

# Full-Time Public Enemy

## #Chapter 11: The Collapse of the Heavenly Pillar Strategy (Vote Request) - Read Full-Time Public Enemy Chapter 11: The Collapse of the Heavenly Pillar Strategy (Vote Request)

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The entire 495A battlefield fell silent. A soldier who had just been boasting, "The Colonel will resolve the fight in three minutes!" subconsciously glanced at the time. Two minutes and forty-seven seconds. Indeed, the fight was resolved in under three minutes; however, it was the Colonel who had been eliminated by his opponent.

Instantly, Zhao Junzhi clutched his head with both hands and squatted down, his eyes filled with bewilderment and disbelief. *What happened? My dad couldn't possibly lose! The opponent is just an unknown little player! What... what exactly happened?*

Chen Zili also stared blankly for a moment, then burst into loud laughter.

Although he didn't recognize "Idol Actor," since that person had beaten Zhao Zhenhuai, Chen Zili declared, "From this day forward, 'Idol Actor' is my idol!"

Many gamers were watching, but there were also quite a few professional soldiers with ranks both high and low. Naturally, some among them knew their stuff. An elderly voice, filled with admiration, rose from the crowd, "This is... the 'Pillar Collapse' tactic!"

The numerous military personnel present, including the adjutants and Zhao Zhenhuai—who, having lost all face, didn't want to utter a single word—recalled the entire process and came to a sudden, shared realization.

'Pillar Collapse' was a forgotten tactic, an evolution of the ancient "decapitation tactic." It involved a more sophisticated application of strategy, emphasizing multi-branch cooperation to unleash maximum combat power. After eliminating the enemy leader, it could still inflict catastrophic follow-up damage on the remaining enemy forces.

There was a time when the 'Pillar Collapse' tactic was highly sought after, yet no one had ever successfully employed it in actual combat.

Subsequently, War AI computations determined that due to rapid technological advancements, the power levels of opposing sides in conflicts were becoming increasingly similar. Ancient decapitation tactics relied on surprise attacks or a

significant technological advantage for one side—conditions that were no longer standard prerequisites in modern warfare.

To implement the 'Pillar Collapse' tactic in star battles, the demands on a commander's skills were extraordinarily high, making it almost impossible for an ordinary person to achieve.

Over time, 'Pillar Collapse' gradually faded into legend, eventually being forgotten.

But now, this "impossible" tactic had been executed, and against none other than Zhao Zhenhuai, a man known as a tactical genius!

Chen Gu wasn't feeling any discomfort at the moment. Star Battle Instructor Griffin Wester's memory was possessing him. However, this possession hadn't activated Wester's combat abilities, only his command skills.

From the moment Chen Gu conceived the entire plan, Wester's memory had been possessing him. By now, the impetuosity inherent in Wester's personality could no longer be contained. So, once again, a clap of thunder erupted in the sky, and text formed by lightning flashed in an extra-large font:

The victory speech of "Idol Actor":

Empire River Star lacks heroes, allowing pipsqueaks to gain renown!

Rubbish!

The word "Rubbish!" itself was even rendered in an explosive font!

The entire battlefield erupted. Zhao Zhenhuai's eyes rolled back; he nearly fainted from anger and, without a word, quickly exited "Endless."

Chen Gu secretly lamented, *Griffin, with that one statement, you've offended everyone on Empire River Star! The plan was perfect: we'd show off our skills, make a splash, and then leave. But you just had to open your big mouth and blurt that out, leaving such a huge mess behind...*

Chen Gu pushed Griffin Wester's memory back, then suddenly stood stock-still. *The culture and history of this world are different from my previous one! There was no Three Kingdoms period in its history, so of course, the quote 'When there are no true heroes, it allows worthless scoundrels to become famous' wouldn't exist! This means Griffin Wester 'stole' this quote from my memory! It also indicates that when memory possession occurs, it's a kind of conflicting fusion—I become you, and you become me.*

Chen Gu groaned inwardly. *Griffin is one thing, but what if it were Milna Katerina... If this went on for a long time, would I become a 'double-ended plug'? Will I start finding handsome young men delectable too? The misery!*

After this bizarre training exercise concluded, various battle videos instantly appeared on the official forum of the "Endless" game. Every spectator who had recorded a video vividly depicted what had happened, their accounts filled with admiration and effusive praise for that "Idol Actor."

As a result, a term became popular on the forum: "Four Million 'Idol' Puff."

And the hashtag #ActualPillarCollapse# soared in popularity, reaching the top spot on the interstellar network in just four hours!

Many people wanted to know who "Idol Actor" really was, including official forces from major Star Nations.

Some also dug up Zhao Zhenhuai's past combat record, listing his representative battles. After some analysis, all the onlookers understood: Zhao Zhenhuai was no pushover. Therefore, the "Idol Actor" who had managed to use 'Pillar Collapse' on him was truly awesome.

The militaries of various nations understood Zhao Zhenhuai even better. As soon as the incident occurred, they immediately employed various means, hoping to find "Idol Actor" and recruit this strategic genius into their ranks.

But "Endless," citing the interstellar constitution, sternly refused all overt and covert requests, unwilling to disclose the true identity of "Idol Actor," leaving the various nations feeling quite helpless.

Meanwhile, the onlookers were more excited about "Idol Actor"'s victory speech than the 'Pillar Collapse' tactic itself!

"Empire River Star lacks heroes, allowing pipsqueaks to gain renown!"

"Rubbish!"

The words were sharp and incredibly satisfying—a crisp, resounding slap in the face.

This phrase alone kept the topic at the number one spot on the trending list for two whole days.

Two days later, just as a megastar announced his wedding, grandly intending to seize the top spot on the trending topics list, the Confederation's Central Operations Room suddenly released the tactical simulation results from all their Grade Nine Staff Officers regarding this "Pillar Collapse" incident. They confirmed that:

The "Idol Actor's" tactical deployment was exceptionally skillful. Those seemingly casual initial moves—continuously sending out mobile troops to harass the Officers' Wings—were actually meticulously arranged. Regardless of how the Officers' Wings might have responded, the outcome would have been the same.

Additionally, they released the entire simulation process. After watching it, the onlookers were left with a single, straightforward exclamation: "Holy shit!"

The #ActualPillarCollapse# topic, which had started to lose momentum, instantly surged once more, firmly pinning the #MegastarWeddingNews# beneath it.

According to a paparazzi tabloid report: The megastar was so angry that he tore up three pairs of leather pants at home!

The Central Operations Room was the Confederation military's highest advisory body, with a total of fourteen of the highest-ranking Grade Nine Staff Officers.

After they announced this news, the staff officers each went to rest, as they had worked on the simulation for two days and nights without sleep.

Bai Xianya was the only female among the fourteen Grade Nine Staff Officers. She was 1.75 meters tall, with a neat short haircut. In her Major General's uniform, she looked heroic and extraordinary, a woman truly not outdone by men.

After two sleepless days and nights, her beautiful face was etched with fatigue. Just as she finished packing her things and was about to head home, her gaze inadvertently swept over the enormous holographic screen in front of her, and she froze.

She put down her briefcase, immediately entered some data, and then ordered, "AI, begin analysis!"

The War AI immediately started analyzing according to the data she provided. It worked extremely fast, with green checkmarks appearing one after another until all parameters were successfully validated!

Bai Xianya's heartbeat suddenly accelerated, and her porcelain-like cheeks flushed crimson with excitement and exhilaration. She grabbed the analysis results and strode towards the Marshal's office.

**BANG!**

The overexcited Bai Xianya didn't even announce herself before bursting through the door—fortunately, she didn't interrupt any awkward moments between her uncle and his female secretary.

Marshal Bai Pengyun gave her a disapproving glance. Bai Xianya snapped to attention, "Report!"

Bai Pengyun waved his hand resignedly. "Alright, you're already in. Tell me, what's so important that it made you lose your composure? You're supposed to be our Bai family's little lady."

Bai Xianya projected the War AI's analysis results, sending the holographic projection sliding over to Bai Pengyun with a push of her hand. "Uncle, please take a look at this first!"

Bai Pengyun glanced at it, and his expression became grave. He then reviewed it seriously for ten minutes, mentally running his own simulations, before finally exclaiming with admiration, "The 'Pillar Collapse' tactic can be almost perfectly adapted for our fight against the Alien Insect Race!"

Indeed. The Alien Insect Race had a unique lifeform structure, with all power concentrated in the hands of the Empress. As long as the Empress was killed, an entire swarm would completely collapse!

However, the Empress was well aware of this, so she was always surrounded by the strongest of the Insect Race.

Chen Jixian's surprise assault on Thousand Grass Star to assassinate the Empress was also a type of decapitation strike. But Chen Jixian had risked his life to achieve it, and it couldn't be widely replicated because Chen Jixian himself was exceptional.

Moreover, even Chen Jixian couldn't guarantee success every time.

But this "Idol Actor's" tactic—continuously deploying harassing troops to draw away the forces protecting the "main commander," then stealthily capturing key locations amidst the chaos and blocking the enemy's reinforcement routes—created the perfect opportunity for the final decapitation strike!

"Immediately arrange for the frontline troops. Select three... no, nine units to experiment with this tactic!" the Marshal ordered on the spot. If successful, it would be truly fantastic news.

Although it still required testing, the Marshal knew that the War AI's analysis had never been wrong.

"Yes, sir!"

Bai Pengyun stroked his chin thoughtfully and then suddenly said, "Do you think... this 'Idol Actor' deliberately picked Zhao Zhenhuai to remind us that we can use this tactic against the Alien Insect Race?"

If it had been just an ordinary game battle, and the opponent hadn't been Zhao Zhenhuai, it likely wouldn't have caught the military's attention.

Bai Xianya instinctively shook her head. *That's unlikely...* she thought, but then immediately revised her judgment. "An ordinary person probably wouldn't demonstrate such profound foresight. But... the opponent is a master strategist. I believe your speculation is very likely the truth, sir."

Bai Pengyun leaned back in his chair and took a deep breath. "Unfortunately, 'Endless' is very special. Even we can't force them to reveal the 'Idol Actor's' identity."

He pondered for another moment. "Do this—add him as a friend in the game. Try to make contact and express our goodwill toward him."

"Yes, sir!"

Bai Pengyun then started teasing his niece again. "Too bad. Such a cunning and calculating fellow is definitely some low-profile old man. If he were young and talented, Yaya, you might actually consider him. Your father is always nagging me to arrange matchmaking dates for you, you know."

"Hmph!" Bai Xianya pouted in mock anger. "When I get back, I'll have Grandpa teach him a lesson!"

"Hahaha..."

## **Chapter 12: Chapter 12 The Overlord Flower of Lubei**

Chen Zili perked up again in school. His lackeys were still the same few people, but the number of hangers-on behind Zhao Ergou had drastically decreased, nearly matching his own.

After that "open class" session, it became clear to anyone with discernment that it wouldn't be long before Zhao Zhenhuai was kicked off the so-called "focused training list."

In the meantime, Chen Zili and Zhao Ergou had an encounter in the cafeteria. Chen Zili, however, didn't try to reclaim his seat; he just got into a quarrel with Zhao Ergou. No matter what Zhao Ergou said, Chen Zili had only one retort: "Your old man got beaten by my idol!"

Zhao Ergou was so utterly humiliated that he fled in a panic.

Chen Gu, on the other hand, remained very quiet and low-key. Everyone had been dumbstruck by the entire fight, and Chen Gu had always stood at the very back of the class. Consequently, no one even noticed his "disappearance" during the battle.

Only a week later did the buzz about this incident begin to slowly die down. This was only because the military hadn't announced the impact of the "Heaven Pillar Overturn" tactic in combat against the Alien Insect Race; otherwise, it would have dominated the headlines for several more days.

After a week of training, Chen Gu felt himself eating more and more. His physical abilities in all aspects had seen significant enhancement.

Indeed, all aspects of his abilities had improved.

On the surface, Chen Gu was a seventeen-year-old boy. *So sometimes, being this strong is pretty damn uncomfortable*, he thought.

That afternoon's lesson was another practical combat class, but Old Man Xu, the tactics teacher, still hadn't shown up because this time the exercise was a "combat exchange."

Old Man Xu had made his opinion clear: *What's the point of watching a bunch of little brats fight?*

Today's combat exchange was between Class Nine and Class Four of the senior year. After a long wait, Class Four still hadn't arrived. The physical techniques teacher frowned and stepped aside to make a phone call. The students waited listlessly. The boy scheduled to go first had already put on his protective gear, but now, complaining about the heat, he took it off again.

The teacher hadn't returned, but whispers started spreading among the students; it seemed everyone was quietly passing on some news. This time, Chen Gu didn't need to go out of his way to find out. He simply stretched his neck and saw:

Everyone was sneakily looking at a piece of news on the "Lubei Dark Web." Don't doubt it; Lubei Middle School really had its own dark web. The students who had set it up had long since graduated, but they responsibly continued to maintain the network.

A new piece of information was "for sale" on the dark web, priced at one "Gold Shield" per view. Chen Gu smirked. *What a load of crap these "Gold Shields" are.* He'd managed to see it when a classmate was looking, saving himself a hundred million.

However, Chen Gu's expression darkened when he saw the content. A terrible incident had just occurred in the restroom: Zhao Junzhi and Chen Zili, who had been feuding recently, had clashed again. Reliable sources indicated that Zhao Junzhi was the one who had strutted out triumphantly.

There was also an unverified claim that Chen Zili's head had been shoved into a toilet, though whether the bowl contained only water was unknown.



This outcome wasn't unexpected. After all, Zhao Junzhi was big and brawny, his face full of fierce muscle.

*So, you guys go off to fight, and we're just left here twiddling our thumbs?* Chen Gu thought. Zhao Junzhi was from Class Four, and their entire class's delay was naturally due to him and his cronies.

Someone like Zhao Junzhi was bound to receive some "privileges" at school; even some teachers would secretly try to curry favor with him.

Chen Gu rolled his neck. He hadn't planned to take part in the combat exchange, but suddenly he felt interested.

"Sorry for the delay." Class Four eventually made their belated appearance. The teacher in charge offered the apology with a clearly insincere smile, and then the combat exchange quickly got underway.

The first male student from Class Nine geared up once more, while Class Four erupted in cheers. A spirited girl with a ponytail, long legs, and a face glowing with youthfulness confidently strode onto the stage.

The girl's eyes were dark and lustrous like lacquer, clear yet lively. She had a perky nose and cherry-red lips that were slightly pursed as she bowed to her opponent.

Chen Gu heard several of his male classmates gulp.

"The top girl of Class Four, my goddess Liu Shichan!"

"The Overlord Flower of Lubei, ah! She's not to be trifled with. Better steer clear..."

"To die for the Overlord Flower, a dashing fate even in the afterlife!"

"Who came up with such a cheesy slogan?"

Chen Gu listened to the discussions, watching Liu Shichan from a distance. The girl's features were exquisite, her small face like flawless fine porcelain.

But Chen Gu's real attention was fixed on the one he mentally dubbed 'Zhao-Junzhi-Ergou-Must-Die.' That guy was hiding behind his classmates, whispering about something with a few of his lackeys.

On the stage, the moment the teacher announced, "Begin!" Liu Shichan's entire aura instantly transformed. Her chilling demeanor was almost palpable. With a frosty expression, her long legs moved in swift, short steps. She changed directions twice en route, completely baffling the first combatant from Class Nine.



Then, Liu Shichan feinted with a front kick from her right leg. Having calculated the first combatant's evasion path, she spun and delivered a heavy elbow strike to his face.

Even with protective gear, the first combatant crumpled to the ground on the spot.

The teacher hurried onto the stage. The icy aura around Liu Shichan dissipated, and she reverted to the graceful, long-legged beauty. She bowed slightly to her opponent and walked off.

Class Four erupted in cheers, with both boys and girls shouting, "Liu Liu, I love you! That was amazing!"

Liu Shichan sat down cross-legged in her spot. Immediately, a group of female classmates rushed over. One massaged her shoulders while another kneaded her legs, exclaiming, "Our Big Sister is mighty! A victorious start, utterly invincible! No man can last a single round against her!"

A round of enthusiastic applause and cheers also arose from Class Nine, all congratulating Liu Shichan.

The first combatant was furious. *You shameless, looks-obsessed sycophants!* he fumed internally. *Have you all fed your collective honor to the dogs?*

The following matches were quite bland, resembling a clumsy brawl. They utterly lacked the crisp efficiency and flair of Liu Shichan's earlier performance. Suddenly, Chen Gu's ears twitched; he caught snippets of a hushed conversation between Zhao Ergou and his lackeys, who were hiding amongst their classmates.

During this period, Chen Gu had been steadily engaging in the "Star Battle Instructor" preliminary training, significantly bolstering his physical fitness, along with sharp improvements in his hearing and vision.

"...Boss, the timing is about perfect! Once you make your entrance, you'll sweep through the competition. Liu Shichan will surely see you in a new light then. In all of Class Four—no, in the whole senior year—only you and she possess such overwhelming strength. You're a match made in heaven!"

But Zhao Junzhi was being shrewd, his eyes fixed on Chen Gu. "Who is that kid? I know the strength of everyone else in Class Nine; none of them are my match. Make sure no meddler pops up at this critical moment!"

"Him?..." One lackey glanced at Chen Gu. "Don't worry, Boss. I've specifically gathered intel. He's a new transfer student, pretty average in all aspects. Handsome, but good for nothing else."

*This lackey isn't half bad, Chen Gu thought with an internal smirk. I'll spare him this once!*

### **Chapter 13: Chapter Thirteen A Friendly Exchange**

Zhao Junzhi decisively stood up upon receiving the intelligence and proclaimed loudly, "Teacher, let me do it."

Despite Zhao Junzhi's face being somewhat displeasing to the crowd, his strong and tall physique was still quite intimidating when he stood on the stage.

The students of Class 9 immediately fell silent, the girls looking expectantly at the boys, while the boys each adopted an ostrich-like stance.

The physical education teacher had no choice but to loudly encourage everyone, "It's just an exchange, everyone is wearing protective gear, and I'll be watching from the side, ensuring nobody gets hurt."

Still, no one stepped forward, and the boys from Class 4—especially Zhao Junzhi's lackeys—began to openly mock, "Class 9 is full of cowards!"

"Teacher, next time let's exchange with a different class. What's the point of interacting with Class 9 when they're so timid?"

The physical education teacher from Class 4 also sneered, "Doesn't your class even have the courage to fight? How do you teach, Mr. Zhou? I knew your level was poor, but I didn't expect it to be this bad."

Mr. Zhou from Class 9 was fuming and silently cursed his own students for their lack of spirit.

Yet no matter how Class 4 provoked them, no one from Class 9 came forward.

*Chen Gu had been waiting all along, already finding Zhao Ergou disagreeable, just like his annoying father. While others are used to tackling the junior to get to the senior, I, the real deal, prefer to break from the norm; I'll settle with the senior first, then discipline the junior!*

*If my grandson is disobedient, it is I who will deal with him; but dare to touch my grandson, and it is I, Grandpa, who will tidy you up.*

However, to everyone else, Chen Gu looked humiliated and enraged, his face flushed red as he gasped for breath and suddenly stood up, "I will do it!"

"Class 9 is not full of cowards!"

"I'll show you that we are men of courage too!"

*He had thought about these lines for quite a while, feeling they fit the character of a typical over-the-top adolescent high schooler—indeed, an actor who doesn't aspire to be a director is no good at scriptwriting.*

"You?" Mr. Zhou frowned, his tone somewhat hesitant. *He knew Chen Gu's physical training scores, and based on those, Chen Gu was no match for Zhao Junzhi, who could win with ease even with one arm tied behind his back.*

*Mr. Zhou was well aware of why his students didn't dare to fight. Two weeks ago, during an exchange bout, Zhao Junzhi had defeated a boy from Class 5, and although protective gear was worn, it was later found that the boy had suffered three fractured ribs.*

*One week before that, a boy from Class 1 narrowly won by points against Zhao Junzhi in a sparring session; that very afternoon after school, the boy encountered a "robber" and got stabbed.*

*Mr. Zhou didn't want to put Chen Gu in harm's way, so he looked towards a few robust boys in his class who aspired to military school.*

But Chen Gu had already grabbed the protective gear and quickly suited up, jumping onto the stage and challenging loudly, "Come on!"

The girls of Class 9, despising the cowardice of the boys, admired Chen Gu's courage despite his seemingly unimpressive strength—no, it was because he was handsome.

So the girls stood together, raising their arms to cheer for Chen Gu.

And truly, the voices of sixteen or seventeen-year-old girls at the prime of their youth are as clear and delightful as that of orioles.

Over at Class 4, a few girls began to see Chen Gu in a new light, "This student is quite handsome—no, I mean, he really takes responsibility."

Liu Shichan remained seated cross-legged, her expression somewhat disdainful. Although her perfect exterior and cool temperament were striking, as soon as she spoke, the façade crumbled, "He's just a pig, a pretty one at that. No use fighting Zhao Junzhi; this is when he should be tucking his head between his legs. We in the underworld know well: As long as the green hills remain, you need not fear running out of firewood!"

"First, save your life, then, when the opportunity arises, take some people and slaughter his whole family!"

"Just to spite Zhao Junzhi and get beaten badly, it could ruin your whole life.

"Besides, look how soft and delicate you appear; why exert yourself? Find a wealthy and powerful sugar mommy to rely on. Zhao Junzhi's dad just got beaten up by a big shot, and with such a scandal, his chances of becoming a general are ruined. With just a little help from a sugar mommy, dealing with the Zhao family would be easy.

"A gentleman may take ten years to avenge, but a pretty boy will have the sugar mommies vie to do it for him!"

Her group of best friends rushed to cover her mouth, "Oh my lady, please stop talking..."

*Chen Gu stood opposite Zhao Junzhi, feeling... absolutely wonderful. It had been a long time since he had performed in front of so many people, and he had missed this feeling.*

*As an actor, a performance without an audience, although pure, somehow lacked a sense of accomplishment.*

*Despite the euphoria bubbling within, Chen Gu didn't forget his "primary duty" and continued to glare furiously at Zhao Junzhi. The latter sneered and beckoned him with a crooked little finger.*

The Class 4 physical education teacher stepped forward, "I'll be the referee."

"Are you ready?"

"On your marks—GO!"

He quickly stepped back, then quietly waited for Zhao Junzhi to KO Chen Gu.

Chen Gu's performance truly resembled that of an average high school student; he let out a roar and lunged with flailing arms, only to see Zhao Junzhi sneer and throw a swift, shadowless kick straight at him.

BANG!

Chen Gu's wildly swinging arms, by sheer luck, blocked the kick. As he lunged forward, he became entangled with Zhao Junzhi and began swinging his fists wildly, THUD! THUD! THUD! pummeling Zhao Junzhi from left and right.

He didn't care if it was the head, torso, or limbs; he just pummeled indiscriminately.

To onlookers, Chen Gu's attacks seemed to lack technique, almost unlikely to hit any effective areas, and therefore unable to score "points." Essentially, all his attacks were blocked by the protective gear, so they posed no threat.

However, to Zhao Junzhi in the midst of the fray, it was a different story. Even through the protective gear, the first punch Chen Gu landed on his arm caused piercing pain, eliciting a scream from him.

With each subsequent punch from Chen Gu, the protective gear seemed utterly useless, each blow landing with a heavy thud that made him cry out in agony.

In a flash, Zhao Junzhi's thighs took two hits, and he fell to the ground with a thud. Chen Gu continued his Frenzied Demon Boxing Technique, pouncing to prolong the assault.

The Class 4 physical education teacher realized something was amiss and rushed forward to protect Zhao Junzhi with his body while pushing Chen Gu away with both hands.

Chen Gu, as if caught up in a frenzied state, just kept attacking, landing a series of heavy punches—THUD! THUD! THUD!—on the physical education teacher.

One punch landed squarely on the chin, and without so much as a grunt, the teacher passed out on the spot.

Chen Gu seemed to realize something at that moment and hurriedly stepped back, retracting his hands, "Teacher, are you alright? I didn't mean it, I didn't see you coming..."

*From the outset, Chen Gu had surmised that the physical education teacher would definitely favor Zhao Junzhi—after all, Zhao Junzhi wasn't punished for being late to class due to a fight in the restroom; it was clear that the teacher was among those currying favor with Zhao Junzhi.*

*Plus, after the teacher had just openly mocked Teacher Zhou, Chen Gu had been irked by him for a full twelve minutes and thirty-six seconds.*

Teacher Zhou was also taken aback and hurried over to check. Zhao Junzhi was pinned under the fainted physical education teacher, both males maintaining an ambiguous position, and with Zhao Junzhi continuing to groan, the sight was rather jarring to the eyes.

*Chen Gu couldn't tell if it was just his imagination, but Liu Shichan's eyes seemed to light up when she saw this.*

Teacher Zhou checked and found that the physical education teacher had merely fainted. Breathing a sigh of relief, he pulled the man off Zhao Junzhi and laid him aside.

Turning to Zhao Junzhi, he was taken aback. Zhao Junzhi had started to cry, his face smeared with tears and snot, "My arm, my leg, they feel like they're broken, I need emergency care!"

Given his significant status, chaos ensued again. After the school doctor's brief examination, he solemnly sent him to the hospital.

Throughout the ordeal, Chen Gu conscientiously carried on his performance: standing on the sidelines, appearing somewhat bewildered, anxious, and helpless.

"I didn't do it on purpose..."

"He was wearing protective gear..."

"I really didn't notice the teacher rushing in..."

## **Chapter 14: Chapter 14: So He's a Filial Son**

After the dust had settled, the girls began to look at Chen Gu with stars in their eyes.

The boys also started to see him in a new light.

After all, Chen Gu had the courage to stand up, and he even won when everyone doubted him—although it seemed he himself didn't know how he pulled it off.

On the Lubei dark web, a message quickly appeared: Selling for three Gold Shields! Note: This message is directly related to Zhao Junzhi—big news!

Chen Zili of Class 7 didn't hesitate to purchase it. After reading, he was stunned for a long time, a strange feeling rising in his heart. *Is this... the bigger fish following the small one? Did my grandfather seek revenge for me? But why do I feel a bit panicked? I don't seem very filial to my grandfather! Since he's so formidable, could he be so enraged that he beats me up too? The grandson is panicking!*

Zhao Junzhi was injured and taken to the hospital—the entire school was in an uproar. The principal personally rushed to the hospital to visit, while the head of discipline, accompanied by a few security guards, stormed toward Class 9 to look for Chen Gu.

The students who learned about this on the Lubei dark web were roughly divided into two factions. Those from well-off, rich, and powerful families acted indifferent. At most, some sighed, *The Zhao family has been down on their luck lately.*

The other faction consisted of students from ordinary backgrounds. These students were academic overachievers who had earned their way into Lubei Middle School through their own merits.

It just so happened that this group of people were the targets of Zhao Junzhi's bullying. They clapped and cheered, "Served him right! The harder he was hit, the better!"

In this era, because of the high status of military personnel and the desire for military schools, injuries during school training weren't considered very serious. But this time, it was Zhao Junzhi who was injured.

Chen Gu was still in the combat room and didn't think it was a big deal.

The head of discipline, a man in his forties or fifties, was a dark-faced, chubby man with a pair of small eyes gleaming fiercely. The physical training teacher from Class 4 had already regained consciousness and was leaning against one side, with two boys from his class fanning him as his memory slowly returned.

Seeing the head of discipline arrive, he suddenly sprang up, staggered over to the leader, and with a woeful face, accused first, "Director, Chen Gu is really beyond the law, openly causing serious injury to a classmate in school!"

He still wanted to maintain some decency, not daring to blame Chen Gu for injuring a teacher.

The head of discipline looked at Chen Gu with a dark expression and barked, "This is a serious violation of discipline!"

Chen Gu had sharp ears and had already heard Teacher Dai's hurried footsteps outside. He displayed the grievance and stubbornness a young person should have in such a situation, as well as an anger he dared not voice due to his special identity.

*For his own performance, Chen Gu gave himself 99 points. Can't get complacent!*

"Chen Gu!" Teacher Dai appeared just in time. He immediately saw the "found support" look on Chen Gu's face and, overwhelmed by a sense of responsibility, stepped forward to shield Chen Gu from the head of discipline. "Director," he said, "it's inevitable to have some injuries during combat exchanges. Didn't Lu Kai from Class 5 suffer a fractured bone at the hands of Zhao Junzhi two weeks ago?"

Did the school punish Zhao Junzhi later? No.

Lu Kai's family was also well-off; his father was a director in Wuzhaoyin City. But they were generous and didn't make a fuss about it.

The head of discipline, his face dark, retorted with forced reasoning, "It's not the same. Zhao Junzhi's injuries are very serious."

"The nature of the incident is the same," Teacher Dai countered. "It doesn't matter how serious or light the injuries are. If responsibility is to be pursued, it should be for the school's logistical oversight in providing substandard protective gear! The school should compensate Zhao Junzhi for his medical expenses."



The head of discipline glanced ominously at Teacher Dai; the head of school logistics was his relative, and Teacher Dai's words carried an implicit threat.

Not wanting to argue any further, he flung his hand dismissively. "Hmph, you want to protect him, fine! Even if the school doesn't hold him accountable, you are doing him harm by doing so!"

*The school won't pursue it, but will the Zhao family really let it go at that?*

The head of discipline left with the security guards. He had just blustered in full force, obviously backing Zhao Junzhi. Since he was usually very harsh on students, they naturally disliked him. Seeing their homeroom teacher send him packing, the boys and girls of Class Nine cheered together, "Teacher is mighty—"

Teacher Dai glared at them, scolding, "Stop making a fuss," while feeling pleased inside. *A fine teacher like myself is indeed beloved by students!*

Chen Gu sincerely bowed to Teacher Dai. "Thank you! It's just... will it cause trouble for you?"

Teacher Dai waved his hand unconcernedly. "It's no big deal, don't worry about it."

He waved at the other students. "School's out." Then he pulled Chen Gu aside. "You come with me."

After leaving the combat room and finding a secluded corner, Teacher Dai advised, "Don't be stubborn. Call Chen Jixian and ask him to send someone to protect you. Zhao Junzhi is narrow-minded and vengeful; I'm afraid there are already people waiting for you outside the school!"

Chen Gu thought about it and obediently nodded. "Okay, Teacher, I'll read at school for a while and head back when my protection arrives."

Teacher Dai was relieved. *See, such a good child, heeding advice and always thinking of studying.*

"That's good." He departed reassured.

Chen Gu, of course, wasn't afraid of Zhao Junzhi's despicable retaliation. Not to mention the pre-training these days, Chen Gu felt his combat skills were not bad. At worst, he could always rely on his memory possession; even if it wasn't the Nuclear Explosion Nun, just the High-Energy Combat Art from the Star Wars instructor was enough to sweep through Wuzhaoyin City.

But if he were to use it, the origin was unexplainable, and if the inquisitive found out, there would always be some trouble. So, after some thought, Chen Gu dialed Zhao Ji's number.

Hearing this, Zhao Ji agreed readily, "Wait for me, I'll send four bodyguards over."

Chen Gu was somewhat worried. "Won't it bring you any trouble?"

Tao's Industries was an arms manufacturer, and the military was their biggest client. Zhao Ji laughed heartily. "Don't worry, Zhao Zhenhuai is too low-level. Besides, why would I grovel before my wife and live off her if not to stand tall and proud before others? You just wait. My people are already on their way and will definitely be there within ten minutes."

"Okay." Chen Gu inwardly admired, *Damn, what incredible logic! Respect. I'm beaten!*

True to his word, five minutes later, a bulletproof maglev car touched down at the school's entrance. Old Liu, the gatekeeper, watched as four burly men in black got out, his expression like he was facing a formidable enemy.

One of them dialed Chen Gu's number. After Chen Gu came out and got into the car, the bodyguards escorted him home.

In an alley outside the school, several lurking thugs called Zhao Junzhi in the hospital with solemn expressions. "Young master, that kid is not simple..."

...

Chen Zili hadn't gone home either; he had been waiting in the Class Seven classroom the entire time.

He saw Chen Gu leave from the window and hurried to follow, wanting to warn the other about Zhao Junzhi's ambush. However, he failed to catch up and only saw the "Xuanwu III Model" soaring away.

He was flabbergasted for a moment. After some thought, a sly smile crossed his face. *In this world, who else would help Chen Gu? And who else would have the ability to dispatch bodyguards and a bulletproof maglev car? It had to be his own father. Heh, who knew Dad, always with that cold face, was actually such a devoted son!*

...

Inside the school gate's soda shop, several boys, who had found excuses not to leave, were sneakily eyeing Liu Shichan's long legs—fair, straight, and tender—swallowing their saliva.

A few girls were accompanying Liu Shichan. When they saw Chen Gu being picked up by a bulletproof maglev car, they were also somewhat bewildered, asking Liu Shichan, "Big Sister, are we still going to recruit Chen Gu to our Dead Phoenix Gang?"

Yes, Liu Shichan, the boss lady, had plans to "look after" Chen Gu in the future. However, this guy seemed ungrateful, lacking the good fortune to follow Big Sister Liu's leads.

Liu Shichan downed her own drink in a gulp, her fair teeth crunching on the ice. "Let's go."

## **Chapter 15: Chapter Fifteen: Human Treasures**

The situation was a bit too serious for the hitmen to decide on their own, so they handed the video of Chen Gu leaving to Zhao Zhenhuai.

"Is this... the civilian version of the [Black Tortoise III Type] armored vehicle from Tao Industrial?" the aide-de-camp asked, astonished. "It's said that the selling price is as high as 3.6 million?"

The hitmen were not from the Zhao family; they were just paid to do a job. The most important thing in their business was to be discerning and not to mess with the wrong people.

One of them said from the side, "This is not an ordinary [Black Tortoise III Type]. Tao Industrial custom-made a special batch for the Confederation's Senate and did not sell it to the public. The difference from the standard model is that there's a small lightning symbol on the left side of the vehicle."

As he spoke, he reached out to pause and zoom in on the video, clearly revealing a lightning symbol!

"This lightning version of the [Black Tortoise III Type] has defense capabilities taken to the extreme; it can withstand the explosion of a nuclear bomb of ordinary yield!"

"Apart from being specially provided to the Senate, only members of the Tao family use it."

The hitman said, "Colonel, we can't handle this job. We've already refunded the money to the young master. Please find someone more capable." After saying this, the hitman immediately left, unwilling to be involved any further. The aide-de-camp was left with his eyes wide open in disbelief. *An exchange student with such a profound background?!*

Zhao Zhenhuai, with a sullen and sharp countenance, ordered, "Look into this Chen Gu thoroughly!"

"Yes!"

「...」

The lightning version of the [Black Tortoise III Type] arrived at the community where Chen Gu rented an apartment. As it entered the gate, a dazzling and luxurious maglev car just happened to follow behind. The short and chubby car owner was shocked at the sight of the vehicle ahead. *The lightning version of the [Black Tortoise III Type]... Why would someone with such status live here?*

When Chen Gu got out of the vehicle with the escort of two bodyguards, the short and chubby car owner fell silent. He stayed in his parking spot for quite some time, not getting out, afraid of embarrassing himself.

After the two bodyguards escorted Chen Gu upstairs, the short and chubby car owner sighed. *Indeed, people should not be judged by their appearances. This person might be a scion of some major family trying to experience the life of an ordinary person, right?* His mind quickly filled in the blanks.

This incident later turned out to be a good thing for him, as it helped him overcome his habit of judging people by their appearances.

At the door, one bodyguard said, "Young Master Chen, we will come to pick you up for school tomorrow morning. The young master-in-law has instructed that during this period, we will be following you at all times."

"Alright, thank you for your hard work," Chen Gu said politely.

Just as Chen Gu was about to enter, CLANG! The brat's parents burst through their door. Having heard Chen Gu's return, they stormed out, ready to swindle him.

They had beaten their own son seven or eight times and then tried all sorts of unreasonable tactics with the short, chubby car owner. But he was no pushover, employing a mix of underworld and legitimate methods. These kinds of parents were most afraid of those more aggressive than themselves, so they begrudgingly paid over a hundred thousand in compensation. Later, when they casually asked their son why he had drawn on someone else's car, the brat's few words gave them an idea: regardless of evidence, they would pin it on Chen Gu and make him bear the loss of over a hundred thousand!

But just as they were menacingly charging towards Chen Gu, the killing intent of the two black-clad bodyguards by his side was unleashed.

ZZZT ZZZT—

The biomimetic camouflage on the left bodyguard's nano-metal arm retracted, revealing a glistening limb wrapped in a thick layer of plasma. Just one punch would probably leave the bear-like parents seven-tenths cooked.

The bodyguard on the right removed his sunglasses, revealing a mechanical eye. It rotated and shot out a red laser, scanning back and forth over the two parents! With just a thought, its power could be increased enough to effortlessly slice the bear-like parents into sashimi.

They were powerful guards from the culinary division!

"Back off!" the two bodyguards shouted. The brat's parents went weak in the knees, and the crotches of their pants soaked instantly.

Dripping wet and trembling, they retreated and then slowly closed the door. *Who are we? What are we doing? We were never here!*

The two bodyguards asked, "Young Master Chen, do you want us to..." One of them made a cutting gesture.

Chen Gu smiled and waved his hand. "No need. Look at them; they definitely won't dare to trouble me again. You can go and rest."

"Alright," the two bodyguards left. One of them intentionally stood outside the brat's family's home, loudly reporting the apartment number into his phone, "Check it out immediately, assess the threat level, and if it reaches level two, eliminate it immediately!"

Inside the room, the Double Bear parents started to tremble again. *Chen Gu was secretly amused and quite certain that his English grammar was flawless!*

Chen Gu entered his apartment and soon received a message: the 'Endless' gaming pod he ordered had arrived. The message asked if he would like it delivered immediately, to which Chen Gu confirmed.

In less than ten minutes, a delivery robot brought the gaming pod inside.

This commercially available gaming pod was different from the ones provided to schools. Those were supplied in large quantities, were cheap but very simple, with many value-added features stripped away.

The one Chen Gu bought was priced at 37,000 Starshield and had an aesthetic filled with a sense of technology. It also had many "lazy features," such as a nutrient solution life support system that could sustain continuous hardcore gaming sessions.

Since he had the money, Chen Gu decided to keep a low profile but also didn't plan to shortchange himself.

Chen Gu purchased this gaming pod because he had learned from the memories of Milna Katerina and Griffin Wester that all Professionals constantly faced the threat of the Endless Realm.

It was a mysterious space, and it was said that humanity had not yet been able to locate the physical position of the Endless Realm.

It was filled with various demonic forms, Evil Gods, and so on, constantly tempting the living beings of the real world. Once they fell, they would become accomplices in the real world.

Such people were referred to by Professionals as "Metamorphs" and possessed abilities no less than those of Professionals; they were insane and dangerous.

And whenever Professionals advanced, they would inevitably need to confront the Endless Realm for unknown reasons—and this game, ironically called 'Endless,' raised Chen Gu's suspicions.

He had a dinner that was mediocre in taste but full of nutrients, and then he entered the gaming pod.

BEEP—

Game activated.

In front of Chen Gu, a series of blue, lightning-like text flashed:

Honor Player [Idol Actor], welcome to 'Endless'.

Chen Gu was startled. It turned out that after the last training exercise, the officials of the 'Endless' game had actually given him the title of "Honor Player."

Now, Chen Gu [Idol Actor]'s name turned golden, surrounded by effects that looked like a dissipating mist of light.

He smacked his lips. "Hmm, seems pretty good."

A small megaphone icon in the bottom left corner was frantically jumping and flashing. Chen Gu casually opened it, and WHOOSH—millions of "friend requests" burst out, completely submerging him.

*As a particularly popular man, loneliness is just this plain and unadorned.* Chen Gu rejected them all with one click. "Off you go!"

「...」

In an office within the Central Operations Room of the Confederation, Bai Xianya was browsing through a report.

But the more she read, the more it made her grind her teeth in frustration.

The battle reports came from nine armies, compiled by low-level staff of the Central Operations Room. These nine had been selected by Bai Yunpeng to experiment with the "Pillar Falling" tactic against the Alien Insect Race in combat.

The results of the experiment were very successful. After using this tactic, eight of the armies had destroyed the insect swarms with about 30% fewer losses than in previous battles.

The one failure was because the "Pillar Falling" tactic hadn't been successfully implemented.

Before the experiment, the Central Operations Room had distributed a simplified version of the "Tactic Manual" to these experimental troops. As long as they followed the instructions in the manual, they could successfully execute this tactic in a variety of battle situations.

The unit that failed encountered a battle situation not covered in the Tactic Manual.

The commanders of six of the experimental armies were of average ability and did not possess tactical genius like Zhao Zhenhuai.

Bai Xianya nodded. This meant that as long as the Tactic Manual was comprehensive enough to cover all possible scenarios, any commander could implement "Pillar Falling" and destroy the insect swarms with minimal losses. The key was whether the Tactic Manual was comprehensive enough.

The Central Operations Room had already carried out a full deduction of the battle involving [Idol Actor] and Zhao Zhenhuai. However, that was just a deduction of one battlefield situation. Now, they had to deduce various battlefield scenarios.

This was a massive and complex task.

Of course, the most suitable person to lead this task would be [Idol Actor], who had first successfully implemented the tactic. But that guy hadn't logged into the game since! This made Bai Xianya, who had sent countless friend requests, itch with annoyance. *A military-uniformed beauty, and you're so cold when I try to add you as a friend! Serves you right for being single forever!*



She gathered the report and went to find her uncle again, saying, "From the results, the large-scale promotion plan is feasible."

Bai Yunpeng nodded. With a casual operation, the office door behind Bai Xianya closed automatically. Bai Xianya remembered she had barged in directly again and felt somewhat abashed.

Bai Yunpeng did not hold it against his grandfather's prized grandniece—nor did he dare. He asked, "Have you contacted [Idol Actor]?"

"No," Bai Xianya said, feeling defeated. "He hasn't logged on since that time."

Bai Yunpeng's fingers tapped rhythmically on the desk, as if pondering something. He then asked, "What kind of person do you think this tactical prodigy could be?"

Bai Xianya understood his hint and said in surprise, "You suspect... a Professional?"

"Professionals are very secretive, and all have their own backgrounds and organizations. However, a small number of Professionals leave their organizations and go into hiding."

"Such a level of tactical skill cannot possibly come from isolated practice and self-study. This [Idol Actor] must have experienced numerous wars to reach such proficiency."

"If he were from our military, he would have come forward himself. If he were from another country's military, he would have no reason to help us."

"So that only leaves Professionals."

After some thought, Bai Xianya said, "If it's a Professional, the most outstanding tactical commander would be [Starwind Centurion]. Besides him, there are others like [Digital Shepherd], [Star Battle Instructor], and the old Profession, [Death Domain Warlord]."

"And with tactical command skills this high, he has probably reached the Fifth Energy Level or above!"

*A Professional of this caliber is truly a national treasure, a vital asset to the country!*

Bai Yunpeng nodded, gazing intently at his niece. "Now you understand how significant your responsibility is, right? No matter which category this [Idol Actor] falls into, we must recruit him."

"Yes!" At this point, Bai Xianya also became serious, snapping to attention. "I guarantee I will complete the mission!"

Just as her voice fell, a BEEP BEEP BEEP sound suddenly came from her personal account. Bai Xianya thought she had misheard, but upon checking, her face lit up with surprise. "Marshal, [Idol Actor] has logged into the game!"