

Full Time 161

Chapter 161: Spoils of War (1)

And Zhao Zhenhuai was rather unscrupulous this time. He heard that the research institute was going to be upgraded to a research academy! As the Deputy Director, could I also make a move and become the Deputy Dean? Having arrived on Capital Star for just a month, I've stumbled upon such a great opportunity; no wonder those people love being Capital drifters!

The messages he initially sent were indirect, simply showing that he, as the Deputy Director, was very competent and did a good job, effectively managing his assigned responsibilities.

The subsequent messages began to showcase his tactical talent, highlighting which key parts of the institute's recent research breakthroughs had benefited from his sudden inspirations.

With this combination of moves, Zhao Zhenhuai thought that at the very least, the Director would praise him with a "Well done, keep up the good work," right?

Or, if the Director was still displeased with his previous lack of cooperation, he might criticize him with a "Comrade, you need to step up your game."

But there was nothing, no response at all.

Zhao Zhenhuai initially guessed that the cunning old man had seen through his intentions, so he was playing hard to get.

He held his ground! This is also a battle of tactics, to see who will give in first!

Of course, without any surprise, he was the first to falter. He tormented himself waiting for news on Capital Star, and the days dragged on endlessly. Meanwhile, Chen Gu was fighting for his life in Yingudusi Devil's Pit. How should one put it... indeed, there's no rest for the weary in the adult world.

While Chen Gu lay on the operating table, Zhao Zhenhuai finally buried his pride and sent a message of loyalty to the "Idol Actor."

The intention was obvious: If you're getting promoted, bring me with you.

Zhao Zhenhuai had no choice. On Capital Star, a Deputy Director was nothing, but if he could get a promotion to Deputy Dean, he could then bring over his wife and children.

However, his message again went unanswered.

After waffling for another two days, Zhao Zhenhuai thought maybe his phrasing was too obscure, and the "Idol Actor" might not have understood it.

He sent another more straightforward message... and then feeling it still wasn't direct enough, he sent yet another one that was even more forthright...

As a result, by the time Chen Gu entered the game, what he saw was a string of messages akin to a loyal dog's confession.

Chen Gu was surprised: What's going on? I haven't even started pressuring you, yet you've already knelt down? Weren't you supposed to resist strongly, vow to not comply, then gradually give in, retreating your bottom line a little each time before finally submitting completely?

Boring. He glanced through the recent research results and, taking into account the issues raised by "Preparing for Battle Before a Mirror," provided a complete set of solutions.

Having sent these messages to both individuals, he logged off.

Bai Xianya received the reply, but before she could even read the content, she hurriedly added, "Don't go..."

Upon another look, there was no response. The "Idol Actor" had gone offline. Bai Xianya felt exhausted. We're the Central Operations Room, the Confederation's highest advisory body; don't we deserve a moment of your time?

What scenery are you so eager to see that you're in such a rush?!

This time she really had something important to discuss. After thinking it over, she edited a message and sent it to the "Idol Actor," to wait for him to go online and see it.

Meanwhile, Zhao Zhenhuai finally received a reply, but that only left him more perplexed. With the Director's all-business demeanor, what is he trying to convey?

At forty, Zhao Zhenhuai felt like a clueless young boy who had just confessed his feelings to a girl for the first time. He had encountered a heartbreaker who wouldn't accept but also wouldn't reject, leaving him without a clear answer. Hence, he was sleepless that night.

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Chen Gu's mood had been down for a while. Since coming back from the hospital, he had been distracting himself with other matters.

Having dealt with all the matters at hand, he sat at the table, the room lit by a single desk lamp. The light streamed from the left, casting his long shadow onto the floor.

The sound of holographic advertisements from distant buildings wafted through the window, ethereal and distant, giving an impression of unreality.

His recent severe injury, especially the extraction of the super-life remnants from his body, had caused immense damage, of which he was acutely aware.

The medical experts' examinations had only confirmed that his physical functions had returned to normal, but as a Professional, I have no idea how much of my strength remains!

He sat in silence for a while before slowly standing up and gently stretching out his arms, attempting to muster his abilities.

Abilities, when focused but not unleashed, would not harm the surroundings, but would allow Chen Gu to gauge his current strength.

The power of a Professional surged within him, but activated much slower than before.

Chen Gu continued to push, and the Professional's power grew stronger. Towards the end, he could even feel that his current power might have improved compared to before the injury.

However, the entire activation process was at least three times slower!

The power of a Professional lay deep within the body, akin to muscle strength, ready to be wielded at will. This assured the combat capability of a Professional.

If one's ability took too long to activate, by the time it was ready, the enemy might have already been striking relentlessly. If that big move isn't executed in time, what purpose does it serve?

Chen Gu was now facing just such a predicament.

He didn't know if he could ever recover through training, but he was determined to keep exercising. He didn't fear hard work or sweat; what he feared more was obscurity.

Chen Gu then opened "The Past of Four Hundred" in his mind and chose to attach Milna Katerina's memory to himself.

This time, he found his power to be as fluid as ever, able to be activated at will.

PHEW— Chen Gu let out a silent sigh of relief. There is, at least, a remedy.

But when he thought about Milna Katerina's "quirks," a throbbing headache ensued. Couldn't she be a little less vain?

His situation prompted Chen Gu to ponder anew.

He had only attached the memory of Nuclear Explosion Nun. It seemed that the power was still channeled through his body. But now, with his body impaired, the abilities of Nuclear Explosion Nun remained unaffected.

This meant his previous assumption was wrong. When attaching memories, the Professional's powers from "The Past of Four Hundred" weren't wielded directly through his own body.

Through what, then?

Chen Gu couldn't arrive at a precise answer and could only guess tentatively, Could it be that the abilities are executed directly through 'The Past of Four Hundred'?

He shook his head lightly, setting aside the question for the moment. Tomorrow, I'll go to the Atomic Holy Church to redeem the task reward.

The first Energy Level of Nuclear Combat Technique required 1,000 merits. To meet the third requirement of the Atomic Holy Church's task, which was to roughly sketch out Dilina's movements in the Yingudusi Devil's Pit, he could earn a reward of 1,500 plus the previously combined 500, totaling 2,000 merits.

The reward for the Atomic Holy Church's task could accumulate.

Chen Gu estimated that he and Qing Ruyan had found seven or eight traces left by Dilina, which was barely enough to piece together a trajectory, though it might not be comprehensive.

Therefore, the final merit score would depend on the Holy Church's judgment.

He then rummaged through his backpack, which contained personal items he had brought back from the hospital.

Chapter 162: Spoils of War (2)

In a side pocket of his backpack, Chen Gu took out the stiff cover of an Atomic Holy Church scripture he had found in Dilina's room on the Four Hundred Braves.

All of Chen Gu's personal belongings had been scanned by the Bureau of Mystic Security's cleanup team after the operation, while he was undergoing surgery—after all, the involvement of the Mutant necessitated extreme caution.

But what he had found on this mission was his to keep.

Chen Gu was on a mission for the Atomic Holy Church, not the Bureau of Mystic Security.

Of course, if he had found something truly important, like the items in the laboratory of the Four Hundred Braves, the Bureau would have undoubtedly "confiscated" them without hesitation.

However, the Bureau had casually overlooked the cover of a scripture.

Chen Gu looked at the item, a relieved smile touching his lips.

The journey to the Yingudusi Devil's Pit had cost him greatly, and this item might just be his greatest reward. Fortunately, the cleanup team hadn't discovered its secret and had left it for him.

He found a small knife and gently cut open the cover, revealing a glove as thin as a cicada's wing nestled inside.

Chen Gu didn't need confirmation from the Atomic Holy Church to be absolutely certain: this was the publicly listed item [Status 3-04], the Apocalyptic Holy Hand!

Dilina was known as the "Rebel," but on the Four Hundred Braves, she had still maintained a devout faith in the Atomic Holy Church.

At first, Chen Gu hadn't understood why. But after Leder explained the true story behind the Four Hundred Braves, he quickly surmised that Dilina might not have betrayed the Atomic Holy Church. Instead, she might have been the liaison between the Church and the dictators of that era.

She had represented the Atomic Holy Church aboard the Four Hundred Braves, ensuring cooperation between the Church and the dictators.

But her true identity could not be exposed, hence the nickname "Rebel."

This would explain how Dilina, supposedly only a Second or perhaps Third Energy Level Nuclear Explosion Nun, had managed to defect from the Holy Church, taking a precious [Status] item with her.

It had simply been entrusted to her by the Holy Church.

Chen Gu gently slipped on the glove. The artifact, as if alive, quickly fused with his palm. Even though Chen Gu knew he was wearing the glove, he couldn't see it, and his sense of touch remained as sensitive as if his hand were bare.

The Apocalyptic Holy Hand required a full set to be ranked as a [Status] item. A single glove, though its power would undoubtedly be greatly diminished without its pair, still far outstripped most other artifacts,

such as Chen Gu's previous [Azure Sky Wings] and [Blazing Banner].

With Milna Katerina's memories active within him, a simple clench of his fist allowed him to feel the power of the atom, as if it were entirely within his grasp!

If he wished, with a mere gesture, he could now channel the Third Energy Level strength of a Nuclear Explosion Nun with the help of this artifact!

Yet, Chen Gu couldn't help but give a bitter smile.

Obtaining great power was certainly good, but if his physical condition didn't improve, being stuck at the First Energy Level for life meant his strength would peak at the Third Energy Level.

However, Milna Katerina was at the Fourth Energy Level, and Griffin Wester and Derek Kun Shen Ken were both at the Fifth Energy Level.

From the memories of these practitioners, he knew just how powerful the higher Energy Levels were. If he could only see such power but never achieve it himself, it would be an agonizing torment.

No matter what, I have to find a way to recover my health.

Actually, there was another item from this trip that the Bureau had "confiscated"—the round object Chen Gu had found inside the avian mechanical creature.

The cleanup team judged it to be an egg of an uncertain species. Worried it might hatch into something dangerous, they took it away.

Furthermore, the leader of the cleaning crew repeatedly promised Chen Gu he would be informed about its subsequent handling.

Chen Gu had picked up the object out of curiosity at the time and didn't really care that it was taken away.

The next day was Thursday, and Chen Gu went to school as usual in the morning.

Rumors about Liu Shichan's sudden disappearance and various "insider stories" had already begun to circulate among the students.

The Liu Family was accused of treason, and the entire clan had vanished overnight.

Liu Jianrong had evidently been prepared, having transferred all valuable assets beforehand, leaving behind a mess, such as dilapidated factories and their large workforces.

The city government had to clean up their mess. Otherwise, if the factories closed and all those workers lost their jobs, it would create a major problem.

The city government handled the Liu Family's affairs discreetly, with no media coverage. However, on some local forums, people mysteriously mentioned things like, "The vast Liu estate was empty overnight," and "The Liu family's helmsman quietly left the hospital in the dead of night."

The "Number One Gang of Lubei Middle School," the Dead Phoenix Gang, founded by Liu Shichan, was in a state of panic.

But Chen Gu had no intention of succeeding her as "Gang Leader"; at most, he would secretly look out for Liu Shichan's friends.

After two more days, the weekend finally arrived. Early in the morning, Chen Gu woke Qing Ruyan with a phone call. "I'm going to the Atomic Holy Church. Are you coming?"

He could have arranged this with Qing Ruyan yesterday, but he felt she had been acting strangely lately, completely different from before. Could she be thinking of offering herself in return for me saving her life? I'm also worried that this damn woman, far from telling a single truth, has acting skills worthy of an Oscar and is planning to trick me again. So, Chen Gu had hoped Qing Ruyan wouldn't come.

To his surprise, Qing Ruyan immediately replied, "I almost forgot about that! Let's meet at the church entrance. How about 8:30?"

"Alright," Chen Gu agreed, feeling a bit helpless. I call you at the last minute, and you agree so readily. Where's your pride as a beauty?

Chen Gu arrived at the church entrance ten minutes early, keeping an eye on the time. He planned to go in alone the moment it hit 8:30 if Qing Ruyan was late. However, she arrived at 8:20.

Aren't girls supposed to have countless preparations before going out, definitely delaying them by at least half an hour? And doesn't that delay time correlate with their looks?

He glanced at Qing Ruyan. She wore light makeup yet still looked as ethereal as a deity. He silently praised her natural beauty in his heart; it needed little adornment to shine.

The same Bishop greeted them as before.

He looked over the information they had submitted, then pondered for a moment.

After a phone call and some discussion with the church higher-ups, he returned with a smile. "You both did very well on your mission."

"Although you didn't fully trace the Rebel's movements in the Yingudusi Devil's Pit, you've gathered plenty of clues. And it can be confirmed that Dilina perished in that battle."

This was Chen Gu's little ploy.

He had emphasized that they found the wreckage of the Four Hundred Braves, leading to the inference that Dilina had perished at that time.

This was a hint to the Atomic Holy Church: We know about your collusion with the dictators back then, and Dilina is the proof. You'd better give me some hush money.

Chapter 163: Energy Level 1 "Nuclear Combat Technique"

"So, we have decided to give you 2,000 merit points." The Bishop smiled at Chen Gu. "I wonder if this will satisfy you."

2,000 merit points! With Qing Ruyan and I each getting a thousand, that's enough for me to get the first Energy Level of the Nuclear Combat Technique. It seems the Atomic Holy Church got my hint.

Chen Gu smiled back. "Of course, I am satisfied."

Qing Ruyan, quite generously, waved her hand. "The 1,000 points are all yours..."

Chen Gu was stunned. "Weren't you saying you were short on money and had a lot of jewelry you wanted to buy?" He suddenly understood. "You and your big mouth! Not a single word of truth ever comes out of it."

Qing Ruyan was taken aback and didn't retort, quietly accepting the blame. But in my heart, I feel utterly wronged, she thought. Initially, giving up 1,000 merit points was meant to get closer to this handsome young man, but what I got in exchange was a scolding.

Qing Ruyan thought fiercely to herself, Consider it the fee for those few times I took advantage!

The Bishop asked, "So, do you want to exchange for the Nuclear Combat Technique?"

"Of course."

Ten minutes later, Chen Gu, with a copied portion of the first Energy Level of the Nuclear Combat Technique, and Qing Ruyan left the church. He had provided the Atomic Holy Church with a legally binding pledge that he would not teach the Nuclear Combat Technique to anyone without the church's permission.

After leaving, Qing Ruyan glanced at the time—it was just past nine. "I'll treat you to morning tea."

Chen Gu looked at her, surprised. "You've been... quite the spender lately."

Qing Ruyan was at a loss for words but sighed internally. Sister, if only you were willing to go back, Dad would buy you anything you want. Alas...

"Are you coming or not?" Qing Ruyan asked, somewhat annoyed.

Chen Gu shook his head. "I'm itching to get back to the bureau to focus on my training."

With a pout, Qing Ruyan waved goodbye. Chen Gu headed straight for the branch office. Since it was the weekend and there were no missions, Group Five's office was unsurprisingly empty.

Chen Gu tidied up briefly before heading to the training ground.

After he left, the girls from the internal affairs group whispered among themselves, "It's so strange. Why does it feel like this little guy isn't as good-looking as before?"

"I thought so too," another chimed in. "I even thought I had become more particular lately..."

Inside the training ground, Chen Gu was the only one there, practicing the Nuclear Combat Technique with his Radiation Missionary ability and failing repeatedly.

There are significant problems with my body, he assessed. Energy is being activated too slowly to meet the requirements of the Nuclear Combat Technique.

But Chen Gu was not discouraged and kept trying over and over again.

After persisting for three hours, Chen Gu came to a conclusion: relying on the training of the Nuclear Combat Technique to repair his body was a dead end.

Chen Gu then switched to Nuclear Explosion Nun. With the memories of a Fourth Energy Level expert to supplement his learning, training the first Energy Level of the combat technique was definitely twice as effective. In just one hour, Chen Gu had made significant progress.

However, standing in front of the mirror and performing a round of the Nuclear Combat Technique, Chen Gu always felt that there was... an indescribable charm to his movements.

It's a bit like the same sword technique: when wielded by a man, it can be vigorous and imposing, but it certainly won't look as good as when demonstrated by a stunningly beautiful woman. The Nuclear Combat Technique, as recalled through the memories of Nuclear Explosion Nun, has precisely that feel. It isn't about being vigorous or imposing, but... it's very beautiful!

"What the hell is this!" Chen Gu was on the verge of a breakdown. He constantly adjusted his movements in front of the mirror, trying to inject some steely, rigid masculinity into his demeanor. Yet, despite his utmost efforts, he only managed to achieve a kind of "androgynous beauty," falling short of the "straight male" vibe.

Two more hours passed, and Chen Gu gave up. He concluded today's training, primarily because he was too hungry and needed to replenish his energy.

After taking a shower, Chen Gu had just reached the office door when Mei Lixue's call came through. "Boluo and Dora specifically asked to see you."

Chen Gu responded immediately, "Okay."

He had wanted to meet them even before he was discharged from the hospital, but the Bureau of Mystic Security had denied the request, as the review of the two was not yet complete.

What surprised Chen Gu this time was that he didn't meet Dora and Boluo in an interrogation room but in a small office instead.

Boluo fully embodied the "freedom" of a professional in the wild, propping his feet up high on the table.

Dora rested her plump, rounded chin on the tabletop, her hands covering her ears, looking completely forlorn.

Upon seeing Chen Gu enter, Boluo complained, "The benefits at your Bureau of Mystic Security really suck. The vending machines in the hallway not only have a poor selection but are also overpriced."

He picked up a can of beer from the table and tossed it to Chen Gu. "This one's on me; it's from my own pocket."

Without waiting for Chen Gu's reaction, he opened a can for himself, gulped it down in one go, and casually crumpled the empty can into a ball.

Chen Gu, holding the beer, really wanted to say, My teacher told me not to drink...

Suddenly, Boluo glared viciously, holding up the crumpled beer can. "Clearly, you kid are a Radiation Missionary, even better at exploding stuff than I am! But that human hand-grenade tactic you came up with—why the heck should I have been the grenade!"

"Now that it's just us two, I really feel like turning this thing into a hand grenade and shoving it right up your little ass!"

Chen Gu curled his lip, unconcerned by the threat. Boluo may lack brainpower, but he's loyal—Hu Ling became a Mutant, yet Boluo still couldn't bring himself to kill him. And I've just practiced the Nuclear Combat Technique. I'm itching to test its power on someone. If Boluo steps up, he'll surely gain some fond memories.

As expected, Boluo couldn't maintain his fierce demeanor. He burst out laughing, hurling the beer can ball at Chen Gu. "HAHAHA, scared you, didn't I?"

Chen Gu dodged, an awkward yet polite smile on his face. I fail to see how he thought I was scared. The guy really is a few brain cells short.

He suddenly thought of a question and quickly asked, "So, you got recruited?"

Boluo put on an indifferent face. "Yeah, my background check must have cleared. The Bureau offered me a spot, and I took it. Looks like we're colleagues now."

"There wasn't much to investigate anyway; my past is pretty clear. I'm a traitor to the Empire."

"Being a mercenary offers freedom, but it's too dangerous. Besides, the status of a professional in the wild isn't something you can exactly flaunt. Might as well take this chance to get a legitimate background."

He still has his reservations, Chen Gu knew. All this talk is just him trying to convince himself. He stayed for me, missing the best chance to escape.

But knowing Boluo's character, Chen Gu didn't offer elaborate thanks. Instead, he just grinned. "Once your paperwork is done, we'll hit a bar. I'm buying."

"Deal, it's a promise!"

He extended his fist, and Chen Gu bumped it with his own.

Then, Chen Gu reached out to ruffle Dora's hair, but she dodged, baring her teeth and glaring at him—a look that was both fierce and adorable.

Chapter 164: Unexpected Fortune

"You haven't settled the score with me for pulling my ear in the Yingudusi Devil's Pit!" Dora puffed up angrily, "Just wait, I will get my revenge sooner or later. I, the big gold-toothed cowboy rabbit, am known in the professional mercenary field for returning every slight and keeping my word!"

"HMPH—"

Chen Gu knew that the girl was upset because she'd been recruited and was taking out her frustration on him. Such a child's temper, he thought, and with an unconcerned smile, he dangled the bait. "I know a place where they cook spicy rabbit exceptionally well..."

Dora ground her teeth, "Chen Gu!"

"...And right next to it, there's an even better place that serves Jianghu cuisine. How about it? I'll give you a chance to make me treat you to a feast."

Dora put on a sullen face, but Chen Gu could clearly see her cheeks puff out a couple of times.

"Anyway, I heard from people in the Bureau that you're rich. Eating out with you won't bankrupt you, so I'll be eating with a clear conscience," she said.

Chen Gu smiled gently, "It's a deal."

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After coming out, Chen Gu ran into Mei Lixue. The director told him, "The Bureau has decided to establish a special task force rapid response team. This team can provide immediate support to any

special task force on a mission. The team only has three people for now: Boluo, Dora, and Silver Eagle. We'll continue to expand it..."

Chen Gu interrupted her, "Silver Eagle? Charles Silver Eagle?"

"That's right. Your team originally had one extra person, so we've reassigned Silver Eagle as the team leader to guide those two."

Probably surveillance, Chen Gu thought to himself.

Chen Gu had just left Mei Lixue when he received a phone call from his adult son's secretary, "The Director asks for you to come over."

Chen Gu found the secretary's voice quite pleasant, though somewhat cold. As a Bureau Director's secretary, there really was no need for her to feign warmth towards a special agent like himself.

Chen Gu knew his adult son had recently changed secretaries, but he hadn't met the new one yet.

Upon arriving outside Chen Jixian's office, he glanced in and immediately felt that he, as the father, needed to step in. This secretary... looks like she could cause a national calamity!

Comrade Chen Jixian, at your age, you can't afford to slip up on issues of personal conduct!

The secretary had long, golden, wavy hair and fiery red lips, with skin as white as snow. When she saw Chen Gu arrive, she notified Chen Jixian inside but didn't wait for a response before Chen Gu pushed the door open and entered.

The secretary was surprised. This little special agent is somewhat arrogant. Is it because he has been continuously distinguished lately?

The secretary hurriedly followed him in. Just as she reached the door, she saw Chen Jixian not even batting an eyelid as he waved her off, "It's fine."

Confused, the secretary went out and closed the door behind them.

Chen Jixian remained cluelessly enveloped in a state of contradiction.

He grew up without a father. Although his grandfather was very kind to him, it could never replace a father's presence.

Back then, he even envied classmates who were punished by their fathers. Thus, even though he kept saying he wanted to draw a clear line between himself and Chen Gu, his biological father, their interactions felt strangely 'comfortable' whenever they touched on the topic of 'other people's fathers.'

The issue with this mentality is hard to clearly analyze. However, the scene at hand was exactly like a script depicting 'other people's fathers' not respecting their sons' privacy and barging into their sons' bedrooms uninvited.

Chen Jixian didn't mind in the slightest; he even welcomed several more such visits.

So he sent the secretary away.

Chen Gu took a seat across from him as if he were quite at home, crossed his legs, dangled one foot, then pointed outside and said, "The secretary is quite pretty."

Chen Jixian showed no reaction and, with half-closed eyelids, said, "I called you over because there's something I think you should be informed about, to prepare yourself in advance."

"Yesterday, a minister from the Main Bureau defected, stealing a crucial item from the Bureau's vault and fleeing."

"At the moment, it's not clear whether he has been turned by another Star Nation or contaminated by a Mutant. The Main Bureau is pursuing him with full force, but there are no leads yet—it was a very meticulous plan. The traitor has some powerful allies covering his tracks."

Chen Gu was shocked. This was the Main Bureau, and yet such a high-profile betrayal had occurred?!

Chen Jixian said indifferently, "Don't be so surprised. This kind of thing... happens quite often in various countries."

"Hmm?" Chen Gu detected an implication in those words. "Are you saying that we frequently turn high-ranking officials from other Star Nations as well?"

Chen Jixian didn't answer that question but continued, "Because of this incident, the Main Bureau has decided to conduct a comprehensive self-inspection, starting from the Main Bureau itself. However, it won't be long before people from the Constitutional Tasks Force will come down to the branches."

Chen Jixian stopped there and said, "Alright, you can go back if there's nothing else."

Chen Gu left his adult son's office feeling quite pleased with himself. Chen Jixian knew he had secrets. Therefore, he had given him a heads-up about this matter so that Chen Gu wouldn't be caught off guard when the Constitutional Tasks Force arrived.

He does have some filial piety, Chen Gu thought with a touch of haughty delight.

As he pondered potential slips in his recent operations and how to rectify them, he walked back to the office of Special Service Team Five at a leisurely pace. Just as he sat down at his desk, the head of the Cleanup Team came to him, brimming with excitement, "Little Chen, great news, fantastic news!"

"Spill it."

"Do you remember that egg?"

Chen Gu certainly remembered. "What about it?"

"We've confirmed through analysis that it is an egg of a Sovereign Beast Myriad. It has undergone some mutations after being exposed to certain radiation inside the body of an avian mechanical species. Once hatched, it will be stronger than an ordinary Sovereign Beast Myriad!"

Chen Gu still didn't get the team head's excitement. "It's a very powerful dangerous species, but how is that good news?"

The team head looked at him incredulously, "Don't you see? The Sovereign Beast Myriad is ranked among the top thirty-six most dangerous species in the Monster Battles League. This one is even more powerful than an ordinary Sovereign Beast Myriad. This means that those companies running the Monster Battles League will pay top dollar for it."

"It can participate in battles and also be bred. This guy is a cash cow!"

That's when Chen Gu understood.

The Monster Battles League was the most popular competition of the era. It was based on brain domain quantum link technology, allowing players to connect their thoughts with those of monsters and control them in battle.

As human physical fitness continued to improve, especially with the emergence of various enhancement drugs, previously popular sports like major ball games had become uninteresting. Consider football or basketball, for instance. Imagine someone charging with the ball at lightning speed, and a defender rushing up just as fast to block. The game had become less a competition of skill and more about physical fitness and drug enhancement.

So these ancient athletic competitions still had a large market but were no longer the premier league.

The premier league was the Monster Battles League.

Chapter 165: Chen's Biology

All four Star Nations have their own tiered leagues, with the champions of each competing in the ultimate showdown: the Beast King's Decision.

The Beast King's Decision is the highest-rated interstellar broadcast every year, and the price for its commercial spots has been skyrocketing year after year.

Despite the frighteningly high prices, businesses still flock to it.

The competition requires cooperation between the contestant and the behemoth; in addition to the contestant, the combat capabilities of the behemoths themselves are equally crucial.

The universally recognized thirty-six top-tier behemoths are the "partners" that every contestant dreams of possessing.

The emergence of any such behemoth inevitably leads to fierce competition among the major clubs, with prices often soaring.

According to statistics from authoritative agencies, "Endless" and the behemoth battle competitions are currently the two most profitable "games" across the entire Star Sea.

The head of the department added, "This little treasure was found by you, so you hold the ownership. The Bureau will auction off this Prime Abyss Wyrms egg, and in principle, you should receive eighty percent of the profits."

Chen Gu was overjoyed. "This is indeed great news, HAHAHA!"

Even though he was already worth hundreds of millions, for anyone, money and sexual partners – the more, the better.

Envious and resentful glances came from all around. This kid is so lucky! Just a casual stroll and he stumbled upon a Prime Abyss Wyrms egg!

Charles, who was packing up, his pretty face twisted in frustration. Given the current market for the thirty-six top-tier dangerous species, this one egg could match the entire assets of my family business!

Chen Gu wasn't particularly interested in behemoth battles initially. However, because of the Prime Abyss Wyrms affair, he had spent the past few days searching for related information on the interstellar network, and the news he found was highly satisfying.

News of the auction had already been released, and the reaction from all quarters was intense. Several major clubs declared their determination to win it at all costs.

Some analysts had already estimated the final auction price to be between five hundred million and eight hundred million Starshields.

Seeing such a vast sum of money about to fall into his own pocket, Chen Gu was inwardly ecstatic.

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Chen Jixian got off work a bit early today. His job was actually quite demanding. The Wuzhaoyin City police system alone was vast, with a plethora of tasks.

On top of that, he also needed to oversee the Bureau of Mystic Security, so leaving work on time was usually impossible.

He left early today because Ouyang Guanghai, the professional manager of their family business, had called. There was an important matter that Ouyang Guanghai insisted on discussing with him.

At 7:30 p.m., Ouyang Guanghai arrived punctually at Chen Jixian's residence.

The two held their discussion in Chen Jixian's study. Ouyang Guanghai, though in his sixties, was considered in his prime in this era—full of vigor and rich with experience.

His hair was meticulously combed, and he wore an understated yet costly custom-made suit.

Xiao Jiangxia served them tea before leaving the room. Ouyang Guanghai waved his hand, and a set of documents materialized before Chen Jixian. "Boss," Ouyang Guanghai began, "our performance has been declining this year."

Chen Jixian didn't bat an eyelid. He quickly scanned the data. Indeed, there was a significant decline compared to the same period last year.

He asked coolly, "Why?"

Ouyang Guanghai straightened his posture and began his analysis, "Our Chen's Biotech was founded when the late Elder Chen, Chen Beiliu, accidentally rescued a severely injured top-tier dangerous species in the wild—a Triface Skyripper."

"It was a top-tier behemoth. After nursing it back to health, we used it for breeding to earn our first significant capital. Then, we began developing biopharmaceuticals based on the Triface Skyripper's genes."

"While Elder Chen was alive, the company successively acquired several more top-tier dangerous behemoth species. This propelled our rapid development and secured our position in the field of behemoth biopharmaceutical manufacturing."

"Moreover, the behemoth battle clubs sponsored by Elder Chen consistently achieved outstanding results year after year, creating an excellent advertising effect. Consequently, the company's development was very smooth."

"However, even before Elder Chen passed away, the company had already shown signs of decline. For seven consecutive years, we failed to capture any new high-grade dangerous species, and our previously accumulated technology was nearly exhausted. This year, our main competitor, Oles Biotech, launched two highly effective biopharmaceuticals in quick succession. They developed these using a top-tier dangerous species they caught last year, the Brightwater Tigerfish, and have seized many of our orders."

Chen Jixian knew the history of Chen's Biotech, which Ouyang Guanghai was recounting, like the back of his hand.

After Chen Gu was imprisoned, Elder Chen Beiliu's luck had suddenly soared. He first accidentally saved the Triface Skyripper. This dangerous species possessed high intelligence, was grateful for being saved, and cooperated fully with Chen Beiliu, catalyzing the takeoff of the family enterprise.

Subsequently, every time they received information about a dangerous species, they hired teams to capture it. The process and outcomes were always remarkably smooth, leading to the continuous acquisition of powerful dangerous species that fueled the company's significant development.

The field of behemoth biopharmaceuticals essentially involved researching these formidable dangerous species. The goal was to develop technology for producing drugs that enhanced physical fitness, treated various complex diseases, extended lifespan, and so on.

Without new dangerous species, there could be no new technology.

Furthermore, if the sponsored clubs performed poorly, consumers would begin to doubt the company's technological capabilities.

Chen Jixian asked coolly, "What countermeasures do you propose?"

Ouyang Guanghai looked somewhat resigned. "Since Elder Chen passed away, it seems Chen's Biotech's good luck has run out."

"In the past two years, I've approved funding for seven behemoth capture operations."

"The intelligence for almost every operation was highly accurate. However, three of those expeditions came up empty, and the other four also ended in failure. Either the behemoth's strength far exceeded what the intelligence suggested, or the operation team made foolish mistakes."

"These seven operations alone have caused us heavy losses, and our cash flow is now extremely tight."

"Furthermore, I've received word that Oles Biotech has captured another new top-tier dangerous behemoth species and is currently transporting it to their research facility. We must take action, or our rivals will completely suppress us. Forget about making a comeback; we might face bankruptcy in a few years."

As Ouyang Guanghai spoke, he swiped his finger, and new data appeared. "Recently, an egg from a top-tier dangerous behemoth species is set to be auctioned. I believe this may be our only chance; we must secure it."

Chen Jixian was startled for a moment. A Mutated Prime Abyss Wyrms egg!

The Bureau of Mystic Security operates in secret, unknown to the outside world. The auctioneer is a famous behemoth supplier, quite renowned in the leagues.

It's one of the Bureau's fronts.

Chen Jixian hadn't expected Ouyang Guanghai to approach him specifically about this matter today. He felt a wave of indecision.

Just then, Ouyang Guanghai said earnestly, "I hope to get your authorization to allocate funds and compete for this precious behemoth."

"Surely, you wouldn't want Chen's Biotech, which embodies Elder Chen's lifetime of effort, to go bankrupt and collapse like this, would you? We must stake everything on this!"

Chen Jixian nodded slowly. "Alright."

Chapter 166: Wealthy and High-Profile Father

Subsequently, the auction house presented a certificate from an authoritative organization confirming the vitality of the mutated Minghuang Jiao Zeng egg. This certificate guaranteed the egg would hatch into a giant beast, further fueling the clubs' feverish excitement.

The subsequent auction bidding was extremely fierce. In the end, Chen's Biotech acquired it for a staggering price of one billion Starshields!

This news created a massive wave of excitement among league fans. Many believed that the clubs sponsored by Chen's Biotech would start competing to incorporate this giant beast into their rosters.

Chen Gu felt extremely pleased with himself; eighty percent, meaning eight hundred million, was his.

This Chen's Biotech sure is wealthy, and they've got an eye for investments! One couldn't help but like them.

But why does this name sound so familiar?

On the interstellar network, quite a few commentators criticized Chen's Biotech, believing that one billion was too much and that they had made an unprofitable deal.

Chen Gu ruthlessly used his hacking skills to don an alias and fiercely attacked these commentators!

The next day, when Chen Gu returned home, he saw a group of people waiting at his doorstep, their vehicles bearing the "Chen's Biotech" logo.

Ouyang Guanghai took the lead, enthusiastically shaking Chen Gu's hand. "Hello, I am Ouyang Guanghai, CEO of Chen's Biotech. You must be Chen Gu; truly an impressive young man!"

"Please come in." Chen Gu was just as warm to his benefactors.

"Here's the thing, we've come mainly to express our gratitude to you. Your Minghuang Jiao Zeng has indeed done a huge favor for Chen's Biotech."

He briefly explained the difficulties faced by Chen's Biotech, and Chen Gu repeatedly said, "It's mutually beneficial."

"This time, we've also come to discuss something with you. If you happen to find any similar giant beasts in the future, could you please inform Chen's Biotech first? We will definitely offer you a satisfactory price."

"No problem," Chen Gu readily agreed.

"Wonderful!" Ouyang Guanghai was overjoyed. "These gifts are just a small token, a symbol of our budding friendship. Please, you must accept them."

The secretary delivered valuable gifts, which Chen Gu accepted and set aside. After they chatted for a while longer, Ouyang Guanghai stood up to take his leave. "Well then, I won't impose any further. Let's keep in touch!"

That's it?

Chen Gu was startled. After all those pleasantries, why hadn't they mentioned the main point? What about my money, my eight hundred million? When will you transfer it? Even installment payments would suffice, but you need to give a clear answer, right?

"Erm..." Chen Gu wrung his hands awkwardly. "About that one billion, heh heh..."

Ouyang Guanghai laughed heartily. "You've received it already, haven't you? Our boss said he gave it to you long ago."

Chen Gu was taken aback, feeling that something was not quite right. "Given it to me already? Who's your boss?"

"Chen Jixian. You should know him; he's currently the top figure in the city's police system."

Chen Gu was dumbstruck. No wonder the name "Chen's Biotech" sounded familiar; it was his own family's business! I got so excited over eight hundred million that I didn't think it through—"Chen" Biotech, wasn't that obvious?

So, it had come full circle, back into his own family's hands—not an unacceptable outcome. But Chen Jixian, that unfilial son... what did he mean by saying he'd 'given it to me long ago'?

'Given it to me long ago'... So, when I first came out, that one billion was already accounted for as mine!

What a rip-off!

Ouyang Guanghai then said, "This time, that one billion came directly out of our boss's own pocket. To be honest, we've been struggling to come up with such a substantial amount of liquid funds recently."

So that was it, Chen Gu thought. Oh well, it went to family anyway. Besides, when they offered one billion initially, I shamelessly took it without a word; it would be a bit much to complain now.

Might as well consider it returned to him.

Chen Gu felt weary and waved his hand. "That's right, I have received it. Let's leave it at that."

As Ouyang Guanghai was leaving, he reached the doorway and suddenly turned around. "Oh, my terrible memory! The boss asked me to pass on another gift to you; I almost forgot."

He took a box from inside his jacket and handed it to Chen Gu.

After seeing Ouyang Guanghai off, Chen Gu returned with the box, his mood souring. His adult son sent the 'super-material' last time through Chen Qingyu, and now another indirect delivery?

Can't you just stand before me respectfully, hold it with both hands, and say, 'Dad, this is for you, to show my filial respect'?

Chen Gu "fantasized" for a moment before dismissing the thought, knowing it was impossible.

What is it this time... He opened the box. Inside was a crystal electronic certificate, about the size of a fingertip.

Hm? Chen Gu opened it, took one look, and froze.

It was a share ownership certificate of Chen's Biotech.

Chen's Biotech was founded by Chen Beiliu, who, before his death, had entrusted all his shares to Chen Jixian.

The portion now in Chen Gu's hands was a 2.5% share ownership certificate of Chen's Biotech.

Chen Gu immediately looked it up. Chen's Biotech's market value had peaked at a staggering one hundred eighty billion Starshields when Chen Beiliu was alive.

Due to poor performance in recent years, its valuation had continuously decreased, but it was still above fifty billion Starshields. And now, with the Minghuang Jiao Zeng, they were being looked upon favorably again, and the valuation was rising.

This portion of shares was already worth well over one billion Starshields.

Chen Gu furrowed his brows. Such a large enterprise, and they can't even scrape together one billion in liquid funds?

He searched online again to understand the situation.

They've been really unlucky—seven capture operations, all failed. Tens of millions spent on intel for giant beasts, hundreds of millions on hiring capture teams, and then tens of millions more in compensation for failures and casualties.

All in all, those seven attempts must have cost over five billion in total!

Chen's Biotech is a massive enterprise; most of its assets are fixed and intangible, like research institutions. Maintaining such a large company involves huge daily expenses. Coupled with poor sales performance in recent years, their cash flow has become problematic.

They surely still have sufficient cash reserves, but taking out another one billion would likely leave them stretched very thin.

Chen Gu gave a wry smile. That guy... he really is stubborn.

Looking at the shares in his hand, Chen Gu thought for a moment and then tucked them into an inner pocket. Return them to Chen Jixian? I'd definitely be rebuffed.

My adult son was probably too proud to deliver this himself. He's out of cash, so he's giving me shares to cover the 'debt.' There's a hint of this being a 'forced settlement,' which is why he intentionally gave a bit extra.

If I were to return them, he'd lose even more face.

Anyway, we're all Chens. I'll hold onto it for now and figure out a way to give it back to him later.

Thinking about it this way, although the trip to the Yingudusi Devil's Pit came at a huge cost, the rewards were also substantial. Plus, I've inadvertently helped Chen's Biotech weather a crisis. It's my father's life's work, after all; I can't just watch it go bankrupt.

Besides, my status as a 'young master of a wealthy family' needs Chen's Biotech to maintain it, doesn't it?

Huh? Wait, that's not right. It should be 'wealthy father of a powerful family'—though that somehow sounds less glamorous than 'young master of a wealthy family'...

Chapter 167: The Beast Companion

Lubei Middle School's second preliminary exam was upon them, doubling as the midterms for the semester.

Darkray, Mao Yisheng, and the others were all very nervous.

During lunch, the military students gathered around Chen Gu. "Brother Chen, are you going with us?"

Chen Gu remembered that military students, a few months before the college entrance exam, would rush to various military schools to take part in internal tests.

In this era, higher education institutions had the power of independent admissions, and schools—especially the prestigious ones—preferred to trust the results of their own exams.

The reasons behind this were complex and not easily distilled into a few words. In short, military students would take exams at their favored schools in advance, hoping to reach an agreement with them ahead of time.

When the time for the unified college entrance exam arrived, the schools they admired might no longer have slots available.

"Which school do you plan to go to?"

Mao Yisheng's eyes sparkled with a young person's ambitious gleam as he said forcefully, "Darkray and I plan to try our luck at the four schools on Capital Star. But we're not talking about that; you definitely don't need to take those exams. You just wait for the admission notice from the Tiangong Military Division."

"What we're talking about is the draft spectacular of the Behemoth Alliance!"

Chen Gu slapped his forehead. He remembered that the Behemoth Alliance's annual talent draft across the Star Sea would unfold in five days.

They had "performance testing centers" on various planets, open to anyone willing to pay a hefty fee.

Then, if your results were up to par, you would be added to the rookie pool, waiting to be picked by various clubs during the draft spectacular.

This performance test was very complex. Competitors needed to cooperate with behemoths to achieve good results. Therefore, in addition to inherent combat talents, there were a series of special aptitudes to consider—like the mind's adaptability to "exotic life forms."

Wuzhaoyin City, it had to be admitted, was a bit remote and thus lacked an Alliance testing center. But Darkray and Mao Yisheng could take advantage of their trip to Capital Star for exams to participate in the Alliance's testing.

If each hot-blooded youth of this era held the dream of becoming a general, then the most coveted professions for every young person were to be a player in *Endless* or a "Behemoth Partner" in the Behemoth Alliance.

Just like the sports superstars from Chen Gu's previous life.

Chen Gu encouraged them wholeheartedly. "I won't go, but you guys press on! When you make a name for yourselves, remember to sign an autograph for my kids."

Despite his aspirations, Mao Yisheng was still grounded in reality, well aware that his chances of being picked were slim to none; it wasn't even certain he'd pass the performance test. He just offered a timid smile.

But Darkray, the furry fellow, laughed heartily with a wide-open mouth. "Don't worry, Brother Chen, we're friends who won't forget you when we strike it rich. We'll definitely not forget you."

Mao Yisheng, sweating bullets next to him, interjected, "If you can't speak properly, then shut up! It's 'friends who won't desert you in poverty'..."

Chen Gu subconsciously kept his distance from Darkray.

「The next day, the military students set off.」 Only a few were bound for Capital Star, as the rest were headed to other planets. The admission standards of the institutions on Capital Star were higher and beyond the reach of most of them.

「Three days after the midterms ended, coinciding with the weekend, Chen Gu dutifully went to the station for his shift—in truth, mainly to use the training grounds.」

After a whole day of training, he still hadn't found a way to improve his physical condition.

Chen Gu was somewhat distressed. He had never encountered this situation before, and if he had to figure it out on his own, there was no telling when he would see progress.

It would be best if a high-Energy Level senior could offer him guidance.

But he couldn't tell his department, "I have a problem with my body; assign me a high-Energy Level expert."

If he did so, he would be relegated to desk jobs, unable to earn commendation points. Plus, if he faced danger, he would certainly resort to memory possession and exhibit strong combat capabilities. How would he then explain himself to the department?

Suddenly, Chen Gu had an inspiration: *The Past of Four Hundred*—it was full of high-Energy Level powerhouses!

He immediately returned to his office, asked a young woman from the clerical staff to prepare a pot of tea for him, and then closed his eyes to refresh himself, earnestly beginning the search through the three sets of memories.

Chen Gu was most looking forward to the memories of Milna Katerina since she shared his profession.

However, after spending several hours, he ended up greatly disappointed. Milna Katerina's career had been too smooth. As a Holy Maiden well-protected by the Holy Church, she had hardly faced any setbacks in her life.

Chen Gu thought for a moment, then began searching within the memories of Derek Kun Shen.

This great scientist had incredibly complex memories, their total volume far surpassing those of Milna Katerina and Griffin Wester.

Chen Gu was soon immersed in them.

「The next morning, Marcus opened the office door and was surprised to find Chen Gu asleep on the desk.」

Marcus tapped on the desk to wake Chen Gu up. "You didn't go back last night?"

Such diligent and studious team members were unheard of in the Special Service Group.

Chen Gu rubbed his eyes. "I was too tired from working out at the training grounds. I wanted to sit and rest a bit before going back and didn't expect to fall asleep as soon as I lay down."

Although he was very tired, Chen Gu felt very light-hearted, for he had finally found a viable way to improve his physical condition.

Derek Kun Shen had made tremendous contributions to the establishment of the "Quantum Wizard" professional system. His deep study of professionals' bodies provided Chen Gu with great inspiration.

The issue with Chen Gu was not that he was gravely injured; the key was that the super life-form remains, which had already merged with him, had been forcibly stripped away.

His body had been continuously absorbing the remains, undergoing self-transformation.

Now, this transformation had been abruptly interrupted, and his body couldn't adapt, resulting in a state that seemed to be "stuck" there.

Chen Gu had purchased a piece of super life-form remains through 'Steam Locomotive' the previous night to continue this process.

It cost him a whole fifty million Starshields!

This piece of remains couldn't match the original one. After all, that piece could construct a generator and was even more precious than ordinary supermaterials.

Chen Gu wasn't completely sure if it would restart his body's transformation process.

The remains would be delivered today.

Marcus said, "There's a mission today. Go to the restroom to wash up; the others will be here soon."

After Chen Gu washed up and returned, Joseph and the others had already arrived. Then the office door was pushed open again. Charles entered with his two team members, Boluo and Dora.

Marcus said, "This time the Mobility Group will also act with us, so let's get to know each other."

Of course, Charles didn't need "getting to know"; this was mainly for Boluo and Dora.

Boluo stood behind Charles, making faces at Chen Gu. Dora also bared her teeth at Chen Gu—still with her fierce but cute demeanor, nearly making Chen Gu laugh.

But an actor has their professional standards. Chen Gu put on a very exaggerated "scared" expression, which Dora found quite satisfactory.

Chapter 168: Poison of the Gods

Both of them introduced their occupations and abilities. Boluo was fine since he had the same occupation as Marcus.

After Dora finished, Selena, the little demoness who never knew what kindness was, spoke indifferently, "How significant is this ability, anyway? Puppet, you can just equip a Mecha with a bunch of floating cannons controlled by combat AI, isn't that the same as her ability?"

Dora's cheeks and chest puffed up with anger, but she didn't know how to retort to the little demoness.

Marcus quickly stepped in to smooth things over. "Dora's occupation has other abilities too, like an archer's intuition, which is very helpful for premonition of danger."

The little demoness didn't contradict the team leader, but her face was still full of disdain, clearly expressing her inner thoughts.

Dora sat to one side to sulk on her own.

Chen Gu wanted to ruffle her hair, seeing her upset like a little aggrieved puppy, but he refrained from doing so in front of everyone.

"All right," Marcus said, "let me talk about today's mission."

"The location of this operation is 'Poison of the Gods,' where the surface has complex building structures and numerous personnel, so the director has managed to obtain a mobile unit to act with us."

"But I must warn you, while the surface of 'Poison of the Gods' can still be considered human territory, below the ground... it's truly hell. If you fall in there, you must be extremely careful!"

"Everyone, maintain contact at all times. If someone goes missing, start the rescue immediately."

When 'Poison of the Gods' was mentioned, Melincha's eyes moved, and she sat up straight to listen carefully.

Marcus, as usual, emphasized "safety" first before he started the mission briefing. "This is the target for this mission: the leader of 'Mother of War,' Sidro."

A holographic image appeared, and everyone immediately started to shout, "How are we supposed to identify the target with this?"

"What the heck is 'Mother of War'?"

"This guy is so ugly..."

Marcus glared and pounded the table forcefully. "Quiet! Let me finish!"

"'Mother of War' is the third-largest gang in 'Poison of the Gods,' and their territory spans three whole streets! I remind you: do not underestimate them! 'Poison of the Gods' is a place where a child, as soon as they can run, will carry a gun on the streets to make a living. The danger of the third-largest gang is far beyond your imagination."

"Moreover, this operation is very likely to involve professionals."

He pointed again at Sidro. "Now, let's talk about this Sidro. Yes, this guy is left with only a brain and half a face."

On the holographic projection, Sidro was tall and muscular, with his 'Diamond Muscles' bulging out, wearing a black composite blast-resistant vest on his upper body, and dark green military pants on his lower half.

A wide belt was tightly buckled around his waist, with a large-caliber hand cannon hanging on each side.

The left one was an energy gun, and the right one was a gunpowder gun.

His head was entirely metallic, with two small wing-like wires at the back of his head—those were his ears.

A pair of eyes were conspicuously embedded in the metal sockets; apart from these eyes, the only biological tissue left on this face was a pair of lips.

He grinned wickedly in the holographic projection, revealing a set of steel teeth.

"Sidro is a native-born madman of 'Poison of the Gods.' When he was in his teens, during a street fire, he ran into a crowd of foes with a bomb fashioned from a maglev car battery."

"That explosion shattered his entire body and fractured his skull. The only parts they found were his head, a pair of eyes, and two lips."

"To reward his bravery, his then-boss spent a fortune to bring him back, outfitting him with a metallic cybernetic body."

"However, the body he's using now is one he paid for himself after climbing to the top position of 'Mother of War' over a decade ago. Everyone knows 'Diamond Muscle' is currently the most advanced artificial muscle, and this cybernetic body's specs are close to that of a single Mecha!"

"And Sidro has certainly made some illegal modifications; his combat strength won't be weaker than that of an average professional."

"The most terrifying thing about this guy is his cunning and brutality."

"Anyone can dress up to impersonate Sidro, so this time, the city police department has prepared Sidro's genetic verification profile for us; we don't need to worry about being deceived by a body double."

"According to the intelligence currently held by the department, this guy joined the national crime syndicate 'Five Peaks Society' a year ago, becoming part of their vast illegal industrial chain, responsible for tasks like transportation and spearheading assaults."

"Information on the 'Five Peaks Society' has been sent to your emails. It's a criminal organization with a long history, ruthless methods, and a vast scale. Its key members are likely professionals, and they have insiders in various departments of Star Nation. They're entangled with cults like True Knowledge Sin, often cooperate with foreign hostile forces, and as long as there's money to be made, they're even willing to amicably collaborate with Mutants."

"This operation, our target is a safe box with a six-path encryption lock."

The holographic projection now showed what the safe box looked like.

"According to information from headquarters, this kind of box should have been transported here by now, with Sidro responsible for delivering it to the next location."

"The box contains a mysterious piece of super-life remains—the kind that can make generators! And this piece has strong radiation; you must not touch the remains without protection!"

Marcus stressed again, "Remember, safety first!"

Everyone stood up. "Yes!"

The operatives quickly mobilized, leaving the precinct building in their vehicles.

This operation was different from the past; the special service team was deployed first, while the action and cleanup teams waited outside 'Poison of the Gods,' only entering to wrap things up after Chen Gu and his team had completed their task.

The reason for this arrangement was that the area was 'Poison of the Gods,' where nearly every person could be a spy for the gang.

A large group of strangers would give themselves away no matter how well they tried to hide.

On the road, Chen Gu read through the 'Five Peaks Society' materials while asking Marcus, "Team leader, where are they planning to send this piece of remains?"

"We still don't know the final destination," Marcus replied. "We just know the 'Five Peaks Society' plans to auction off this piece of remains to the highest bidder. Extremist forces, including True Knowledge Sin, are prospective buyers."

Joseph couldn't help interjecting, "What would those fanatics from True Knowledge Sin need this piece of remains for?"

Marcus shrugged. "Who knows? Maybe they want to use it to make a super bomb to destroy a planet—who can say what they're incapable of?"

Chapter 169 Communicating with the Evil God

Chen Gu's heart stirred. He recalled the gorilla's previous words that True Knowledge Sin once possessed a generator, but it was destroyed during the split decades ago. Could it be that True Knowledge Sin has found a way to repair it, and by obtaining this relic, they could restart the generator?

Chen Gu discreetly heightened his alertness. If that were the case, given Wei Jiangqi's temperament, True Knowledge Sin would be desperate to obtain the relic and might preemptively take action to snatch it. Even though this would offend the Wuyue Club... but would those lunatics care?

Yet Chen Gu didn't understand. Wei Jiangqi was tightly imprisoned by the Confederation, so how were all of True Knowledge Sin's activities seemingly unaffected? He must have a way to communicate with the outside!

...

As the two vehicles approached Poison of Gods, Chen Gu suddenly received a message.

"Are you on a mission?" It was from the gorilla. Chen Gu did not reply, respecting the sub-bureau's confidentiality rules.

But then another message arrived: "We've thought it through and are ready to surrender to the Bureau of Mystic Security and cooperate with you."

A wave of relief washed over Chen Gu; the damn fool had finally done something smart.

However, the gorilla's next message made his heart tighten again: "It must be dealt with now, immediately, right away, because it's related to the mission you are currently undertaking—you'll definitely regret it if not!"

Left with no choice, Chen Gu replied, "What is going on, exactly?"

The gorilla said, "Don't worry about the details, just report truthfully. I'm doing this for your own good."

Chen Gu frowned and thought for a moment, then sent a message to his elder son. But there was no response.

The cars had entered Poison of Gods, and the atmosphere suddenly turned somber and oppressive. The prosperity of the era seemed to be completely cut off by the district's defining street, as if entering here was like arriving at an entirely different world.

Chen Gu took a deep breath to clear his mind and prepared to seriously confront the task ahead. The adversary was very dangerous, and there might be practitioners involved. Taking it lightly could mean capsizing in the gutter.

Both the city police bureau and the Bureau of Mystic Security had very limited information about the situation inside Poison of Gods.

They only knew that Sidro frequently appeared in three places:

One was the headquarters of Mother of War, a building that had been abandoned for many years.

One was a bar named "Dirty Rat" located in the northwest of the district.

The last was Sidro's own residence, within a chaotic slum area—difficult to pinpoint, likely large, with numerous exits and entrances.

Marcus began assigning tasks and distributing personnel. "I'll take along..."

Suddenly, a command came through, in Chen Jixian's unruffled voice: "Mission on hold. All units stand by in your current positions and wait for further instructions. Ensure safety and stay concealed."

Marcus was stunned, and the special agents exchanged glances. A sense of foreboding tugged at Chen Gu's heart. He suspected this was something the fool gorilla had stirred up and couldn't help but worry for the guy. You better not be playing with fire...

About twenty minutes later, Chen Jixian's order came again, still personally issued by him: "Special Agent Group Five member Chen Gu, return to the sub-bureau immediately."

"Chief..." Marcus immediately stepped forward when he heard one of his team members was being recalled, but Chen Jixian had already cut off the communication. Marcus felt helpless. He patted Chen Gu on the shoulder and said, "Look out for yourself." He also had an ominous feeling.

Chen Gu nodded at him. The car to pick him up had arrived. Chen Gu got into the vehicle, and it wasn't long before he returned to the sub-bureau.

His elder son's new secretary, a troublemaker who was a scourge on the nation, was waiting for him at the entrance. Upon his arrival, she immediately led him straight to Chen Jixian's office.

She showed Chen Gu in and immediately closed the door.

There were only four people in the office: Chen Jixian, Mei Lixue, the gorilla, and Man Suling. The moment Man Suling saw Chen Gu, she immediately transformed into a lady, sitting with a demure and proper posture.

Chen Gu observed that the gorilla still harbored an intense "fear" of the plump girl, keeping his distance from her.

The atmosphere was somewhat tense. Moreover, Chen Gu noticed that the office's highest security alert had been activated!

Chen Jixian's eyelids, which rarely moved, lifted slightly. He said, "Mr. Gao Mengjiu, why don't you start?"

Chen Gu turned to look at the gorilla, who took a deep breath and said, "I know what you guys are searching for."

Chen Gu was somewhat taken aback. He questioned Chen Jixian with a look: Why were they telling them about a confidential mission?

Chen Jixian responded indifferently, "We didn't tell them."

The gorilla said, "I have my own sources of information..."

Chen Gu's heart skipped a beat, and he blurted out, "This is a very serious breach of confidentiality!"

The fact that the gorilla knew the content and timing of their mission meant there was a spy of a very high level hidden within the sub-bureau!

Mei Lixue said gravely, "The most urgent issue that needs to be resolved right now is not the breach of confidentiality."

The gorilla continued, "Your mission target—that relic is very strange. It must not fall into the hands of the Bureau of Mystic Security! At least, it shouldn't fall into the hands of Headquarters."

Chen Gu was taken aback. Was this guy courting death? These words, if it were just the two of us, could have been said and forgotten. But in front of the Sub-bureau Chief and the Director... wasn't it a slap in the face?

Yet, Chen Jixian and Mei Lixue showed no reaction, leaving Chen Gu somewhat confused.

The gorilla continued, "This relic is very special. Besides being able to create generators, it also has a unique ability to communicate directly with the Evil Gods from the Endless Realm!"

Chen Gu was so shocked by this information that he swayed. Without thinking, he asked, "How do you know this? How can you prove it? And the more dangerous it is, the more it should be delivered to the Bureau. That's the safest option."

Upon uttering the last sentence, Chen Gu himself felt a heavy sinking in his heart. Chen Jixian had only recently informed him that there was a major traitor at Headquarters. Who could guarantee that there was only one traitor at Headquarters? Were there no other spies lurking? He was beginning to understand.

The Evil Gods from the Endless Realm represented the highest tier of beings—demons, oddities, creatures of lust, Evil Gods!

Six years ago, in a prosperous city of the Empire, some believers, through means still unknown to this day, made contact with an "oddy" from the Endless Realm, a being of the second tier.

The contact "link" was extremely unstable and lasted only seven seconds—but it resulted in a quarter of the city's population being contaminated. That incident prompted the Empire to deploy its star fleet, ultimately leading to the deaths of over three million people!

To this day, the city remains under strict quarantine, with an Empire army division stationed on the ground. In the Star Sea, four Close Range Attack Ships and a flagship remain on constant alert.

There's even a Third Energy Level practitioner stationed there year-round.

If this relic could directly communicate with the highest tier of Evil Gods... the damage it could cause was simply unimaginable, possibly even leading to the downfall of human society.

Chapter 170: The General

The Gorilla said, "This relic comes from a very rare super life form: the Myriad Forms Heavenly Dragon. The oldest scripture of our 'True Knowledge Sin' has detailed records about it."

"I can't prove it to you, and I can't be sure about the reliability of everything said in the scripture, but you need to understand that we can't take risks with such things!"

"As for you thinking that handing it over to the Bureau of Mystic Security is the safest—" he chuckled, "—there must be Mutants spying within the Bureau. They can't be found just by your diligent internal investigations. The Mutants' pollution is not something you can defend against merely by relying on faith."

"For instance, I already knew about your secret operation, didn't I?"

"Besides, the Bureau of Mystic Security is ultimately led by the Star Mansion. There are things that even Aviloya herself can't control."

"The best way to deal with this thing is to completely destroy it!"

Chen Gu slowly sat down. He felt that even he needed a moment to catch his breath. This matter... it could decide the fate of the entire human race!

Chen Jixian and Mei Lixue didn't rush him; they waited quietly.

"But... the premise of all this is that your information is accurate, and that relic indeed has the capability to communicate directly with the Evil God," Chen Gu said slowly.

"What if you're wrong?" Chen Gu scrutinized again. "If that relic actually doesn't have the ability to communicate directly with the Evil God... Or perhaps you yourself want to use us to get your hands on that relic..."

The Gorilla didn't get angry at Chen Gu's suspicions. He understood his comrade's feelings very well. He explained, "I've already understood the ins and outs of your operation. Actually, I could have chosen not to defect to your side but instead lurk behind you, waiting for the right moment to snatch it."

"I made the huge sacrifice of seeking refuge with the Bureau of Mystic Security because I didn't dare to take that risk. If I had failed, and you were unaware of the relic's secret, then whether it ended up with

the General Bureau or returned to the 'Five Peaks Association,' it could ultimately lead to a terrible catastrophe!"

"Working with you is not the best option for me, but the most secure one. I can't afford to take risks on such an important matter."

"You, in fact, are the same."

Chen Gu was still skeptical. "You said it yourself that there are spies in the Bureau. You think the relic is dangerous if it falls into their hands, so why would you want to cooperate with us? It doesn't make sense."

"That's why I suggest that as soon as we find the relic, the four parties present must ensure at least two parties remain. If any of us harbor ulterior motives, this guarantees someone can strive with all their might to destroy that relic!" The Gorilla had already thought this through.

Chen Gu fell silent. This really is the best choice under the current complicated circumstances, he pondered.

But all of this was predicated on the accuracy of the information the Gorilla brought about the relic.

If the relic didn't have the ability to communicate directly with the Evil God, then the Bureau would be losing a precious treasure—one that could create generators—for nothing!

Chen Gu's headache worsened. In the end, he could only look at Chen Jixian. You're the Sub-Bureau Chief; you decide.

Chen Jixian didn't speak for a long time. This time, no one rushed him; they waited quietly.

Finally, Chen Jixian's eyelids lifted completely. He said in a deep voice, "Work with him!"

"Find that box first. If it's just an ordinary relic inside, hand it over to the General Bureau. If it's as Gao Mengjiu said... destroy it immediately!"

Chen Jixian had already thought through everything. He said, "This matter is limited to the five people in this office, including Marcus. It must not be leaked."

"Yes," Chen Gu and Mei Lixue responded together.

"Mr. Gao Mengjiu's and Ms. Man Suling's identities are confidential. Due to their special status, they are not suited to join the Bureau of Mystic Security's special operations team. Appoint them as advisors; in this operation, they will cooperate with us covertly."

"Alright," the Gorilla and Man Suling agreed.

"We will establish the general operational guidelines. Specific details... we'll adapt according to the situation."

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Mei Lixue and the Gorilla had left, leaving only Chen Jixian and Chen Gu in the office. Chen Gu asked his son, "Aren't you worried the Gorilla has deceived us?"

Chen Jixian nodded. "Worried."

"Then why didn't you report it and let Aviloya make the decision?" Chen Gu asked through gritted teeth, glaring at his son with disappointed frustration.

Reporting this situation directly would have been the prudent approach for self-preservation—even though the Gorilla had explicitly requested not to report it and to resolve the matter privately. However, the decision to report lay in Chen Jixian's hands.

Now, if any problem arose, the entire responsibility would fall upon Chen Jixian's shoulders.

Chen Jixian glanced at Chen Gu, his eyes filled with a complex expression. From Chen Gu's urgent tone, he sensed a hint of frantic concern... yet after their eyes met, he quickly looked away.

It seemed that for now, he was still unable to face the relationship between them.

After a moment of silence, he suddenly spoke. "Do you know why Zhao Zhenhuai is called a tactical genius, yet in the reserve general roster for Empire River Star, he has always been ranked behind me?"

He seldom gave long speeches, especially in front of Chen Gu. His tone seemed slightly awkward.

"Because I am a Professional. Any organization's upper echelon always holds Professionals in higher regard."

"But I also know that in tactical command, I'm still a little... behind Zhao Zhenhuai."

"In my sixth month as a colonel, I stationed my troops on the uninhabited planet designated TX-495. I remember it very clearly: the night sky, full of stars, was exceptionally clear and beautiful on a planet without an atmosphere..."

"At 2:00 AM, the Alien Insect Race attacked. The battle was extremely fierce, but my young men were outstanding; they stubbornly held back the Insect Race's assault. If we could hold out for four more hours, reinforcements would arrive."

"At that moment, three more giant bubble-winged insects were suddenly transported through a spatial tear by their queen. They headed straight for our position at Highland Four, launching a fierce assault."

Chen Gu knew that giant bubble-winged insects were a type of unit in the Alien Insect Race. They were enormous, capable of interstellar flight, and had many biological sacs filled with combat-ready Insect Race members.

"A battalion of my men was stationed at Highland Four—over five hundred good young soldiers!"

"At the time, I still had a weapon capable of shifting the battlefield's tide. Hidden in our planet's orbit was a long-range laser orbital cannon."

"However, this type of orbital cannon relies on stellar light for charging. Even when fully powered, it can only fire three shots."

"My staff officer and my deputy strongly urged me to immediately call for orbital cannon support for Highland Four. They argued that if the highland fell, we would be completely exposed to the attacks of spit-thorn insects and artillery-larva insects, making defeat—even total annihilation—inevitable."

"However, various signs on the battlefield at that time gave me a strong feeling that the Alien Insect Race's fierce attack on Highland Four was merely a feint. Their real target was very likely our artillery positions."