

# I CAN CONTROL RESOURCES

Chapter 101: I Have Super Absorption

"..." Chen Bai was speechless.

'He was electrocuted unconscious. How could he not be quiet?'

But what could he say?

He couldn't say a thing. After all, Dr. Lan was one of the top senior researchers at this military training base. Even Shen Ning'Er treated Dr. Lan with the utmost respect.

"Don't just stand there gawking. Check on Gao Neng's physical condition first." Dr. Lan ignored Chen Bai and turned to the researchers observing nearby.

"Understood. Commencing physical status diagnostics..."

"Blood pressure is normal..."

"Heart rate is normal!"

"..."

"Emotional state is stable. He is no longer in an agitated state!"

"Dr. Lan, all readings are normal! We can begin injecting the energy materials!"

One by one, the researchers quickly reported Gao Neng's condition.

"Lieutenant Chen, see? No problems, right?" Dr. Lan smiled again.

"Dr. Lan, you are truly a professional!" Chen Bai returned the smile. In any case, Gao Neng's condition was stable and he had successfully entered the breakthrough state. His mission was as good as complete.

"Good. Begin injecting energy materials into the sealed pod. Remember, Gao Neng is breaking through to the Fourth Human Limit, so inject four times the normal

amount of energy materials. Don't be afraid he'll burst—inject it boldly!" Dr. Lan gave the order.

"Understood!" The researchers nodded immediately.

"Initiating energy material injection!"

HUMMM!

The sealed pod trembled lightly.

Then, a status bar for the energy materials appeared on it. It started green, then turned blue, then purple. Finally, the status bar turned a blood-like red.

"Gao Neng's absorption rate is incredibly fast. Just as expected of someone breaking through to the Fourth Human Limit!" A researcher glanced at the consumption rate on the status bar and offered a preliminary assessment.

"I never thought the Forgotten Land could produce a genius like this."

"I know, right?"

"Wait a minute. Does anyone else feel that Gao Neng's absorption rate is a little too fast?" one researcher interjected, cutting off the others.

"It is a bit much. It's been less than fifteen minutes since we started, and he's already consumed one-tenth of it," another researcher agreed with a nod.

"That fast?" Dr. Lan was also a bit surprised now.

She didn't wait for the researchers to report further.

She began to personally check all of Gao Neng's data. Her hands tapped rapidly on the control console, then stopped a moment later.

"All his data is normal. Since he's absorbing it so quickly, let's increase the amount of energy materials. Try raising it to five times the normal amount!" Dr. Lan spoke again.

"Five times? Understood!"

"..."

...

Inside the sealed pod.

Gao Neng truly couldn't hear a thing now. He had only one sensation: his body was floating quietly in the void of space.

But his consciousness was crystal clear.

'He remembered being zapped by something, right?'

'Who the hell dared to electrocute me?'

Just as he was thinking this, he felt the stars in the surrounding cosmos grow brighter, and a powerful energy began to flow from within them.

That energy surged out from the stars, gradually enveloping his body.

Instinctively, Gao Neng began to absorb it.

The energy was immense.

But his body's capacity to store it seemed even more immense, like land that had been parched for thousands of years. He wanted to absorb every last bit of the surrounding energy.

With this thought in mind...

He kept absorbing, and absorbing, and absorbing...

He didn't know where in his body the energy was going. He only knew that his body was thirsty, and he could still absorb much, much more.

...

Outside the glass enclosure.

Dr. Lan's brow furrowed once more.

"Increase it again. Six times the energy materials!"

"Six times? Roger!"

"..." Chen Bai was speechless.

A while later.

"Increase it again. Seven times the energy materials!"

"Roger!"

"..." Chen Bai was speechless.

「Two hours later.」

"Twelve times the energy materials! I refuse to believe it! How can he absorb so much?!" Dr. Lan, now flustered and exasperated, changed the injection amount yet again.

"Dr. Lan, is this really okay?" Chen Bai finally couldn't hold back any longer.

'Twelve times the normal amount?'

'Based on a simple time calculation, four times the amount would cost two million Alliance Coins for a month.'

'Twelve times the amount...'

'That would be six million Alliance Coins!'

'A single breakthrough costs six million Alliance Coins?!'

"It's not enough. Increase it again. This time, go straight to fifteen times!" Dr. Lan ignored Chen Bai and continued addressing the researchers at the controls.

"Dr. Lan, are you sure fifteen times is okay?" A researcher also looked doubtful.

"Are you questioning my professional judgment?" Dr. Lan's eyes narrowed.

"Ahem... Increasing to fifteen times!"

"Roger!"

...

Time flew by.

At noon the next day, Chen Bai appeared before Shen Ning'Er.

"Major, Gao Neng's absorption rate is extremely fast. Dr. Lan has him on an eighteen-fold energy injection, and it seems that's barely enough to meet his needs," Chen Bai reported on the previous day's situation.

"An eighteen-fold energy injection?" Shen Ning'Er's fingers tapped lightly on her desk. 'She tried to recall her own breakthrough. Was it over ten times the normal amount?'

'Sixteen times or eighteen?'

'If Gao Neng is at eighteen times, then I must have been at eighteen times too!'

'No!'

'It must have been at least twenty!'

"Major, isn't this consumption a bit excessive? At this rate, the cost for one month could approach ten million Alliance Coins," Chen Bai pointed out.

"It's fine. Let him consume it," Shen Ning'Er nodded.

"Let him consume it? Understood!" Chen Bai jolted, understanding immediately. 'So it's true, those two really have a thing going on.'

'Otherwise, if it were just an ordinary relationship...'

'...how could she spend tens of millions of Alliance Coins without even blinking?'

"Is there anything else?" Shen Ning'Er asked.

"Nothing else," Chen Bai shook his head.

"In that case, arrange for a few people to protect Gao Neng's mother. Remember, protect her covertly. Don't disturb her normal work and life," Shen Ning'Er said, as if she had just thought of something.

"Yes, Major! I'll arrange it right away!" Chen Bai immediately excused himself.

But as he left, his expression turned quite peculiar. 'She's already starting to get on her future mother-in-law's good side? How did this happen!'

'What kind of cunning trick did Gao Neng pull?'

'I have to ask him for tips when I get the chance. To be able to capture Shen Ning'Er's heart? That's some next-level skill!'

...

「Five days later.」

The college entrance exam application period officially began.

However, in the Forgotten Land, university applications weren't filled out individually online. Instead, they were organized centrally at the major high schools, with teachers guiding the students through the process.

At the entrance of Third Senior High School.

Li Qingping watched the students returning to campus one after another, his mood excellent.

This time, Third Senior High's results were outstanding.

Barring any surprises, at least ten students would be able to get into the Alliance Military University. For him, this was a monumental breakthrough.

Furthermore, the Forgotten Land's Inspection Committee had been formally established.

Li Qingping had been officially appointed as the Inspection Committee's first chairman, which kept a constant smile on his face. However, among the returning students, he still couldn't find Gao Neng.

'That kid Gao Neng couldn't have forgotten what day it is, could he? If he misses the application deadline, that would be a disaster!' After a moment of thought, Li Qingping decided to give Gao Neng a call.

The call went to an automated message saying the phone was out of power.

"..." Li Qingping was speechless.

'What the hell!'

...

While Li Qingping was pacing anxiously at Third Senior High School, a stunningly beautiful young woman was standing before Xu Zilan in the slums of the Forgotten Land.

"Ma'am, hello." Shen Ning'Er showed no disdain for Xu Zilan's coarse-spun clothes; on the contrary, she was incredibly respectful toward her.

"And you are?" Xu Zilan was surprised.

"My name is Shen Ning'Er. I'm a friend of Gao Neng's," Shen Ning'Er introduced herself.

"Oh, you're Little Neng's friend. I'm in the middle of something right now, did you need me for a particular reason?" Xu Zilan nodded, still a bit puzzled.

"I'd like to discuss Gao Neng's university application with you. He's unable to be here due to some business, so I wanted to hear your opinion before helping him fill it out," Shen Ning'Er explained.

"Are you from the Military Department?" Xu Zilan's gaze swept over Shen Ning'Er.

Although Shen Ning'Er wasn't wearing her black military uniform today, Xu Zilan could still detect the distinct aura of a soldier about her.

"Yes," Shen Ning'Er made no attempt to hide it.

"Then what is the Military Department's opinion?" Xu Zilan asked.

"The Military Department doesn't have an opinion. Moreover, I'm not representing the military right now. I only have my own personal opinion. Would you be willing to hear it, Ma'am?"

"Mm, go on."

"The Alliance has four major military academies. Although Eastern Capital Military Academy isn't the best of the four, I personally hope you will consider it, Ma'am," Shen Ning'Er said directly, not beating around the bush.

"You want Little Neng to apply to Eastern Capital Military Academy? But... that's one of the Alliance's four major military academies. Little Neng, he..."

"If you're only worried about whether Gao Neng will be accepted, I can guarantee that as long as you agree to him applying to Eastern Capital Military Academy, he will definitely be admitted!" Shen Ning'Er stated with certainty.

"I understand. Let's do as you say," Xu Zilan said, without further comment.

"Thank you, Ma'am. There is one more thing I'd like to discuss with you. I was wondering if you would be willing to accompany Gao Neng to the City of Hope?"

"The City of Hope? Heh, poor people like us can't go there. The rent is very expensive, and besides, I don't have a residence permit for the City of Hope..." Xu Zilan shook her head.

"If you're only worried about the residence permit, I can arrange it. As for a place to live, if you don't mind, Ma'am, I have a house near the Eastern Capital Military Academy. If you're willing to move, you could also take good care of Gao Neng. And regarding work..."

"May I be so bold as to ask what your rank is in the Military Department?" Xu Zilan interrupted before Shen Ning'Er could continue.

"Mm, my current rank is Major."

"An Alliance Major? I never imagined Little Neng would have a Major for a friend... Let me think about this matter and get back to you, is that alright?" Xu Zilan smiled.

"Of course. Please, carry on with your work. I will go arrange for Gao Neng's application to be submitted!" After speaking, Shen Ning'Er gave a military salute, then turned and left.

Xu Zilan watched quietly as Shen Ning'Er departed. She let out a soft sigh and said nothing more, simply returning to her cleaning.

...

Not far away.

Chen Bai was sitting in the car when he saw Shen Ning'Er get back in.

"To Third Senior High."

"Third Senior High? But for the application, we have special privileges we can use directly," Chen Bai said, confused.

"Yes, we have privileges. But what the people of the Forgotten Land want to see is not privilege, but respect," Shen Ning'Er said calmly.

"Like how you came all the way here in person to explain the application process to Gao Neng's mother?"

"I wasn't explaining. I was asking."

"Asking? Major... Eastern Capital Military Academy is Gao Neng's best option. Are you saying that if she had disagreed with him applying there, we wouldn't have done it?"

"Correct. If she had disagreed, I wouldn't have submitted it," Shen Ning'Er nodded.

"..." Chen Bai said no more. He didn't quite understand Shen Ning'Er's thinking, but he was once again certain that she and Gao Neng definitely had a thing.

'This early investment in her relationship with her mother-in-law...'

'...even he was left speechless!'

## **Chapter 102: It Blew Up, Invincible From Now On**

...

At the entrance of Third Senior High School.

Li Qingping didn't find Gao Neng waiting for him, but he did find Shen Ning'Er.

And what Shen Ning'Er did next was so shocking his jaw nearly hit the floor.

A dignified Major of the Alliance Military Department!

Actually coming to Third Senior High in person to fill out Gao Neng's university application?!

He wouldn't have believed it if he hadn't seen it with his own eyes. And most importantly, Shen Ning'Er had filled it out for the Eastern Capital Military Academy.

One of the four great military academies!

'What on earth is she trying to do...'

A student from the Forgotten Land applying to one of the four great military academies was no laughing matter.

Not a single one had managed it in decades.

"Major Shen, could you have made a mistake? Even if you're really helping Gao Neng fill out his application, you shouldn't be choosing the Eastern Capital Military Academy, right?" Li Qingping finally asked after a long hesitation.

"Why not the Eastern Capital Military Academy?" Shen Ning'Er retorted.

"If I recall correctly, among the four great military academies, only the Southern Alliance Military Academy reserves half an admission slot for the Forgotten Land, right? The Eastern Capital Military Academy doesn't accept students from the Forgotten Land," Li Qingping said after a moment of thought.

"Mm, starting this year, both the Eastern Capital Military Academy and the Southern Alliance Military Academy will reserve half an admission slot for the Forgotten Land," Shen Ning'Er explained.

"But that's still only half a slot... If his scores aren't absolutely outstanding, there's no hope at all. There are many military academies in the City of Hope, and although the Southern Alliance Military Academy has reserved half a slot for the Forgotten Land for years, in reality, that half-slot has never once gone to a student from the Forgotten Land."

"Principal Li, you're the chairman of the Supervisory Committee now. You can make a suggestion to your superiors," Shen Ning'Er said, then turned and left.

"..." Li Qingping was speechless.

'Make a suggestion? That's right, I \*can\* make a suggestion!'

The Forgotten Land was different now. It was truly different from before. At the very least, Shen Ning'Er had given the Forgotten Land hope of seeing the light of day again.

...

After walking out the gates of Third Senior High School,

Shen Ning'Er took out her phone and dialed a number.

An old man's voice soon came from the other end.

"Ning'Er, it's been a long time since you last called this old man, hasn't it?"

"Grandpa Song, I'd like to make a deal with you," Shen Ning'Er said, not beating around the bush.

"A deal?"

"Yes. A deal for a special admission slot," Shen Ning'Er replied with a nod.

"Oh? Now this is interesting. You, Shen Ning'Er, are actually asking for a special admission slot for someone? No problem. So, what are you planning to trade me for it?" The voice on the phone seemed to have gained some interest.

"I'll trade you a student, of course."

"Trade a student for my special admission slot? Ning'Er... I don't quite follow. I give you a special admission slot, and then you give me a student? By my calculations... I don't seem to be getting anything out of this, do I?"

"If Grandpa Song isn't willing, I can just call Grandpa Jin at the Southern Alliance Military Academy. He's always been on the lookout for talented students."

"Wait, did you say a talented student? Go on, tell me more. If you, Shen Ning'Er, are calling someone a genius, I'm quite curious to hear just who this person is."

"Gao Neng, from Third Senior High School in the Forgotten Land," Shen Ning'Er replied.

"Gao who? The Forgotten Land... Ning'Er, you're not joking with your Grandpa Song, are you? What kind of talented student could possibly come from the Forgotten Land? Even their top scorer would be at the bottom of the barrel at other military academies. Besides, my Eastern Capital Military Academy doesn't have any admission slots in the Forgotten Land."

"That's why I'm calling you. I want you to start reserving half an admission slot for the Forgotten Land every year, starting this year. That is the deal."

"..." The other end of the line went silent for a long time.

"If this is too difficult for you, Grandpa Song, I'll just call Grandpa Jin at the Southern Alliance."

"Hold on. It's not that it's difficult. You, Shen Ning'Er, personally called an old man like me to ask for a special admission slot. Could I really refuse? But what I don't understand is, why are you so insistent that I reserve half an admission slot for the Forgotten Land?" the voice came through the phone again.

"Because of hope!"

"Hope? Alright, since you, Shen Ning'Er, want to give them hope, I'll go along with your wishes. But Ning'Er... you'd better remember that you owe this old man a favor for this one!"

"Grandpa Song, you're the one who owes me a favor!"

"I'm giving you a special admission slot, and somehow I'm the one who ends up owing you a favor? You little rascal, you're getting more and more out of line, even bullying your Grandpa Song now. Fine, fine. Just send me the student's name. I'm in a meeting right now; I'll arrange it for you right after!"

"Thank you, Grandpa Song!" Shen Ning'Er said nothing more and hung up.

"Major... you truly are a wonderful future daughter-in-law for the Gao Family!" Chen Bai blurted out, trying to suck up to her.

WHAM!

Chen Bai went flying out of the car.

Shen Ning'Er, on the other hand, moved straight into the driver's seat. Without even a glance at Chen Bai, she stomped on the gas and sped off, her taillights vanishing in an instant.

Chen Bai sat on the ground in a daze.

For a moment, he had no idea what had just happened.

'Did I say something wrong? But I wasn't wrong... She's already playing the part of the perfect daughter-in-law: helping with his university application, and even calling Principal Song of the Eastern Capital Military Academy to pave the way. If you told me there was nothing going on between those two, I wouldn't believe it!' Chen Bai couldn't for the life of him figure out what he had done wrong.

...

「Half a month later.」

Shen Ning'Er received orders from the Military Department and left the Forgotten Land.

Chen Bai stayed behind.

Because Gao Neng still hadn't emerged from the sealed pod.

...

「One month later.」

Chen Bai stared at Gao Neng, who was still absorbing energy—suck, suck, suck—inside the sealed pod, feeling a little dazed.

'He's consumed at least eight or nine million Alliance Coins' worth of energy materials, right? Why isn't he out yet? Can he still absorb more? This is unscientific!'

...

「A month and a half later.」

The university admission notices were sent out.

Gao Neng, the top scorer from the Forgotten Land, had been accepted by the Eastern Capital Military Academy!

The news shocked every middle school and high school in the Forgotten Land. Soon, banners emblazoned with the word "Hope" were posted all over the region.

The Forgotten Land can produce geniuses too!

There is hope for the Forgotten Land!

As the chairman of the Supervisory Committee and principal of Third Senior High, Li Qingping naturally knew a little of the inside story.

But he kept his mouth shut!

Because only by staying silent could he give the students of the Forgotten Land even greater hope. Just like with this year's entrance exams, the number of applicants had surged, and the number of students accepted was at least double that of previous years.

This was the power of hope.

...

At the military training base.

Chen Bai was also praying for hope.

However, his hope was more along the lines of, 'Please, Master Gao Neng, will you just hurry up and come out? It's been a month and a half! The fact that you've burned through over ten million in energy materials is beside the point now.'

'You absolutely cannot have something happen to you!'

"Dr. Lan, are you sure he's okay? Please don't lie to me. If something really happens to this kid, Major Shen will kill me!" Chen Bai was on the verge of tears.

"Lieutenant Chen, are you questioning my professional competence?!" Dr. Lan was furious. He turned to a group of researchers nearby and yelled, "Increase the injection rate! Push it to twenty-five times! I refuse to believe this kid can really suck all my energy materials dry!"

"Understood!" the researchers immediately nodded.

'Twenty-five times... If this kid actually survives this? What kind of monster would he be?!' Despite the sweltering summer heat, Chen Bai's sweat poured down like rain.

...

「Two months later.」

The school season officially began.

The students from the Forgotten Land who had been accepted into Military Universities officially set off for the City of Hope.

However, Li Caicai and all the other female high school students couldn't find Gao Neng. They searched everywhere for him, but their efforts were ultimately fruitless.

Meanwhile, at the military training base.

Chen Bai's face was ashen. He stared blankly at the console, which displayed an injection rate of thirty times the normal amount, and had been standing there motionless for a full two hours.

"There's movement! Dr. Lan, Gao Neng is showing signs of activity!" a researcher suddenly shouted.

"Hm? Finally some activity? Run a scan, quickly!" Dr. Lan rushed out of an adjacent room and immediately came to the control console.

Chen Bai snapped back to his senses.

"Is he coming out? Is Gao Neng coming out?"

"Not yet, but it should be soon. What are the readings?" Dr. Lan asked calmly, his hands flying across the console.

"Blood pressure readings have reached the standard for an Energy Warrior!"

"Heart rate has also reached the standard!"

"Strange, he seems to still be absorbing energy!"

"Still absorbing? Then keep increasing it! Push it to thirty-five times in one go!" Dr. Lan made a snap decision.

"Thirty-five times?! Doctor... The pod's maximum tolerance only ever reached thirty-three times during testing. Thirty-five times might make it explode!" a researcher warned.

"Let it explode. If we don't let him absorb enough right now, Gao Neng could be in danger!" Dr. Lan said without the slightest hesitation.

"In danger?" Sweat dripped from Chen Bai's face again.

He had been stationed here for a full two months. His mission was to wait for Gao Neng to come out, then escort him to the City of Hope. What if he ended up delivering a corpse instead?

What would the consequences be?

"The energy material injection rate has reached thirty-five times!"

"He's still absorbing!"

"Increase it again. To forty times!" Dr. Lan ordered once more.

"Yes, sir!" The researcher said no more this time, immediately operating the controls to inject more energy materials into the sealed pod.

BUZZ!

Just then, the sealed pod suddenly began to vibrate.

BEEP! BEEP! BEEP!

Alarms blared all around.

Dr. Lan, the sealed pod might be about to explode.

"Increase it again! To fifty times! Don't worry about whether it explodes or not!"  
Dr. Lan shouted.

"Still increasing it?!"

"Move aside, I'll do it!" Dr. Lan didn't answer the researcher. He shoved his way to the console and swiftly cranked the energy injection rate up to fifty times.

BZZZZZZZZZZZZ!!

The sealed pod trembled violently.

Five minutes passed.

Ten minutes.

Fifteen minutes.

"It's stopped! It's stopped! He's not absorbing anymore!" a researcher exclaimed with joy.

"Quick, open the sealed pod!"

BOOM!

Just then, a massive explosion erupted from within the glass room. The huge sealed pod blew apart, its lid slamming into the ceiling.

"Whoa, that was one hell of a rush! I'm really invincible now!" a voice rang out from the pod, followed by a soft sound of surprise. "Huh? Why'd the pod explode?"

## **Chapter 103: Super Magnetic Core, Reverse Extraction**

Gao Neng successfully walked out of the isolation pod.

He truly felt invincible. He could clearly see a red, planet-like magnetic core within his sea of consciousness.

And orbiting this red magnetic core were skies full of golden stars.

Those golden stars were his hidden talents.

Gao Neng could now establish a connection between the red magnetic core and every single star. He didn't know what other people's seas of consciousness looked like, but he was certain his was extremely powerful.

Insanely powerful!

Unreasonably powerful!

Just that powerful!

But he was a bit baffled. How did the perfectly fine egg-shaped isolation pod end up like this? Did it explode? Where's the shell? Uh... Is that the shell hanging from the ceiling?

Gao Neng couldn't remember what had happened at all.

But he did know one thing: using this egg-shaped isolation pod cost a hundred thousand per session.

So...

He couldn't be the one to take the fall for this!

"Lieutenant Chen, where are you, Lieutenant Chen? The quality of this isolation pod is terrible! It nearly blew me to bits! The Military Department has to compensate me for my emotional distress! A hundred thousand! At least a hundred thousand! The kind where I won't leave until you pay up!" Gao Neng immediately shouted.

"..."

Outside the glass partition, a stunned silence fell.

Just then, Chen Bai snapped out of his daze. The moment Gao Neng's shouts reached his ears, he was instantly dumbfounded all over again.

'Compensation?'

'This punk actually wants \*me\* to compensate \*him\*? And he's fucking demanding a hundred thousand?!'

He couldn't take it anymore!

'Don't you have a goddamn clue in your head why the pod exploded? This is an isolation pod that costs over ten million, and you have the audacity to play the victim and demand money from me?'

'I have to teach this punk a lesson.'

'Make him understand the authority of the Military Department!'

Just as he was about to make a move, a plaintive voice sounded from beside him.

"The quality of this isolation pod really is subpar. It couldn't even handle a fifty-fold injection. Sigh... Those people at the R&D division are a real bunch of incompetents!"

"Dr. Lan?" Chen Bai's clenched fist immediately loosened. 'What's going on? This isn't how I expected this to play out.'

'Has Dr. Lan lost her mind?'

'Shouldn't she be flying into a rage and chewing out Gao Neng for destroying the pod?'

"Yes, the quality is far too poor!"

"He should be compensated. This money must be paid!"

"Yes, yes, yes, Dr. Lan is absolutely right! The quality of this pod is terrible. It has absolutely nothing to do with our operation. It's those people in the R&D division who are incompetent!"

Hearing this, the other researchers immediately began nodding in unison.

"Lieutenant Chen, what do you think?" Dr. Lan asked, looking at Chen Bai.

"???" Chen Bai stared blankly at Dr. Lan, then at the researchers beside her.

In an instant, he seemed to understand.

'These are a bunch of fucking masters of passing the buck?!'

A ten-million-dollar isolation pod had been blown up. Someone had to take the fall.

But who would it be?

Gao Neng was out of the question—he had no money.

And it looked like these researchers weren't about to, either.

So, the blame...

"How despicable! For the R&D division to place an isolation pod of such poor quality in our Military Department... Dr. Lan, tell me how to handle this. I'll follow your lead!" Chen Bai made a swift decision, his face a mask of fury.

"Hehe, Lieutenant Chen truly has sharp eyes. My proposal is this: our research institute will file a protest, and the Military Department will mediate. We'll have

the R&D division compensate us with another isolation pod... no, two isolation pods. What do you think, Lieutenant Chen?" Dr. Lan adjusted her glasses.

"Only make them compensate us with two? Dr. Lan, you're such a... good person!" Chen Bai's mouth twitched.

"Sigh, we all work for the Alliance. 'Where it's possible to let someone off, one should.' We can't just seize on a minor fault and refuse to let go, can we? Alright, this is how we'll handle it. We'll write the report. Sorry to trouble you, Lieutenant Chen." Dr. Lan gave a calm smile, then arranged for the researchers to start writing.

"Not at all, not at all. It's all about unity and mutual support." Chen Bai wasn't someone who didn't know how to play along. It was just that he felt he had inexplicably been led down a very unusual path.

And just then...

Inside the glass partition, Gao Neng continued to shout.

"Compensation! For my emotional distress! If not a hundred thousand, then at least fifty thousand! If I don't get fifty thousand, I'm really not leaving!"

'Fifty thousand... that doesn't seem like too much,' Chen Bai calculated silently.

"Absolutely not! After such a major incident, how could we only compensate him with fifty thousand? Student Gao Neng might not know the severity of this matter, but don't we? A hundred thousand means a hundred thousand, not a single cent less! Our research institute cannot afford to leave any room for gossip!" Dr. Lan declared righteously. Then, she turned to a researcher. "Add a line to the report. Say that we spent two hundred thousand Alliance Coins to settle this incident!"

"Understood." The researcher nodded immediately.

"..." What could Chen Bai say?

He could only say that Dr. Lan was truly worthy of being a senior researcher at the institute. That level of awareness... he couldn't catch up to it even if he was riding a steam engine.

...

Inside the glass partition.

As Gao Neng was shouting, he heard a system notification.

"DING! Congratulations, Host, for completing 'The Man in Control of the Situation.' You have received one Middle-Level Treasure Chest."

"Huh? Completed? Open it!"

"BEEP. The unlucky Host has finally had a change of fortune. The Host will receive one opportunity for 'Skill Evolution,' which can be used to evolve and upgrade a current skill!"

"Skill Evolution? Not a Soul Tempering Pill? I want a Soul Tempering Pill!" Gao Neng really wanted to yell 'Bad review!', but Chen Bai had already walked in.

Gao Neng immediately straightened his back.

If things went as expected, he guessed Chen Bai would definitely demand he compensate for the damages. But he had no money...

The barefooted aren't afraid of those who wear shoes.

'I don't have money. What can you do to me?'

"The isolation pod's destruction was indeed due to a quality issue. We've discussed the matter of compensation, and as you requested, we will compensate you with one hundred thousand Alliance Coins. There is one condition, however: do not speak of this matter to anyone else, to avoid damaging the reputation of the R&D division!" Chen Bai said with a dark expression.

Gao Neng was astonished.

'They're really paying me?'

'He was just talking big. How could something this good actually happen?'

'What does this mean?'

'It means the isolation pod's quality really was the problem. It wasn't that he blew it up, it's that he asked for too little...'

"A hundred thousand isn't enough. It has to be two hundred thousand! I'm not leaving without two hundred thousand!" Gao Neng immediately changed his tune.

"It's a hundred thousand... take it or leave it!" Chen Bai's face grew even darker. He was genuinely furious. If he didn't know about the relationship between Gao Neng and Shen Ning'Er, he would have smacked this punk dead.

'Profiting from a disaster and still acting innocent!'

'But people with powerful backing...'

He couldn't afford to offend them. He'd just have to endure it.

"What a loss..." Gao Neng's heart ached. If he had known, he would have asked for two hundred thousand from the start. Now he was short a hundred thousand. His heart was bleeding.

"..." Chen Bai was about to lose it.

'You blew up a ten-million-dollar isolation pod, made a hundred thousand Alliance Coins off of it, and now you're telling me you took a loss? A loss my ass!'

"By the way, what's the date today?" Gao Neng didn't dwell on it. Although he still felt he'd definitely lost out this time, he knew when to quit while he was ahead. He'd just have to find a chance to score bigger later.

"September 8th," Chen Bai replied without hiding anything.

"Oh... September 8th, huh? That means I was in there for two... wait, did you say today is September 8th?! I haven't even filled out my college applications yet!" Gao Neng nodded, but he quickly realized something was wrong. September 8th... universities would have already started, right?

"Major Shen filled them out for you." The thought made Chen Bai's ass hurt.

"She filled them out for me? Which Military University did she pick? Southwest? Or Jiangbei... Both of those are pretty good. I was planning to apply to them!"

"See for yourself." Chen Bai couldn't be bothered to explain, simply tossing the acceptance letter to Gao Neng.

Gao Neng reached out and caught it.

A few large, glittering golden words were printed on it.

"Eastern Capital United Military Academy!"

"Eastern Capital Military Academy? One of the four great military academies?!" Gao Neng couldn't just not believe it; he flat-out refused to. He remembered that the Eastern Capital Military Academy didn't have any admission slots for the Forgotten Land.

When it came to the four great military academies, only the Southern Alliance Military Academy had half a slot, and that was it.

And he had actually gotten into Eastern Capital Military Academy?

Gao Neng quickly opened the acceptance letter. The two words "Gao Neng" told him it was all real. He had really been accepted into the Eastern Capital Military Academy.

"Surprised? Unexpected?" Watching Gao Neng's reaction, Chen Bai finally felt a sense of accomplishment.

"The start date on here is... September 3rd?" Gao Neng ignored Chen Bai, because he had discovered an even more serious problem.

He had missed the registration date for the start of the school year.

How was he supposed to deal with this?

"So, you should get ready now and come with me to the City of Hope immediately!" Chen Bai reminded him kindly, before thinking of something else. "Oh, right, Major Shen's message was that if your mother is willing to go, she can come along too."

"What about the hundred thousand Alliance Coins you mentioned earlier?"

"You want it now?"

"Of course!"

"Fine, I'll go get it for you."

"Thanks, Lao Bai. Also, help me tell Shen Ning'Er something: I, Gao Neng, earn money through my own abilities. I don't need to live off her!" After speaking, Gao Neng placed a hand on the wrecked isolation pod.

HUMMM!

The isolation pod trembled.

Then, a stream of ink-black Iron Energy Elements gushed out.

"Reverse extraction?! Directly extracting Iron Energy from an alloy!" Chen Bai's expression changed instantly. Extracting Iron Energy from ore was easy, but extracting it from an alloy was much, much harder.

The reason was simple: it was a reverse extraction!

Extracting Iron Energy from ore and then turning it into true iron material via the Energy Refining Technique was known as forward extraction, a process that wasn't too difficult to accomplish.

But converting refined iron material back into Iron Energy Elements...

...was extremely difficult.

Not only had Gao Neng achieved this, but he was doing it from an alloy, meaning he was separating the iron element from the alloy during the extraction process.

Chen Bai could actually do this too.

But the amount he could extract was extremely limited...

But Gao Neng?

Under his palm, great torrents of Iron Energy were gushing out like a fountain, almost instantly sucking the alloy completely clean of its iron elements.

"The City of Hope... is really about to welcome a monster! A fifty-fold energy injection... just how powerful has that punk's 'magnetic core' become?!"

## **Chapter 104: The Evolving Advance**

Chen Bai was genuinely a little scared.

He knew Gao Neng had five talents exceeding 80%, and he knew Gao Neng had broken through the Fourth Human Limit. But for him to be this terrifying... it still left him feeling a bit bitter.

'We're all human...'

'So why are we so different?'

'Damn genius!'

Just as he was cursing internally, a thought struck him: Gao Neng had only just broken through and couldn't yet truly control the absorption and application of energy with his body.

"You just broke through! Don't do anything reckless!"

"Then hurry up and give me a high-dimensional capsule!" Gao Neng looked panicked as well, as the surrounding iron energy elements were clearly at risk of scattering everywhere.

"Here!" Chen Bai immediately threw one over.

"One isn't enough! There's too much! Give me at least five!" Gao Neng continued to act panicked, trembling like a leaf in the wind.

"How could one not be enough?" Chen Bai was stunned, but he still quickly tossed out four more.

"This should do it." Gao Neng caught them. The panic on his face vanished instantly as the once-unruly iron energy was drawn into a single high-dimensional capsule.

As for the other four...

Gao Neng didn't let them go to waste, stuffing all of them into his pockets.

"???" Chen Bai froze for a second before it dawned on him. 'Me, a dignified Alliance Lieutenant, just got played by an eighteen-year-old high school student?'

'Just like that, he'd scammed me out of five high-dimensional capsules?'

'It's not like they were worth all that much, though.'

'But the nerve...'

'I can't just let this go!'

"Lao Bai, why don't you tell me how to actually control this stuff." Gao Neng had, in fact, noticed a problem. It seemed he couldn't condense the iron energy into armor to cover his body like Shen Ning'Er could.

"Hmph. Weren't you controlling it just fine a moment ago?" Chen Bai snorted coldly.

"You mean this?" Gao Neng released a bit of iron energy from a high-dimensional capsule again, then began to play with it in his palm, making it form various shapes.

One moment it was a horse, the next a sheep, and then a tiger...

Chen Bai's face darkened as he watched.

He was filled with jealousy and resentment.

'People really are different. He remembered that when he first broke through, he had trouble just controlling the energy in his palm. But Gao Neng could already make it change shape at will.'

'Damn genius! How can he control it so well right after breaking through?!'

'So infuriating!'

"You just broke through, so you haven't officially entered the First-rank. You need to use a 'magnetic core' to 'magnetize' your body first. Once your arms are magnetized, the iron energy can cover them. Only then will you be considered to have officially entered the First-rank," Chen Bai explained, despite his anger.

It couldn't be helped.

This was the mission Shen Ning'Er had given him.

To teach Gao Neng the fundamentals of being an Energy Warrior.

"What about Second-rank?" Gao Neng nodded and asked.

"You can think of your body as three parts: arms, torso, and legs. First-rank is magnetizing the arms. For Second-rank and Third-rank, it's up to you. Some choose the legs, others choose the torso. Only when your entire body is magnetized can you form a full-body suit of battle armor."

"So if I can form a full-body suit of battle armor, that means I've entered the Third-rank?"

"That's right."

"Then, Lao Bai, what rank are you now?"

"Second-rank. Didn't you see it last time? My battle armor can only cover my arms and torso; my legs can't be covered," Chen Bai replied.

"You're only Second-rank?" Gao Neng looked at Chen Bai as if he were looking at someone weak.

"So, you want to take me on?" Chen Bai's eyes narrowed. He felt that Gao Neng's ego was really swelling up. 'Does he really think I can't deal with him?'

'Last time on the battlefield, I only got hit by lightning, that's all.'

"Let's wait a few days. Once I break through to the First-rank, I'll be able to knock you out with a single punch." Gao Neng shook his head. He wasn't an idiot. 'Beating Chen Bai is only a matter of time, so why rush?'

"Fine! I'll be waiting for you to knock me out when you're First-rank!" Chen Bai ground his teeth. He then pulled out a storage device. "This has the basic Military Boxing Skill. I was going to teach you myself, but since you're such a genius, you can probably self-study, right?"

"Of course I can." Gao Neng quickly took it, but after a moment's thought, he asked, a bit confused, "Why do I need to learn this Military Boxing Skill?"

"With the same talent and explosive power, who's stronger—someone with a boxing skill, or someone without one?" Chen Bai couldn't be bothered to explain and simply shot back a question.

"Oh, I get it. Now, hurry up and give me the money. I need to get back and pack. By the way, aren't you going to drive me back? It's really far!"

"Walk!"

"Give me a ride! And while you're at it, how about teaching me to drive? I'm a fast learner!"

"..." Chen Bai was speechless. 'He won't ask me about the boxing skill, but he wants me to teach him how to drive? What the hell is going on in this guy's head?'

"By the way, does this military base have any discarded copper ornaments? I want to absorb some copper."

"No!"

"What about silver? You must have some silver!"

"Impossible!"

"You must have tin, then, right? A military base this big can't possibly be out of tin, right?"

"We don't have any of it! And no phosphorus either!"

"So poor... What do you guys have besides money?"

"..." Chen Bai bit back his retort, chanting silently in his head, 'This guy's a potential Prince Consort, this guy's a potential Prince Consort...' As he repeated it, something suddenly felt off.

'If I really give him nothing now, what if he becomes my superior in the future?'

'That's a very real possibility!'

'And what if he decides to make things difficult for me later on?'

'That's an even bigger possibility!'

"Ahem, uh, did you just say you wanted some copper?" Chen Bai coughed twice before replying.

"Huh? Didn't you say you didn't have any?" Gao Neng was astonished. 'Lao Bai sure changes his tune fast.' He had been about to give up and go rummage through a trash heap himself.

## Chapter 105 - 104: Evolution's Advance! (Part 2)

"I really don't have any Silver Energy, but I can provide you with a little bit of copper, tin, and phosphorus," Chen Bai said seriously.

"The kind I don't have to pay for?"

"Ahem, it's a gift! But it's not a lot. If you need more in the future, you'll have to get it yourself."

"I didn't realize you were such a nice guy, Lao Bai," Gao Neng laughed.

"Heh heh..." Chen Bai almost replied, 'I'll have to ask for your care in the future,' but he ultimately swallowed the words.

There was no other reason.

He just couldn't bring himself to do it.

...

...

It was two in the afternoon when Gao Neng got home.

According to Chen Bai, they had to rush to the City of Hope tonight; otherwise, it would be hard to explain things, even with Gao Neng's special admission.

What surprised Gao Neng was...

Xu Zilan was actually home.

And it looked like she had been deliberately waiting for him.

"Mom, I'm home."

"Mm, have you eaten? If not, I'll go heat something up for you."

"No need, Mom. I've already eaten. I passed the exam for the Eastern Capital Military Academy, and I have to go report to the City of Hope now. Why don't you come with me?" Gao Neng was actually a little expectant.

The City of Hope!

The headquarters of the Human Alliance!

He really wanted to see what this great capital was like. 'Does it have clean streets? Are there ten-story buildings?'

This was his dream, or rather, the dream of everyone from the Forgotten Land.

"The Forgotten Land is nice. I... don't want to leave." Xu Zilan glanced at Chen Bai, who was standing behind Gao Neng, and shook her head softly.

"Why not? Mom, didn't we agree? That as soon as I got into a Military University in the City of Hope, we'd move there to live? It's safer there, and... I have money now! I have one hundred thousand Alliance Coins! Really, look... I really have one hundred thousand Alliance Coins! We can buy a big house to live in!"

"Little Neng, you can't buy a house in the City of Hope for one hundred thousand." Xu Zilan's gaze darkened slightly.

"We can't? Then we can at least rent one, right? Besides, I can earn more money in the future. Mom... I want you to come with me." Gao Neng wasn't trying to force Xu Zilan to go to the City of Hope, but he truly was unwilling to leave her behind in the Forgotten Land alone. He just couldn't do it.

"..." Xu Zilan fell silent.

"Mom, please come with me. The Forgotten Land is really dangerous. I'm worried!" Gao Neng continued.

"Sigh..." Xu Zilan let out a soft sigh and looked at Chen Bai. "Officer, could you let me speak with Little Neng alone for a moment?"

"Of course!" Chen Bai nodded and immediately left the room.

"While you're at it, have your people stationed around the area pull back. I don't need protection anymore. Once I've packed, I'll go with you," Xu Zilan added as she watched Chen Bai leave.

"Th-... Alright!" Chen Bai was taken aback for a second but quickly nodded.

A few moments later, a few faint sounds came from outside.

Then, silence returned.

"Little Neng, I can go to the City of Hope with you, but you have to agree to three conditions," Xu Zilan said nonchalantly, glancing at Gao Xiaomeng, who was lying by the window.

"Mom, what are they?" Gao Neng immediately nodded.

"First, I don't need you to rent a place for me. After we get to the City of Hope, you'll go directly to the military academy to report in. I'll find a place to settle down on my own."

"Why?" Gao Neng didn't quite understand.

"Because I don't want to delay your studies. The academy has already started its term. I'll handle the housing situation myself. If you're really worried, just give me ten thousand Alliance Coins."

"Alright then." Hearing this, Gao Neng didn't ask any more questions.

"Second, you can only come see me during the summer and winter breaks. At any other time, even if the academy has a holiday, you absolutely cannot come looking for me."

"But why?"

"It's the same reason. Since you've gotten into the military academy, you need to be independent. You can't always be thinking about a mother who needs looking after. Besides, I don't need you to look after me!"

"But I just want to see you."

"If you don't agree, then I won't go. I'll just stay here in the Forgotten Land."

"Alright. What's the third condition?" Gao Neng clenched his jaw but finally nodded.

"Third, after you get to the City of Hope..." Xu Zilan trailed off mid-sentence, then shook her head. "Never mind. Just those two conditions."

"Then let's go now."

"Okay, wait for me. I'll go pack."

"Okay." Gao Neng nodded. After Xu Zilan went into her room, he turned his gaze to the cat lying by the window. "Gao Xiaomeng, do you want to come with us?"

"No need. You guys go ahead," Gao Xiaomeng replied lazily.

"Go ahead?" Gao Neng was confused.

"I'll come find you in a few days. That's it." After saying that, Gao Xiaomeng left immediately, giving Gao Neng no chance to ask another question.

Gao Neng was a bit speechless. 'Gao Xiaomeng has been really strange lately, hasn't she? The area between the Forgotten Land and the City of Hope is hardly safe.'

If she didn't travel with them... 'How could Gao Xiaomeng possibly get to the City of Hope?'

Gao Neng had genuinely intended to bring Gao Xiaomeng along, but since she refused, he naturally couldn't force her. He could only let her leave.

Soon...

Xu Zilan finished packing.

She appeared before Gao Neng, still in her simple cloth clothes, but now she carried a large bundle on her back—a bundle Gao Neng had never seen before.

"Mom, what's in that bundle?" Gao Neng asked, confused.

"A change of clothes," Xu Zilan said lightly.

"Clothes?" Gao Neng grew even more confused. He remembered Xu Zilan only owning two sets of spare clothes in total. Plus, it was summer now. 'Could she have packed winter clothes in there?'

He didn't dwell on it.

Because Xu Zilan was already out the door.

"Where's Gao Xiaomeng?"

"I told her I'd take her to the City of Hope with us, but she ran off..." Gao Neng could only answer Xu Zilan's question this way.

"I see. It seems she's like me and prefers the Forgotten Land." Xu Zilan didn't ask again.

...

As dusk fell, Chen Bai drove Gao Neng and Xu Zilan toward the Forgotten Land's military airfield. A plane was the fastest way to get to the City of Hope.

The vehicle sped down the dilapidated streets.

On either side of the road, stray cats would occasionally appear, meowing softly or waving their paws in strange gestures.

Gao Neng wasn't looking at the scenery outside the car.

Because he was currently looking at his system's Attribute Panel, hesitating over which skill to apply the "Skill Evolution" he'd gotten from the Middle-Level Treasure Chest.

"Eye of Deprivation (Trial Version), 23 days overdue. A double fine of 4,600 Alliance Coins must be paid to continue use. Minimum extension: 40 days."

'Evolving the 'Eye of Deprivation' gets me the 'Eye of Deprivation (Full Version)'?'

'Evolving 'Lifeform Conversion (Beginner)' gets me 'Lifeform Conversion (Intermediate)'.'

'Evolving 'The Third Set of Primary and Middle School Calisthenics (Youthful Dance)' gets me 'Unknown'.'

This was all the information the Attribute Panel displayed.

'I can see the direct results of evolving the Eye of Deprivation and Lifeform Conversion, but not for the calisthenics routine—it just shows 'Unknown'... Which one should I choose?' Gao Neng was a decisive person, but this time, he was truly at a loss.

## Chapter 106 - 105: New "Special Skill

Judging by the immediate benefits, most people would choose to evolve the 'Eye of Deprivation' because it would save them from spending a lot of Alliance Coins.

But the first option Gao Neng eliminated was the Eye of Deprivation.

Because he was no ordinary person.

He was more farsighted. Spending Alliance Coins was a temporary concern; what he needed now was to maximize his chances of survival.

As for the reason...

It was just that something unexpected had come up with the fifth part of his ultimate mission.

After returning home, he had actually tried to check the description for the fifth mission, 'The Red Star Sparkles and Shines Bright,' only to discover that this mission was anything but ordinary.

"Ultimate Mission 5/5: The Red Star Sparkles and Shines Bright (Complete 'The Red Star Sparkles and Shines Bright,' and you will have a 100% chance of receiving a high-grade treasure chest)."

"Mission Description: Pixelated."

"Mission Completion Conditions: Pixelated."

'No mission description and no completion conditions. What did that mean?'

'It meant this was a trigger-based mission!'

'And if I'm not mistaken, it probably has a countdown timer, just like the first few missions.'

'Suddenly, it would just hit you with a mission: "Confront."'

'Or it would bait you into a trap, and you'd end up with something like, "Don't Leave, We Fight 'til Dawn."'

'It was trollish to an infuriating degree.'

Of course, this was only Gao Neng's guess. The actual mission might be even more brutal than he imagined.

After all, this was the final part of the ultimate mission. The troll of a system was definitely not going to let him pass easily.

Gao Neng had a strong will to survive.

Therefore, he felt that evolving a skill that could drastically improve his strength might be the only way to turn the tide at a critical moment.

Gao Neng's gaze returned to 'Lifeform Transformation.' If he evolved it to the intermediate level, his strength would undoubtedly increase.

But intermediate...

'Do I need it right now?'

'The cost for the intermediate level would definitely be higher—that's a given. It might even double.'

'And how much would my attributes increase?'

'Time to take a gamble! Sometimes the things that look dangerous are actually safer. The unknown... isn't necessarily a trap. It could be a pleasant surprise, right?' Gao Neng pepped himself up.

"Evolve 'Third Set of Primary and Middle School Broadcast Calisthenics (Dance of Youth)!'"

"DING! 'Third Set of Primary and Middle School Broadcast Calisthenics (Dance of Youth)' has been successfully evolved!" a mechanical voice announced.

"BEEP! Congratulations, Host, you have acquired a new special skill: 'Three Hundred Nursery Rhymes'."

"..."

Gao Neng truly, really, \*honestly\*... had braced himself.

But he had still underestimated the trollish nature of the system. He never would have imagined that he would "evolve" from a "primary and middle schooler" into a "toddler."

'This is devolution!'

'Shouldn't I have evolved into a college student?!'

'I would've even taken square dancing!'

Three Hundred Nursery Rhymes...

'What the hell was that supposed to be?'

Instead of listening to the system's description, Gao Neng directly opened the 'Three Hundred Nursery Rhymes' skill to take a look.

Sure enough, it listed actual nursery rhymes.

But there weren't three hundred of them, only three.

The first was "Pulling Up the Radish." (When the Host sings "Pulling Up the Radish" loudly, vitality and mental activity will increase dramatically. In this state, vitality and stamina recovery speed will be boosted by 500%, and all adverse conditions will be cleansed.)

'My vitality and stamina recovery speed went from 300% to 500%? But compared to the broadcast calisthenics, I lost the 50% cultivation speed boost?'

Gao Neng wasn't sure if this evolution was an upgrade or a downgrade. He looked at the second rhyme.

The second was "Little Leaping Frog." (When the Host sings "Little Leaping Frog" loudly, the fluidity of internal energy will increase dramatically. In this state, the speed of energy-based cultivation will be boosted by 300%.)

'So "Little Leaping Frog" is the one for cultivation? And it went from a 50% boost to 300%? That's... a ridiculous increase!'

Gao Neng finally felt a glimmer of pleasant surprise. He then looked at the third rhyme.

The third was "Where is Spring?" (When the Host sings "Where is Spring?" loudly, focus will increase dramatically. In this state, learning speed will be boosted by 300%.)

'It can even improve my focus? And increase my learning speed?!' This time, Gao Neng was genuinely shocked. 'What does this mean? It means my ability to learn is over 300% faster than a normal person's. No, wait—it's over 300% faster than a normal genius's, because this boost is applied on top of my own foundation.'

'What an overpowered skill!'

'It's absolutely, ridiculously overpowered!'

At the same time...

'It's ridiculously embarrassing!'

Gao Neng used to think doing broadcast calisthenics was embarrassing enough, but after getting used to it, he found it acceptable. After all, the calisthenics could be used as combat moves.

But now?

'Singing "Pulling Up the Radish" in the middle of a fight?'

'And I have to sing "Little Leaping Frog" while I cultivate, and "Where is Spring?" when I study? Is this the kind of shit a sane person does?'

Gao Neng didn't dwell on it and quickly pushed aside his sense of shame.

Because they had arrived at the airport.

The Forgotten Land had two airports in total. One was a civilian airport, and the other was the military airport before them now.

As a zone under the direct control of the Military Department.

The military airport's primary purpose was transporting Alliance supplies.

This was also the monthly supply point for the Forgotten Land. It could be said that over ninety percent of the supplies shipped from the City of Hope were transported through this airport.

According to the original plan, Gao Neng should have boarded a flight at the civilian airport, traveling to the City of Hope with the other accepted students from the Forgotten Land.

But he had managed to miss it completely.

So, he could only take a cargo plane.

The Military Department personnel worked efficiently.

After Chen Bai presented his credentials, the group boarded a transport aircraft.

Onboard were a number of soldiers in charge of escorting the cargo safely. Aside from them, there were bundles of packaged supplies marked with codes, their contents indecipherable to anyone not in the know.

After about half an hour, the plane took off.

Gao Neng found a window seat and sat down. It was his first time on an airplane, and the novelty of it all made him gaze unconsciously out the window.

The Forgotten Land was actually very large.

However, the area that had actually been preserved was already very small. In the far distance, terrifying deep craters dotted the ground like a hornet's nest.

Gao Neng watched for a moment before looking away.

Because night had fallen and the plane had ascended above the clouds, there was nothing to see below but endless dark cloud banks.

Xu Zilan, however, wasn't looking outside. She just sat quietly in her chair with her eyes closed, resting. Her hand, however, never left the package in her lap.

"Lieutenant Chen, it's rare for you to fly with us. Aren't you going to introduce your companions?" one of the escorting soldiers, who seemed to know Chen Bai, asked.

"A student," Chen Bai replied casually.

"A student? Hasn't reported to the academy yet? Heh... He's already missed the deadline. I bet he's going to be punished, right?" the soldier continued.

Chen Bai said nothing.

'Punished, my ass!'

'This kid's got connections, don't you know?'

"A student from which military academy?" The soldier was a bit of a chatterbox. Seeing Chen Bai wasn't responding, he asked again.

"One in the Eastern Capital," Chen Bai said.

"The Eastern Capital? Which military academy in the Eastern Capital...?" The soldier seemed surprised, but then his eyes widened and he exclaimed, "Wait a minute, this kid isn't \*that\* Gao Neng, is he? The student who got into the Eastern Capital Military Academy? This year's top scorer from the Forgotten Land? I see his goddamn banner on the streets every day!"

"No, he's from the Eastern Capital Suburban South Military Academy." Chen Bai shook his head. The Forgotten Land wasn't a truly safe place, and even though they were surrounded by military escorts, Chen Bai remained cautious.

"I knew it. It would've been too much of a coincidence to run into the top scorer." The soldier sounded a little disappointed, then turned his gaze to Gao Neng. "Hey, pretty boy, you're off to military academy soon. Know any Military Boxing? Show us a set. Can't waste time on the plane. I bet Lieutenant Chen taught you, right?"

"I don't, but I can sing. You want to hear?" Gao Neng replied, turning his head.

"Singing?" The soldier was taken aback for a second, then he started to laugh. "Sure, why not? Go on and sing us a song, then! Ha ha..."

Chen Bai's brow furrowed.

'What the hell is this kid playing at?'

'Can't he tell the soldier is just messing with him?'

Just as he was about to intervene, Gao Neng had already started belting out a song.

"In a happy pond, a dream was sown, and it grew into an ocean! With bulging eyes and a great big mouth... la... A happy little frog, LEAP FROG... A happy little frog, LEAP FROG..."

"..." Chen Bai was completely dumbfounded.

It wasn't just Chen Bai; the soldier who had started it all and the others sitting nearby were also stupefied.

A nursery rhyme?!

And the crucial part was, the kid was singing with incredible, passionate gusto!

And man, was he loud!

It was absolutely deafening.

The soldier who had started it all stared at Gao Neng, his mouth twitching. He could already feel the hostile glares from the guys behind him who had been dozing off.

'Serves you right for being a damn chatterbox!'

'You had to go and provoke someone with a huge set of lungs, didn't you?'

'And a damn nursery rhyme, no less! Can't he just shut up?!'

'I'll endure it!' The soldier gritted his teeth, waiting for Gao Neng to finish.

But Gao Neng was now completely immersed in the pleasure of his rapidly circulating energy. As he continued to sing at the top of his lungs, he could clearly feel his fingers being nourished by the energy of the magnetic core.

'The fingers on my right hand are starting to magnetize? So that's how it works... Magnetization is the process of nurturing the magnetic core's energy within the

muscles. I get it! Once my muscles possess the energy of the magnetic core, absorbing various energy elements with my body will become a matter of course!' Sensing the changes in his finger muscles, Gao Neng found it impossible to stop.

He sang at the top of his lungs.

The maddeningly catchy tune of "Little Leaping Frog" echoed through the cabin, over and over again...

By the time Gao Neng was singing it for the fourth time...

The chatterbox soldier's mouth was twitching, his lips turning pale.

"Kid, can you sing a different song?"

"Weren't you the one who told him to sing? If you've got a problem, plug your ears!" Chen Bai's own expression was as black as thunder, but he knew that in this situation, no matter what Gao Neng was singing, he had to protect the boy's dignity.

"..." The chatterbox soldier froze, glanced at Chen Bai, then back at Gao Neng. In the end, he shut his mouth.

'Fine, sing!'

'This flight is two or three hours long!'

'I'd love to see just how damn long you can keep singing, kid!'

## **Chapter 107 - 106: Humanity's Stronghold, the City of Hope**

Gao Neng paid no mind to the conversation between Chen Bai and the talkative soldier.

Because he was on a high right now!~

With his enhanced energy flow, his cultivation speed was truly fast. The muscles in the fingers of his right hand weren't very dense, and they were soon completely magnetized.

Next came his palm.

That, too, was very quick.

Gao Neng even had a feeling that if he were given a day or two, he could finish magnetizing both of his hands. That would mean he had officially stepped into the first rank.

Of course, the prerequisite was that he'd have to sing continuously for a day or two without eating, drinking, or sleeping.

Fortunately...

He was not a lazy person.

Especially when it came to studying and cultivating, his attitude had always been exemplary. If that weren't the case, how could he have become the top student at his high school?

Genius plus hard work.

The rest of those scrubs could only despair.

The talkative soldier was in despair right now...

Because Gao Neng had been singing nonstop for half an hour, stuck on a "single-track loop." He hadn't even taken a sip of water, and he was singing his heart out.

Most importantly, his voice was also devilishly grating.

You couldn't really blame Gao Neng for this.

His family was really, truly... poor. As a poor boy born in the Forgotten Land, what chance would he have had to encounter an art form like singing?

Gao Neng's aptitude for singing was... unconventional. Combined with a complete lack of training, his voice became so devilishly grating it was enough to drive someone insane.

The talkative soldier was truly suffering every single second.

But just as Chen Bai had said, he had gotten himself into this mess "with his own skills," so he had to see it through, even if it meant on his knees.

"He's a little leaping frog, who crossed the blue Atlantic Ocean, leaped to the distant East, and landed right beside us..." Unable to bear it any longer, the talkative soldier finally started singing along.

He had a loud voice, too!

'Why must you be such a show-off?!'

And then...

He got beaten up.

A group of soldiers, suppressed to their limits, had finally found an outlet. They grabbed the talkative soldier's head, slammed it to the ground, and began stomping on him furiously.

Even Chen Bai couldn't resist joining the mob beating up the talkative soldier.

They couldn't do anything to Gao Neng.

But they could definitely do something to \*you\*!

"This is unfair! He can sing, so why can't I?!" the talkative soldier protested, refusing to accept it.

The other soldiers remained silent. 'You can refuse to accept it, but we can also beat you until you do. You're the one who started this mess, and you have the gall to sing along? Who else would we beat up if not you?'

Two hours passed in a flash.

Gao Neng sang for a full two hours before finally stopping.

Then, under the watchful eyes of Chen Bai and the others, Gao Neng took out his personal flask, took a big gulp, then cleared his throat, preparing to continue.

"Gao Neng, take a little break. We're almost there," Chen Bai quickly interjected when he saw what was happening. His head felt like it was about to explode.

"Yeah, little brother, take a rest."

"Mm, I have some crackers. Want some, little brother?"

"Or how about I demonstrate a set of Military Boxing for you? It could be helpful."

Hearing this, the other soldiers immediately shot to their feet, all of them wearing earnest smiles. Their sincerity was so profound, they were just short of kneeling.

Gao Neng blinked.

'There really are good people in this world after all.'

'Oh well.' He was actually a bit tired after singing for two hours. He casually accepted the crackers a soldier handed him, taking out two for Xu Zilan first.

Xu Zilan, however, was quite calm.

No mother would think there was anything wrong with her son expressing his natural self. If possible, she would have liked to listen for a while longer.

Seeing Gao Neng finally quiet down, Chen Bai let out a sigh of relief.

The aircraft had begun its descent.

Through the darkness of the night, the lights of the City of Hope were faintly visible.

"Gao Neng, since this is your first time in the City of Hope, let me give you a brief introduction." Chen Bai shook his head, trying to clear it.

"Okay," Gao Neng agreed. He really didn't know much about the City of Hope.

"Let's start with its size. The City of Hope is divided into four districts: the Eastern District, the West District, the South District, and the North District. Its total area is roughly equivalent to one and a half times the size of the pre-Cataclysm Hua Country, with a current population of about five hundred million." Chen Bai quickly organized his thoughts.

"It's that small?" Gao Neng was astonished.

Before the Great Cataclysm, the total human population had reached six to seven billion, and their territory spanned all seven continents.

But now, only an area one and a half times the size of Hua Country remained...

'It's really small!'

"Right. Next, let's talk about the Military Department. It has one great military district in each of the four major regions—these are the Four Great Military Districts. Each of those, in turn, administers four smaller military districts."

Chen Bai paused for a moment before continuing, "So that's four great military districts and sixteen smaller ones. Add to that the Guard Army and the Security Department, which are under the direct command of the central Federation Council, and you have the entirety of the Human Alliance's current military power."

The place we're landing is the Eastern Capital Airport.

The Eastern Capital is the economic and military center of the Eastern District; you can think of it as the Eastern District's capital city. Besides the Eastern Capital, the Eastern District also has twelve other provinces. The structure of the other districts is more or less the same as the Eastern District's: one major capital city plus a dozen or so provinces."

Hearing this, Gao Neng began to get a clearer picture.

Although the concept of nations no longer existed after the formation of the Human Alliance, the four major districts could, in fact, be understood as the four great powers of the Alliance.

Of course, ultimate political authority had shifted from individual nations to the Federation Supreme Council.

"Next, let me tell you about the schools," Chen Bai continued. "The best schools in the Alliance are, naturally, the Four Great Military Academies under the direct command of the Military Department. But there are other schools besides the military academies. We'll skip those for now and just talk about the military ones."

"Okay." Gao Neng nodded.

"Although there's no official ranking for the Four Great Military Academies, there is a general consensus on their overall strength. The Western Alliance Military Academy is the strongest, while the Southern Alliance Military Academy is slightly weaker than the other three. As for the Eastern Capital Military Academy and the Beihai Military Academy, their strengths are comparable.

In a sense, the strength ranking of the Four Great Military Academies is equivalent to the strength ranking of the four great military districts. After all, the academies directly supply talent to the Military Department.

If an academy is strong, its corresponding military district will naturally be strong. Therefore, the strongest military district in the Human Alliance right now is the Western Alliance Military District."

Chen Bai paused again here. "Of course, when I say 'strongest,' I'm only talking about overall strength. The Western Alliance Military District has the most powerful vanguard units, but when it comes to reconnaissance capabilities, the supposedly weakest Southern Alliance Military District is actually a bit stronger. They have the best reconnaissance and intelligence network!"

Gao Neng nodded.

He could understand this logic.

It was like choosing a profession. Some people were born Warriors, suited for charging into battle with powerful attack and Defense Power.

But you couldn't guarantee that everyone would be that kind of Warrior.

Some people had to handle logistics.

After all, a real battlefield didn't just have charging Warriors; it also needed logistical supply lines, powerful intelligence and reconnaissance teams, medical squads, and so on.

"We're almost there, get ready," Chen Bai said, not continuing his explanation. The aircraft was already descending, and the buildings on the ground were becoming clearer.

Gao Neng took advantage of this brief pause to glance at his Attribute Panel.

Name: Gao Neng

Age: 18

Basic Information: City of Hope, Eastern Capital Military Academy First-Year Cadet

Health: 456/623 (Rating: Excellent)

Stamina: 220/286 (Rating: Excellent)

Talents: Iron 100%, Copper 100%, Tin 100%, Silver 100%, Gold 100%, Phosphorus 100%, Sulfur 100%, Silicon 100%...

Special Abilities: 1. Eye of Deprivation (Trial Version, Time Remaining: 60 days). 2. Three Hundred Nursery Rhymes (Intermediate). 3. Lifeform Transformation (Beginner).

Evolution: 4/5 (Completion)

...

That's right, Gao Neng had chosen to renew the 'Eye of Deprivation' for two months. After deducting the penalty fee, it had cost him over ten thousand Alliance Coins. He had also given ten thousand to Xu Zilan, leaving him with about eighty thousand now.

And after breaking through to become an Energy Warrior...

...his Health had broken past the 500-point mark, jumping to 623, while his Stamina had reached 286. If he wasn't mistaken, breaking past 300 Stamina would likely lead to a new advancement.

'Just one more mission until I can evolve!'

'Sparkling red star, shining bright... in what form will this mission appear?'

'What new abilities will the system have after it evolves?'

'Will it stop being so lame?'

Gao Neng gently clenched his fist. After two hours of singing, the palm of his right hand was completely magnetized. This meant that at least one of his fists could now become an iron fist.

The roar of the aircraft grew louder.

Then came the jolt of the landing.

They had finally arrived at the Eastern Capital Airport in the City of Hope.

"Let's go!" Chen Bai seemed a little excited himself. Having been away for over two months, it was impossible not to feel a sense of nostalgia upon returning.

"Little Neng, you go to the military academy with Lieutenant Chen. I won't be going with you," Xu Zilan said at this moment.

"Mom, you're leaving now? At least come with us to the Eastern Capital first. The airport is still some distance from the city, right?" Gao Neng still had some common sense.

"Yes, it wouldn't be too late to part ways once we reach the Eastern Capital," Chen Bai agreed.

"There's no need. I'll have to trouble Lieutenant Chen to take Little Neng to the military academy to report for duty. This is something Little Neng and I already discussed." After speaking, Xu Zilan walked directly off the plane.

"Mom, how will I find you then?"

"I'll write you a letter. You'll know my address then."

"Mom, at least come out of the airport with us!" Gao Neng quickly chased after her.

"Alright." Xu Zilan said no more.

The group exited the airport.

Xu Zilan directly boarded a public vehicle heading from the airport to the Eastern Capital.

Meanwhile, Chen Bai found a small car through the airport services and, under the cover of night, drove Gao Neng at high speed toward the Eastern Capital.

'The roads in the City of Hope... really aren't broken.' Gao Neng gazed at the smooth road surface and the brand-new buildings all around, and for some reason, he inexplicably felt the urge to sing again.

City of Hope!

The genius Gao Neng has arrived!

(Please subscribe and vote with your monthly tickets! Waaah... Why is it that the harder I work, the more my monthly ticket ranking falls? Please push it back up! At least get me into the top fifteen!)

## Chapter 108 - 107: The Red Star Shines Bright

...

「Forgotten Land. Military Airfield.」

While Gao Neng was in a car headed for the Eastern Capital Military Academy, chaos erupted at a military airfield. Thousands of stray cats were scurrying all over the runway.

And on a massive roof at the airfield.

A young girl with deep blue pupils and short silver hair sat watching it all unfold, her legs crossed.

"Meow, meow..." Behind the girl, three hundred stray cats sat obediently on the ground.

"The second plane from the left is our target! I, Queen Xiaomeng, will lead you, my three hundred brave warriors, to conquer the City of Hope!" With that, the girl leaped down from the roof.

"Who goes there?!"

"A non-human!"

Soon, two soldiers intercepted the girl.

"Mother said I can't harm humans, but I don't think knocking them out will be a big problem!" A smile played on the girl's lips as two javelins burning with phosphorescent fire rapidly materialized in her hands.

"Energy manipulation?!"

...

「City of Hope.」

「At the main gate of the Eastern Capital Military Academy.」

A black luxury hover car, floating three meters above the ground, slowly descended. The door opened, and an old, white-haired man in a Tang-style suit stepped out.

"Tangtang, you can't enter the academy before midnight," the old man in the Tang-style suit said, glancing into the car.

"Hmph! As if I'd believe Grandpa's superstitious nonsense! Saying that if I register at the academy before September 9th, I'll meet my fated nemesis. Who could possibly be a nemesis to me, Fang Tangtang?" A soft huff came from inside the car, and then a petite loli stepped out.

She had twin-tails, white stockings, and was wearing a black princess dress. Her big, bright eyes twinkled with a lively light in the darkness.

"The Old Master has never been wrong in his predictions," the old man in the Tang-style suit said with a smile.

"What era do you think this is? Who still believes in old-fashioned superstitions? Where's my blade? Where did my blade go?!" Fang Tangtang pouted, her hands rummaging around under her princess dress.

"Miss, your blade fell in the car," the driver's voice came from within. A middle-aged man then quickly opened the door and handed her a 'silver high-dimensional capsule.'

Fang Tangtang didn't hesitate.

She snatched the high-dimensional capsule from his hand. After a flash of light, a three-meter-long Golden Scythe of Death appeared in her grasp.

A golden chain connected it to Fang Tangtang's right wrist. She hoisted the long Scythe of Death onto her shoulder, which, combined with her 1.5-meter height, made for a rather unconventional sight.

But Fang Tangtang didn't mind at all.

On the contrary, she was extremely excited, running her palm over the engravings on the Scythe of Death.

"Tangtang, it would be better to put that scythe away," the old man in the Tang-style suit said, speechless. 'Who reports to a military academy in the middle of the night carrying a Scythe of Death?'

"Why should I put it away? If I don't show off my blade, how will anyone know I'm the famous Death God Fang Tangtang?" Fang Tangtang ignored the old man and, shouldering her weapon, prepared to enter the academy gates.

"Wait, it's not time yet, Tangtang!"

"Watch me!" Fang Tangtang broke into a run, sprinting straight toward the academy entrance.

Just then, a small military vehicle approached from the distance, also moving at high speed. Its two headlights landed right on Fang Tangtang.

SCREECH!

A sharp braking sound rang out.

The small military vehicle finally stopped just half a meter from Fang Tangtang.

However, the old man in the Tang-style suit and the driver showed no signs of worry. They both just stood quietly to the side, watching.

As for Fang Tangtang...

she also showed no expression of fear.

**BANG!**

Fang Tangtang lifted her foot and kicked the small military vehicle's front bumper.

The kick sent the small military vehicle flying back two meters.

As for the front bumper, it was completely shattered.

"You dare provoke me, Death God Fang Tangtang? You got a death wish?" Fang Tangtang yelled, brimming with bravado.

Just then, two people got out of the military vehicle. One was in a black military uniform, and the other wore ordinary casual clothes.

It was none other than Chen Bai and Gao Neng.

"What little loli is this, daring to block the path of me, the genius Gao Neng?" Gao Neng bellowed, having spotted the twin-tailed loli in front of him.

"Genius Gao Neng? Never heard of you! And you don't know the renowned Death God Fang Tangtang?" Fang Tangtang was stunned for a moment, then flew into a rage.

"Never heard of you," Gao Neng said, shaking his head.

He really had never heard of any Death God Fang Tangtang.

Besides...

'That name is a bit chuuni, isn't it?'

'It's nowhere near as cool as "the genius Gao Neng"!'

"You've actually never heard the name of Death God Fang Tangtang..."

"Tangtang! Stop messing around, or I'll have to call the Old Master," the old man in the Tang-style suit interjected. He then gave Chen Bai a slight nod.

"Hmph. Consider yourself lucky, genius Gao Neng. And don't think that just because you're handsome, I, Death God Fang Tangtang, would ever show you mercy!" Fang Tangtang huffed, said no more, and strode toward the academy.

Meanwhile, Chen Bai was also quite speechless.

'After listening to Gao Neng sing "Little Leaping Frog" for over two hours on the plane with no rest, and then driving for another two hours, it was no wonder I lost control of the speed for a second. Good thing I didn't hit her.'

"Lieutenant Chen Bai, Eastern Capital Military District," Chen Bai said to the old man in the Tang-style suit, by way of introduction.

"Mm." The old man in the Tang-style suit said nothing more, got back in the car, and departed.

Gao Neng, for his part, had no intention of arguing with Fang Tangtang any further. His attention was completely captivated by the hover car the old man had been riding in.

It was the first time he had ever seen a hover car.

## **Chapter 109 - 107: The Red Star Sparkles Brightly (Part 2)**

The Forgotten Land had nothing of the sort!

The City of Hope really was high-tech.

After the hovercar departed, Gao Neng looked away, only for his attention to be captured by the main gate of the Eastern Capital Military Academy.

That gate...

It was enormous!

It was constructed entirely from white marble. Even at night, he could see five gun turrets mounted directly above it.

"Let's go. I'll take you to the logistics department, and then my mission will be complete," Chen Bai urged.

"Oh, okay." Gao Neng didn't linger. He had always been highly adaptable, and he had already witnessed the prosperity of the City of Hope on his way here.

The clean streets, the towering skyscrapers, the various defensive weapons forged from alloys, and the hovercar he had just seen.

To Gao Neng, all these things were novel.

But they were merely novel, nothing more.

He was Gao Neng, the genius, and he was confident that he would one day possess all these things.

...

Chen Bai presented his credentials, and Gao Neng showed his admission notice.

The two of them entered the campus.

The grounds were covered in green grass and were exceptionally tidy. There was a subtle military air to the place—nothing too fancy, only practicality.

Chen Bai seemed very familiar with the Eastern Capital Military Academy, and he quickly led Gao Neng to the logistics department.

Fang Tangtang happened to be there as well.

She was still carrying that golden Scythe of Death over her shoulder.

"..."

The two of them exchanged a glance.

"Well, well, look what we have here. You two aren't afraid of dying, are you? Did you come looking for trouble with me, Death God Fang Tangtang?" Fang Tangtang brandished the scythe in her hand.

"Hello, ma'am. I'm a new first-year student here to register." Gao Neng ignored Fang Tangtang, his gaze turning to a female teacher from the logistics department who was watching them.

"A new student?" The bespectacled female teacher glanced at Gao Neng, her brow furrowing slightly. "Let me see your admission notice."

"Wait a minute, I was here first!" Fang Tangtang immediately stepped in front of Gao Neng. "First-year student Fang Tangtang! Ma'am, please hurry up with my registration. I have to get it done before midnight!"

"You're a new student too? You can't be eighteen yet, can you?" Gao Neng was genuinely surprised this time. His eyes subconsciously drifted to Fang Tangtang's 1.5-meter height and her flat chest.

'Besides, I'm already late. I'm arriving on September 8th; how could I possibly run into another new student who's just as late as me?'

"So what if I'm not eighteen? I'm not like you, someone who only has good looks. I have special talents! The name of Death God Fang Tangtang resounds throughout the Eastern Capital! Ever heard of special admissions? Hahaha... Shocked, aren't you?" Fang Tangtang said with a proud look, waving the admission notice in her hand.

The two words "Special Admission" on it were printed in shimmering gold.

"Oh, good thing I have one too." Gao Neng nonchalantly took out his own admission notice and waved it in front of Fang Tangtang as well.

"You're a special admission student too?!" Fang Tangtang seemed to find it hard to believe. She snatched Gao Neng's admission notice and examined it over and over. "The Eastern Capital Military Academy only has two special admission slots a year! A guy like you, who only has his looks, is actually a special admission student? Does being handsome really let you do whatever you want?"

"Ahem!"

Chen Bai finally couldn't watch anymore. "Gao Neng, the logistics department will arrange your accommodations. My mission is complete. I'll leave you two to chat."

"Take care, Lao Bai." Gao Neng waved.

Fang Tangtang watched Chen Bai leave, then glanced back at Gao Neng, looking quite unconvinced. "Ma'am, hurry up and register me! Also, tell me my Merit Points. I want to know how many I have now."

"Mm," the female teacher said nothing more. After all, Fang Tangtang had indeed arrived first, so there was nothing wrong with prioritizing her check-in procedures.

"Special admission, Fang Tangtang, age sixteen, rank of Lieutenant... Merit Points: 856."

"So I've racked up 856 points without even realizing it. Heh... what a surprise." Fang Tangtang shook her head. She took the key the teacher handed her but didn't leave. Instead, she looked at Gao Neng. "Genius Gao Neng, it's your turn to register. By the way, ma'am, could you check his Merit Points too?"

"Special admission, Gao Neng, age eighteen, no military rank... Huh? You're a student from the Forgotten Land? Merit Points: 1,000!" The female teacher's calm expression finally gave way to shock.

Of the two special admission students this year, one was actually from the Forgotten Land!

And what's more, without even having a military rank...

He somehow had 1,000 Merit Points!

'What is going on?'

For Fang Tangtang to hold the rank of Lieutenant at sixteen meant her strength was considerable. Being specially recruited into the East-West Military Academy with 856 Merit Points had already been somewhat surprising to the female teacher.

But as one of the four great military academies, the Eastern Capital Military Academy's special admission students were always the most brilliant of geniuses. So while she was surprised, it wasn't a total shock.

But Gao Neng's situation...

...was truly beyond comprehension!

"He has 1,000 Merit Points?!" Fang Tangtang's eyes went wide.

Gao Neng was also a bit surprised. He didn't know that Shen Ning'Er had given him 1,000 Merit Points for the incident at the underground factory. He just assumed the points were a welcome gift for new students.

"That's weird. Why do I have 1,000 points while a Lieutenant like you only has a little over 800? Did you break the Military Department's regulations or something?" Gao Neng retorted.

"I... I'm so mad!" The hand Fang Tangtang used to grip her scythe was turning white. She ignored Gao Neng, turned, and stormed off. But inside, she was furious. 'How dare that "genius" Gao Neng insult me, the great Death God Fang Tangtang?'

## Chapter 110 - 107: The Red Star Sparkles and Shines

"Ma'am, how do I get to the dorms?" Gao Neng had no idea why Fang Tangtang was angry.

"Just follow her. You two are rooming together." The female teacher was still lost in her shock and answered offhandedly when she heard Gao Neng's question.

'I'm rooming with this little girl? So the academy dorms really are co-ed!' Gao Neng was stunned by the military academy's liberal attitude.

He didn't say anything more.

He immediately started following Fang Tangtang.

Fang Tangtang didn't seem too surprised. She just pouted and walked ahead.

Ten minutes later, the two of them started walking together.

"Your name is Gao Neng? Besides being handsome, do you have any special talents?"

"Does singing count?"

"Singing? I guess that counts. Can you hit the whistle register? Like this... AAAAAAH OOOOOOH..." Fang Tangtang's voice soared.

"I could probably learn, but I mainly specialize in children's songs. Ever heard of 'Little Leaping Frog'?" Gao Neng figured that since they were going to be living together, it was best to break the ice.

"Of course. I'm pretty good at 'Little Leaping Frog' myself," Fang Tangtang nodded.

"We'll have to sing it together sometime."

"By the way, are you really from the Forgotten Land? If so, it's understandable you haven't heard of the great Death God Fang Tangtang. But tomorrow, at the academy's freshman orientation, you'll see just how famous Death God Fang Tangtang is!" Fang Tangtang still seemed hung up on it.

"Freshman orientation?" Gao Neng hadn't heard anything about it.

"You don't know? Tomorrow is the 9th. The freshmen will be done learning the school rules, so Old Song will probably want to make a show of his authority and assign everyone to their academies and mentors."

"The military academy has different academies?"

"Of course. The military academy has four academies in total: the War Academy, the Manufacturing Academy, the Logistics Academy, and the Research Academy. The War Academy is for training Warriors. The Manufacturing Academy is mainly for learning how to create weapons and Energy Elixirs. The Logistics Academy is mostly for medical personnel, as well as intelligence and reconnaissance. As for the Research Academy, I don't need to spell that one out for you, do I?"

"You said the Manufacturing Academy is for creating weapons and Energy Elixirs?" Gao Neng understood the other three, but he didn't quite get the point of the Manufacturing Academy.

"Yep. Look at my Scythe of Death here—it's a manufactured weapon. Cool, huh?" Fang Tangtang nodded, presenting the Scythe of Death she'd been carrying on her shoulder for Gao Neng to see.

Gao Neng reached out and touched it.

He could immediately feel how sharp the Scythe of Death was. A cold aura radiated from it, and there was even a faint scent of blood.

"Can't Energy Warriors control energy and transform it into things? Why would you need to specifically manufacture weapons?" Gao Neng asked, voicing his confusion.

"Of course you need manufactured weapons! How strong do you think something you conjure out of thin air can be? Besides, high-level combat is decided in a split second. Who has time to conjure something up? Let me tell you a secret," she whispered, "my Scythe of Death was nurtured with a 'god' and has killed tons of people. I had to beg my grandpa forever to get it!" Fang Tangtang said with immense pride.

Hearing this, Gao Neng's mind flashed back to the underground factory, to the sight of Shen Ning'Er in battle.

Back then, Gao Neng had been curious. Why was Shen Ning'Er's Golden Feather Robe identical every time it appeared? And the suit of armor she had given him also looked the same on both occasions.

They both appeared in an instant.

Then, they were fitted to the body.

Most importantly, it could even resist electricity.

Besides the armor, Shen Ning'Er also seemed to have an alloy spear.

'Thinking back on it now...'

Gao Neng was beginning to understand. 'In a real battle, you don't have time to slowly conjure things. And even if you did, the result would be crude.'

'But if you could manufacture it beforehand, its strength and power would be on a completely different level.'

Just as Fang Tangtang had said, weapons also needed to be "nurtured."

In the ancient era before the Great Cataclysm, a truly peerless divine weapon could even manifest a "spirit." Countless people had died at the hands of such blades.

"Don't tell me you're thinking of enrolling in the Manufacturing Academy, are you?" Fang Tangtang asked, giving Gao Neng a strange look when he didn't say anything for a while.

"No, just asking." Gao Neng shook his head.

But he was secretly tempted. 'If I could enroll in the Manufacturing Academy and learn to make weapons, Energy Elixirs, and all that... it might not be a bad idea.'

'It's safe, and you can make money!'

'Oh, right...'

'What exactly is an Energy Elixir?'

Gao Neng was about to ask, but Fang Tangtang had already come to a stop.

Before them stood a small, two-story courtyard house. It was divided into an upper and lower level, with an external staircase leading straight to the second floor.

"Eastern Capital Military Academy is so cheap. They said special admission students get to live in a big house, and this little courtyard is what we get?" Fang Tangtang grumbled, clearly displeased as she looked at the building before them.

Gao Neng, on the other hand, was staring at the small courtyard as if it were paradise.

A lush lawn, a private yard, fully furnished and equipped... there was even physical training equipment in the yard. 'This is a student dorm at the Eastern Capital Military Academy?'

'It's so much better than the Forgotten Land.'

"Ahem, do you want top or bottom?" At this point, Gao Neng understood that they wouldn't be sharing a room, but rather living on separate floors.

"What about you?" Fang Tangtang pouted.

"I'm fine with top or bottom," Gao Neng said, unconcerned.

"Then I'll take top and you can have bottom. I prefer being on top, anyway." With that, Fang Tangtang headed straight up the stairs. Just as she was about to enter her room, she looked back at Gao Neng. "Gao Neng, I, Death God Fang Tangtang, find you pretty easy on the eyes. I am now formally inviting you to join my 'Death God Team.' What do you think?"

"Death God Team?" Gao Neng was baffled. 'What kind of new gimmick is this?'

"That's right! My Death God Team is destined to shine bright in the future! Tomorrow, I, Death God Fang Tangtang, will make my name known throughout the entire Eastern Capital Military Academy!"

"'Shine bright'?! " Gao Neng's eyes narrowed. 'Why does that phrase sound so familiar? Is she quoting "Twinkle, Twinkle, Little Star"?'