

Battlefield 111

Chapter 111: Brain Worms and Black Holes

Did you discover me?

Or are you bluffing?

Qin Tian's heart sank, choosing to remain motionless, quietly waiting.

The youth in white sneered, waved his hand, and two fireballs flew toward the dark passage.

Bang bang!

With a pair of iron fists, the fireballs exploded, and Qin Tian stepped out of the darkness, calmly looking at the youth in white, asking:

"How did you discover me?"

The youth in white smiled, replied:

"Your ability is indeed peculiar, capable of almost perfect concealment, yet there is one thing you cannot hide: Spiritual Power."

"Ten minutes ago, I sensed your presence."

Qin Tian: "Was it you who sensed me, or was it the Brain Worm?"

The youth in white softly laughed:

"Hundreds of years have passed, I didn't expect anyone would still recognize a Brain Worm."

Qin Tian quietly turned on the recorder in his pocket and said: "I never thought someone would take a Brain Worm as their contract Spirit Beast, aren't you afraid that one day it will usurp you?"

"Heh~"

Hearing the words 'usurp', a trace of disdain appeared on the youth's face:

"This is a concern for ordinary Beastmasters, but not for the An Family. The An Family's secret technique is based on bloodline contracts; the Beastmaster and the Spirit Beast share a bloodline connection that is incomparable to those ordinary soul contracts."

He really is a Beastmaster

An Family

A Beast Taming Clan, huh?

Qin Tian looked at the youth and said: "The Brain Worm is a commander of the Insect Race; once the Empire knows you are secretly cultivating a Brain Worm, it won't just be you; your family will undoubtedly face severe punishment from the Empire."

"Family, what family do I have left?"

A trace of hatred appeared in the youth's eyes: "Years ago, to obtain the An Family's secret technique and the Beast Realm, three Golden Beast Taming Clans conspired to frame my An Family. My family struggled to prove their innocence, but the Judgement Court was already in their pocket."

"The An Family, over a thousand people, were dealt with one by one, with no one to redress our wrongs, and no one caring about our lives or deaths."

"If the Judgement Court is unjust and the Empire is unjust, why should I care about the Empire?"

"I will cultivate a Brain Worm, and I will train it to become a Celestial Soul Dominator, to make the three families, the Empire, and everyone else feel the pain I have endured."

As he spoke, a trace of manic flush appeared on the youth's face, as if seeing the sky filled with the Insect Race responding to his call, following him to destroy the three Great Beast Taming Clans, and also the entire Galaxy Empire.

Is it hatred~

Qin Tian looked at the youth before him as if seeing a dark and twisted soul through his facade.

"I have a question, you can control the people of Mist Town with the Soul Devouring Worm, but what about those outside the town? What means do you use to make the government and military turn a blind eye to Mist Town?" Qin Tian asked.

"Qin Tian, you are more perceptive than I imagined, seeing the crux at once."

The youth in white sneered and said:

"That's right, I don't indeed have the ability to control those outside the town, but how do you know I don't have allies? The military and high-ranking government officials are our people, how do you propose to fight me?"

"Rely on Yan Qing to overturn your case? Heh, don't be naive, Yan Qing is attending a secret meeting, completely isolated from the outside world. By the time Yan Qing returns, you'll be nothing but a skeleton, unrecognizable by anyone."

Upon hearing this, Qin Tian slightly furrowed his brows:

"Just as I thought, Wen Chengxian must be the one trying to harm me."

"Correct."

The youth frankly admitted: "It is indeed Wen Chengxian, he alone has such influence. Qin Tian, the disaster you have invited upon yourself is all because of that Ancient Essence Blood."

"Hand over the Essence Blood, and perhaps I'll make your death less painful."

Wen Chengxian, it is truly you!

Perseverant fellow.

Qin Tian's eyes flashed with coldness, and he said:

"So, you are targeting me like this, causing Zhao Nuo to commit suicide in front of me, and turning me into a wanted man, all because of that piece of Amber, and the Ancient Essence Blood inside?"

Now he finally knew what was sealed inside the Amber.

The Ancient Essence Blood

No wonder it had such allure to him.

"If not for the Essence Blood, I wouldn't want to deal with such a troublesome character as you."

The youth sighed, Qin Tian had not only killed dozens of Spirit Spiders he had painstakingly cultivated but had also caused him agony with the death of that Purple Demon Mantis.

It should be known, the Purple Demon Mantis is a rare species, its talent only second to the mantis in the Beast Realm.

Before the Brain Worm, the Purple Demon Mantis was his greatest reliance.

Yet it was killed by Qin Tian.

When Qin Tian first arrived in Mist Town, he had tested Qin Tian's true combat power through Tu Changsong and a long-haired man during the training.

The result of the test was that Qin Tian should be able to fight an average Tier Four Spiritualist but was definitely no match for the Purple Demon Mantis.

But what he didn't expect was that Qin Tian could fly and used his ability to fly to eliminate his elite henchman.

The Soul Devouring Worm was useless on him

The Purple Demon Mantis couldn't kill him

Zhao Nuo's death couldn't get him arrested

Qin Tian's intractability surpassed the youth's imagination, if not for Qin Tian delivering himself to the trap, coming to his lair, he would have been helpless against this guy.

"Alright, the conversation ends here."

The youth slowly rose, the Brain Worm behind him suddenly opened its eyes, green liquid frantically pouring into its swollen body, and a massive wave of Mental Energy swept outward.

"If not for the Brain Worm being weak in its critical egg-laying stage, I wouldn't waste so much time talking to you."

Boom!!

A terrifying mental pressure descended, hundreds of spiders turned to look at Qin Tian, their crimson compound eyes flashing with savagery and brutality, their mouths opening as endless webs enveloped him.

Qin Tian stood his ground, the Ice Condensed Divine Jade on his chest emitting a blue light, a cool Mental Energy formed a shield within his soul, resisting the mental shockwave emitted by the Brain Worm.

Swish!!

A flash of a thunderous knife cut through all the webs

At that moment, three massive iron balls, each over five meters in diameter, appeared in front of Qin Tian. With a push, they rolled through the spider group like boulders falling from a mountain.

Thud thud thud~~

Webs stuck to the iron balls, fixing them in place.

The youth in white stared at Qin Tian:

"Spatial Ability? Your bloodline is truly unique, but what use are these iron balls? Do you think you can kill me with some iron balls?"

After speaking, the youth glanced at the Jade Pendant on Qin Tian's chest and sneered.

Mental treasure, huh?

Useless, merely delaying your death

The moment you entered the cave, your death was sealed

Qin Tian stared at the youth, his face always calm and slightly indifferent, slowly raised a smile:

"Yes, this is specially prepared for you."

"Next, enjoy the explosion feast."

Swish!

A black hole suddenly appeared under Qin Tian's feet, in an instant, he fell into it, disappearing.

The next moment

Boom!!!!

The surface of the iron balls glowed red, and then, under the youth's terrified gaze, they exploded violently!

Chapter 112: Orange Talent, Spiritual Wisdom Divine Authority

Mist Plain

A black hole appeared above the ground, and then Qin Tian descended from the black hole, landing steadily on the ground.

Bang~bang~

Vibrations continually rose from beneath his feet, and on the system panel, Evolution Points rapidly refreshed, soaring upwards.

A series of Talent Light Spheres flew up from underground, forming a beautiful long river that merged into his body.

The corners of Qin Tian's mouth slightly curved, and he couldn't help but feel a sense of delight and pride.

He knew well that the underground was the lair of the white-clothed youth, and no matter how cautious he was, it was highly likely that he would be discovered by the opponent.

Therefore, he had long prepared a way out.

[Name]Gate of the Black Void (Purple)

[Type]Active Talent

[Introduction]Within a certain range, open the Gate of the Black Void at will, connecting two spaces, to teleport oneself or other objects.

The Gate of the Black Void is an upgraded version of the Black Gate.

The area of the Black Gate is only about the size of a book, just enough to stick in one hand, and the teleportation distance is also very limited. After obtaining this talent, Qin Tian rarely had the opportunity to use it.

But the Gate of the Black Void was different; it was what the secular world called a Teleportation Gate. Its release speed was very fast and could expand to a maximum diameter of five meters, greatly increasing the teleportation distance.

The more Spiritual Power consumed, the farther the distance.

With the Ice Condensed Divine Jade to resist the Brain Worm's spiritual attack, and the Black Gate to aid his escape, Qin Tian had the confidence to boldly invade the enemy's lair.

However, just escaping safely wasn't enough; he wanted revenge, to kill the mastermind who caused him to become a wanted man.

Therefore, after spending 70,000 Evolution Points to enhance the Black Gate, he invested another 55,000 Evolution Points to upgrade the Green Talent [Explosion] to Purple.

[Name]Super Energy Flame Burst (Purple)

[Type]Active Talent

[Introduction]Infuse Spiritual Energy and Explosive Power into objects, and upon detonation, besides producing a devastating physical explosive impact, it releases high-temperature flames carrying special Spiritual Energy fluctuations. These flames not only cause continuous burning damage, but the Spiritual Energy fluctuations also interfere with and erode enemy Energy Defense Systems, weakening their resistance, making the explosion's aftermath even more deadly; simultaneously, the powerful energy impact triggers loaded items nearby to produce chain reactions, forming multi-stage and continuous explosion effects. Each explosion can further expand the destruction range and power level, creating a massive and shocking explosion storm like a snowball effect.

This week, he tried various props, including stones, iron balls, and plastics. Ultimately, steel had the highest adaptability to Explosive Power and could accommodate it to the greatest extent.

He contacted a supervisor at a small steel factory and used Spirit Essence Pills to customize a batch of steel beads and iron balls. Recently, he completed infusing them with Explosive Power, storing them in the Spatial Bag.

Just now, he detonated three large iron balls; after their explosion, they triggered a chain explosion with the steel beads he had scattered all along the way.

Inside the underground cavern, with no space to evade, even if the white-clothed youth wasn't blown to pieces, he would be buried alive by the collapsing land.

Swish swish swish

Several Talent Light Spheres flew into his body, but unfortunately, they were all talents Qin Tian had already mastered, [Spider Silk], [Light Distortion], [Sand Control].

It seemed the insect types cultivated by the white-clothed youth were quite limited, with most resources invested in the Brain Worm.

Qin Tian stared at the ground with an expectant look in his eyes.

What talents would the Brain Worm and the white-clothed youth bring him?

A minute, two minutes, five minutes...

Qin Tian slightly raised an eyebrow; what's going on, are these two so tough that they can't be killed this way?

But quickly, a light sphere flew out from underground, causing his eyes to widen with excitement.

The color of the light sphere was something Qin Tian had never seen before—Orange.

[Name]Spiritual Wisdom Divine Authority (Orange)

[Type]Composite Talent

[Introduction]You have nearly infinite potential in the realm of the soul. With the honing and absorption of the soul, the soul strength will increase at an unimaginable speed, with any Soul-type Treasures and Skills enhancing your benefits by 200%, and Soul Control and Damage Skills reducing their effects by 90%; you can absolutely control other insects through Spiritual Power, commanding them to perform various complex tasks, which allows the Insect Race armies to coordinate and exert powerful combat abilities. Simultaneously, you can also attempt to invade the brains of other creatures, interfering with their thoughts, making them your puppets; in addition, you master the following abilities:

1. Soul Seal: You can plant a Soul Seal in other creatures' souls, making them your permanent puppets.
2. Soul Devourer: You can absorb souls, strengthen Spiritual Power, and gain memories from them.
3. Spiritual Link: You can establish a Spiritual Link with multiple targets, sharing information and transmitting commands.
4. Divine Thought Descent: You can remotely descend your soul onto insects or targets with a Soul Seal planted, gaining their perspective senses while controlling their bodies.

At the moment the Spiritual Wisdom Divine Authority awakened, a surge of heat flowed from the depths of his soul, as if countless fine tendrils instantly spread to every corner of Qin Tian's consciousness. His Spiritual Power, like an unbridled horse, broke free from past shackles, expanding at a terrifying speed.

The previously vague perceptual boundary was now infinitely widened, and he could "hear" the inner murmurs of small insects from afar, those hidden thoughts resonating in his mind like gentle whispers, distinctly echoing.

Qin Tian opened his eyes, a flash of Golden Light passing through his pupils; his mental sea, previously the size of a pond, now became as vast as a lake. With a single thought, his Spiritual Power could cover all areas within two kilometers.

"An Orange Talent, it's really powerful."

Qin Tian murmured, whether it was [Barbaric Dominator Body] or [Night Demon], they increased his physical strength by several times, whereas [Spiritual Wisdom Divine Authority] elevated his Spiritual Power by at least dozens of times.

Of course, this was also related to his initially weak foundation in Spiritual Power, but the various abilities attached to [Spiritual Wisdom Divine Authority] still demonstrated its strength as an Orange Talent.

Yet, Qin Tian didn't expect his first Orange Talent as a Spirit Martial Artist to be related to Spiritual Power.

The talent [Spiritual Wisdom Divine Authority] aligns well with the Brain Worm's nature.

Insect Race Commander

All its abilities are oriented towards control and command, with not much inherent offensiveness, but the growth attributes in the soul aspect are maxed out.

"Thankfully, this Brain Worm is in the larval stage; otherwise, even with the Ice Condensed Divine Jade, it couldn't withstand its spiritual onslaught."

Qin Tian secretly rejoiced, as with the Orange Talent obtained, he realized the terrifying potential of the Brain Worm. If it were at a mature stage, not even a Tier Six or Seven Spiritualist could resist the Brain Worm's mental enslavement, becoming its puppet.

Fortunately, that Brain Worm was still in the larval stage, possessing strong talents but lacking time to grow, so its spiritual attack could be resisted by the Ice Condensed Divine Jade.

Chapter 113: Celestial Guardian Bloodline, Blood Beast Heart Scripture, Beast Realm

The underground no longer trembles, and Evolution Points have stopped refreshing.

Qin Tian glanced at the system panel. After the explosion, the previously depleted Evolution Points surged directly to 740,000, truly filling his coffers.

According to his calculations, if he wanted to enhance the Purple Talent to Orange, it would take at least 1,000,000 Evolution Points, especially for body-related talents, which require even more Evolution Points to upgrade.

So, the few Purple Talents currently have no chance to advance further.

But for the remaining Blue and Green Talents, he could enhance any of them as he wished; there were plenty of Evolution Points.

"Still haven't appeared?"

Qin Tian looked at the ground, still waiting for the talent he expected to appear.

Not dead?

Qin Tian's eyes flashed. The white-clothed youth being able to control the Brain Worm indicated that he was definitely not an ordinary Beastmaster, but one with a bloodline talent. From the youth's words, it was clear he took pride in his family and bloodline, showing that his bloodline level was not low either.

Up until now, the bloodline orb had not appeared, indicating the white-clothed youth was not yet dead.

"It's fine if he's not dead; it just gives me a chance to try my new ability."

Qin Tian focused his thoughts, and the Gate of the Black Void opened in front of him.

Behind the Black Gate, sand seemed to have found an outlet, flowing outwards. Qin Tian waved his hand, and the sand behind the gate parted to the sides, creating a pathway.

Qin Tian entered the pathway, the Black Gate closed, and the ground beneath his feet swirled like a vortex. Soon, a broken body slowly rose from the dirt, lying at Qin Tian's feet.

"Cough~cough~"

The white-clothed youth suddenly woke, coughed twice, spewing sand from his mouth. His body was blown to shreds, his face blackened, barely clinging to life, far from his earlier calm demeanor.

"What... what kind of monster are you?"

The white-clothed youth looked at Qin Tian, his weak voice tinged with a tremble.

The soaring black wings

The burrowing Sand Control

The eerie Gate of Space

The terrifying Explosive Power

He had never seen anyone manifest so many abilities; Qin Tian was a monster, a creature that should not have existed.

"I am not a monster."

Qin Tian crouched, placing his hand on the youth's head, saying calmly:

"I am just an ordinary Clone."

Soul Devourer activated!

Clone?

The white-clothed youth's eyes widened suddenly, and the next moment, excruciating pain erupted in his mind as if someone was reaching into his brain and pulling his soul out.

"No, no, spare me, I can be your slave!"

The white-clothed youth screamed in agony, struggling desperately, yet Qin Tian's large hand suppressed him like a mountain, leaving him immobile.

"Spare me, I can tell you the Wen Family's secrets. It's not just Wen Chengxian wanting to harm you; there are others too, ahhh!"

The youth's screams grew more desperate, veins bulging in his neck and forehead, on the verge of passing out.

"There's no need for you to tell me; I can find out myself."

Qin Tian smiled coldly, then abruptly lifted his hand from the youth's head, bringing up a mass of transparent matter.

Sss~~

He inhaled, the transparent matter like green smoke being absorbed into his mouth, naturally merging into his soul.

An Shaobai, An Family, annihilation tragedy, Silver Bloodline, Beast Taming Clan, Blood Beast Heart Scripture, Beast Realm...

Segments of crucial memories flickered like a slideshow through Qin Tian's mind.

Soul Devourer

One of the powers of [Spiritual Wisdom Divine Authority], it can devour others' souls, enhancing Spiritual Power while acquiring part of their memories.

These memories are fragmented, appearing in pieces, but they are the most important memories of the white-clothed youth.

A moment later

Qin Tian slowly opened his eyes, as a purple orb of light flew toward his chest.

[Name] Celestial Guardian Bloodline (Purple)

[Type] Passive Skills

[Introduction] You can freely communicate with various beings, understanding their inner thoughts, and make them feel close to you. Moreover, your bloodline possesses unique abilities that greatly enhance the growth of Spirit Beasts, strengthening their loyalty.

The introduction to Celestial Guardian Bloodline isn't long, and in terms of ability, it isn't as strong as the [Barbaric Dominator Body] or the [Night Demon] or even the [Poisonous Snake Body].

However, as a Purple Talent, [Celestial Guardian Bloodline] still has its merits, especially when combined with the An Family's Blood Beast Heart Scripture and Beast Realm, its effects are absolutely considerable.

Blood Beast Heart Scripture is the An family's exclusive method, differing from the usual Soul Enslavement Stream Beast Taming Technique, focusing on using bloodline as a link to make Spirit Beasts submit through the power of bloodline, constantly enhancing their loyalty.

The advantage of this is that Spirit Beasts nurtured by the Blood Beast Heart Scripture genuinely feel close to the Beastmaster. Even if their strength surpasses the Beastmaster in the future, they won't turn against them, or even betray them.

The relationship between the white-clothed youth and the Brain Worm is the best demonstration of the Blood Beast Heart Scripture.

Under normal circumstances, even if the Brain Worm was in the larval stage, the white-clothed youth could not possibly make it obey through a Soul Contract.

But the white-clothed youth used feeding blood as a means, making the Brain Worm increasingly attached to him, accelerating its development while interacting, making it increasingly inseparable from him.

Moreover, the Blood Beast Heart Scripture also includes various Secret Techniques, such as sharing vision with Spirit Beasts, combining combat power, and transferring Life Force between each other...

This is a comprehensive Beast Heart Scripture, renowned in the entire Beast Taming Realm.

The Beast Realm was inadvertently discovered by the An family's ancestors; it is like a small room floating in Subspace, with the key held by the An family.

The An family can transport contracted Spirit Beasts into the Beast Realm, and when needed, summon them back through specific rituals.

The existence of the Beast Realm resolves the most common and challenging Spirit Beast carrying issue for Beastmasters.

The combination of the Blood Beast Heart Scripture and Beast Realm propelled the An family's reputation in the Beast Taming Realm, producing many excellent Beastmasters in just a few decades.

However, it also attracted envy from the three major Beast Taming Clans, leading to their tragic annihilation.

According to the white-clothed youth's memories, after that annihilation tragedy, only one branch of the An family remained.

Without control, Spirit Beasts in the Beast Realm were forced to kill each other for survival, until none remained.

Currently, only one creature remains in the Beast Realm.

It's an exotic mantis passed down from the white-clothed youth's ancestors; originally there were two, but the other was already killed by Qin Tian.

The remaining mantis' talent and potential exceeded that of the Purple Demon Mantis.

Unfortunately, this mantis remained in a state of slumber, not awakenable by bloodline feeding even with the white-clothed youth's efforts.

Chapter 114: Spirit Beast Kazik

In the memories of the young man in white, when the explosion occurred, the brain worm created a mental shield to protect both of them inside.

However, the explosion was too intense, and the flames of the Super Energy Flame Burst had the characteristic of eroding energy defense systems, so the brain worm couldn't hold on for long; the mental shield was completely overwhelmed.

At the critical moment of life and death, the young man in white decisively used a secret technique to extract the life force of the brain worm and infuse it into his own body, saving him in the end.

Qin Tian waved his hand, and several pieces of a corpse were brought to his feet by the shifting sands.

It was the body of the brain worm. From several distinct physical features, its identity could still be confirmed.

Qin Tian tossed all these corpses and fragments into the spatial bag, and then the Black Gate flashed under his feet, teleporting him back to the ground.

"Finally done."

Qin Tian relaxed his body. The recent period of mental dueling and strategizing with the young man in white and the investigation team had left him mentally and physically exhausted. Thankfully, he finally resolved the big trouble and also learned some information that was greatly beneficial to him.

Wen Family, Wen Chengxian

Being used as a pawn and still unaware of it

It seems I overestimated you

Qin Tian's lips curled into a cold smile.

The Black Gate kept opening, and Qin Tian stepped through door after door, quickly appearing within Mist Town.

His spiritual power extended outward, and various biological consciousnesses, some weak and some distinct, appeared in his mind.

Soul Devouring Worm, Soul Devourer

Indeed, everyone in the small town is controlled by the brain worm.

The Soul Devouring Worm and Soul Devourer are evolved from the eggs of the brain worm; they are equivalent to the brain worm's soul seal, obeying its commands.

No doubt, Battalion 137 must be the same as Mist Town.

Thus, it can be explained why Tu Changsong and others have always been provocative and hostile towards him, the acting battalion commander.

Most likely, Tu Changsong's actions weren't out of his own volition but were under the involuntary control of the brain worm.

Currently, Qin Tian could directly order all the Soul Devouring Worms and Soul Devourers to leave their hosts.

After pondering for a moment, however, Qin Tian issued new instructions to them, ordering all the worms to immediately enter a lurking state, forbidding them from absorbing others' spiritual power, but at the same time continue influencing the minds of the populace so they maintain their current lifestyle.

Qin Tian feared that if he woke up the populace and soldiers now, the disappearance of hundreds in Mist Town would undoubtedly be exposed, and at that time, the entire Silver Gray Star would be in an uproar.

However, as the continent's overlord, the Wen Family surely have the means to suppress the public opinion, and Wen Chengxian will likely employ all sorts of methods to hide what he has done, thus escaping unscathed.

This is certainly not what Qin Tian wants. What he intends to do is wait for Yan Qing to return, then lay out all the evidence and facts, creating a big hole in the Wen Family before they can react.

Helping the Beastmaster train an Insect Race commander brain worm.

This accusation, no matter what, Wen Chengxian won't be able to wash away.

...

A week later

In a dark forest

A gentle breeze swept through, rustling the leaves.

At this moment, a rush of footsteps could be heard from the depths of the forest, a strange creature running in panic, as if something terrifying was pursuing it from behind.

Its body was composed of a thick tree trunk, the bark rough and cracked, like countless scars engraved by time, with crisscrossing ravines that oozed dark green sap, emitting a pungent smell of rot, its limbs twisted and deformed branches, sharp as knives, stretching at will, with joints connected by tough yet resilient tree sinews, with each movement accompanied by the creaking sound of wood rubbing.

The Wood Demon glanced back, seeing a shadow flying low in the sky in a vague blur.

"Screech~"

The Wood Demon let out a sharp cry, causing weeds and vines to surge wildly, like intertwined whips, wrapping towards the shadow.

Rip!

A burst of black light flashed, slicing the vines and weeds in half.

Sunlight filtered through the gaps in the leaves, forming spots of light that revealed the shadow's true form.

It was a black mantis the size of an adult human, its head sharp like a wedge, with its forehead covered in a hard, glossy black carapace. The piercing blue vertical pupils were like cold stars emitting a chilling and all-seeing light; its slender body was covered in tightly packed black scales that shimmered with a cold brilliance under the light, resembling natural battle armor.

Its back bore a pair of black wings, their patterns mysterious and complex, edges adorned with sharp, chilling bone spurs. Its forelimbs resembled sharp scythes, with purple claws seeming to be dipped in poison, exuding a lethal aura; its long tail was thick, ending in a spike like a menacing spear, announcing its dominance as a top predator in each sway, with fear trailing in its wake.

The black mantis fluttered its wings, hovering low, its vertical pupils coldly fixated on the Wood Demon. In the next instant, its body abruptly vanished, then reappeared from the shadow in front of the Wood Demon, slashing downwards with its scythe-like forelimbs like a bolt of black lightning, aiming at the Wood Demon's neck.

The Wood Demon raised its tree arm to block, but it was sliced off by the mantis.

Splatter~

The tree arm fell away, dark green sap gushing forth.

The Wood Demon shrieked, its body radiating a dark green aura, with branches rapidly growing, forming spikes aimed at the black mantis.

The mantis flew backward, wielding its forelimbs to cut down all the spikes in its path.

"Huff~"

Frustrated at not yet defeating the Wood Demon, the mantis grew angry, with its vertical pupils glowing even colder; its wings vibrated, transforming its body into a bolt of lightning sweeping past the Wood Demon's side.

The Wood Demon's body froze, its dancing spikes suspended in mid-air before dropping limply.

Splurt

A black line appeared in the middle of the Wood Demon's body, with green liquid seeping out, followed by its upper body tilting backward, crashing to the ground.

The mantis perched on a branch behind the Wood Demon, with the blue light in its vertical pupils fading slowly.

"Well done, Kazik."

A figure suddenly appeared beside the mantis, speaking in a tone of approval.

The mantis turned its head, its mouthpiece opening, emitting a hissing sound.

"Okay, I know you want to hunt stronger prey, but you have to take it step by step."

Qin Tian patted the mantis's head, its carapace smooth and cold, like a sheet of metal.

Kazik was the last spirit beast in the Beast Realm, passed down from the young man in white's father, extraordinarily talented, yet with a very peculiar temperament. Even when being fed with bloodline power daily, it wouldn't submit.

Eventually frustrated with Kazik's noncompliance, the young man in white invested all resources into another Purple Demon Mantis, leaving Kazik with only the essentials for survival.

Kazik, being of a resolute nature, entered a dormant state, self-sealed, until Qin Tian awakened him.

Qin Tian's blood was fatally attractive to Kazik, awakening him with just a bowl of it and willingly making Kazik enter into a blood contract with Qin Tian.

From then on, Qin Tian obtained his first spirit beast.

Since it was a mantis, Qin Tian named it after his favorite hero, Kazik.

This week, Qin Tian continuously fed Kazik with fresh blood, with the Celestial Guardian Bloodline and Blood Beast Heart Scripture accelerating Kazik's growth, also having Kazik devour the corpse of the Purple Demon Mantis.

Quickly, Kazik recovered from its weak, newly awakened state to peak strength.

Moreover, Qin Tian astonishingly discovered that Kazik, by absorbing the power in his blood, gradually awakened new abilities.

Shadow Stealth

Optical Invisibility

Black Wings

Highly Poisonous

Frenzy

Chapter 115: Spirit Healing, Yan Qing's Return

Snap

Qin Tian jumped down from the branch and landed beside the Wood Demon.

This Wood Demon had Tier Three strength, but in front of Kazik, who was also Tier Three, it was just a slightly troublesome prey.

Qin Tian placed his hand on the Wood Demon, and soon, two green light spheres flew into his body.

[Name] Plant Assimilation (Green)

[Type] Active Talent

[Introduction] You can assimilate yourself with the surrounding plants, hiding yourself while establishing a close connection with all nearby plants, sharing sensation. Furthermore, you can cause rapid growth of ground plants, manipulating them with your mind.

...

[Name] Vitality Infusion (Green)

[Type] Active Talent

[Introduction] You are able to draw pure life energy from surrounding plants and convert it into healing power, which can be transferred to injured creatures through touch.

"Not bad, finally a healing ability."

Qin Tian nodded with satisfaction.

Lately, he had nothing to do and organized his combat system.

Currently, he had no weaknesses in any aspect, whether in body or soul, close or ranged combat; he was the absolute king of single soldiers.

However, acquiring some team-based talents could be beneficial for his future military career.

Therefore, he searched for spirit beast species and distributions on Silver Gray Star and finally locked onto the target.

Wood Demon

The Wood Demon is a forest spirit, able to perfectly conceal itself in the forest, while lush vegetation serves as the Wood Demon's endless source for drawing blood. It can not only heal itself but also other creatures.

After targeting, Qin Tian took Kazik to Blackwater Forest to hunt the Wood Demon.

Both he and Kazik were top hunters, yet it still took them several days to find a Wood Demon and successfully kill it just now.

[Plant Assimilation] wasn't very useful to him; he could use it for disguising his identity later.

[Vitality Infusion] was very valuable.

It could draw vitality from plants to heal himself or others.

Healing talent, the green level was obviously not enough.

Now was the time when he had ample Evolution Points, so Qin Tian decisively invested 5,000 Evolution Points to enhance [Vitality Infusion] to blue.

[Name] Spirit Healing (Blue)

[Type] Active Talent

[Introduction] You deeply comprehend the mysteries of nature and can keenly capture the life pulses emitted by surrounding plants. Using a unique spiritual sense, you extract plant life essence, condensing it into spirit threads of light, which you can precisely guide to the wounded, automatically integrating into their body. If there is no plant around, you can also transfer your own life force to others.

"Not bad."

Qin Tian's lips curled up; compared to Vitality Infusion, Spirit Healing could more efficiently absorb plant essence and remotely transmit life essence to others, without the need for physical contact.

Moreover, if the surrounding environment did not permit it, he could also transfer his own life force to others.

It sounded somewhat frightening, a feeling of sacrificing oneself for others, but with his current physique, consuming a bit of life force was nothing.

From today onwards, I can also moonlight as a nanny.

"Hissss~"

At this moment, Kazik rubbed Qin Tian's arm, emitting a low hum from its proboscis.

"Still want to keep hunting, huh, alright then, today I'll let you hunt to your heart's content."

Qin Tian patted Kazik's head; Kazik was a top hunter with killing in its genes, and those years of slumber had stifled it.

Beep beep beep

As Qin Tian was about to lead Kazik deeper into the forest, his smart wristwatch suddenly received a message.

This smart wristwatch wasn't his original one but was given to him by the host of some Soul Devouring Worm; the identity information wasn't his own, useful for temporary situations.

The message contained only a few pictures.

The pictures weren't very clear, seemingly taken from surveillance footage.

However, when Qin Tian saw the person in the photo, his eyes burst with sharp light.

Director Yan, you finally came.

"Kazik, sorry, I'm going to break our appointment. I have something very important to do next."

Qin Tian patted Kazik's cold back and said:

"You go and rest in the Beast Realm for a bit; when I'm free, I'll ensure you have a good hunt."

Hiss!!

Kazik swung its scythe-like forelimbs in discontent, but in the end, it was reluctantly sent by Qin Tian using a secret technique into the Beast Realm.

.....

Mist Town

Yan Qing walked down the street, looking at this ramshackle, declining town.

Recently, he had gone to Azure Wood Star for a secret meeting, where he was completely closed off and unable to communicate with the outside world.

Just as the meeting ended and he left the base, his smart wristwatch was bombarded with unread messages.

Upon opening them, the content made his anger skyrocket.

Qin Tian, the cloned soldier he had high hopes for, had been reassigned to a border town as an acting battalion commander while he was at the meeting, and within days, was wanted by the entire military for harming the deputy commander.

Yan Qing knew Qin Tian very well and absolutely refused to believe Qin Tian could do such a thing.

It was clear that someone was deliberately framing Qin Tian, possibly targeting Yan Qing himself.

He booked the earliest spacecraft back to Silver Gray Star, heading straight to Mist Town upon landing at the Star Port.

Along the way, Yan Qing silently observed the town and its residents; with his sharp eye, he quickly noticed something amiss.

Many residential windows were open, with thick layers of dust on the sills. If it were one or two, it might be normal, but dozens or even hundreds like this were very strange.

Moreover, despite lacking any business atmosphere, none of the town's shops actively solicited customers, which was odd for a former tourist town.

"Mist Town, tourist disappearance, Qin Tian's reassignment, investigation team..."

Yan Qing quickly sorted through the timeline in his mind, forming a rough outline of events. Next, he needed to find more clues to complete the reverse analysis and explanation of the entire event.

Beep beep~

At this moment, Yan Qing received a material, which was the information summary compiled by the Seventh Bureau.

After reading it, Yan Qing frowned even deeper.

Special Warfare Management Office, 45th Legion, Xiahou Yang

A mere cloned soldier could prompt multiple high-ranking military officials to act against him; exactly whose interests did Qin Tian touch?

Wen Chengxian?

If it was really him, it meant that amber was truly extraordinary.

As Yan Qing was pondering, a young man approached and politely said:

"Sir, someone asked me to give you this paper ball."

Upon hearing this, Yan Qing's eyes shifted, taking the paper ball and nodding.

"Alright, thank you."

The young man did not say much else, turning around and leaving directly.

Yan Qing opened the paper ball, which had a string of numbers and an address.

Seeing those numbers, Yan Qing's lips slightly curled.

You gutsy little one, you've got quite the nerves.

Chapter 116: Meeting Yan Qing

The night was as calm as water.

Outside Mist Town, a figure slowly approached, finally standing atop a small hillock.

"Qin Tian, come out."

Poof~

The ground beneath became loose, and another figure emerged from the earth.

"Director Yan!"

Qin Tian stood before Yan Qing, his heart swelling with emotion, as if a wanderer, adrift for ages, had finally found a refuge.

Yan Qing's face broke into a smile, stepping forward to pat Qin Tian's shoulder, he lamented:

"You've suffered during this time."

He firmly believed that Qin Tian would never harm his colleagues, and so, he could imagine how distressed and struggling Qin Tian would have felt being pursued by the Military Department, unable to reach his support.

"Qin Tian, tell me, what exactly happened in Mist Town?" Yan Qing asked.

"Alright."

Qin Tian nodded and began recounting his experiences during this period.

Being mysteriously reassigned to Mist Town, the provocations from Spiritualists within the military, their probes during training, suspicions raised at banquets, the first mistfall, the Insect Race's assault on the town, Zhao Nuo's suicide, the arrival of the investigative team, and the Brain Worm deep underground...

While recounting, Qin Tian withheld some details, mainly regarding his own abilities, and made certain modifications to some facts, yet crucial information remained unaltered.

"Brain Worm, are you sure it's a Brain Worm?"

Upon hearing the word "Brain Worm," Yan Qing's expression instantly turned extremely tense.

"I'm sure."

Qin Tian pointed down and said:

"The body of the Brain Worm is buried beneath my feet."

With that, Qin Tian stomped the ground, causing dirt to scatter, revealing fragmented remains before Yan Qing.

Yan Qing crouched down, unfazed by the putrid smell from the remains, carefully inspecting them.

"It's indeed a Brain Worm."

Yan Qing's tone was filled with shock; Brain Worms are commanders of the Insect Race. Hundreds of years have passed, and perhaps many have forgotten the terror of Brain Worms, yet those in charge of secret departments like them have undergone rigorous training, aware of histories inaccessible to the layperson.

The status of a Brain Worm is akin to an Empire's general or even marshal.

It can command millions or billions of insect swarms, and additionally, it can extract memories and intelligence from human captives.

In the Insect Race's evaluation system, the priority for eliminating a Brain Worm absolutely ranks within the top five. Often, the Empire would sacrifice an entire Interstellar Fleet to kill a Brain Worm.

And now, who could have imagined that a future grievous threat to the Empire was slain by Qin Tian.

"Qin Tian, you've achieved a great feat."

Yan Qing remarked earnestly.

"Really?"

Qin Tian blinked, his understanding of Brain Worms was entirely derived from the Star Net, incomplete, hence he hadn't fully realized the horror of Brain Worms, nor considered that killing one could imperceptibly save countless lives.

"Certainly, I dare say once this matter is reported, you won't escape promotion to Colonel, and the Military Merit Points won't be lacking either." Yan Qing stated solemnly.

A Colonel generally marks the pinnacle of a normal officer's promotion.

The jump to Major General requires not only military merits but also consideration of various factors.

Moreover, Qin Tian hasn't served even half a year, regardless of the merits, directly leaping from soldier to Major General would certainly incite criticism from many.

In terms of rank, Qin Tian might be at a disadvantage, but regarding Military Merit Points, the Empire would surely offer appropriate compensation.

Upon hearing this, Qin Tian chuckled bitterly:

"Director Yan, I'm still a wanted man by the Military Department; let's talk about the Colonel rank later. Lifting the warrant is my immediate concern."

"Don't worry, with solid evidence, the warrant will be revoked soon."

Yan Qing remarked:

"Who do you think orchestrated this? A mere Beastmaster couldn't rally numerous high-level military officials."

"The Wen Family, Wen Chengxian."

Qin Tian stated decisively, "Since arriving on Silver Gray Star, I've offended no one but Wen Chengxian. Wen Chengxian has both the capability and motive to set me up, so I'm sure he's the mastermind behind this."

In truth, from the memory of the young man in white, Qin Tian knew the matter wasn't as simple as he made it appear; both Wen Chengxian and the Wen Family were mere pawns being manipulated.

The true mastermind lay elsewhere.

However, this information was something he couldn't disclose to Yan Qing, as he couldn't explain how he obtained such information.

Moreover, he believed Yan Qing could have discerned the flaws in his narrative but chose not to expose him.

Thus, first tarnishing the Wen Family, focusing all attention on them, then using certain methods to help the Seventh Bureau target the real mastermind.

Don't forget, he had an ace up his sleeve.

That ace was Li Qi, the Night Demon Apostle whom he had already recruited.

Li Qi held considerable evidence of the Wen Family's unlawful activities.

Wen Family

Yan Qing's eyes glinted coldly; he had previously thought the Wen Family extended their reach too far, cozying up to several high-ranking officials in the Military Department, often treating the Royal Army as a private militia.

However, the Wen Family was outside the jurisdiction of the Military Department, and the Seventh Bureau had no authority over them.

But now, the situation was different.

Wen Chengxian audaciously collaborated with a deranged Beastmaster, secretly cultivating Brain Worms.

If this were true, the Wen Family's good days would be numbered, and those military officials tangled with the Wen Family would face dismissal or imprisonment.

"Director Yan, whether it's soldiers of the 137th Battalion or all residents of Mist Town, their brains must harbor either Soul Parasites or Soul Devourers. Additionally, I suspect the three members of the investigation team have Soul Parasites within them too."

Qin Tian slowly said, "This evidence should clear my name, right?"

"Rest assured."

Yan Qing smiled and said, "The turmoil this could cause will exceed your expectations; a mere warrant is nothing."

Really?

Qin Tian felt relieved inside; his goals were simple: first, to clear his name and return to normal life, second, to take revenge on Wen Chengxian and completely destroy the Wen Family.

As for the rest, he would leave it to Yan Qing.

"Qin Tian, leave the rest to me."

Yan Qing said seriously, "The warrant will be lifted soon. In the meantime, keep hiding until I inform you."

"I estimate that within five days, the Military Department's inspection team and the Judgement Court will arrive at Silver Gray Star, and by then, I'll need your cooperation in the investigation."

"Understood!"

Qin Tian nodded. He sensed that Yan Qing seemed intent on stirring significant waves, which suited him just fine.

It was best if both the Wen Family and the high-ranking officials targeting him would fall from grace simultaneously.

But there was something he needed to prepare in advance.

The military inspection team and Judgement Court wouldn't overlook the holes in his story like Yan Qing did, so he must thoughtfully plan how to logically explain his various abilities.

Chapter 117: Unveiling the Truth

Within a few hours, Yan Qing had sorted out the materials from Mist Town and reported upward through the channels of the Seventh Bureau.

The appearance of a Brain Worm is a major event.

The Seventh Bureau in the Azure Wood Star Realm, upon receiving Yan Qing's report, immediately realized the seriousness of the issue and reported the intelligence to the higher-ups in the Imperial Capital at the fastest speed.

Once the intelligence reached the Imperial Capital, it soon appeared on Marshal Lin's desk.

Lin Xuanqing had typical Eastern features, with distinct contours. The shallow lines left by time on his face not only did not mar his poise but instead gave him a profound and steady aura, tempered by years of experience.

His jet-black hair was neatly tied behind his head, with strands of silver mingling quietly among them, like special stars shining in the night sky, silently telling the stories of his past vicissitudes and glory.

His eyes were like deep, tranquil pools, calm and unruffled; once they moved, however, his gaze was as sharp as a hawk, seemingly able to see through all hidden plots and schemes in the cosmos.

"Brain Worm~"

Marshal Lin set the document down, speaking in an even tone:

"Inform the Judgement Court of the Azure Wood Star Realm to send personnel to Silver Gray Star to investigate and sternly deal with the responsible parties, with the military aspect led by the Seventh Bureau of the Azure Wood Star Realm, investigating the implicated officers and punishing them severely."

"Yes."

A cold voice echoed in the empty room.

...

Three days later, a large spaceship descended upon Mist Town.

The residents of the small town, having never seen such a large spaceship, all came out to watch intently. Meanwhile, Battalion 137 had already received the news in advance, and all personnel were waiting there.

Whoosh

The hatch opened, and a ten thousand-strong troop disembarked from the spaceship.

Upon reaching the ground, this troop immediately formed a battle formation. Strangely, from their positioning, they seemed to subtly encircle Battalion 137.

"I am Mo Qingshan from the Military Department Patrol Group."

At the front of the troop, a stern man said firmly: "Everyone lay down your weapons and accept the examination."

What, examination?

The soldiers of Battalion 137 looked at each other in confusion.

Clatter

One by one, they placed their weapons on the ground, submitting to the inspection of others.

Soon, a squad of a hundred spiritualists dispersed into various formations, probing their spiritual power into the soldiers' minds.

Soul Devouring Worm

Soul Devouring Worm

Soul Devouring Worm

...

The examination team recorded detailed notes, documenting everyone's condition.

Mo Qingshan looked at the final conclusion; all the soldiers of Battalion 137 had either Soul Devouring Worms or Soul Devouring Worms in their minds. The troop then conducted random checks on numerous town residents.

The results were unchanged.

Everyone had Soul Devouring Worms in their minds.

"Soul Devouring Worms, it's been years since they've appeared."

Mo Qingshan's eyes flickered, perhaps reminded of something, but he promptly reported the findings to the higher-ups.

Soon, the troops sealed off Mist Town.

All residents and soldiers lined up in groups to have the Soul Devouring Worms in their bodies removed by professionals.

At first, the residents and soldiers were terrified, thinking that this suddenly arrived troop intended to harm them.

However, when the first to be treated, Tu Changsong, vomited a green worm from his mouth, everyone was stunned and speechless.

What is happening?

Tu Changsong stared blankly at the soul-devouring worm at his feet, portions of memory flooding back to him.

Concealing the details of Camp Commander Liu's disappearance

Openly questioning the acting commander

Inciting soldiers to attack the officers

Breaking into the morgue and smashing Zhao Nuo's head

Did I do all these things?

How could I have done such things?

Subsequently, the mayor, deputy mayor, the head of the security office, and other leaders also expelled Soul Devouring Worms, their eyes vacant as they looked at the ground, nearly on the verge of collapse.

What have I done?

"Daddy, please save my daddy!"

"My child is missing, please help us find him!"

"Ghost City, this is a Ghost City, let me out, I want to leave!"

As the residents regained their senses, those memories they had ignored surged back, and everyone manifested layers of panic, fear, anxiety, and other overwhelming emotions.

Watching this unfolding scene, Mo Qingshan and many soldiers felt a chill rise from the bottoms of their feet.

Among these people were ordinary civilians, steadfast military personnel, and even Tier Three Spiritualists.

Yet without exception, none were aware of the Soul Devouring Worms in their bodies, and their thoughts and memories had been influenced by the Soul Devouring Worms, making them uncontrollable.

"Terrifying Insect Race."

Mo Qingshan mumbled internally, a small Soul Devouring Worm was already this terrifying, then the superior species to the Soul Devouring Worm, the commander of the Insect Race—the Brain Worm—must be unimaginably horrifying.

At this moment, he suddenly had a strong desire to meet the soldier who turned the tide during this incident.

Qin Tian

...

Silver Gray Star, Military Office Building

"Boss, why did you bring us here!"

Lin Xiaoyue whispered to Chen Guofeng beside him:

"The atmosphere feels off, have you made any mistakes recently?"

Chen Guofeng glanced at her and said:

"Don't jump to conclusions."

"Oh."

Soon, Chen Guofeng, Shi Lei, and Lin Xiaoyue were brought into a room where three people were already waiting.

"Sir!"

Upon seeing the middle-aged general with a half-white head of hair, the three immediately straightened up and saluted respectfully.

"Xiao Chen, the three of you please sit down first."

The general raised his hand, signaling them to sit, then got straight to the point.

"Today's purpose for bringing you here is to inspect your bodies."

Inspect our bodies?

The three were stunned for a moment, they hadn't been on any other missions recently, hadn't been injured, and were in good health, so why the need for an inspection?

The general did not explain, stood up, placed his hand on Chen Guofeng's forehead, and said solemnly:

"Hold your breath and focus."

Chen Guofeng instinctively followed, concentrating his mind.

The next moment, a sharp pain suddenly erupted in his head, as if a small knife had been thrust into it.

"It's indeed a Soul Devouring Worm."

The general let out a cold snort, his massive spiritual power sweeping out like a net, firmly capturing the Soul Devouring Worm and pulling it from Chen Guofeng's body.

Ugh~

Chen Guofeng dry heaved and spat out a slimy worm from his mouth.

What is this?

A worm?

Why is there a worm in the boss's body?

Shi Lei and Lin Xiaoyue were stunned, unable to believe what they were seeing. After all, Chen Guofeng was a Tier Six Spiritualist; how could a worm reside inside him without him ever noticing?

Chen Guofeng stared at the worm at his feet, momentarily stupefied.

"This is a Soul Devouring Worm, a type of insect capable of affecting human mind and intellect. Once inside a human body, it secretes a special hormone causing people to overlook their presence."

The general slowly explained: "During your time in Mist Town, you drank water containing Soul Devouring Worm eggs. After several days of fermentation, the Soul Devouring Worms matured. Fortunately, they were still weak and didn't affect your minds."

Soul Devouring Worm?

Looking at the white, plump little larvae and reflecting on the numerous happenings in Mist Town, a chill surged in the hearts of the three.

Chapter 118: Royal Judgement Court

Ugh~

Ugh~

Lin Xiaoyue and Shi Lei spat out worms. Despite being mentally prepared, they couldn't help but feel a wave of nausea and fear when they saw the worms coming out of their bodies.

"Sir, how did you know that we had Soul Devouring Worms inside us?" Chen Guofeng asked.

The Lieutenant General slowly replied:

"You should thank someone for that. His name is Qin Tian, who was also your previous target to track."

"Qin Tian, that bastard?" Lin Xiaoyue blurted out angrily, clearly unable to forget about that stinking attack she suffered.

The Lieutenant General, surprised by Lin Xiaoyue's intense reaction to Qin Tian, explained:

"It was Qin Tian who discovered the truth that everyone in Mist Town and Battalion 137 was being controlled by Soul Devouring Worms. Then, he dug deeper, found the Brain Worm and the Beastmaster controlling them, and killed them both."

What?

Chen Guofeng and his companions couldn't believe it. They had stayed in Battalion 137 for several days and had suspected that there might be something wrong with people in the camp, but they never imagined the entire camp would be turned into worm puppets.

It wasn't just the military camp; all of Mist Town had fallen as well.

Brain Worm, Beastmaster

What exactly were they planning?

"Sir, what about the warrant for Qin Tian's arrest..." Chen Guofeng asked.

The Lieutenant General replied, "It has been withdrawn. Not only that, but higher-ups are also planning to give Qin Tian a commendation."

"He definitely deserves a reward,"

Shi Lei nodded steadily from the side. "Qin Tian saved us and everyone in Mist Town. When we have the chance, the three of us should thank him in person."

"Mm."

Chen Guofeng nodded in agreement.

Thanking Qin Tian?

Lin Xiaoyue furrowed her brows, thinking she would rather throw dung into that brat's mouth than thank him. Yet here she was being asked to do so, impossible, absolutely...

As her gaze swept over the white worms on the ground,

Lin Xiaoyue pursed her lips, sighed resignedly, and thought, Fine, I'll thank him,

At worst, I'll throw dung and then thank him.

.....

Bam!

The meeting room door was suddenly pushed open, and a group of men in military uniforms walked in.

"Which department are you from? Don't you know there's a meeting here?" the staff officer shouted angrily.

Leading the group, a man looked directly at Xiahou Yang sitting at the head of the table, took out his credentials, and calmly said,

"Commander Xiahou Yang, I am Li Yunsen from the Azure Wood Star Realm Military Investigation Department. Headquarters have ordered that you come with me to return to Azure Wood Star for investigation."

What!

Li Yunsen's words were like a bomb, instantly exploding the meeting room.

Bear in mind, Xiahou Yang was the Deputy Commander of the Silver Gray Star Military Department, a figure of high rank and power. If he was being taken away like this, it indicated he'd committed something severe, otherwise, higher-ups wouldn't risk such a public arrest.

Everyone nervously and chaotically watched Xiahou Yang.

In the military, aligning oneself was crucial. If your superior was caught committing a crime, those under them would likely be implicated too.

Xiahou Yang's expression shifted slightly as he stood up and asked,

"Can you at least tell me what this is about?"

Li Yunsen shook his head:

"Commander Xiahou, you know the rules, some matters are not suitable for public discussion."

Xiahou Yang was silent for a moment before saying,

"Can I at least make a phone call to verify your identities?"

"No problem."

Li Yunsen extended his hand. "You have two minutes."

Xiahou Yang left the meeting room, stood in a corner of the hallway, and made a call.

From a distance, Li Yunsen watched as Xiahou Yang's face grew paler, a trace of mockery appearing in his eyes.

"Commander Xiahou, your two minutes are up."

Li Yunsen approached Xiahou Yang, took out a purple syringe, and said,

"Would you like me to administer this Spiritual Ability Inhibitor, or will you do it yourself?"

Staring at the crystal-clear purple syringe, Xiahou Yang's face went ashen, as if he had aged ten years in an instant. He reached out his trembling hand and said with resignation,

"I'll do it myself."

In just two days, five military bigwigs from the Silver Gray Star had fallen from grace, including Deputy Commander Xiahou Yang, alongside several other powerful figures such as the 45th Legion Commander, Special Warfare Management Office Director, and Deputy Director of the Intelligence Department.

Following their arrests, the Seventh Bureau and Military Investigation Department uncovered a series of corrupt elements whose crimes were appalling. The investigation team from Azure Wood Star hadn't anticipated that the military ecosystem on Silver Gray Star was already so deteriorated.

If this continued, the military would no longer belong to the Empire but become someone's personal army.

.....

"Everyone, that's all I know."

Qin Tian sat among a group of people and calmly said.

"Major Qin Tian, thank you for your cooperation."

The investigator from the Royal Judgement Court, dressed in a black uniform and bearing the emblem of a longsword and scales, stood up and extended a hand to Qin Tian.

Qin Tian shook the investigator's hand. It was then that he learned there was a powerful law enforcement body within the Empire, the Royal Judgement Court.

Initially, the court was created to handle cross-star realm spiritualist criminal cases, but conflicts over law enforcement jurisdiction with local agencies had placed it in an awkward position since its founding.

However, after the previous sect leader took office, the court rapidly expanded like a rocket, becoming the most feared entity among spiritualists within the Empire.

This leader was none other than one of the Empire's top ten marshals, Marshal Lin, Lin Xuanqing.

Perhaps due to being under one superior, the investigator showed some friendliness towards him, not probing too deeply into some hidden details during his statement.

"Major Qin Tian, you are free to move around for the time being but cannot leave Silver Gray Star," the investigator said solemnly.

"Alright."

Qin Tian nodded. To be honest, he had thought he would be detained for a long time and was surprised to regain his freedom so soon after the questioning.

He had heard from Yan Qing that his arrest warrant had been lifted, and higher-ups were currently reviewing his promotion and commendation, with an official notification due soon.

As he stepped outside and gazed at the blue sky, Qin Tian felt a wave of relaxation wash over him, a smile playing on his lips.

Inside the room

"This Qin Tian is impressive, cautious, careful, astute, highly active, a rare talent. Captain, could we apply to have him transferred to our Judgement Court?" suggested a slim investigator.

Typically, the Seventh Bureau and the Judgement Court are separate entities and cannot exchange personnel, but since they share a superior...

As long as Marshal Lin makes the request, transferring someone would not be an issue.

"Yes, I also have that thought,"

The captain stroked his chin and said, "Once this mission is over, we can apply to the higher-ups."

"Alright, we've done enough preliminary preparation, let's start working."

In military internal inspections, decisive action is paramount; sometimes they apprehend people without sufficient evidence.

But the Judgement Court, being a law enforcement entity, must adhere to the strictest regulations.

All arrest operations must be evidence-based.

Their next investigation is directed at Wen Chengxian and the Wen Family.

Chapter 119: Star Moon City, Secret Factory

"Ladies and gentlemen, welcome to Star Moon City."

A sweet announcement echoed inside the station.

Qin Tian walked out of the station with a backpack, strolling the streets of Star Moon City like an ordinary tourist.

The deep night sky resembled a vast black velvet curtain, studded with countless twinkling stars.

On the streets, hovering cars and flying devices flitted by like meteors, with light columns on both sides of the road emitting a soft yet bright glow, illuminating the entire street.

In the city center, a massive Energy Tower stood as the energy hub of Star Moon City and symbol of the city itself. The top of the tower gleamed intensely, like a star about to explode, reflecting off the bright moon and stars above.

Star Moon City perfectly blends technology with art. With a permanent population of over 60 million, it ranks among the top ten mega-cities on the Silver Gray Star.

Coming from the desolate little town to the modern Star Moon City gave Qin Tian a sense of disorientation, as if he had traveled from the old times to the future.

After walking to the reserved hotel, Qin Tian put down his backpack, took a shower, then turned off all the lights in the room. He sat cross-legged on the bed and began his daily cultivation.

Unlike before, he had changed his cultivation order, placing the "Frost Meditation Technique" before the "Shadow Thunder Prison Technique."

He visualized icy snow in his mind, his spiritual power spreading to every corner of the room, instantly lowering the temperature by several degrees.

After awakening the "Spiritual Wisdom Divine Authority," his spiritual cultivation speed was astonishingly fast. Each session resulted in a noticeable increase in spiritual power, making him wonder whether he should pursue the path of a Spirit Mage.

Otherwise, this talent would be somewhat wasted.

Time passed by, and the cultivation of the Meditation Technique was nearing its end.

Just then, a shadow suddenly appeared in the room, as if emerging from the ground's shadow.

Swish

Qin Tian opened his eyes and said calmly:

"You came."

Thud

The shadow kneeled on one knee, lowered his head, and said:

"Master."

Qin Tian snapped his fingers, condensing his spiritual power to turn on the lights in the room.

A man in black clothes, with an unremarkable appearance, was kneeling before him, his eyes full of respect.

"Li Qi, stand up."

Qin Tian patted the Night Demon Apostle's shoulder. Previously, Li Qi was tasked with monitoring him, always by his side, and before Qin Tian was transferred to Mist Town, Li Qi had been assigned other work, arriving in Star Moon City.

This time, Qin Tian wanted to understand what Li Qi was up to, perhaps it could be the breakthrough to overthrow the Wen Family.

"Yes."

Li Qi stood up, the respect in his eyes undiminished. After only half a month, he felt the pressure from his master had become heavier, as if his strength had significantly improved.

"Li Qi, tell me about everything you've done since you came to Star Moon City in these past half-month."

Qin Tian raised his hand, motioning for Li Qi to sit and speak.

"Yes."

Li Qi nodded and began to recount his experiences over the past half month.

Actually, it was quite simple.

Since being transferred away from Qin Tian, Li Qi was initially assigned to Blue Moon Forest near Star Moon City to hunt Tier Four and above spirit beasts.

After killing the spirit beasts, specific people were responsible for transporting the spirit beast corpses to a factory outside the city.

Perhaps due to his outstanding performance, a few days after hunting spirit beasts, Li Qi was assigned to the factory to ensure its security.

"This factory is very mysterious, except for the transport teams and the guards, no one is allowed entry. The strangest thing is..."

Li Qi paused and said, "Every day, large numbers of spirit beast corpses are brought into the warehouse, but by the next day, the warehouse becomes empty."

Upon hearing this, Qin Tian raised an eyebrow:

"Are you sure no one is transporting the bodies out?"

"I'm sure!"

Li Qi nodded emphatically.

"That's strange."

Qin Tian rubbed his chin, "Only incoming, no outgoing, and all are spirit beast corpses. It seems like this factory hides quite a secret."

"By the way, is there a problem with me calling you out?"

"No problem, tonight is my night watch. I made sure both of them were asleep before coming to you," said Li Qi.

"Better to be cautious."

Qin Tian said, "Go back now, I'll follow behind you."

"Yes!"

Li Qi opened the window, dark mist spread, and he transformed into a crow, flying towards the distance.

After flying for some time, Li Qi looked back but saw nothing.

"No need to look, I'm right behind you."

A calm voice suddenly came from his mind, startling Li Qi, causing his wings to flap twice more.

"Master, you...?"

"No need to speak, just think in your mind. This is my Spiritual Link ability, allowing communication via thought without speaking. Get used to it; I'll be using it often to contact you in the future," Qin Tian said.

"Yes!"

Li Qi continued flapping his wings and flew towards the factory, secretly thinking, his master was getting stronger and stronger.

"Actually, not that powerful."

A soft laugh echoed in his mind.

Li Qi's body stiffened, suddenly feeling that this ability wasn't so great after all.

There's just no keeping any secrets.

.....

The crow landed on the factory roof, black mist surged, and in the next moment, Li Qi returned to the monitoring room through Shadow Jump.

He walked to the door, checked the small trap he had set before leaving, and finding no signs of anyone entering, he breathed a sigh of relief.

"Li Qi, I see those two. Tell me about their situation."

"Yes."

Li Qi sat in front of the monitor, silently said:

"Those two, one is Shang Mingyi and the other is Su Hao'an, both Spiritualists cultivated by the Wen Family, and their loyalty is no less than that of the Shadow Division members. Shang Mingyi is a Tier Five Four Stars Wind Element Spirit Mage, while Su Hao'an is a Tier Four Three Stars Earth Element Spiritual Martial Artist, both ranking above me, though neither has a bloodline ability."

The factory, guarded by Tier Four and Tier Five Spiritualists, suggests there's certainly no simple secret inside.

Qin Tian's gaze deepened, standing high in the sky, Night Demon Wings flapping continuously, aura perfectly restrained, body in an invisible state.

This factory looks ordinary, yet it gives him a sense of danger. That's also why he hasn't immediately used Shadow Jump to enter the warehouse.

Li Qi and the two other Spiritualists may only be the first layer of security. There may be even more formidable guardians hidden within the warehouse.

He cannot act rashly for now.

Swish~

Inside the monitoring room, Li Qi suddenly turned his head, and a circular Black Gate quietly appeared beside him, from which a figure stepped out.

"This..."

Li Qi's eyes widened in disbelief, shocked that Qin Tian had mastered such a powerful spatial ability.

"Don't be surprised, this is also one of my abilities."

Qin Tian whispered in his heart. In front of the Night Demon Apostle, he didn't need to overly conceal his abilities.

Chapter 120: Subtle Investigation

"Li Qi, pour this thing into the water tomorrow and make sure they both drink it."

Qin Tian handed a transparent glass bottle to Li Qi and said:

"This is just an ordinary bottle of water, only with some worm eggs added. They won't feel a thing after drinking it."

Despite inheriting the Spiritual Wisdom Divine Authority of the Brain Worm, due to different body structures, he couldn't produce Soul Devouring Worm eggs like the Brain Worm.

Fortunately, every time a Brain Worm lays eggs, the quantity is in the hundreds of thousands. The young man in white couldn't use that many worm eggs, so he sealed the excess in special containers and buried them in a secret cave.

The explosion at that time didn't affect this cave, so after capturing the young man's memories, he found the cave and stored all the worm eggs in the Beast Realm.

The Beast Realm and his Spatial Bag belong to special sub planes, but they have differences.

In the Spatial Bag, time is frozen, and it can't store living creatures; anything stored retains its state, ideal for preserving precious items affected by time and environment, like food, medicinal herbs, etc.

The Beast Realm, on the other hand, is a sub plane that requires a Secret Technique as a key to enter and exit, making it less convenient, but living beings can survive inside it. The An Family use the Beast Realm as a Personal Beast Taming Space.

Both the Spatial Bag and the Beast Realm have their application scenarios.

Although the worm eggs haven't hatched yet, they are still living organisms, so he had Kazik carry a big pack and bring all the worm eggs into the Beast Realm.

When needed, Kazik would bring the worm eggs out, like a reliable delivery guy.

Li Qi took the bottle and nodded:

"Yes, Master."

He didn't need to ask about the master's intentions, nor inquire about the use of these worm eggs.

As a subordinate, his duty was to obey unconditionally.

"One more thing, how are you progressing with the Wen Family crime materials I asked you to organize?" Qin Tian asked.

Li Qi: "Master, I've sorted all those materials. Do you need them now?"

"No rush."

Qin Tian raised his hand and said, "In ten days, send these materials to this account anonymously."

Qin Tian provided Li Qi the contact left by the Judgement Court investigator.

Sending the evidence to the Judgement Court now would seem too deliberate and hasty.

In ten days, the Judgement Court will surely uncover some criminal activity from the Wen Family. Sending the materials then would be just right.

"Yes."

"Alright, let's stick to this arrangement for today. I will stay in Star Moon City for the time being."

A strange light flashed in Qin Tian's eyes: "I really want to see what secrets lie beneath this factory."

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The next day, Li Qi easily placed the worm eggs into the water and watched Shang Mingyi and Su Hao'an drink it down.

Afterwards, Qin Tian used his real identity to buy a plane ticket to another city. Once there, he quietly returned to Star Moon City at night.

Then he continued to secretly observe the factory.

Every day from ten to ten-thirty, a convoy would unload iron boxes containing Spirit Beast corpses in the warehouse. Li Qi and the other two would inspect to ensure no living beings were brought in before the convoy entered the factory.

Once the warehouse door closed, the three were not allowed to open it again until the next day.

This was a rule set by the Wen Family, and the three always complied.

A week passed.

The Soul Devouring Worms inside Shang Mingyi and Su Hao'an grew rapidly. The souls of Tier Four and Tier Five Spiritualists were the best breeding grounds for the Soul Devouring Worms; within days, the worms had grown enough to influence the thoughts of both men.

Though they couldn't control them like the puppet-like residents of Mist Town, they could certainly trigger emotions like anger, excitement, curiosity, etc.

At this point, Qin Tian decided it was time to act.

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"Old Su, it's your shift today."

Shang Mingyi chuckled: "I'm going to sleep first, keep an eye out."

"Don't worry."

Su Hao'an nodded in response.

At night, Shang Mingyi and Li Qi both slept in their rooms, while Su Hao'an sat in the monitoring room, eyes fixed on the screen, quite earnest.

After a few hours, a sense of agitation began to stir in Su Hao'an's heart.

So boring.

Why is a Tier Four Spiritualist like me sitting in a monitoring room like a security guard?

Su Hao'an couldn't sit still any longer, so he got up to get some fresh air.

The starlight and moonlight shone together.

The starry sky of this city was beautiful, and walking inside the dim factory, Su Hao'an felt a bit relieved.

Soon, he reached the warehouse door, suddenly feeling an intense curiosity.

What exactly is inside this warehouse?

Why does the boss forbid us from entering after dark?

Su Hao'an paced back and forth in front of the warehouse door, growing more anxious with every step, unable to stand still for even a moment.

No, I'm too curious.

I'll just take a quick look inside, just a glance and then I'll come out.

Su Hao'an gritted his teeth, and ultimately curiosity overcame reason. He opened the warehouse door and slowly walked inside.

The warehouse had no windows, nor were the lights on. Using the moonlight streaming in through the door crack, Su Hao'an walked deeper into the warehouse.

"It's strange, with so many boxes coming in every day, why can't I see a single one now? Where have they all gone?"

Su Hao'an muttered to himself, his curiosity growing even stronger.

Just then, he seemed to hear a strange noise beside him. Turning his head, he was met with a pair of blood-red, bloodshot eyes.

"Hoo~"

A bloodthirsty maw opened wide and swallowed Su Hao'an in one gulp.

Crunch, crunch.

The sound of bones crushing echoed inside the mouth, but soon, the sound stopped, and the warehouse returned to silence, with its door slowly closing again.

High above, Qin Tian suddenly opened his eyes.

With a Soul Devouring Worm inside Su, Qin Tian could secretly share Su Hao'an's perspective.

"As I suspected, there's a second layer of security inside the warehouse."

Qin Tian's eyes flickered; his beastly instincts had warned him of the danger within the warehouse long ago. Thus, taking a roundabout approach, he targeted Su Hao'an, the weakest in strength, and had the Soul Devouring Worm trigger Su's curiosity, prompting him to enter the warehouse at night to see for himself.

The result was exactly as expected; there was a powerful Fierce Beast inside the warehouse, capable of devouring a Tier Four Spiritualist in one bite.

It was likely a Tier Five Fierce Beast with high pedigree, or even a Tier Six Fierce Beast.

"This is tricky; looks like I need to devise a roundabout strategy."

Qin Tian thought silently, quickly formulating a plan in his mind.

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In the underground chamber,

a black-robed figure suddenly opened his eyes, a hint of coldness flashing in the deep orbs.

"Bloody fool, ignoring my words. You're asking for death."