

## **Battlefield 261**

### Chapter 261: Power Surge (Double-Length)

Five days later

The spaceship landed on Silver Gray Star

Walking out of the Star Port, Qin Tian immediately saw Feng Mochuan, Li Qi, and Yang Fan who came to pick him up.

Feng Mochuan leaned casually against the pillar at the pickup area, his brown tactical jacket hanging open to reveal a tight black vest underneath. Standing in the shadows of the pillar on his left was Li Qi, dressed in black, with a stern expression. In sharp contrast was Yang Fan, whose well-tailored suit outlined his tall figure. A limited edition smart terminal on his right wrist glowed a soft blue as he conversed with someone, embodying the image of a modern elite.

This dramatically different trio attracted frequent glances from passing travelers.

When Qin Tian emerged, Feng Mochuan's eyes lit up and he shouted:

"Boss!"

Qin Tian nodded in acknowledgment and quickly walked forward.

"Boss!"

"Boss!"

Li Qi and Yang Fan both bowed slightly as they called out.

Looking at the three, Qin Tian said, "Why did all three of you come? I told you there was no need to pick me up, I could come back on my own."

The three laughed softly, without responding.

When the leader says there's no need to pick up, it doesn't mean you actually shouldn't go. Subordinates have to have some initiative.

Furthermore, it would be fine if all three didn't go, but the worst is if only one person doesn't go, then things could get serious.

"Boss, the flying device is parked upstairs. Do you want to store your luggage first, or shall we go eat?"

Yang Fan asked respectfully.

"Let's go eat directly, there's not much luggage anyway."

Qin Tian said, his suitcase was just for show, it was empty inside, all his personal items were already placed in the Spirit Space.

"Alright, this way please."

The four took an elevator straight to the top floor of the Star Port, where the view opened up—an open platform as large as ten football fields lay before them, with various flying devices neatly lined up, shining with metallic luster in the sunlight.

"Boss, this way." Yang Fan walked familiarly towards the VIP area, where the Lingfeng Company's newly acquired business flying device—a matte black Falcon Level business craft—was parked. Its sleek lines combined a sense of speed with business elegance, and the gilded Lingfeng Company emblem on the tailfin was faintly visible under the sun.

As the four approached, the door of the business craft silently slid open, and an automatic gangway slowly descended. They stepped inside, greeted by the delicate scent of leather mixed with cedarwood.

The interior space appeared even more spacious than the outside suggested. The floor was covered with deep gray hand-crafted wool carpet, soft enough to almost sink in on stepping. On the left were four floating aviation seats covered in top-quality calf leather, with massage modules in the backrests emitting a gentle wave of heat. Between the seats were small ebony tables, whose surfaces were holographic touchscreens ready to display business information at any moment.

The bar on the right was carved from a whole meteorite crystal, with a built-in fridge neatly stocked with rare liquors from various star systems. In a display cabinet above the bar, a dozen bottles of expensive red wine rotated slowly in specially designed temperature regulators, the deep red liquid under the lights resembling solidified blood.

Yang Fan entered the destination on his smart terminal, and the flying device automatically set off for the destination.

"Boss, this is the exclusive flying device our company got for you."

Yang Fan said, "See if you are satisfied; if not, we can switch to another model."

"This is fine."

Qin Tian nodded and said, "Honestly, I don't use this gadget much myself; you guys can take turns using it."

With the ability to use Void Passage, reaching anywhere on the planet would only take a second or a few seconds; though the flying device was luxurious, it wasn't that significant for him.

"Boss, each of us also has a private flying device. Though they're not as luxurious as yours, they're also high-end." Feng Mochuan said with a smile.

Qin Tian poured himself a glass of iced wine, took a sip, and upon finding it satisfactory, nodded approvingly and asked:

"How's the company been doing lately? It should be alright, I presume?"

"More than alright, we're practically making a fortune."

At this, Feng Mochuan's voice turned instantly enthusiastic.

"Yang Fan has picked up most of Yuan Shan Group's previous businesses and also used Spiritual Medicine and Spirit Fruit from Elf Star to develop several major clients. In just one month, our profits have doubled and the second batch of goods from Elf Star is about to arrive at Silver Gray Star, with a quantity ten times that of last time. The pre-order calls are almost breaking mine and Yang Fan's communicators."

The profit Lingfeng Company made in one month is something he couldn't earn even if he spent his whole life as a mercenary.

Not only him, but his brothers are also doing well and have ample money, leading stable lives, and immediately brought their families to live nearby.

Moreover, with sufficient funds, he purchased a lot of cultivation resources for his brothers, and within a month, many have broken through their previous boundaries.

The overall strength of the Hurricane Mercenary Corps has significantly increased.

He now deeply understands one principle.

Many times, choosing is much more important than striving.

If he hadn't met the boss, he would still be struggling hard, leading his brothers through life-threatening missions, possibly dying in a foreign land at some point.

But now, he has gained the precious Night Demon Bloodline, significantly increased strength, and has made leaps in economic status, personal status, and social resources.

The brothers around him are getting better as well.

All of this was brought to him by the boss.

Therefore, following the right person is truly vital.

In this respect, Li Qi and Yang Fan also deeply empathized.

Without Qin Tian, Li Qi would still be an identity-less assassin, hiding in shadows all his life, with no future, no dignity, and would eventually be destroyed along with the Wen Family.

#### Chapter 262: Power Surge (Double-Length)

If it weren't for Qin Tian, Yang Fan would still be that overlooked vice president warming the bench for decades, with all his talents and pride gradually worn out over time.

It was Qin Tian who gave them the opportunity and the platform, leading their lives down a completely different path.

"The second batch of goods will arrive soon, very soon."

Qin Tian nodded with satisfaction. There was no doubt that items from Elf Star were easy to sell.

According to the news, the construction of the Free Trade Port on Elf Star has officially begun and will be completed within six months.

Yang Fan had shared some ideas with him.

Once the supporting facilities are fully established, Elf Star, this treasure trove, will directly enter a stage of rapid development. By then, the trade volume of the Lingfeng Group will grow exponentially, not just limited to selling some spiritual medicines and spirit fruits, but expanding into various sectors of Elf Star through the special relationship with the Elf race, such as tourism, hotels, catering, and infrastructure.

In the future, becoming the top group in the Star Realm will be within reach.

...

Half an hour later, the flying device arrived at the hotel.

Having managed the giant tree-type hotels on Azure Wood Star, now looking at this lavish hotel made of reinforced concrete, Qin Tian felt somewhat unaccustomed.

Guided by the attendant, the four entered a private room.

"Boss, what dishes would you like to eat?"

Yang Fan handed the menu to Qin Tian, who skimmed through it and ordered a few dishes he hadn't tried before.

Before long, the food was served.

As they ate, they chatted, mainly Feng Mochuan, Li Qi, and Yang Fan reporting the recent work situation to Qin Tian.

Under Yang Fan's leadership, Lingfeng Company had become a star enterprise on Silver Gray Star, at least in the medicinal herbs industry, known by everyone.

The company developed rapidly, exceeding a thousand employees. Fortunately, Yang Fan retained the basic structure of the former Yuan Shan Group, and most of the middle management were old employees from Yuan Shan Group, which made managing the rapidly growing company smooth, without any chaos.

As the actual legal representative of Lingfeng Company, Feng Mochuan was clueless about company management and didn't intend to spend much time and energy in this area.

He was keenly aware that this was a world belonging to Spiritualists, and without formidable strength, wealth was impossible to protect.

As the company grows faster, it will inevitably attract various troubles, such as envious competitors, coveting star thieves, and local bullies' harassment.

By then, Hurricane Mercenary Corps would be needed to escort the company.

This past month, he not only invested heavily in purchasing various cultivation resources, martial techniques, and cultivation techniques to help improve the strength of his subordinates but also began recruiting to expand the manpower, aiming to reach a total membership of over 200, with every member either being a Spiritualist or a Superpower User, all displaying considerable combat power.

Meanwhile, Li Qi was unwilling to be outdone by the others.

He and his subordinates discovered all the Shadow Division members hiding across the planets and transformed them into Night Demon Apostles.

Currently, his newly named organization, "The Shadow Division," had 52 members. It might not seem like many, but each member was an elite who emerged from the most brutal and bloody competition, top talents in intelligence, assassination, and stealth, with the lowest strength at Tier Three Eight Stars, and some even surpassing Li Qi's level of Spiritual Ability.

Fifty-two Night Demon Apostles with Bronze Level bloodlines formed an incredibly terrifying force, whose overall strength the Hurricane Mercenary Corps could not rival.

In recent times, Lingfeng Company has faced numerous apparent and hidden threats, as the rapid company growth drew envy from many forces, including official pressure and some unsavory underhanded tactics.

Yang Fan and Feng Mochuan handled the evident troubles, while the covert issues were ruthlessly retaliated against by Li Qi, whose brutal methods sent chills through Silver Gray Star's underground forces.

There were things that Feng Mochuan and Li Qi didn't hide from Yang Fan.

First, as the General Manager of Lingfeng Company and the top figure in the commercial field, Yang Fan had the right to know about any open or covert company struggles, understand who the enemies were, and have a clear grasp of the situation.

Secondly, unlike Feng Mochuan and Li Qi, who were forever unable to betray the boss due to the influence of Night Demon Bloodline, Yang Fan was not necessarily bound by such constraints.

Therefore, sometimes certain means were needed to remind Yang Fan, to prevent him from straying onto the wrong path.

After dinner, Yang Fan had to return to the company to handle some work, while Feng Mochuan and Li Qi were retained by Qin Tian.

"This time, I went to Azure Wood Star and served as an examiner for the Genius Battle."

Qin Tian chuckled, "If you've been paying attention, you should know who I am."

"Haha, boss, I figured out on the first day that Black Crow was you."

Feng Mochuan laughed heartily, "Only you could toy those geniuses round and round like that."

Qin Tian smiled and said:

"I gained quite a few elixirs, spiritual artifacts, and cultivation techniques during the Genius Battle. Now I have secured Silver Level Dark Element cultivation techniques for the two of you."

Upon hearing this, Feng Mochuan and Li Qi's eyes lit up, especially Feng Mochuan, who had long had the foundation to break through to Tier Six but had been stuck at Tier Five Nine Stars due to the lack of a Silver Level cultivation technique.

In a flash of white light, three inheritance jade slips appeared on the table.

"Dark Element cultivation techniques and martial techniques, 'Infinite Shadow Prison Scripture,' 'Dark Moon Nine Kills,' 'Night Ghost Thousand Illusions.'"

Qin Tian introduced the characteristics of the three secret manuals and then said:

"These three manuals are very suited to our Night Demon Bloodline. After you both learn them, practice to master them quickly. Also, if your subordinates make significant contributions in the future, you may pass the manuals on to them."

After listening, Feng Mochuan and Li Qi were both greatly excited.

Silver Level cultivation techniques, martial techniques, body techniques

They received the entire set directly.

Praise the world's best boss!

"By immersing your Spiritual Power into them, you can directly grasp the manuals," Qin Tian stated.

Each inheritance jade slip contained three strands of Divine Thought. By immersing Spiritual Power into it, Divine Thought would automatically integrate into the spirit, engraving the manual's content deeply into the brain.

Once the three strands of Divine Thought were consumed, the jade slip would become useless.

In the future, if they wished to pass on the cultivation techniques, it would have to be done through oral teaching or other methods.

He himself first consumed one strand of Divine Thought from each jade slip, mastering the three manuals, leaving just enough for Feng Mochuan and Li Qi.

"Yes!"

The two of them controlled their Spiritual Power, each one in turn touched the jade slip, absorbing the manual's content.

After ten minutes, all three manuals were mastered.

"Thank you, boss!"

Feng Mochuan said excitedly. With this cultivation technique, he had absolute confidence in breaking through to Tier Six, a realm he had dreamed of and which was now within reach.

"Boss, I'll also cultivate diligently and strive to break through to Tier Six as soon as possible," Li Qi added.

He didn't want to fall too far behind Feng Mochuan.

"Yes, take these elixirs too."

Saying this, Qin Tian took out a few bottles of elixirs and handed them to the two, some enhancing cultivation speed, some strengthening Spiritual Energy, and others reinforcing physique. These were gifts from genius families in gratitude for his generosity.

There were quite a few, more than he could use in the short term. It was better to share a portion with the two Night Demons to quickly boost their strength, so in the future—

They could shoulder even more important tasks.

"Gah gah gah~"

"These elixirs are..."

Qin Tian detailed the names and effects of the elixirs. Upon hearing this, the two became even more thrilled, their eyes almost tearing up.

The boss was too considerate of them.

"And also."

Qin Tian further took out a longsword and a dagger, both spiritual artifact equipment obtained from the Genius Battle, perfectly matching the two's commonly used weapons.

There's more!!!

The two exchanged glances, at a loss for words.

"Two spiritual artifact-level weapons are now entrusted to you."

Qin Tian pushed the weapons towards them.

Picking up the weapons, feeling the extraordinary power within, Feng Mochuan and Li Qi felt their chests fill with enthusiasm and the spirit of oxen and horses burning fiercely.

The boss placed such emphasis on them.

Next, they had to put in tenfold effort to repay the boss's trust and nurturing.

Chapter 263: Feng Mochuan—Sixth Tier (Double-Length)

Three days later

Inside the Cultivation Room

Feng Mochuan sat cross-legged at the center of the Spirit Gathering Array, while Qin Tian, Li Qi, and several cadres of the Hurricane Mercenary Corps stood guard nearby.

"Boss, I'm ready."

Feng Mochuan looked at Qin Tian and said.

Three days had passed, and he had already mastered the new Cultivation Technique "Infinite Shadow Prison Scripture." Now was the time for him to break through to Tier Six.

"Alright, then let's begin."

Qin Tian handed a All Things Essence Enhancing Pill to Feng Mochuan. With the assistance of this Elixir to boost his Spiritual Energy, Feng Mochuan's breakthrough would be smoother.

Feng Mochuan took a deep breath and swallowed the All Things Essence Enhancing Pill.

As soon as the Elixir entered his stomach, his whole body shuddered violently, and the dormant Dark Spiritual Energy within him exploded like ignited dynamite.

The terrifying Spiritual Energy surged through his meridians, causing every muscle in Feng Mochuan's body to tense up, with veins bulging on his forehead. He could clearly feel the Spiritual Energy rising rapidly within and then madly crashing against that invisible Tier Six barrier.

Every impact caused the cultivation room to tremble slightly.

"Boom!"

The first full-force impact left the barrier unmoved.

A trace of blood seeped from the corner of Feng Mochuan's mouth, but the battle intent in his eyes intensified as he furiously activated the "Infinite Shadow Prison Scripture," condensing all his inner Spiritual Energy into a sharp spiral drill.

The transition from Tier Five to Tier Six is a qualitative leap in Spiritual Ability Level, marking the first step for Spiritualists from mid-level power to high-end combat strength.

No matter where a Tier Six Spiritualist is placed, they are undeniably a master.

But it's not easy to take this step.

Again, again, and again

"Break for me!"

With a shout of anger, the concentrated Dark Spiritual Energy violently pierced the bottleneck.

Everyone heard a clear "crack"—a small crack appeared on the Tier Six barrier.

Now was the time!

Feng Mochuan seized the opportunity, and the flood of Spiritual Energy rushed through the crack like a broken dam.

The crack grew larger and finally—

"Crack~Boom!"

A glass-shattering sound exploded in everyone's ears.

Feng Mochuan's Spiritual Energy instantly broke through the shackles, completing a qualitative leap, and Dark Energy began forming a vortex, drawing all Spiritual Power within the cultivation room.

The values on the monitor soared, and the Spiritual Energy intensity reached more than ten times its pre-breakthrough level!

At the same time, the Night Demon Bloodline within him was fully activated, dark purple Demon Patterns emerged on his skin, his clothes tore with a ripping sound from behind, revealing more than three meters long jet-black Bat Wings. His fingernails turned into sharp black claws, his pupils transformed into scarlet vertical pupils, and an oppressive aura emanated from him.

After a long time

"This is... Tier Six power."

Feng Mochuan slowly rose, his voice deep and rasping.

With a casual wave of his hand, five ink-like Energy Blades whistled out, leaving deep marks on the specialized walls of the cultivation room.

His already robust physique became even more towering, with muscle lines cast like fine iron, filled with explosive power.

Upon seeing this, Qin Tian nodded in satisfaction; the Night Demon Apostle with Tier Six Silver Level bloodline, mastering Silver Level Swordsmanship and Body Technique, was undeniably a top contender on Silver Gray Star, sufficient to safeguard Lingfeng Company.

"How does it feel?" Qin Tian asked.

Feng Mochuan grinned, revealing sharp white fangs: "The current me... can tear apart ten of my past selves bare-handed."

Deputy Commander Xu Ze rushed forward first, the usually steady middle-aged man was now flushed with excitement, his voice trembling: "Boss! You've really broken through!"

He stared at Feng Mochuan's menacing Bat Wings, his eyes full of excitement, "Tier Six... our Hurricane Mercenary Corps finally has a Tier Six powerhouse!"

"Haha, Boss, awesome!!"

Captain of the first squad Wang Tie shouted excitedly, his voice almost shaking the cultivation room.

Second squad captain Lin Ying remained relatively restrained, but his trembling hands revealed the excitement within.

A Tier Six powerhouse holds a very special position in the Mercenary Realm.

When a mercenary group lacks a Tier Six powerhouse, no matter how many difficult and complex tasks they complete or how many Mercenary Points they accumulate, the group's status will never exceed B-Class.

Only by stepping into B-Class can a mercenary group truly enter the upper echelons of the Mercenary Realm.

This is the ironclad rule of the Mercenary Guild—because a Tier Six powerhouse represents not just individual strength but also the team's capability to undertake high-risk missions.

Feng Mochuan's breakthrough means the Hurricane Mercenary Corps finally attains the qualifications for a B-Class upgrade, or rather, they will soon become a B-Class Mercenary Corps.

A few years ago, the points of the Hurricane Mercenary Corps had already reached the threshold for B-Class advancement, only missing a Tier Six powerhouse.

Now, with the boss's breakthrough, they just need to go to the mercenary branch for certification, and the Hurricane Mercenary Corps will automatically ascend to B-Class Mercenary Corps.

From now on, they can proudly display their group flag at the Mercenary Guild branch, qualified to undertake interstellar-level escort missions, and even participate in special actions outsourced by the Royal Military.

B-Class Mercenary Corps will also have the right to preferentially select tasks with a greatly reduced commission rate.

Of course, the Hurricane Mercenary Corps no longer needs to rely on taking tasks for livelihood, but the mercenary status represents not just an income, but the honor forged by men walking on the edge of a knife with blood and fire.

When walking the streets of interstellar ports, a B-Class Mercenary Corps' Blue Gold Badge is enough to make certain forces willingly clear a path.

Chapter 264: Feng Mochuan—Sixth Rank (Combined Chapters 1 & 2)

"Brothers, the boss has broken through to Tier Six."

Wang Tie shouted loudly in the Hurricane Mercenary Corps' group chat, and soon, the waiting mercenaries responded with excitement.

"The boss has broken through, haha, that's great."

"The boss is awesome!"

"A Tier Six powerhouse, now our corps also has a Tier Six powerhouse!"

"Does that mean we'll become a B-Class Mercenary Corps now?"

"Haha, from now on, when we hand in missions at the mercenary distribution, let's see who dares to look down on us."

Feeling the wild joy and excitement around him, Feng Mochuan couldn't help but smile, but at the same time, he knew who had brought all this to them.

Feng Mochuan retracted his Night Demon Wings, the Dark Spiritual Energy surged back into his body, and he stepped forward, bowing deeply to Qin Tian.

"Boss, thank you."

Without the boss, there would be no Tier Six Feng Mochuan, let alone the current glory of the Hurricane Mercenary Corps.

The rest saw this and immediately bowed deeply like Feng Mochuan, shouting in unison:

"Thank you, boss."

After straightening up, they looked at Qin Tian with eyes full of fervent loyalty that almost seemed tangible.

Qin Tian looked at the group bowing before him, a slight curve appearing at the corner of his mouth. He reached out and patted Feng Mochuan's shoulder with a force neither light nor heavy, yet it made the newly advanced Tier Six powerhouse tremble slightly.

"Old Mo, congratulations."

"I believe this is just the beginning, and the future of the Hurricane Mercenary Corps will be even more glorious."

Upon hearing this, Feng Mochuan nodded heavily:

"I firmly believe that too."

Qin Tian smiled and said, "Alright, this is the time for the Hurricane Mercenary Corps. I won't disturb you all. For the next few days, you can enjoy yourselves, and all expenses will be covered by the company."

Hearing this, the eyes of several captains present lit up, and they shouted excitedly:

"Thank you, boss!!!"

Qin Tian nodded slightly and left the Cultivation Room with Li Qi.

After the two left, Wang Tie, Lin Ying, and others couldn't stop talking to Feng Mochuan, getting more and more excited with each conversation.

At this moment, Vice Leader Xu Ze suddenly said:

"Boss, I've thought it over about that matter from before."

Upon hearing this, everyone present immediately looked at him, their expressions becoming somewhat complicated.

Everyone knew what matter Xu Ze was referring to.

"Have you really thought it through?"

Feng Mochuan looked at him and said.

"Yes, I've thought it through."

Xu Ze nodded, his expression serious: "As a Spiritualist, who doesn't want to stand higher and see farther? In the future, when the boss breaks through to Tier Seven, or even Tier Eight, I don't want to still be a mere Tier Four and hold back the entire mercenary corps, so I'm willing to become your Night Demon Apostle."

Hearing Xu Ze's words, it was hard for Feng Mochuan to describe his feelings at this moment.

Except for the new members, the old members of the Hurricane Mercenary Corps were well aware of the Night Demon's many abilities, and it would be a lie to say they weren't envious. However, they also knew the price of becoming a Night Demon Apostle.

Both their bloodline and soul would be controlled by a higher-level Night Demon, and from then on, they would lose so-called freedom.

Now, they were brothers and comrades who had been through thick and thin, each having the right to choose their own path in life. But once they became a Night Demon Apostle, although they would gain the incredibly precious Night Demon Bloodline and easily overcome their current cultivation barriers, their lives would no longer be their own.

"Boss, you don't need to feel troubled."

Xu Ze smiled slightly: "I know what you're considering, but I think that's not a problem. I believe that even if I become your Night Demon Apostle, you wouldn't treat me like a slave to command at will, right?"

"Of course not."

Feng Mochuan said solemnly: "You are my Vice Leader, a brother forever."

"Isn't that great then."

Xu Ze laughed carefree: "Our relationship stays the same, and I get this Night Demon Bloodline for free; it's a huge bargain."

"Come on, Boss. Now that you've just broken through to Tier Six, maybe my Night Demon Bloodline will be even stronger."

Feng Mochuan looked into Xu Ze's determined and fiery eyes and nodded:

"Alright!"

Under everyone's gaze, Feng Mochuan stepped forward, grabbed Xu Ze's arm, revealing his fangs, and bit into his upper arm.

The moment Feng Mochuan's fangs pierced Xu Ze's upper arm, a rich Dark Energy surged into his blood vessels like a tide.

Xu Ze shuddered violently, his eyes widening suddenly — the sensation was like scorching magma coursing through his veins, every inch of his flesh being torn apart and reformed.

"Aah—!"

Xu Ze fell to one knee, a painful howl erupting from deep in his throat.

His skin began to take on a strange dark purple hue, countless black markings spreading across his body surface like living creatures. The most astonishing change occurred on his back — two ferocious protrusions tore through his combat uniform, and with a "shred" ripping sound, a pair of pitch-black bat wings burst forth, with a wingspan over two meters!

Dark Energy erupted within Xu Ze, devouring his original Flame Spiritual Energy and transforming it into pure Dark Spiritual Energy.

Feng Mochuan released his fangs, sensing the changes in Xu Ze's Spiritual Energy, and immediately shoved an elixir that boosts Spiritual Energy into Xu Ze's mouth.

The elixir melted as soon as it entered, turning into a gentle yet immense torrent of energy that perfectly merged with the churning Dark Spiritual Energy within Xu Ze. This energy, like a catalyst, instantly ignited his long-dormant potential.

"Boom!"

An astonishing wave of Spiritual Energy erupted from Xu Ze, causing the air in the Cultivation Room to stagnate. His bat wings vibrated violently, their wingspan soared from two meters to nearly three, and the blood-red markings on the wing membranes lit up with a demonic glow as if ignited.

Xu Ze slowly stood upright, now completely transformed.

His body like cast iron, brimming with explosive power, he tried moving his fingers, his sharp claws slicing through the air, leaving five trails of pitch-black energy in their wake.

"This... is the power of Tier Five..." Xu Ze's voice became deep and hoarse, seemingly carrying a dual echo.

A thought triggered within him, and a gentle flap of his black wings sent him floating mid-air, more agile and natural than any bird.

Tier Five, I've finally broken through to Tier Five.

Xu Ze was overwhelmed with excitement; after being stuck at the Tier Four Peak for years, he saw no hope of breakthrough like other ordinary Spiritualists. Now, not only had he gained the priceless Night Demon Bloodline, but his Spiritual Energy also broke through.

This only reinforced his decision.

Flutter~

Xu Ze flapped his wings and landed on the ground.

"How does it feel?"

Feng Mochuan asked.

Xu Ze smirked: "Better than ever, beyond my imagination strong."

It suddenly occurred to him that if he, a Level 2 Night Demon, had such terrifying strength, how strong must Feng Mochuan and Li Qi be as Level 1 Night Demons?

But the most terrifying thought of all — at the apex of all Night Demons, their boss Qin Tian, what kind of unfathomable power did he hold?

"Congratulations, Brother Ze!"

"Wow, it looks so cool."

Several captains walked over quickly, their eyes filled with excitement, thrill, and undisguised fervor.

Xu Ze's success shattered the shackles and apprehensions in their hearts.

Once someone takes that first step, those behind will quickly follow.

"Boss, I'm willing to become a Night Demon Apostle too."

"So am I!"

All the captains expressed their willingness, having been with Feng Mochuan for years, experiencing countless things together and knowing him well.

After becoming Night Demon Apostles, the boss wouldn't think otherwise and would still treat everyone as brothers.

At the same time, they would acquire an incredibly precious bloodline, significantly enhancing their strength, and expanding their path as Spiritualists. What's not to love?

"Have you all thought it through?"

Feng Mochuan glanced at everyone.

"Yes, we've thought it through."

"Boss, I've made up my mind too, no regrets."

"Same here."

Seeing his brothers' firm attitudes, Feng Mochuan nodded heavily:

"Alright, let's do it one by one."

To be honest, when he learned that Li Qi's Shadow Division had 52 Night Demon Apostles, he felt pressured, as a certain level of competition existed between him and Li Qi.

However, while Li Qi could transform Night Demons at will, those around him were brothers, and he had too many concerns.

But now that the brothers were willing to entrust their entire lives to him, he would not betray their trust.

The Hurricane Mercenary Corps, carrying the Night Demon Bloodline, would only get better and better.

Chapter 265: Gifted Boots, Tier 4 Seven-Star

"Oh? Several captains of the Hurricane Mercenary Corps have volunteered to become Night Demon Apostles, and now they've all been fully transformed."

Qin Tian's eyes lit up, and his lips curled slightly.

The increase in Night Demon Apostles signifies the rapid growth of his forces.

As for the relationships between Feng Mochuan and those members in the future, he believes Feng Mochuan will handle it well.

Volunteer?

Li Qi's gaze flickered; it seems Feng Mochuan's breakthrough to Tier Six greatly stimulated those people.

"Li Qi, when can you break through to Tier Five?" Qin Tian asked.

When he first met Li Qi, he was still a Tier Three Nine Stars little assassin. After obtaining the Night Demon Bloodline, Li Qi successfully broke through to Tier Four.

Afterwards, Li Qi absorbed a large amount of blood from the Blood Pool, and with the awakening of his Night Demon King Bloodline, Li Qi's bloodline level rose from Bronze Level to Silver Level.

With enhanced aptitude and the investment of various cultivation resources, Li Qi's growth was exceptionally swift, getting closer to Tier Five.

"Within half a year, I'm fully confident I can break through to Tier Five," Li Qi stated confidently.

"Good, then I'll wait for your good news."

Qin Tian smiled slightly; compared to Feng Mochuan, the assassin-origin Li Qi was clearly more suited to the Night Demon Bloodline. Also, he held higher expectations for Li Qi.

In the future, Li Qi and the Shadow Division he leads will undoubtedly become an essential force by his side.

With this thought, Qin Tian pondered for a moment and took something out of the Spirit Space.

"Here's another gift for you."

Qin Tian handed the Windwalker Boots to Li Qi.

"Windwalker Boots, this is the Spiritual Artifact I obtained during the Genius Battle."

Qin Tian explained the effects of the Windwalker Boots and shared a few techniques to master them. After awakening the [Void Dominator], he could freely perform Void Walking, akin to "Flash," making speed-enhancing Spiritual Artifacts like the Windwalker Boots less useful for him.

Giving the Windwalker Boots to Li Qi would make the best use of it, allowing this agile-type assassin to possess even more terrifying explosive power.

Additionally, as his first Night Demon Apostle, Li Qi had accompanied him through the Evil God Sacrifice and the Elf Star journey; he hoped Li Qi could catch up with Feng Mochuan's pace soon.

Thus, he was willing to invest more resources in Li Qi.

Li Qi took the Windwalker Boots, and as his fingertips brushed the cool surface of the boots, an unprecedented warmth surged in his heart. He lowered his head and gazed at the Spiritual Artifact; the jet-black boots shimmered with light blue wind patterns, faintly exuding a powerful Spiritual Power.

"Master..." He opened his mouth, only to discover his usually calm voice was trembling.

Night Demon Bloodline, Blood Pool Power, Top grade Technique, rare Martial Techniques, top grade Elixir, precious Spiritual Artifact, endless wealth... From the master, he had received so much. Yet the tasks he did for the master were merely an Apostle's duty, far unworthy of such generous gifts.

As a killer raised in shadows since childhood, he was long accustomed to being used as a tool. In his past organization, every mission was a cold order, every wound could only be licked in solitude.

But when someone treats him sincerely and cultivates him regardless of cost, this warmth ironically makes him feel out of place.

"Alright, no need for sentimentality."

Qin Tian patted Li Qi's shoulder and laughed, "Cultivating you is also to make you work harder in the future. Develop the Shadow Division well; I'll need your strength later."

"I shall..." Li Qi knelt on one knee, his voice low yet firm, "give it my all to become the sharpest blade in your hand."

In his simple words lay a promise heavier than any vow.

This grace of recognition is worth his lifetime to repay.

"Hm, I believe in you."

Qin Tian pulled Li Qi up and said.

"Alright, find a spacious place to get used to the Windwalker Boots, mastering them won't be easy."

"Yes!"

After Li Qi left, Qin Tian found himself with free time.

He suddenly realized he seemed to have nothing to do.

The company was looked after by Yang Fan, and as a business novice, he couldn't offer any valuable suggestions or ideas.

The Mercenary Corps had Feng Mochuan, the Shadow Division had Li Qi, both being elites with years of expertise in their respective fields.

What is his domain?

Oh, right. I'm still a student!

Qin Tian suddenly remembered; he was still a student at the Eagle Military Academy, only now sophomore from freshman.

Before the Genius Battle started, summer break had ended, and all students were back to class.

He was mostly absent, yet the school never contacted him, as if they had forgotten him.

Truth be told, his combat prowess now surpassed all the teachers at the school, making attending classes unmeaningful.

However, the school still held places of great value.

Like the library.

The power of knowledge never goes out of fashion.

Having arrived in this world less than a year, he still had many knowledge gaps that needed time to fill.

Moreover, ancient books sealed in the Eagle Academy library could still inspire him, especially those records regarding ancient ruins and Star Sea curiosities, many of which were exclusive materials unattainable outside, no matter the cost.

And there's the Star Element Tower.

A cultivation site with high Spiritual Qi density, coupled with the acquired elixirs, it wouldn't take long for him to break through to Tier Four Seven Stars.

However, his academic credits had already been exhausted; to access higher levels of the Star Element Tower, he needed other means.

...

The next day, Qin Tian returned to campus.

The return of a prominent figure caused quite a stir in the school.

The Special Warfare Squad students were thrilled, eagerly inquiring about Qin Tian's experiences during this time.

Qin Tian didn't reveal much; his matters weren't suitable for these students to know.

Later, he negotiated a trade with the school leadership, offering a Silver Level Martial Technique, "Gale Eighteen Hammers," in exchange for three months of access to the tenth level of the Star Element Tower.

The school leaders gladly accepted.

From the school's standpoint, adding a Silver Level Martial Technique into the Armory immediately raised the school's Martial Techniques reserve to a new level, even if it's the rare Hammer Technique, the rank of Silver Level is evident.

Once the news spread, some students would surely be drawn to this Hammer Technique, switching to practice it and inciting a trend of Hammer Technique cultivation in the school.

Thus, Qin Tian resumed a peaceful yet fulfilling life, going to the library in the morning, cultivating in the Star Element Tower in the afternoon, and dining with a few classmates or with Feng Mochuan, Li Qi, and others at night.

During this time, he had been constantly on the move, from the Evil God Sacrifice to Elf Star, then to the Genius Battle, never stopping, although his strength continued to grow, mentally he was somewhat fatigued.

And this period of peaceful yet fulfilling days felt like rain after a drought, allowing his constantly tense nerves to finally relax.

After half a month, Qin Tian noticed the hostility between his brows, formed due to the successive battles, was beginning to gradually dissipate, and his Spiritual Energy became more solid and harmonious during this rest period, successfully breaking through to Tier Four Seven Stars.

"Turns out that appropriate relaxation is also a kind of cultivation."

On a certain evening, Qin Tian leaned against the railing atop the Star Element Tower, muttering to himself while gazing at the sunset.

Bzzz~~

At that moment, his smart wristwatch vibrated, indicating an incoming call.

Qin Tian raised his hand to look, his eyes subtly shifting.

He knew he might have to set off again.

"Hello, Director Yan."

Chapter 266: New Mission, Magnetic Vortex Star (Double-Length)

"Qin Tian, where are you now?"

Yan Qing's face appeared in the video, with a somewhat serious expression.

Qin Tian replied solemnly, "Director, I'm currently on Silver Gray Star, ready for orders at any time."

"Good! Then head to Magnetic Vortex Star as quickly as possible."

"Understood!"

During the call, Yan Qing didn't elaborate on many things and instead issued direct orders.

End of call

After sending a message to Li Qi, Feng Mochuan, and others, Qin Tian immediately used software to book a ticket to Magnetic Vortex Star.

However, the geographical location of Magnetic Vortex Star is very special, and only after checking did he realize that it is located within the Chaotic Star Zone.

The outer magnetic field of the planet is extremely chaotic, twisted with magnetic lines like giant serpents. These magnetic lines sometimes thrash about like tentacles, and sometimes twist into complex vortex structures. Ordinary ships that intrude into this area would be drawn into a spiral orbit by the disordered magnetic field, rendering electronic equipment instantly useless. Only specially modified ships can approach the planet and land on the surface.

The characteristics of the Chaotic Star Zone and Magnetic Vortex Star have made the planet a notorious haven for the gathering of star thieves, fugitives, and black market merchants.

No direct tickets are available from Silver Gray Star to Magnetic Vortex Star; a transfer is necessary at Jinmu Star within the Chaotic Star Zone.

Qin Tian quickly procured some essential supplies, then boarded the ship heading to Jinmu Star.

...

Magnetic Vortex Star

Inside the room

"Director, is this Qin Tian really that capable?"

A buzz-cut young man behind Yan Qing asked, his tone seemingly holding a bit of disbelief.

Beside him were a man and a woman.

The man looked to be in his thirties, with a short beard and a mature appearance, while the woman was in her twenties with clean-cut short hair, looking rather valiant.

Yan Qing turned around, smiling faintly:

"Qin Tian's abilities are unique and very suitable for this mission."

The two men and one woman in front of him were elites selected from the army or military academy, who had been with him for many years. Each had outstanding abilities and extensive experience.

This time, however, the target was too cunning and cautious, and they couldn't find a breakthrough despite trying various methods. At this moment, he thought of the most unique presence among all his subordinates.

Qin Tian

In the Evil God Sacrifice incident, Qin Tian's abilities, decisiveness, and means were all astonishing to him. Afterward, Qin Tian even quickly connected with the Elf King Serranriel, helped the Elf Race to eradicate the Dark Elves, and quelled a century of war while dispelling the Curse of the Evil God on himself.

Although Qin Tian has never carried out any mission for the Seventh Bureau, Yan Qing still has confidence in him.

This cloned warrior, who rose faster than Marshal Lin back in the day, might indeed use his Night Demon bloodline to break through the current predicament.

Hearing this, the buzz-cut young man Zhao Rui remained silent but still felt unconvinced internally.

They had already been on Magnetic Vortex Star for almost half a month, trying various methods with little progress.

As elites of the Seventh Bureau, they had executed various complex and high-difficulty tasks, their experience and abilities need no further mention. Yet, Yan Qing highly praised Qin Tian, who had been in the Seventh Bureau for less than a year and had not even carried out any tasks. He found it hard to believe that a newcomer could accomplish what they could not.

Chen Wei and Jiang Yihan felt similarly.

The difficult problem they couldn't solve—could their leader really believe a newcomer could resolve it? Anyone in their position would feel somewhat unconvinced.

Those with capability and achievements, like them, wouldn't easily believe in a newcomer, not even one highly praised by their superior.

"Director, when will he arrive?" Zhao Rui asked.

Yan Qing checked the fastest flight from Silver Gray Star to Magnetic Vortex Star and said, "In eight days."

"Eight days, that should be in time."

Zhao Rui thought to himself, I must see what he's truly capable of.

.....

Six days later

The spaceship landed on Jinmu Star

The flight to Magnetic Vortex Star would take another six hours. During this gap, Qin Tian planned to explore the surrounding area briefly. He had always been curious about this special area, the Chaotic Star Zone, and now he had the time for an initial understanding.

After stepping out of the Star Port, Qin Tian rented an unmanned flying device, setting the location to the nearest marketplace.

At the marketplace, the buildings on the street weren't much different from other places, mostly consisting of common concrete and metal structures, but the variety of people was considerable.

Empire merchants haggled over prices at magnetic levitation stalls, accompanied by a group of Spiritualists dressed as mercenaries, their eyes vigilantly scanning the surroundings.

Members of the Spirit Race, draped in black Energy Cloaks, walked along the street. Their paper-pale faces were veined with web-like dark lines, a third vertical pupil at the center of their foreheads emitting a faint blue light, with fine silver veins extending from the corners of their eyes as if a star map flowed beneath their skin.

The star-fragment-like adornments on their ear tips chimed lightly with their movements. When a Spirit Race girl raised her hand, the Crystal Bracelet on her wrist refracted a prismatic cold light, accentuating her already pale lips.

Three high-level Beastmen walked shoulder to shoulder.

Leading them was a Lion-man with a fluffy golden mane, dark gold eyes aflame like fire, and fine fur behind his ears trembling slightly with each breath. Around his neck was a leather collar adorned with a Protective Talisman made from the claws of Iron Bristled Beasts from Magnetic Vortex Star.

The Bearman was nearly three meters wide at the shoulders, and his deep brown skin was covered in battle scars. His burly arms were hairy, with black pads visible at his knuckles when he clenched his fists.

Chapter 267: New Mission, Magnetic Vortex Star (Double-Length)

The Cat-man walked with light steps, his silver-gray vertical pupils scanning the surroundings vigilantly. The white fur on the tips of his ears trembled in the breeze, and the short blade hanging at his waist decorated the tailbone of the feline, emitting a fine clinking sound as he moved.

Humans, Beastmen, and the Spirit Race—originally adversarial forces—now simultaneously appeared on the same street, minding their own business while even engaging in trade.

Spiritual Energy technology equipment of the Spirit Race, tribal war drums of the Beastmen, human elixirs... all appeared in the shops or stalls along the street.

Qin Tian wandered around the market and bought some items.

However, shopping here is quite unique, as one must first exchange their bank card's Star Element into a kind of Blue Crystal Stone at the exchange point, which is then used to purchase goods.

The same applies to the Spirit Race and the Beastmen. Their financial systems are not aligned, so transactions can only be completed through this intermediary currency.

After having a meal at a specialty tavern, Qin Tian was walking down the street, giving a deep look at those Spirit Races and High-level Beastmen. What a pity, he had a mission this time, otherwise, he could have gleaned some talents from these aliens.

Renting an unmanned flying device, Qin Tian returned to the Star Port an hour before the airship's departure and successfully boarded the ship.

...

Two days later

The airship passed through a chaotic magnetic field band and landed at the Magnetic Vortex Star Port.

The port here was evidently more backward than those on other planets, and the sanitation environment was relatively poor, but this planet was located in a no man's land, so having a port itself was quite good.

Upon arriving at the exit, Qin Tian immediately saw the person he was meeting.

It was a man with a neat crew cut, his hair standing stiffly upright. He wasn't handsome, but his well-defined face exuded a sense of masculinity.

Along the way, Yan Qing had described the reception person's features and name to him.

It was this person, Zhao Rui.

"Is he Qin Tian?"

Zhao Rui squinted his eyes, carefully scrutinizing Qin Tian approaching him. The video image couldn't capture the true aura of this young man—he was tall and straight like a sword drawn from its sheath, exuding a sharp, exposed force. His stern face seemed sculpted with chisels and axes, his eyebrows sharp as swords, his nose high, and his thin lips tightly pressed into a cold arc. The most captivating were his eyes, with pupils as dark as ink, carrying a hint of sharpness, deterring anyone from easily making eye contact.

Damn, why is a soldier so handsome!

Zhao Rui secretly cursed, waving his hand:

"Over here~"

Qin Tian stepped forward, revealing a polite smile:

"Hello, Zhao Rui."

Zhao Rui grinned, stretching out his rough hand: "Qin Tian, long admired."

As their hands clasped, a glint flashed in Zhao Rui's eyes, and his palm suddenly exerted force. This was his customary way of probing—with seventy percent strength, neither too excessive nor too reserved.

However, the next second, his smile froze.

"Bang!"

A visible airwave suddenly blasted between their palms, startling surrounding travelers with its unexpected sound.

Zhao Rui felt as if his hand was clamped by a hydraulic press, with his phalanges making unbearable "crack" sounds.

"The flying device is parked outside." Zhao Rui struggled to keep his face unchanged, quickly withdrawing his hand and shoving it into his pants pocket. His hidden hand trembled uncontrollably, the web of his thumb already showing a patch of bruising.

This kid... Zhao Rui glanced at Qin Tian's tranquil side face with the corner of his eye, waves surging in his heart.

He, whose hands could crush alloy, suffered a major loss in a single encounter!

What great strength!

To be honest, his perception of Qin Tian changed. This guy indeed had capabilities, but the troubles they were facing couldn't be solved by mere strength.

Boarding a rather rudimentary flying device, Zhao Rui glanced around the environment, casually asking:

"Qin Tian, I heard from Director Yan that you've been in the Seventh Bureau for less than a year."

"Yes." Qin Tian nodded in admission.

"Then, to be honest, according to military regulations, you should address me as 'sir'." Zhao Rui turned to say.

"I see~"

Qin Tian blinked: "I hold the rank of Colonel. May I know your rank...?"

WTF!

Colonel!

Zhao Rui's face stiffened. After graduating from military school, he was directly selected into the Seventh Bureau, and it's been eight years now. In these eight years, he completed many tasks, and his rank ascended from lieutenant at graduation to lieutenant colonel.

Three promotions in eight years, that's a very rapid pace of promotion. Now, just past 30 years of age, his résumé definitely classifies him as a rising star in the military.

But he hadn't anticipated that Qin Tian, who seemed a bit younger than him, having joined the Seventh Bureau for less than a year, was already a Colonel.

Whose second-generation is this?

Why would someone like this come to the Seventh Bureau to polish their résumé?

Zhao Rui didn't believe that a young man from an ordinary background could be promoted to Imperial Colonel at such a young age. Obviously, Qin Tian had an extraordinary origin.

"Ahem, Qin Tian, later apart from me and Director Yan, there are two other colleagues. Let me introduce you beforehand." Zhao Rui awkwardly changed the topic, "The elder brother is called Chen Wei, he's slightly older, with a calm personality, and the other is a short-haired beauty, Jiang Yihan, independent and fiery. In the Seventh Bureau, she is notoriously known as the tigress."

Chen Wei, Jiang Yihan

Qin Tian memorized these two names in his heart.

"Zhao Rui!"

Just then, a familiar voice to Qin Tian came through the earpiece pasted on Zhao Rui's ear.

The voice belonged to Yan Qing, although very faint, couldn't escape his super hearing.

"You forgot to turn off your communication channel."

Yan Qing's tone carried a subtle oddness.

Soon after, an ice-cold female voice emerged.

"The tigress, Zhao Rui, I wasn't aware I had such a good reputation in the Seventh Bureau."

Snap

Zhao Rui's face instantly stiffened, furiously tapping his toe, nearly tapping out a three-room-one-hall space.

To cover up the awkwardness, he ended up creating an even more awkward situation.

What to do?

Let the world be destroyed already!

"Remember to turn off the channel next time." Yan Qing's voice carried a hint of laughter.

Zhao Rui closed the channel, leaning dejectedly against the seat, silent.

Qin Tian eyed Zhao Rui with full sympathy; to offend the one person beside him who mustn't be provoked.

Brother, may you find solace in your misfortune.

An hour later, the flying device landed.

Zhao Rui led Qin Tian into an unremarkable shop. As soon as the door opened, a pink fist landed directly on Zhao Rui's face.

"Ah!"

Zhao Rui clutched his face, crying in pain.

Bang!

Another punch struck Zhao Rui's abdomen, making him bend like a shrimp with a retching sound.

"Tigress? How do you find my tigress punch, Zhao Rui."

A heroic-looking short-haired beauty stood at the door, her gaze carrying a hint of evil Qi.

"Yihan, great beauty, I was wrong!"

Zhao Rui lifted his body, smiling bitterly: "Can you give me a chance to start anew?"

"Hmph, a tigress doesn't give people opportunities, she only devours them!"

Jiang Yihan snorted coldly, turning her head to walk into the room.

Seeing that Jiang Yihan seemed to let it go, Zhao Rui breathed a sigh of relief, turning to Qin Tian.

"Let's go."

"Mm."

Qin Tian nodded, following Zhao Rui into the shop.

Entering the room, Qin Tian saw the long-missed Yan Qing, besides him, there was also the Chen Wei and Jiang Yihan Zhao Rui mentioned.

Chen Wei's broad shoulders and square face gave off a sense of steadiness. Jiang Yihan's heroic and brisk short hair was clean and sharp. Judging from the earlier parry, she truly was a woman not to be trifled with.

Qin Tian was observing the two, and they were also observing Qin Tian.

At first sight, Qin Tian left them with a deep impression,

His appearance was too outstanding, his build tall and sturdy, his features cold and rugged, at first glance one might mistake him for a celebrity, but the depth and sharpness in his eyes marked his extraordinary qualities.

"Director Yan, Qin Tian here to report."

Qin Tian stood before Yan Qing, feet together, offering a standard military salute.

Seeing this, Yan Qing's face broke into a smile.

"Qin Tian, you've arrived just in time."

Chapter 268: Hundred Hunters Star Thieves, Poisonous Widow

"Qin Tian, the two behind me, Zhao Rui has already introduced you to them."

Yan Qing turned slightly and introduced, "Chen Wei, Jiang Yihan, both are elites from our Seventh Bureau."

"Hello."

Qin Tian nodded slightly at the two.

"Hello, Qin Tian."

Chen Wei extended his hand to Qin Tian.

Qin Tian shook Chen Wei's hand, without probing, a simple handshake and then released.

"Qin Tian, time is tight, so I'll get straight to the point."

Yan Qing's expression was serious, "This mission is very tricky."

The events occurred during the time Qin Tian was heading to Elf Star.

A scientist in the weapon energy field was traveling by military ship to a secret research site on Clark Star.

However, en route, the ship encountered a powerful star thieves group.

The military ship was a single vessel, but the star thieves group had equipped multiple armed ships.

As a result, the ship was destroyed, and the scientist along with the escort personnel were captured by the star thieves, losing contact.

This scientist was involved in a highly important research project, and losing him caused the entire project to come to a halt.

Following the incident, the Military Department was furious and immediately tasked the Seventh Bureau with leading the operation, coordinating with multiple departments to ensure the safe return of the scientist.

According to the final image data sent from the ship, the attacking star thieves were none other than the notorious Hundred Hunt Star Thieves group in the Azure Wood Star Realm.

Founded over twenty years ago, the Hundred Hunt Star Thieves group has committed various major crimes over the years, attacking no less than a hundred commercial spacecraft, with tens of thousands of passengers missing after capture. They are an Empire level-A wanted target.

However, this was the first time the Hundred Hunt Star Thieves group attacked a military ship, and the occupants aboard were so significant, leading one to wonder whether this was coincidence or a deliberate hunt targeting the scientist and pivotal research project.

Could there be a traitor within the Military Department, leaking secrets?

An investigation from the inside out began as a result.

Yan Qing was primarily responsible for tracking the Hundred Hunt Star Thieves group's whereabouts.

However, this group of star thieves was extremely cautious and cunning, using a captured large commercial spacecraft as their base, never landing on any planets.

Various supplies are handled by several procurement teams, who after returning post-procurement, meet in space to consolidate.

After spending more than two months, Yan Qing finally identified a group of Hundred Hunt Star Thieves' external procurement personnel traveling to the Chaotic Star Realm's Magnetic Vortex Star to procure energy blocks and living supplies, as well as buying a batch of items unique to chaotic regions — slaves.

The procurement personnel were unaware of the exact location of the Hundred Hunt Star Thieves group's base ship. After returning, the star thieves group would then issue them the route to reunite. Therefore, forcefully interrogating this group is useless. The only option is to infiltrate their team and follow them aboard the Hundred Hunt Star Thieves group's base ship to possibly find the missing scientist.

However, the difficulty of this is exceptionally high.

The procurement personnel are all veterans with high alertness, and are unlikely to easily allow anyone to join the team. Yan Qing previously dispatched Jiang Yihan to step in, attempting a series of layouts and collaborations to gain the trust of one of the leaders, yet ultimately failed, nearly getting exposed.

Subsequently, Yan Qing and the others tried other methods, but unfortunately, none were effective.

Seeing these procurement personnel about to finish and leave, outside the Magnetic Vortex Star, the battleship's locking device would be severely disrupted. Once they enter space, finding them again would be as difficult as scaling the heavens.

"So now, it's up to you to see if you have some unconventional methods," Yan Qing looked at Qin Tian.

Listening to this, Qin Tian nodded slightly. The difficulty of the mission was indeed very high, with conventional methods almost certain to fail. Fortunately, from his perspective, accomplishing this task wasn't too challenging.

"Sir, do you have detailed information on these personnel?" Qin Tian asked.

"Yes."

Yan Qing took out a folder from the table behind him and opened it, handing a stack of files to Qin Tian, containing detailed information on each personnel.

Qin Tian browsed through them one by one. These people were either fugitives committing serious crimes, or captives of the star thieves group who actively or passively became members of the star thieves.

And they were all Spiritualists, with even Bloodline Martial Artists among them.

"How is it, any thoughts after looking through?" Yan Qing asked.

"I have some ideas, but the specifics need further investigation first," Qin Tian said seriously.

Upon hearing this, Zhao Rui and the other two exchanged a silent glance. Truth be told, they were quite confident before, believing with their experience and capability, dealing with a group of star thieves would be straightforward.

However, after multiple failures, they came to clearly understand how vigilant and difficult this group was.

"Alright."

Yan Qing nodded and asked, "Who do you plan to start with?"

Qin Tian pulled out one file and pointed at the photo of a beautiful woman in the upper left corner, saying, "Poisonous Widow."

Poisonous Widow?

Yan Qing, Zhao Rui, and the others had a gleam in their eyes, evidently surprised at Qin Tian choosing her.

Poisonous Widow is a dazzlingly beautiful woman, with a Western face, blonde hair and emerald eyes, and a stunning figure. Whenever she appears, she captures the fiery gazes of all men.

But, beneath this beautiful exterior hides a twisted and malevolent heart.

With her striking looks, Poisonous Widow has married several wealthy men, each dying within two years post-marriage, leaving her with exceptionally rich inheritance.

Initially, the public thought this woman to be cursed with a bad fate, a husband killer, but later her case caught the attention of the Judgement Court. After investigation, it was discovered she was indeed a Spiritualist with Poison Bloodline, silently poisoning her husbands leading them astronomically to what the public perceived as normal deaths.

Once the investigation was complete, the Judgement Court immediately initiated capture against Poisonous Widow. Nevertheless, she somehow escaped, and upon re-emerging, she had become a member of the Hundred Hunt Star Thieves group.

Of these procurement personnel, Poisonous Widow may not be the strongest in combat, but she is definitely the most dangerous.

Zhao Rui and the others do not understand why Qin Tian wants to find a breakthrough with Poisonous Widow.

Do you think you're handsome, that Poisonous Widow will instantly fall for you?

Don't dream.

If Poisonous Widow actually takes a liking to you, you're the one who should be on edge.

It's said that no man who has had a relationship with her has survived.

The name Poisonous Widow is not merely for show.

"Qin Tian, maybe you should reconsider. Poisonous Widow is truly dangerous, with alertness higher than the others," Chen Wei advised.

Qin Tian smiled slightly, "No worries, I'll give it a try first."

Oh dear, another stubborn mule.

Chen Wei shook his head discreetly, capable people are often just as obstinate, much like the rest of them, though many times such obstinacy can spoil big affairs.

Let him hit a wall and come back then.

Chapter 269: Path of Dawn, First Use of Charm and Fall (Double-Length)

That afternoon, Qin Tian, under the guidance of Zhao Rui and others, found the residence of the Poisonous Widow. Immediately, he began to surveil the group alone, tracing their movements.

Perhaps because they were on the unique planet of Magnetic Vortex Star, the Poisonous Widow and her crew did not hide their activities, instead openly walking the streets every day, either contacting black market merchants to inquire about the arrival of goods or enjoying themselves in various entertainment venues.

Additionally, Qin Tian noticed that the Poisonous Widow seemed very interested in the slave market. She frequently visited the market during her downtime, and when she spotted robust men, her eyes would gleam with a peculiar look.

Having understood this habit, Qin Tian already had a plan in mind.

.....

Slave Market

A shop without any signboard.

At night, Old Neil entered the backyard, where rows of iron cages stood under the moonlight. Each cage held one or two sleeping men, all generally well-built with messy hair, and their exposed skin bore some black tattoos, seemingly ancient totems.

"Alas, these barbarians are going to be stuck on my hands."

Old Ersen sighed. He had been in the slave business for nearly fifty years, selling countless slaves—humans, beastmen, trolls, and even elves. Yet no race ever proved as stubborn as this group of barbarians, giving even slave merchants a headache.

They fear neither pain nor death. No matter how he tortured them, these barbarians refused to bow and submit.

Such slaves are almost impossible to sell.

Although the purchase price for these barbarians was not high, thinking about how he, a seasoned veteran, made a loss with this deal left him quite agitated.

Clack clack~

At that moment, Old Neil heard an unusual sound behind him. He turned around, his pupils contracting sharply.

His decades-long guard, Tier Five Spiritualist Williamson, was bound tightly by a mass of emerald vines, wrapped like a dumpling. Williamson struggled desperately, but the vines tightened progressively. In the moonlight, Old Neil could clearly see the fear and despair in Williamson's eyes.

What is going on?

Where did these vines come from?

Old Neil was terrified, cold sweat forming instantly.

"Walt Nelson."

A cold voice reached his ears.

Swish

A figure suddenly appeared before Old Neil, clad in black with a stern face, gazing at him with calm apathy.

"You are..."

Old Neil retreated half a step, but before he could finish his sentence, a large hand pressed onto his head. His vision went black, and he lost consciousness.

Unknown how much time passed, Old Neil slowly opened his eyes. The man was still standing before him.

Old Neil stood up and respectfully bowed to the man:

"Master."

Simultaneously, the vines binding Williamson quickly retracted.

Williamson stumbled a few steps, swallowed, and similarly addressed the man respectfully:

"Master."

"Hmm."

Qin Tian nodded, then looked behind him at the slaves locked in iron cages, collars with explosive devices around their necks, and asked:

"Where did you bring these slaves from?"

Old Neil hurriedly answered, "Master, these barbarians come from Anya Star on the Path of Dawn."

Upon hearing this, Qin Tian's eyes flickered.

The Path of Dawn is not a literal road.

Accurately speaking, it's a newly explored star belt from the outside world. On a star map, it resembles a winding path, starting from the border of the Chaotic Star Realm, extending westward, dotted with life stars possessing civilization.

New planets mean immeasurable wealth and resources.

When the Path of Dawn was discovered, civilian forces rushed into these stars frantically before the Empire, inevitably clashing and colliding with local civilizations.

The Azure Wood Star Realm, Amaterasu Star Realm, and even the Beastman Empire dispatched various forces to the Path of Dawn to vie for territory. However, official forces remained inactive.

This is a common expansion strategy of the Empire: letting civilian forces lead the way to explore and understand the local situation and once the conditions are clear, the Royal Army will officially dispatch to plant the Royal Golden Dragon Flag atop the planets.

Evidently, these barbarians were captured indigenous people, resold to Old Neil.

"Master, these barbarians are very special."

Old Neil explained, "They're different from humans, beastmen, and the Spirit Race. Barbarians do not wield spiritual energy, but their physical bodies are terrifyingly powerful, capable of crushing steel barehanded. The strength of powerful barbarians can even withstand the martial techniques and magic of high tier spiritualists, and this bodily strength originates from the tattoos on their bodies, or more accurately, the totem battle patterns."

"The stronger a barbarian is, the denser the battle patterns on their bodies."

"Among the barbarians I've captured, a few are as strong as Tier Two Spiritualists; however..."

Old Neil smiled wryly, "Their willpower is astounding. No matter how I threaten or torture them, none have ever yielded or bowed, even the women and children offer no exception."

"Now, they can't be sold at all, causing me significant financial loss."

Old Neil assumed Qin Tian had come for money, hence he truthfully disclosed his current financial situation.

Upon hearing this, a hint of surprise flashed in Qin Tian's eyes. A slave merchant like Old Neil certainly wasn't known for compassion; his methods of torment would break even warriors with steel willpower.

Chapter 270: Path of Dawn, First Use of Charm and Fall (Double-Length)

In this group of barbarians, even women and children can endure torture. What kind of environment could possibly produce such a terrifying yet admirable people?

"I'm not here for the money."

Through the Soul Seal, Qin Tian could perceive Old Neil's thoughts.

Not for the money?

Old Nelson was stunned for a moment. If it's not for the money, could it be for an old guy like me?

Smack

Qin Tian kicked Old Nelson on the behind, knocking him to the ground, and said coldly:

"With that ugly face of yours, who would actually fancy you?"

Old Nelson lifted his head suddenly, shocked and frightened in his heart.

The master can actually see his thoughts?

What is this, mind reading?

Old Nelson quickly stood up, nervously admitting his mistake:

"I'm sorry, Master."

Qin Tian gave him a cold glance. For such heartless slave merchants without any moral baseline, he had no reason to show a pleasant face.

"Have either of you seen this woman before?"

Qin Tian took out a photo of the Poisonous Widow.

Old Nelson and Williamson glanced at it and immediately said:

"Seen her, seen her!"

With a face as stunning as the Poisonous Widow's, it's hard to forget after one glance.

Old Nelson said, "This woman once bought a barbarian slave from me, but later, I heard she killed that barbarian, his body covered in wounds."

"Master, this woman's quite sinister; every man who got close to her has ended up dead."

"Why did you ask about her?"

Qin Tian said calmly, "Don't ask what you shouldn't. You just need to do one thing right."

Qin Tian instructed Old Nelson on a few tasks.

With past experiences to remind him, Old Nelson dared not entertain other thoughts. He nodded emphatically and said:

"Rest assured, I'll get it done."

...

The next morning

As usual, the Poisonous Widow headed straight to the slave market after breakfast, searching for any slaves that might pique her interest.

The base ship of the Hundred Hunt Star Thieves never landed on the ground. Hence, the members could only find entertainment on the ship. Ordinary activities are no longer interesting to them, not evoking any curiosity.

Only by playing with more thrilling things could they stimulate their spirits.

For example, slave deathmatches, bloody dismemberment shows, or unrestricted gatherings...

The members onboard kept creating new ways to play, but those games consumed lives rapidly and in large amounts.

So apart from the people captured from merchant ships, the procurement team would, if possible, buy some interesting slaves while out purchasing supplies.

Walking along the street, the Poisonous Widow's captivating and sensual appearance drew the eyes of all the men. Their gazes were fiery, intense, and greedy, but despite this, not one dared approach her.

The stories of the Poisonous Widow had spread throughout the area. Many knew that any man who got close to her ended poorly.

"Tch, a bunch of cowards."

The Poisonous Widow curved her lips in a sneer, seemingly mocking and disdainful. Her eyes scanned back and forth over the slaves on either side of the street, but after long, none caught her interest.

Just as the Poisonous Widow was about to leave in disappointment, suddenly, a voice reached her ear.

"Excuse me, miss, please wait."

Turning her head, the Poisonous Widow saw a familiar face.

Old Nelson walked over with a businesslike smile on his face:

"Remember me? I once sold you a barbarian slave."

"Remember, of course, I remember." The Poisonous Widow looked at Old Nelson with a peculiar gaze, "You, as a slave merchant, dared to sell me an untrained slave and still have the face to appear before me."

She had a strong impression of that barbarian slave. Even with nerve shocks from the Slave Collar or whipping and poisoning, the barbarian remained as unyielding as iron. His eyes, like sharp eagles, showed no fear or submission, reminiscent of the ever-frozen glaciers of the Far North, calm to the point of chilling.

Upon hearing this, Old Nelson hurriedly said:

"Sorry, sorry, it was my mistake back then, picked the wrong slave. But recently, I've trained a new batch of barbarians, absolutely obedient. Want to take a look?"

"Not interested; keep them yourself."

The Poisonous Widow tossed a remark and walked away. She knew too well the nature of slave merchants. Frankly, in terms of wickedness, these slave merchants were no less than Star Thieves.

"Wait, wait, at least take a look. Williamson, bring the men over."

Old Nelson called out, and immediately, Williamson brought over a few barbarians with a rope. This group of barbarians had their hands and feet in shackles, their bodies slightly hunched, their eyes unfocused, as if under some Enchanting Potion, bewildered and dazed.

The Black Widow didn't intend to pay attention to Old Nelson's group, was about to refuse with a cold face when suddenly, her gaze was captured by a barbarian.

That barbarian had a robust build, muscles defined and chiseled like a sculpture. He wore a slave's Bomb Necklace around his neck, his face partially obscured by messy hair, but one could vaguely discern his rugged features.

The Black Widow had seen many barbarians of this type, but for some reason, when this one appeared before her, she was struck by an intense desire. Her body heated up; she longed to "battle" with the barbarian right then, even if it meant having an audience.

This feeling was unprecedented, almost as if she'd been bewitched, losing all rationality.

"How much for this barbarian?"

The Poisonous Widow pointed at the barbarian, her originally lazy voice turning urgent.

"500,000 Star Elements; take him directly."

Old Nelson quoted a figure double the previous amount.

The Poisonous Widow didn't bargain, pulling out a smart device and transferring 500,000 to Old Nelson.

Her personal accounts had been frozen due to her being wanted, but through some means, the Hundred Hunt Star Thieves had secured a bank card for her under another's name and transferred a portion of procurement funds to it.

Spending 500,000 on a barbarian slave

was truly unreasonable.

However, the Poisonous Widow couldn't care about that now. Her mind was fixated on a single thought.

Take him back and then...

Engage in a fierce "battle."

After receiving the payment, Old Nelson smiled and handed the miniature controller for the Bomb Necklace to the Poisonous Widow.

"Madam, would you care to look at some other slaves? There's a 20% discount for multiple purchases."

The Poisonous Widow ignored Old Nelson, taking the barbarian by the arm and heading towards her residence.

She was already impatient.

After the Poisonous Widow left, Williamson whispered to Old Nelson:

"What does the master mean by this? Going through all this trouble just for that woman? If he wants to sleep with her, he doesn't need to do it this way."

As soon as he finished speaking, a sharp pain suddenly pierced Williamson's mind, like a dagger stabbing into his brain.

"Ah!"

Williamson clutched his head, screaming in agony. Subsequently, a cold voice echoed in his mind.

"Do it again, and you'll end up a fool."

"Sorry, Master, I was wrong!!!"

Williamson frantically begged for forgiveness in his heart, sweat soaking his back in an instant, utterly terrified.

The master could still hear his whispers from so far away.

What kind of terrifying hearing is this!

Old Nelson looked at Williamson silently. With even the inner thoughts detectable, this fool dared to speak ill of the master behind his back, truly ignorant of the word "death."

Old Nelson shook his head, recalling the other tasks the master had instructed him, a glint of determination flashing in his eyes.

Maybe, this might be the turning point in Nelson's life.