

"Qin Tian, die!"

The angry and violent shout resounded through the camp.

The heatwave rushed towards him, Qin Tian squinted his eyes, then swiftly kicked a side kick, striking Tu Changsong's chest.

Sizzle

Electric light burst out from his foot.

Tu Changsong's fist had just swung halfway when his body, like a soccer ball strongly kicked, flew high diagonally, then heavily crashed into the crowd.

Puff!

Tu Changsong spat a mouthful of blood, shock and dismay filled his eyes.

Such quick feet

Such terrifying strength

Is he really just a Tier Two, One Star Spiritualist?

Instantly, the scene fell silent.

No one expected Qin Tian to kick the strongest among the three Spiritualists, Tu Changsong, flying, and even coughing blood.

Such a powerful figure, who in Battalion 137 can stop him?

Qin Tian turned to look at Ye Zhongyi and Master Liucheng. When his gaze fell, the two froze instantly, their hearts gripped tightly, almost unable to breathe.

Qin Tian withdrew his gaze, not intending to strike the two.

He glanced around, then took a step like a nimble bird, leaping over the layers of the human wall, disappearing before everyone's eyes.

Camp Commander Qin ran?

The soldiers stood dumbfounded, then realized a problem.

Camp Commander Qin ran, isn't this escaping out of guilt

Indeed, he killed Deputy Battalion Commander Zhao.

The killer is him!

Master Liucheng rushed into the logistics room, using a dedicated line to call the superiors and report what happened in Battalion 137.

After hearing the report, the higher-ups boiled over.

Camp Commander Qin Tian of Battalion 137, actually killed Deputy Zhao Nuo for power, and then fled out of guilt.

The leadership was infuriated, immediately dispatching an investigation team to Mist Town to investigate the truth and arrest Qin Tian.

Half an hour later, the investigation team arrived at Battalion 137.

The investigation team consisted of three people, two men and one woman.

The leader was a middle-aged man with a square face, deep and sharp eyes as if he could see through everything, graying hair at the temples, exuding a majestic aura.

The other man had dark skin, tall and robust, like a towering mountain, giving a sense of invincible strength.

The last woman looked twenty-seven or eight years old, with crisp short hair, clean and neat, her fitted military uniform perfectly outlined her figure, the epaulets showing her rank as a Major.

"Director Chen, I'm Tu Changsong from Battalion 137's Special Operations Unit."

Tu Changsong walked over to the three, saluted, then said with red eyes:

"Please help bring justice for our Zhao Camp Commander and severely punish the murderer Qin Tian."

Chen Guofeng's face was serious, returning the salute, saying solemnly:

"Rest assured, the Empire will kill anyone who harms comrades!"

Chapter 105: Investigation and Warrant for Arrest

Morgue

Chen Guofeng, Shi Lei, and Lin Xiaoyue stood next to Zhao Nuo's corpse, examining the injuries.

"It looks like his heart was shattered by a single punch."

Chen Guofeng covered Zhao Nuo's body with a white cloth and said slowly:

"In the 137th Battalion, only Qin Tian has the strength to kill Zhao Nuo with one punch."

On their way here, they reviewed Qin Tian's file.

Top Secret

That's right, even if the higher-ups gave an order, they still couldn't access Qin Tian's dossier.

This exemplifies the status of the Seventh Bureau within the Special Warfare Management Office. This department is directly managed by Marshal Lin and, without authorization, no one has the right to view the files of the Seventh Bureau personnel.

However, they learned that Qin Tian had been undergoing advanced studies at the Eagle Military Academy for a few months and was only recently transferred to the 137th Battalion to serve as the acting battalion commander.

After contacting the Eagle Military Academy, they learned more about Qin Tian's feats.

For instance, he had single-handedly annihilated a Star Thieves group led by a Tier Five Vampire Viscount. His Spiritual Ability Level wasn't strong, but his combat prowess was astonishing.

"Why did he kill Zhao Nuo?"

Lin Xiaoyue asked doubtfully, "He's the battalion commander and more powerful than Zhao Nuo. It wouldn't be too difficult to seize power, so why resort to extremes?"

"Maybe it's a matter of personality."

Shi Lei said in a muffled voice, "Some people are easily impulsive, and I guess he's such a person."

"Regardless, Qin Tian is currently the prime suspect."

Chen Guofeng stated, "The leadership has spoken; we must apprehend Qin Tian and present him as a classic case to the entire army. Additionally, the leadership emphasized strongly that he must be captured alive."

"Sigh, is it really worth it? To kill and flee just for a bit of power?"

Lin Xiaoyue sighed, seeming to feel a slight regret for Qin Tian, who had originally had a promising future, now all gone due to an impulsive act.

"Boss, I asked just now, and Qin Tian's communicator is already off, so we can't pinpoint his location," Shi Lei said.

Chen Guofeng nodded, not disappointed at all; anyone with a bit of common sense knows to turn off communication devices when on the run.

"Xiao Yue, let's get to work."

Chen Guofeng said.

"Understood!"

Lin Xiaoyue nodded and exited the morgue, speaking to Tu Changsong at the door:

"Go find me some personal items of Qin Tian, like a towel, blanket, or unwashed clothes; anything would do."

"Okay, I'll do it right away."

Tu Changsong personally ran to the dormitory and arrived at Qin Tian's room.

At this moment, the door was tightly locked.

Tu Changsong didn't hesitate, kicking it open.

However, upon seeing the situation inside, he was dumbfounded.

Inside, the room was empty; mattress, blanket, pillow, toothbrush, towel... all items had disappeared, leaving only a bare bed and a few empty cabinets.

Tu Changsong immediately reported this situation back to Chen Guofeng and the others.

After hearing this, the three exchanged looks, their eyes filled with suspicion and surprise.

"Did he know I was coming?"

Lin Xiaoyue's eyebrows furrowed slightly, "Could someone have tipped him off?"

"Impossible."

Chen Guofeng declared, "The order was directly given to me personally by the higher-ups. It didn't go through anyone else, so there's no way it was leaked."

"So, he prepared for this just in case."

Lin Xiaoyue said in a tone of amazement, "Thinking of all this during a guilty escape, this guy is too cautious."

Chen Guofeng's brow slightly furrowed; Qin Tian's actions had obviously caught him off guard.

Lin Xiaoyue is a Bloodline Martial Artist with an extremely keen sense of smell, able to track target individuals by scent.

With this ability, Lin Xiaoyue has achieved great feats over the years and is often dispatched to pursue some military criminals.

This time, the higher-ups still sent him along with Shi Lei and Lin Xiaoyue. Who would have thought they'd hit a snag right from the start?

"Boss, what should we do now?" Lin Xiaoyue looked at Chen Guofeng.

"Let's check the surveillance first."

Chen Guofeng called Tu Changsong over, expressing the need to view the surveillance footage. Tu Changsong immediately agreed and led the three to the surveillance room.

"Look, this is Qin Tian."

Tu Changsong pointed to the fleeting figure on the screen, gritting his teeth and saying, "He ran after injuring me."

"The mist is so thick, it's hard to see the face clearly."

Lin Xiaoyue zoomed in, but the screen seemed to have a white veil, always obstructing the view.

"Officers, this is the distinctive feature of our Mist Town. At this time every year, heavy fog engulfs the area, shrouding the entire town in mist," Tu Changsong explained.

"Xiao Yue, can you see which way he was heading?" Chen Guofeng asked.

Lin Xiaoyue: "Once he left the military camp, we lost sight. Boss, I think it's best to apply for a warrant for his arrest. Judging by the current clues, it's going to be very hard to find him with just the three of us."

Chen Guofeng pondered and slowly nodded:

"That seems to be our only option. Xiao Yue, you should go see if there are any other clues in Qin Tian's room."

They had come with full confidence, Lin Xiaoyue locking onto the target, while he and Shi Lei planned to capture him easily. But the result had taken them completely by surprise.

Lin Xiaoyue arrived at Qin Tian's room, slowly pacing through every corner to see if he could catch even a whiff of scent.

The room was especially empty; all small items were gone.

"Strange, how did he manage to take everything away?"

Lin Xiaoyue's brows furrowed slightly. The blanket, mattress, towel, clothes, teacup, and other personal items combined would at least fill three suitcases. How had Qin Tian, in a fugitive state, managed to carry these and flee?

"How about it, any clues?"

Chen Guofeng entered the room and asked.

Lin Xiaoyue shook his head, "He's cleaned up so thoroughly that even if I did it myself, it couldn't be cleaner. Boss, I feel like someone like that wouldn't impulsively kill."

Chen Guofeng's expression remained unchanged, "Whether or not he did it is a matter for later. Our job is just to take him into custody."

"Very well, but I really can't do anything. Boss, apply for the arrest warrant then," Lin Xiaoyue reluctantly stated.

Chen Guofeng thought it over and could only agree to this suggestion.

Soon, Chen Guofeng reported the investigation's findings to the higher-ups and applied for the issuance of an arrest warrant targeting Qin Tian.

In the face of a major case, all procedures moved swiftly.

Twenty minutes later, a fresh arrest warrant was officially issued, spreading within the Silver Gray Star military system. Due to the major scandal, it was not yet released publicly.

...

In the shadows of the 137th Battalion warehouse, a figure loomed indistinctly.

Indeed, Qin Tian had not fled; he had doubled back. He had purposely let the surveillance see him escaping, then used Shadow Jump to arrive at the warehouse, capturing every word of Chen Guofeng and the others' conversation with his super hearing.

Though it was extremely dangerous, and if discovered, he might not even be able to escape, Qin Tian decided to take the risk.

"Arrest warrant."

Qin Tian's gaze was deep; Zhao Nuo's so-called suicide, the arrival of the investigation team, the order to capture him alive... he increasingly believed that there was nothing simple about this matter, and there must be insiders among the high military command behind it.

He could no longer trust anyone.

Chapter 106: Uncovering the Truth

Eagle Military Academy

Beep beep beep

The smart wristwatch vibrated, and Zhang Meng glanced at it, a hint of surprise appearing on his face.

"Hello, Principal Han."

Zhang Meng's tone carried a touch of coldness and distance. Since their last big argument, his relationship with Han Feng had been strained, and they usually ignored each other when they met. He hadn't expected Han Feng to contact him today.

"Principal Zhang."

Han Feng's calm voice came through, "Your student Qin Tian has been wanted by the Military Department for harming fellow soldiers."

What!!!

Zhang Meng's eyes widened, blurting out:

"Impossible!"

He hadn't interacted much with Qin Tian, but he knew the character of this Cloned Soldier student.

Calm, cautious, focused

Such a person couldn't possibly harm fellow soldiers.

Moreover, Qin Tian had just reported the situation in Mist Town to him, and in less than half a day, trouble arose for this guy, with such a heinous crime.

Zhang Meng found it hard not to suspect that this was a conspiracy against Qin Tian.

No, it was more likely a ploy targeting Yan Qing, using Qin Tian as a pretext.

"Principal Zhang, Qin Tian is a student of Eagle Military Academy. Logically, if he committed a crime, the school should expel him immediately."

Han Feng said calmly, "However, this student has a special status, and until the official verdict is in, I can temporarily retain his student status."

Being wanted only means Qin Tian is a suspect

The criminal's identity can only be determined after a military court verdict.

Zhang Meng didn't expect Han Feng to show leniency towards Qin Tian, and after a moment of silence, he said:

"Principal Han, I thank you on behalf of Qin Tian."

"No need, I'm just doing my job, and I also don't believe that student would impulsively kill. Moreover, the arrest warrant was personally approved by Xiahou Yang, and no matter whom you approach, it won't help. Right now, only Yan Qing can assist him."

Beep~

The call ended

Zhang Meng paused, a complex expression appearing in his eyes.

Xiahou Yang was the Deputy Commander of the Military Department on Silver Gray Star. His personal approval of the arrest warrant signified that there was no room for maneuver.

Han Feng was warning him not to attempt to find someone to acquit Qin Tian; he had been away from the army for years and didn't have extensive connections. If the person he sought couldn't be trusted, it could backfire and lead Qin Tian into a trap.

Although he and Han Feng didn't get along well, he had to recognize Han Feng's favor in this matter concerning Qin Tian.

...

Battalion 137

"Boss, come here, I found something interesting."

Lin Xiaoyue waved, and Chen Guofeng and Shi Lei walked over, staring at the surveillance screen.

"This is last night's surveillance footage."

Lin Xiaoyue dragged the progress bar, saying:

"Look, last night's fog was much denser than it is now, almost nothing was visible, but it was relatively clear inside the dormitory building."

"As you can see, last night only Qin Tian walked out of the dorms; no one else left the dormitory door."

"Now look at this."

Lin Xiaoyue switched the angle, "This is the gate guard; there were ten warriors on duty, and when the thick fog came, they..."

Snap~

Lin Xiaoyue pressed the pause button

"They all fell unconscious."

In the thick fog, the soldiers on duty couldn't be seen clearly, only faint outlines were visible. However, whether a person was standing or collapsed was apparent.

All unconscious

Chen Guofeng and Shi Lei frowned, and then they saw Qin Tian arrive at the gate, check the soldiers' status, and then disappear into the fog.

"Don't you think this matter is quite interesting~"

Lin Xiaoyue's tone rose, eyes reflecting intrigue, "A great fog caused the entire military camp to fall asleep, except for one person who was awake, and this person killed their deputy commander allegedly because of a failed power struggle."

"Boss, I feel there's something hidden behind this incident."

"That's not our concern."

Chen Guofeng said solemnly: "The arrest warrant has been issued, and our top priority is to capture Qin Tian. Whether there's more behind this, we'll find out after catching and interrogating Qin Tian."

Lin Xiaoyue shrugged: "Alright, I'm just saying. But if we had really captured Qin Tian this morning, we wouldn't have discovered this now."

"Since we can't find Qin Tian at the moment, we might as well start from this point; maybe we can make a breakthrough."

Chen Guofeng considered for a moment and nodded:

"Alright, you start investigating."

They were a task force; capturing Qin Tian was naturally the top priority, but since they had no leads on Qin Tian's capture, they could start with the fog and follow this direction to investigate.

Knock knock knock~

Just then, a knock sounded on the surveillance room door

"Enter."

Tu Changsong walked in, smiling:

"Three officers, it's almost time for a meal. Would you like to go to the small cafeteria or can I invite you to dine in town?"

"We'll eat at the cafeteria." Chen Guofeng said.

"Alright, we have prepared some good dishes, including Mist Town's special rice wine. You can come have a taste." Tu Changsong said with a smile.

"Okay."

...

Outer City of Mist Town

Poof

A small mound of soil on the ground rose up, and a figure emerged from underground, not covered in too much dirt.

"Sand Control talent is quite handy."

Qin Tian stamped his foot, and the mound below him promptly returned to its original shape.

Night Demon Wings take to the sky

Sand Control goes underground

And being underground is much more stealthy than being in the sky, making it very useful for escaping.

At this moment, the fog had not dissipated, and the entire town was still shrouded in mist

Qin Tian changed into an ordinary face and then carefully entered the town, avoiding people and surveillance cameras throughout the process.

Once inside the town, he specifically chose small alleys without cameras, the fog shrouding everything. There were few pedestrians on the streets, which should have been bustling and lively, with tourists everywhere taking photos in this specialty town. Now it looked like Ghost City, devoid of any life.

At a spot on the street, Qin Tian saw a young guy with yellow hair smoking, intricate tattoos covering his bare forearm, not looking like a good person.

"You'll do."

Qin Tian's eyes flickered.

The events of the past two days convinced him that residents of the entire Battalion 137 and even Mist Town had been affected by some substance, causing them to fall asleep when the fog came.

And this must have been caused by the mastermind behind the scenes who manipulated the insect army that night.

Therefore, he decided to investigate from this angle, finding a resident of Mist Town to understand their physical condition to find the reason for the collective unconsciousness.

Swoosh~

He ghosted behind the yellow-haired youth, knocking him out with a hand chop, then dragging him into a hidden alley to check his body.

Spiritual Power poured out like an X-ray, scanning every inch of Huang Mao's body from head to toe.

No problem below the neck

Which left only the most complex and dangerous part—the head

Spiritual Power cautiously ventured into Huang Mao's mind, and in the next moment, Qin Tian's face changed.

It turned out to be this kind of thing...

Chapter 107: Soul Devouring Worms

Inside Huang Mao's head, a semi-transparent worm suddenly awoke, opening its mouth to let out a soundless scream. The next moment, Huang Mao's body trembled violently, a look of pain appearing on his face.

"What is this thing!"

Qin Tian's expression changed slightly, instinctively channeling his spiritual power to strike at the worm.

He did not expect the worm to be surprisingly fragile, losing its life completely with just a jab of spiritual power.

At that moment, Huang Mao stopped trembling, his whole body going limp.

Qin Tian gently placed Huang Mao on the ground, a flicker of dark light flashing across his eyes.

Worm

It turned out that the cause of the town's residents and the 137 battalion soldiers falling into a deep sleep was actually a transparent worm.

Looking at it this way, the substance in the underground spring must be the worm egg.

But exactly what species is this worm, being able to go undetected by spiritualists.

Qin Tian opened Huang Mao's smart wristwatch, searched the entire Insect Race encyclopedia, and after browsing, he finally found the answer.

Soul Devouring Worm

This is a kind of worm that can parasitize in the human brain. When the worm egg enters the human body, it grows rapidly with the nourishment of the body, while simultaneously releasing a special hormone to confuse the body, making people automatically ignore its existence.

The Soul Devouring Worm is very terrifying, constantly influencing human thoughts and feeding on human spiritual power, gradually growing. The higher the host's spiritual power, the faster it grows.

From Soul Devouring Worm to Soul Worm, Soul Devourer, Brain Worm, and finally to Celestial Soul Dominator, capable of easily destroying a planet.

In the thousands of years of history of the Galaxy Empire, there have been several Insect Race crises, and although they were ultimately survived, the price the Empire paid was unimaginable.

And in the battles with the Insect Race, the Soul Devouring Worm is one of the races the Empire fears the most.

Due to its unique growth characteristics, many spiritualists are unable to detect the presence of the Soul Devouring Worm, and their behaviors and thoughts would change unknowingly, gradually becoming puppets of the Insect Race.

Clearly, the person behind the scenes uses Mist Town's military and civilians as the host body of the Soul Devouring Worm, using these ordinary people and spiritualists to cultivate it.

Without external interference, these people could not discover the Soul Devouring Worm inside them at all.

Now, Qin Tian finally understood why everyone fell into a deep sleep upon the mist's arrival.

Why there is a continuous disappearance of people in Mist Town, yet there's very little information seen online.

It's not that they couldn't discover it, but even if they did, the Soul Devouring Worm would make them overlook it.

However, during its larval stage, the Soul Devouring Worm does not have much self-awareness, and how it affects the host had to follow the instructions of a higher-tier Insect Race, meaning that there must be an upper-level Insect Race near Mist Town, possibly a Brain Worm, or something even more terrifying.

Thinking of this, Qin Tian grew more thankful for having the Body of Ten Thousand Poisons.

When the worm egg entered his body, the Body of Ten Thousand Poisons activated itself, killing all the worm eggs in the water. Otherwise, he would be carried back to the nest by the spiders, unsure of life or death like the others.

At this moment, Qin Tian suddenly thought of a question.

Zhao Nuo might not be an accomplice of the one behind the scenes, or rather he did not commit suicide willingly, but was controlled by the Soul Devouring Worm.

No, if it was this level of Soul Devouring Worm, it couldn't control the mind of a Tier Three Spiritualist.

The worm in Zhao Nuo's brain must be a high-level Soul Devouring Worm.

Should I check it out?

Qin Tian hesitated for a moment. If he could confirm Zhao Nuo had a Soul Devouring Worm in his mind, he could clear his name.

However, his concern was that the investigation team aimed not to uncover the truth but to detain him and hand him over to Wen Chengxian.

Besides Yan Qing, he couldn't trust anyone.

Additionally, Zhao Nuo's corpse is in the military camp morgue, if he goes to check it, he might be discovered by the three investigators.

After pondering for a moment, Qin Tian finally decided to inspect Zhao Nuo's corpse.

First, to find evidence to clear his name.

Second, perhaps he could also acquire a talent related to spiritual power.

Right now, he desperately needed this kind of talent.

Of course, even if he goes, he has to consider the timing and strategy.

The night is about to fall.

When night comes, his mobility and concealment will be greatly enhanced.

By then, it would be the best time for him to take action.

Qin Tian glanced at Huang Mao under his feet, then stepped away.

About ten minutes later

Huang Mao opened his eyes, clutching his head, a look of confusion and pain in his eyes.

"Why am I here, my head hurts so much, what on earth happened."

After a moment of clearing his thoughts, some memories suddenly surged into his mind.

Huang Mao's body stiffened, and he spoke with terror:

"Ghost City, this is a Ghost City, no, I must leave here now! Right away!"

He scrambled up, heedlessly rushed out to the street, flagged down a taxi flying device, and said nervously:

"Go, to Deep Blue City."

The driver glanced at Huang Mao, saying:

"300."

"300 is fine, just leave this ghost place quickly."

"Alright!"

The driver started the flying device, soaring it into the sky.

But ten minutes later, the flying device returned to Mist Town, stopping on a desolate hill outside the town.

The driver dragged a corpse out of the flying device, throwing it carelessly aside, a flicker of dark light flashed in his eyes.

.....

The night enveloped the land.

Morgue

Under the pale light, a corpse lay on the table, wrapped in a body bag, a faint stench lingered in the air.

In a dark corner, a figure slowly emerged.

Threads of black mist flowed out from him, blocking the light. Soon, the entire morgue fell into darkness.

Qin Tian unzipped the body bag, revealing Zhao Nuo's lifeless body.

He placed his hand on Zhao Nuo's head, his spiritual power probing inside.

He saw, a thumb-sized blue worm lay motionless in the brain, but once spiritual fluctuation appeared, the worm instantly awoke, releasing a burst of strong spiritual power against Qin Tian.

This is——Soul Devourer

Qin Tian's pupils tightened, a stabbing pain shot through his mind, and amidst the mental struggle with the Soul Devourer, he was actually at a slight disadvantage.

Clap

Qin Tian swiftly covered Zhao Nuo's mouth, releasing toxic gas in one go.

The Soul Devourer, although strong in spirit, was physically fragile, plus it was still in its larval stage, unable to withstand the erosive poison, losing its life in less than two seconds.

A blue orb flew into Qin Tian's body.

Qin Tian let out a sigh of relief and checked the talent information.

[Name]Soul Devourer (Blue)

[Type]Active Skill

[Introduction]You can release a soul seed, residing in a living being's body, making it follow your command, meanwhile, you can also directly devour its soul, gaining memory fragments, enhancing spiritual power.

"Indeed, Zhao Nuo was controlled by the worm."

Qin Tian's eyes sharpened, the Insect Race hadn't appeared for over a thousand years, many have forgotten the terror they brought.

Yet, a thumb-sized Soul Devourer could make a Tier Three Spiritualist willingly commit suicide. Such a situation truly terrified Qin Tian.

"Qin Tian, you dare come back."

At this moment, a voice filled with authority resounded inside the military camp.

Immediately following, three auras locked onto Qin Tian.

Chapter 108: Battle with the Investigation Squad

Crack

A figure burst through the window, sprinting into the night towards the military camp's perimeter.

Whoosh~ whoosh~~

At that moment, dozens of wind blades approached from behind, emitting sharp whistling sounds.

Qin Tian paused, turned, and swung out a Thunderbolt Slash.

Raging lightning tore through the wind blades, scattering tiny whirlwinds that left marks on the ground.

Swish

A figure stepped through the air, with azure winds beneath his feet, elegantly supporting his body like clouds.

Chen Guofeng looked down at Qin Tian, saying indifferently:

"Qin Tian, you've got some nerve, daring to come back here."

Swish~ swish

Two more figures swiftly appeared from the white mist, surrounding Qin Tian.

"Qin Tian, it really is you."

Lin Xiaoyue looked at Qin Tian with interest, saying, "Such a cautious person like you, and you still came back to check on Zhao Nuo's body. Do you think Zhao Nuo wasn't killed by you, so you want to find clues from the corpse?"

"Hey, if there's really something that isn't straightforward, you might as well speak up here."

Qin Tian looked at them calmly and said:

"If I speak the truth, will you let me go?"

"Well... no."

Lin Xiaoyue shook her head, "Our primary task is to bring you back to the Military Department. Of course, if you're wronged, we'll provide evidence to help you, so you better tell us everything you know so we can help you the best we can."

Upon hearing this, Qin Tian shook his head:

"In that case, there's nothing more to say, I won't be going back with you."

"Stubborn fool!"

Shi Lei stepped forward, his voice low, bright yellow Spiritual Energy gathered in his hands, then he punched out, the Fist Aura like a seal smacked towards Qin Tian, at the same time a heavy pressure settled on Qin Tian.

Earth Element Spiritualist

A flash appeared in Qin Tian's eyes, he drew his saber and swept horizontally, the blade met the Fist Aura, a giant force conducted along the saber blade, forcing Qin Tian to step back a few paces, making clear footprints on the ground.

Seeing this, Chen Guofeng and his companions made a preliminary assessment of Qin Tian's strength.

Shi Lei is a Tier Five Two Star Spiritualist, possessing Bronze Level bloodline, the fact that Qin Tian could withstand Shi Lei's probing punch indicated he at least had Tier Four combat power, but still some gap from Tier Five.

Nothing threatening

Chen Guofeng struck with a palm, azure wind transformed into a dragon, roaring towards Qin Tian.

Lin Xiaoyue watched with a smile, blocking Qin Tian's retreat path with her body, her role in the team was clear, use her abilities to find people.

As for the fighting, that was up to the two big brothers.

Roar~~

The Wind Dragon dived down, its terrifying aura locked onto Qin Tian.

He couldn't use Shadow Jump, nor could he avoid it, he had no choice but to face it head-on.

"Have to give it all!"

A ruthless gleam flashed in Qin Tian's eyes, awakening the two hidden powers within his bloodline.

[Bloodthirsty Frenzy] – All attributes increased by 60%

[Overlord Body] combat power increased by 150%

Hunting Mark, speed increased by 70%, attack power increased by 50%

Bang!!!

A wild and volatile aura erupted, Qin Tian's muscles surged, dark golden Spirit Patterns emerged beneath his clothing.

Meanwhile, in his hand, the blade crackled with electricity, the amethyst glow a sharp streak, instantly tearing through the thick mist.

Against the backdrop of the heavy night, that light was extremely dazzling, as if it would illuminate the entire darkness.

Thunderbolt Saber, Sixth Form, Furious Thunder Break

Sizzle~~

The amethyst Thunder Saber struck the Wind Dragon, thunder rumbled instantly, and fierce gales surged.

The Wind Dragon roared, tearing the lightning apart, then crashed into Qin Tian's chest.

Crack

The sound of bones breaking echoed, Qin Tian flew backward dozens of meters like he'd been hit by a speeding truck, crashing heavily to the ground and spitting a mouthful of blood.

"Why persist, the boss is a Tier Six Spiritualist, no matter how you struggle, it's futile."

Lin Xiaoyue looked leisurely at Qin Tian lying motionless in the distance and said slowly:

"It'd be better to surrender early, we save some trouble, and you take less of a beating, no need to break your bones."

Chen Guofeng floated in the air, reaching with one hand, azure winds swirled like ribbons towards Qin Tian, about to bind his body.

At this moment, Qin Tian, who had been motionless, suddenly took off like a rabbit, sprinting to the distance even faster than before, showing no signs of broken bones.

What!

Chen Guofeng frowned, immediately chasing after him.

Whoosh!

The azure winds beneath him howled, like a car's nitrous boost, speed suddenly surged, quickly closing the distance to Qin Tian.

Yet, Chen Guofeng had to admit, Qin Tian's speed was frighteningly fast, other System Spiritualists, even at Tier Six, might not catch up to Qin Tian.

The heavens rained down wind blades, flying towards Qin Tian at tricky angles.

Chen Guofeng didn't want to kill Qin Tian, but letting him suffer a bit was acceptable.

Feeling the piercing pain from behind, Qin Tian's eyes flashed as he glanced at a slight mound ahead, lightning erupted beneath his feet, activating Ninefold Thunder Flash.

With a burst of speed, he let all the wind blades miss.

However, under Chen Guofeng's control, the wind blades curved, firing at Qin Tian horizontally.

Seeing the wind blades about to cut Qin Tian's back.

At that moment, the ground beneath Qin Tian's feet suddenly caved in, causing him to fall, letting the wind blades brush past above his head.

What!

Chen Guofeng frowned, immediately flying to the collapse above, looking down.

He saw a dark hole leading downward, but Qin Tian was nowhere to be seen.

Chen Guofeng dove into the hole, but before reaching the bottom, the sides of the tunnel exploded, collapsing it and burying him inside.

Shi Lei and Lin Xiaoyue ran over quickly, as an azure figure burst from the ground, standing in front of them.

"Shi Lei, Qin Tian is down there, open up a path." Chen Guofeng said in a deep voice.

Shi Lei, being an Earth Element Spiritual Martial Artist, wasn't adept at magic, but even as a Martial Artist, by Tier Five he had considerable earth control ability, opening a tunnel was no problem for him.

"Okay."

Shi Lei intertwined his hands, bright yellow Spiritual Energy surged underground.

Rumble

The earth squeezed outwards, quickly creating a new tunnel at the original site.

"Xiao Yue, now it's up to you."

Chen Guofeng dove into the tunnel, scouting ahead for his teammates.

Lin Xiaoyue followed closely, entering the tunnel she found it very narrow, even she had to stoop, squeezing her body, and the burly Chen Guofeng and Shi Lei could hardly move.

"Boss, I already smell him, but this path is tough, Brother Lei, help widen the way." Lin Xiaoyue said.

"Alright!"

Shi Lei unleashed his Spiritual Energy, an invisible force widened the tunnel, earth compressed outwards, a spacious path gradually unfolded before the three.

"Chase!"

Chen Guofeng took the lead, Lin Xiaoyue in the middle, Shi Lei holding the rear.

Under Lin Xiaoyue's guidance, they quickly pursued in one direction.

Chapter 109: Stink Bomb and Shifting Mindset

Within the narrow passageway

A crow flapped its wings, moving forward all the way.

"Have they caught up?"

The crow turned its head, emitting a human voice from its mouth.

That's right, this person was Qin Tian.

The ability to transform into a crow was a manifestation of the Night Demon Avatar's powers.

With his personality, it was impossible for him to head to the 137 Military Camp without any preparation.

The tunnel was one of the escape routes he had reserved for himself.

The tunnel was deliberately designed to be narrow, aiming to restrict the burly Chen Guofeng and Shi Lei, making it difficult for them to catch up.

However, he didn't anticipate that Shi Lei, being an Earth Element Spiritualist, could also control the sand and earth, breaking through his terrain setup.

Fortunately, he wasn't solely relying on this one preparation.

"A keen sense of smell isn't always advantageous~"

A hoarse voice echoed in the passage.

The next moment, several hollow plastic balls burst open on both sides of the tunnel, yellow gas spewed out from the plastic balls, carrying an extremely pungent stench, just like the odor of expired stinky tofu, rotten fish and shrimp, and foul sewage thrown into a septic tank and left to rot for a month.

Behind

"Ugh!!!"

Lin Xiaoyue suddenly stopped in her tracks, her gallant and pretty face turning ghastly green as she bent over and vomited violently, almost to the point of fainting.

"Xiao Yue, you..."

Just as Chen Guofeng was about to ask, he too caught a whiff of the intense stench, his stomach churning violently, his face changing from blue to white.

Whoosh!!

A fierce wind battered forward, blowing the stench back.

But at this moment, Lin Xiaoyue was already incapacitated, her nostrils filled with the stench, almost about to explode, the world around her spinning as she found it hard to keep her balance.

"Bastard!"

Chen Guofeng roared angrily, immediately speeding forward, but before he could run far, a fork in the tunnel with three directions appeared before him.

Shi Lei, carrying the nearly unconscious Lin Xiaoyue, paused at the three-pronged fork and mumbled:

"Just how many tricks does this guy have up his sleeve."

Chen Guofeng clenched his fists, his gaze filled with rage, but at the same time, he was gradually certain of something.

Given the means and mindset Qin Tian had exhibited, it was impossible for him to have killed Zhao Nuo in broad daylight.

There was indeed more to this matter than met the eye.

It seemed this kid had offended someone.

.....

Poof~

A figure broke through the soil

Qin Tian stomped his foot, the soil swiftly flowed to the entrance, filling up the tunnel.

"Luckily, those three only intended to capture me, not take my life, otherwise it could have been dire indeed."

Qin Tian mused, just a moment ago, Chen Guofeng's move of Condensing Wind into a Dragon directly penetrated his defense, breaking most of the bones in his chest, if it were anyone else, they wouldn't have been able to stand up after that.

Fortunately, his self-healing ability was astonishing, rapidly recovering his injuries within two seconds of feigning unconsciousness, seizing the opportunity when the three were careless, he decisively fled, diving into the pre-prepared tunnel.

Chen Guofeng is a Tier Six Spiritualist.

Even without a bloodline, a Tier Six Spiritualist could easily crush him, so he was glad that Chen Guofeng didn't go for the kill, in return, the toxic gas in the passage was merely malodorous, not highly harmful to a Spiritualist.

However, for someone with a keen sense of smell, that stench was worse than being stabbed with a knife.

.....

"Ugh~~"

Lin Xiaoyue held onto the toilet, vomiting nonstop.

"Damn... ugh... Qin Tian, I'm going to kill you!"

Lin Xiaoyue muttered weakly, her face pale, her nose numbed by the stench, could not smell anything now.

"Was it really that smelly?"

Shi Lei touched his nose. He did detect a pungent smell earlier, but it was quickly dispersed by Chen Guofeng and did not make much of an impression.

"How could it not be smelly... ugh!"

Lin Xiaoyue retched to the point of nearly emptying her bile, her body turning limp.

Chen Guofeng said helplessly:

"A keen sense of smell can be a weakness sometimes, I didn't expect Qin Tian to be aware of Xiao Yue's abilities and prepared strategically against it."

"This kid is really uncanny~"

Shi Lei couldn't help but remark, among the many fugitives he's captured over the years, Qin Tian wasn't the strongest, but he was definitely the most cunning.

Meticulous mind, numerous methods

He found it hard to imagine that a Thunder and Dark Dual Element Spiritualist could excavate such a complex tunnel in such a short time on his own.

"Indeed uncanny."

Chen Guofeng nodded and said: "However, I am now starting to believe that Zhao Nuo wasn't killed by Qin Tian."

"Ugh... Captain, why are you speaking for that bastard?"

Lin Xiaoyue said angrily while continuing to vomit, just thinking about the "torture" she endured earlier made her want to tear Qin Tian into pieces to vent her anger.

"I remember, you were the one who initially said this matter had something fishy about it."

Shi Lei said to Lin Xiaoyue: "Why are you changing your tune now."

"That's because Qin Tian is a bastard, a big bastard!"

Lin Xiaoyue gnashed her teeth.

"This girl."

Shi Lei found it amusing, you were the one speaking for Qin Tian and now you're the one who's against him, how can you say both good and bad things.

At this time, Chen Guofeng slowly spoke:

"Xiao Yue, after returning to the camp, Tu Changsong reported a situation to me."

"Zhao Nuo's head was bashed in."

What!

Lin Xiaoyue was instantly shocked. Qin Tian deliberately returned to the camp, certainly not to vent anger by bashing Zhao Nuo's head, doing so did not benefit him at all and only put him in danger.

This guy had so many deceitful tricks, he wouldn't do anything meaningless.

If that were the case, then someone else must've bashed Zhao Nuo's head.

Who it was wasn't certain

But it was highly likely it was someone from within the 137 Battalion.

No wonder the boss started believing that Qin Tian wasn't the one who killed Zhao Nuo.

Turns out the root is here~

"Boss, what should we do now, should we continue prioritizing the capture of Qin Tian, or investigate the truth."

Lin Xiaoyue couldn't help but ask, naturally with her personality, she leaned towards uncovering the truth, but of course, if they did encounter Qin Tian, she would absolutely shove a pile of dung into his mouth before cuffing him.

Whoosh~

Chen Guofeng raised his hand, creating an Azure Wind Barrier in the room, ensuring that their conversation would not be overheard by outsiders by creating a vacuum layer.

"I suspect Qin Tian might be a scapegoat in the high-level power struggles."

Chen Guofeng stated his analysis, "His file is top-secret, indicating his unusual background, meticulous in action, and multiple means suggest he underwent rigorous guidance and training, if nurtured for a few more years, he definitely has the potential to become a successor to some major figure."

"There's a high probability that someone doesn't want Qin Tian to grow, thus orchestrating this act to justifiably eliminate him, serving as a sacrifice for a major figure."

"Hmm, it makes sense, really makes sense."

Shi Lei nodded frequently, greatly agreeing with Chen Guofeng's deduction.

"Boss, should we really get involved in this matter? It seems whether we do or don't, we'd offend someone." Lin Xiaoyue asked.

"Exactly, hence it's time to find someone to share the attention."

Chen Guofeng said slowly, "Xiao Yue, organize the recent developments and report to superiors, emphasizing the challenging aspects of Qin Tian, and request superior support."

Lin Xiaoyue's eyes lit up as she nodded:

"Understood."

Chapter 110: Deep into the Tiger's Den, Brain Worm

That night, Lin Xiaoyue finished organizing the materials and reported to the higher-ups.

In the materials, Lin Xiaoyue described Qin Tian as a deep-minded, cunning and tricky guy, emphasizing the difficulty of dealing with him, and applied for assistance from other teams.

Soon, the Military Department responded, reprimanding Chen Guofeng for inadequate leadership, and sent three more investigation teams to Mist Town.

After arriving in Mist Town, the three teams immediately went into action. They were experts in tracking, using various abilities and methods to pinpoint Qin Tian's whereabouts.

However, Qin Tian himself was a top hunter and knew all too well how to hide himself.

After a morning of hard work, the three teams came up empty-handed, with no leads at all. They realized that lingering further was only a waste of time.

Therefore, the investigation team reported the situation to the higher-ups.

Seeing that the three teams made no breakthroughs, the Military Department decided not to waste elite forces in Mist Town and promptly withdrew the four investigation teams, issuing a wanted order to various units and airlines.

At ports, stations, and other transportation hubs, all units were to conduct strict inspections, and report immediately upon discovering any trace of Qin Tian.

After the investigation teams left, Mist Town and Battalion 137 returned to their previous pace of life.

With the battalion commander and deputy battalion commander absent, the most powerful Tu Changsong temporarily took the position of acting battalion commander. The government and the security station received reports of missing persons from the public, but after processing the reports, everyone seemed to automatically ignore the matter.

The town functioned normally, only more dilapidated than before.

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A week later

The night was like water.

In a vacant room, a man sat cross-legged on the sofa, suddenly opening his tightly shut eyes.

"Found you."

Qin Tian stood up, a gleam flashing in his eyes.

The window opened, and the light around Qin Tian suddenly distorted. Then his figure vanished, as if erased out of thin air. Minutes later, he arrived at Mist Plain.

Plop plop plop

The ground swelled into small mounds, and then a large group of yellow small snakes drilled out from underground.

This was a special breed of snakes, sand snakes, that Qin Tian had bought after a long detour from a breeder.

Unlike ordinary cold-blooded snake species that loved moist environments, sand snakes lived in deserts and were adept at digging and burrowing.

After buying them, he let them explore Mist Plain freely, communicating with the sand snakes using the talent of [Master of Snake Spirits] to share their perspective.

Just now, in the shared perspective of the sand snakes, he discovered a hidden passage, which had very obvious traces of artificial construction.

Therefore, he judged that the passage most likely led to the lair of the mastermind.

"Having prepared for so long, it's time we met."

Qin Tian looked over the ground, a fierce look flashing in his eyes.

He was never one to take hits without striking back.

That damned guy had caused him to be wanted by the entire military, freezing his ID, bank cards, and turning him into a street rat.

Although he could live as another person through [Illusion], it wasn't what he wanted.

Killing the culprit, finding the evidence, and clearing his name were what he intended to do.

The earth beneath his feet became soft, and soon Qin Tian sank below, disappearing from sight.

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The underground passage was completely dark, the pathway wide enough for three people to walk side by side.

Walking through the passage, Qin Tian, with the combined talents of [Night Demon], [Top Hunter], and [Light Distortion], moved like a ghost in the darkness, making no sound or leaving any trace.

The air in the passage was humid, with a faint musty smell and other indescribable odors, like the sour stench of decaying things.

Qin Tian continued advancing through the passage, and every so often, he would crouch down to gently place a few steel beads on the ground.

After half an hour, Qin Tian finally heard some unusual sounds, his eyes sharpened, and he approached even more cautiously.

Soon, a massive cavern appeared before him.

The ceiling was about twenty meters high, with a large pool filled with green liquid at its center. In the pool lay a bizarre-looking creature, five meters long and about three meters tall, its body like a massive lump of flesh, without a hard shell, and a huge head that occupied nearly a third of its body, with a needle-shaped proboscis extending from it.

In front of the bizarre creature, a young man in white sat cross-legged on a stone platform, with a pile of white bones in front of him, and hundreds of spiders crawling at his feet.

"That is..."

Qin Tian stared at the bizarre creature, a terrifying name surfacing in his mind, causing his pupils to suddenly contract.

Brain Worm!

It was actually a Brain Worm!

The Brain Worm was a high-tier commander of the Insect Race, possessing extremely high intelligence and spiritual power, with a complex neural network system inside its giant head, capable of commanding Insect Race soldiers to execute various complex military actions.

In addition, they could devour human brains, converting human intelligence into their own abilities, and absorb the memories, abilities, and languages of their hosts.

The Brain Worm was a superior species to the Soul Devouring Worm and Soul Devourer, continuously secreting mucus in its abdomen to nurture new Soul Devouring Worm eggs.

According to the Encyclopedia of the Insect Race, a mature Brain Worm could exceed 300 meters in size, comparable to a small battleship, while the one before him was still in its juvenile stage.

But its commander's characteristics were already evident.

So that's it, everything is clear now.

Qin Tian's eyes flickered, the young man in white was most likely a Beastmaster, who somehow got hold of a juvenile Brain Worm and signed a spirit contract with it.

The green liquid in the pool was the nutrient solution for the Brain Worm's growth, but at the same time, the Brain Worm also needed to devour human souls to acquire memories and strengthen itself.

Perhaps due to the unique nature of Mist Town, the young man in white set up his lair in Mist Plain, throwing Soul Devouring Worm eggs into the underground Spiritual Spring, turning everyone into Soul Devouring Worm hosts.

Later, in the recurring mist, he abducted local residents and tourists to feed the Brain Worm and other spiders.

After some time of cultivation, the Brain Worm gradually grew stronger, with very powerful spiritual power, able to command Insect Beasts and even influence Zhao Nuo of Battalion 137, causing him to willingly commit suicide.

"You truly deserve to die!"

Qin Tian's gaze was icy cold. The Brain Worm was a great enemy of the Human Empire, and many heroes had sacrificed their precious lives to kill Brain Worms. Yet, the young man in white actively nurtured a Brain Worm, using humans as feed to accelerate its growth.

Such a person was not human anymore.

But a beast.

A beast that disregarded life for selfish gain.

Qin Tian quietly took out Shadowstrike, aimed the barrel at the young man's temple, and placed his finger lightly on the trigger, ready to pull it.

But at that moment, the young man in white suddenly turned his head and gave a faint smile in Qin Tian's direction.

"After hiding for so long, did you really think I wouldn't find you?"

"Qin Tian."