

I Pick Up Talents on the Interstellar Battlefield

#Chapter 91: Blink Step - Read I Pick Up Talents on the Interstellar Battlefield Chapter 91: Blink Step

Chapter 91: Chapter 91: Blink Step

滴滴滴

After class, Qin Tian received another message from a stranger.

He went to a corner where no one was around and opened it, and sure enough, it was Li Qi who sent him the Cultivation Techniques and Ninjutsu.

The Cultivation Technique practiced by Li Qi is called "Black Sun Ninja Technique," Black Iron Level, not as good as his "Shadow Thunder Prison Technique."

A few Ninjutsu techniques were just passable and not worth spending time practicing.

But one Ninjutsu technique did catch his eye.

Blink Step

As the name suggests, it's a technique for sudden acceleration.

In terms of Explosive Power alone, Blink Step isn't as good as the "Ninefold Thunder Flash" he trains with.

But Blink Step has one advantage that "Ninefold Thunder Flash" cannot compare to.

And that is stealth.

When performing Ninefold Thunder Flash, lightning bursts underfoot, it's flashy and cool, but also loud.

Whereas Blink Step is silent, consuming less Spiritual Energy.

At certain moments, or when maneuvering within a small range, Blink Step is relatively more flexible.

"This Ninjutsu can be practiced well."

Qin Tian thought secretly, with the enhancement of the Night Demon talent, his speed and Explosive Power are already exceptionally outstanding; if he combines Ninefold

Thunder Flash and Blink Step, using the two Body Techniques depending on the scenario, he will become as elusive as a ghost, coming and going without a trace.

The next period of time, Qin Tian entered a very regular and fulfilling life rhythm.

Star Element Tower cultivation, library reading, Martial Arts Room practice.

To outsiders, his life seemed like that of a monk, drearily tedious, yet Qin Tian enjoyed it.

Knowledge constantly flowing in, strength steadily climbing; such pleasure cannot be compared to any entertainment activity.

For two whole months, Qin Tian didn't step out of the school even once.

He was immersed in this state, feeling fulfilled and joyful, but some people were nearly driven mad.

.....

"Did he really not leave the school even once for two months?"

Wen Chengxian couldn't believe that a young person with background and talent could resist the allure of the outside world.

Not to mention going out for nightlife; at the very least, couldn't he go out for a meal?

Two months, aren't you tired of eating at the school cafeteria?

"Exactly so."

Li Qi nodded emphatically.

Wen Chengxian frowned tightly, in these two months, he had almost searched Twilight Ridge thoroughly, but still could not find the Amber.

Klaus is dead, now the only person related to Amber is Qin Tian.

Even though Qin Tian didn't carry Amber that day, and hasn't stepped into Twilight Ridge since, Wen Chengxian had an inexplicable feeling that it was most likely Qin Tian who took the Amber.

For this reason, he wanted to bypass the Seventh Bureau and make another move on Qin Tian, using some means to pry open his mouth.

But Qin Tian was acting like a turtle, staying put at the school without coming out.

Even with great influence, he couldn't send people to storm Eagle Military Academy and take Qin Tian away.

Annoying!

Really annoying!

Over the months, he spent increasingly high costs, but in the end still achieved nothing, his patience was wearing thin, like a volcano suppressed for a long time, about to erupt.

Knock knock

Just then, the sound of knocking came from outside the door, followed by a respectful voice.

"Boss, a guest with the surname An wants to see you."

An, it must be him.

Wen Chengxian glanced at Li Qi, then said: "You return to the Shadow Division first, I'll give you instructions regarding Qin Tian later."

"Yes!"

Li Qi nodded and quietly left the room.

"Let the guest in."

"Yes!"

Soon, a young man with a refined appearance entered the room, smiled and said:

"Young Master Wen, after the relic incident, we haven't seen each other for months now."

Not mentioning the relic would have been better, but once mentioned, Wen Chengxian felt like his heart was aflame with anger.

Seeing Wen Chengxian's unpleasant expression, the refined man maintained his smile and said:

"Young Master Wen, I heard that you lost the Ancient Giant Beast Essence Blood."

"An Shaobai!!!"

Wen Chengxian's eyes instantly turned cold, releasing an icy aura.

"You came to mock me?"

"Mocking, no no, I wouldn't dare."

An Shaobai waved his hands and said: "Young Master Wen, I'm here to help you."

"Help me? How can you help me? By breeding some obedient fighting dogs?"

Wen Chengxian sneered disdainfully.

Hearing this, a cold glimmer flashed deep in An Shaobai's eyes, but his smile remained intact. He said:

"Young Master Wen, that beast egg from the relic has been cultivated by me, it's a very special Spirit Beast, capable of soul parasitism and memory extraction, its abilities should help solve your current challenges."

Memory extraction?

Wen Chengxian's eyes flickered, then suspiciously looked at An Shaobai.

"Are you sure? Is it really that miraculous?"

An Shaobai was present when the relic was breached.

In addition to the Ancient Giant Beast Essence Blood, a beast egg with a last flicker of life was obtained by An Shaobai, who excelled at cultivating Spirit Beasts.

Wen Chengxian thought the egg wouldn't survive outside the relic, but unexpectedly, An Shaobai managed to revive it.

This guy really knows a thing or two about Spirit Beast cultivation.

"Absolutely! I wouldn't dare deceive you." An Shaobai affirmed.

"If that's the case then..."

Wen Chengxian lightly tapped the table, considering using An Shaobai's Spirit Beast to extract Qin Tian's memory, this way he could uncover whether that guy truly hid the Amber.

"But there is still a problem."

Wen Chengxian showed a troubled expression; Qin Tian remained in school like a turtle, leaving no opportunity for action.

"Young Master Wen, actually, I learned some details about this; you believe that the Essence Blood is in the hands of a Major named Qin Tian?"

As soon as An Shaobai spoke, Wen Chengxian's first reaction was not to nod in agreement but to raise his guard and scrutinize the person opposite him.

"You've planted a spy around me?"

"I wouldn't dare."

An Shaobai protested, "It's mainly because you've been making too much noise these past two months; a bit of inquiry, and I'll get some information."

Wen Chengxian gave a long look and said:

"Yes, I suspect the Essence Blood is with Qin Tian, but this guy is with the Seventh Bureau now, and he's holed up at Eagle Military Academy, making it difficult to act."

An Shaobai laughed: "The Seventh Bureau is indeed troublesome, but coincidentally, I have crucial information that might help resolve this issue."

"What information?" Wen Chengxian asked.

An Shaobai's lips curled slightly, "Three days ago, Yan Qing from the Seventh Bureau went to the Azure Wood Star for an important meeting in a completely isolated environment, unable to contact the outside world."

Yan Qing knew even about him.

Wen Chengxian squinted and asked: "So what?"

An Shaobai's smile broadened: "With Yan Qing absent, although Qin Tian remains under the Seventh Bureau, don't forget, The Seventh Bureau is still nominally under the jurisdiction of the Special Warfare Management Office. If the director gives an order while Yan Qing is away, could Qin Tian be transferred?"

Chapter 92: Chapter 92: Tier 2, Azure Wood Star

Yan Qing isn't here?

Wen Chengxian's eyes lit up. If what An Shaobai said was true, then this was indeed a golden opportunity.

The director of the Silver Gray Star Special Warfare Management Office, he wasn't familiar with, but his father did have some acquaintance with this person.

"This news is valuable." Wen Chengxian said.

An Shaobai smiled slightly, "As long as it helps you."

"Young Master Wen, that Spirit Beast's body still has some defects, so it temporarily cannot leave the incubation chamber. If you want to extract Qin Tian's memory, you still need to transfer him to Mist Town."

Mist Town

Wen Chengxian recalled for a moment, Mist Town seemed to be a tourist town that had some trouble recently.

It looked like the mischief was caused by this guy in front of him.

"Alright, I'll handle this matter." Wen Chengxian nodded.

"That's good, but Young Master Wen..."

An Shaobai showed a trace of awkwardness on his face, "I have another request and hope to seek your help."

"Ha, it turns out you're not helping me, but want to make a deal with me."

Wen Chengxian sneered, "Tell me, what is it?"

An Shaobai wasn't embarrassed and said directly:

"I need two tons of Chimera Solution."

"Two tons, you have quite an appetite!"

Wen Chengxian frowned. Chimera Solution is a specialized nutrition fluid for cultivating Spirit Beasts, with low yield and high cost.

Two tons of Chimera Solution was also a rather hard task for him to handle.

"There's no way around it, that Spirit Beast's congenital constitution is too poor, being able to breed it is already a miracle, and it now needs Chimera Solution to compensate for its congenital deficiencies." An Shaobai explained.

Two tons~

Wen Chengxian thought for a moment and nodded, saying:

"Alright, I'll get you those two tons of Chimera Solution, but you must find out where the Ancient Giant Beast Essence Blood ended up."

"And, let me remind you."

Wen Chengxian stared straight at An Shaobai, his eyes deep and quiet.

"The Ancient Giant Beast Essence Blood is extremely important to me, it concerns whether my father can advance further. If you dare to play tricks on me, don't blame me for being ruthless."

"That goes without saying!"

An Shaobai quickly said, "If I don't do well, Young Master Wen can handle me in any way, and I will not complain."

"You better."

Wen Chengxian said lightly.

"Alright, I will handle Qin Tian's transfer to Mist Town, but you should also be prepared. If Yan Qing comes back, then forget about making a move on Qin Tian."

"Understood." An Shaobai nodded.

A few minutes later, An Shaobai left the Wen Family and boarded the flying device.

The flying device hadn't even started when a voice suddenly echoed in his mind.

"Did he agree?"

"Of course."

An Shaobai's lips curled up, "A gift like this, how could he refuse."

"Good, with Yan Qing away, the Seventh Bureau on Silver Gray Star is leaderless, now is the best time to act, capture Qin Tian, and find that Essence Blood of the Ancient Giant Beast."

"Yes."

.....

Shadow Division

Li Qi walked into a dim underground passage with a mask on. The tunnel was dim, and the wall lamps on both sides emitted a yellowish light.

Coming to a stone door, Li Qi placed a hand on it. Shortly after, the door slowly opened.

In the secret room, a silhouette was hidden in the darkness, the body shape and appearance were completely indistinguishable.

Li Qi knelt down on both knees and said respectfully:

"Shadow Master."

The Shadow Master turned around, his face shrouded in black mist as if he was wearing a black mask, even his eyes couldn't be seen.

The Shadow Master looked at Li Qi, and after a few seconds, a hoarse voice came from behind the black mist.

"You've broken through Tier Four?"

Li Qi lowered his head to the ground and responded, "Yes."

The Shadow Master looked down at Li Qi as if trying to see through his body.

At this moment, Li Qi began to feel nervous, cold sweat forming on his back.

Although he is now loyal to Qin Tian, the Shadow Master has always been an unshakable nightmare in his heart. Facing the Shadow Master again, he couldn't help but feel nervous.

"You don't need to carry out your previous task. There's a more important task for you next." The Shadow Master said.

"Yes!"

Li Qi had no power to refuse, in the Shadow Division, the Shadow Master was the absolute ruler, more influential than Director Wen.

.....

Eagle Military Academy

Third Level of the Star Element Tower

The cultivation room was filled with surging Spiritual Energy fluctuations, with Spiritual Ability Factors rushing into the body of the cross-legged man.

At a certain moment, those tightly closed eyes suddenly opened.

The left eye swirled with black energy, and the right eye sparkled with purple thunder.

In the next moment, the bizarre phenomena in his eyes quickly disappeared, becoming bright and clear again.

"After breaking through Tier Two, the cultivation speed has slowed down."

Qin Tian stood up, shaking his head.

In the past two months, he almost ascended one Star every 20 days, quickly breaking through from Tier One Seven Stars to Nine Stars, and condensed the Star Vortex the day before yesterday, officially stepping into Tier Two.

As a Tier Two Spiritualist, the Spiritual Energy was more solid, several times deeper than Tier One, with a qualitative boost in combat effectiveness.

Unfortunately, after reaching Tier Two, the cultivation speed had noticeably slowed down, if he wanted to maintain the previous efficiency, he needed to climb higher levels of the Star Element Tower.

However, in these two months, his academic credits were also heavily consumed, with a fixed daily expenditure of 45 to 60 credits, leaving him with less than 600 now.

If he went to the fourth or fifth level, this amount couldn't even last ten days.

"Never mind, for now, I'll make do on the third level, and when the credits are used up, I'll find a few tasks to do."

Qin Tian thought to himself.

The school released many types of tasks, including security, inspection, escort, treasure hunting, etc., with credit rewards varying according to difficulty. Of course, none of the tasks offered as much as the 3,500 credits he received last time.

Leaving the Star Element Tower, on the way back to the dormitory, Qin Tian happened to run into Xiaopang.

Xiaopang said with a smile:

"Brother Tian, summer break is just the day after tomorrow, do you have any plans?"

Summer break?

Qin Tian was taken aback, he had forgotten that the school had a summer break.

"No plans, I'll just stay at school." Qin Tian said.

"Aren't you going home?" Xiaopang seemed surprised.

"It's too far, I won't go back."

Qin Tian said with a smile, but a trace of melancholy flickered in his eyes.

His home was too far, so far that he could never return in this lifetime.

"Alright, Brother Tian, if you have time, you can come with us on a trip. I'm planning a visit to Azure Wood Star with Xiong Gang and Huang Xiaojia, it will only take about half a month round trip, not too long." Xiaopang said.

Azure Wood Star

Main Star of the Azure Wood Star Realm, the Dongfang Family's base

It's a Plant Kingdom, with various exotic, colorful, and beautiful plants covering the entire planet

Every year billions of tourists visit Azure Wood Star, bringing immense vitality to the planet and generating countless wealth

Qin Tian was indeed quite interested in Azure Wood Star, so he nodded and said:

"Alright, I'll think about it, if I decide to go, I'll let you know in advance."

"Okay, Brother Tian, then we'll keep in touch."

Xiaopang smiled happily and waved goodbye to Qin Tian.

Returning to the dormitory, just as Qin Tian sat down, a call from an unfamiliar number came in.

Chapter 93: Chapter 93: Mist Town, Acting Battalion Commander

"Hello, this is the Silver Gray Star Special Warfare Management Office. Major Qin, based on military task requirements, after upper-level research and decision, Major Qin Tian is specially transferred to Mist Town to serve as Acting Camp Commander. Please complete your report within three days. The specific transfer order has been sent to your personal backend through official channels. Please check it promptly."

A deep, emotionless voice came from the communication device.

Before Qin Tian could reply, the call was already disconnected.

"Acting Camp Commander?"

Qin Tian immediately opened the Military Department's official app and indeed received a new transfer order in his personal backend.

Special Warfare Management Office, Mist Town, Acting Camp Commander

Qin Tian frowned slightly, feeling that something peculiar was revealed in this matter.

Firstly, his files are managed by the Seventh Bureau. Although the Seventh Bureau is still a subordinate unit of the Special Warfare Management Office, his transfer should be issued through the Seventh Bureau.

Furthermore, given his special status, currently studying at the Eagle Military Academy, if there were a transfer, Yan Qing would certainly notify him in advance.

Despite his doubts, after all, military orders are as solid as mountains, Qin Tian still immediately packed his bags, preparing to set off for Mist Town the next day.

Before leaving, Qin Tian sent a message to Yan Qing to inform him of this matter, but even when he arrived in Mist Town, there was no reply from Yan Qing.

Due to military confidentiality principles, Qin Tian did not disclose his transfer order to anyone else.

...

Before arriving at Mist Town, Qin Tian checked the information about this small town.

Mist Town is located in the southeast corner of the Andes Continent, with a humid climate. During certain seasons, the town is shrouded in mist every few days, hence the name Mist Town.

Thanks to proper promotion, Mist Town has become a famous tourist town in the region, attracting many tourists and boosting the local economy.

However, just over a month ago, it seemed some changes occurred in Mist Town. Many tourists mysteriously disappeared and have yet to be found, causing the town's tourism popularity to plummet, though there aren't many news reports about it online.

Qin Tian speculated that his transfer to Mist Town was likely related to this incident.

After all, his position as Acting Camp Commander implies the former commander was either transferred or—

Had an accident.

The flying device landed on Mist Town's helipad.

Qin Tian, carrying a backpack like a young tourist, walked onto the town's streets.

The streets were very desolate, with hardly any passersby. The shops on both sides were sparsely open, and when Qin Tian passed by, the shop owners rarely tried to attract customers.

Qin Tian strolled around, and the whole town was shrouded in a faint air of deathly silence, devoid of any vitality, not at all like a once tourism-style city.

The eerie atmosphere of the town made Qin Tian increasingly feel that the incident a month ago was not simple. However, he did not choose to investigate immediately, instead choosing to head to the military camp to complete his report.

...

The military camp was less than twenty kilometers from the town, with drones patrolling the skies, forming a seamless surveillance coverage.

When Qin Tian walked into the camp area, a drone quickly descended from above, and a stern voice came out.

"This is a military restricted area, tourists are prohibited from approaching."

Qin Tian looked at the drone above and said calmly:

"I am Qin Tian, the newly appointed Acting Camp Commander of the 137th Battalion, reporting today."

The drone remained still.

In less than three minutes, several military vehicles quickly drove up, stopping five meters away from Qin Tian.

A figure jumped out from the passenger seat, wearing a military uniform, taking large strides to Qin Tian, and gave a formal salute, saying in a sonorous voice:

"Reporting to the Camp Commander, I am Zhao Nuo, Deputy Camp Commander of the 137th Battalion, representing all soldiers of the 137th Battalion, welcome to our command."

Qin Tian returned the salute, then extended his hand, saying:

"Hello, Camp Commander Zhao."

Zhao Nuo hurriedly shook Qin Tian's hand, a hint of enthusiasm on his face:

"Hello, Camp Commander Qin. I heard a few days ago from the top that our battalion would welcome a young and promising commander, and you are even younger than I imagined."

Qin Tian smiled faintly and glanced at the soldiers behind Zhao Nuo.

These soldiers wore military uniforms and carried weapons, each standing upright, exuding a military demeanor. However, from these soldiers' eyes, he could see various emotions, such as curiosity, indifference, doubt, and aloofness.

The sudden arrival of a commander, especially one so young, probably made these soldiers doubtful of his background and abilities.

"Let's go, Camp Commander Zhao, I'll first complete my reporting procedures," Qin Tian said.

"Yes, yes, please come inside."

Zhao Nuo acted as the driver of the military vehicle, with Qin Tian in the passenger seat, driving into the military camp.

As they entered the camp, Qin Tian silently observed.

Several neat and orderly barracks stood, with beige walls emitting a warm and solemn aura under the sunlight. The windows of the barracks were polished to a shine, the glass reflecting the sunlight, like small sparkling mirrors.

On the open ground in front of the barracks, soldiers were performing physical training, with powerful and robust shouts echoing throughout the camp.

"Camp Commander Zhao."

Qin Tian spoke up, "How many soldiers do we have in our battalion?"

Zhao Nuo: "A total of 835 people."

Qin Tian: "How many Spiritualists and Superpower Users do we have respectively?"

Zhao Nuo: "10 Spiritualists, 3 Superpower Users."

Two special operations teams' formation

Qin Tian nodded slightly and asked again:

"Are they all currently in the camp?"

Upon hearing this, Zhao Nuo's expression suddenly became a bit strange, as if there was something unspeakable.

"What, is it inconvenient to say?" Qin Tian asked.

"It's not that it's inconvenient to say."

Zhao Nuo hesitated for a moment, then finally said:

"To be honest, there are only 4 Spiritualists left in our battalion right now."

Qin Tian frowned, "What about the other nine?"

Zhao Nuo sighed and said, "All missing."

Missing

Again, missing

Qin Tian's eyes sharpened, tourists missing, extraordinary beings in the camp missing, how many secrets are hidden in this small Mist Town?

Why would the Special Warfare Management Office assign him, a Major with no management experience, to serve as Commander here, and the procedures were so rushed?

"How did the higher-ups respond to the missing people?" Qin Tian asked again.

"The higher-ups told us to stay put, they would send people to investigate the situation, but over a month has passed, and not a word has been heard. Who knows what those people are doing?"

There was a trace of anger in Zhao Nuo's tone, but he quickly realized he shouldn't complain in front of Qin Tian, hurriedly explaining:

"Camp Commander Qin, I meant no disrespect, it's just that I'm anxious. The nine missing people are my comrades, my brothers, and our former Camp Commander is among them too."

"You see, with the Camp Commander missing, how can I, as the Deputy Camp Commander, not be anxious?"

Qin Tian looked at him, thoughtfully saying, "Yes, you would certainly be anxious."

Soon, Zhao Nuo brought Qin Tian to the personnel department to go through a series of procedures.

Henceforth, Qin Tian officially became the Acting Camp Commander of the 137th Battalion in Mist Town.

Chapter 94: Chapter 94: Misty Memories

"Camp Commander Qin, this is your office, everything has been tidily arranged for you."

"Thank you."

Qin Tian walked into the camp commander's office, it was evident that it had been cleaned in advance. The windows were bright and clean, the desk spotless, and items were neatly arranged.

"Camp Commander Qin, I'll make you a cup of tea."

Zhao Nuo skillfully took a packet of tea leaves from the cupboard and brewed some tea for Qin Tian.

"Camp Commander Zhao, I've just arrived and would like to understand the specific situation of Battalion 137. Please give me a brief introduction."

Qin Tian sipped the tea; it had a bitterness with a hint of sweetness, and a faint, refreshing fragrance.

"Alright~"

Zhao Nuo nodded.

Battalion 137 is part of the Silver Gray Star's 45th Legion and has been stationed in Mist Town for several decades.

Silver Gray Star has been peaceful for over a hundred years without any conflicts, so stationed troops across different areas have relatively light tasks, focusing mainly on training in their daily work.

Mist Town is a tourist town that attracts a large number of visitors each year. Due to the pervasive fog, incidents like children getting lost or crimes committed amidst the chaos often occur.

The mission of Battalion 137 is to maintain local stability and assist local law enforcement agencies whenever necessary to resolve public issues.

In recent years, Mist Town's tourism industry has been booming, boosting the local economy, and local people's lives have been improving, making Battalion 137 proud as the town's guardian.

However, nobody expected an event over a month ago that dealt a significant blow to Mist Town.

It happened during a very common foggy day, when the entire town was shrouded in mist.

Tourists poured out of hotels and guesthouses, cameras in hand, capturing photos with poetic charm.

Everything seemed just like normal, with no noticeable difference.

However, after the fog cleared, local authorities and law enforcement agencies received reports from the public that more than 40 tourists and over 20 locals had disappeared.

Upon hearing the news, the entire town immediately went into a state of emergency, with all government personnel mobilized, and Battalion 137 dispatched soldiers and drone swarms for extensive searches.

But the results were fruitless.

The missing people seemed to vanish into thin air, with no one knowing how they disappeared or where they went.

With over 60 people missing, this was a major case.

Mist Town's government immediately reported it to higher authorities.

Battalion 137 also found the matter extremely peculiar, promptly reporting it to the 45th Legion.

The 45th Legion responded that this was a special local case, and in principle, not handled by the Military Department. Battalion 137 could assist but not get too deeply involved.

Subsequently, Battalion 137 acted according to the legion's instructions, continuing to deploy drone swarms to search for the missing persons' trails, while other personnel resumed normal training.

The disappearances made tourists uneasy and frightened, leading them to flee Mist Town, with some posting information on the Star Net that deterred many others from visiting.

Seeing this, Battalion 137 felt powerless, not wanting to see the beautiful town they guard decline.

But no one expected that just two days later, another mist descended upon the town.

This time, in addition to more tourists and locals disappearing, two soldiers who had gone to town to procure supplies also vanished.

The disappearance of soldiers is no trivial matter.

Former Camp Commander Liu Dalong immediately led a team himself, along with eight Spiritualists and Superpower Users, to investigate.

According to drone and satellite imaging, during the mist's rise, there was no sign of anyone leaving the town. Therefore, the most likely destination for these people would be the Mist Plain next to the town.

The Mist Plain is located on the east side of the town, with a unique terrain structure. It is the origin of the fog and contains a peculiar substance in the mist that can affect or even block technological product investigations.

This is also one of the reasons for Battalion 137's stationing here, as the government is concerned that someone might exploit the mist's peculiar properties for illegal activities.

On the way to the Mist Plain, Liu Dalong kept reporting his observations, making records. Yet, within a few hours, Liu Dalong and his special forces squad members also vanished without a trace.

Zhao Nuo sighed and said, "Camp Commander Liu was very good to the brothers, strict in training but very caring in private. If some soldiers had family issues, Camp Commander Liu would use his connections and pay out of his own pocket to help solve their problems."

"After Camp Commander Liu's incident, the whole camp was leaderless and in disarray. It was a huge effort on my part to settle everyone back down and resume normal training."

"But this isn't a long-term solution. Battalion 137 still needs a leader to guide us, and fortunately, with your arrival, Camp Commander Qin, we finally have someone to be our anchor."

Qin Tian smiled faintly and said, "Camp Commander Zhao, you also worked hard. I'm not very familiar with military affairs, so you'll still need to handle most of the daily work."

Hearing this, Zhao Nuo bowed sincerely and said:

"No problem, it's part of my responsibilities."

Qin Tian: "Camp Commander Zhao, could you call the Spiritualists and the company commanders to the meeting room next door? I'd like to meet everyone."

"Sure, I'll notify them."

Zhao Nuo got up and left the office.

The door closed gently. Qin Tian leaned back in his chair, fingers tapping lightly on the table, his gaze deep.

After hearing Zhao Nuo's account, he found the whole situation increasingly peculiar.

Two fog events resulted in the disappearance of over a hundred people, including a camp commander.

Yet, more than a month has passed without the military or other departments sending anyone to conduct a thorough investigation, and there isn't much information on Mist Town online.

It seemed as though a large net was cast over Mist Town, sealing it off from external forces and preventing information from leaking out, as if the entire town had become an isolated island.

And in this sensitive moment, he was transferred by the Special Warfare Management Office to serve as acting camp commander in Mist Town.

Is this a conspiracy against me?

No

If it was just against me, there wouldn't be any need for such an elaborate setup.

Just how many secrets is this small town hiding?

Qin Tian's fingers tapped lightly on the table as he looked out the window, watching Zhao Nuo lead a few people towards the office building.

Putting myself in another's shoes, if I were the vice-camp commander, and during the vacancy in the camp commander position a young, military-inexperienced Major was parachuted in as camp commander, would I be able to handle it as warmly and openly as Zhao Nuo?

Of course, this doesn't mean Zhao Nuo himself has any issues, but this vice-camp commander is definitely someone with considerable depth.

Sigh, how bothersome.

Qin Tian sighed. He was someone who hated trouble and didn't like dealing with complex interpersonal relationships.

Previously, whether in the Earth Dragon Team or the Special Warfare Squad, he was quite comfortable, as the people around him were straightforward.

But now, he had to put on a mask and interact with a group of people who might have various opinions about him, all the while remaining extremely vigilant to avoid becoming the next Liu Dalong.

Chapter 95: Chapter 95: Subordinates, Provocation

Conference Room

"Everyone, this is the new commander of our 137th Battalion, Camp Commander Qin, Qin Tian."

Zhao Nuo said enthusiastically, "Let's give a warm round of applause to welcome Camp Commander Qin."

Clap clap

A sparse applause sounded in the room.

Qin Tian glanced around; behind Zhao Nuo were four company commanders and three Spiritualists, all of them able-bodied men in military uniforms, showing neither enthusiasm nor resistance, just clapping very seriously and mechanically.

"Camp Commander Qin, let me introduce you."

Zhao Nuo introduced each in turn:

"This is Guo Yong, Commander of the First Company."

"Jin Wujie, Commander of the Second Company."

"Xing Yilei, Commander of the Third Company."

"Stone Lin, Commander of the Fourth Company."

"Ye Zhongyi, a Tier Two Five star Spiritualist."

"Master Liucheng, a Tier Three Six Star Spiritualist."

"Tu Changsong, a Tier Three Seven Star Spiritualist."

Qin Tian nodded and said:

"Hello everyone, very pleased to meet you all."

"Camp Commander Qin."

At this moment, Tu Changsong, standing at a height of over one meter ninety with a face full of stubble, suddenly spoke:

"Camp Commander Qin, may I ask, are you a Spiritualist?"

Qin Tian nodded: "Yes."

"Then what Tier Spiritualist are you?" Tu Changsong continued to ask.

Qin Tian replied calmly:

"Tier Two, One Star."

Tier Two... One Star.

Upon hearing this, a flash of surprise appeared in the eyes of several present, some even directly wore their emotions on their faces, revealing their inner thoughts.

Tier Two, One Star, this strength is even weaker than Ye Zhongyi, who is the weakest here.

Someone like this is actually able to be appointed as the commander of the 137th Battalion, just whose young master is here to gain a token of acknowledgment?

Even if you are here to gain acknowledgment, at least do it in a way that makes sense.

A Tier Two, One Star, looking across the entire Silver Gray Star Military Department, there isn't a weaker commander than him.

What on earth is the leadership thinking, treating our 137th Battalion like a joke?

The atmosphere in the room suddenly became awkward and peculiar, everyone glanced around at each other with odd expressions.

"Everyone, Spiritual Ability Level does not wholly define strength. Moreover, what is required of a leader is comprehensive quality; it's not just about who's the strongest."

Zhao Nuo mediated the situation, glaring intensely at Tu Changsong as if blaming him for saying something inappropriate.

"Camp Commander Qin, don't be upset, Old Tu is straightforward, saying what's on his mind, but he has no ill intentions." Zhao Nuo explained.

"Mhm."

Qin Tian nodded, his expression very calm, and said nothing more.

"Camp Commander Zhao, I've already met everyone, let's call it a day for now."

With that, Qin Tian stood up, nodded to everyone, then walked straight out of the conference room.

Bang

The conference room door closed.

Zhao Nuo glared once again at Tu Changsong, saying in a low voice:

"Why are you asking nonsensical questions and offending the new commander, watch out that he doesn't hold a grudge later."

"Tch, a Tier Two, One Star Spiritualist can't really do anything to me."

Tu Changsong smirked disdainfully.

Then, Master Liucheng spoke from the side:

"Brother Zhao, I agree with Old Tu, a commander is acceptable, but a Tier Two, One Star Spiritualist doesn't have the qualifications to command us."

"Same here." Ye Zhongyi nodded in agreement.

Three Spiritualists expressed their thoughts, but the four company commanders said nothing. Regardless of whether Qin Tian's strength was strong or weak, he was at least a Spiritualist, stronger than them who were mere mortals.

Tu Changsong and the others could be unruly, but they didn't have the right.

"You three are really causing me trouble!"

Zhao Nuo pointed at the three, both angry and helpless, "Let's just observe Camp Commander Qin's attitude first, and don't go overboard. After all, he's still a youngster with pedigree; he can't promote you, but there's plenty of ways to trip you up."

"Got it, I'll be careful." Tu Changsong said carelessly.

.....

"As expected, being parachuted in as a leader is tough."

Qin Tian sat in the office; even though the voices were low next door, he could hear everything clearly.

The military respects the strong

Lack of strength usually challenges authority

He wasn't angry. In the army, earning the subordinates' respect was quite simple, showing power, and giving these troublemakers a beating would do.

Now, he's contemplating another matter

Tu Changsong, Master Liucheng are both Tier Three Spiritualists, and Zhao Nuo as the deputy commander presumably wouldn't be weaker than the two, probably being a Tier Three Spiritualist too, so the former Camp Commander Liu Dalong's strength might have reached Tier Four.

A Tier Four Spiritualist and several Extraordinary associates disappeared without a trace.

This implies that the mastermind behind this has a strength of at least Tier Four.

This is surely not good news for him.

"Ah, if only Li Qi were here."

Qin Tian lamented. Li Qi had been "watching" him all along, but recently, Li Qi was suddenly dispatched to Star Moon City for another mission.

Otherwise, they could investigate this openly and secretly together.

But, thinking again, Li Qi was abruptly transferred, and he was also inexplicably appointed here as the acting commander.

Could there be a connection in all this?

Could it be Wen Chengxian causing trouble again?

Wen Chengxian had a motive and capability, making him the primary suspect.

Yet, if Wen Chengxian truly intended harm, would he go to such lengths, staging an event at Mist Town over a month in advance and making a commander disappear?

If things go south, even as the son of the chief, he would have to pay a heavy price.

"Who could it really be."

Qin Tian murmured to himself, with too little information to make reasonable inferences, but he was certain that, having reached Mist Town, he just needed to wait and see for the mastermind's eventual exposure.

.....

The news of the new commander of the 137th Battalion quickly spread throughout the camp.

All soldiers knew the new commander was a very young major, a Tier Two, One Star Spiritualist, not very strong, but most definitely well-connected.

Soldiers were intrigued by the new commander but also a bit apprehensive.

As the saying goes, when a new official takes office, new policies follow, Qin Tian being young and well-connected, might he overthrow the existing order in the 137th Battalion and establish a new set of rules that everyone might struggle to adapt to?

Commander Liu was easy-going and approachable, but these young aristocrats might prove difficult to deal with.

Yet, over the next three days, the soldiers were surprised to find that the new commander neither organized a grand welcome ceremony nor discussed new rules.

He was like someone detached from the camp, silently observing the soldiers' training every day, never offering an opinion or having discussed matters with mid-level officers.

Gradually, the soldiers and officers became more perplexed by this new commander.

They couldn't tell whether the new commander was simply disinterested in military affairs or preparing for a major move.

The former was alright, but if it was the latter, everyone would have to be on guard.

Chapter 96: Chapter 96: Field Training

Morning

"Camp Commander, our battalion is going to the town for a drill. Would you like to join us?"

Zhao Nuo came to Qin Tian's office and asked with a smile.

"A drill? What does it involve?" Qin Tian asked.

Zhao Nuo explained, "It's just going to the town for some jogging and chanting slogans. Previously, the town was in a state of panic. Camp Commander Liu suggested that our battalion should show up more often in town to let the civilians know we are always here, always protecting everyone."

"I see."

Qin Tian nodded and said, "Alright, I'll join everyone in a bit."

"I'll notify everyone right now."

Zhao Nuo smiled, turned, and left.

Soon, 137 Battalion was on the move. Companies 3 and 4, along with three Spiritualists, stayed behind.

Companies 1 and 2 were ready to depart, with Qin Tian and Zhao Nuo each leading a team, running towards Mist Town.

Along the way, the soldiers' footsteps were in unison, and their chants were loud, showcasing their vibrant military spirit.

Upon reaching the town, the two companies split up, patrolling different routes within the town.

"Sweat and blood but no tears! Skin and flesh but no leaving the ranks!"

"Who is the hero, who is the tough guy? Let's see on the march!"

The powerful and ambitious chants resounded like turbulent waves, surging and echoing over the town.

The townspeople, regardless of their direction, seemed magnetically drawn, stopping abruptly in their hurried steps to stand still.

The residents in the buildings along the street also immediately opened their windows, their curious and amazed gazes directed at the source of the chants.

Qin Tian stood to the side of the formation, feeling various gazes cast upon him, a sense of emotion rising within.

In the Galaxy Empire, being a soldier is a sacred and honorable profession, and the public holds great respect for the military.

The soldiers' image is inextricably linked to generations of predecessors who fought against alien races, battled natural disasters, and clashed with rebel armies.

It's the blood, bones, and will of those before that forged the unyielding backbone of today's Royal Army soldiers.

As the company rounded the street corner, a voice full of anger suddenly came from nearby.

"You little brat, I said I'm not buying, yet you keep pestering me!"

Smack~

A loud slap echoed, and the soldiers turned to see a scene that made their blood boil.

A seven or eight-year-old girl was lying on the ground, with a red handprint on half her face, and her basket of flowers scattered everywhere.

In front of the girl, a long-haired man looked impatiently at her, his other arm around the waist of a flamboyant woman, cursing:

"This slap is a lesson for you. If you bother me again, it won't be this light."

Seeing this, the soldiers were instantly ignited with anger.

"Damn, what the hell are you doing!"

The soldiers immediately surrounded the man while two of them helped the girl up.

The girl's face was swollen, with blood at the corner of her mouth, her eyes blank, as if stunned by the slap.

"You son of a bitch, you even hit little girls!"

A burly soldier stepped forward, berating him furiously.

Surrounded by soldiers, the man showed no fear, rudely saying,

"This little girl was trying to sell me flowers. I refused to buy, and she kept following me. Trying to force a sale at such a young age? This slap was to teach her that business isn't done that way."

Upon hearing this, the soldiers were even more enraged.

"Bullshit! You, a grown man, bullying a little girl!"

A young soldier stepped forward, scolding the long-haired man angrily.

The soldiers around stared at him with fury, itching to gang up and beat him.

Seeing this, the long-haired man actually laughed coldly,

"What, can the army hit people now? Even if something needs to be done, it's not up to you. Besides, can you really do anything?"

As soon as he finished speaking, a powerful aura erupted, and blue ice crystals began spreading from the man's feet, exuding a chilling air.

"Spiritualist!"

The soldiers were taken aback, instinctively stepping back.

In front of a Spiritualist, being unarmed, no matter how many of them there were, they were no match for him.

The long-haired man stated calmly,

"I'm a Tier Three Spiritualist. I just gave that little girl a small lesson. If I had used my full strength, do you think she could still wake up?"

"Bastard!"

Listening to the long-haired man's condescending tone, the soldiers on the scene were infuriated, but wary of the other being a Spiritualist, they dared not step forward.

For a while, many soldiers looked towards the battalion's only Spiritualist, 137 Battalion's new Camp Commander, Qin Tian.

But they suddenly remembered that Camp Commander Qin was only a Tier Two, One Star Spiritualist. Did he dare step up?

Under the gazes of many soldiers, Qin Tian stepped forward, crouching down to check the girl's injuries.

Her face was swollen, lips bleeding, her consciousness a bit blurred, but not too severe; a few days of rest should suffice.

The long-haired man was right; he indeed held back, but...

This was no reason for him to feel superior for hitting a child.

Qin Tian stood up, looking calmly at the long-haired man, and said,

"Apologize and compensate."

The long-haired man snorted, "Compensating is fine, but apologizing is out of the question."

"Then... there's nothing left to say."

A glimmer of dark light flashed in Qin Tian's eyes, and in the next instant, his body flickered, leaving an afterimage in his original place.

Blink Step

Whoosh~

A fist enveloped in dark energy struck towards the long-haired man's chest.

The long-haired man pushed the woman in his arms away, throwing a punch at the same time. Ice crystals condensed on his fist, forming a pair of Frost Gloves, emitting a chilling air.

Bam!

The two fists collided.

Cracks quickly appeared on the ice crystals, as terrifying force was transmitted, changing the long-haired man's expression, forcing him to retreat.

Crack crack crack~~

The Frost Gloves were covered with cracks and eventually shattered, scattering blue ice crystals everywhere.

Opposite, Qin Tian slowly retracted his fist, standing still.

Upon seeing this, the soldiers' eyes widened considerably.

Camp Commander Qin had actually forced a Tier Three Spiritualist to retreat with just one punch.

Such speed

Such terrifying power

The long-haired man frowned, realizing his opponent's spiritual energy wasn't very strong, but his strength and speed were indeed astonishing.

Swish~

An afterimage appeared again,

A blackened fist attacked from the side, carrying a faint bloody scent, striking towards the long-haired man's cheek.

The long-haired man shouted, raising his hand like a blade, with frost converging on his palm. A fierce burst of cold air erupted from his palm, lowering the surrounding temperature a few degrees as he delivered a powerful Cold Ice Palm towards the black fist.

Cold Ice Palm

Facing the cold air, Qin Tian's eyebrows formed little ice crystals.

Just as the fist and palm were about to collide, Qin Tian ducked suddenly, moving like an agile Spirit Cat. The fist, initially aimed at the cheek, quickly retracted and then shot out another punch like lightning, hitting the long-haired man's chest.

Bam!

The long-haired man's body flew backwards, crashing into the wall behind him.

The wall slightly trembled, plaster falling down.

The long-haired man's face alternated between red and white before finally being unable to hold back, spitting out a mouthful of blood.

Seeing this, the soldiers' eyes widened further, their hearts surging with emotion.

Camp Commander Qin had defeated a Tier Three Spiritualist with just two punches!

Chapter 97: Chapter 97: Security Office

The long-haired man stood up, wiped the blood from the corner of his mouth, and looked down to see his clothes at the chest torn, with a clear charred fist seal visible.

"The Spiritual Energy isn't strong, but his body technique and explosive power are terrifying."

The long-haired man circulated Spiritual Energy, suppressing the chaotic Qi and blood within, and a flash of shock appeared in his eyes.

Bloodline Martial Artist

This person must be a Bloodline Martial Artist.

Qin Tian didn't continue to attack; his goal was to make the long-haired man apologize and compensate, not to take his life.

"Pah~"

The long-haired man spat out a mouthful of blood froth and looked at Qin Tian, saying:

"Your fist technique has some merit, I was careless just now, continue!"

As soon as he finished speaking, an even colder chill erupted from the long-haired man's body, immediately forming a thin layer of ice on the ground, with frost spreading on the surrounding walls.

Qin Tian furrowed his brows; since this guy doesn't recognize kindness, then don't blame him for being rude.

Looking at the fist seal on the long-haired man's chest, a ghostly hue flashed in Qin Tian's eyes.

The Bone-Eroding Hand paired with poison is a standard combination; as long as he wants, he can immediately activate the poison in the long-haired man, causing him to pass out, just like he dealt with Li Qi before.

Just as Qin Tian was about to activate the poison, he suddenly heard the sound of a flying device rapidly approaching overhead.

Someone is coming, it should be the people from the Security Bureau.

Qin Tian's eyes shifted, and he dispersed the poison in the long-haired man.

The flying device was very fast, appearing within everyone's line of sight before the long-haired man could act.

Whoosh~

The flying device came to an abrupt stop above the two.

Immediately after, a figure jumped down and stood steadily on the ground.

"Who's causing trouble here!"

The deep, rugged voice was full of severity, as a giant man over two meters tall strode forward, his robust physique stretching the dark blue uniform taut. Before he even reached them, a sense of pressure was palpable.

"Brother Biao."

It was a battalion commander, Guo Yong, who called out.

"Da Yong, it's you!"

Wu Lianbiao, seeing a familiar face, relaxed his brows and spoke in a deep voice:

"What's going on? Why are you all gathered here?"

Guo Yong stepped forward and first introduced Qin Tian:

"Brother Biao, this is our battalion's new commander, Camp Commander Qin Tian."

"Camp Commander, this is the Director of the Mist Town Security Bureau, Wu Lianbiao, a Tier Three Nine Star Spiritualist."

"So you are the new commander of the 137th Battalion."

Wu Lianbiao looked at Qin Tian's youthful face, somewhat surprised, and said, "I heard a few days ago that there's a new commander for the 137th Battalion; didn't expect you to be so young. Hello, Camp Commander Qin."

"Hello, Director Wu."

Qin Tian shook Wu Lianbiao's hand, which was broad, rough, and full of strength.

"Camp Commander Qin, what happened here?"

Wu Lianbiao glanced at the scene, the girl's face with the slap mark, the black fist seal on the long-haired man's chest, and the expressions of those present; through these, he quickly pieced together most of the incident.

"Let me explain."

Guo Yong, knowing his commander's personality, volunteered to recount the events that had just transpired.

After listening, Wu Lianbiao's tiger-like eyes widened, and he grabbed the long-haired man by the collar, angrily shouting:

"Damn it, a dignified Spiritualist bullying a little girl, have you no shame!"

The long-haired man opened his mouth, disgruntled, saying:

"It was clearly..."

Before he could finish, his vision blurred suddenly, followed by his pupils slightly enlarging, with a sense of absurdity arising within him.

What exactly did I just do!

"I'm sorry!"

The long-haired man lowered his head and said, "I am willing to apologize and compensate!"

Seeing the long-haired man agree so straightforwardly, everyone on the scene couldn't help but sneer.

He was stubbornly refusing to apologize just now, ended up getting punched by Camp Commander Qin, and then got warned by Director Wu, and he finally got honest!

"Compensation is necessary, as for whether you'll need to serve time, it depends on whether the young lady is willing to forgive you."

Director Wu took a closer look at the little girl, and a touch of pity flashed in his eyes.

"So it's this girl, her parents disappeared a month ago, now it's just her and her grandfather at home. The old man is in poor health and can't leave the house, so the girl has no choice but to sell flowers to earn some money."

Hearing this, everyone present became even angrier, glaring fiercely at the long-haired man.

The long-haired man lowered his head, his hair covering his face, not daring to meet anyone's eyes.

"I'll take him away."

Wu Lianbiao clamped a hand on the long-haired man's shoulder, grabbing the girl's hand with the other, and as the flying device slowly descended, he led the two aboard, then turned to Qin Tian and said:

"Camp Commander Qin, thanks for today, I'll treat you to a drink tonight."

Qin Tian opened his mouth to speak, but before he could say anything, the cabin door of the flying device closed.

Whoosh~~

The flying device rapidly ascended, disappearing from everyone's view.

"Director Wu, is it always like this?" Qin Tian turned to ask.

"Hmm!"

Guo Yong nodded, "Straightforward and bold, hating evil as one's enemy, and has a very good relationship with Camp Commander Liu, also..."

Guo Yong hesitated for a moment and said:

"Commander, if Director Wu wants to treat you for a drink, be careful, Director Wu can drink an astonishing amount, never getting drunk despite thousands of cups, he alone could drink all our battalion's Spiritualists under the table."

This formidable!

Qin Tian raised an eyebrow; Spiritualists have excellent physiques, already having a higher tolerance for alcohol, the stronger the power, the better their capacity to process alcohol, and Wu Lianbiao alone can drink all the Spiritualists of the 137th Battalion under the table.

This has nothing to do with strength, it's purely a talent.

Tap tap tap

At this moment, the Second Company happened to be passing by, and seeing Qin Tian and others in a disorganized formation, Zhao Nuo immediately ordered the team to stop and ran over, asking with concern:

"Commander, what happened?"

Qin Tian briefly explained.

After listening, Zhao Nuo smiled and said, "I actually had wanted you to meet some key figures in Mist Town, get to know each other, just taking this chance, how about I arrange a gathering?"

Qin Tian thought for a moment, then nodded and said:

"Sounds good."

"Haha, alright, I'll contact them later."

A smile appeared on Zhao Nuo's face, and then he continued, "Commander, I'll take the Second Company on drills, and I'll let you know once the time is set."

"Alright!"

The two companies continued along the planned route, completing their objectives successfully by morning, returning to the camp.

By lunchtime, the morning's events spread quickly.

All the soldiers learned that Camp Commander Qin was surprisingly powerful, able to defeat a Tier Three Spiritualist with a Tier Two strength, and was willing to stand up for the people and uphold justice.

For a time, Qin Tian's image among the soldiers changed, transforming from a well-connected, yet seemingly lacking heir into a just, talented, but not very talkative elite heir.

Being not very talkative was not a negative trait in the military; on the contrary, it meant he wouldn't be insincere, preferring silence over full-fledged falsehoods and making empty promises to his subordinates.

Such a commander might not be as good as Camp Commander Liu, but at least he's not bad.

Chapter 98: Chapter 98: Night Banquet, The Mist Descends

Night

Chengfu Restaurant, Mist Town

"Commander, please come in."

Led by Zhao Nuo, Qin Tian walked into the private room.

Inside, seven or eight people were already waiting. The moment they saw Qin Tian enter, they immediately stood up to greet him.

"Haha, Commander Qin, I told you we'd meet again tonight."

Wu Lianbiao warmly stepped forward and patted Qin Tian's shoulder.

Qin Tian smiled and nodded, "I've heard Director Wu can hold his liquor quite well, never getting drunk after a thousand cups. Please go easy on me later."

"Haha, Commander Qin, getting cold feet before the battle is not the style of our Royal Army soldiers."

Wu Lianbiao laughed heartily, "Today, it's our first drinking session together; we shouldn't leave until we're drunk."

Qin Tian shook his head helplessly:

"It seems I won't be easily getting out that door tonight."

Upon hearing this, the crowd all broke into smiles.

It seems this Commander Qin isn't as silent and cold as rumored; he's quite pleasant actually~

"Commander, let me introduce everyone."

Zhao Nuo said with a smile, "You already know Director Wu, so I won't go on about him. This is the Mayor of Mist Town, Zhang Peng."

"Commander Qin, hello."

Zhang Peng politely extended his hand. He was not tall, looked to be in his forties, and had a friendly smile, giving off an approachable air.

"Hello, Mayor Zhang."

Qin Tian grasped Zhang Peng's hand.

"This is the Vice Mayor, Li Chiling."

"Hello, Commander Qin."

"Hello, Vice Mayor Li."

"This is..."

Zhao Nuo introduced everyone one by one, and then everyone took their seats. Qin Tian was arranged to sit at the main table.

Once settled, Wu Lianbiao spoke first:

"Commander Qin, about this morning, I need to thank you on behalf of that little girl, Xiao Yue."

Qin Tian: "That girl's name is Xiao Yue? How is she now? Did the other party compensate her?"

Wu Lianbiao laughed:

"Of course, once they got to the station, they apologized and offered compensation, their attitude was incredibly sincere, and they even seemed very regretful. They compensated Xiao Yue ten thousand yuan, which temporarily alleviated the family's urgent need."

Very regretful~

Qin Tian's eyes subtly shifted. Given the arrogance of the long-haired man at the time, he didn't seem like the type to regret anything. Could it be that he pretended to feel this way to reduce his punishment once he was at the station?

"That's good to hear. I'll visit the child when I have the time." Qin Tian said earnestly.

Wu Lianbiao looked approvingly at Qin Tian, having worked in the Security Department for over ten years, always on the front lines. He had a keen eye for judging a person's true nature with just a slight interaction.

This young Commander Qin, although few in words, appeared to be a kind individual, worth befriending.

Soon, dish after dish was brought to the table, and the eagerly waiting Wu Lianbiao directly opened a case of white liquor, placing two bottles in front of him and Qin Tian.

"Junior Brother Qin, I'm not concerned about anyone else today. You and I are going to drink to our hearts' content." Wu Lianbiao said with a smile.

Qin Tian's eye twitched slightly. How is it that in the future world, the drinking culture is still so prevalent?

Isn't there anything new and exciting?

About ten minutes later, all the dishes were on the table.

Everyone ate and chatted, gradually heating up the atmosphere.

"Commander Qin, try our Mist Town specialty."

Mayor Zhang served Qin Tian a bowl of rice wine soup, saying, "This rice wine soup can only be found in our town. It's made with the underground spring water of Mist Town and paired with red rice pulp, giving it a refreshing taste with a faint fruity aroma."

"Thank you."

Qin Tian took a sip at the edge of his mouth, and indeed, as Mayor Zhang had said, the taste was very unique, making his stomach feel warm and comfortable.

"The taste is fantastic!"

Qin Tian smiled and took another sip, but just then, a sudden reaction from the poison sack in his lower abdomen drew all the stomach contents into it with a strong suction.

Qin Tian casually put down the bowl, smiling and nodding at Mayor Zhang.

No, it's not poison~

Qin Tian's eyes flickered; there were no new toxins appearing in the poison sack, indicating that whatever entered his stomach wasn't poison.

But if it's not poison, why would the poison sack react?

What exactly is it?

Qin Tian stealthily scanned the entire room, but he couldn't detect any flaw on anyone's face or in their eyes.

"Mayor Zhang, I've been in Mist Town for a few days now. There's something I'd like to ask you."

Qin Tian asked, "Previously, over a hundred people disappeared from the town. Did the government report this, and what was the response from the top? Did they send anyone to investigate?"

Report?

Mayor Zhang was momentarily dazed, then said, "The top told us to investigate carefully, and they would also send someone to assist us."

Qin Tian: "Did they arrive?"

"They arrived a month ago and have been investigating since, but they haven't really communicated with us, as if they don't quite trust us."

At this point, Mayor Zhang's tone seemed to carry some resentment.

"I see~"

Qin Tian's eyes shifted slightly and he stopped asking further questions.

The drinking continued

Wu Lianbiao became more and more excited, discovering that Qin Tian's drinking capacity was just as bottomless, with both having downed several bottles without changing expression.

Other than Zhao Nuo, who did slightly better, everyone else was so intoxicated they couldn't lift their heads.

"Junior Brother Qin, you certainly hold your liquor. Were you trying to get away with it in the beginning?" Wu Lianbiao laughed.

Qin Tian smiled slightly, "I can't compare to Director Wu's capacity."

Though he said this, with his current body, ordinary white liquor was like water, easily metabolized.

"Haha, in that case, let's pick up the pace."

Wu Lianbiao placed two more bottles of good liquor, boldly stating:

"Using cups is too stingy; let's drink straight from the bottle."

Qin Tian laughed, "I'll accompany you all the way."

Glug glug glug

Following this, the private room turned into a showdown of alcohol tolerance between Qin Tian and Wu Lianbiao. Bottle after bottle of white liquor was consumed, and both men's cheeks turned red, carrying more tipsiness in their eyes.

"Brother Wu, let's call it a night. Mayor Zhang and the others are done for, they should head home to rest early."

Qin Tian waved his hand, looking slightly dazed and exhaling alcohol breath as he spoke.

Wu Lianbiao glanced at the few people passed out unconscious on the table and regretfully said:

"Alright then, let's leave it at that. Next time, we'll drink privately, without them."

"Deal."

Qin Tian nodded with a smile and gestured to the drunken Zhao Nuo, "Old Zhao, let's go."

"Okay."

Zhao Nuo staggered to his feet and left the restaurant with Qin Tian.

Outside, a long-waiting driver started the flying device and took the two back to the camp.

"Old Zhao, rest well."

Qin Tian patted Zhao Nuo's shoulder. After the drinking session, they grew closer in their form of address.

"Alright, Commander."

Zhao Nuo's face was flushed, "You rest well too."

"Yes, go on."

Qin Tian returned alone to his quarters, and the moment he closed the door, the drunkenness in his eyes vanished instantly, returning to his usual calm demeanor.

Who among them had a problem?

In his mind, one face after another surfaced.

The amiable Mayor Zhang, the honest Vice Mayor Li, the bold and straightforward Wu Lianbiao, or was it... him

Qin Tian's gaze deepened; the situation in Mist Town was becoming increasingly complex. But regardless of what was hidden behind it all, the mastermind would eventually be revealed.

His task was to protect himself and adapt as needed.

After taking a shower, Qin Tian swallowed a Spirit Essence Pill and began his cultivation for the day.

The night was deep, and Mist Town was exceptionally quiet.

Kilometers away, dense fog began to rise over the Mist Plain, enveloping the small town under the push of the winds.

The mist descends

Chapter 99: Chapter 99: Groundwater and Optical Invisibility

The mist descended, enveloping the whole town.

Qin Tian had just finished cultivating the "Frost Meditation Technique" and was about to take a short nap when he suddenly saw the white fog emerging from the window.

"The mist is here."

Qin Tian's eyes suddenly sharpened. After waiting quietly for a moment, he opened the window and leaped down.

The military camp was deathly silent, without a single sound. The fog was thick, carrying a slightly damp breath. With the darkness and mist combined, visibility was less than three meters.

"Something's not right!"

Qin Tian's gaze was solemn. During the recent conference, he had emphasized that once the mist descended, the alarm must be sounded immediately, and everyone must enter an emergency combat-ready state.

But now, almost ten minutes had passed, and the camp was still eerily silent.

Qin Tian quickly walked to the military camp gate, where several soldiers on guard were all lying on the ground, breathing evenly, as if asleep. He crouched down and patted one of the soldiers' faces, but was unable to awaken him.

"Is there a hallucinogenic substance in the mist?"

Qin Tian frowned, but quickly dismissed this guess. If there was a problem with the mist, his Poisonous Snake Body would have detected it.

Then, Qin Tian went to the dormitory area to check. Whether it was ordinary soldiers or a few Spiritualists, all were asleep, like the soldiers on guard, with no awareness of the outside world.

"What exactly is the reason?"

Qin Tian fell into deep thought. Since there was no poisoning, how did the whole camp fall asleep, and why was he unaffected?

Suddenly, Qin Tian recalled something that had happened earlier.

At the dinner table, the mayor had given him a bowl of rice wine soup. After drinking it, his Body of Ten Thousand Poisons was activated, but no new toxin integrated into him.

Rice wine soup, underground Spiritual Spring.

Spiritual Spring?

Qin Tian's pupils shrank, suddenly realizing something, and immediately ran in the direction of the town.

After he left, a pair of eyes slowly opened, filled with gloom.

...

Hoo~~~~~

In the mist, a black shadow swiftly shuttled through, like a phantom, moving silently with an eerie body technique.

The distance from the camp to the town was less than twenty kilometers, and within minutes, Qin Tian arrived at Mist Town.

Focusing his attention, he extended his hearing outward.

Like the military camp, the whole town was deathly silent, akin to a ghost town.

"Yes, it must be a problem with the water."

Qin Tian's eyes flashed with realization. If there was something everyone, including the entire army and town residents, would inevitably come into contact with, it had to be the water.

The town's underground water contained some substance that wasn't poisonous, yet could make everyone fall into a deep slumber when the mist arrived.

Shaa shaa shaa~~

At this moment, Qin Tian suddenly heard a series of chaotic yet crisp sounds coming from outside the town, like a mass of sharp objects striking the ground.

"They are coming."

Qin Tian's eyes became sharp as he quickly concealed his aura and hid in the shadows.

After a while, a large group of black shadows entered the bounds of Mist Town. Under the dense mist, their figures were quite hazy, appearing about half a person's height, broad-chested and resembling small carts.

Qin Tian infiltrated the shadows and carefully moved closer, finally seeing the true form of this group of black shadows.

They were a group of enormous spiders, half a man's height, their oval bodies covered with a hard, shiny black exoskeleton. Their eight legs were thick and long like spears, each filled with sharp spurs. At the joints, thick black bristles grew, trembling slightly with their movements, as if each bristle was feeling the surrounding air currents and alert to any possible threats.

The spiders dispersed across different streets, entering high buildings and residential homes. Soon after, a silhouette appeared on each of their backs.

The townsfolk were wrapped in spider silk, adhered to the spiders' backs, being carried towards the Mist Plain.

Seeing all this, Qin Tian finally understood how the visitors and residents of Mist Town were disappearing.

Buzz~~

Just as Qin Tian was about to take action and save them, he suddenly heard a faint buzzing sound in his ear. With his heat source perception, he sensed dozens of small entities approaching him rapidly.

"They actually found me."

Qin Tian was very surprised. With his Night Demon Physique, he gained a 30% enhancement in all attributes in the darkness, significantly concealing his aura. He could even freely alter his body temperature to merge with the external environment, making it easier to stealth in the dark and shadows.

Unless scanned indiscriminately with spiritual power, it was generally very difficult for anyone to detect his presence.

Is this pure luck, or some other method?

Qin Tian glanced around. The dozen heat sources were getting closer, but strangely, with his vision, he couldn't see anything, only hearing a faint wing-flapping noise.

"Is this invisibility ability?"

Qin Tian focused his gaze, and the next moment, a faint white poison gas emitted from his body, merging with the white mist. In a short time, it formed a poison gas domain over ten meters in diameter.

As soon as the dozens of heat sources entered the poison gas domain, purple-gold electric arcs suddenly erupted, accurately striking each heat source, instantly reducing their speed. Subsequently, the poison gas began to take effect, invading their bodies.

Buzz buzz~

A clearer sound echoed in the air as twisted light illusions appeared within the white mist, resembling the chaotic images on a malfunctioning TV screen.

Soon, several black shadows fell to the ground, and at the same time, dozens of green light spheres flew toward Qin Tian. After converging, only one deep green talent light sphere remained.

[Name] Light Distortion (Green)

[Type] Active Talent

[Introduction] You can manipulate special energy fields to disrupt and bend surrounding light, refracting it along specific paths to achieve near-perfect optical invisibility.

Qin Tian looked down to see dozens of basketball-sized yellow flying insects lying on the ground, their sharp mouthparts like military daggers, reflecting a dim and profound glow.

Optical invisibility, no wonder their figures couldn't be seen.

Qin Tian felt a hint of excitement. If it was just pure invisibility, it wouldn't be hard to be discovered; after all, sound, scent, and heat sources can lead to exposure. But once invisibility combined with his numerous talents, it would become incredibly powerful.

Optical Invisibility + Dark Stealth + Concealing Aura

As mentioned before, unless there's a large-scale, all-coverage spiritual power sweep, it's very difficult for anyone to notice his approach.

No, that's not right.

Then how did these little entities discover me?

Qin Tian frowned, and suddenly, a strong sense of crisis descended upon him.

Without thinking, he sprang up instantly.

Swish swish~~

Several large webs of spider silk landed where he had just been standing. Had he been a fraction of a second slower, he would likely have been entangled in the web.

Qin Tian stood on the rooftop of a three-story shop, overlooking below.

On both sides of the street, dozens of Demon Spiders were slowly closing in on him, their ghostly green eyes like ghost fires in the night, full of cruelty and ferocity.

"Spiritual power detected me?"

Qin Tian turned his head, gazing in the direction of the Mist Plain.

Chapter 100: Chapter 100: Spider Silk and the Terrifying Mantis

Amidst the thick white mist, Qin Tian stood on the rooftop, overlooking the spider army below.

Whoosh, whoosh, whoosh

Webs shot towards him, strangely, some webs carried flames, others exuded a chill, and some were almost transparent.

Qin Tian agilely evaded, leaping and running on the rooftop like a nimble ape, moving too fast for the spiders to catch up.

Hiss

All nearby spiders were mobilized, surrounding and intercepting Qin Tian, with some spiders even climbing onto the rooftop, their eight legs crossing as they pursued him closely.

"Courting death."

Qin Tian stretched out his hand, as if pulling a sleek black gun from the mist. Without needing to aim, he fired casually, blowing the heads off the spiders below.

Evolution points increased by 869, a green orb of light flew into his body.

[Name] Spider Silk (Green)

[Type] Passive Talent

[Introduction] You can produce spider silk, with properties determined by your own abilities.

An unusual energy coursed through his body, and in an instant, Qin Tian felt he had acquired a new ability.

Spiderman?

An iconic figure emerged in Qin Tian's mind; Spiderman was a Marvel hero he had always admired, known for his kindness and courage, swinging between buildings.

However, he was now far more formidable than Spiderman.

Of course, he meant the film version of Spiderman, excluding the comic and animated versions.

Bang, bang, bang~

Qin Tian ran while firing his gun, easily evading the webs coming from all directions. He demonstrated textbook kiting abilities, appearing to teeter on a tightrope but remaining as steady as an old dog, achieving headshots with each shot.

"Fantastic!"

Qin Tian swiftly reloaded his gun, his eyes reflecting a look of delight. These spiders were not weak, most were Tier Two or higher, and the larger ones were at Tier Three strength.

Yet, in the face of Shadowstrike, their hard shells were as fragile as paper, shattering upon impact.

Each spider could provide him several hundred evolution points, with some even exceeding a thousand.

In just a few minutes, he had shot and killed dozens of spiders, amassing fifty thousand evolution points.

There were about a hundred spiders that had entered Mist Town, and if he killed them all, the evolution points could reach several hundred thousand.

"Let's have some fun!"

Qin Tian's lips curved into a smile, his desire for killing was surging.

But just then, the spiders that were chasing him suddenly split up, with some continuing to follow him, and others climbing into high-rise buildings and houses.

"As expected, someone is remotely controlling them."

A glint of coldness flashed in Qin Tian's eyes. A minute Spiritual Power swept over his body; previously, he might not have noticed it, but after consuming the Mingshen Leaf, his Spiritual Power had surged, making him more perceptive, allowing him to catch this fleeting mental wave.

Seeing the spider army's clear division of labor and purpose, he was sure someone was hidden somewhere, silently controlling everything.

Moreover, the person behind the scenes must be a Spirit Mage with extremely terrifying Spiritual Power.

Bang, bang~

Qin Tian accelerated his gunfire, the heads of the spiders protected by their exoskeletons exploded like watermelons, spilling viscous, foul-smelling liquid along the way.

Hiss, hiss, hiss~~

The spiders followed closely behind him, their mandibles emitting a sharp, piercing screech, their eight legs running so fast they almost created phantoms, suddenly accelerating.

Webs shot like sharp arrows towards Qin Tian, but he easily dodged them.

Bam~

With the last shot, all the spiders following Qin Tian were eliminated.

Standing on the rooftop, although his view was obscured by the fog, through heat perception, the composite heat sources of spiders and people clearly appeared in his mind.

Without hesitation, Qin Tian jumped down, relentlessly pursuing.

But before he had taken more than two steps, his expression changed dramatically, and he quickly rolled forward on the ground.

Swish!

A black blade-like limb hacked into the ground, slicing the hardened cement like tofu.

Pushing himself off the ground, Qin Tian looked ahead with seriousness.

It was a mantis taller than an adult human, fully black, with a head sharp like an arrow, and a pair of ghostly blue eyes like two eerie flames. Its limbs were strong and powerful, with scythe-like claws glinting coldly, and spikes of varying lengths protruding from its back and joints. Thin, translucent cicada wings adorned its back.

"Such speed."

Qin Tian's eyes were filled with vigilance. He had suddenly sensed an unfamiliar heat source, but it was very faint, almost blending into the environment.

When he noticed it, the heat source erupted with terrifying speed, reaching him in the blink of an eye, catching him off guard.

Luckily, his instincts akin to a Barbaric Ancient Beast gave him a sudden sense of danger, his body reacted before his brain, executing a forward roll to avoid a fatal blow just in time.

Swoosh~

The mantis moved again, its joints slightly bent, then springing up like a spring, its scythe-like forelimbs swinging fiercely, appearing as a bolt of lightning flashed before his eyes.

In an instant, Qin Tian replaced Shadowstrike with Black Frost Blade, raising the sword overhead to meet the striking blade limb.

Clang

A clear metal clashing sound rang out, Qin Tian's eyes dilated, lightning flickered beneath his feet as he leapt back.

The next moment, he heard a ripping sound, his shirt was torn open, revealing a gruesome wound on his chest, with even white bone faintly visible.

"So fast."

Qin Tian was shocked. He was adept at speed and explosive force, yet this mantis's speed was even greater. Had he not quickly used Ninefold Thunder Flash, it wouldn't have been just an injury earlier.

It would have been a clean, lethal cut.

Swoosh~

The scythe limb struck instantaneously, moving with blinding speed, leaving a trail of afterimages, disturbingly quiet.

Qin Tian countered with a Vortex Thunder Saber strike, the violent purple-gold electric light swirling around the blade, cleaving towards the limb, while simultaneously, his chest wound rapidly healed.

The left scythe limb was blocked by Black Frost, while the right one swiftly followed, slashing toward Qin Tian's head.

Boom!!!

A purple-gold Celestial Thunder descended, striking the mantis's head, causing it to stiffen momentarily as the right scythe limb hit the newly formed lightning shield.

Though the lightning shield was sliced through as easily as tofu, it provided Qin Tian with a brief moment to react.

With a stomp, Qin Tian leapt back.

The mantis shadowed his movements, its twin scythes attacking Qin Tian in a relentless storm, aiming at his vital points.

Boom~~

Lightning erupted, purple-gold lightning dazzling and spreading around Qin Tian, resembling a fortress of lightning.

This was the Shadow Thunder Prison Technique, an infinite thunderstorm condensed into a thunder prison.

Within the thunder prison, enemies would be struck continuously by lightning, but maintaining the prison was a major drain on the caster as well.

Purple Sky Celestial Thunder struck the mantis, slowing its movements slightly. Yet even so, its attacks remained fierce, its form ghostly, exerting immense pressure on Qin Tian.

Rustle, rustle, rustle

The spider army, carrying people, rushed toward Mist Plain, while the only one who could save them was trapped by a mantis.

Qin Tian glanced at the transparent wings on the mantis's back, his eyes glinted, and then the clothes on his back tore apart as a pair of massive black wings unfolded.

With a flap of the Black Wings, a powerful gust swept the surroundings, propelling Qin Tian like a shooting arrow, breaking through the mist and ascending into the sky.

This scene clearly caught the mantis off guard, but it reacted swiftly, leaping with its knees and taking flight, the transparent wings on its back vibrating rapidly as it pursued Qin Tian.