

I CAN CONTROL RESOURCES

Chapter 41: Don't Go, Fight Until Dawn

"It has a high-tech function like this? Then what are we waiting for? Let's immediately..." Gao Neng was about to say "recycle," but on second thought, something felt off. The crappy system wasn't giving him a hard time? It even unlocked a hidden function without requiring a mission?

'A hidden function!'

'How could it possibly unlock without a mission?'

Gao Neng decided that no matter what, it was better to be safe than sorry.

"Can I get an appraisal on this ore before I make a choice?"

"Can do. Appraisal Value: Magnetic Crystal Ore (Color: Purple, Quality: Intermediate). Market Value: 356,981 Alliance Coins. System Buyback Price: 350,000. Do you wish to proceed with the buyback? If you choose to sell now, you'll also receive a first-time seller's bonus pack: a super dividend of a 5% price increase."

"350,000?!" Gao Neng felt he'd hit the jackpot. 'And it'll go up by another 5%? Why is this crappy system being so nice all of a sudden?'

'It's totally trying to bait me!'

'There's still time for the 100,000 Alliance Coin mission.'

'I'll ignore it for now.'

'I'll wait and see!'

"Hey, brat, what are you staring at? Hand over the ore, you hear me?" Seeing Gao Neng remain silent, a flicker of anger crossed Brother Dan's face.

"You got it, Brother Dan!" Gao Neng nodded and walked up to Brother Dan, shovel in hand. He reached one hand into his coat as if to grab the ore, while his other hand decisively swung the shovel.

THWACK!

Before Brother Dan could even react, he was sent flying by the shovel.

The surrounding workers froze for a moment, unsure of what Gao Neng was doing.

Taking advantage of their momentary confusion, Gao Neng turned and bolted. 'Trade an ore worth 350,000 Alliance Coins for 1,000? He wasn't an idiot!'

"Damn it, the kid's stealing the ore!" Brother Kai froze for a second when he saw Brother Dan get taken out by the shovel, but he reacted quickly, slamming the alarm without a moment's hesitation.

BLARE!

BLARE... BLARE...

The alarm sounded.

"Someone's stealing the ore! Stop him! Don't let him get away! Whoever recovers the ore gets the bonus!" Brother Kai yelled, immediately leaping up to cut Gao Neng off from the side.

The other workers snapped out of it and charged toward Gao Neng, hurling their shovels and pickaxes to block his escape.

In an instant, shovels and pickaxes flew through the air!

"Quick, stop him!"

"Get him!"

"Get the ore from him and the bonus is ours!"

The workers yelled.

Gao Neng didn't hold back. He dodged left and right, swinging his shovel as he ran. It was just as the ancient saying goes: 'Shovel swift as wind, forever by my side.' Anyone who dared approach got a shovel to the face for their trouble.

THWACK!

THWACK!

...

In just the first few moments, three workers were smacked to the ground by his shovel.

'This kid's incredible! How is he so strong? Could he be a spy from another faction?!' Brother Kai realized something was wrong. This Gao Neng was clearly no pushover. His shovel swings were fast and accurate, but the main thing was that nearly everyone he hit was sent flying.

Just as he was thinking this, Gao Neng appeared before him.

"Think you can get away from me? I'm telling you, not a chance!"

THWACK!

The words had barely left Brother Kai's mouth when the shovel connected with his face. He collapsed to the ground, bubbles frothing at his lips.

The other workers were instantly dumbfounded.

Brother Kai was one of Wang Ju's "legit enforcers," yet he'd been knocked unconscious with a single shovel strike. 'Who the hell is this kid? To be this powerful... it's like he's a god.'

To be honest, even Gao Neng hadn't expected to be this strong.

'Looks like after breaking through the first human limit, I'm not a normal person anymore. These guards and workers are no match for me at all.'

"Come on! Let's see if you can dodge faster than my shovel can swing!" Gao Neng roared, his confidence on full display. With another swing, one more worker hit the dirt.

'This feels way too good!'

Gao Neng had been feeling pretty frustrated these past two days. He couldn't beat Shen Ning'Er, but dealing with these normal guys? It was a piece of cake.

...

The other workers immediately stopped.

'He's so strong!'

'We're no match for him at all!'

Gao Neng ignored them. Another swing of the shovel!

Another one went down!

Gao Neng felt he was ridiculously strong.

BOOM!

Just then, a streak of black light shot in from the distance.

CRACK!

The ground split open.

Embedded in the cracked ground was a pitch-black iron spear, its surface smooth and gleaming. It faintly exuded the unique aura of Iron Energy.

'Yep, running into an Energy Warrior means it's time to run!' Gao Neng calmly glanced at the iron spear before him. Without even looking back, he shot off toward the entrance of the drainage pipe.

Seeing Gao Neng forced into a retreat, two more workers decided to take advantage of the chaos.

At the same time, another streak of black light shot in from the distance.

SWOOSH! The sound of it slicing through the air rang out.

Gao Neng still didn't look back. After leaving the ore pile, his Spiritual Power had been unleashed once more. It was like he had a pair of eyes in the back of his head, pinpointing the spear's trajectory.

He tilted his head.

As he successfully dodged the spear, the two workers reached his sides.

"Gale Dance, for a youthful spin!" Tapping one foot on the ground, Gao Neng spun his body, and his whistling shovel once again connected with the two workers' faces.

THWACK!

THWACK!

The two workers collapsed without so much as a grunt, bubbles frothing at their lips.

"He predicted my spear's trajectory? Seems you're an expert. But you're not getting away!" an iron-cold voice called from behind him. At the same time, a hook-nosed man in black clothes came rushing over at high speed.

"Of course I am!" Gao Neng nodded earnestly. But he didn't let it go to his head. Only an idiot would think that taking down a few normal guys meant he could go head-to-head with an Energy Warrior.

The ten-odd meters wasn't a long distance. After a final sprint, the entrance to the drainage pipe was right before his eyes. He dove headfirst, successfully plunging inside.

He didn't plan on stopping. The man behind him was in hot pursuit, and right now, the only thing he could do was grab Shen Ning'Er and run.

Except...

'Where did Shen Ning'Er go?'

Gao Neng looked over to where he had tied up Shen Ning'Er, only to find the spot empty.

'Huh? Something's not right... Oh, no!' Gao Neng froze for a second before it dawned on him. He'd remembered to hit the two unconscious guards again to make sure they stayed down, but he seemed to have forgotten to do the same for Shen Ning'Er in the drainage pipe.

'Shen Ning'Er was awake!'

'Could this get any more exciting?'

"You're back? How about we play a little game? For example... you can guess who will kill you first. Me... or him?" Just then, Shen Ning'Er's voice sounded from behind Gao Neng.

Then, a blade was pressed against his neck.

It was a little cold.

And a little icy.

"..." Gao Neng didn't dare move. He was terrified that if he so much as twitched, Shen Ning'Er's hand might slip. 'Man dies for wealth as a bird dies for food,' he thought grimly.

So, that brought up a question.

'Would it be more satisfying to die by Shen Ning'Er's hand, or would it be quicker to die by the hook-nosed guy's hand?'

[Ding! Host is in mortal danger. Activate life-saving mission?] Just then, the system's mechanical voice chimed in at the perfect moment.

"I..." The words 'can go activate my ass' died on Gao Neng's lips. He remembered this crappy system's usual bullshit. The last time he'd accepted a mission, it had turned into a complete nightmare.

'Again?'

'Do you think I'm an idiot?'

[Activate? Friendly reminder: If you don't, you will most certainly die!] the mechanical voice chirped.

"Are you sure it's a life-saving mission this time?" Gao Neng was a strong-willed person, but he figured that no matter how crappy the system was, it wouldn't actually try to get him killed, right?

[Confirmed!] the system replied.

"Then... fine. Activate it," Gao Neng said through gritted teeth.

[Ding! Congratulations, Host, for successfully activating the life-saving mission: "Don't Leave, Fight Till Dawn!"]

[Mission Description: A great treasure lies before you! You would never stoop to running away, because a true man never fears death! Stand up bravely, spill your youthful passion and hot blood, and use your power to show everyone that you are the strongest Warrior! No one can defeat you!]

[Completion Condition: Before 9:00 AM, single-handedly eliminate the wicked, punish the evil, and destroy the entire underground factory. (Remember: single-handedly.)]

[Failure Penalty: Death.]

Chapter 42: Difficulty Selection: Excellent

"..."

At the age of eight, Gao Neng kicked a stray dog across the street. He thought he could rule the streets from then on. To this day, he still remembered how bright the sun was and how pitifully that stray had yelped.

But who's to say a stray dog doesn't have an owner?

So, Gao Neng was wrong, and he ended up paying quite a bit of money.

But no matter what, the memory was a fond one...

「Time flew by.」

In the blink of an eye, Gao Neng was eighteen.

That year, he unexpectedly acquired a system. Moreover, this system very earnestly told him that as long as he completed its missions, he would obtain the strongest abilities.

Gao Neng believed it. And after many twists and turns, he successfully underwent a "baptism." He figured this time, he'd finally be able to reign supreme, right?

But why...

...was this system such a dud?

Gao Neng fell into deep thought.

'Am I not handsome enough?'

No!

His looks were perfect.

Having figured this out, Gao Neng became surprisingly calm. He didn't want to curse anyone out. He was a man of culture. He felt his current mindset was excellent, like an Immortal who had achieved enlightenment and ascended. He was one with fate, with nature, with his heart; unhurried, unperturbed, without sorrow, without joy; silent, tranquil, and at peace with whatever came his way.

"I choose Normal difficulty. Please give me two hints, thank you!" Gao Neng made his choice immediately, not even waiting for the system to ask.

"Apologies. The host cannot select a Normal difficulty mission at this time," a mechanical voice replied.

"???" Gao Neng was speechless.

"System rule: Missions of the same difficulty cannot be undertaken simultaneously. An uncompleted Normal difficulty mission has been detected on the host. Therefore, you may only choose Excellent or Nightmare."

"I..." Gao Neng felt his self-control was already quite high, but this time, he was really struggling to hold it in.

He inhaled!

He inhaled again!

"BOOM!"

Just then, the entrance exploded with a loud bang.

Rubble flew everywhere.

Gao Neng was right at the edge of the entrance. Amidst the falling rubble, at least three fist-sized rocks smashed into him.

"Huh? So you have an accomplice?" The hook-nosed man's fists were covered in iron armor. After blasting open the drainage pipe entrance with a single punch, his gaze fell upon Shen Ning'Er and Gao Neng. Then, he saw the knife pressed against Gao Neng's neck. "Are you two trying to put on... a melodrama?"

"Melodrama my ass!" Gao Neng was fuming. He ignored the knife at his neck and swung the iron shovel right at the hook-nosed man's face.

"A measly iron shovel, how could it possibly hurt m—"

"BAM!"

A loud crack echoed.

The iron shovel slammed into the hook-nosed man's face.

The hook-nosed man was stunned.

Gao Neng was also taken aback for a moment.

'It actually hit?!'

'Weren't Energy Warriors supposed to be super badass?'

Gao Neng didn't get it, but he soon noticed a patch of black iron energy at the hook-nosed man's neck, just about to move up to block the attack.

But for some reason, the iron energy was a step too slow.

"You... you controlled my iron energy! How... how is this possi—" Panic filled the hook-nosed man's eyes, but he couldn't finish his sentence.

Because another shovel strike smashed into his face.

"BAM!"

The hook-nosed man was sent flying backward.

"Didn't your mom ever teach you not to talk during a fight?!" Gao Neng couldn't care less. He needed a place to vent his anger, so before the hook-nosed man could finish, he retracted the shovel and swung it again, clean and crisp.

"CRASH!"

The hook-nosed man crashed into two guards that Gao Neng had been finishing off, his face ashen. His distinctive hooked nose had been flattened by the shovel.

'Kick 'em while they're down!'

Gao Neng charged forward again, swinging the shovel wildly.

"BAM! BAM! BAM!"

A bloody mess ensued.

"..."

A few workers in the distance were completely dumbfounded.

Even though they were ordinary people, they could tell that this hook-nosed man was an Energy Warrior. And he was just... defeated by a shovel?

"BEEP!"

"BEEP BEEP..."

The underground factory's alarms began to blare.

Another squad of figures appeared in the distance. There were at least ten of them, each dressed in strange outfits that set them apart from the factory workers.

More importantly, another group followed behind this squad.

The size of that group was even more ridiculous. A quick glance revealed a sea of black, at least two hundred people, all wearing matching black suits.

'Does this factory... even have this many people?' Gao Neng knew his few shovel smacks couldn't kill the hook-nosed man; he had just caught him off guard.

So, upon seeing reinforcements arrive, he decisively retreated, shovel in hand.

"Looks like this is Wang Ju's lair. The numbers... aren't that high," Shen Ning'Er said, either to herself or in response to Gao Neng.

"Not high?" Gao Neng took another serious look. He saw that behind the two hundred men, there seemed to be a dozen more figures. "You call this 'not high'?"

"Mm, you performed well just now. I've considered it, and I'll let you live until dawn." Shen Ning'Er nodded. This time, it was certain she was speaking to Gao Neng.

"Live until dawn?" Gao Neng felt like he'd heard that somewhere before. He wanted to just scoff, but he held it in. "Um... they have us outnumbered. Shouldn't you be calling for backup? For example, call up those Lieutenant subordinates of yours?"

"I tried. The signal's jammed. The call won't go through."

"It won't go through? Doesn't the Military Department have any special methods? I remember reading about it in books. Satellite positioning, and then... something something?"

"Satellite positioning?" Shen Ning'Er actually gave Gao Neng a serious look this time. "Did those books you read also mention that the number of satellites decreased after the Great Cataclysm, and that satellite resources can only be used under very special circumstances?"

"..." Gao Neng was speechless.

"Enough talk. Go! However, I don't trust you to watch my back just yet. I'll give you two choices: one, you charge in first yourself, or two, I kick you in." Shen Ning'Er had no intention of wasting any more words on Gao Neng.

'I go first?' Gao Neng's mind raced.

He knew Shen Ning'Er wasn't joking. If he didn't go fight now, she would probably kick him straight into the fray.

'In that case...'

'...there's nothing for it but to play dead.'

"Ah! I'm so scared I've fainted!" Gao Neng's eyes rolled back in his head, and he fell stiffly to the ground. This wasn't cowardice; it was a strategic preservation of strength.

Most importantly, he hadn't even looked at the mission hints yet!

'It's not too late to go after I read the hints!'

"???" Even Shen Ning'Er, who considered herself to have a 99-point IQ, was momentarily stunned when she saw Gao Neng hit the floor.

And what's more, she saw the "fainted" Gao Neng conveniently pull out a dozen or so high-dimensional capsules and place them all neatly at her feet.

"Are you two done with your bullshit? I'll kill you first!" Just then, the hook-nosed man, his face a bloody pulp from Gao Neng's shovel, scrambled up furiously.

However, the hook-nosed man came fast, but he left even faster. The moment he lunged in front of Gao Neng, he was already taking off.

He was truly flying!

Not just knocked into the air!

Gao Neng only saw Shen Ning'Er dip into a slight crouch, then her right leg shot up in a flying kick.

The hook-nosed man shot straight toward the ceiling.

"BOOM!"

He stuck to it quite snugly.

"Noisy," Shen Ning'Er snorted. She stood on one leg, the other pointing straight up, holding a perfect standing split.

'Her flexibility is amazing! Just one small regret... the psycho-ward uniform is pants, not a skirt.' Gao Neng was a gentleman. He just thought it was a pity this pose wasn't done in a skirt. "Alright, I choose Excellent difficulty. Are you ever going to give me the hints, you dud of a system? Are you waiting for me to die?"

"Ding! The host has once again shamelessly chosen Excellent difficulty."

(Go go go, it's the final week! Let the recommendation tickets explode! Go go go go go!)

Chapter 43: A Scene Too Beautiful

"BEEP. The system will provide one hint. Upon completing the Excellent-difficulty mission, the Host will receive a Beginner-Level Treasure Chest, guaranteed. Additionally, there is a 30% chance of being awarded a Middle-Level Treasure Chest."

Mission Hint:

1. The Host possesses extremely powerful potential. You now need to find a 'medium.' As long as you find the 'medium,' you will become the Super-Duper Wrecking King.

(That's it!)

"That's it? What do you mean, that's it...? I... I'll super-duper you, you moron! What medium?! What the hell is a medium?! Tell me what it is, dammit!" Gao Neng was genuinely dumbfounded this time.

'A freaking Super-Duper Wrecking King? Do you have any social conscience at all? Even a little? Don't you know that destroying property is against the law?!'

He was familiar with the system's usual bullshit.

But for it to be this full of shit...

The stench must carry for miles downwind.

'What the hell kind of hint is this? You might as well just tell me, "Find a Divine Artifact and you can slaughter everyone." But where the hell am I supposed to find a Divine Artifact?!

"BEEP. Because the Host chose Excellent difficulty, the system can only provide one hint. Bye-bye!"

"..." Gao Neng was speechless. He didn't want to say a thing; he just wanted to get up and fight. But in an instant, the cruel reality of his situation hit him.

The first ten people who rushed over...

They weren't ordinary people; they were all Energy Warriors.

That's right. Ten Energy Warriors, every last one of them.

Moreover, after seeing the hook-nosed man's miserable state, these people didn't waste words. They had no intention of fighting one-on-one, nor did they have the classic TV villain decency to monologue for half an hour before attacking. They went straight for their deadliest moves.

In an instant, all Gao Neng could see was a sky-blotting wave of iron, copper, and aluminum flying at him.

What a lovely picture.

'Can I even last a second if I charge in now?' Gao Neng rolled over and scrambled up from the ground. Playing dead was no longer an option. He wasn't that kind of person.

After all, with so many iron spears and pikes, copper sabers and aluminum swords flying around...

It'd be a shame to get accidentally injured, right?

'I'm not afraid to charge in, I just haven't found the medium yet. The moment I find it, I'll be the legendary Super-Duper Wrecking King!' Gao Neng was absolutely certain of this.

So, for now, he had to lay low and stay alive.

As long as you're alive, anything is possible!

If you're dead, you've got jack squat.

Having figured this out, Gao Neng decisively hid behind Shen Ning'Er. 'Didn't Shen Ning'Er just say she couldn't trust him to watch her back? Well, he was determined to be the man who stood right behind her.'

This, too, was a kind of masculine perseverance.

"Huh? Done playing dead? To be honest, your performance just now? Giving you a one out of ten would be generous," Shen Ning'Er said. She seemed to have forgotten her earlier comment, allowing Gao Neng to stay behind her. As she spoke, she decisively crushed the high-dimensional capsule in her hand.

"ROAR!"

The pure gold Furious Giant Ape appeared once again.

It shone with a brilliant golden light.

Its fur stood on end.

However, because the underground factory's ceiling wasn't high enough, this time the Furious Giant Ape was only a little over three meters tall. Even so, it still stood like a tower before Shen Ning'Er and Gao Neng.

"ROAR ROAR!" The Furious Giant Ape lived up to its name. Its massive fists swung out, smashing the incoming scrap metal to pieces in a single blow. Its sheer power was breathtaking.

At the same time, Shen Ning'Er was once again clad in a golden, feathered cloak. Layer upon layer of feathers covered her body and shrouded her face.

One against ten!

Shen Ning'Er was perfectly calm, even enough to chat with Gao Neng, who was still standing behind her.

"Are you planning to hide behind me the whole time?"

"I can't hide forever, but... uh... could you maybe give me a suit of golden armor too?" 'Since we're allies,' Gao Neng thought, 'it's only right that we help each other out.'

"You want to charge in and fight?" Shen Ning'Er asked without turning around.

"When it's time to act, I'll act. After all, I'm a man with backbone. Besides, I'm pretty good with my shovel, as you just saw," Gao Neng nodded, a righteous expression on his face.

"Mm, I can give you one, but on one condition: you have to tell me how you knew there was a magnetic pile here," Shen Ning'Er continued.

"Magnetic pile?" 'I thought for sure she'd ask about the hotel,' Gao Neng thought. 'I didn't expect her to bring up the magnetic pile first.'

Wait!

'Something's not right.'

'How does Shen Ning'Er know about the magnetic pile?'

'I haven't said a word about any magnetic pile this whole time. And logically speaking, Shen Ning'Er should have been unconscious inside that golden sphere...'

'Holy crap!'

"When you were in the golden sphere... don't tell me you were... awake?" Gao Neng felt a chill run straight through him. 'If Shen Ning'Er was really conscious then, doesn't that mean she knows everything I did?'

"Hmph, never mind that. Just answer my question." A faint blush inexplicably appeared on Shen Ning'er's face, but it vanished in an instant.

"Alright, well, what if I said... that day, after I checked out of the hotel, I accidentally picked up a storage device at the entrance. I thought it was full of study materials, but when I got home and looked, I found it had some diagrams, and on the diagrams was a label for the magnetic pile. I wonder if you'd believe me?"

"The storage device... it was from Tang De's son, right?"

"I guess so? I just happened to be downstairs at that moment, and the storage device just happened to fall on my head. What a coincidence, huh?" Gao Neng said, speaking frankly.

"Mm, I understand." Shen Ning'Er nodded. Then, with a flick of her finger, a ball of golden liquid energy flew toward Gao Neng.

Gao Neng instinctively wanted to dodge.

But after a moment's thought, he stood his ground.

The golden liquid quickly enveloped his body, then transformed into a suit of resplendent golden armor. It was a familiar feeling, identical to the armor Shen Ning'Er had used to save him.

Gao Neng clenched his fist and immediately felt... that his strength was exactly the same.

"You are not an Energy Warrior yet, so you can't control energy. This armor can only serve a protective function; it cannot increase your strength." After saying this, Shen Ning'Er fell silent and focused on the fight.

The ten opposing Energy Warriors had already charged in, flanking them from both sides. They dodged the Furious Giant Ape and launched a direct assault on Shen Ning'Er and Gao Neng.

"Ah San, Qi Niao, Li Cha, you three hold back the golden ape. Five Coppers, you deal with the kid in the back. The rest of you, with me, take care of this broad!"

"Broad? Boss, this woman can manifest golden energy. She seems to be that Alliance Major. It's a miracle she wasn't killed in the blast and managed to get here!"

"What kind of bullshit is that? Of course I know!"

"Boss, can we leave her alive?"

"Alive?! If you can even survive an encounter with this broad, then you can come back and talk to me!" As the bald man spoke, he lunged forward, appearing before Shen Ning'Er in a flash.

He threw a punch.

Aimed straight for Shen Ning'Er's face.

Shen Ning'Er wasted no words, meeting his fist with her own.

"BOOM!"

The two fists collided.

Gao Neng faintly saw a sneer form on the bald man's lips. Simultaneously, a layer of silvery-white metal materialized over his fist.

'Magnesium?'

"BZZZT!"

A flash of electricity sparked, and a piercing sound rang out.

'No, it's lithium!' The instant Gao Neng saw the spark, a line of text flashed through his mind: *Metallic lithium. Can store an electrical charge.*

"Let's see if that gold body of yours can handle a little electricity!" As the light flared, the sneer on the bald man's lips twisted into a cruel grin.

(Updating this early to climb the rankings and ask for recommendation votes! You're not going to leave me hanging, are you?! Right? We gotta have mutual trust, my brothers and sisters!)

Chapter 44: Flash, Flash, and Flash Again

'Shen Ning'Er is going to be electrocuted!'

The thought had just flashed through Gao Neng's mind when the bald man went flying. As he flew, a sharp cracking sound came from his fist.

"Agh! My fist..."

'It broke?' While hearing the bald man's cry of pain, Gao Neng noticed that Shen Ning'Er hadn't even been scratched.

More importantly, after sending the bald man flying with one punch, Shen Ning'Er didn't pause for a second. She immediately followed up with a whip kick that slammed into the face of a skinny man rushing her from the right.

In that instant, the skinny man's face contorted.

His eyes filled with terror.

Then, he was sent spiraling through the air before slamming headfirst into the factory wall. It looked like his injuries were anything but light.

'What's going on?!'

Gao Neng wasn't the only one who was baffled; the others were just as shocked.

They had all seen the sparks of electricity on the bald man's fist, yet Shen Ning'Er was completely unfazed, her movements not faltering in the slightest.

'Could it be... the bald man was using fake electricity?' Gao Neng's expression was strange. He'd heard of fake rice, fake oil, even fake cabbage... but fake electricity? Was that even a thing?

As he was thinking, he suddenly noticed that several copper wires had been wrapped around his feet at some point. Beside him stood a middle-aged man with bulging, fish-like eyes.

"..." Gao Neng was stunned. 'I've been ambushed!'

He tried to shake the copper wires off his feet, but it was too late.

"I'll fry you!" the man with the goldfish-like eyes shouted. With one hand, he connected the other end of the copper wires to the factory's power source. With his other hand, he gave Gao Neng a taunting wave.

In that moment, Gao Neng fully expected to scream and fall to the ground, twitching uncontrollably. But he quickly realized something was wrong. He felt absolutely nothing.

'No shock?'

'Why am I not getting shocked either?'

'No!'

'I *should* be getting shocked!'

Gao Neng's intelligence was as high as his name suggested, so he quickly began to shake. While trembling, he started making "Ahhh ahhh ahhh..." sounds and rolling his eyes back in his head.

"Hahaha, die!" Seeing Gao Neng's reaction, Goldfish Eyes didn't hold back. He lunged forward, closing the distance to Gao Neng in a single bound.

When he was two meters away from Gao Neng, Goldfish Eyes's hand reached behind his back and unexpectedly drew a black wooden sword.

He was thrilled!

Because even though it was a wooden sword, if he could pierce Gao Neng's throat, death was certain.

But the reality was...

Gao Neng's iron shovel was far faster than his wooden sword.

The instant Goldfish Eyes made his move, Gao Neng decisively swung his shovel. The shovel slammed right into Goldfish Eyes's face. You could say he anticipated the move perfectly.

SMACK!

Goldfish Eyes was sent flying by the shovel. His two bulging eyeballs were smacked so hard they seemed to sink back into his skull. As a bonus, he lost two front teeth.

THUD!

His head then hit a metal pole.

"Why aren't you afraid of electricity either?!" Goldfish Eyes collapsed to his knees, his face a mask of disbelief. He had clearly seen Gao Neng being electrocuted, so how could he still fight back?

"Yeah, why am I not afraid of electricity?" Gao Neng feigned curiosity.

"Pah! This armor you're wearing, is it really made of gold?"

"Are you... asking me?" Gao Neng spread his hands, brandished the shovel in his hand, and put on a bewildered expression.

"Duh, of course I'm asking you!" Goldfish Eyes roared.

"We're enemies, and you're asking me? Sorry, my mom told me not to play with idiots." Gao Neng sighed. 'Your IQ is already in the gutter, and now you want to drag mine down with you?'

'As if.'

In fact, the moment he felt no reaction to the electricity, Gao Neng had already figured out the reason.

According to the principle of electric field superposition, the electric field strength inside a conductor is the sum of the external field E_{ext} and the internal field E_{int} . When the total electric field strength inside the conductor is zero, the free electrons within it cease to move. This state, with no charge movement, is called electrostatic equilibrium.

It's just like how the protective suits worn by high-voltage line workers are made of metal wire. When they touch a high-voltage line, they create an equipotential surface. Not only do they not get electrocuted, but the suit actually protects the worker's body.

This is the principle of the Faraday cage!

If his guess was correct, this principle was applied in the design of the Golden Armor.

'Thinking about it that way...'

Gao Neng felt it made perfect sense.

Shen Ning'Er was an Alliance Major, so she must have been through countless battles. If she couldn't even solve a simple problem like metal conductivity, how could she possibly have survived until now?

Looking at the disbelief on Goldfish Eyes's face and recalling the terror on the bald man's...

Gao Neng could only think one thing: 'Ah... the tragedy of a failed student!'

"You little brat, you dare say I'm stupid?!" Goldfish Eyes froze for a moment, then, as if his sore spot had been poked, he screamed, "AHHH!!! Even with that golden shell, I can still pierce you!"

Goldfish Eyes was absolutely furious.

He finally snapped!

With a wave of his hand, no fewer than six or seven sharp copper swords appeared. Each sword was only the size of a palm, looking just like throwing knives.

WHOOSH WHOOSH WHOOSH!

They were incredibly fast.

Gao Neng was genuinely startled.

He was wearing the Golden Armor, but he had no desire to be a human pincushion. The sheer impact force alone could seriously injure him.

In his panic, his only option was to run toward the Furious Golden Ape.

"ROAR!" A furious bellow.

A massive fist smashed all the copper swords to pieces.

"Thanks, Golden Ape!" Gao Neng said politely.

"If you're going to thank someone, thank me." After kicking away a Fatty who had gotten too close, Shen Ning'Er appeared in front of Gao Neng, her fists stained with blood.

"..." Gao Neng glanced around.

'Are they all taken care of?'

'That was fast!'

SWISH! A golden light shot out.

Goldfish Eyes's body flew into the air and was pinned directly to the wall.

"I killed ten. You?" Shen Ning'Er shot Gao Neng a provocative glance. With a flick of her finger, the golden light flew back into her hand, revealing itself to be a Golden Needle.

"What's ten? Just wait, I'll be able to kill a hundred!" Gao Neng firmly believed he wasn't weak; he was just missing a medium.

'But what is the medium?'

'Could it be... Shen Ning'Er?'

'In a way... Shen Ning'Er could be considered a medium, right? But that doesn't seem right. The system's completion condition is "by one's own power," which means I can't rely on others, can I?'

"Alright, your hundred have arrived. With a little extra thrown in. Two hundred, actually." Shen Ning'Er gave Gao Neng an encouraging look.

"..." Gao Neng tightened his grip on the shovel.

At that moment, more than two hundred men in identical black suits surrounded Shen Ning'Er and Gao Neng, their faces devoid of emotion.

"An Alliance Major?" A voice called out from the crowd. Then, an old man with a goatee stepped forward. "So young. A pity, but why did you come alone?"

"Wang Ju," Shen Ning'Er said, her expression calm.

"Correct!" Wang Ju nodded but said no more. Instead, he turned to a figure cloaked in black standing behind him. "This little broad is a handful. My men are no match for her. I've already lost thirteen people in one night. You know these are all the men I have. I doubt even throwing all of them at her would be enough. I wonder if you, my lord, would be willing to make a move?"

"One of the three great powers of the Forgotten Land, and you can't even deal with a single Major." The cloaked figure's tone was icy. They slowly raised their head, revealing a pair of eyes as clear as water, as if unstained by a single speck of dust. Those eyes held no emotion, no ripple of any kind.

'It's him! (or her!)' The moment Gao Neng saw those eyes, he confirmed the person's identity. It was the mysterious person from the secret room.

"What you say is true, my lord... but since this little broad has already found this place, you can't possibly let her go, can you? After all, the plan has already..."

"Silence!" the mysterious person cut Wang Ju off. Then, their eyes fixed on Shen Ning'Er. "An eighteen-year-old Alliance Major... Hmm, such an elite is a rare sight even in the Human Alliance. Alone? In that case, you can stay here permanently."

SWISH!

SWISH!

The moment the mysterious person finished speaking, two black shadows appeared in the field.

These two black shadows were extremely fast.

The ten Energy Warriors from before had to run, but these two black shadows seemed to appear without moving at all, materializing in a flash, as if teleporting.

Then, another flash...

Two more!

Another flash!

Two more!

Another flash...

...

Gao Neng lost count of how many times they flashed. He only knew that a total of twenty black shadows now stood before him, each one moving with ghostly speed.

'Is all this really necessary?'

'Really?!'

I Can Control Resources

"I'll hold them off. You can go." Shen Ning'Er's expression finally changed, her brow furrowing slightly. "After you leave, go tell Lieutenant Chen what happened here!"

As soon as Shen Ning'Er finished speaking, she made her move.

"ROAR!" The Furious Golden Ape let out a furious bellow. Its two fists swung relentlessly, but not at the twenty shadowy figures. Instead, it was clearing a path behind it for Gao Neng.

"I'm sorry, but I'm not the kind of person who abandons a comrade-in-arms!" Gao Neng's face was a mask of righteousness. He remained completely unmoved, showing no sign of leaving.

"You're not leaving?" The look in Shen Ning'Er's eyes as she glanced at Gao Neng changed once again.

"That's right, I'm not leaving! In fact, I'm going to fight alongside you!" Gao Neng said with certainty, though inwardly, he was miserable.

'Could I leave?'

He really did want to leave, but the problem was, he had accepted a "lifesaving" mission. The penalty for failing this mission was... death!

'Leave, and I'll die for sure.'

'Stay and fight, and maybe, just maybe, there's a sliver of hope.'

「Time: 7:00 a.m.」

There were still two hours until the mission's deadline.

"You want to fight alongside me? A pity... you're not an Energy Warrior..." Shen Ning'Er said no more. Since Gao Neng wasn't leaving, she paid him no further attention.

She crushed another high-dimensional capsule in her hand.

This time, what appeared wasn't an energy-materialized "monster," but a silver-white spear. It was as tall as two men, its shaft adorned with a spiral pattern. The tip featured two cold blood grooves; a single glance was enough to know it had drawn blood countless times.

'An Alloy Gun? I wonder what kind of alloy it is.' This was the first time Gao Neng had seen Shen Ning'Er use a weapon. It seemed the twenty shadowy figures before them were indeed putting some pressure on her.

"The Golden Ape will guard you until I die. But if I fall, you'll be on your own!"
Having said her piece, Shen Ning'Er moved.

SWISH!

She took a step, thrusting her spear toward one of the shadowy figures in front of her.

The shadowy figure raised a hand.

And caught the tip of the Alloy Gun in its grasp.

BUZZ!

The Alloy Gun let out a long hum.

The spear tip quivered.

It broke free.

And stabbed again!

The series of movements was fluid and seamless.

SQUELCH!

A bloody hole appeared in the shadowy figure's chest as crimson blood sprayed out.

"She's even stronger than I imagined," the mysterious person murmured, his gaze turning cold. "Don't meet her head-on. Switch to a war of attrition. Wear her down!"

"Yes, sir!" the shadowy figures immediately nodded. They began to keep their distance from Shen Ning'Er. No one tried to block her moves directly anymore; instead, they used their agility to launch sneak attacks from staggered positions.

Shen Ning'Er launched several more thrusts with her spear.

However, she only managed to wound one of the shadowy figures on the shoulder, failing to land another fatal blow.

「Time: 7:30 a.m.」

Shen Ning'Er had been fighting against the encirclement of shadowy figures for half an hour.

Her results were significant.

Four shadowy figures had been run through by the Alloy Gun and had fallen, leaving only sixteen in the field. As for Wang Ju's two hundred men, they had all scattered to the perimeter.

As for Gao Neng...

He had done only one thing for the past half an hour.

Stand completely still.

With the Golden Ape guarding him, and since the ape wasn't actively attacking, no one really bothered with him. All attention was focused on Shen Ning'Er.

That's right...

He was being ignored.

But this feeling of being ignored dealt a massive blow to his pride. He had become genuine dead weight. Not only was he not helping Shen Ning'Er, but he was also tying down the Furious Golden Ape she had materialized.

No matter how thick-skinned Gao Neng was, he couldn't stand this. This was no longer a matter of face; it was a matter of his manhood!

'I can't let this go on. I have to do something.'

Gao Neng's fists clenched tightly. But, just as Shen Ning'Er had said, he wasn't an Energy Warrior. In a battle of this level, what could he possibly do?

No!

'I can become an Energy Warrior!'

'Theoretically, as long as I break through the first human limit, I can become an Energy Warrior. Of course, if I can successfully break through the third human limit before choosing to become an Energy Warrior, my potential will be far greater.'

Gao Neng gritted his teeth.

'Should I give up my future potential and choose to break through now?'

'Or just stand by and watch Shen Ning'Er continue to wear herself out?'

"System, can I choose to break through and become an Energy Warrior right now?"

"Unable," came the mechanical voice.

"Why not? I remember last time, you could have helped me break through the first human limit. Why can't you help me become an Energy Warrior now?"

"Insufficient conditions."

"What conditions are insufficient?" Gao Neng's high school textbooks didn't contain much knowledge about breaking through to become an Energy Warrior. That kind of knowledge was part of the curriculum taught at the Military University.

The exception, of course, was for those who had an Energy Warrior in the family. However, Gao Neng's mother was an ordinary person, so she naturally couldn't have taught him these things.

Gao Neng had once asked Principal Li Qingping about it.

Li Qingping's answer had been simple: if he was lucky enough to get into a Military University, he would naturally learn about it. If he couldn't get in, there was no point in knowing. Besides, becoming an Energy Warrior required a lot of money.

At the time, Gao Neng had only remembered one thing: money.

'Since it costs money...'

'Then I'll just have to work my ass off to make money!'

"System, what if I give you the Magnetic Crystal Ore? With money, can I break through then?" Gao Neng asked, unwilling to give up.

"Unable," came the mechanical voice.

"Why is it still not possible?"

"Insufficient conditions."

"You useless system! I'm not asking for a mission hint, just a breakthrough hint! Is that not allowed either?" Gao Neng was furious.

"Not permitted."

"..." Gao Neng didn't ask again.

Knowledge is endless. Any man who becomes a king isn't simply spoon-fed his way to the top. He must think for himself, tapping into his own potential and wisdom.

'Insufficient conditions?'

'Li Qingping said money was a condition, but the key issue is that I don't have any... Besides, the system just said that even with money, I can't break through.'

'Then what could the conditions for a breakthrough be?'

'And there's another question!'

'The system can clearly tell me the conditions are insufficient, so why is it unwilling to hint at what those conditions are? In a way, that question shouldn't be outside its parameters.'

'Unless...'

'The answer to this question is related to the mission?!'

'Mission?'

'Breakthrough?'

'Medium?'

Gao Neng frantically tried to connect these words in his mind.

「Time: 8:00 a.m.」

Shen Ning'Er had now been fighting for over an hour.

In the last half hour, another four shadowy figures had fallen, matching her record from the first thirty minutes. The problem, however, was crucial: in the first half hour, she had faced twenty opponents. In the second, she had only faced sixteen.

Conclusion: Shen Ning'Er's combat effectiveness was declining.

...

「Time: 8:30 a.m.」

Only half an hour remained until the mission's deadline.

Shen Ning'Er had now been fighting continuously for an hour and a half.

This time, only three shadowy figures had fallen. The hand Shen Ning'Er used to grip her spear was trembling, her face was deathly pale, and her stamina was clearly at its limit.

"That's about enough. All of you, attack together!" the mysterious person ordered at that moment.

"Yes, sir!" The nine remaining shadowy figures attacked as one.

Shen Ning'Er bit her lip and dug the tip of her foot into the ground, creating a small pivot point. Then, she executed two rapid spins.

BOOM!

The Alloy Gun whirled through the air in two full circles.

At least three of the nine shadowy figures were severely wounded, while the other six also flew back with injuries.

But just then, the mysterious person vanished from his spot.

Shen Ning'Er had just barely regained her footing.

When the mysterious person in the black cloak appeared behind her.

A single palm strike!

Shen Ning'Er was sent flying.

BANG! She crashed right into Gao Neng.

What a coincidence, right?

Gao Neng, who had been deep in thought, was sent flying by the impact. Like a cannonball, he flew through the air, taking Shen Ning'Er with him. They both soared before finally crashing into a pile of ore.

PFFT! Shen Ning'Er spat out a mouthful of blood.

Gao Neng's face flushed crimson with shame and fury.

"The rest are yours. Kill the man, but leave the woman breathing." The mysterious person gave Gao Neng and Shen Ning'Er a single, indifferent glance, then turned to leave without a second look.

"You got it!" Wang Ju was immediately overjoyed.

Just then, Gao Neng looked at Shen Ning'Er in his arms, then at the black-robed men surging toward them. His Spiritual Power was once again suppressed by a mysterious force.

But a strange expression appeared on his face.

"I think I know... what the medium is!"

Chapter 46: How About an Air Compression Cannon?

For the past hour, Gao Neng had been racking his brain about the connection between his breakthrough and the mission, but he couldn't figure it out for the life of him. But now, as he sat his butt down on the pile of ore, it was as if everything suddenly made sense.

Hmm...

Well... it wasn't *that* kind of breakthrough!

Gao Neng didn't know how to achieve a breakthrough, but he did know that after the Great Cataclysm, a brand-new profession had appeared in the Human Alliance: the Energy Warrior.

And the origin of this profession was the magnetic pile!

The invention of high-dimensional capsules, the rise of Energy Warriors—all of it was inextricably linked to magnetic piles. Gao Neng hadn't figured out the

connection between his breakthrough and the mission, but he had grasped something far more important.

And that was energy control!

He didn't understand how to make a breakthrough, but living in this world, he at least knew the basics about Energy Warriors.

Energy Warriors used their own bodies to control energy.

For example, the Energy Extraction Technique involved extracting a type of energy from ores that humans could control. This energy was different from "matter" or "elements" in the conventional sense.

It was a form of energy the human body could control, and if one wanted to convert it into usable "matter," they needed the 'Energy Refining Technique'.

So, how was this energy controlled?

Magnetism!

This was the closest word Gao Neng's intellect could produce.

Take the simplest example: a magnet has positive and negative poles. Like poles repel, and opposite poles attract.

'The Energy Extraction Technique must be based on this principle.'

'It turns the human body into something like a "magnet," using the principles of polarity to forcibly extract controllable energy from the ore.'

Of course, this was all just what Gao Neng had pieced together himself; he couldn't be sure it was the official explanation.

But Gao Neng felt there was a high probability he was right, so he decided to test his theory. Before that, however, he needed to confirm one last thing with Shen Ning'Er.

"Gao Neng, are you still not leaving?" Shen Ning'Er's body was trembling violently, but she still forced herself to her feet, positioning herself in front of him.

And the Furious Golden Ape stood in front of Shen Ning'Er.

However, the Furious Golden Ape was different from before. Its body had shrunk by more than half, and the golden energy covering it was now dripping off like liquid.

"I said I wasn't leaving, and I meant it. But... can you hold on a little longer?" Gao Neng shook his head, then asked tentatively.

"I am a soldier. *Cough, cough*... Soldiers only die in battle; we don't cling shamefully to life..." Shen Ning'Er's lips trembled. She didn't seem to fully grasp what Gao Neng meant by "hold on a little longer," but she nodded anyway.

"Then let me ask you one more question. Do Energy Warriors control energy using the 'principle of magnetism'?" Gao Neng got to his feet and pressed on.

"The principle of magnetism? Hmm... You could put it that way." Shen Ning'Er nodded again.

"Good. Then you find the exact location of the magnetic pile, and I'll hold these guys off!" Gao Neng nodded, and before Shen Ning'Er could respond, he had already moved in front of her.

"You... you're going to hold them off?" Shen Ning'Er asked in disbelief.

"That's right! You find the magnetic pile, I'll do the blocking!"

"..."

"Trust me... I'm strong!" Gao Neng turned, flashed Shen Ning'Er a smile, and revealed a set of pearly-white teeth.

Shen Ning'Er said no more.

Because as soon as he finished speaking, Gao Neng actually charged forward, brandishing his iron shovel.

"ROAR!" The Furious Giant Ape let out a bellow. The golden energy on its body stopped dripping, coalescing once more into strands of golden fur.

"You damn brat, you're looking to die!"

"Kill the man. Leave the woman alive!"

"Hehe, now things are getting interesting!"

A group of men in black charged forward, one after another.

With his back against the Furious Giant Ape, Gao Neng swung his iron shovel wildly. These men weren't Energy Warriors, so when he'd said he would hold them off, he hadn't been entirely bluffing.

WHAM!

WHAM!

Two loud thuds rang out.

Two men in black went flying.

Gao Neng clutched the shovel, his face a mask of dominance. But, in a rather anticlimactic turn of events, the handle snapped, leaving him gripping just the shovel head.

"Open fire!"

BANG! BANG! BANG!

Gunshots rang out.

Gao Neng immediately ducked behind the Furious Giant Ape. Between that and the Golden Armor he was wearing, the handguns these men pulled out weren't immediately lethal.

After the volley of shots, the Furious Giant Ape's two massive fists smashed forward.

More than ten of the men in black were sent flying by the two punches.

"Useless trash! All of you, attack at once! You can't handle a single Alliance Major, and now you can't even take down some punk kid? What the hell do I feed you for!" Wang Ju roared in fury.

Sweat beaded on Gao Neng's forehead.

Although these men were just normal people, they had clearly received some training. They didn't pull their punches and were much stronger than the workers from before.

He glanced behind him.

At some point, Shen Ning'Er had disappeared. Where she had been standing moments before, there was now a hole about the size of a person.

'She ran off? No way... Yeah, she wouldn't do that.' Gao Neng was slightly startled. He had no idea how Shen Ning'Er had managed to dig a hole in the pile of ore, but he trusted that she wouldn't just abandon him.

'Time to go all out!'

In Gao Neng's hands, the broken shovel head became a makeshift blade.

He smacked anyone who came near!

Of course, he took his fair share of punches, kicks, and even a few blows from blades and axes. But thanks to the Golden Armor, his injuries weren't severe.

At this point, Wang Ju was clearly getting anxious.

He looked ready to step in himself, striding forward while brandishing two machetes.

Just then, Gao Neng suddenly heard a voice.

"I found it!"

'She really found it?!' Gao Neng was overjoyed. He then saw Shen Ning'Er climbing out of the hole in the ore, her face covered in black dust.

"Mhm, I destroyed this magnetic pile's 'Spatial Magnet Point.' This whole pile will disappear in less than an hour!" Shen Ning'Er nodded.

"Wha—?! The what Spatial... what Point?"

RUMBLE!

Just then, the entire ore pile began to vibrate violently. The ore cracked and splintered as fissures spread rapidly outward.

"Dammit, that bitch destroyed the magnetic pile!" Wang Ju cried out in alarm.

The mysterious person turned his head at that moment. In his eyes, which seemed untouched by a single speck of dust, a flash of icy coldness appeared.

"Useless," he uttered with a soft cry.

The mysterious person was suddenly in front of the Furious Golden Ape.

BOOM!

A single palm strike.

The Furious Golden Ape instantly disintegrated.

"Gao Neng, I never thought I'd end up dying with you. Thank you for buying me time." The corners of Shen Ning'Er's mouth curved up slightly, her eyes filled with gratitude as she looked at him.

'Buying time?' Gao Neng was completely dumbfounded. He had asked Shen Ning'Er to find the magnetic pile's location, not to destroy it!

'Oh, for crying out loud...'

'...Was there a problem with how I said it?'

'The magnetic pile!'

'That was supposed to be my medium!'

RUMBLE!

The entire pile of ore finally burst apart completely.

At that moment, Gao Neng finally saw the true nature of the magnetic pile. It was a distorted space that seemed to hold both light and shadow, yet at the same time, nothing at all.

It was a contradictory existence.

And yet, it was intensely real. It was a strange sensation, one that couldn't be put into words.

If he were forced to describe it, the magnetic pile was like a "civilized world" existing beyond what the naked eye could perceive—ethereal and illusory. But when it materialized before you, its presence was undeniable.

"Hold them back for me!" Gao Neng yelled, then sprinted toward the magnetic pile.

"Huh? I've already destroyed this magnetic pile; it's going to dissipate any moment. You won't be able to get any 'Magnetic Crystal Ore' out of it!" Shen Ning'Er was stunned for a moment. Then, sensing a cold presence flash behind her, she snarled, "Hmph! You think you can get past me? Not a chance!"

BOOM!

Two palms collided.

Shen Ning'Er stumbled back three steps, spitting out another mouthful of fresh blood.

The mysterious person, however, also fell back three steps. His feet slipped slightly, and he barely managed to regain his footing, leaving three deep footprints in the ground. A flicker of surprise crossed his eyes.

"To be so formidable even as a spent force... If the Human Alliance had a few more people like you, it probably wouldn't be in its current predicament..." The mysterious person nodded at Shen Ning'Er. "Hmm. A genius is about to fall. Consider this small magnetic pile a parting gift for your grave!"

"Screw your parting gift! How about you try and take a hit from my Air Compression Cannon!" Just then, Gao Neng's voice suddenly rang out.

"Hm?!" The mysterious person glanced over and saw Gao Neng standing right in the center of the magnetic pile's "distorted space."

"What's that kid trying to do?"

"Air Compression Cannon... Is he kidding?"

"Does he think the magnetic pile can give him power? Heh... what a fuc—"

"..."

BOOM!

Amid the crowd's jeers, a massive explosion suddenly erupted.

In that instant, the very air in the underground factory seemed to be forcibly compressed by some unknown power, only to detonate a moment later.

(Usually, during the free-to-read period, Chapters are 2,000 characters long. This one is 2,700. I wrote all the way until Gao Neng made his move, so it's not a cliffhanger, right? Xin Yi knows what's up. I just wanted to ask for some recommendation votes, that's all. Please stop fighting in the comments, everyone! It breaks my heart!)

Chapter 47: Boom Boom Boom Boom Boom

The Magnetic Pile!

The medium!

Gao Neng finally understood what the system had meant.

He possessed immense potential. This potential was none other than his 100% hidden talent, which represented an unparalleled affinity for energy.

And the Magnetic Pile was the "medium" to unleash that hidden talent.

He wasn't an Energy Warrior yet, but through the Magnetic Pile, he could turn himself into something like a "lodestone."

Such a method was unnecessary for other Energy Warriors because they could become "lodestones" on their own, without relying on a Magnetic Pile.

Gao Neng used the Magnetic Pile to establish a connection with the surrounding "energy."

Compressing the air, forming an air cannon!

BOOM!

A massive roar echoed through the area.

A terrifying shockwave erupted, sending Wang Ju and all the men in black flying.

At the epicenter of the explosion, there was even a swirling vortex of air.

This wasn't an air cannon! It was an "air bomb"—air compressed to its absolute limit before suddenly detonating. Its trajectory was completely different from a cannonball's.

But its power was by no means small.

The walls of the underground factory cracked from the blast. Wang Ju and the men in black slammed into them, and even the shadowy figures who had been attacking Shen Ning'Er were thrown back by the shockwave.

As for Shen Ning'Er...

She lay on the ground with a look of utter disbelief, her eyes fixed on Gao Neng. Then, she passed out, apparently from exhaustion.

The only one left standing on the spot was the mysterious person.

However, the black cloak on the mysterious person had been forcibly torn apart by the shockwave, revealing an ice-blue armored body underneath.

'Did I just knock Shen Ning'Er out? What's going on... I was going for an air cannon, so how did it turn into an air bomb?' Gao Neng wondered. Then, he discovered the problem with the medium.

An Energy Warrior could use their own body to attract and, in turn, control energy. But he, it seemed, couldn't quite control it.

The only thing Gao Neng could do was "disrupt" it.

He had forcibly compressed the components in the air. According to his plan, it should have formed an air cannon.

But the result was an air bomb...

A little awkward.

'Is it because the one creating a "magnetic resonance" with the energy isn't me, but the Magnetic Pile?'

Well, that was a possibility. But it didn't really matter. After all, he wasn't trying to become a super warrior, but a super king of destruction.

Since he couldn't control it...

...he might as well just destroy everything.

"An air compression cannon?! Are you an oxygen energy controller?" A cold voice spoke as two snow-white wings unfurled, the black cloak finally falling away completely.

"Huh?" What was Gao Neng seeing?

He saw an Angel with pristine white wings!

Her wings spanned seven or eight meters when spread. She had straight, black hair that cascaded like a waterfall, eyes untouched by filth, and a suit of form-fitting, ice-blue armor.

Everything about her seemed to announce that this mysterious person was, in fact, an Angel of breathtaking beauty—and a Battle Angel from the Western Mythological Realm, no less.

Can you believe it?

But that was the reality!

"The Celestial Race!"

A type of transcendent being that descended upon the world after the Great Cataclysm. They called themselves messengers from the heavens and, in the early days of their arrival, had garnered the faith and worship of a large portion of humanity.

And then...

...there was no "and then."

Gao Neng didn't have enough information at the moment.

He only knew that the Celestial Race wasn't the entirety of the Great Cataclysm, but they were an important part of it. There just weren't many of them.

What Gao Neng hadn't expected was that after eighteen years of life, he would actually see a living member of the Celestial Race—and a high-and-mighty "Battle Angel" at that.

An opportunity not to be missed.

He decided to fire another shot.

BOOM!

Another tremendous roar.

The Angel's wings flapped, carrying her into the air. The air bomb blasted a deep crater in the underground factory, letting the morning sunlight stream in from outside.

As for Wang Ju and the men in black, they had been blasted so hard they were practically embedded in the walls.

When they looked at Gao Neng standing in the Magnetic Pile again, the mockery in their eyes was gone, replaced by a deep, primal terror.

"Who in the world are you?!" No wonder Wang Ju and his men were so shocked. In their understanding, the Magnetic Pile was a form of "civilization," not a weapon.

Yet the Gao Neng before them could actually use the Magnetic Pile as a weapon?

How could they not be astonished?

"..." Gao Neng didn't answer right away. After firing two air bombs in a row, he discovered a second problem: his physical strength was being rapidly drained, but his Spiritual Power, instead of decreasing, was actually rising.

It was a very strange feeling.

His Spiritual Power was no longer suppressed by the Magnetic Pile; in fact, it had grown stronger.

It now covered the entire underground factory.

He could even feel himself clearly perceive the various types of energy contained within the factory: iron, copper, carbon, aluminum, copper, oxygen...

These energies seemed to dance before his eyes.

If he wanted, he could even make these energies do a little dance.

Of course, that was assuming he still had the strength.

Gao Neng had no strength left.

His only option was to replenish his stamina.

"One, two, three, four! Two, two, three, four! Three, two, three, four! Four, two, three, four! Again..."

To the astonishment of Wang Ju and the Angel,

Gao Neng completed a set of broadcast calisthenics at top speed.

Then, his gaze sharpened. His eyes swept over the Angel in mid-air, then over to Wang Ju and the others, who were stuck to the wall so firmly they couldn't even be pried off.

"I just wanted to live as an ordinary person in obscurity, but you people just had to keep pushing me. Fine, I'll lay my cards on the table. The truth is, I'm a Super Energy Warrior. You really think this Magnetic Pile is the source of my power? I'll tell you what, you're wrong! If I wanted to, I could destroy everything within a ten-mile radius at any moment!" Gao Neng declared arrogantly, all while continuing his calisthenics.

"A Super Energy Warrior?" Wang Ju and the others were completely baffled.

"A bunch of useless trash!" The Angel snorted coldly from the air. Not waiting for Wang Ju and his men to act, she dove straight down from above.

'Fuck! She wasn't scared off?!' With a flicker of his consciousness, the steel used to construct the underground factory shot out, each piece like a tentacle.

Why the tentacle shape?

'Is it because my Spiritual Power is a tentacle?'

'That's bullshit!'

Gao Neng didn't dwell on it. He was contemplating a very profound question: if steel could take the form of tentacles, could it also perform broadcast calisthenics to accompany him?

CRACK!

The last piece of steel to reach the Angel was sliced in two by a sword.

Two longswords had appeared in the Angel's hands, one in her left and one in her right. Judging by the material, they were likely also made of alloy.

"I, Mu Feifei, will cut you down today, you so-called Super Energy Warrior!" After cleaving through the steel, the Angel dove again, her speed even faster than before.

'She's this strong?!' Gao Neng watched the Angel draw closer, a sense of panic rising in his heart. This was his first time, and he had only one thought: 'Don't be too quick. It has to be long-lasting, with an explosive finish!'

'Block her!'

'All energy, mobilize for me now!'

'Block this Mu Feifei!'

BOOM!

In that instant, all the energy in the area seemed to erupt into a massive riot.

Countless metals, non-metals, and gases in the air, as if answering some summons, rushed toward Mu Feifei at extreme speed.

"Whoa, is this the end of the world?" Wang Ju stared blankly at the scene, feeling as if his entire worldview had just been shattered.

(Please vote with recommendation tickets!)

Chapter 48: Emerging from the Magnetic Pile...

Liquefied energy.

Steel, wood, earth, and stone that hadn't yet been converted into energy...

...and swirling currents of air.

Everything within this space swarmed madly toward Mu Feifei, colliding with one another and creating a cacophony of sounds.

"BOOM!"

"BOOM! BOOM! BOOM..."

Before Wang Ju could even react, several steel rebars pierced through his body. The other men in black were also mostly swept into this "torrent."

And in mid-air, the torrent "swallowed" Mu Feifei whole.

"Is she dead?" Gao Neng panted.

"BANG!"

A figure burst out from the torrent.

Wielding her twin swords, Mu Feifei forcefully broke through the torrent. However, her ice-blue armor was now somewhat damaged. Her snow-white wings were stained with blood, and a few pristine feathers drifted down.

"I'm going to kill you!" Mu Feifei's gaze was frigid as she charged down again.

But a second wave of the "torrent" arrived. A steel rebar lashed against her body, sending her spinning in mid-air.

Then, more energy and matter swept in, slamming directly into her.

"BOOM!"

Mu Feifei was sent flying backward, tumbling several times in the air.

Blood splattered.

Half of her pristine white feathers were now dyed red.

This made Mu Feifei unsteady in the air. Her two wings beat frantically, their speed immense, as if they could break and send her plummeting at any moment.

"AHHH!!!" Mu Feifei was unwilling to accept this. She wanted to charge again.

However, below her, the two "torrents" had merged into a massive vortex. A terrifying suction force tugged at her relentlessly, trying to devour her.

Mu Feifei's gaze was sharp and cold. Her beautiful face turned ashen, and she bit her lip hard. Her eyes fell upon Gao Neng, who was still doing his calisthenics inside the magnetic pile.

"I will kill you... I definitely will!" Mu Feifei didn't linger. She turned and flew high into the sky, because she wasn't absolutely confident she could break through the torrent below her.

And if she couldn't, charging down again would very likely mean her demise in the torrent.

The underground factory was no more.

The magnetic pile's Spatial Magnet Point had also been destroyed by Shen Ning'Er.

This place had lost its value.

Mu Feifei wanted to kill Gao Neng, but not to the point of losing her reason over it. Most importantly, she didn't believe he could possibly survive this anyway.

...

Gao Neng was actually asking himself the same question right now.

'Can I still survive?'

In fact, when he had mobilized the second wave of "energy" to form the "torrent" and stop Mu Feifei, he had felt his body being completely drained.

The calisthenics could restore his stamina.

But if his stamina was consumed too quickly, it could still deplete him in an instant.

Right now, Gao Neng couldn't control not only the "torrent," but he was also losing control of his own body. That powerful suction was even trying to pull him in.

A massive "BOOM!" resounded.

The torrent exploded.

Space trembled.

Gao Neng watched helplessly as a "black hole" appeared in the space. More importantly, that black hole was actually moving toward him.

'A moving black hole?! This is unscientific! It makes no sense!' Gao Neng was completely drained of strength, a weakness that was even affecting his consciousness.

He felt the world before him gradually blurring. He wanted to turn and run, but after just two steps, he collapsed to the ground.

'Can't run anymore?'

His body felt as heavy as lead. Forget running; he couldn't even do his calisthenics.

Meanwhile, the black hole continued to move toward his position, its speed increasing, as if it had sensed something.

'I'm screwed...'

'Don't tell me I'm going to get pulled into an Otherworld by a black hole and get transported?'

'Could it be... my story only begins after being transported?'

Gao Neng wasn't sure. But if possible, he didn't want to be transported again. He couldn't be certain if his hidden talent would still be useful in an Otherworld.

He began to scoot backward, one inch at a time.

Just then, the black hole and the magnetic pile finally merged. The two tore at each other and vibrated, and a very strange sound emerged from within.

Sweat poured down Gao Neng's forehead like rain.

'The black hole stopped moving?'

'Did the magnetic pile manage to hold it in place? That has to be it, right?'

But he remembered Shen Ning'Er had said the magnetic pile could only last for an hour at most. What would happen after that hour? Would the black hole emerge from the magnetic pile?

'Right, what about Shen Ning'Er? Is she dead?' Gao Neng scanned his surroundings and quickly found her. She was still wearing the Golden Feather Robe, but a large rock was pinning her down.

'I don't know if she's dead or alive.'

'But she's definitely unconscious...'

'What do I do?'

'Shen Ning'Er is out cold, so no one is coming to save me. Do I have to save myself again? In that case... you useless system, give me a life-saving quest!'

"..."

There was no response.

Gao Neng really felt like cursing this time. It was the first time he'd ever been this desperate for a life-saving quest, but the useless system acted as if it were asleep. Was it pretending not to hear him?

'Gan Liniang!'

As he was cursing, he noticed a ball of silver liquid suddenly emerge from the magnetic pile.

The ball of silver liquid leaped out of the magnetic pile. Then, as if it were alive, it looked around before finally locking its sights on Gao Neng.

'What... is this thing? A liquid lifeform?' Gao Neng's eyes were fixed on the silver liquid. He was truly startled. How could a lifeform emerge from a magnetic pile?

'And a liquid one at that?'

'Impossible.'

He had never heard the Alliance mention that life existed in magnetic piles. Weren't magnetic piles defined as a "civilization" from some unknown space?

"JYEH JYEH JYEH JYEH..."

The liquid lifeform continued to stare at Gao Neng, letting out a bizarre laugh.

Gao Neng's back was instantly drenched in sweat.

'Something's not right!'

'This change in tone...'

'How did this suddenly turn into a horror movie?'

Gao Neng felt that being stared at by a liquid lifeform—one that was cackling like a ghost, no less—definitely qualified as a horror movie within a horror movie.

But what he didn't expect was that things were about to get even more terrifying.

Amidst its continuous ghostly cackling, the liquid lifeform began to change. The silvery-white liquid of its body twisted, as if it were mimicking something.

In just the blink of an eye.

Gao Neng saw a face form—a face that was almost identical to his own. And that face was becoming clearer and clearer.

'It's mimicking my form? It's... an intelligent lifeform?' Gao Neng's eyes widened. He had never experienced anything like this before.

The magnetic pile and the black hole had combined.

'Did the two of them give birth to... an intelligent liquid lifeform? And then this liquid lifeform started mimicking my appearance and even formed a face just like mine?'

'This is a lot of information to process...'

'Isn't it a bit much?'

(Sob sob sob, my handsome readers, my beautiful readers, my super-loving readers, please give your recommendation votes to Xin Yi! Mwah!)

Chapter 49: A Horrifying Supernatural Event

"MEOW!"

Just as Gao Neng was marveling at the intelligent lifeform before him, a sudden meow rang out. Then, he saw a stray cat running over from the distance.

'A stray cat?'

And it looked pretty familiar, too.

'Where have I seen it before?'

'Huh? Wasn't this cat at the Dream Toy Factory? How did it get all the way over here? Don't tell me it's been following me this whole time?'

'Wait!'

'If this cat really was following me, then when it led me into that underground drainage pipe... could that have been its way of getting revenge?'

'If Shen Ning'Er hadn't been chasing me back then...'

'And I'd followed the cat instead?'

"Ugh..." A jolt went through Gao Neng. The implications were terrifying.

Just as he was thinking this, the stray cat lunged forward. But its target wasn't Gao Neng; it was the silvery, intelligent liquid lifeform.

In that moment, Gao Neng witnessed the stray cat's true ferocity. He was treated to the spectacle of a grand battle between a cat and an intelligent liquid lifeform.

A cat and a blob of liquid, tangled in a chaotic fight.

The stray cat was vicious!

Its claws slashed and tore.

It leaped into the air one moment and pounced the next.

After a full ten minutes of fighting, something bizarre happened. The intelligent liquid lifeform was actually losing...

'It's trying to run?'

'It wants to run back into the magnetic pile?!'

"Oh my god... what kind of stray cat did I manage to piss off?" Gao Neng was dumbfounded. He then saw that the cat had no intention of letting the intelligent liquid lifeform get away.

The stray cat charged!

It bit down...

And tore!

And tore again!

The intelligent liquid lifeform began to shriek.

"SHREE SHREE SHREE SHREE..."

This only made the stray cat more frantic. It clawed and scratched for dear life. Finally, as Gao Neng watched in horror, it mauled the intelligent liquid lifeform into the shape of a "fish."

It was literally the shape of a fish!

"GULP!"

With a loud slurp, the stray cat swallowed the intelligent liquid lifeform whole.

"..." Gao Neng was speechless.

"BUUURP~" The stray cat patted its belly and let out a long, satisfied burp. It still seemed to want more, pawing at the whiskers on its snout.

'No way... It actually ate it...' Gao Neng thought that if he ever told anyone about this, even his own mother would think he was crazy.

Just as he was thinking this, he saw the stray cat's expression change.

Then, the cat started rolling around on the ground.

It looked like it was going through something incredibly painful...

'It must be poisoned, right? How could that thing be edible?' Watching the cat, Gao Neng wasn't being callous; it's just that this outcome seemed far more logical.

'An intelligent liquid lifeform from a magnetic pile gets eaten by a stray cat, and it's totally fine?'

He refused to believe it.

Still, the cat had saved his life. By that logic, he owed it a debt. He'd have to burn some incense for it when he got the chance.

"MEOW!"

Another meow rang out.

The stray cat suddenly shot up onto its hind legs, every hair on its body standing on end.

Then, Gao Neng watched as the cat's fur began to change color, shifting from its original mottled gray to the same shade of silver as the intelligent liquid lifeform.

'Did the cat get possessed?'

'Or did the liquid lifeform use the cat's body to resurrect itself?'

'This is some paranormal activity!'

Gao Neng mustered the last of his strength. He had to run.

But at that moment, the stray cat looked at him again, its two eyes glinting with a silver light.

"SWISH!" A flash of silver light.

The cat leaped in front of him and gave a lazy stretch. In one of its paws, it held a rock it had picked up from god-knows-where.

"You thought you could just hit my face with a wrench, you little punk? Is my face something you can just hit?!"

"THUNK!"

Before Gao Neng could even react, a sharp pain flared on his head and his vision went black. The last thought to flash through his mind was, 'Did that cat just talk?'

...

My name is Gao Neng.

I'm a senior at the Forgotten Land's Third Senior High School.

I'd like to report a crime.

Because I've encountered a paranormal incident.

A cat hit me with a rock. And this cat can talk. Do you believe me?

...

"Ding! Congratulations, Host, for completing the mission 'Don't Go, Fight Until Dawn!'"

"Mission Rating: Excellent."

"Beep! Host has obtained one Beginner-Level Treasure Chest."

"Beep! Detecting 30% chance to obtain a Middle-Level Treasure Chest..."

"Detection Result: Terrible luck!"

"Two consecutive failed lottery draws. Initiating compensation mechanism."

"Compensation Verdict: Host's stamina is severely depleted. There are a total of seventeen wounds on the body. Compensation: one 'Healing Medicine'."

"Beep! Because the Host frequently calls the System a 'moron,' the System desires revenge. It proposes an exchange: endure three kicks for another 'Healing Medicine'."

"If the Host does not respond in 10 seconds, the conditions will be accepted by default."

"BANG!"

"BANG!"

"BANG!"

As he lay unconscious, Gao Neng vaguely felt his ass get kicked three more times. His state of mind was surprisingly calm. In fact, he felt a spark of inspiration he hadn't had in a long time.

He decided to use his academic genius to compose a poem.

Ah...

Green is the melon, green is the rind.

Put it on your head, ah, a green rind for a mind.

...

「Nine o'clock in the morning.」

The seniors of the Forgotten Land's Third Senior High School were once again summoned to the athletic field. They were confused and curious, as the pep rally for the college entrance exams had just been held.

'What's it for this time?'

They looked around and quickly noticed what was different from last time.

This time, in addition to the leadership from Third Senior High School, like Li Qingping and Tang De, seniors from the First, Second, and Fourth Senior High Schools, the Girls' High School, and more were also present.

Nearly every senior in the entire Forgotten Land was gathered here.

Furthermore, the principals from every school, along with the Director of the Forgotten Land's Public Security Bureau, the Director of the Land Planning Bureau, the Director of the Construction Bureau, and others, were all seated on the main platform.

"What's going on?"

"Did something happen?"

"They're probably going over the new policies for the college entrance exams. They did this once the year before last, gathering all the seniors together."

The students of Third Senior High School began to murmur amongst themselves, a noisy clamor spreading across the field. Every so often, their eyes would drift to the neat block of students from the Girls' High School.

A sea of high school girls!

Awesome!

"Hey look, that's my girlfriend—the one with the freckles... Hehe, I love her freckles. They're so adorable!"

"Adorable my ass. You're just ugly yourself, aren't you?"

"..."

"Settle down! All students, quiet down!" Li Qingping's voice boomed. The commotion on the field died down a little, but the murmuring continued.

"A dog can't be taught not to eat shit!"

At this, Qin Tianxiong stood up, his gaze sweeping over the seniors below. "I originally held out a sliver of hope for you. I thought you might have grown a little after the pep rally. But now, I see I was wrong. You haven't grown at all. You are, as always, complete and utter trash!"

"For the longest time, the Alliance has believed you to be the future of the Forgotten Land—and perhaps even the future of the Alliance. But is that really true? I can only say that I have my reservations."

"However, my reason for gathering you seniors today isn't to try and change you. It's simply because today's business concerns you, to some extent."

"The Forgotten Land can no longer be allowed to degenerate like this. The Alliance's reforms must be implemented—and they will be implemented with absolute resolve!"

"Alright, enough with the nonsense. I will now directly announce several appointments!"

"..." The students on the field were furious, but they fell silent.

"First appointment: In light of former Third Senior High School Principal Li Qingping's inaction during his tenure, and due to a personal error in judgment where he shielded a student, leading to a grave mistake, the Alliance has made a decision. We are hereby removing Li Qingping from his position as Principal of Third Senior High School. He will also be stripped of his post as a member of the Forgotten Land's education committee. Former Vice Principal Tang De will now serve as Principal of Third Senior High School and will also take up the position on the education committee."

"WHOA!"

"What? They're firing Principal Li?"

"And Tang De is the new principal? Why?"

The students couldn't stay quiet any longer. They had all seen Li Qingping's dedication to the school over the years. They might be degenerates, but in their hearts, they were still deeply grateful to him.

"..." Li Qingping didn't speak. He just clenched his fists and remained in his seat.

"Second appointment: The Alliance will establish a 'Supervisory Committee' here in the Forgotten Land. This committee will be responsible for the full supervision and investigation of all illegal activities in the Forgotten Land, and for reversing its degenerate culture. On behalf of the Alliance, I now formally announce that Principal Tang De will serve as Chairman of the Supervisory Committee!" Qin Tianxiong continued.

"..."

"Principal Tang De again?"

"But, I heard that Principal Tang De..."

"Shh! Shut up!"

This time, however, the students didn't break into loud discussion. A strange look had entered their eyes as they stared at Qin Tianxiong.

"Now, I'd like to invite Chairman Tang De to lay out and introduce the upcoming reforms and new rules for the college entrance exams. I expect all other departments to give him their full cooperation!"

"Of course." A group of people on the main platform stood up.

"Applause!" Qin Tianxiong began to clap.

Below...

...there was only silence.

One or two students clapped tentatively, but upon noticing that no one around them was moving, they immediately stopped and lowered their heads.

Chapter 50: The Sun's Out, Spirits Are High

...

The sun hung high in the sky.

When Gao Neng woke up, he checked the time. 9:10.

'Was I unconscious for over half an hour?'

Looking at the desolate ruins before him, Gao Neng's head throbbed, and his ass ached, just as if some idiot had actually kicked him three times.

"Right, I think I got two Healing Medicines." Gao Neng opened his palm. Inside were indeed two red pills, and a wooden chest was floating in front of him.

He first popped one of the Healing Medicines into his mouth, then opened the beginner's treasure chest. Unsurprisingly, another Bone Marrow Cleansing Pill appeared in his hand.

'I won't take this one yet. I'll wait until my vitality is full.'

'What about Shen Ning'Er?'

'And the wildcat?'

Gao Neng scanned his surroundings again. The wildcat was gone, but Shen Ning'Er was still pinned beneath a rock, apparently still unconscious.

The Healing Medicine worked wonders.

After just a moment, Gao Neng could feel his wounds starting to heal. Gritting his teeth, he used the last of his strength to walk over to Shen Ning'Er, move the rock, and then lift her into his arms.

She wasn't too heavy.

Soft and supple.

'I took three kicks for this Healing Medicine. It'd be a waste if she died, right?' After a moment's thought, Gao Neng calmly placed his hand on Shen Ning'Er's chest.

He pressed a few times and confirmed she still had a heartbeat, then fed the remaining Healing Medicine into Shen Ning'Er's mouth.

He waited for a while.

Shen Ning'Er still didn't wake up.

'Did she not swallow it? Don't tell me I have to give up my first kiss for this, too?' Gao Neng felt like he'd be getting the short end of the stick if he had to sacrifice his first kiss just to save someone.

Still, saving a life is more meritorious than building a seven-story pagoda.

He was ready for the sacrifice and didn't hesitate for long. Slowly, he lowered his head, moving closer to Shen Ning'Er.

And just then, Shen Ning'Er's eyes flew open.

Their eyes met.

Gao Neng froze for a second, then broke into a grin, revealing a mouthful of pearly white teeth.

THUD!

He took a blow to the head.

'What the hell?!'

Before Gao Neng could figure out what had happened, his body slumped forward onto Shen Ning'Er.

...

A short while later, Gao Neng was shaken awake.

When he opened his eyes again, he saw Shen Ning'Er sitting beside him. She had changed into a clean, black military uniform.

Her face was also washed clean, fair and smooth.

"You're awake?" Shen Ning'Er said faintly, her gaze fixed on the sun rising in the East.

"Duh, I've been awake. I'm the one who woke you up, remember? Damn it, how dare you repay my kindness with malice? And I even gave you a Healing Medicine! It's very valuable, worth at least... one hundred thousand Alliance Coins!"

"Mm... Did you kill all these people?" Shen Ning'Er ignored Gao Neng's question, pointing a finger at the bodies of Wang Ju and some men in black.

"That's right. I killed Wang Ju and all his men. Didn't leave a single one. You should have seen it. When I get vicious, even I'm scared of myself. Believe it or not?"

"Mm, I believe you," Shen Ning'Er nodded.

"Huh? You really believe me?" Gao Neng stared at Shen Ning'Er's earnest expression, momentarily at a loss for words. After all, she had been unconscious

the whole time. If he hadn't seen it with his own eyes, even he wouldn't believe his own story.

"I do. I have my reasons to believe you."

"What reasons?"

"Because you're handsome. Do you believe that reason?" Shen Ning'Er asked in return.

"I... believe it!" Gao Neng nodded.

"Heh heh."

"Heh heh."

The two of them started laughing at almost the same time. They just looked at each other—one face fair and clean, the other dark with grime—each exuding a completely different air under the sunlight.

Oh, the sun!

It's so brilliant!

After they stared at each other for a long time, Shen Ning'Er finally tilted her head up again. "It's said that wherever a magnetic pile appears, the surrounding ore undergoes a qualitative change. Something called 'Magnetic Crystal Ore' might appear. Have you seen any?"

"Nope!" Gao Neng replied without a moment's hesitation.

"Is that so... I was thinking that if you had found a piece of Magnetic Crystal Ore, I would've let you keep it as a reward for this time," Shen Ning'Er said, seeming a little disappointed.

"Too bad I didn't find any." Naturally, Gao Neng wasn't about to fall for that.

"What a shame. Oh well." Shen Ning'Er blinked, then suddenly leaned closer to Gao Neng. "By the way, do you want to know how to use Magnetic Crystal Ore?"

"I..." Gao Neng's mind raced. Finally, he broke into a grin. "Of course, why wouldn't I? Exploring the ocean of knowledge has always been my life's pursuit."

"Mm, alright. I'll tell you when I have time." Shen Ning'Er nodded, then strode forward.

"Huh? You don't have time now..." Gao Neng quickly chased after her. He was about to say more when he saw two steel motorcycles parked not far away.

On one of them sat a soldier with a cold expression on his face.

Gao Neng recognized him.

He had seen him last time at the Golden Grand Hotel—Lieutenant Chen.

"Major Shen, about Qin Tianxiong..."

"I know. We'll talk when we get there." Shen Ning'Er waved her hand dismissively, then her gaze fell on Gao Neng. "Super Energy Warrior, are you coming with me to the university, or are you going to stay here and contemplate life?"

"I'm going to the university with you."

"Then what are you waiting for? Get on." Shen Ning'Er nodded, then pointed a finger at the back seat of her motorcycle.

When Lieutenant Chen saw this, his expression instantly changed. As he looked at Gao Neng again, a very strange look appeared in his eyes.

Gao Neng paid him no mind and sat right down on the seat behind Shen Ning'Er.

"Hold on tight!" Shen Ning'Er shouted. With a twist of her hand, the steel motorcycle shot forward.

"What? I..." Gao Neng didn't react in time and was nearly thrown off. He subconsciously wrapped his arms forward.

'Uh, did I grab the right spot?'

"If you don't let go, I'm kicking you off."

"Um... I performed such a great service this time, helping you destroy an underground factory. You're really not going to consider giving me some kind of

reward?" Gao Neng moved his hands down, wrapping them around her waist instead.

"What kind of reward do you want?"

"The Alliance is so rich, it can't be that stingy, right?"

"Stingy, no, but it won't be too much either. However, are you sure you want this reward?"

"Why wouldn't I?"

"Wang Ju's influence extends far beyond this one place. Even though he's dead, if this matter is officially attributed to you, you probably won't be able to stay in the Forgotten Land anymore. Not unless you can get into a Military University and go to the City of Hope."

"I can definitely get in. Worst case, I'll get into the lousiest Military University and be at the bottom of the class or something. I'm at least confident enough for that..."

"The lousiest Military University? Heh heh, that might not be up to you. Gao Neng, let me ask you a serious question. Have you ever considered going directly to the Military Department?"

"Directly to the Military Department? What do you mean?"

"Nothing. Just something for you to consider. I'm speeding up. Hands a little lower, hold on tight!" Shen Ning'Er accelerated again.

"Lower?" Gao Neng glanced down. 'That would be her thighs, right? Am I that kind of person? Of course not.' So, he just shifted his body forward, pressing tightly against her.

"..."