

## Full Time 111

### Chapter 111: Solution

Bai Yunpeng immediately said, "Notify all senior staff to return to the Central Operations Room at once to wargame the new tactics!"

Bai Xianya had no time to think about her bath anymore. She quickly notified everyone, changed into her military uniform, and rushed back.

After a sleepless night in the Central Operations Room, the senior staff were excited as one piece of good news after another came in.

"Only the last combat environment simulation to go!"

"The previous sixty-seven have all passed; it's all down to this one!"

Everyone gathered in front of the war AI and watched as the progress bar for the sixty-eighth combat environment simulation reached the end. Finally, the progress bar completed. With a DING, an alert sounded, and the war AI announced, "Simulation complete. We are victorious."

"YEAH!"

The entire operations room erupted, with everyone cheering and raising their arms in jubilation.

Bai Xianya and Bai Yunpeng found it somewhat unbelievable. Bai Xianya smiled and said, "We were too fixated on solving the problem at the tactical level. In fact, our previous tactics were quite correct; they just needed some added assurances."

"Our equipment can provide that assurance."

The message later sent by "Idol Actor" was simple: for the "Sacrificial Gambit" tactic, provide strong equipment protection for the small unit acting as bait. Preferably, heavy-duty Mecha carried by combat vehicles.

When acting as bait, the unit shouldn't deploy the Mecha initially. They should wait until the Insect Mutants take the bait, then the bait unit suits up in the Mecha and holds their ground until allied forces eliminate the Insect Mutants.

Heavy-duty Mecha have adequate armor protection to withstand the attacks of Insect Mutants for over half an hour.

Simply equipping basic combat units with enough heavy-duty Mecha would suffice. Tactical problems could then be solved with equipment.

Moreover, heavy-duty Mecha were not widely used, so the military didn't have many. However, with the Confederation's strong industrial capability, they could be quickly produced and issued if necessary.

The military could also afford the cost.

In the past, the military had not used heavy-duty Mecha en masse against the Alien Insect Race because their mobility was poor. Against the nimble Alien Insect Race, they struggled to achieve outstanding results.

However, in the "Sacrificial Gambit" tactic, heavy-duty Mecha only need to serve a protective and sweeping role.

Once the Insect Mutants are lured in, they become frenzied and besiege the bait unit. The bait unit doesn't need mobility; with Insect Mutants swarming from all sides, the heavy-duty Mecha just need to stand back-to-back in a circle and fire away.

Bai Yunpeng also laughed. "I didn't expect such a difficult problem to be resolved so simply. This 'Idol Actor' is not only a tactical master but also an ingenious talent!"

"Compile the tactics into a manual immediately and distribute it to the ground forces. We need feedback from the battlefield."

"Yes!" Despite having worked through the night, the senior staff got to work, their spirits lifted by the thought of the benefits the "Sacrificial Gambit" tactic would bring to the frontline.

Bai Yunpeng gestured for Bai Xianya to come over and said in a low voice, "You are still fully in charge of upgrading Research Institute 745 to a research academy."

He emphasized, "'Idol Actor' is a talent; we must retain him. Also, when the time is right, you can directly ask him if he has any concerns about revealing his identity. Whatever problem he may have, we can help him solve it."

"Alright."

Bai Xianya immediately went into the game to discuss this with "Idol Actor." Then, as expected... she couldn't find him.

Dozens of messages vanished like stones thrown into the ocean, disappearing without a trace.

Bai Xianya had almost gotten used to it and sighed helplessly.

「...」

Chen Gu attended class as usual the next day and then went to the substation at night to grind for skill experience. After exhausting himself, Chen Gu took a short rest in his office and casually logged into the Bureau of Mystic Security's intranet.

Merit points could be exchanged not only for various weapons and equipment but also for some potions and martial techniques.

He first browsed the potion category. Both [Primordial Life VI] and [Odoro Supplement] were prominently listed.

However, [Primordial Life VI] was very expensive, requiring 80 merit points per vial. The price was comparable to that of an inauguration ceremony.

The [Odoro Supplement] was much cheaper, requiring only 20 merit points.

Chen Gu casually exchanged for four [Odoro Supplement] vials and one [Primordial Life VI] vial. In fact, [Primordial Life VI] was optional for Chen Gu, who possessed [Atomic Life]; he had a greater need for the [Odoro Supplement].

A total of 160 merit points was a trifle for Chen Gu.

So wealthy and imposing!

He then looked at other potions. There were many good items; potions that directly enhanced physical fitness alone numbered over twelve types, and the effect of any one of them far exceeded the [Goliath Potion] Zhao Junzhi had used previously.

Truly befitting a major official organization; their foundation is indeed profound.

Then, Chen Gu scrolled to the martial techniques page, which was his real target.

Griffin Wester's [High-Energy Combat Art] was powerful, but it could only be deployed when he was in a memory embodiment state.

If Chen Gu was using another professional ability, in terms of combat, he could only rely on his own "Ancient Martial Great Nine Forms."

This martial art could dominate in high school, but it seemed insufficient against professionals. Chen Gu had felt this during several operations.

What he found most intolerable was that the day before yesterday, he actually couldn't defeat that worthless gorilla with the "Ancient Martial Great Nine Forms"!

Of course, at that time, Chen Gu had considered the gorilla's pride and hadn't told him that if he really used his skills, the gorilla, despite being at the Second Energy Level, definitely wouldn't be his match.

The gorilla, as a [Resonance Council Celebrity], had astonishing destructive power. Once it reached the Third Energy Level, it could create "earthquakes," easily destroying a mountain tens of thousands of feet high. Above the Sixth Energy Level, it would have the ability to destroy a planet!

But this profession had a very clear flaw: activating its skills required some time.

Time was needed to find the resonance frequency and to initiate the resonance.

This amount of time might be negligible for ordinary people, but it was a deadly issue for professionals—enough time for Chen Gu to defeat him several times over.

The gorilla, a grand Second Energy Level individual, was chased around by the [True Knowledge Sin]. His profession's inadequacy in "combat duels" also played a role in this.

On the martial techniques page, Chen Gu unhesitatingly selected the "Price: High to Low" filter.

The page flashed:

[Hundred Sovereigns Striking Technique], exchange value 2,000,000.

[Invincible Annihilation Technique], exchange value 2,000,000.

[Stellar Pinnacle Thirteen Fists], exchange value 2,000,000.

[Heaven-Destroying Earth-Shattering Combat Technique], exchange value 2,000,000.

[Doomsday Struggle Method], exchange value 1,900,000.

Chapter 112: Just One Word: Expensive

Chen Gu broke out in a cold sweat. I was getting carried away, he thought. Scroll down, quickly scroll down!

After scrolling for a long time, the exchange value on the page still hovered around 500,000. Chen Gu gave up and redefined his search range: below 500 merit points.

But this time, the results that appeared were clearly inferior even to the "Great Ancient Martial Nine Forms." For example, there were items like "12 Narrow-Range Combat Techniques" and "Speed-Boosting Thunder Palm."

Chen Gu clenched his teeth. It looks like I still have to spend big.

He then limited the search range to below 2,000 merit points, and this time he finally found some suitable targets.

Chen Gu opened and browsed through them one by one. After a side-by-side comparison, he selected a few.

One was "New School Combat Compendium," with an exchange value of 2,000. This martial art was somewhat similar to the High-Energy Combat Art and possessed considerable power. If he chose this, Chen Gu could master it with half the effort.

However, "considerable power" was just that—considerable. Chen Gu always felt something was missing. It was just short of being able to make a gorilla crap itself with a single punch.

Another was "High-Tech Internal Energy Release Fist Technique," which used scientific methods to analyze and elucidate the ancient principle of "internal energy release." By strictly following the training described in this martial technique, anyone could master this internal energy release.

Aptitude? Don't even mention aptitude. Any trash-tier aptitude can be fixed with a single injection! If that still doesn't work... well, that just means your father is poor and bought a cheap, ineffective product.

It also came with a corresponding set of fist techniques.

The exchange value was also 2,000.

This set of fist techniques was powerful enough to take down a foolish gorilla with one punch, but it also had its drawbacks. Specifically, the accompanying fist techniques were quite ordinary.

It focused on the power of each punch; every strike could unleash internal energy. Since he wasn't fighting the gorilla to the death, he could, of course, send it flying with a heavy internal energy punch. However, when it came to actual missions, the deficiencies in his fist techniques would become apparent.

There was also the "Martial Body Combat Method," with an exchange value of 1,900.

The philosophy of this martial art was that any part of the body could become a weapon; the entire body was a "Martial Body."

Headbutts, elbow strikes, and back thrusts were mere child's play. It even included some moves for critical moments that involved engorging key body parts to execute stabbing attacks!

However, the manual also noted in bold red letters: Do not use unless absolutely necessary. Slay ten thousand enemies, but lose eighty thousand of your own! Caution, caution!

This martial art was actually quite good in all aspects, but... it wasn't stylish enough.

Chen Gu found it hard to imagine himself attacking enemies in all sorts of bizarre poses during battle. It was somewhat cringe-inducing.

After all, I'm an idol-type actor!

He was conflicted for a moment, unsure which one to choose. Unable to decide, Chen Gu called Marcus for his opinion.

Marcus was at home playing with his children; the sound of kids laughing and playing could be heard over the phone.

After listening to Chen Gu, Marcus thought for a moment and said, "The martial arts in the Bureau are all pretty run-of-the-mill. If you really want the most suitable one, I suggest you try reaching out to the Atomic Holy Church."

"The most suitable martial arts for professionals are definitely in the hands of the organizations where those professions originated."

Chen Gu said helplessly, "But I don't know anyone from the Atomic Holy Church..."

"So what? As long as you can offer them what they want, they will give you what you want. I remember their branch is in District 21. Go take a look before making a decision."

Chen Gu thanked his team leader, hung up, and immediately checked Milna Katerina's memories.

But the results were deeply disappointing for Chen Gu.

The memories of Milna Katerina, this Fourth Energy Level master from the Atomic Holy Church, contained very little about close combat and fighting.

A person's complete memory is vast, like an ever-expanding treasury ripe for exploration.

Chen Gu carefully examined the information and discovered that Milna Katerina had been the Atomic Holy Church's prodigy since childhood.

She had always been groomed to be a "Saintess," her duties focused on fully demonstrating the "strength" of the Holy Church to the faithful.

Therefore, her specialization was Biological Nuclear Explosion. Fighting was not something a high and mighty Saintess like her needed to concern herself with.

Since childhood, she had been accompanied by four Radiation Missionaries. When fighting was necessary, they would take action on her behalf.

Among Milna Katerina's skills, the only one somewhat related to combat was a minor she had taken in "Cannon Combat Art."

But that required her weapon, a highly destructive and extremely expensive "Atomic Power Handcannon," to be effective.

The power of each shot from this weapon was comparable to an army's main artillery.

Even in this era, it was a weapon strictly controlled by the Atomic Holy Church, unobtainable even for a hefty sum on the black market.

Now Chen Gu was out of options. He had to seek out the Atomic Holy Church. I lack confidence, but I might as well try my luck, he thought.

\* \* \*

Over the weekend, Chen Gu asked his team leader for time off to visit a branch of the Atomic Holy Church. Marcus told him, "Going just like that definitely won't work."

Marcus helped him prepare an official letter from the Bureau of Mystic Security, verifying Chen Gu's identity and stating that the branch office endorsed his actions.

"Once you're there, only show it to individuals at the priest level or higher. The lower-ranking clergy aren't even aware of the Bureau of Mystic Security's existence and might cause a leak."

"I understand," Chen Gu nodded and drove there himself.

District 21 in Wuzhaoyin City was an ordinary district, home to common citizens, making it suitable for the Atomic Holy Church to cultivate its followers.

The branch's church was magnificently built, exuding a sense of high technology.

When Chen Gu entered, many believers were inside praying. He quietly told a clergyman that he wished to see the priest. The clergyman looked him up and down and then asked, "The priest may not have time to see you. If you wish to confess, we have others available..."

Chen Gu waved his hand. "I have some official business that only someone at the priest level or higher can decide."

The clergyman immediately replied, "I'm sorry, didn't you see the 'No Soliciting' sign posted at the church entrance?"

Chen Gu cursed silently, No wonder your Atomic Holy Church has always been so lukewarm! Other denominations embrace all humanity, accepting every lost lamb, yet you hang a 'No Soliciting' sign at your door!

"I'm not here to solicit. I'm here to make a deal with the Holy Church..."

"Sorry," the clergyman said, raising his hand. "I'm going to have to ask you to leave."

A few security guards approached, and Chen Gu reluctantly left.

He wasn't one to give up easily, though. He waited outside the church until almost noon before he saw the priest emerge, escorted by several clergy members, preparing to get into a car.

Chen Gu immediately rushed forward. "Father, I'd like to talk to you..."

The clergyman from before hurried over to stop him. "I apologize, Father." Then, attempting to push Chen Gu away with a helpless expression, he said, "Why haven't you left yet..."

Chen Gu, a bit angry now, stealthily exerted his strength. How could the clergyman be a match for him? Not only did the clergyman fail to push Chen Gu away, but he was also pushed back by Chen Gu, moving closer to the priest.

Chen Gu extended his hand to the priest. "Greetings."

The priest shook his hand. As Chen Gu slightly released the power of a Radiation Missionary, a glint of surprise appeared in the priest's eyes, followed by a gentle smile.

He waved his hand, gesturing for the clergyman to step back. "He is a friend of ours."

Chapter 113: Public Number

The priest gestured towards his car. "I have an appointment, and I'm running a bit late. Shall we talk in the car?"

"Okay."

After they got in, Chen Gu glanced at the driver. The priest nodded. "You may speak freely here."

Only then did Chen Gu present the official document from the branch office. The priest examined it carefully. "I never expected a Radiation Missionary to appear in the Wuzhaoyin City Bureau of Mystic Security."

Chen Gu said, "I lack martial arts techniques that complement my profession. My team leader recommended I visit the local branch of the church for assistance."

The priest mused for a moment. "In this era, there are no sectarian barriers, and the Holy Church's martial techniques aren't forbidden to outsiders. However, you are not one of our followers and have made no contribution to the Holy Church, so..."

Chen Gu nodded. "I understand. May I ask what kind of contribution the Holy Church requires?"

The priest considered this. "We need assistance with certain matters. How about this: I'll have someone send you a list. The martial technique we offer in return will depend on the help you provide. You can consider your options."

"No problem."

Chen Gu exited the car and soon received a message from the priest's assistant.

However, upon opening it, Chen Gu discovered not a list, but a link to a clandestine website. He clicked it and found himself on a commission website for the Atomic Holy Church.

Chen Gu's access led him directly to the Empire River Star section.

There were several purchase requests for rare resources. For example, if Chen Gu could provide 20 grams of terror-insect series supermatter or nine kilograms of super-life remains, he could choose any martial technique from the Atomic Holy Church's outer 'Holy Treasury'.

The commissioned tasks were varied, ranging from finding missing believers and helping believers fulfill their wishes to apprehending thieves who had stolen items from the Atomic Holy Church.

However, these tasks were all low-difficulty and didn't involve Professionals, so the reward for each was quite minimal. They also used merit points for settlement. Chen Gu roughly calculated that to obtain a decent martial technique, he would need to complete over twenty of these trifling tasks!

As for the supermatter and super-life remains, those were out of the question; if he had any, he would keep them for himself.

Chen Gu browsed the page, muttering to himself, I don't even know what the Atomic Holy Church's martial arts technique is, or if it's worth all this trouble...

Just as he was thinking this, DING! He received another message from the priest's assistant. Opening it, he found a detailed introduction: 'Exposition of the Nuclear Combat Technique.'

The martial arts technique of the Atomic Holy Church is called 'Nuclear Combat Technique'? Chen Gu thought to himself. He carefully read the introduction once, then again, before silently closing the message. He couldn't help but sincerely praise it. The 'Nuclear Combat Technique' is truly powerful, undoubtedly the most suitable martial art for this profession.

I also didn't expect I'd ever use that particularly grating line from the protagonist in the sixteenth installment of that art-house film series: 'I must have her!' Chen Gu chuckled to himself. Previously disheartened by the trivial tasks, he now felt reinvigorated and began to study the webpage with renewed enthusiasm.

The 'Nuclear Combat Technique' was a martial art that perfectly integrated all abilities of the Nuclear Explosion profession with combat techniques and tools.

For instance, activating 'Mind Belief' during combat, when combined with this technique, could provide enhancements similar to "anticipating the opponent's next move."

When 'Radiation Scouring' was activated, it would inflict additional radiation damage on the opponent and continuously affect their condition, judgment, and even confidence through the skill.

If 'Atomic Life' was activated, one could fight as if nearly impervious to damage, like a human tank.

Furthermore, this martial skill could be perfectly coordinated with 'Biological Nuclear Explosion', triggering it with the final strike, timed almost flawlessly.

The 'Nuclear Combat Technique' also included a method to significantly extend the duration of all skills except 'Biological Nuclear Explosion', to better synergize with the martial art's execution.

Of course, during this process, the skills' power would be slightly weakened.

Additionally, this exclusive martial skill featured a move called 'Glory Art'. At the most critical moment, it could instantly unleash all skills, achieving peak combat prowess.

Then... one would be completely drained, ready for 'glory'.

It was a last-ditch, all-or-nothing move.

Chen Gu hoped he would never have an occasion to use this 'Glory Art'.

As Chen Gu scrolled down the commission page, he scratched his head in frustration; there was nothing suitable for him. There were some high-reward commissions, but they typically involved things like "brokering an energy deal" with transaction values in the billions!

Moreover, such a deal required ensuring the Atomic Holy Church saved approximately three hundred million in funds.

Chen Gu didn't think he had that kind of influence.

He was on the verge of despair, his finger rapidly scrolling down, when the page finally reached its end. Chen Gu sighed in resignation, but then, at the very bottom of the page, he spotted a somewhat familiar term: Yingudusi Devil's Pit.

Chen Gu thought for a moment. Ah, yes, Big Rabbit's mission.

Chen Gu had almost forgotten. They had agreed on two weeks, and about that much time had passed.

He began to review the task: Explore the Yingudusi Devil's Pit and find clues about the 'rebel' Dilina. This mission has different reward tiers based on completion.

First, prove entry into the Yingudusi Devil's Pit and a search for Dilina, even if ultimately unsuccessful. Reward: 100 merit points.

Second, discover some traces of Dilina's activities within the Yingudusi Devil's Pit, but with no further significant findings. Reward: 400 merit points.

Third, find multiple traces of Dilina's activities in the Yingudusi Devil's Pit and successfully map out Dilina's complete movement trajectory. Reward: 1,500 merit points.

Fourth, definitively determine Dilina's whereabouts within the Yingudusi Devil's Pit. Reward: 30,000 merit points.

Fifth, retrieve a Holy Church artifact, one 'Doomsday Holy Hand'. Reward: 100,000 merit points.

Note: The public item code for the 'Doomsday Holy Hand' is Earth Rank 3-04.

Chen Gu called Marcus to ask about the 'Doomsday Holy Hand' artifact and its code. Marcus explained, "Anything termed an 'artifact' is incredibly powerful. Most are crafted by true masters using large quantities of super-life remains and supermatter, and each possesses unimaginable might."

"My 'Kunlun Thunder' and the Chief's 'Fierce Fire Banner' can only be considered weapons; they are far from being artifacts."

"Because super-life forms are often unique, and the masters who craft these artifacts usually have distinctive personal styles, almost every artifact is one-of-a-kind."

"Artifacts are categorized into three levels based on their power: Heaven, Earth, and Human."

"Major organizations all possess some well-known artifacts. These artifacts are ranked by power based on their performance in past battles; this ranking is their public code."

Chapter 114: Furious Explosive Sky Blade (Seeking Recommendations)

"For instance, the public code 'Hierarchy 3-04' for the 'Doomsday Holy Hand' means it is the fourth most powerful artifact in the third tier of the Hierarchy."

"Don't think this ranking isn't impressive. In fact, Hierarchy-tier artifacts are already extremely powerful. So far, there are just over fifty artifacts with public Hierarchy codes."

"It seems there are only about twenty at the Heaven tier and no more than one hundred at the Human tier."

"Of course, there are also so-called 'Secret Sequence' artifacts, which are not publicly disclosed and are secretly crafted by major organizations. The number of these is also limited, and many legendary 'Secret Sequence' artifacts don't actually exist, having been fabricated for various reasons."

"However, the 'Doomsday Holy Hand' originally came as a pair. One of them was lost a long time ago. The exact details are quite complex and unknown to outsiders. The Atomic Holy Church has been secretly striving to recover the lost one over these years."

"Judging from the content of this mission, it seems to have been stolen by the defector, Dilina."

Marcus tried hard to search his memory. "Dilina, Dilina... sounds somewhat familiar, but I can't remember where I've heard that name. Try looking it up on the star-net yourself."

"Okay, thanks, Boss," Chen Gu replied.

Chen Gu hung up the call and immediately typed Dilina's name into the search box. Countless results appeared; with billions of people in the Star Sea, who knew how many might share that name. After a moment's thought, Chen Gu added another search term: 'Yingudusi Devil's Pit.' The search results quickly narrowed, and he soon found what he was looking for.

"...One of the crew members of the Four Hundred Brave, suspected to be 'Nuclear Explosion Nun,' participated in the legendary battle against a super life form in the Yingudusi Devil's Pit..."

No wonder the Holy Church's mission encourages entering the Yingudusi Devil's Pit, offering a reward of 100 merit points just for going there.

Chen Gu searched again for the Four Hundred Brave, selected some credible events, and compiled them in chronological order. He then discovered that after the battle in the Yingudusi Devil's Pit, the Four Hundred Brave continued to exist for over another hundred years. However, during this later period, the ship's deeds were not as legendary as before.

The entire existence of the Four Hundred Brave spanned over six hundred years. Even in the current era, it would be nearly impossible for a professional to live that long. He then specifically searched for some "star crew members" and discovered that the legendary "pirate ship" must have changed crews several times.

Defector Dilina was one of the star crew members for over a hundred years before the battle in the Yingudusi Devil's Pit, but after that, no more legends about her could be found.

It seems very likely that Defector Dilina perished in the Yingudusi Devil's Pit. The results of my internet search aren't very reliable, serving only as indirect evidence. The real confirmation of Dilina's demise is the mission the Holy Church published here; they must have conducted extensive investigations to find the 'Doomsday Holy Hand.'

The merit point cost for the 'Nuclear Combat Technique' was also tiered. The first Energy Level section required 1,000 merit points. This meant Chen Gu only needed to find enough traces of Dilina's activities in the Yingudusi Devil's Pit and piece them together into a trail. That would be sufficient.

And he might even have some surplus.

This is the one. Chen Gu made up his mind. He was already planning to go to the Yingudusi Devil's Pit with Big Rabbit. This was an opportunity to complete the mission while also protecting himself by blending in with the mercenary team hired by the wealthy backer.

As for the President being a woman... I should first test the waters to see if Big Rabbit has met the President. It would be easiest if Big Rabbit hasn't. If she has, I could just forcefully explain: 'I wanted to embrace my true self, so I had some minor surgery...'

Chen Gu sent a message to the priest's assistant, indicating his acceptance of the mission. After a while, the assistant replied, "This mission is highly dangerous. To avoid unnecessary sacrifice, we need to assess you."

"Please come to the church at six o'clock tomorrow evening."

Chen Gu agreed, "I'll be there on time."

Then Chen Gu realized a problem. I need the 'Nuclear Combat Technique' to enhance my combat abilities, but I might face intensely difficult battles soon. To strengthen my combat abilities, I need to find a way to boost them as quickly as possible. Going in circles.

With no other option, Chen Gu opened the internal network of the agency again and found the martial arts technique exchange page. This time, however, he discovered a subpage under it: Sword Techniques.

With some anticipation, Chen Gu opened it. Only a dozen or so sword techniques flashed by before the list ended.

Chen Gu was startled. No wonder this subpage was designed so inconspicuously; it was indeed rather shabby.

He still took a serious look. The first technique was 'Annihilating Star Slash,' with an exchange value of 1,000,000,000.

Chen Gu was startled. After carefully counting the zeroes, he drew a sharp breath. It really is one billion! Even on the main martial arts technique page, the strongest ones were only worth two million merit points.

He carefully read the introduction of 'Annihilating Star Slash.' This sword technique consisted of only one move, but its power was immense.

It truly could achieve an annihilating star slash!

Can professionals really become this powerful? Slashing a planet in a single stroke? Like an Annihilating Star Cannon?

However, a line of fine print below 'Annihilating Star Slash' indicated: 'To achieve maximum power, this technique requires the use of the publicly listed Heavenly Item 2-01. Otherwise, its full strength cannot be reached.'

Chen Gu was dumbfounded. Requiring combination with a Heavenly Item and still daring to ask for one billion! Are they out of their minds...?

He continued to look down and soon discovered a huge price discrepancy among the dozen or so sword techniques; the cheapest set cost only 200 merit points.

Powerful sword techniques often required special weapons, or even items, to complement them.

He opened and looked through the detailed introductions of techniques under 3,000 merit points, trying his luck to find one suitable for himself.

There were seven in total. By the time he reached the fifth one, Chen Gu was already greatly disappointed, when suddenly a name leaped into his eyes: Fury of the Open Sky!

He quickly checked the details and indeed saw the phrase: 'This sword technique, when combined with 'Fury of the Open Sky,' can exert its greatest power.'

'Fury of the Open Sky' was considered the treasure of Zhaojieze City's sub-branch; if exchanged for merit points, it should rank above both 'Kunlun Thunder' and 'Fiery Banner.'

Thus, having a sword technique that complemented it was not an exaggeration.

This sword technique was called 'Explosive Heaven-Searing Sword.' Its power far surpassed the three martial arts techniques he was previously interested in. Moreover, its movements were straightforward and decisive, filled with a domineering aura, as if capable of blasting all creation apart with a single slash.

Chen Gu was particularly pleased, but upon seeing the price, his enthusiasm halved: 2,500.

Purchasing this would significantly shrink my wealth. Moreover, it's just a transitional martial art; in the future, I'll definitely prioritize the 'Nuclear Combat Technique.'

Chen Gu felt torn, but within thirty seconds, he made a decision. This is life-saving stuff; I can't be stingy. Besides, with my knack for escalating things in every mission I undertake, won't merit points come rolling in like endless worldly dust in the future?

#### Chapter 115: Unexpected Partners

"Bought it!"

Chen Gu smacked down 2,500 merits to purchase the "Fury Roar Sky-Cleaver" technique. The good thing about martial arts techniques was that they didn't require shipping; Chen Gu paid and immediately obtained the electronic version of the saber technique.

However, he did not start training right away because on the sub-page of the same level, he saw another tag: hidden weapons.

Chen Gu opened it to take a look. There were fewer types on this page, but he actually found one that he needed.

"Ghost Hand Ten Techniques" was a martial art that allowed one to control the force and technique, to launch hidden weapons and autonomously change their trajectory and speed to a certain extent mid-flight.

Chen Gu looked at the price, which was 300, and gritted his teeth to buy it.

He bought it as a precaution; when facing Park Sanyi's second Biological Nuclear Explosion, he had manipulated the Blazing Banner by varying speeds to evade those tentacle interceptions.

This was a medium-sized loophole, which could now be explained away with the "Ghost Hand Ten Techniques."

After that, Chen Gu began training in these two martial arts techniques. He directly channeled Griffin Wester's memories, and with the foundation of High-Energy Combat Art, he made rapid progress in his training, achieving double the results with half the effort.

It was also because High-Energy Combat Art was too profound; at the first Energy Level, its power could not be fully exerted. Otherwise, Chen Gu wouldn't need any other martial arts and could just train this one.

Therefore, martial arts don't necessarily need to be profound; what's most important is suitability for the current stage.

「The next day」

Chen Gu took leave from the sub-bureau and trained at home. By evening, he had a preliminary grasp of these two martial arts techniques.

Wrath of the Azure Sky, when executed, was like mountains collapsing and seas overturning, far surpassing what "Ancient Martial Great Nine Forms" could compare with.

"Next time I encounter that dumb gorilla, I won't say a word. I'll just smack his face with a saber!"

"With my 'Fury Roar Sky-Cleaver,' that moron will definitely be unable to react and get hit on the head by the battle saber! I'll control it so exquisitely, the blade will stop right at his forehead, not even scraping off a bit of the skin."

"That moron will definitely piss his pants out of fear."

"Hahahaha..."

He was not the slightest bit self-aware that laughing so heartily and indulging in such wishful thinking also made him quite... goofy.

Seeing it was about time, Chen Gu left his home and drove straight to the church.

This time, a clergy member was specially waiting for him at the entrance. After receiving him, the clergy member guided him to the back of the church, saying, "Besides yourself, there are also a few others who want to take on this mission. If you all pass the assessment, you might consider forming a team together, which would be a bit safer." The clergy member suggested kindly.

In a large hall at the back of the church, four people were already waiting. Chen Gu recognized from their attire that these were all alien hunters.

Many colonial stars have indigenous creatures. The vast universe is incredibly magical, giving birth to many different types of life forms.

For example, on Empire River Star, the 'Mechanical Species' is a form of mechanical life, further divided into Steam-Powered Mechanical Species and Energy Gathering Mechanical Species.

On other colonial stars, there are various other 'alien species.' Consequently, hunters who specialized in hunting these aliens came into being.

Sometimes they would take on certain missions; as long as there was money involved, they were willing to do practically anything.

Even in the wilderness, they could be mercenaries, or they could be bandits.

As Chen Gu followed the clergy into the room, the four alien hunters immediately cast unusual glances. Their scrutiny carried a hint of contempt: A child?

The clergy said, "Please wait a moment, there's one more person on the way. We'll start once they arrive."

He had a kind heart and advised everyone, "The mission is very dangerous. The Holy Church hopes everyone can work together; we don't wish to see anyone get hurt because of this."

Of the four alien hunters, three simply lifted their heads as if they hadn't heard, while one gave Chen Gu a dismissive glance and said, "No need for that. I'm not cut out to be a nanny."

The other alien hunters burst into loud laughter, causing the clergy to frown, his impression of these alien hunters worsening.

Chen Gu coolly scanned the hunter who had spoken and shook his head slightly. With that kind of attitude, Chen Gu had no interest in becoming teammates with them.

So foolishly reckless.

No wonder the mortality rate of alien hunters was perpetually high.

As it was nearly six o'clock, a figure flashed at the door and a fragrant breeze wafted in. The clergy stood up and said, "Alright, everyone's here. We can begin now."

All four alien hunters narrowed their eyes, openly ogling the beautiful woman who entered. The same hunter who had spoken earlier changed his tune and said to the clergy, "If it's teaming up with this chick, I can accept that."

He then sneered with a heh heh heh.

The other three alien hunters nodded in agreement, finding the suggestion reasonable.

The newcomer was lightly made up but exuded a sense of natural beauty. Her tall and fit stature was accentuated by elastic pants that shaped her long and straight legs. Her lush, tri-colored hair was braided into a plait behind her head, each color forming a distinct section of the braid.

When Chen Gu saw her, he was genuinely taken aback: Qing Ruyan!

Her outfit and demeanor were different from when she had been in the office; she looked more like an 'alien hunter.' Chen Gu felt a sense of disconnect—this girl seemed like a completely different person from the one he had first met.

"How could she appear here? To complete a mission for the Atomic Holy Church? I am a Radiation Missionary, so I have sufficient reason, but surely this person isn't a Nuclear Explosion Nun, right?"

Chen Gu couldn't help but recall Milna Katerina's various strange 'habits,' and as a result, his gaze towards Qing Ruyan became somewhat odd.

Qing Ruyan stealthily shot Chen Gu a look, then pretending not to know him, she walked over and asked, "What is the content of the assessment?"

The clergy adjusted his glasses, concealing his own fluster caused by Qing Ruyan's beauty, and said, "We will send out a powerful warrior..."

Qing Ruyan waved her hand dismissively. "What a hassle." She pointed at the four alien hunters. "If I knock all four of them down, does that count as passing?"

The clergy was flabbergasted. The girl was indeed beautiful, but... her personality was too combative, not quite my type.

"Does it count?" Qing Ruyan pressed, seeing he didn't answer. She stepped forward, stomped one foot on a chair, and leaned her elbow on her knee, demanding an answer.

"It should be possible," conceded the clergy, who dared not say otherwise given her posture.

Qing Ruyan whistled, and Chen Gu chimed in from the side, "That's great. I've had enough of these guys anyway."

He stepped forward. "I'll go first."

The four alien hunters revealed a fierce smile. "A pair of clueless fledglings. Such a pity it's within the city. If it were outside, I would tie up these two kids together. Looking at their pretty faces and asses, I think I could have fun with both the girl and the boy."

#### Chapter 116: The Scumbag's Annihilation Hand

Chen Gu drew his sword; the recently learned "Rage Skyburst Blade" rang out fiercely! He didn't really intend to kill anyone, but this particular set of sword techniques was inherently imbued with rage, dominance, and cruelty. It instantly intimidated the four Xeno-hunters as Chen Gu unsheathed his weapon.

They too had faced death in the wilderness many times and quickly sensed the danger, struggling on a mental level to break free from this state of intimidation.

But they were out of time. Chen Gu turned his blade sideways and delivered four resounding slaps across the Xeno-hunters' left cheeks.

How formidable is "Rage of the Empty Sky"? Chen Gu controlled his force so it wasn't fatal. Nevertheless, it still made their heads buzz, shattered all the teeth on one side of their mouths, and caused blood to stream out.

After smacking them, Chen Gu felt his thoughts had cleared, so he sheathed his sword and walked away with a smile, standing beside the cleric. "I passed."

The cleric stared, speechless, and after a while muttered, "Is this the state of young people nowadays? The more beautiful they are, the more irritable? Is violent beauty trending among the younger generation?"

Qing Ruyan approached the four Xeno-hunters, who were now sitting on the ground, battered by Chen Gu, and asked with concern, "How are you all? Feeling any better?"

The four wobbled their heads and slowly stood up, mumbling indistinctly, "We're... we're alright..."

"Alright then? Good that you're alright. Now, if I hit you, it won't be considered taking advantage of you while you're down."

The Xeno-hunters thought they'd misheard. Then they saw Qing Ruyan extend an arm, which instantly multiplied into four!

Those four arms swelled in an instant like the limbs of a colossus, aimed at the hunters' right cheeks, and smacked down harshly.

SLAP!

The four impacts sounded as one sharp crack. Then, the four men were sent tumbling cleanly through the air by Qing Ruyan's strike!

This time they collapsed completely onto the ground, their faces swollen like pigs' heads, unlikely to wake up any time soon.

Qing Ruyan's four arms vanished as swiftly as they appeared, returning to her original single arm. Chen Gu's eyelid twitched at the sight. How many scumbags has this girl slapped in her life to have developed such a divine skill!

He looked at that arm and felt a vague sense of fear, as if facing a natural predator.

Then, Chen Gu silently cursed. What am I afraid of? I'm not a scumbag, hmph.

His second thought was: What kind of profession is this? What skill? I've never heard of it before.

Qing Ruyan's smile was enchanting as she asked the cleric, "I passed the assessment too, right?"

As she approached, the cleric stepped back in fright. Chen Gu thought scornfully: Definitely a scumbag! Otherwise, why would he be so scared?

"You two..." the cleric said helplessly, "both passed the assessment. How about forming a team to complete this mission?"

Before Chen Gu could speak, Qing Ruyan had already agreed happily, "Sure."

Chen Gu felt a surge of vigilance, a nagging feeling that her "jade hand" was aiming for his face.

Just then, a burly and strong cleric came out from inside and asked with displeasure, "Why the delay? I've been waiting to assess you for a long time."

The first cleric—the one Chen Gu considered a scumbag—hurried forward and whispered a few words. The burly cleric glanced at Qing Ruyan and subconsciously stepped back. "Heh, no need for an assessment. Please, feel free to proceed."

Chen Gu and Qing Ruyan completed the simple mission registration procedures inside the church and then came out together. Chen Gu couldn't help but ask, "Why did you come here too?"

Qing Ruyan put on a pitiful expression. "I'm short on money, and the Atomic Holy Church offers very generous compensation."

Chen Gu knew this well. His goal was the "Nuclear Combat Technique," so his main concern was merit points, but the cash rewards for the missions were indeed substantial.

For example, finding Dilina's whereabouts would earn a reward of two hundred thousand Starshields.

The ultimate mission objective: Retrieve the "World-Ending Sacred Hand," with a cash reward of up to three hundred million!

But Chen Gu looked at Qing Ruyan's devastatingly beautiful face—the kind that could topple nations and bring disaster—and just couldn't bring himself to trust her. He remembered a maxim from his past life: The prettier the woman, the more deceitful she is!

"Heh heh," Chen Gu chuckled. "The agency's salary isn't low, is it?"

"It's not bad. My annual salary is five million Starshields, but a girl has lots of expenses, you know: cosmetics, skincare products, clothes, jewelry, jewelry, jewelry, jewelry..."

Chen Gu listened in astonishment, nearly blurting out the joking phrase "I'll be your sugar daddy then," but he managed to swallow it back down.

An annual salary of five million...

Even though your old man here has a billion, I wouldn't dare be so bold as to try and keep a career woman like her.

What if she actually agreed? It'd cost me tens of millions a year, at least. Surely... I can't have my son pay for his old man's mistress, right?

Chen Gu tilted his head, seriously mulling over the possibility. The issue isn't whether I can be shameless enough, but whether my adult son would agree.

"Heh heh, if an annual salary of five million Starshields isn't enough for you, then two hundred thousand Starshields must be like a drop in the bucket, right?"

Qing Ruyan nodded like a chicken pecking at grain. "Exactly! That's why my target is the final mission reward of three hundred million!"

The two chatted idly as they left the church and walked down the street. As Qing Ruyan was talking, she suddenly fell silent. Chen Gu turned his head and saw that her fangirl tendencies had flared up again; her head was swiveling to follow a handsome man walking by.

Only when he had turned the corner and was out of sight did she snap back to reality and discreetly wipe away a trace of drool. "So handsome!"

Chen Gu was disgruntled. "Is he more handsome than me?"

Qing Ruyan looked at him seriously, then answered with great certainty, "Actually, no, you're more handsome. But I see you all the time, so I'm experiencing some aesthetic fatigue."

Chen Gu instantly felt that although this young woman often lied, she was remarkably honest at crucial moments.

Chen Gu had driven there, so he offered Qing Ruyan a ride. "Where are you headed? I'll drop you off."

"I'm going back to the sub-office."

On the way, they discussed the mission. However, Chen Gu was preoccupied with the "President's" gender. With Qing Ruyan accompanying me, could I perhaps get her to pose as the "President"?

But how would I explain the social media communicator issue to her?

Chen Gu didn't act rashly. After dropping Qing Ruyan off, he went home. Once there, he took out his social media communicator. As soon as he turned it on, messages from Big Rabbit with a gold tooth and cowboy hat started popping up one after another:

"Mr. President, the mission time is approaching! Big Rabbit is so excited to finally meet you in person!"

"The client has everything ready on their end. The first payment has been transferred. Shall I send it to you?"

"Mr. President?"

"Waaah! Begging for a reply, Mr. President!"

"You... you... you... [Shyly Poking Fingers Emoji] ...you haven't changed your mind about doing this mission, have you?"

"[Kneeling and Begging Emoji] Please don't say no! [Kneeling and Begging Emoji]"

"If you have any other requests, we can discuss them!"

"No need to discuss! Even if you, Mr. President, want to play with my little bunny, I'll satisfy your request!"

Chapter 117: The Prince Holding the Great Sword

Chen Gu's eyes brightened; this little girl seemed quite sensible.

However, he no longer needed to test Big Rabbit. He could tell from her very first sentence that she had never met the President before.

So Chen Gu replied with four characters: "Continue the task."

The response came quickly: "That's great! \*Throws confetti\* Let's meet at Star Corner City in two days."

Then, Big Gold-Toothed Cowboy Rabbit sent a slew of hotel information that had already been booked in advance.

Chen Gu didn't reply again. He began to consider the feasibility of Qing Ruyan impersonating the "President." Slowly, a plan took shape in his mind.

The next day was Monday, and Chen Gu went to class as usual. That afternoon, during physical training, he noticed Darkray was distracted and had nearly gotten injured by the equipment.

Teacher Ouyang sighed and said, "Darkray, you don't have to train today. I'll give you the day off. Go home."

Darkray, looking downcast, nodded. "Thank you, Teacher."

He didn't even shower before leaving with his backpack.

Chen Gu caught up and asked, "Is something bothering you?"

Darkray gave a bitter smile and shook his head. "Nothing, Brother Chen. I'm just a bit tired. I'm heading back first."

When Chen Gu returned, Mao Yisheng was standing beside him and sighed, "Every family has its own problems. Darkray's dad has been locked up again."

Chen Gu understood. It was Darkray's family issue, and since Darkray didn't want to talk about it, Chen Gu, of course, wouldn't interfere.

After training, the combat exchange class took place. Class 9's opponents, once again, turned out to be Class 4.

Zhao Junzhi was still attending school, but he had become much more low-profile than before and didn't volunteer to fight in this exchange class.

Chen Gu had been a little worried about Liu Shichan, but as it turned out, she didn't come to class that day. He inquired and found out she had taken leave for a couple of days due to some family matters.

Chen Gu enjoyed a rare, relaxing combat exchange class.

After school, Chen Gu called the Gorilla. "Where are you? I'm coming to find you."

The Gorilla was at home. Chen Gu asked again, "Is Man Suling there?"

The Gorilla was annoyed. "I'm at home! I'm at home! Why would Man Suling be in my house? Let me tell you, I'm not \*that\* kind of producer!"

Chen Gu sneered, "I don't care what kind of person you are. In my eyes, you're only one kind: a super moron!"

The Gorilla cursed loudly. After a bout of bickering on the phone, Chen Gu finally said, "I need to see Man Suling about something. Call her over too."

The Gorilla habitually taunted him. "She's a future diva, already an A-list star! You think you can just see her whenever you want?"

Still, he called Man Suling over. When Chen Gu arrived, Man Suling was already waiting in the room.

Chen Gu entered and smiled at the Gorilla. Then, his demeanor changed abruptly. Without hesitation, he drew his blade and slashed!

"Raging Inferno Blade!"

One slash to make you kneel and call me Daddy! Hahaha!

BOOM—

A powerful aura erupted. The Gorilla immediately felt as though he were trapped in a furious storm of flames. No matter which direction he tried to dodge or how he tried to defend, it seemed nothing would end well.

In an instant, the Gorilla broke out in a cold sweat. He wants to kill me! This Chen Gu is a master from True Knowledge Sin in disguise!

Nearby, Man Suling let out a sharp cry and suddenly transformed into a raging werewolf. Howling, she charged at Chen Gu, clawing and scratching in an attempt to rescue Gao Mengjiu.

The Gorilla's body swayed as his Resonance Council Celebrity ability activated, causing the entire room to shake and tremble.

Only then did Chen Gu realize that this pair—the male and female—were now like startled birds. He seemed to have truly... scared them.

Seeing two Professionals going all out against him, Chen Gu felt he had sort of shot himself in the foot.

His "Wrath of the Empty Sky" stopped precisely in front of the Gorilla's forehead, just as he had imagined in his earlier fantasies, without even breaking the skin.

The Resonance Council Celebrity's skills needed time to activate. However, the Magic Mountain Werewolf was already on the attack. Her foreclaws reached for Chen Gu, lengthening again like five curved blades, aiming straight for his eyes.

At this point, although the Gorilla's powers hadn't yet peaked, he could still exert some of his strength. He growled, "Wave Control!"

The air around Chen Gu was suddenly stirred by a strange resonance. It grew thick and viscous, like liquid, as layers of constraints wrapped themselves around him.

Chen Gu's movements became sluggish, while Man Suling's razor-sharp wolf claws struck like lightning!

Chen Gu sighed regretfully and abandoned his original plan. He withdrew his blade and retreated, shattering the bindings around him, then gave Man Suling a fierce... look.

"It's me," Chen Gu cursed. "You fool! If I were really an enemy, your head would have been split in two by now!"

The Gorilla chuckled. "I figured it out too. But you're so petty! Just because you lost our last fight, you have to hold a grudge and try to get even?"

Man Suling blinked, her lethal wolf claws still extended. How did a life-and-death struggle turn into a friendly reunion in the blink of an eye?

Chen Gu didn't mince words with the Gorilla either, each one sharp and to the point: "You're so tough, huh? Always needing a woman to bail you out when you can't win a fight yourself!"

Chen Gu turned to Man Suling and asked, "Is this how you treat your savior?"

The Gorilla was displeased. "Now you're just being difficult. I admit I owed you for last time, but you can't keep harping on about it, can you?"

"Get lost, dumbass!" Chen Gu snapped at the Gorilla. "I'm not talking about *that* time. I'm talking about the time she was injured by the President..."

Man Suling suddenly remembered. "It was you..."

"It's me." Chen Gu produced the President's social crystal wand. "I need to know the President's Profession."

Man Suling looked at Chen Gu, her gaze somewhat strange. Then... as if compelled by an unseen force, she reverted from her Magic Mountain Werewolf state, transforming back into one of the Four Little Jade Maidens—beautiful, gentle, and exuding womanly charm.

Her impression of Chen Gu had never actually been very good. When they first met, he had gotten her boss incredibly drunk. Moreover, he lacked chivalry. In Man Suling's eyes, as a famous beauty, she was used to everyone treating her with a certain "deference." Chen Gu, however, treated her like an ordinary person, which she considered ungentlemanly.

Later, when they faced True Knowledge Sin, knowing that Chen Gu had saved both her and her boss, Man Suling had felt grateful, but her overall perception of him hadn't changed.

However, being saved by him during the battle with the President—that was different. It had stirred something in Man Suling's heart.

Man Suling, also in her early twenties, was a young woman prone to romantic daydreams. She had privately speculated countless times that her savior was a Prince Charming on a white horse, wielding a magnificent sword!

Yes, the great sword symbolized his strength—that made perfect sense.

And then, asking for nothing in return, he had quietly departed after his heroic deed, never trying to leverage the fact that he'd saved her.

Both of them were simply waiting for fate to arrange their destined reunion!

(What young woman doesn't dream of romance? What inexperienced young man doesn't indulge in fantasies?)

So, their "fateful encounter" was actually a second rescue—how romantically mortifying, in a thrilling sort of way!

Man Suling was lost in thought. Chen Gu couldn't help but prompt her, "Man Suling?"

Chapter 118: The White-Eyed Little She-Wolf

"Ah..." Man Suling quickly composed herself and stole a glance at Chen Gu. He really did fit the mold of a classic Prince Charming.

Chen Gu, for his part, had indeed grown increasingly handsome.

"The President is a vulture... We call those scumbags who specifically prey on freelancers for profit vultures."

"I don't know her real identity; we met through the 'Secret Rod.' Communication between freelancers is difficult, and the Secret Rod is the most important medium for us."

As Man Suling spoke, she pulled out her Secret Rod—a Social Crystal Stick—and continued, "Veteran freelancers all have one. For us, this kind of communication is indispensable!"

Chen Gu's expression turned knowing. A mysterious stick that everyone was secretly using, and they couldn't do without it! Huh, was there anything wrong with that thought? Not at all!

"After communicating with her several times, I realized she might be a vulture, so I deleted her icon."

Man Suling tapped the air a few times, and an interface materialized, featuring a search box at the top and a dense array of icons below.

Man Suling explained, "Each icon represents a professional. It could be a freelancer or a 'fisherman' from a large organization."

Chen Gu seemed to grasp something. "Fisherman? Are they specifically out to capture you?"

Man Suling pondered for a moment before answering, "To say 'capture'... isn't entirely accurate or comprehensive. It's more like they're looking for people like us. Large organizations and national governments have varying attitudes toward freelancers. Some are lenient, while others are strict. National governments are primarily interested in gathering data on all freelancers. This allows them to easily conscript individuals when needed or quickly identify perpetrators if a freelancer is involved in a crime."

"But some organizations are quite brutal. A few constantly capture freelancers for experiments."

She said just enough, but Chen Gu could imagine what kind of experiments she meant.

Gao Mengjiu, the gorilla, watched from the side, somewhat puzzled. This wasn't Man Suling's usual demeanor. She was rarely so talkative. She'd been prattling on to Chen Gu for a long time and showed

every sign of continuing. Even if Chen Gu had saved her life twice, that wouldn't cause such a drastic change in a girl's personality, unless...

Gao Mengjiu tensed, glaring at Chen Gu as if facing a formidable enemy. An entertainer announcing a romance was a huge deal! Moreover, there was a significant age difference between him and Man Suling. Gao Mengjiu had discovered her when she was very young and had always taken great care to nurture her. Their bond was more like that of a father and daughter. His greatest wish, as her father figure, was for Man Suling to become the second diva under his banner! But now, watching the two of them, he felt as if his carefully cultivated cabbage, just about to mature, was suddenly being ravaged by a brazen 'Pig-Hiccup' beast... This bastard! He's always flirting with the Ossosa family's daughter, and now he's trying to poach mine! I'll blast your little sprout to bits with an [All-Things Shatter Wave]!

Meanwhile, Man Suling had already entered "Independent Nightshade Female President" into the search box. An icon popped up, and Man Suling added it. Chen Gu's Social Crystal Stick—his Secret Rod—received the notification.

The two naturally added each other as friends. Gao Mengjiu lunged over. "What are you doing!"

That feeling... was like catching a predatory wolf on the front doorstep, trying to sneakily hold his daughter's hand!

This intense vigilance startled Chen Gu. "Huh? Gao Mengjiu, have you completely lost your mind?"

Man Suling also looked at her boss strangely.

Gao Mengjiu chuckled shrewdly. "You've all added each other as Secret Rod friends, how could I be left out!"

Chen Gu nodded, looking a bit disdainful. "Alright then."

Man Suling whispered, "Boss, we've already added each other."

Gao Mengjiu kept a straight face and exchanged friend requests with Chen Gu. He then also added the "Independent Nightshade Female President." Afterward, he surreptitiously dragged Man Suling's icon, [Spotlight Microphone], next to the President's icon to closely monitor any future interactions between the two of them on the Secret Rod.

"Even though I had deleted the President as a friend, I had already leaked some information. She still managed to find me in secret and launched a surprise attack, gaining the upper hand," Man Suling said. "If it weren't for you that day, I would have been done for."

"Her profession is [Psychological Spy]. While this class isn't suited for direct combat, it's unbeatable for surprise attacks or carrying out secret missions!"

Chen Gu had a question. "The President is a Second Energy Level powerhouse, and you..."

Gao Mengjiu couldn't help but glance at Man Suling. This question touched upon a huge secret of hers. Of course, he trusted Chen Gu, but Man Suling...

Unexpectedly, Man Suling stated frankly, "When I was inaugurated into my class, I integrated a piece of 'super-life remains' I had come across by chance—I can't say for sure what it is, something like a supermaterial, but not quite. This allowed me to awaken an additional skill: [Wolf Heart Fortress], which gives me a naturally high resistance to psychic abilities."

"When the President ambushed me, I pretended to be controlled by her power and didn't resist. Then, when she got close, I suddenly struck and injured her. Plus, since a [Psychological Spy] isn't suited for head-on combat, I was able to fight her to a mutually destructive draw."

Gao Mengjiu covertly covered his face. Silly girl, it's all over now.

Chen Gu looked at Man Suling with envy. "You're so lucky—your smile is really beautiful. Do you smile often?"

It took Man Suling a moment to understand. If any other man had made such an outdated and niche joke, she would have been politely courteous on the surface while cursing inwardly. But the advantage

of being good-looking is that people tend to find whatever you do pleasing. So, Man Suling genuinely smiled.

Gao Mengjiu rolled his eyes from the side and started to shoo Chen Gu away. "Alright, alright, you got the answers you wanted. Anything else? If not, then scram. Our Man Man is very busy, you know—a rising diva, she needs to practice her singing..."

"Boss," Man Suling said, clutching her throat and looking at him with pitiful eyes, "I've already practiced for over six hours today. Can I take a break, please?"

Gao Mengjiu was aghast. Is she trying to sweet-talk \*me\*? You have no idea what a [Mountain Werewolf] is truly like in private! When had this little girl ever acted coyly? It was always a fist thrust forward with, "This young lady isn't singing anymore!"

And Chen Gu, as usual, ribbed Gao Mengjiu, "You heartless capitalist! She's practiced for over six hours, and you still won't let her rest!"

Man Suling's eyes sparkled. He truly is my Prince Charming, sword in hand, ready to protect me!

Gao Mengjiu was agitated. "Sing or don't sing, suit yourself."

Chapter 119: Really Interesting

Chen Gu smiled at Man Suling, then began searching the room for the good wine hidden by the gorilla. Seeing his behavior, the gorilla knew exactly what the bastard wanted to do and said with smug satisfaction, "I've hidden it well, if you can find it, I lose!"

Man Suling held up the hem of her dress and, with ladylike poise, walked over to Chen Gu's side, sniffed with her nose, and pointed in a specific direction.

Chen Gu immediately rushed over, "Thanks a lot!"

The gorilla gritted his teeth, "Such a backstabber, truly a wolf that can't be domesticated!"

Chen Gu happily left the gorilla's house with a bag full of vintage wines. On the way, he made a phone call to Qing Ruyan, "What are you up to? I have some ideas about the Atomic Holy Church mission to discuss with you."

Qing Ruyan lived in an apartment arranged by the subdivision, located near the subdivision office. From the outside, it appeared to be an unimposing old building with a secret passageway underneath that led directly to the subdivision.

Chen Gu picked a bottle of fine vintage wine from his spoils and knocked on Qing Ruyan's door.

She opened the door and was clearly taken aback by the wine in his hand, her face showing a flicker of feigned shyness, "Oh my goodness, coming so late, and with good wine too, you, you, you must be up to something! If you confess, maybe I'll go along with it."

Chen Gu gave her a glare, "In your dreams!"

"Hmph," Qing Ruyan found it dull immediately, pulled him in, and said, "Talk, what's the matter?"

Chen Gu laid out his plan and took out every freelance woman's must-have: the Secret Wand.

Qing Ruyan, of course, knew what a Secret Wand was, having a few herself. She didn't even glance at it. Instead, her eyes kept sizing up Chen Gu, as if looking for something hidden on him.

"How did you get your hands on this stick?"

Chen Gu had already prepared his story, "Before I joined the Bureau of Mystic Security, I inadvertently witnessed a fight between two professionals. One of them was the owner of this stick, and the other was incredibly powerful, about one zhang and six chi tall, with formidable combat abilities. He easily killed the owner of the stick and then left.

I didn't dare come out until a while later. That's when I found this..."

Qing Ruyan asked, "Where was this fight? And why didn't you report it to the Bureau of Mystic Security afterward?"

Chen Gu truthfully mentioned the courtyard, but he believed that with the gorilla's skills, the Bureau of Mystic Security wouldn't find anything if they went now.

"After I joined the Bureau of Mystic Security, I thought about reporting it, but I had some reservations... There are some people in the Bureau who hold prejudices against me, you probably know who they are. I was worried it would cause trouble for nothing—since this wasn't a crucial clue, I kept quiet about it."

To Chen Gu's surprise, Qing Ruyan only asked briefly and didn't press further. Instead, she switched to discussing the Atomic Holy Church mission, "So you want me to pretend to be the President and join you on this... Big Rabbit mission?"

Chen Gu nodded, "The issue now is, can you imitate the Psychological Spy's abilities?"

Qing Ruyan waved her hand dismissively, "No need to imitate. Big Rabbit and his group certainly don't know the President's profession. For freelancers, their own profession and abilities are among their most guarded secrets. Big Rabbit has never met the President and couldn't possibly know her occupation.

Knowing the President is of the Second Energy Level is already quite remarkable."

As she raised her hand, Chen Gu instinctively dodged away from his face.

Then he realized that Qing Ruyan hadn't used the legendary "Scumbag Slap" skill and awkwardly resumed his stance. He thought about it, and it indeed made sense. Man Suling was able to counter-kill the ambushing President by leveraging her clandestine profession and skills.

Qing Ruyan then said, "This plan sounds good, I'll find out the real identity of this 'President' and try to play the part as accurately as possible."

"Alright." Chen Gu nodded, unable to help himself, he asked again, "And you, what is your profession?"

Qing Ruyan flashed an exaggeratedly coy shyness, "Our relationship isn't close enough yet for me to tell you that, I'm not going to say just yet. You men, always in such a hurry."

Chen Gu silently retched: Please, I'm aiming to become a Best Actor, could you not keep embarrassing yourself with this amateurish performance?

When he left Qing Ruyan's place, Chen Gu even thought about taking the bottle of red wine with him, but Qing Ruyan authoritatively confiscated it.

As he walked out of the apartment, a sense of crisis vaguely arose in his heart: Qing Ruyan seemed infatuated, superficial, brainless... which made her all the more enigmatic! She was Aviloya's assistant, the right-hand person of the Director-General, the Valkyrie herself. Why would she be sent to a backwater like Empire River Star for some "support" mission? In his mission for the Atomic Holy Church, did he "coincidentally" meet her... or was she actually there to secretly monitor him? What the hell was her purpose? Or rather... what mission was she really carrying out?! Chen Gu wouldn't overestimate himself, but the "entanglement" between him and Aviloya kept him feeling rather uneasy...

He started his car and sped away, but couldn't resist looking back at the apartment building one more time, muttering to himself, "I'm afraid... things are going to get troublesome..."

...

The next day Chen Gu received a notice from the Bureau to come over after school. He thought Qing Ruyan wanted to discuss mission details with him, but when he got there, an admin staff curtly informed him: "The division chief wants to see you."

With trepidation, Chen Gu entered Mei Lixue's office. His old classmate looked at him with a mock-smile that made Chen Gu's skin crawl, only to outstretch her hand: "Where's my stuff?"

Chen Gu suddenly realized, Damn, this old woman's scheme was buried right here! She lent me the Flame Banner, did she calculate that I would definitely break it?

"That... You've seen the combat video from the mission," Chen Gu sheepishly said, "The Flame Banner was destroyed... one of them."

Mei Lixue raised her eyebrows. "I don't care, when I lent it to you, it was a complete set of three. Please return them exactly as they were!"

Chen Gu knew he would definitely have to pay dearly again and said with a distressed look, "Alright, I admit defeat, okay? But I'm out of money; I've just spent all my merit points. After the next mission, I'll buy you a new set."

Mei Lixue asked coldly, "The new one you buy, will it be the same as the old set?"

Chen Gu hesitated, unsure of how to answer. "No, it won't be... "

"Hmph!" Mei Lixue said, "I only want the exact set I had before!"

Chen Gu got agitated. "You're being unreasonable, aren't you?"

Mei Lixue stared at him with that same mock-smile. For the third time, Chen Gu got that creepy feeling, always suspecting that this old woman had some terrifying scheme waiting for him. Just look at how pitifully she handled those three idiots from Ossosa!

"Fine then, what exactly do you want?"

Mei Lixue opened a file in front of her and started working, not even glancing at Chen Gu. She simply pointed to the office door and said, "Remember, you owe me one."

Chen Gu left helplessly. Inside the office, Mei Lixue's lips curved into a sly, fox-like grin. "How interesting," she murmured.

It was unclear whether she was commenting on the documents in her hands or on Chen Gu.

Chapter 120: Involved in It

Chen Gu was speculating about what Mei Lixue was up to when suddenly a black shadow flashed before him, giving him a start.

Qing Ruyan put on a meek expression, as if to say, "Oh, I'm so sorry for startling you," and "I really am terribly sorry," then asked, "Are you alright?"

She's 100 percent doing this on purpose, Chen Gu thought, glaring at her in annoyance. "What do you want?"

Qing Ruyan flashed a "seductive" look and crooked her finger at him. "Come to my office. Let's talk slowly..."

Chen Gu rolled his eyes. She definitely wants to talk about the mission, he thought. But why is this woman's acting straight out of a cheesy drama?

What Chen Gu didn't know was that the moment he entered Qing Ruyan's office, several senior female colleagues from the Internal Affairs Department saw it. Soon, various rumors started circulating within the branch.

Those shameless vixens who had been drooling over Chen Gu suddenly extinguished their unrealistic ideas.

She's the exclusive prize of a bigwig from the General Bureau! You little bitches think you can get your hands on her? I'd chop off your paws!

There was also one person left heartbroken—Silver Eagle climbed to the roof of the branch building by himself and drank all night.

「...」

Once inside the office, Qing Ruyan returned to her normal state and tossed a file to Chen Gu. "Here's the President. She's indeed a senior executive."

In just a single day, Qing Ruyan had thoroughly investigated this freelancer. Her real name was Molly Green, CEO of a medium-sized trading company in the urban district, and also one of its founders and shareholders.

From her background, Qing Ruyan deduced that during her college years, Molly Green must have traveled to the ruins of an ancient alien civilization. There, upon unknowingly interacting with something, she awakened as a Psychological Spy.

The probability of naturally awakening to an Old Profession was relatively high, while it was much lower for New Professions. Even for natural awakenings, retrospective analysis showed they actually met many stringent conditions, similar to obtaining a profession through a Profession Generator.

Thanks to her abilities as a Psychological Spy, Molly Green's company consistently secured incredible orders, allowing it to progressively grow and strengthen.

However, Molly needed to continuously grow stronger. Therefore, she repeatedly faked 'loss-making' ventures to siphon funds for her cultivation. Otherwise, her company would have long since expanded into a planet-wide corporation.

"This is a photo of Molly Green." Qing Ruyan sent a holographic image. Chen Gu glanced at it, and after a moment of recollection, confirmed it was the body he had seen.

He nodded. "That's right."

Qing Ruyan smiled faintly. "Wait for me a moment."

She walked into a small private resting room to the side—as an 'imperial envoy' from the General Bureau, her privileges were naturally high, including a resting room in her office.

She wasn't long. When she came out, Chen Gu was momentarily dazed, feeling as if the corpse he had seen in the basement had come back to life!

Chen Gu felt his skin crawl and abruptly snapped out of this "feeling."

Then he suddenly realized: The Mind Belief skill has taken effect!

He gave Qing Ruyan a deep look. This woman actually possesses abilities similar to a Psychological Spy! She nearly tricked me without me even realizing it!

Chen Gu inwardly curled his lip. She can clearly imitate the President's abilities perfectly, yet last time she seriously discussed with me how Big Gold Teeth, Cowboy Rabbit, and the others couldn't possibly know the President's profession... What a liar!

Qing Ruyan had changed into a dark brown professional suit, paired with a high-necked white blouse, and an expensive jeweled brooch adorned her left lapel.

She had changed her hairstyle to a more formal, ear-length bob, put on a pair of black-rimmed glasses, and wore black pointed high heels.

Her entire demeanor underwent a drastic change; she was the very image of a capable career woman.

Noticing that Chen Gu had only been "entranced" for a brief moment, Qing Ruyan felt a hint of disappointment. Then, she smiled, tilted her head, and spread her hands. "Well? What do you think?"

Chen Gu praised sincerely, "Even someone who has met the President would be fooled by you."

Qing Ruyan flicked her fingers, and two flight tickets flew out. "We're leaving immediately. We'll head to Wangxingjiao City in advance to conduct a preliminary investigation. Know your enemy and know yourself, and you can fight a hundred battles without defeat."

She quickly stepped into the role of "President," even her manner of speaking becoming more formal.

"Alright."

Chen Gu didn't have much luggage to pack. He simply notified the young women in the Internal Affairs Department to request a day off for him tomorrow and then left with Qing Ruyan.

Intra-planetary travel was very convenient these days. An hour later, they landed in Wangxingjiao City.

This was the city closest to the Yingudusi Devil's Pit. It was much smaller in scale than Wuzhaoyin City, with a population of only about five million. In this era, it truly was a "small place."

Qing Ruyan had already arranged everything. She had booked another hotel near their designated meeting hotel.

The two rested for a night. The next morning, Qing Ruyan tossed a set of clothes to Chen Gu. "Change into these. You're my assistant now. You can't keep wearing a high school uniform, can you?"

Chen Gu changed into the clothes and looked at himself in the mirror. The attire was also business-like, the fabric exquisite, clearly an expensive brand. Wearing it, he looked much more mature, no longer like a high school student.

Chen Gu went downstairs to meet Qing Ruyan in the hotel lobby. She seemed to be in a good mood. "Big Sis is taking you for breakfast."

At a dim sum restaurant, while Chen Gu was eating heartily without any regard for his image, Qing Ruyan gestured with her hand. An inconspicuous middle-aged man sitting not far away came over and sat at their table.

Then, he passed various materials to Qing Ruyan. "After receiving the mission, my people have been keeping an eye on that hotel, and I've also conducted many covert investigations."

"Details of all suspicious individuals entering and exiting the hotel during this period are in these files."

"Based on my experience, there are two individuals who warrant special attention." As he spoke, he projected minimized images of two photos onto the tabletop in front of them.

One was a middle-aged man with a beard and sunglasses; the other, a young girl.

When Chen Gu saw the girl, he almost cried out in surprise. It's Liu Shichan!

"The bearded one—his companions call him Leder. Although he's staying at that hotel, he frequently travels between the hotel and a local factory."

"I've already sent you the factory's information. I'm only responsible for providing intelligence; you'll have to make your own judgments on other matters."

"I haven't been able to ascertain the girl's identity. The people around her all call her 'Miss.' The hotel rooms were reserved and paid for through her account."

After saying his piece, the man tapped the table, rose, and left.

Qing Ruyan said, "A local information broker. His fee is thirty thousand Starshield, which we'll have to split."

Chen Gu approved of this expense. Qing Ruyan was indeed experienced, and her safety precautions were very thorough.

Chen Gu pointed at Liu Shichan's photo. "I know her."

Qing Ruyan was surprised. "Who is she?"

After Chen Gu told her, Qing Ruyan quickly performed a search on the interstellar network. "Ah, the young mistress of Liu Industries."

She smiled, glancing at Chen Gu from the corner of her eye. "Fair-skinned, beautiful, long-legged, and the primary heir to an industrial group. Aren't you drooling?"

Chen Gu, his words not matching his thoughts, said awkwardly, "I'm not the kind of person you think I am."