

## I CAN CONTROL RESOURCES

### Chapter 171 - 160: An Epic Leap

'But why didn't the receptionist mention No. 4 to me?'

'Could it be that the No. 4 Electromagnetic Cannon involves some kind of secret that isn't meant for outsiders? Or maybe it's still incomplete?'

Gao Neng carefully weighed his two options.

The No. 3 Electromagnetic Cannon had a complex manufacturing process with 200 pages of blueprints, but it came with no secrets or other risks. The No. 4, on the other hand, was a simpler model with only 100 pages of blueprints, but it potentially involved secrets and risks.

'By conventional logic, choosing the No. 3 would be the safer bet, wouldn't it?'

'But I'm not ordinary!'

'Whether I'm making the No. 3 or the No. 4, it's my first time for either one, so there's no difference in proficiency. As for the risk...'

'With a 100% success rate, what risk is there?'

'My biggest problem right now is time!'

'Two days is just too tight!'

If he had ten days or half a month, he could whip up not just the No. 3 or No. 4, but even the Special No. 1 Electromagnetic Cannon.

'So, the only remaining question is whether the No. 4 involves any secrets. If it does, it wouldn't be right for me to just take the blueprints.'

Just as he was thinking this, the receptionist finished her phone call and walked over.

"Mr. Gao, I'm so sorry to have kept you waiting." The receptionist apologized before continuing, "According to the reply from my superiors, all of the Celestial

King Group's Electromagnetic Cannon blueprints, with the exception of Special No. 1 through Special No. 3, can be made available to you. You are free to look at any of them, Mr. Gao."

"So, aside from Special No. 1 through Special No. 3, all the other Electromagnetic Cannon blueprints are available to me?" Gao Neng asked, a flicker of interest in his eyes as he sought confirmation.

"Yes, Mr. Gao. Would you like to look through them yourself, or would you prefer me to explain them to you?" The receptionist looked eager to help.

Gao Neng immediately sensed the enthusiasm in her eyes.

But he was used to this sort of thing. Being handsome made you popular wherever you went—and he was what you'd call impossibly handsome.

'Should I let her explain?'

Gao Neng didn't mind listening, but if he really let her explain, it could take the entire afternoon, and she might not even be done by then.

It would be a relaxing way to spend the time, but it was too much of a waste.

He wasn't one to indulge in fleeting pleasures. Even though the receptionist was gorgeous, his heart was like a stone, completely unmoved.

"I'll look by myself," Gao Neng declined.

"O-Okay. In that case, can I get you a cup of coffee, Mr. Gao?" A flash of disappointment crossed her eyes, but she quickly composed herself.

"Yes, thank you." Gao Neng didn't refuse this time.

"What kind would you like, Mr. Gao?"

"Caramel macchiato."

"Of course. Please wait a moment, Mr. Gao." The receptionist smiled, but inwardly her heart soared. 'His taste is the same as mine? It must be fate!'

The receptionist left.

Gao Neng turned his attention back to the files on the No. 4 Electromagnetic Cannon.

'The blueprints for all Electromagnetic Cannons except Special No. 1 through 3 are available to me, which means the No. 4 is included, right?'

'Which one should I choose?'

Gao Neng didn't make a decision right away. Instead, he settled down, found a spot, and carefully spread out the blueprints for both models to study them.

A short while later, the receptionist returned with his coffee. Seeing that Gao Neng was engrossed in the blueprints, she didn't disturb him and quickly left. As she walked away, she thought to herself...

'So handsome and so focused...'

'He's a total dreamboat!'

...

「An hour passed quickly.」

Guan San had no intention of rushing Gao Neng. He had already received a report that Gao Neng was inside, studying the manufacturing blueprints for several Electromagnetic Cannons.

This actually pleased him somewhat.

As Fang Yuan's butler, he had seen countless genius Manufacturing Masters over the years.

Some had succeeded, while others had failed.

The reason for their success or failure came down to one thing: dedicated research.

He knew full well that what defined a true Manufacturing Master wasn't their current level of skill, but their persistence in their research.

And Gao Neng clearly possessed this trait.

Only someone with a fanatical passion for unknown technology, someone who doesn't just stick to the established routine, can truly innovate and discover even more profound technologies.

'Gao Neng, just how far will you go?' At that moment, Guan San suddenly felt a sense of anticipation.

Back in the research center, Gao Neng hadn't noticed how quickly time was passing.

He was completely immersed in a sea of blueprints for all kinds of Electromagnetic Cannons.

In front of him now lay not only the blueprints for the No. 3 and No. 4 models, but also those for No. 1 and No. 2. If it weren't for the restrictions on Special No. 1 through Special No. 3, he would have gathered the blueprints for every single cannon to study them.

By comparing the blueprints, he discovered a pattern.

The No. 1 Electromagnetic Cannon had a very large caliber, making it suitable for large-scale warfare, and it couldn't be operated by a single person. The No. 2 was used in smaller-scale conflicts and likewise required several people to operate.

As for the No. 3, it was an Electromagnetic Cannon designed for personal use.

This was the model Fang Tangtang used.

Of course, the core technology in models No. 1 through No. 3 was all the same. Only the No. 4 Electromagnetic Cannon featured an innovation in its core technology.

This innovation came from the "mount."

To put it simply, models No. 1 through No. 3 worked by directly injecting energy into the cannon, which then converted that energy into magnetism and electricity.

In a sense, the user only needed to provide the energy.

But the No. 4 Electromagnetic Cannon was different.

It was constructed to use the human body as its mounting point.

According to the design philosophy in the No. 4's blueprints, the human body itself possesses the properties of "magnetism" and "electricity." The core problem was figuring out how to transform the human body into an "electromagnetic field" in a short amount of time.

Beyond that, there was also the issue of the human body's physical tolerance.

This, however, was not a limiting factor.

In theory, once the user's body and the Electromagnetic Cannon merged, the resulting electromagnetism wouldn't cause any harm. Instead, it would form a protective electromagnetic shield.

'This is good stuff!' After reading the theory, Gao Neng knew with certainty that the No. 4 Electromagnetic Cannon was an absolutely incredible piece of technology.

'What's the biggest fear of a ranged attacker?'

'Close-quarters combat!'

The No. 4 Electromagnetic Cannon successfully solved this problem. Not only was it less than half the size, making it easier to carry and move with, but it could also generate a protective electromagnetic shield.

'It's practically perfect.'

Most importantly, by making the user the mounting point, the cannon's power wasn't reduced at all, yet its energy consumption was cut by more than half.

In other words, if Fang Tangtang had a No. 4 Electromagnetic Cannon, she could successfully level up from "Fang Yipao" (Fang One-Shot) to "Fang Erpao" (Fang Two-Shot), or even "Fang Sanpao" (Fang Three-Shot)!

An epic leap forward.

Gao Neng was now completely captivated by the design philosophy of the No. 4 Electromagnetic Cannon. He constantly cross-referenced and compared it to the others, and the more he read, the more he felt that every other model was just junk.

"Simple structure, same power output, and it even creates a protective shield... This is amazing!" Gao Neng was so excited his face was slightly flushed.

But he quickly calmed down again.

'Why didn't the receptionist mention the No. 4 to me?'

After finishing his review of the blueprints,

he returned to that same question.

But his perspective on it had subtly shifted. If he guessed correctly, this Electromagnetic Cannon had probably never been successfully built.

It was, after all, a revolutionary product.

So, the question was...

'Which one should I choose?'

Gao Neng rapidly calculated the pros and cons. If he failed, his biggest loss would be his inability to fulfill the agreement to manufacture the Electromagnetic Cannon.

As for the mission itself...

'It wouldn't necessarily be a complete failure.'

He could already tell that Fang Yuan was interested in investing in him. Even if he failed to build the cannon, as long as he was shameless enough to ask, he still had a hope of getting the investment.

'Besides, and most importantly, I have a 100% success rate. It's not like I can't succeed, right?'

'And what if I succeed?'

'Then things would get epic!'

'I'd be absolutely irreplaceable.'

'The number one Electromagnetic Cannon expert in the Celestial King Group—who would dare claim to be better than me? I'd be the one mastering the core technology of the No. 4, contributing to technological advancement.'

'Maybe I could even get it named after me.'

'In the future, people on the battlefield would pull out their cannons and shout, "Behold my Gao Neng model Electromagnetic Cannon! One shot, one punk..."'

Just as he was getting excited, the receptionist appeared once more.

"Have you finished looking, Mr. Gao?"

"Huh? How long have I been here?" Gao Neng looked up. He didn't think the receptionist would disturb him intentionally unless he had been here for a very long time.

"It is now 5:13 p.m. You've been here for a total of three hours and nine minutes. President Guan has already prepared dinner for you. If you'd like to continue reviewing them, you may take these documents with you and simply return them when you leave," the receptionist answered fluently.

"Over three hours?! I..." Gao Neng bit back the curse, but his expression had already shifted.

Another few hours had just vanished!

In other words, he now had only a day and a half left.

A day and a half?

'According to the blueprints for the No. 3 Electromagnetic Cannon, there are way more than just a few hundred parts. A day and a half... I might really not be able to finish it!'

In truth, after looking through the blueprints for the No. 3, Gao Neng already had a rough idea. He was faster than a normal Manufacturing Master.

But there was a limit to how much faster he could be.

Within the Celestial King Group, it took three senior Manufacturing Masters about ten days to build one Electromagnetic Cannon, and for good reason.

Gao Neng made a quick estimate.

If he were to build the No. 3 by himself, he estimated it would take him three days at the absolute fastest—and that was assuming he didn't sleep.

To put it bluntly, he was ten times faster than a senior Manufacturing Master.

That was already an insane speed.

But in terms of his deadline, he no longer had three days.

'I have to take the gamble!'

'The theory behind the No. 4 is solid. It's worth a shot!'

Gao Neng gritted his teeth and finally made his decision. There wasn't enough time to build the No. 3. His only hope now was to gamble on successfully creating the No. 4.

## **Chapter 172 - 161: Night, the Queen Descends**

'I'm hoping for a 100% success rate, with no mistakes!' Gao Neng quickly gathered the manufacturing blueprints for the Electromagnetic Cannon, then smiled at the receptionist. "Well, I'll be taking these with me then?"

"Yes, yes, of course." Seeing Gao Neng's smile, the receptionist was instantly smitten. She wasn't about to check the documents in his hands.

Of course, the main reason for this was Gao Neng's identity. He was Fang Tangtang's classmate and a genius Manufacturing Master; it was impossible that he would steal documents.

After escorting Gao Neng out of the archives room,

The receptionist thought for a moment and turned back to look at the archives for Special Nos. 1 through 3.

There were no signs they had been opened.

All the documents were still inside.

'How could I suspect such a dreamboat? Hua Quanquan, you're doing a terrible job!' the receptionist chided herself, then began tidying up her desk, ready to get off work.

...

After meeting with Guan San, Gao Neng declined his invitation to dinner.

He had no more time to waste on food and drink. With just over a day and a half left, he had to start manufacturing immediately. Otherwise, he'd really have to brazen it out.

Guan San didn't press the matter.

The materials for the Electromagnetic Cannon were all prepared. Since Gao Neng decided to start now, Guan San had the cafeteria send over some fast food.

Gao Neng was assigned to a private manufacturing room.

It was fully equipped with tools and surrounded by metal structures. The only issue was the surveillance camera in the room, but he didn't pay it much mind.

He had expected as much.

There was no way Fang Yuan wouldn't secretly watch his manufacturing process.

"Let's begin!" Back in the research center's archives, Gao Neng had already reviewed the blueprints for the No. 4 Electromagnetic Cannon several times. His mind was already filled with the structural diagrams of the parts.

He began manufacturing directly, materializing the parts with his energy.

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「Celestial King Group, Research Center, Eighth Floor, Chairman's Office.」

Fang Yuan sat quietly, watching the screen.

Behind him, Guan San and Uncle Bai stood guard on either side. As for Fang Tangtang, she wasn't paying much attention, merely sitting to the side with her legs crossed, cracking sunflower seeds.

"Using energy materialization to create parts is indeed much faster," Fang Yuan said, as if to himself.

"Yes. Besides being several times faster, it seems the part qualification rate has also increased significantly. I've noticed that during the manufacturing process for the Electric Saber and the anti-magnetic armor, Gao Neng didn't waste a single bit of material," Guan San commented from the side.

"It's a good method, but it's hard to replicate..." Fang Yuan nodded, then shook his head and let out a soft sigh.

Energy materialization required Spiritual Power.

But generally, one had to reach at least the Mid Tier Late Stage to even sense the existence of Spiritual Power. Some people didn't possess it until they reached the High Tiers.

Someone like Gao Neng, who possessed Spiritual Power as a Low Tier and could successfully materialize objects, was a rarity. There were probably only a handful in the entire Alliance.

Replicating it?

Simply impossible.

"If Celestial King Group wants to break through its speed bottleneck, I'm afraid we'll still have to rely on a large workforce. Geniuses like Gao Neng are just too rare," Guan San agreed.

"That's right. Not just among Manufacturing Masters, but on the battlefield... they're just as rare." Fang Yuan glanced at the screen again. "Gao Neng is fast, but he's not fast enough."

"Sir, you mean?"

"It's nothing. Although the boy brazenly claimed he could build an Electromagnetic Cannon in two days, I like that confident spirit," Fang Yuan said with a smile.

"Grandpa, are you saying Gao Neng can't do it?" Fang Tangtang spat out a sunflower seed shell and blinked.

"That's right, he can't. Even at his current speed, it would take him at least four days, and that's on the condition that he assembles it perfectly on the first try!" Fang Yuan stated with certainty.

"Then what should we do? If he can't finish it, will you not invest in him, Grandpa?"

"Heh heh... Does Tangtang want Grandpa to invest in him?" Fang Yuan didn't answer right away, turning his gaze to Fang Tangtang instead.

Fang Tangtang fell silent.

If Gao Neng lost the bet, she would get all of his Merit Points. It was a huge win, and normally, she would have no reason to dislike that outcome.

But for some reason...

She felt it was a little unfair.

'Where's the unfairness?'

'Right!'

'The time limit!'

When she and Gao Neng made the bet, they hadn't specified it had to be done in three days. Gao Neng had set that time limit himself.

And now, Gao Neng had already proven his skill.

The probability of him completing the Electromagnetic Cannon was extremely high.

"It's not that much money anyway. Why not invest a little?" Fang Tangtang tilted her head up, her gaze shifting to the side, avoiding Fang Yuan's.

"Hahaha... Tangtang, siding with an outsider now, are we?" Seeing Fang Tangtang's expression, a kind smile appeared on Fang Yuan's lips.

"No, I'm not! I just see he's poor and want to help him out, that's all. Besides, Grandpa, you know about his relationship with Sister Ning'Er. I'm doing this for your sake."

"Alright, alright, it's for Grandpa's sake." Fang Yuan chuckled, then glanced at the screen again. "An investment is no problem. The boy has great potential. Even setting aside his connection to the Shen Family, investing in him still has a 50% chance of turning a profit in the future."

"Only 50%?" Fang Tangtang pouted.

"Tangtang, for the Chairman to say 50%, that's already a very high probability," Guan San said with a smile.

"Alright, this boy is probably going to pull an all-nighter. This old body of mine can't handle that. How about Tangtang accompanies Grandpa for a walk?"

"How could I, Death God Fang Tangtang, possibly go for a walk with a grumpy old man? Grandpa, you're dreaming." Fang Tangtang turned her head away again.

"What if Grandpa insists?"

"A melon plucked by force isn't sweet."

"That's fine. I can add some rock sugar."

"Grandpa... Ah, Grandpa, don't pinch my cheeks! I'll go... I'll go, alright? You grumpy old man, you're getting worse and worse..."

"..."

As for the contest of wills between Fang Yuan and Fang Tangtang,

Guan San and Uncle Bai both pretended not to see a thing. After all, in the entire Fang Family, Fang Tangtang was the only one Fang Yuan treated this way.

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「Late at night. Two in the morning.」

The City of Hope had fallen into darkness and silence.

But at a garbage transfer station about a mile from the Eastern Capital Military Academy, a gathering of over five thousand stray cats of all shapes and sizes was currently taking place.

Atop a crane,

a girl with short, silver-white hair and deep blue eyes sat with her legs crossed, swinging them back and forth as she casually watched the neatly arranged rows of stray cats below.

"Next!"

"Meow..." A stray cat leaped out from the line, its fur standing on end, its murky green eyes radiating a fierce light.

"SWISH!"

A claw flashed through the air.

Three gashes appeared on the metal trash can in front of it.

"You've eaten so much good stuff, and this is still your level? Drag it away and give it a beating!" The short-haired girl's brow furrowed, clearly displeased.

"Meow..." The cat groveled on the ground, trembling, as if begging for mercy.

But it was no use at all.

Because two large, fierce-looking strays immediately stood up, pinned the underperforming cat to the ground, and delivered a sound thrashing.

The beaten cat held its head tightly, not daring to cry out too loudly.

"Alright, next." After three minutes of kicking, the short-haired girl waved her hand and spoke again.

"MEOW!"

This time, a jet-black cat with gleaming golden eyes leaped out. Its mere presence radiated a powerful aura.

"MEOW!"

With a sharp cry,

the black cat leaped high into the air.

Then, it slammed a paw onto the metal trash can.

"BOOM!"

The metal trash can exploded, sending pieces of metal flying everywhere.

"Not bad. Assigned to the Warrior Group!" The short-haired girl's eyes lit up. She waved her right hand, and the scattered pieces of metal transformed into black energy in her palm, then instantly reformed into a new metal trash can that appeared before the assembled cats.

The black cat, meanwhile, jumped for joy, then immediately ran to stand in another group with its head held high, looking incredibly proud.

"Alright, that's all for today. From now on, the Warrior Group will begin four-on-four training. The Logistics Group will continue to be responsible for collecting energy-rich ore and food. This Queen might have to leave for a while in a few days, but your training must not slack off. Understand?"

"Meow..."

"Meow meow..."

"..."

The cats all seemed very reluctant to see her go.

"Don't worry, this Queen will make time to come see you. You must all train harder and never slack off, understand?" the short-haired girl instructed once more.

"MEOW!"

The cats all prostrated themselves in unison.

"Very good. Mao Dali, step forward!" The short-haired girl nodded in satisfaction.

"Meow!" A white cat with a tuft of golden fur on its forehead walked out from the Warrior Group, then lowered its two front paws, kowtowing before the short-haired girl.

"You will take 20 warriors from the Warrior Group to the North District. Unifying the North District is your responsibility."

"Meow!"

"Mao Erlili, step forward!"

"Meow!" Another cat stepped forward. This one had vibrant brown fur and its eyes were narrowed into slits.

"The South District is yours."

"Meow!"

"Mao Sanli, Mao Sili, the West District is large. I'm leaving it to the two of you!"

"Meow!"

"And you. From this day forward, your name shall be... Mao Two-Hundred-and-Seventy-Three. You are the two-hundred-and-seventy-third warrior of the Warrior

Group, understand?" The short-haired girl pointed at the black cat that had just been assigned to the Warrior Group.

"Meow!" The black cat immediately ran out and kowtowed.

"Dismissed. This Queen will personally guard the Eastern District. However, while I am away, training matters will be managed by Mao Wuli. If any cat dares to disobey, this Queen will eliminate it! Also, when this Queen returns, I expect to see more warriors!"

"MEOW MEOW MEOW!"

The clowder of cats meowed in unison, kowtowing to the short-haired girl.

## **Chapter 173 - 162: No. 4 Electromagnetic Cannon, World-Shaking Might**

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Celestial King Group, Manufacturing Room.

Gao Neng had already been here for a day and a half. During that time, he had been working almost nonstop, hurrying to manufacture the parts for the No. 4 Electromagnetic Cannon.

Perhaps because he was so completely immersed in his work, he didn't feel particularly tired this time.

'Time's running out. I still have 30 parts to make. I'll just finish them all in one go!' Gao Neng stuffed a piece of bread into his mouth and continued manufacturing.

Meanwhile, in the chairman's office of the Celestial King Group.

Fang Yuan, however, had stopped paying attention to Gao Neng's manufacturing process. He had done a rough calculation of the parts on the workbench and figured more than half were still missing.

It was impossible to finish.

Of course, he wasn't too concerned. This was all within his expectations.

The manufacturing process for the No. 3 Electromagnetic Cannon was extremely complex, involving far too many parts. It was countless times more complicated than the Electric Saber or the Anti-Magnetic Battle Armor.

'To have gotten this far is already quite impressive. This kid's potential is truly limitless.' Fang Yuan stood up, checked the time, and prepared to go have a meal.

"Grandpa, the deadline is almost here! When are you going to talk to Gao Neng about the investment?" Fang Tangtang had been waiting off to the side for a while.

"I have to at least wait for him to come out, don't I?" Fang Yuan sounded a little exasperated.

Over the past day and a half, Fang Tangtang had already urged him several times. Sometimes, he really wondered if this granddaughter of his was his own flesh and blood.

Even though the investment wasn't a huge amount, it was still money, wasn't it?

'Is she really in such a rush?'

"Alright, I'll wait for Gao Neng to come out then." Fang Tangtang nodded, then moved her head closer to Fang Yuan, her gaze fixed on the screen.

"Tangtang, you haven't fallen for this kid, have you?"

"Grandpa, what nonsense are you talking about... Huh? Gao Neng is starting to assemble the Electromagnetic Cannon!" Fang Tangtang pouted, a little displeased, but her eyes quickly widened.

"You're too clever for your own good. You think a little trick like that can fool your grandpa?" Fang Yuan was skeptical. He had just confirmed that Gao Neng still had at least half the parts left to manufacture.

Starting the assembly now?

'Isn't this just fooling around?'

"It's true! He really is assembling it! Grandpa, look!"

"Stop messing around. Come eat with Grandpa..."

"Sir, it seems Gao Neng really is... starting the assembly?" Guan San, who had been silent until now, also had his eyes wide with shock.

"Hm?!"

If it were just Fang Tangtang, Fang Yuan might not have believed it.

But with Guan San speaking up...

Fang Yuan had no choice but to take it seriously. His gaze shifted to the screen, where he saw tiny parts flying through the air one by one.

Meanwhile, Gao Neng's hands were constantly combining larger components. In just the blink of an eye, the basic form of an Electromagnetic Cannon began to emerge.

"What is this kid doing? The parts aren't even all made yet. Why has he started assembling it?" A look of deep confusion crossed Fang Yuan's face.

"Could it be that he wants to test the success rate of the parts first?" Guan San suggested.

"Test the success rate of the parts..." Fang Yuan's eyes narrowed slightly. Then, a gleam flashed in them. "No, that's not it. The cannon barrel this kid is assembling... there's something wrong with it!"

"It's much smaller!" Guan San had also noticed the issue. "Could it be that he's trying to reduce the number of parts to build a smaller Electromagnetic Cannon?"

"Impossible. The No. 3 Electromagnetic Cannon is already the smallest possible size, unless..."

"It's the No. 4 Electromagnetic Cannon!"

"Grandpa, what are you two talking about? What No. 4 Electromagnetic Cannon? Does our Celestial King Group have a No. 4? How come I've never heard of it?" Hearing Fang Yuan and Guan San's conversation, Fang Tangtang's face was also filled with confusion.

"..." Fang Yuan didn't speak.

He was already certain that Gao Neng was indeed assembling the No. 4 Electromagnetic Cannon. In fact, one end of the barrel was already completely assembled.

Guan San was equally astounded.

'Gao Neng is actually building the No. 4 Electromagnetic Cannon? That's not right. I clearly told him to build the No. 3. How could this kind of mistake happen?'

'Did he grab the wrong files from the data room?'

"Grandpa, what exactly is the No. 4 Electromagnetic Cannon?"

"Guan San, you can tell Tangtang."

"Of course. Tangtang, the No. 4 Electromagnetic Cannon was a project Celestial King Group researched two years ago. The core concept was to use the operator's body as the 'frame' for the cannon. To put it simply, it transfers some of the cannon's functions to the person wielding it," Guan San explained.

"What's the benefit of that?" Fang Tangtang blinked.

"There are certainly benefits. For one, the energy consumed by the wielder would be greatly reduced. The cannon's size would also be less than half of the original. Most importantly, if this concept were successful, a Magnetic-Electric Protective Shield would appear around the user's body whenever they fired the cannon."

"A Magnetic-Electric Protective Shield? Doesn't that mean it could block close-range attacks?" Hearing this, Fang Tangtang's eyes lit up completely.

"Yes, but that was just the concept. The company invested a lot into this project—over five billion in funds, all told. It also took five years, but in the end, it was shelved..." As Guan San finished, his expression grew dim.

"Shelved? Why would you shelve such an amazing weapon?" Fang Tangtang didn't quite understand. A cannon like that would be a revolutionary leap forward.

If it were successfully manufactured, it would be a massive contribution to both the Celestial King Group and the Human Alliance, and it could significantly reduce casualties.

"Because it's just a theory. A well-developed theory, yes, but extremely difficult to put into practice. To be blunt... the theory has a fatal flaw."

"What flaw?"

"People!"

"People?!"

"That's right. The theory is built around the human body, but everyone's body is different. Whether it's their natural talent or their muscle structure, no two people are exactly the same. If that problem can't be solved, then this theory... will only ever be a theory!" Guan San said with regret.

"So that's how it is..." Having grown up in the Celestial King Group, Fang Tangtang naturally understood some of the problems in manufacturing. After hearing Guan San's explanation, her eyes dimmed. "Then the No. 4 Electromagnetic Cannon that Gao Neng is making now..."

"It can only be a model. A model that can never succeed," Guan San stated with certainty.

"It seems this bet ends here. The kid actually grabbed the wrong schematics... Alright, let's go to the manufacturing room and see it with our own eyes," Fang Yuan sighed at that moment.

"Sir, are you going personally? I can go and bring Gao Neng over."

"No need. The No. 4 Electromagnetic Cannon is, after all, something we failed to develop after five years of research. Even if it's just a model, I want to see it with my own eyes..."

"Understood..."

...

Inside the manufacturing room.

Gao Neng had no idea that Fang Yuan, Guan San, Fang Tangtang, and Uncle Bai were all heading his way. He was completely absorbed in assembling the No. 4 Electromagnetic Cannon.

The front section of the cannon barrel was already mostly assembled.

The middle section was also more than halfway done.

Gao Neng was very patient.

He followed the schematic in his mind, continuously assembling the parts. He combined them one by one in his hands, his speed reaching its absolute limit.

'Just a little more.'

'Another fifteen minutes is all I need to finish.'

After finishing the middle section of the barrel, Gao Neng sealed it shut with the outer alloy casing, then continued to assemble the final section.

He was in the middle of assembling it when he noticed that the schematic in his mind seemed to have changed slightly.

'What's going on?'

'It feels like some kind of component has been added.'

As he was thinking this, he was surprised to find that he seemed to have forgotten to make a few parts.

'What the hell!'

'How could I, Gao Neng, a top student, make such a mistake?'

"Oh well, I'll just make a few more parts." Gao Neng stopped, resumed manufacturing, and finished the new parts in no time.

Just then, the door to the manufacturing room was pushed open.

Fang Yuan, Fang Tangtang, and the others walked in.

However, none of them spoke. They just walked quietly to the workbench and looked at the nearly complete No. 4 Electromagnetic Cannon in front of Gao Neng.

"Is time up?" Gao Neng looked up at the wall clock. "There are still three hours until the deadline, right?"

"Mm, just wanted to get a closer look. You can continue." Fang Yuan gave a small smile and ran his hand over the assembled front half, a rare look of fascination in his eyes.

It was like an old man discovering a ray of light in the twilight.

'Grandpa Fang's expression is a little strange.' Gao Neng glanced at the No. 4 Electromagnetic Cannon and seemed to understand something. But since Fang Yuan didn't stop him, he decided to continue.

Fifteen minutes later.

The final section was at last assembled.

"Gao Neng, is that the No. 4 Electromagnetic Cannon you're building?" Fang Tangtang asked, her large eyes sparkling as she saw him stop working.

"Huh? You figured it out? I thought I hid it pretty well..." Gao Neng gave an embarrassed laugh and explained, "I took a look at the schematics for the No. 3 Electromagnetic Cannon and found them a bit too complicated. This No. 4 is simpler, so I could just barely finish it in time."

"Mm, you did indeed finish it," Fang Yuan nodded lightly.

"Does that mean I've fulfilled our bet?" Gao Neng's eyes lit up when he heard that.

"You can consider the bet fulfilled," Fang Yuan nodded again.

"Thank you, Grandpa Fang! The No. 4 Electromagnetic Cannon is incredibly powerful. It's not just compact; its energy consumption is much lower too. If Fang Tangtang uses it, she won't be limited to just one shot... Oh, I mean, she can conserve a lot more energy, and it can also generate a Magnetic-Electric Protective Shield," Gao Neng said gratefully.

"Yes, on the condition that... it can actually be successfully manufactured." Fang Yuan gave a bitter smile, then pulled his hand back and prepared to turn and leave.

"Successfully manufactured? Grandpa Fang, this Electromagnetic Cannon... aren't you going to test it?" Gao Neng's eyes narrowed. He quickly understood the meaning behind Fang Yuan's words. After all, he wasn't an idiot.

## **Chapter 174 - 163: Scam System, You Liar**

"There's no need to test it." Fang Yuan waved his hand dismissively.

"Why not? Grandpa Fang, do you think there's a problem with what I made?"

"There's no problem with your work. I just checked it. This is indeed the Type 4 Electromagnetic Cannon that our Celestial King Group was researching. It's just that..." Fang Yuan trailed off, hesitating.

"Gao Neng, the problem is with the manufacturing blueprint for the Type 4 Electromagnetic Cannon. It has nothing to do with your ability," Guan San explained, seeing Fang Yuan's hesitation. "The fact that you could build a model of the Type 4 Electromagnetic Cannon in such a short time already proves your skill."

"Grandpa Fang, Elder Guan, I know the blueprint for the Type 4 Electromagnetic Cannon is flawed. I knew it the moment I got it," Gao Neng said.

"You knew?" Guan San was astonished.

It wasn't just Guan San. Even Uncle Bai, who had been silent the whole time, showed a hint of surprise. His gaze toward Gao Neng held a flicker of disbelief.

Fang Tangtang's eyes were wide as well.

As for Fang Yuan, who had been on his way out the door, he stopped in his tracks.

"I've known all along that the blueprint for the Type 4 Electromagnetic Cannon is flawed. This is an experimental product, right?" Gao Neng's gaze was firm.

"Not experimental, but shelved. Research on the Type 4 Electromagnetic Cannon was halted two years ago." Guan San's tone became a little strange.

'Seems it's even more serious than I thought...' Gao Neng fell silent for a moment, but he soon looked up again. "But I still want to try."

"The younger generation is truly something else..." Fang Yuan suddenly sighed. As he looked at Gao Neng, a rare flicker of gratification appeared in his eyes. "To know something is impossible yet still dare to try—and on a bet, no less. Gao Neng, I, Fang Yuan, have underestimated you!"

"So, can we test it now?"

"You really want to test it?"

"Yes."

"Fine. Then let's test it." Fang Yuan smiled, then looked at Guan San. "Make the arrangements. Find someone who can operate an Electromagnetic Cannon."

"Grandpa, I can do it!" Fang Tangtang immediately stepped forward.

"Tangtang, don't mess around. Testing an Electromagnetic Cannon is extremely dangerous. If something goes wrong, Grandpa couldn't bear it!" Fang Yuan shook his head, stopping her.

"I'm not afraid! I'm doing the test!"

"Absolutely not!"

"If you don't let me test it, I'm not going back to the military academy!"

"Tangtang, be good! This is not up for discussion. There is no way I'm letting you test it!" Fang Yuan waved his hand, his tone leaving no room for negotiation.

"Grandpa!"

"I'd like to test it myself, if that's okay," Gao Neng spoke up at this moment.

"You'll test it?" Fang Yuan's eyes narrowed.

"That's right. Since I built it, it's only right that I test it. Besides, I also have both the Iron and Copper talents. All I need is for the Celestial King Group to provide the ammunition for the Electromagnetic Cannon," Gao Neng said with a smile.

"Gao Neng, we understand how you feel, but this is too dangerous. If something were to happen to you, we wouldn't be able to answer to the Eastern Capital Military Academy or the Shen Family. It's better if I arrange for someone else to test it..."

"Wouldn't it be just as dangerous for someone else? I'm the one who built the Type 4 Electromagnetic Cannon. If I test it... the risk might be the lowest," Gao Neng countered.

"Well..." Guan San was at a loss for words.

"Alright. Since you're willing to try it yourself, then go ahead. However, if you feel anything is wrong, I want you to stop the test immediately." Fang Yuan was silent for a moment before finally nodding.

"Don't worry, Grandpa Fang!"

...

...

「Fifteen minutes later.」

「The Celestial King Group's weapons testing ground.」

The news of Gao Neng building an Electromagnetic Cannon had already spread throughout the Celestial King Group two days prior. Now that they suddenly heard a test was about to begin, nearly every available Manufacturing Master and researcher from the R&D center had shown up.

Over a hundred "spectators" stood around the perimeter of the testing ground.

Fang Yuan, Gao Neng, Fang Tangtang, and the others stood at the edge of the testing area, with Uncle Bai personally standing guard by Gao Neng's side.

"Gao Neng, don't force it. The moment you sense a problem, protect yourself!" Guan San warned again.

"Okay." Gao Neng nodded.

"Uncle Bai, you have to protect Gao Neng. Don't let him get hurt, understand?" Fang Tangtang also walked up to Uncle Bai's side.

"Rest assured, Miss Tangtang. If something happens, it will happen to me," Uncle Bai nodded solemnly.

"Alright, Gao Neng, the ammunition is ready. You can fire at will. Just aim for that Alloy Shield up ahead," Fang Yuan said, pointing to the Alloy Shield set up in the distance.

"Understood." Gao Neng shouldered the Electromagnetic Cannon and entered the field.

When the surrounding spectators got a clear look at the small Electromagnetic Cannon on Gao Neng's shoulder, they were momentarily stunned.

"Is that the Electromagnetic Cannon Gao Neng built? Why does it look a little off?"

"It's less than half the usual size. What kind of Electromagnetic Cannon is that? Does our Celestial King Group even have one like it?"

"Wait a minute... could that be the Type 4 Electromagnetic Cannon?!"

"What?! The Type 4... I remember research on the Type 4 was halted two years ago, didn't it? How could he possibly have built one?"

Whether they were Manufacturing Masters or researchers from the R&D center, their faces were filled with disbelief upon recognizing the cannon on Gao Neng's shoulder.

But Gao Neng paid them no mind.

He had already walked into the middle of the training field and loaded a shell into the Electromagnetic Cannon.

'I hope this works. You damn scammer system, you better not screw me over!' Gao Neng prayed silently, his eyes fixing on the Alloy Shield on the field.

100% success rate!

It has to succeed!

Gao Neng pulled the trigger of the Electromagnetic Cannon.

In an instant, he felt a strange energy envelop his body. It was a somewhat familiar sensation, like entering a simulation training room.

'Why do I feel this way?'

He couldn't figure it out at the moment. More importantly, he felt a slight pain in his fingertip, but the Electromagnetic Cannon hadn't fired.

"..." Gao Neng was speechless.

'Did it fail?!'

'A 100% success rate, and it still failed?'

'You damn scammer system! You liar!'

Just as he was thinking this, he suddenly felt a change in the energy covering his body. The energy seemed to come alive, pulsing and flickering with blue sparks of electricity.

"A Magnetic-Electric Protective Shield!"

"My God, a Magnetic-Electric Protective Shield just appeared on Gao Neng?!"

"How... How is that possible?!"

The surrounding researchers and Manufacturing Masters who knew the truth of the matter paled when they saw the electric sparks flickering around Gao Neng's body.

It wasn't just them.

Even the normally composed Fang Yuan shot to his feet.

"A Magnetic-Electric Protective Shield actually appeared?! He... How did he do it?" Fang Yuan's eyes were bloodshot. He had been the chairman of the Celestial King Group for decades and had been through countless situations, but never before had he been this agitated.

"That kid... he actually managed to pull it off?!" Guan San was equally thrilled.

And just as everyone was reeling from the shock, a pillar of blue light appeared on the training field.

The beam shot from the muzzle of the Type 4 Electromagnetic Cannon on Gao Neng's shoulder, streaking in a straight line across more than half the testing ground to strike the Alloy Shield.

In that instant...

Everyone's eyes went wide.

All eyes were captivated by that pillar of blue light.

**BOOM!**

A massive explosion rang out.

The Alloy Shield was completely pierced through.

But it didn't stop there.

The blue beam passed through the Alloy Shield and then struck the protective metal barriers of the testing ground.

But in the face of the blue beam, the hard protective metal was like tofu, penetrated without the slightest pause.

CRASH!

A piece of metal from the edge of the testing ground fell to the ground.

It went through!

The testing ground was breached!

The damages were at least a million...

But at this moment, no one cared about the damage to the testing ground. All eyes were fixed on the pierced Alloy Shield and the metal wall.

...

Silence.

Dead silence.

One second, two seconds, three seconds...

A full ten seconds later...

An explosive roar erupted from outside the testing field.

"It worked!!!"

"The Type 4 Electromagnetic Cannon! He actually managed to build it!"

"Am I seeing things? No, I'm not. I witnessed this miracle with my own eyes! A project that was shelved for two years has miraculously succeeded!"

"This is a groundbreaking achievement! Ah... did it really work?!"

The people from the R&D center and the Manufacturing Masters couldn't believe it.

Fang Yuan and Guan San stared at each other, both completely dumbfounded. They never imagined that Gao Neng would actually succeed.

The Type 4 Electromagnetic Cannon!

Successfully built by Gao Neng?!

'How is this possible?'

The Type 4 Electromagnetic Cannon, which the Celestial King Group had spent five years and over five billion to develop without success, was built by Gao Neng?

And in less than two days...

Less than two days?!

"No, Sir! It's not a complete success yet... There's still one more problem. If we can solve that last issue, the Type 4 Electromagnetic Cannon will truly become one of the Celestial King Group's signature weapons!" Guan San was ecstatic, but he quickly remembered the fatal flaw.

The test of the Type 4 Electromagnetic Cannon was a success!

But this success...

...was currently limited to Gao Neng alone.

Could it be mass-produced?

That depended on another condition: whether the Electromagnetic Cannon could be used by a second person. If not, it still couldn't be considered a true success.

Of course, even if it couldn't be mass-produced, this was already a monumental leap forward.

"It's enough. This is more than enough. Even if it can't be mass-produced yet, this is enough. It's a huge leap forward. With this progress, the Type 4 Electromagnetic Cannon can eventually be perfected." Fang Yuan's old face was flushed red. He knew the final problem would be difficult to overcome. The fact that Gao Neng had gotten this far was already astounding.

"Student Fang Tangtang, would you like to give it a try? I'm not sure about the power output, and I can't really gauge the energy consumption. You might have a better feel for it." Just as Fang Yuan was thinking this, Gao Neng walked back over, carrying the Electromagnetic Cannon.

(Last day of January 2019, a quick summary: This month's updates totaled nearly 220,000 characters. Not too slow, right? For the last day, I'm begging for monthly tickets and subscriptions, please?! Your support is what allows Xin Yi to keep going strong. How about turning on auto-subscribe?)

## **Chapter 175 - 164: The Old Geezer Is Selling Fang Tangtang?**

"Huh?! This Electromagnetic Cannon... I can use it too?" Fang Tangtang had actually heard Fang Yuan's words, and she was also well aware of the difference between a successful test and mass production.

A successful test fire of the Electromagnetic Cannon...

...did not mean it could be mass-produced.

But now Gao Neng was handing her the Electromagnetic Cannon to try. What did that mean?

It wasn't just Fang Tangtang who was stunned.

Fang Yuan and Guan San also stared blankly at Gao Neng. They had actually forgotten to ask what he meant until Gao Neng placed the No. 4 Electromagnetic Cannon into Fang Tangtang's hands.

"Wait, what did you just say, Gao Neng? Tangtang can use it too?" At this moment, Fang Yuan couldn't be bothered with maintaining his dignity as chairman and asked directly.

"Doesn't Tangtang have talents for iron and copper? Why couldn't she use it?" Gao Neng hadn't actually heard what Fang Yuan had said earlier, so he didn't immediately understand.

"What I mean is... this Electromagnetic Cannon can be used by a second person?"

"Of course it can." Gao Neng wore a strange expression.

"Gao Neng, you're not joking with me, are you? You mean you not only solved the compatibility issue between the No. 4 Electromagnetic Cannon and the human body, but you also successfully made it ready for mass production?"

"Mass production? I guess so. Tangtang, you try out its power." Gao Neng nodded nonchalantly.

"Alright, then I, Death God Fang Tangtang, will give it a try! Hahaha..." Fang Tangtang laughed, looking extremely excited as she shouldered the Electromagnetic Cannon and walked toward the center of the testing grounds.

"Master, could it be dangerous?"

"It's fine, Ah Bai is here. Let Tangtang try!" Fang Yuan's gaze was firm.

Guan San said no more.

Because Gao Neng and Fang Tangtang had already reached the center of the testing grounds and had once again loaded an electromagnetic shell into the No. 4 Electromagnetic Cannon.

The surrounding Manufacturing Masters and research center personnel saw Fang Tangtang loading the Electromagnetic Cannon and, for a moment, didn't quite understand.

But soon, someone among them realized what was happening.

"Miss Tangtang is testing the Electromagnetic Cannon!"

"My God, this... this can't be possible, can it?!"

"Could it be... this is an Electromagnetic Cannon that can be directly mass-produced?"

Cries of astonishment rose from all around.

Meanwhile, Fang Tangtang carefully handled the Electromagnetic Cannon, hoisting it onto her shoulder. Her small face was flushed with excitement, her two big eyes sparkling.

"Do I just pull the trigger?"

"Yeah, but it might hurt a little the first time you use it. Just bear with it for a moment and you'll be fine," Gao Neng said with a nod.

"It'll hurt?" Fang Tangtang was a little surprised.

"It's high-tech. You wouldn't understand even if I told you." Gao Neng tilted his head back slightly.

"Hmph, I don't believe you!" Fang Tangtang pouted, then aimed directly at another new Alloy Shield in the testing grounds.

Her finger gently squeezed the trigger.

A sharp pain shot from her finger to her brain.

"Huh? It really does hurt a little!"

Just as she spoke, arcs of blue electricity appeared all over Fang Tangtang's body, enveloping her like a cage of light.

Then, a pillar of blue light erupted.

"BOOM!"

The new Alloy Shield was pierced through once again.

And, just like last time, the blue pillar of light didn't stop. After passing through the Alloy Shield, it penetrated another protective metal plate on the testing grounds.

Over a million, gone just like that.

Two shots.

Over two million, and that wasn't even counting the cost of the shells.

But after that shot was fired...

The world seemed to fall silent once more, only to be followed by a thunderous cheer that rose and fell in successive waves, like the tide.

"It's a success!"

"The No. 4 Electromagnetic Cannon not only fires successfully, but it can also be mass-produced and used by different people! My heavens... it's really been achieved!"

"A problem that couldn't be solved in five years... was solved in two days?"

"Gao Neng!"

"Gao Neng is the one who made the No. 4 Electromagnetic Cannon! He's a genius, a real genius!"

Cheers echoed throughout the testing grounds.

As for Fang Yuan, he was so excited his hands were trembling. He stared intently at the No. 4 Electromagnetic Cannon in Fang Tangtang's hands, his eyes growing slightly moist.

'This isn't about making money anymore... The success of the No. 4 Electromagnetic Cannon means the Celestial King Group will enter a whole new technological field. And not just the Celestial King Group—the entire Human Alliance will see a new breakthrough. Powerful weapons can help humanity survive better on the battlefield. Is there anything more exciting than this?'

"Master, he succeeded! Did you see? Gao Neng really successfully built the No. 4 Electromagnetic Cannon, and it can be used by different people!"

"Yes... I saw."

"Master, with the No. 4 Electromagnetic Cannon ready for mass production, we should announce it to the public immediately! No... we need to hold a press conference right away to announce this technological breakthrough! I'll contact the Military Department now!"

"No, Guan San. There's something more important to do right now," Fang Yuan said, shaking his head.

"What could be more important than announcing the success of the No. 4 Electromagnetic Cannon?"

"Helping Gao Neng register a workshop."

"Huh?" Guan San was startled, but he quickly understood. "Yes, I'll arrange for someone to... no, I'll handle this matter personally!"

"Mm, go on." Fang Yuan nodded.

...

「Half an hour later.」

In the chairman's office at the Celestial King Group, the No. 4 Electromagnetic Cannon was carefully displayed on a wooden stand, while Gao Neng sat in the reception area, eating melon seeds and drinking tea.

"Gao Neng, are you sure you won't reconsider joining the Celestial King Group? If you think the money's not enough, I can add more." Fang Yuan took a sip of tea, glanced at Fang Tangtang beside him, and then looked back at Gao Neng.

"Grandpa Fang, didn't my workshop already receive your investment? In that case, I'm technically already a member of the Celestial King Group, aren't I?"

"Haha... you have a point." Fang Yuan didn't press the matter further and turned his attention to the No. 4 Electromagnetic Cannon on its wooden stand. "I have a question, though I'm not sure if now is the right time to ask."

"Grandpa Fang, are you trying to ask how to solve the compatibility issue between the No. 4 Electromagnetic Cannon and the human body?" Gao Neng could naturally guess what Fang Yuan wanted to ask.

"Yes, that's what I wanted to ask... Of course, you can apply for a technology patent first. Although the blueprints for the No. 4 Electromagnetic Cannon are ours, you're the one who brought it to life, so..."

"Grandpa Fang, the technology actually isn't that difficult," Gao Neng interrupted.

"Not difficult?"

"Right. Grandpa Fang, you should be aware of a piece of technology that both the Eastern Capital Military Academy and other military academies have, called a Talent Tester!" Gao Neng nodded and continued.

"A Talent Tester?! You mean to say, you applied the talent test... I understand! But how did you apply the technology from a massive and precise Talent Tester machine to a small Electromagnetic Cannon?"

"It's not a complete application, of course. The theory is just loosely related. To put it simply, I only made the Electromagnetic Cannon test for the 'iron and copper' talents. Also, to simplify things further, I used a bit of 'life gene technology'—it works via blood transmission. This makes the transmission speed faster and also solves the problem of differing blood composition and body structures among individuals."

"Genius. How did you even think of that? The biggest problem with the No. 4 Electromagnetic Cannon was its inability to interface with different human bodies. Using blood to test for talent, and the blood itself containing a person's biological information... that concept kills two birds with one stone!"

"Heh." Gao Neng just chuckled.

'Was he going to tell Fang Yuan that he only found out the No. 4 Electromagnetic Cannon had this function after getting pricked when he pulled the trigger? A 100% success rate! So it could even be used like this? Doesn't that mean all future technical hurdles could be solved this way? If so, wouldn't I become the number one Manufacturing Master?'

"Still, thinking of it and actually doing it are two different things... Even if my researchers had thought of it, whether they could have implemented it is another question entirely. Two days! You not only thought of it, but you also successfully implemented it... If I hadn't seen it with my own eyes, I'd really want to..."

"Grandpa, what do you want to do?"

"I'd want to dig out Gao Neng's brain and study it, of course! Hahaha..." Fang Yuan laughed boisterously, his gaze unconsciously landing on Gao Neng's head.

"..." Gao Neng was speechless.

'I think I might have been a little too high-profile, right? Solving a technical bottleneck that plagued the Celestial King Group for five years in just two days, and even providing a successful solution... that does seem a bit abnormal.'

"Gao Neng, why is your face so pale?" Fang Tangtang asked, blinking at him.

"Uh... haha, I didn't sleep well... Yeah, just a little tired." Gao Neng gave an awkward laugh and wiped the cold sweat from his forehead.

"Alright, Gao Neng, let's do this. The success of the No. 4 Electromagnetic Cannon is inseparable from you. Even though you told me the theory behind the design, I'm still going to treat it as a patented technology acquisition. Generally, the Celestial King Group prefers to do buyouts for patents, but this time, I'm prepared to offer you a profit-sharing deal."

"Profit-sharing?"

"That's right. The Celestial King Group will be responsible for manufacturing and sales, and we will provide all the materials. You alone will take... a 50% share of the profits. What do you think?"

"Fifty percent?!" Gao Neng's eyes went wide.

"You think... that's too low? If that's the case, then..."

"No, that's not it, Grandpa Fang. You've already invested in my workshop, and I know what a 50% profit share means. We'll do it as you said." Gao Neng didn't ask for more, because he knew what it meant for such a massive corporation to give away 50% of the profits from a single product.

'This was so much higher than a normal patent acquisition fee. With the Celestial King Group's distribution channels... The profit on a single No. 4 Electromagnetic Cannon could be at least 30 million. And I get 50% of that? That means for every

one sold, I'd make 15 million. What about ten? A hundred?! And this was a continuous profit share.'

Gao Neng didn't dare to imagine how much income the No. 4 Electromagnetic Cannon could bring him. The terms Fang Yuan offered were practically a blank check.

Of course, he wasn't going to be pretentious and refuse it.

After all, he wasn't a fool.

Without him, the theory for the No. 4 Electromagnetic Cannon would just be gathering dust in a data room. He earned this money with his own skills, so why shouldn't he take it?

"Good, no pretense. I'm growing to like you more and more, kid. If it weren't for your relationship with the Shen Family, I'd really want to talk to you about marrying Tangtang."

"You'd sell me, Death God Fang Tangtang, for a single No. 4 Electromagnetic Cannon? Grandpa... you old coot, you're so mean!" Fang Tangtang showed none of the shyness of a typical girl, simply tilting her head back with a look of annoyance. "I, Fang Tangtang, think I'm worth at least ten No. 4 Electromagnetic Cannons!"

"Hahaha... She takes after me, Fang Yuan!" Fang Yuan roared with laughter.

Just then, Gao Neng heard a mechanical system notification.

"Congratulations, Host, for completing the mission: Open a workshop that opens for business whenever Gao Neng pleases!"

'It's done?' A jolt of delight went through Gao Neng.

'It seems Guan San has already successfully registered the workshop and deposited the investment funds into its account.'

'So, what kind of manufacturing diagram for a Divine Artifact inner armor will I get?'

Gao Neng was filled with anticipation.

After all, this was the first time he would receive a piece of "equipment" from the system. Judging by the system's past rewards, this inner armor would be anything but ordinary.

(A new month is about to begin. Pleading for a wave of guaranteed monthly tickets!)

## Chapter 176 - 165: Gao Neng's God-and-Ghost-Shocking "Picking Up Girls" Technique

'Give me a Freaking Awesome Divine Artifact!' Gao Neng shouted in his mind. Then, he heard a BEEP, and a large, floating treasure chest appeared before him.

"BEEP. You have received all manufacturing materials and one blueprint for the 'Freaking Awesome Divine Artifact Inner Armor.' Note: The Freaking Awesome Divine Artifact Inner Armor can effectively protect the host's internal organs and reflects 20% of damage back to the opponent. Maximum endurance limit: a full-power strike from a high-tier opponent."

"Whoa... It really is a Freaking Awesome Divine Artifact?!" Gao Neng was completely stunned.

'This goofy system sure knows how to name things.'

'Its maximum endurance is a full-power strike from a high-tier opponent? And more importantly, this inner armor can reflect 20% of the damage? That's seriously overpowered...'

'It's truly worthy of the name "Freaking Awesome Divine Artifact Inner Armor."'

Without much thought, Gao Neng immediately renamed it: Thorns Armor.

'As for opening the treasure chest...'

He didn't do it for now. That would be crazy. Fang Yuan and Fang Tangtang were still here. They couldn't see the treasure chest, but who knew about the manufacturing materials?

'Just imagine it: the three of them are chatting, and suddenly a pile of high-grade manufacturing materials falls from the sky. The mere thought of that scene is too much to handle.'

Seeing that Gao Neng had fallen silent, Fang Yuan returned the conversation to the No. 4 Electromagnetic Cannon.

According to Fang Yuan, although the No. 4 Electromagnetic Cannon was now successfully completed, it still needed further testing for details like stability.

On top of that, the technology inside needed to be replicated.

Gao Neng didn't have any objections.

They had already settled how to split the money, so he naturally shared the technology with Fang Yuan. As for how Fang Yuan planned to mass-produce it, that wasn't his business.

The Celestial King Group had its own R&D department.

'To reverse-engineer the technology from this goofy system...'

'It shouldn't be too hard, right?'

...

「Time passed quickly.」

An hour later, the investment, agreement, and profit-sharing authorization for the No. 4 Electromagnetic Cannon were all officially signed.

When Guan San rushed back, he gave Gao Neng the completed registration documents, a few keys, and an address. The location was three kilometers from the Eastern Capital Military Academy and was said to be his new workshop office.

Gao Neng thanked him.

He hadn't slept for two days, so he wasn't in a hurry to craft the inner armor. 'I'll wait until I get to the workshop. I can make it then when I have time. It'll probably take a while.'

He was genuinely tired now.

Guan San's idea was to have Gao Neng stay the night at the Celestial King Group, but Gao Neng felt it was better to return to the military academy. After a moment of hesitation, Guan San ultimately didn't object.

「After dinner.」

The hover car started up.

Guan San personally drove Gao Neng and Fang Tangtang to the Eastern Capital Military Academy.

Along the way, Gao Neng was in no mood to enjoy the night scenery. He just closed his eyes to rest. Fang Tangtang, on the other hand, looked unhappy, probably because they were returning to the academy so soon.

...

「Night fell.」

People were coming and going at the entrance of the Eastern Capital Military Academy.

Students, having finished a busy day, went out for dinner together. This was permitted at the Eastern Capital Military Academy, as it didn't have a closed-campus policy.

Under the cover of night, a woman in a hat emerged from the darkness beside the Eastern Capital Military Academy. The brim of her hat was pulled down extremely low, successfully hiding her face.

As she passed the academy's gate, the woman looked up and glanced at the four large words: Eastern Capital Military Academy.

"Eastern Capital Military Academy... The cradle of human geniuses, huh." A cold smile touched the woman's lips as she pulled a list from her clothes.

Chen Nan: War Academy junior, Tier Three Late Stage, specializes in close combat...

Jin Yulan: War Academy senior, Tier Three Late Stage...

...

Fang Tangtang: War Academy freshman, Tier Two Late Stage, specializes in long-range attacks, wields the No. 3 Electromagnetic Cannon. Immense power.  
Weakness: can only be fired once.

Gao Neng: War Academy freshman, Tier Two Mid Stage, possesses Energy Manifestation, the number one freshman, five talents above 80% aptitude...

The list contained a string of over a hundred names.

Each entry was described in considerable detail, containing information on their various specialties.

'Gao Neng?! It really is... what a small world. To think he was also chosen for the battlefield list this time?' A flicker of surprise crossed the woman's eyes.

But the surprise quickly turned to icy coldness.

Because she recalled a scene from several months ago...

As she thought about it, she subconsciously rubbed her butt, which ached faintly.

"Despicable human!" The woman gnashed her teeth in hatred, then shoved the list in her hand into her mouth and swallowed it.

GULP!

A satisfied smile appeared on the woman's face.

'Going to the battlefield at just Tier Two?'

'This is truly a godsent opportunity.'

"Gao Neng, this time, I will have my revenge for the humiliation you caused me, no matter what!" The woman looked up, revealing a bewitchingly beautiful face.

And just at that moment...

WHOOSH!

A hover car descended from the sky.

It landed not far from the woman. Then, someone got out of the front passenger seat and opened the rear door.

"Gao Neng, Tangtang, we've arrived at the Eastern Capital Military Academy!"

"So soon?" a displeased young woman's voice came from inside the car. Then, a young man and a young woman stepped out.

The woman's gaze happened to fall on the car's rear door.

And with that one glance, her eyes went wide.

Because the young man getting out of the back of the car was none other than Gao Neng.

Of course, besides Gao Neng, there was also a pouting Fang Tangtang. With her lips pursed and her head held high, she started walking toward the Eastern Capital Military Academy the moment she got out of the car.

Gao Neng knew Fang Tangtang was unhappy about returning to the academy, but that had nothing to do with him, so he just pretended not to notice.

'So tired...'

'Finally back at the academy.'

"Elder Guan, you can head back now."

"Mm, alright." Guan San nodded and got back into the car.

The hover car started up and quickly departed.

Gao Neng let out a breath and prepared to walk through the school gate.

However, just as he had taken three steps, he suddenly saw the woman standing not far away. Moreover, she seemed to be looking at him, too.

'Huh? That face... it's so familiar,' Gao Neng thought, slightly alarmed.

The woman in front of him was using a hat to cover her face. Normally, it would be impossible for him to see her features clearly, but he was not normal.

Because he possessed the Eye of Deprivation... the full version!

He could see through any disguise clearly with a single glance.

What's more, the woman was only using a hat to cover her face.

'Why is she so familiar? Where have I seen her before?' Gao Neng rapidly searched his memories.

The woman also seemed to notice Gao Neng's gaze. She lowered her head slightly and then walked straight toward him, showing no intention of avoiding him.

It was very natural...

The two brushed past each other.

But in that instant, a face flashed through Gao Neng's mind.

In the Forgotten Land, he had once been the target of an assassination attempt. That time, he had nearly died. In the end, however, he and Gao Xiaomeng successfully killed the assassin.

It was a Dark Night Elf!

He still couldn't forget the face of that Dark Night Elf.

'It's her?!'

Gao Neng turned his head to look at the woman walking slowly away. Her face was almost identical, and even her figure... could be said to be extremely similar.

'But there's no way that Dark Night Elf survived, right?'

Gao Neng truly couldn't believe it, because he had killed that Dark Night Elf with his own hands.

Furthermore, Shen Ning'Er had even taken the corpse away for research.

There was no reason for her to be alive!

'Unless...'

'Resurrection?'

'But that's not right either. According to what Fang Tangtang and the others said, it's a twenty-year cycle. But it hasn't even been twenty years since that Dark Night Elf was killed. How could she have been resurrected?'

"Stop!" Gao Neng wasn't certain, but his instincts told him that if this woman really was that Dark Night Elf, it would be extremely dangerous.

And most importantly, she had appeared at the entrance of the Eastern Capital Military Academy.

'Is this a coincidence?'

"Excuse me, student, were you calling me?" The woman stopped and slowly turned around, looking at Gao Neng quietly from under her hat.

"Yeah, I'd like to be friends." Gao Neng nodded and slowly approached the woman. He remembered that her combat power was formidable, so he had to be on guard against a sneak attack.

However, this was the entrance to the Eastern Capital Military Academy.

If a fight really broke out, the woman's chances of escaping were very slim.

"Heh, are all students these days so direct?" The woman seemed a little surprised, but she showed no intention of fleeing.

"Can't be helped. Handsome guys are just a bit more confident." Gao Neng gave a brilliant smile, then glanced at the woman's hat. "If I may be so bold, where did you buy this hat?"

"And why would I tell you?" The woman lowered her head again.

"How about I buy that hat from you for 100?" Gao Neng had now closed in on the woman's side, ready to strike at any moment.

"You're quite generous..." The woman seemed speechless. Then, she took off her hat. "100. You said it yourself."

"Huh?" Gao Neng hadn't expected the woman to actually take off her hat.

'The resemblance is uncanny!'

'She really does look exactly like that Dark Night Elf.'

'The only difference is...'

The woman before him didn't have the pointed ears of a Dark Night Elf. Most importantly, he now possessed a Magnetic Core. Logically speaking, he should be able to sense some kind of aura at close range.

However, he couldn't sense the slightest energy fluctuation from her.

This was a completely normal human woman.

A regular person, at that.

"Where's the money? You said 100 yourself. You're not going to back out, are you?" The woman held the hat out to Gao Neng, a faint smile on her lips.

"Of course not." Gao Neng readily took out 100 Alliance Coins and handed them over.

The transaction was completed quickly.

There were no hitches.

Gao Neng got the hat, and the woman got the 100 Alliance Coins.

"Are you going to buy me dinner? My name is Ye Ying. Since you want to be friends, I'm guessing you're not just interested in my hat, right?" Seeing that Gao Neng had no intention of leaving, the woman's eyes began to scan him up and down.

"Yeah. Can I touch your butt?" Gao Neng nodded lightly. He was naturally interested in more than just her hat. What he was most interested in was her butt. He remembered that it was very firm.

## **Chapter 177 - 166: Something a Little Special**

"You... what did you say?!" Ye Ying's expression was one of exaggerated shock. She clearly hadn't expected Gao Neng to suddenly ask such a "blunt" question.

"Let me touch your butt. How about 100 Alliance Coins?" Gao Neng watched Ye Ying calmly, his face placid. He even pulled out 100 Alliance Coins and offered them to her.

'There was a time...'

'...when not even an iron spear could pierce this butt.'

He figured that if he could just touch her butt, he could probably confirm the woman's identity. As for whether his words would damage his image, he didn't give it much thought.

An old saying goes: Walk your own path and let others say what they will.

He was just that sort of person: arrogant and unrestrained, carefree and headstrong, completely unconcerned with what others thought of him.

As for the worst-case scenario...

He had considered it.

It would be nothing more than Ye Ying calling him a pervert and a hooligan before they started to scuffle. In the ensuing struggle, Gao Neng would forcibly touch Ye Ying's butt, attract the attention of the people around them, and he would be "gloriously" escorted to the police station.

It would be a little awkward.

But he wasn't too concerned about that outcome.

Compared to an unknown potential danger, this was a small price he was willing to pay.

"The Eastern Capital Military Academy is known as one of the four great military academies in the Alliance. Are all its students so depraved?" Ye Ying's expression soured considerably. At the same time, she took an unconscious step back, her demeanor shifting to one of complete vigilance, a stark contrast to before.

'Her acting is superb!'

Gao Neng praised her silently. If it weren't for the uncanny resemblance between Ye Ying and that Dark Night Elf, he probably would have given up after seeing this.

But now, he decided to press the issue.

"Well, you're only seeing the surface. Students from the military academy are generally like this—decisive and direct. When we see something we like, we want it. For example, I happen to like your butt, so I'm willing to spend a little money to touch it. If you think it's not enough, I can raise the offer. How about 200 Alliance Coins?"

"What kind of person do you take me for?!" Ye Ying's reaction was relatively intense, but she didn't immediately start shouting, nor did she show any sign of wanting to run away.

Her mind was racing as she tried to come up with a countermeasure. It was obvious Gao Neng was onto something, which didn't come as a huge surprise.

It was only natural for him to be suspicious, given their identical appearances.

However, she was now a true "ordinary person," with no characteristics of a Dark Night Elf. Her body no longer contained any energy. Barring a blood test, it would be impossible for her to be exposed.

Of course, she didn't want to attract too much attention. If she made too big a scene, a trip to the police station would be almost unavoidable.

"It's just a touch on the butt, don't be nervous. I'll just touch it once. How about 300 Alliance Coins?" Gao Neng continued to press her. As long as she didn't run, he wasn't in a rush to act.

After all, who would really want to get slapped with an indecent assault charge unless they had no other choice?

More importantly, Ye Ying didn't seem particularly panicked, nor did she scream, which gave off the impression she was playing hard to get.

If he could solve this with money...

...that would be the best-case scenario.

"300 Alliance Coins?" Ye Ying looked at the relentlessly approaching Gao Neng, her eyes narrowing slightly. Then, she laughed. The conflicted look on her face vanished, replaced by a sultry charm, her eyes full of allure. She gave her butt a slight wiggle. "If you really want it, handsome, it'll be 5,000. Non-negotiable!"

"5,000 just to touch your butt?!"

"It's for more than just touching my butt. I'll be all yours for the night."

"So that's what this is about..." Gao Neng understood. The Ye Ying before him hadn't run or screamed. Instead, she had abruptly changed her tune and started negotiating a transaction of sex for money.

'Is this a coincidence?'

'To meet a woman who looked identical to a Dark Night Elf right at the gates of the Eastern Capital Military Academy, and for her to give in so easily after just a little pressure?'

A new suspicion began to stir in Gao Neng's mind.

'Could they really be resurrected instantly?'

'If that's the case, then why haven't the other Strongest from the other races come back to life?'

Gao Neng couldn't quite figure it out.

'But he knew that once this was confirmed, it would be a huge accomplishment. Reporting the discovery of the other races' secret to resurrection... he'd probably get a ton of Merit Points, wouldn't he?'

Of course, there was also the possibility that it was truly a coincidence.

'Ye Ying is just an ordinary human woman who's actually a prostitute, and I'm about to spend 5,000 Alliance Coins just to touch her butt?'

He weighed the two options.

'Risking 5,000 on this gamble is worth it!'

Just as he was thinking about it...

Fang Tangtang's voice drifted over from a distance.

"Gao Neng, why are you still standing there? Huh... you're not hitting on girls behind Sister Ning'Er's back, are you?! I'm going to tell Sister Ning'Er!"

"So your name is Gao Neng? Is the Sister Ning'Er this little loli is talking about your girlfriend? Looks like... you really are a scumbag." The woman glanced at Gao Neng again, then her gaze turned provocative. "That being the case, do you still dare to play? Student Gao Neng!"

"What's there to be afraid of?" The corner of Gao Neng's mouth curved up. He then shouted back to Fang Tangtang, "Hitting on girls my ass! This is an old client of mine. I'm heading to the workshop now. Anyway, I've been sleeping really well these past two days. Tell Ning'Er not to come to the workshop and bother me!"

After he spoke, without waiting for Fang Tangtang's reply, Gao Neng grabbed Ye Ying and led her away.

Fang Tangtang's eyes went wide.

'Old client?'

'Your damn workshop was just founded today, how could you have an "old client"? And what's this about sleeping well these past two days? You haven't slept at all, have you?'

'And most importantly, you actually told Sister Ning'Er not to bother you?'

'What makes you so confident...'

'Sister Ning'Er isn't even at the Eastern Capital Military Academy right now; she's at the Military Department. How could she possibly go to the workshop to bother you?'

"What a psycho!" Fang Tangtang cursed under her breath. She was about to ask another question, but Gao Neng had already vanished, leaving her feeling rather frustrated.

'He must be sneaking off to the workshop to build something, and using such a lame excuse. That guy is the worst. Does he really think I, Death God Fang Tangtang, am that gullible?'

She was just about to head back to the military academy.

But the phone in her pocket buzzed slightly.

She took it out and saw that Gao Neng was sharing his location in the Invincible Team's group chat.

"???"

...

An old saying goes: Nothing ventured, nothing gained.

Gao Neng decided to walk into the tiger's den. But to keep Ye Ying from getting suspicious, he naturally had to put on a show and make her think he was acting alone.

'Surely Fang Tangtang would understand such an obvious hint, right?'

"Are we going to a hotel?" Ye Ying spoke up.

"Hotels are a bit unsanitary..." Gao Neng shook his head.

"Heh, don't tell me you want to go to my place?" Hearing this, a glint flashed in Ye Ying's eyes, and a smile spread across her face.

"Is that inconvenient?" Gao Neng asked in return.

"Not at all. Since you want to go, then follow me." Ye Ying smiled and started to lead the way, but a faint, cold smirk tugged at the corner of her mouth.

'Since he's serving himself up on a silver platter...'

'...then I certainly won't be shy about accepting.'

The two of them walked one after the other, crossing several streets and then three small alleys before Ye Ying finally stopped in front of a small building.

"Are we here?" Gao Neng looked at the small building in front of him. It was five stories high and located right in the center of the Eastern District, but it seemed rather dark.

There weren't many lights on inside.

'A patch of darkness in the heart of the city.'

Seeing this, Gao Neng grew even more certain.

'Something is wrong with Ye Ying.'

'He was at least seventy percent sure!'

"Yeah, it's on the third floor. Come on up. There's no one else home." Ye Ying nodded, opened the building's main door, and then led the way inside.

Gao Neng hesitated for a moment.

But in the end, he followed her up.

The stairwell was very dark.

'I should be able to survive a jump from the third floor, but the floor itself is still dangerous.' he thought, quickly calculating the building's layout.

There were two floors above and two floors below.

'If I get surrounded... how would I get out?'

'And where is Fang Tangtang with backup? Normally, she should have arrived right after I did, right?'

'I hope nothing went wrong.'

"I was so obvious. Even if she's a little slow, Student Fang Tangtang must have realized I'm deliberately walking into danger, right?" Gao Neng looked up, glancing outside through a window in the stairwell.

It was pitch black, with no sign of Fang Tangtang.

'Is she hiding somewhere?'

"Student Gao Neng, what are you looking at?" Just then, Ye Ying's voice came from upstairs, followed by a bit of light illuminating the staircase.

"The ambiance here is nice. Very poetic." Gao Neng smiled and glanced toward the light, which seemed to be coming from an open doorway.

'Looks like Ye Ying really does live here.'

Gao Neng thought for a moment and used his Spiritual Power to probe the building.

He quickly sensed the building's other residents.

Besides Ye Ying and himself, there were a total of eight other people in the building.

'There's a small room on the first floor inhabited by an old man. I noticed it on my way up. If I had to guess, he's probably the building's security guard.'

'One person on the first floor, a man and a woman on the second, two men on the fourth, and on the fifth... two women and a man?' Gao Neng was privately alarmed.

'What's with the two-women-one-man setup?'

After getting a clear picture, Gao Neng finally continued up the stairs. He found Ye Ying standing in the doorway of a room, her eyes fixed on him.

"Want to try something special?" Ye Ying asked.

"Special?"

"Mhm, don't all you men like it? Don't worry... I have a thing for it too. It won't cost you extra!" Ye Ying's eyes narrowed, and her smile was full of insinuation.

"Sounds good to me."

"Come in. Do you want to shower first, or should I? Or we could shower together?" Ye Ying moved away from the door and pointed to the bathroom inside.

## **Chapter 178 - 167: Decisive Action, No More Talk**

"..." Gao Neng actually had no experience with this kind of thing.

Back in the Forgotten Land, he had heard plenty and even seen a few things. But this was his first time actually doing it himself. An expert he was not.

'What should I do now?'

He was at the very entrance to the tiger's den.

'So, if this were a typical plot, and if Ye Ying really is that Dark Night Elf, shouldn't she be making her move right now?'

After all, there were eight other people in the building.

'Why waste time taking a shower first...'

'What does this mean?'

Gao Neng had no desire to waste time with Ye Ying in this kind of situation. He was still just a kid, after all. There were certain lines he wasn't willing to cross.

'Could I have really gotten the wrong person?'

'Is this all just a coincidence...?'

'No, I need to confirm one last time.'

"Let's shower together, then!" Gao Neng said, and walked straight into the room.

Ye Ying seemed slightly taken aback by Gao Neng's answer, but she just gave a subtle smile before gently closing the door.

The instant the door closed,

Gao Neng pounced.

"Oh, my, you're in quite a hurry, aren't you? Doesn't your girlfriend usually take care of you?" Ye Ying seemed completely defenseless.

"Enough talk!" Gao Neng wasted no more words and reached out to grab her.

But just as he was about to succeed...

One of Ye Ying's hands intercepted his.

"Don't be in such a rush. We have all the time in the world. Why don't we shower first? Afterward, you can do whatever you want with me..." Ye Ying purred coyly.

Gao Neng wasn't falling for it.

'Rush? What rush!'

These were all just tired old tricks. With his goal so close, he had no time to play hard to get with Ye Ying. He would solve this problem with brute force.

He drove his knee forcefully upward.

"THUD!"

It slammed right into Ye Ying's stomach.

Ye Ying's expression changed slightly, and a pained whimper escaped her lips.

Gao Neng seized the opportunity and swiftly executed his plan.

"Ah..." Ye Ying cried out in pain again.

Gao Neng, however, was baffled. 'What's happening?!'

'This shouldn't be possible!'

'Based on my deductions, there's a seventy percent chance Ye Ying is that Dark Night Elf.'

'What went wrong?'

"..." An ecstatic look was on Ye Ying's face.

"???" went Gao Neng.

'Did I just start something?!

'What the hell!

Gao Neng's brow furrowed.

'This wasn't how the script was supposed to go. I figured if I willingly walked into the trap, my opponent would reveal herself right away.'

'Then, we could've just started fighting.'

'But now...'

'Has the plot gone completely off the rails?'

Gao Neng spread his Spiritual Power out again. He wanted to see if the other residents were making any suspicious moves. If they were, it would prove his theory was correct.

But to his surprise, the other eight people in the building showed no reaction whatsoever. They were all still minding their own business.

The old man on the first floor was wearing reading glasses and flipping through a book.

The others were similarly preoccupied.

A seed of doubt about his own judgment finally sprouted in Gao Neng's mind. 'What's going on? This is nothing like what I've seen on TV.'

Most importantly, not only were the others not making a move, but Ye Ying showed absolutely no intention of attacking him. On the contrary, she wore the expression of a flower waiting to be plucked.

'In a situation like this, how am I supposed to expose Ye Ying's true identity?'

'Beat her up?'

In a sense, Gao Neng had already attacked her just now.

And Ye Ying had seemed completely incapable of resisting.

"You're sweaty. Go take a shower first." Gao Neng abruptly stood up, forcibly pushing Ye Ying off of him before finding a chair and sitting down.

"Oh... you're the boss. The customer is always right, after all." Ye Ying looked a little disappointed, but she still walked obediently into the bathroom, casually tossing a few items of clothing out from behind the door.

"!!!" Gao Neng's brow furrowed even tighter.

His gaze swept across the room's decor. It was a very ordinary room with no expensive items. The lamp and the desk all looked a bit old.

A typical civilian's rented room.

'Did I really get the wrong person?'

'Is Ye Ying just an ordinary woman who happens to look like that Dark Night Elf?'

'But could the resemblance really be this strong? And what are the odds she'd bring me to her room? None of this seems like a coincidence.'

But the crucial issue was...

Ye Ying wasn't attacking him at all. In fact, she seemed genuinely intent on having a "transaction" with him. In this situation, he had no way to be sure.

'I can't just kill her, can I?'

'Is it because I'm so handsome that this Ye Ying has fallen for me? Figures. I'm really not cut out for this "bad boy" act,' Gao Neng thought with a sense of helplessness.

The sound of running water came from the bathroom.

Gao Neng was struggling internally. 'Should I give up? Or should I test her again? But how? What if Ye Ying really does pounce on me?'

Time ticked by, second by second.

Five minutes.

Ten minutes...

Gao Neng once again extended his Spiritual Power.

He peered through the open bathroom door. Ye Ying was still inside, showering. There were no suspicious movements; she seemed to be enjoying herself immensely.

'The clothes?' Gao Neng's gaze was drawn to the clothes by the door. After a moment's hesitation, he walked over and rummaged through the pockets.

Aside from a few cosmetics,

there was nothing else in the clothes.

No intel, no secret letters, absolutely no clues.

Gao Neng finally let out a sigh. He took 200 Alliance Coins out of his pocket, tossed them on the bed, and then opened the door to leave.

As for why he didn't leave 5,000?

He wasn't an idiot.

All he did was cop a feel.

He stepped out of the room.

Ye Ying didn't seem to notice.

Gao Neng took a deep breath. 'I'm out, just like that? No one tried to stop me? No ambush?' His ambitious reconnaissance mission felt like punching a sponge.

Utterly anticlimactic.

He started down the stairs, moving slowly.

At the same time, he extended his Spiritual Power to observe one more time. Ye Ying was still showering. The others were still acting normally. No one was stopping him from leaving.

And just like that, he reached the ground floor.

At that moment, the old man in the small room looked up at Gao Neng, his gaze a mixture of confusion and surprise. A faint mumble followed.

"Young people these days... so fast..."

"Sir, are you the security for this building?" Gao Neng heard the old man's voice and, after a moment's thought, walked over.

"Hm? That's right. You look like a student... Which school are you from?" the old man asked, nodding slightly.

"Eastern Capital Military Academy. My name is Gao Neng, and I'm a freshman this year. Oh, and I'm this year's Freshman King. Do you know what a Freshman King is, sir?"

"Freshman King?"

"That's right. The Freshman King who's undefeated at the Eastern Capital Military Academy. At the freshman orientation, I took on over a thousand people by myself. Pretty amazing, right? Plus, I've broken the Fourth Human Limit. Oh, and I have five talents over 80%. You get what that means, don't you?"

"Of course I do. A super genius." Hearing this, a faint, unconscious smile touched the old man's lips, and a distinct gleam appeared in his eyes as he looked at Gao Neng.

"You're pretty sharp, sir. But I'm more than just a super genius. I've earned military honors, too. Back in the Forgotten Land, I once killed a Dark Night Elf. Oh, right... I also defeated a Battle Angel. That Battle Angel was super strong, had a pair of chicken wings... the really big kind. She wore blue battle armor, so you could tell she was powerful at a glance. But I still beat her. One move was all it took to have her crying for her mommy and daddy. She even said she'd get revenge. Let me think... what was her name again? Right, I think it was something like... Mu Jiji?"

"Mu Jiji?! Is there really a name like that?" The old man's face gradually darkened.

"Of course! 'Cause her name is Jiji... get it? Hahaha! A man of your worldly experience has to understand, sir. That Battle Angel was a woman, you see. Oh, wait, I should say a \*female\*!"

"A female?"

"That's right. And there's something else you might be interested in, sir. It's about the Celestial King Group. How about I let you in on a big secret?"

"What big secret?"

"You know the Celestial King Group has a total of twenty manufacturing plants in the City of Hope, right?" Gao Neng asked this very casually.

"Right." The old man nodded subconsciously.

"Right, the manufacturing plant that's responsible for supplying the Eastern Capital Military District. That building has eight small manufacturing wings, so it kind of looks like an octopus. You definitely know the one, right?" Gao Neng confirmed again. Seeing the old man nod, he continued, "Well, a few days ago, that very factory developed a new type of weapon. I happened to be at the Celestial King Group these past few days, so I saw it... The name of this weapon is..."

"SWOOSH!"

A flash of electric light shot forward in a swift stab.

It was a dagger, hidden up his sleeve.

Arcs of electricity danced across its blade.

It was the very same Electric Saber that Gao Neng had crafted in the Celestial King Group's No. 3 Manufacturing Plant. And that Electric Saber, now his, was plunging toward the old man's chest.

The old man's attention was completely captivated by Gao Neng's words.

He hadn't noticed the Electric Saber at all.

"SHLICK!"

The Electric Saber plunged into the old man's chest.

## **Chapter 179 - 168: Must Seize the Key Point**

Blood sprayed.

The old man's eyes widened. He stared at Gao Neng, who was right in front of him, and at the Electric Saber piercing his chest, his gaze filled with disbelief.

"Wh... Why?"

"You know too much!" Gao Neng's lips curled up slightly. 'A security guard in a small building like this actually knows the Celestial King Group has twenty manufacturing plants?'

Moreover, he didn't just know the number; he even knew what the plants that directly supplied the Eastern Capital Military District looked like. That wasn't normal at all.

Most importantly, while the old man was speaking, Gao Neng used his Spiritual Power to observe the other residents and saw that they were finally starting to move.

They didn't seem to intend to surround and kill Gao Neng, but they couldn't contain their intense curiosity...

While Gao Neng spoke, they walked to their doors to listen in, deliberately opening them a crack. One man and woman even lay on the floor, pressing their ears tightly against it.

There were eight people in this small building, besides Ye Ying.

Seven of them were suspicious.

So, how could this last one, the old man at the gate, possibly be innocent?

"I know too much?' \*Cough, cough\*... To figure out my identity and act so decisively based on that alone... My lord was right, you truly are a dangerous person!" The old man coughed violently twice and licked the blood trickling from the corner of his mouth. His gaze turned icy. "This stab won't be enough to kill me!"

SWISH!

A black shadow shot out from behind the old man.

Then, two scythe-like claws easily sliced across the old man's neck, and the head of an elderly alien flew into the air.

"I know. That's why I added another blow," Gao Neng said, watching the head in mid-air, giving an answer that should allow the man to rest in peace.

Super Earth Dragon.

After noticing the others' strange behavior, he had decisively summoned the Earth Dragon and used his Spiritual Power to control it, maneuvering it behind the old man.

THUD!

The old man's head hit the floor.

He spoke no more.

Because he was already dead.

"Murder! I killed someone! I, Gao Neng, killed someone! I killed an alien! I've performed a great service this time!" Without hesitation, Gao Neng started shouting at the top of his lungs.

'If Fang Tangtang is hiding outside, she'll definitely hear this, right?'

Since he'd decided to wipe them all out in one go...

Gao Neng had no intention of running away just yet. After all, he had heard from Guan San a couple of days ago that the spies inside the City of Hope weren't very strong.

Of course, just in case, he still had to call for backup.

And the result was just as he expected...

As he shouted, two figures appeared at the door.

The only slight imperfection was that Fang Tangtang wasn't among them. Instead, it was the man and woman who lived on the second floor. The man was around thirty, and the woman was... also around thirty?

"You're surrounded! None of you can escape!" Gao Neng shouted again before they could speak, then lunged at the man and woman.

Hearing Gao Neng's words, a flicker of hesitation crossed their eyes.

'Making a move inside the City of Hope...'

Even though this area was relatively remote, it was still in the center of the Eastern District. If nothing went wrong, the Public Security Bureau would arrive in fifteen minutes at most.

"Third Sister, you run first!" the man shouted as he charged forward.

"Second Brother, don't let him fool you! If we run now, we'll just cause a bigger commotion. Our only chance of survival is to kill him together, quickly!" The woman ignored the man's suggestion. Not only did she not run, but she also blocked the doorway and let out a sharp whistle.

TWEET!

As the whistle faded,

the two men from the fourth floor and the two women and one man from the fifth floor all began to move.

Clearly, they were planning to fight to the death.

Gao Neng had already exchanged a punch with the man from the second floor.

The man's strength was immense.

He was at least as strong as Gao Neng, if not slightly stronger.

'At least the strength of a human at Tier Three Late Stage?' Gao Neng was startled. This was a bit different from what he had imagined.

'Weren't they all supposed to be weak?'

'Wait a minute. The one who said they were weak was Guan San...'

'So, this is a clear case of relativity.'

'To Guan San, Tier Three strength probably is pathetically weak, but to me, a Tier Three can still put up a fight.'

After all, he was only Tier Two.

Just as he was thinking this, a powerful gust of wind came from behind him.

Gao Neng dodged in an instant.

**BOOM!**

The wall of the small room was smashed open by a punch.

It was one of the two men from the fourth floor.

'He punched a hole through a wall?'

Gao Neng was momentarily stunned.

"You're surrounded! A desperate struggle is useless!" Gao Neng shouted again. Then, a layer of silver-white battle armor covered his arms and legs.

Silver!

This was the most powerful energy he possessed at his current stage.

He had disdained to use it when fighting on the Challenge Board, but this was a real battle. Naturally, he would face it in his strongest state and hold nothing back.

After the silver energy covered him,

a large cleaver appeared in Gao Neng's hand.

"Take my Eighteen-Consecutive Slash!" With a great shout, scorching hot air blasted from Gao Neng's hands as he slashed down at the man who had just punched through the wall.

"Hmph!" The man snorted coldly, a hint of madness in his eyes. He didn't retreat or dodge, but instead charged forward to meet the attack, attempting an Empty-handed Blade Seizing.

BAM!

A gash appeared on the man's shoulder.

Gao Neng's strike was actually the system-evolved Half-Step Kill. It was incredibly fast; how could the man possibly have seized the blade empty-handed?

The blade cut directly into half of the man's shoulder.

But Gao Neng didn't sense any pain from the man. Not only did he not cry out in agony, but he even sneered at Gao Neng with a look of indifference.

At the same time, Gao Neng sensed three figures attacking him from behind.

He wanted to pull his blade out and fight back.

But he found that the blade was stuck.

The man Gao Neng had slashed was desperately clamping down on the blade with his muscles. One of his hands frantically pressed down on the back of the blade, while the other threw a punch at Gao Neng's temple.

"..." Gao Neng was speechless.

He had seen this kind of fighting style before.

Because during the number one challenge on the D-Rank Board, Feng Qingqing had used this same suicidal tactic, creating an opportunity for Gao Neng and the others at the cost of being severely injured.

Only now, this tactic was being used on him.

'As expected... real battles are different from training!'

In this situation, any normal person would immediately abandon their blade, but Gao Neng was not normal.

'Abandon my blade?'

'If I do that, I'll truly be on the defensive.'

So, he didn't abandon it. Not only did he not abandon it, but he also lunged forward, dodging the man's punch while simultaneously pinning him to the ground.

As for the attack from behind, it was forcibly blocked by the sudden appearance of the Super Earth Dragon.

BOOM!

The Super Earth Dragon was slammed into the wall by a punch.

But in that brief moment, Gao Neng managed to forcibly pull the blade from the man's shoulder and slash it across his throat.

"GURGLE!" The man's eyes bulged as he clutched his neck with both hands. He had been willing to risk his life, but he hadn't expected Gao Neng to be even more reckless.

'Decisive, ruthless, and willing to risk it all...'

'Add to that his surprising Fourth Human Limit and a talent for fighting those stronger than him.'

'If a person like this doesn't die...'

'...he will become a huge threat in the future.'

The man realized this, but it was too late. His body was growing cold, and the strength was rapidly draining from him.

BOOM!

Gao Neng was sent flying by a kick.

He crashed into the wall.

These aliens didn't scream things like, "Ah Si, don't die! Ah Si, don't leave me..." After knocking the Super Earth Dragon away, they immediately attacked Gao Neng again.

However, Gao Neng was tough.

He had successfully activated his life form transformation, increasing his body's Defense Power by 100%. The kick hadn't hurt him too badly.

It was a bit of a shame, though... he hadn't had time to create his "Thornmail" yet, or the damage would have been even less.

"Four against one, and we're the ones who lose someone first?" a voice said, and a man walked in through the doorway.

It was the man who lived on the fifth floor.

He was about forty years old.

Behind him, two women followed closely.

"Energy Manifestation?"

"A Tier Two can actually use Energy Manifestation?"

"This Gao Neng cannot be left alive!"

The two women stared at the Earth Dragon in the distance, their eyes growing even more vicious.

"Mm, I'll do it." The man from the fifth floor nodded. Then, a layer of fine, crimson Scale Armor materialized on his body, resembling snake scales, with faint flames burning upon them.

'What kind of monster is this? A snake-skin man?' Gao Neng's knowledge of aliens was still limited. For now, he couldn't tell what race this monster belonged to.

But one thing was certain... this man was strong.

Stronger than any of the residents on the other floors.

'So, based on my earlier assessment, the people on the other floors are around Tier Three Late Stage. Does that mean this guy is Tier Four or higher?'

'Mid-Tier!!!'

This was the first time Gao Neng had faced a Mid-Tier opponent in actual combat, other than Shen Ning'Er.

Of course, Bald Shark didn't count.

SWISH!

The opponent moved.

He was super-fast.

In the blink of an eye, he was in front of Gao Neng, his palms reaching out to grab him. Five long, red spikes protruded from each palm.

Gao Neng didn't hold back either.

He brought his blade slashing down.

"Eighteen-Consecutive Slash!"

CLANG!

But this time, his blade didn't strike the opponent's body as it had before. Instead, it produced a crisp sound of metal colliding.

"Second Slash!" Gao Neng raised his blade again.

The opponent instinctively raised his palm to block again.

But the second slash didn't come down as expected.

Because in the instant he raised his blade, Gao Neng had already retreated, crashed through the small room's window, and burst outside with a BOOM.

"Trying to run?!" the others exclaimed in surprise.

"After him!"

Several people quickly rushed outside.

But they soon discovered that Gao Neng wasn't frantically escaping. The moment he burst out of the building, he leaped up and grabbed the windowsill of the second floor.

With another movement, Gao Neng flipped up to the third floor.

'Ye Ying still hasn't shown up. The key isn't these people; it's Ye Ying!' Gao Neng wasn't so weak as to be scared off by a single Mid-Tier opponent. He needed to stall for time.

"Damn it, protect Lord Nightingale!"

## Chapter 180 - 169: Black Technology, the Power of the Magnetic Pile

'My Lady?' A thought stirred in Gao Neng's mind.

Just as he'd thought, his guess was correct.

Ye Ying was the core of this group of aliens, a resurrected Dark Night Elf. The only strange thing was, why wasn't her butt as firm as it used to be?

Of course, that wasn't the main question on his mind right now.

He was rapidly calculating the power balance between the two sides. If he wasn't mistaken, the old man he'd killed was the weakest of the group.

Besides him, there was the man and woman living on the second floor.

The strongest was the middle-aged man on the fifth floor.

Tallying it up, he was starting to understand the layout of this small building. The weak were on the lower floors, the strong were on the upper floors, and the core was in the middle.

So, the biggest variable was the other two women living on the fifth floor.

What was their strength?

'Middle-tier?'

'Or were they just there to sleep with him?'

If they were just there to sleep with him, then the two women were probably just the middle-aged man's accessories, and their strength would be average. But if not, he might have to face three middle-tier opponents.

BANG!

The window shattered.

Gao Neng finally re-entered Ye Ying's room.

...

「Eastern Capital Military Academy.」

Fang Tangtang's expression was a little grim.

She had guessed that Gao Neng had snuck off behind her back to his workshop to build something.

But what was the reality?

According to their shared phone location, she discovered that Gao Neng hadn't gone to any workshop at all. Not only that, he had been stopped at an unfamiliar location for several minutes.

'Could he be cheating?!' Fang Tangtang remembered that Gao Neng had left with a woman. Although she hadn't gotten a clear look at the woman's face, she was sure it was a woman.

That busty chest...

That was all the proof she needed!

'That guy actually dares to cheat on Sister Ning'Er behind her back? How could I, Death God Fang Tangtang, Sister Ning'Er's loyal confidante, possibly tolerate such a thing?'

'I have to call and tell Sister Ning'Er!'

'No, wait. What if he's already finished by the time Sister Ning'Er gets there, and he denies it? I have to go catch him in the act!'

'Once I, Death God Fang Tangtang, have the evidence of his crime in my hands, won't Gao Neng have to do whatever I say? I'll make him build me another Number 5 Electromagnetic Cannon!'

'Hahaha, I, Death God Fang Tangtang, am an absolute genius!' As Fang Tangtang thought of this, a brilliant smile spread across her face.

...

「Inside the five-story building.」

After bursting into Ye Ying's room, Gao Neng immediately saw a figure standing at the window with her back to him.

Ye Ying hadn't fled.

She just gazed quietly out the window, her black nightgown, which she had changed into after bathing, fluttering in the night breeze from the broken window, revealing glimpses of the fair, bare skin underneath.

"Didn't we agree to be friends?" Ye Ying turned around, a hint of resentment in her eyes, her long hair draped over her shoulders. "Besides, didn't you already choose to leave? Why did you come back?"

BOOM!

As Ye Ying spoke, the floor cracked open.

The middle-aged man covered in crimson scales had just burst straight through the floors from the first story to the third.

"Lady Nightingale, you go first!" The middle-aged man stood between Gao Neng and Ye Ying, his eyes glowing with a faint red light.

BANG!

BANG!

...

Then came several more thuds.

Outside the window and the door, five aliens surrounded them once more.

Inside the small room, Gao Neng and Ye Ying stared at each other.

The difference was, Gao Neng was completely surrounded. Except for the middle-aged man, the other five aliens attacked Gao Neng the moment they appeared.

"I offered my heart to the moon, yet the moon shines upon the gutter. Alas..." Ye Ying sighed softly again, then tightened her nightgown.

BOOM!

Gao Neng cleaved the first man charging at him in two with his blade.

At the same time, he took a step to the right, which put him right next to the two women who lived with the middle-aged man on the fifth floor.

The two women attacked from his left and right without hesitation.

One woman used a short blade.

The other used her long legs.

One from the left, one from the right.

Gao Neng didn't dodge.

THUD!

THUD!

With two soft thuds, he was sent flying into the wall.

The worst-case scenario had come to pass...

These two women weren't just here to sleep with him; like the middle-aged man, they were also middle-tier.

Three aliens at Tier Four or above, and another three at Tier Three Late Stage?!

'This wave... is a super jackpot!'

"Listening to the spring rain in a small tower overnight, apricot blossoms sold in a deep alley come morning." Gao Neng looked up, wiped the trace of blood from the

corner of his mouth with his hand, then held his large machete horizontally across his chest.

"I didn't expect you to be a rare, romantic scholar. Is this your answer to me?" Ye Ying leaned against the windowsill, nodding thoughtfully.

"As if you understand a word of it," Gao Neng said with disdain. Then, he glanced out the window. "Fang Tangtang, if I die today, I'll come back to haunt you!"

**BANG!**

The already ruined door was suddenly kicked off its hinges from the outside.

Then, an arrogant young woman strode in from the doorway. Her clear eyes scanned the men and women standing in the room before finally landing on Gao Neng.

"Gao Neng, you have the nerve to say you won't let me go? You think I, Death God Fang Tangtang, would let you go? Getting caught in an Immortal Leap while you were cheating... you totally deserve it!"

The young woman carried a golden Scythe of Death on her shoulder, her eyes full of pride. "Go on, how much money are you trying to extort from him? I, Death God Fang Tangtang, will pay it for him!"

...

The tense, explosive atmosphere suddenly fell silent.

Even the middle-aged man and Ye Ying were stunned for a moment.

As for Gao Neng, he watched the lone Fang Tangtang, the corner of his mouth twitching uncontrollably.

'So, what in the world is with this girl's thought process?'

'She actually came here all by herself!'

'What is she planning to do?'

'Don't tell me she really came to catch me cheating?'

"Kill them," Ye Ying ordered.

The two aliens standing by the door snapped back to their senses and attacked Fang Tangtang from both sides at lightning speed.

"Oh? You two think you can fight me, Death God Fang Tangtang? Come on, then... let me show you Death God Fang Tangtang's Thirteen-Consecutive Slash!"

"Ouch! Are the thugs for Immortal Leaps this strong nowadays?"

"Whoa... Middle-tier!"

"Wait, how much do you want? I, Death God Fang Tangtang, have tons of money! Don't you believe me? My grandpa is the chairman of the Celestial King Group!"

BOOM!

Fang Tangtang was kicked, sending her flying to Gao Neng's side.

Gao Neng's face darkened, completely speechless.

'This girl's train of thought is truly terrifying...'

"Gao Neng, what's going on? Weren't you caught in an Immortal Leap?" Fang Tangtang clutched her stomach, her arrogant expression gone, replaced by one of frustration.

'Why?!'

'You're the one caught in an Immortal Leap, why are they hitting me?'

"Are you blind? Can't you see that guy wearing snakeskin? These are all alien spies! Didn't you see the location I sent you?" Gao Neng really wanted to strangle Fang Tangtang.

"I saw it, that's why I came!"

"Then why did you come alone? I won't even mention anyone else, but at the very least, you should have called Kong Kun and Feng Qingqing, right?" Gao Neng roared.

"Wait, what did you just say? These are all alien spies?"

"You're only just realizing that now?"

"Wow, then we're gonna be rich! Do you know how many Merit Points you get for successfully discovering one spy? 300 Merit Points, can you believe it! We found a whole nest this time! That's like taking down one of their strongholds. That's at least three or four thousand Merit Points!" Fang Tangtang was so excited she was about to start dancing.

"That many?" Gao Neng was also a little surprised to hear this.

According to the Merit Point exchange rate, 1,000 Merit Points was worth three or four million Alliance Coins. Three or four thousand Merit Points would be close to twenty million Alliance Coins!

'A huge windfall.'

"Of course! Spies are really hard to catch. They usually never expose themselves unless they're forced to. Oh, right... how did you find them? Oh, I know... you had an affair with an alien, and she decided to silence you because you were bad in bed, right?"

BOOM!

Fang Tangtang hadn't even finished her sentence before she was punched so hard she stuck to the wall.

Gao Neng didn't block the blow for her.

'How dare you say I'm bad in bed?'

'Have you even tried it?!'

"Go, Gao Neng, remember to leave them alive! The woman who hit me just now was a middle-tier, remember that! You take the middle-tiers, I'll handle the rest!" Fang Tangtang didn't seem to mind much. She quickly peeled herself off the wall and began to swing her Scythe of Death again.

"It's not one middle-tier, it's three! Are you sure the two of us can beat them?" Gao Neng was utterly speechless. He really didn't know if Fang Tangtang was actually blind. 'Don't you see the snakeskin man standing right in front of us?'

He had just finished speaking when...

Fang Tangtang was once again punched into the wall by another Middle-tier Woman.

"Wow, three middle-tiers?! I actually didn't notice before. We've really struck it rich now! A middle-tier spy is worth at least 600 Merit Points! You really did stumble into a spy nest this time. But it's okay, even though they're strong, I, Death God Fang Tangtang, am rich! Gao Neng, hurry up and eat this!" Fang Tangtang climbed out of the wall again, her face growing even more excited.

"What is it?"

"A Seed Burst Pill! It's super powerful! Eating one can boost your strength by a huge margin. It's black tech from my Celestial King Group. The market price is 20 million Alliance Coins per pill. Really, I'm not lying, that's the real market price. Remember, you ate one of my Seed Burst Pills, so we'll split the Merit Points seventy-thirty later!"

"In your dreams! You'll get twenty percent at most!" Gao Neng snatched the so-called Seed Burst Pill that Fang Tangtang shoved at him and, without a second thought, swallowed it directly.

"What do you mean, twenty percent?! I said you get thirty, I get seventy!" As Fang Tangtang spoke, she quickly swallowed a Seed Burst Pill herself.

"Not good, that's the power of the Spring of Life!!!" When the snakeskinned middle-aged man saw Gao Neng and Fang Tangtang swallow the Seed Burst Pills, his eyes suddenly went wide.

"The Spring of Life? Isn't it a Seed Burst Pill?" As Gao Neng expressed his surprise, he suddenly felt an immense, almost terrifying power surge within his body.

That power was like a ball of fire, setting all the blood in his body ablaze.

An extremely strange, yet extremely familiar sensation washed over him.

VMMMM!

Gao Neng felt the world around him become clear once again.

'What's going on?!'

'Why... can I feel the power of the Magnetic Stack?!'

'This Seed Burst Pill...'

'It's actually related to the Magnetic Stack?!'