

Full Time 171

Chapter 171: Dirty Mouse

Chen Gu couldn't help but ask, "Then... what did you do at that time?"

Chen Jixian looked out the window. "I did what every leader must do: decide.

"At that moment, I truly understood what a leader must shoulder. My decision could sway the outcome of a major battle and determine the life or death of hundreds, thousands, or even more living beings!

"I personally called the commander of the fourth highland, telling him to hold on no matter what! Then I left the orbital cannon behind."

He paused for a moment before continuing, "Next, I ordered my aide to pull up the live feed of the battle at the fourth highland. I watched with my own eyes as my boys were killed one by one by the frenzied attacks of the Insect Race.

"Each honorable death was like a giant hand gripping my heart and squeezing it violently!

"Thirty minutes later, the Alien Insect Race launched a fierce attack on our artillery position. Their true forces emerged, far more numerous than we had anticipated.

"I issued the command to the orbital cannon to strike, which broke the Alien Insect Race's fierce offensive. With the artillery's cover, we held out. Four hours later, reinforcements arrived and utterly defeated the Alien Insect Race's attack. We had held the position and tenaciously survived."

Chen Gu had never before spoken so deeply with his adult son. He only knew that this fellow had once been the likeliest candidate to become a general on Empire River Star.

Only now, listening to him describe such a battle in straightforward, simple language, did Chen Gu truly understand what this child of his had endured.

Chen Jixian pointed at the space below him with his index finger. "Even though I'm now the head of a local Bureau of Mystic Security division, in my heart, I will always be a leader.

"That night, I understood what the most important ability of a leader is: decision-making.

"With a correct decision, you don't need to fight personally, yet most of the credit for a battle's victory is yours.

"One wrong decision, and the fourth highland falls, then my troops are entirely annihilated—not just a cold number in the military reports, but thousands of precious lives!

"Even if you survive, you can only live a life filled with unbearable guilt and self-reproach.

"That is what being a leader entails. We must bear these responsibilities.

"I will not act like a coward and throw this responsibility to Aviloya!"

A nondescript maglev car dropped Chen Gu back at "Poison of the Gods." Marcus casually asked, "What happened?"

Chen Gu casually replied, "Some personal matters."

Marcus did not press further. At that moment, he received another command from Chen Jixian, "Continue with the mission!"

Data from the gorilla was transmitted to Chen Gu's retinas. Through electronic devices, he and the gorilla shared each other's perspectives.

The gorilla had already snuck Man Suling into "Poison of the Gods" without anyone noticing.

Suddenly, Chen Gu asked Marcus, who was in front of him, "Boss, that box has six password locks. Who holds the passwords?"

"Of course, they're in the hands of the 'Five Peaks Society,'" Marcus answered. "I don't know exactly who has them, though it should be one of the Five Peaks. What we can be sure of is that the lackeys involved in the entire transportation process have no clue about the passwords. If they try to break the

codes by force or open the box by other means, the entire box will self-destruct. Hidden inside that thing is an Antimatter Bomb, extremely powerful—truly potent!"

Chen Gu breathed a sigh of relief. This would make things even more secure.

Marcus continued to assign tasks. "I'm taking Joseph to the building. I heard Chen Gu and Boluo worked well together last time, so you two will team up and go to the bar. Succubus and Puppet will head to Slode's house.

"Silver Eagle, you take Rabbit for mid-support—stay closer to Succubus and Puppet, as the terrain there is more complicated."

Before he could finish, Boluo started shouting in the communications channel, "Who said I worked well with him? I don't agree with this plan! I don't ever want to work with this guy again in my life!"

Chen Gu said, "Stop messing around!"

Marcus yelled, "Follow orders!"

Being the team leader, he was naturally furious when opposed by a newly recruited member.

Boluo, seeing the sinister gaze of Silver Eagle in the car, finally realized his reaction had been inappropriate.

He shut off the communication but kept muttering to himself, complaining that Chen Gu was a jinx, and anyone teamed up with him would surely be done in by his flashy tactics.

The two cars stopped at an inconspicuous location, and then everyone split up according to their groups.

Chen Gu and Boluo walked in silence. Once everyone had scattered out of sight, Chen Gu turned around and gave Boluo a hard flick to his forehead!

Boluo cried out in pain, "What the hell! Can't a person speak the truth anymore?"

Chen Gu, feeling pleased at seeing the quickly swelling bump on Boluo's forehead, didn't argue and said, "Hurry up. We need to reach the designated location as quickly as possible."

A name like "Dirty Rat" would have been a recipe for financial disaster for any establishment in Wuzhaoyin City other than "Poison of the Gods."

But here, it was incredibly popular. Even though it was daytime, many people were already gathered inside.

The two had changed into some worn-out clothes in advance to fit the "style" of the place.

As they pushed the door open and entered, the bustling bar fell quiet instantly. Every pair of eyes sized up the two unfamiliar faces with ill intent.

Chen Gu would bet that at least half the people there were already scheming to drag him and Boluo into the back alley later to squeeze them dry.

The bartender, a red-bearded brawny man with a height of 1.9 meters, blatantly took out a modified wide-bore plasma gun from beneath the bar with his coarse mechanical right arm. He then jerked his chin at them, "Hey, newcomers, what'll you have?"

Chen Gu was discreetly searching for their target, while Boluo had already walked over, confidently ordering two "drinks" that couldn't be found in any ordinary bar outside.

The bartender seemed pleased with this and put away the over-limit weapon. "Nice taste."

He went to prepare their drinks.

Chen Gu quickly ascertained that Sidro wasn't there, but they couldn't just leave, as Sidro might show up at any time.

Boluo adapted to this environment quite well, quickly hitting it off with the surrounding rogues, chatting and laughing with them.

Chen Gu was glad he'd brought this guy along; it had been a wise decision.

In the comms channel, everyone communicated in low voices. Chen Gu and Boluo were the first group to arrive at the target location, followed by Marcus and Joseph, and then Puppet and Succubus.

As soon as Puppet arrived, he requested support, "It's too chaotic here! Two people are not enough!"

Chapter 172: Bandit Gang

Marcus used advanced equipment to survey the entire building from a distance. "Sidro wasn't found," he reported.

"Silver Eagle, go and support Puppet," Marcus said, adjusting his strategy. "He's not in the bar or the building. Sidro is likely at home."

"Keep surveillance; don't spook the target. The situation over there is too complicated. It's best to wait until he comes to the building before we make a move."

"Okay," Silver Eagle agreed.

Chen Gu and Boluo had been in the bar for two hours but hadn't seen Sidro. Boluo came over and patted Chen Gu's shoulder. "Let's go get something to eat."

Chen Gu was taken aback. "There's food here..."

Boluo pointed. "Little Billy over there told me a secret: even the stray dogs on the street despise Redbeard's cooking."

Boluo and Little Billy looked at each other and burst out laughing, exchanging some gestures that signified "friendship."

The bartender, Redbeard, heard them and angrily flipped them off, but the two genuinely didn't care.

As Boluo and Chen Gu left the bar, Boluo said, "While we were chatting in there, I subtly inquired. Sidro won't come to the bar at this time. We can find something to eat and keep watch from outside."

Chen Gu nodded. "Indeed, it's about using every resource to its fullest and putting everyone in their rightful place. Even someone as intellectually challenged as you can produce good results if placed in the right position."

Boluo asked, "Do you know I just made over a dozen good brothers in there? With one word, I could call them all out to beat you up."

"Hahaha!"

The two found a pizza place diagonally across from the bar. They had just ordered and sat down when Puppet's voice came over the communication channel: "A convoy has left Sidro's house!"

Chen Gu and Boluo exchanged a look and quietly turned their gaze outside. About half a minute later, Banshee's voice came through, "Confirmed. Sidro is in the middle vehicle. Destination unknown."

Cheers erupted over the communication channel, and Chen Gu and Boluo high-fived.

Marcus reminded everyone, "Stay concealed. Don't alert the target."

He then asked, "Is that case with Sidro?"

After a moment, Melincha replied, "The case was not found."

Chen Gu and Boluo's pizzas arrived. As Professionals, they had huge appetites, but in a public restaurant, they couldn't attract undue attention, so they cautiously ordered four pizzas.

Boluo lifted a wooden pizza platter and said to Chen Gu, "Fifty bucks says I can swallow this whole in one go."

Chen Gu retorted, "You're on!"

Boluo rolled up the entire large pizza and began stuffing it into his mouth bit by bit. Suddenly, Banshee's urgent voice came over the communication channel: "We've been spotted!"

"Sidro's convoy is making a fast getaway!"

"Be careful! He's on the phone, probably notifying all his men..."

Boluo nearly choked to death. Why did trouble have to strike at this exact moment!

Chen Gu looked towards the entrance of the Dirty Rat Bar diagonally across the street. Sure enough, moments later, the door was violently pushed open. A swarm of Mother of War members, armed with various restricted weapons, poured out. Some jumped on motorcycles, others into old convertibles, all roaring as they rushed to rescue their boss.

Boluo was still a bite away from swallowing the entire pizza when Chen Gu forcefully stuffed the last bit into his mouth. "Move!"

Boluo, gasping, nearly passed out. Rolling his eyes, he grabbed his jacket and rushed out with Chen Gu.

As Chen Gu left the pizza shop, the furious owner chased after them, gun in hand. "Hey! You have to pay for your food!"

CLICK!

The ancient but still extremely lethal large-caliber firearm clicked as it was loaded.

Chen Gu casually swiped, transferring payment to the shopkeeper.

He spread his arms, blocking the path of the group from the bar in the middle of the road, and called out heartily, "Hey, hey, hey, my friends! What are you all planning to do?"

The leading thugs glared and were about to curse, but Chen Gu had already charged forward. Griffin Wester's memories possessed him, and the High-Energy Combat Art activated!

THUD, THUD, THUD...

With each dull thud, thugs were sent flying. Chen Gu snatched two energy hand cannons, his High-Energy Combat Art flowing even more smoothly.

Each strike was accompanied by a crisp gunshot as energy ammunition exploded with tremendous destructive power. A few minutes later, when Boluo finally caught his breath, Chen Gu had already dealt with the dozen or so thugs who had rushed out of the bar.

Boluo walked over, looked at the thugs moaning on the ground, and said, "You owe me fifty bucks."

Chen Gu tossed the two energy hand cannons aside as Melincha's voice came through the communication channel: "Sidro is headed towards the building."

Chen Gu turned and sprinted towards the building, tossing a command to Boluo over his shoulder: "Blow up the bar."

Boluo asked, "Why?"

"Because Redbeard's cooking is terrible!"

BOOM—

An alchemical bomb exploded behind the two fleeing figures, a huge fireball mushrooming into the sky. Redbeard, clutching his gun, limped out of the wreckage, howling wildly. He looked fierce but didn't dare to actually pursue them.

「...」

The building had been abandoned for many years. It was in complete disrepair, but its main structure remained very solid. Upon receiving the message, the Mother of War thugs inside immediately sprang into action. They dragged various weapons out of hiding and set them up at strategic vantage points.

On the streets, peripheral members of Mother of War, brazenly carrying weapons, rushed to the scene in various vehicles.

This was the "Poison of the Gods."

RUMBLE, RUMBLE, RUMBLE...

Amidst a massive mechanical roar, the building's basement wall was breached, and two heavy armored fighting vehicles burst out!

These were decommissioned fighting vehicles from the Confederation military. All their advanced equipment should have been removed, but the main cannons were still intact.

The holes torn into the vehicles were crudely welded shut. In a peaceful city, these things were truly weapons of mass destruction.

The thugs cheered, clumsily directing the fighting vehicles to two key positions on the street, intending to use them as mobile artillery.

One by one, thugs poured into the basement, carrying out dozens of high-energy infused shells.

Marcus and Joseph watched from nearby. Marcus, the squad leader, saw the high-energy infused shells piled openly and shook his head slightly. "Thugs will be thugs," he muttered. "Absolutely devoid of any tactical acumen."

He patted Joseph's shoulder. "Use the electromagnetic buckshot. Aim for those shells. When I say 'fire,' we'll give them a big fireworks show."

"Okay." Joseph was still a bit nervous. Will my aim be good enough? Can I accurately hit those shells?

The thugs surrounded the building, wandering like lost souls, brandishing their weapons and howling loudly.

...As if they were the kings of the world.

Chapter 173: Clear the Minions First

The roar of powerful vehicle engines grew louder as a convoy sped forward. It was pursued doggedly by the four from Silver Eagle, leaving the thugs wide-eyed. Could these people actually catch up to a maglev car on foot?

The convoy quickly charged into the street, heading straight for the building. When they reached its base, Marcus shouted, "Open fire!"

Joseph pulled the trigger.

BANG!

A gunshot rang out as ammunition sprayed forward. As the muzzle flash died, the electromagnetic buckshot slammed into a pile of high-energy infused shells.

SIZZLE... CRACKLE...

A blinding wave of electromagnetic light erupted over a vast area, piercing the shell casings and igniting the rounds within.

BOOM!

The immense force of the explosion obliterated dozens of nearby thugs and sent a heavy armored combat vehicle flipping several times before it crashed hard against a wall.

The newly arrived convoy, rocked by the blast, was forced to a halt.

Cursing, Sidro grabbed a bulky energy grenade launcher from a nearby case, clipped ten energy cells to himself, then kicked the vehicle door off its hinges and charged out.

THUMP! THUMP! THUMP!

Sidro fired repeatedly in Joseph and Marcus's direction while retreating into the building.

Firepower from the upper floors also concentrated on the two.

Dora raised her hands, and nine firearms materialized, hovering around her. Big Rabbit was determined to show that little vixen her abilities were indeed useful!

The nine guns quickly targeted nine firing points within the building and fired simultaneously.

The gunmen at each firing point were struck center-forehead, their heads exploding, instantly silencing those positions.

Thugs immediately surged forward. Just as new ones grabbed weapons, Big Rabbit's pinpoint eliminations immediately followed; nine more heads exploded. For a moment, the entire building fell deathly silent. No one dared to show their face.

With a wave of her hands, Big Rabbit swiveled the nine guns, switched them to rapid-fire mode, and targeted the thugs outside the building.

RAT-TAT-TAT-TAT...

Amidst the dense gunfire, thugs fell in droves.

The thugs, moments before so fierce and arrogant—as if they were kings of the world—now fell in droves amidst terrified screams. The survivors scattered, desperately trying to flee into the building.

But Big Rabbit's shots pursued them relentlessly. The last thug fell just ten meters from the building's entrance.

Big Rabbit whistled. The world is so quiet now. Nice.

Marcus said with satisfaction, "This ability is excellent for clearing out small fry."

He commanded, "Charles, it's your turn. Destroy the building."

Charles grumbled, "This is no easy task..." He then stepped forward, his silver cape billowing in the wind behind him. He spread his arms towards the building, as if grasping something in the void.

His 'Star Battle Instructor' ability activated. Streams of invisible particles surged out, rapidly heating the building's foundational support structures until they glowed scorching hot and began to melt!

The building teetered on the brink of collapse. The hundreds of thugs inside, oblivious to the cause, panicked. Someone screamed, "The building's collapsing! Run!"

As the building began to tilt, some panicked thugs leaped from the upper floors, only to meet a predictable, bone-shattering end on the ground below.

RUMBLE... RUMBLE...

The building finally gave way, crashing down with a ground-shaking impact. A colossal cloud of dust enveloped the area, plunging it into chaos.

Charles, drenched in sweat, was completely spent. Melincha rushed forward to support him. Chen Gu, arriving with Boluo, saw Charles slumped weakly against a plush toy and was instantly enraged. Shameless!

Marcus stepped out. His professionals had already surrounded the building. He gestured with a wave of his hand. "Witch, make the call."

Selena stepped forward. Her voice, carrying a strong 'persuasive' effect, echoed across the ruins. "Surrender. Your lives shouldn't end like this.

"Sidro, you know what we want. Hand over the item, and you can start a new life."

One by one, thugs emerged from the ruins, hands raised. Marcus spoke into the comms channel, "Action Team, take them into custody."

Dozens of maglev buses sped in. Team members disembarked and took the thugs into custody.

But even after all the dust settled, Sidro had not emerged.

"Dead?" Dora speculated. The link to the origin of this information rests in Novel-Fire.net

Marcus shook his head. He extended his hands, drawing various materials from their surroundings. Two alchemical bombs quickly formed in his palms.

"Prepare for battle!"

Chen Gu patted Boluo. "We're both 'Alchemical Fighters', but look how suave and cool the Team Leader is with his moves! Then look at you, hillbilly!"

Boluo felt indignant but couldn't find a rebuttal, so he just emphasized fiercely, "You owe me fifty bucks!"

Chen Gu smirked. *I won't crush his spirit by telling him Dad's got a billion,* he thought.

CRASH!

Suddenly, a loud noise erupted from the ruins. A metal giant smashed its way out and stood tall amidst the wreckage.

The professionals quickly moved to engage, but Chen Gu remained still.

He was still drawing upon Griffin Wester's memories. The keen battlefield intuition of a high Energy Level 'Star Battle Instructor' made him sense something amiss.

He switched to Milna Katerina's memories, activating his high Energy Level 'Mind Belief' to scan the surroundings.

Suddenly, Chen Gu started walking in a specific direction.

Two special operations teams were already engaging the metal giant. Sidro sat perched on the mech's chest, laughing maniacally as he unleashed a torrent of firepower.

Chen Gu glanced back at Sidro with contempt. "Clever idea, using parts from mechs to build this hulk. Utterly pointless, though."

The Action Team leader noticed Chen Gu's unusual movement and immediately asked via the comms channel, "Chen Gu, where are you going?"

"Going to catch a little rat."

"Do you need support?"

Chen Gu considered for a moment. "Have two squads follow me."

"Okay."

The team leader gave a few tactical hand signals, and two squads fell in behind Chen Gu, maintaining their distance.

Guided by his 'Mind Belief,' Chen Gu slowly headed off to one side, moving further and further away from the main scene until he reached a deserted back alley.

At the end of the alley stood a convenience store that looked like it saw little business.

Chen Gu stopped in front of the door and asked, "What is this place?"

The Action Team leader quickly checked and replied over the comms, "That's a 'Mother of War' contraband sales point."

Chen Gu nodded and walked into the store.

The shop was empty and in slight disarray. Clearly, the local thugs had all gone to reinforce the main building.

Chen Gu pushed open a small door beside the shelves and entered the store's warehouse.

It was stacked high with contraband: various drugs banned by the Confederation, illegally modified high-powered weapons, and more.

Chen Gu walked through the warehouse and pushed open another small door. Beyond it lay a small courtyard.

Chapter 174: Flaming Red Lips

When Chen Gu appeared, various items in the small courtyard began to shake, accompanied by hissing sounds reminiscent of venomous snakes. Assorted metals scattered around slowly levitated to about ten meters off the ground.

Then, as if on command, all the airborne metal twisted, aiming at Chen Gu like venomous serpents and creating a very eerie scene.

WHOOSH! The metals shot towards Chen Gu. Instead of attacking him directly, they clanked and twisted together, forming a metal cage that crashed down, trapping him within.

Following that, all the metal in the small shop—shelves, weapons in the storage, and the steel framework within the building—flew out, banging against the cage and continuously reinforcing it.

And the cage was tightening.

The small shop collapsed with a thunderous crash. The operations team on the communication channel urgently asked, "Chen Gu, what's your status? Do you need support?"

Chen Gu calmly said, "Don't come in. There's a Professional here."

The operations team quickly called Marcus for backup.

Marcus and his team were locked in a fierce battle with Sidro. Marcus shouted, "Chen Gu, hang in there! We'll be there once we take care of this guy!"

A man in black leather appeared before Chen Gu. He wore sunglasses and a mask despite the broad daylight, and was tall and thin with pale skin.

Chen Gu asked curiously, "Why not attack me directly? Kill me and then run?" While speaking, he gently stroked a steel bar of the cage and, with a light application of force, snapped it off.

But the steel bar in his hand vibrated violently, trying to fly away.

A Magnetic Constrictor, just like Huo Mei.

The man in black leather spoke, his voice distorted by some device into a strange cadence. "Chen Gu, member of the Fifth Special Operations Team of the Wuzhaoyin City Bureau of Mystic Security. A Radiation Missionary."

"You're still a newcomer. You don't know how valuable a Professional is." He grinned, his white teeth strikingly prominent in the dim light.

Chen Gu frowned. "The Five Mountains Society?"

The man in leather nodded and took a step forward. He positioned his hands like a symphony conductor, remotely controlling several pieces of metal. "I still need to evade the Bureau of Mystic Security's pursuit, so I can't carry too many parts. Let me think... eyes, heart, liver, kidneys... that should be enough. It's a pity, though; your hands and feet could also fetch a good price."

"Oh, right! I almost forgot the reproductive organs. Those don't take up much space, but certain individuals with peculiar tastes are willing to pay a high price for them..."

Chen Gu remained silent in protest. Who said they don't take up much space? That might be true for **your** equipment! The most terrifying mistake in such matters is to judge others by your own standards!

Too bad I can't actually show you. Otherwise, you'd understand what a real nuclear deterrent looks like!

The man in leather continued, "Just bear with it. I'll be quick; it won't be too painful. And don't expect anyone to save you. I've made some improvements to that big toy I gave Sidro. They won't be able to handle it for at least half an hour."

As he spoke, the metal cage tightened further, binding Chen Gu in a spread-eagle position.

Under the man in leather's control, a few pieces of metal slowly morphed into surgical scalpels.

The man in leather then maneuvered the scalpels, directing them toward Chen Gu's vitals.

Suddenly, however, one of the scalpels vanished from the man in black leather's perception!

As he wondered what had happened, he felt a chill on his neck, followed by a spurt of blood. Incredulous, the man in black leather clutched the wound on his carotid artery. He quickly controlled tiny metal particles, like nanomedical robots, to repair the injury.

He looked at Chen Gu. "This isn't a Radiation Missionary's ability! Who on earth are you..."

The metal from that vanished scalpel—the very piece Chen Gu had snapped off earlier and established a connection with—was what he had used to attack the man in black leather via Entanglement Control.

Chen Gu hadn't expected that a wound fatal to an ordinary person could be so effortlessly mitigated by a Professional.

Indeed, one should never underestimate any Professional, nor look down on any ability, Chen Gu thought.

Then, smiling suddenly at the man in black leather, Chen Gu exclaimed, "Surprise!"

The Chen Gu in the cage vanished. The next moment, he reappeared behind the man in black leather. Switching from Derek Kun Shen Ken's memories to those of Griffin Wester, he unleashed a barrage of High-Energy Combat Art. The attacks pummeled the man in black leather, sending him tumbling through the air like a ragdoll for several seconds. He had barely begun to fall when he was struck upward again.

The man in black leather crashed heavily into nearby ruins, sunglasses askew, mask torn. Wiping blood from the corner of his mouth, he snarled, "Who the hell are you? A minor First Energy Level agent from the Bureau of Mystic Security can't be this powerful!"

He'd thought he had a rare opportunity to hunt down a rookie agent and earn a hefty sum.

But unexpectedly, the kitten had turned into a tiger, the toothpick into a cannon. It had given him quite a fright.

WHOOSH— An extremely thin steel needle shot from behind Chen Gu's head, faster than an energy bullet! At that speed, it could easily penetrate his skull.

This sneak attack was perfectly silent, yet Chen Gu, as if prepared, skillfully twisted his body and dodged it!

The man in black leather was even more stunned. His sneak attacks were almost always successful; he had even killed two veteran agents with this tactic before.

He had still misjudged Chen Gu. He'd assumed Chen Gu was a Quantum Wizard, not a Radiation Missionary. He didn't realize that Chen Gu was now drawing upon the abilities of a Star Battle Instructor, whose combat intuition far surpassed that of other Professionals, allowing him to easily evade the stealth attack.

In the man's moment of astonishment, Chen Gu closed in, seizing him. Chen Gu rapidly switched his active memory from Griffin Wester to Milna Katerina.

Biological Nuclear Explosion activated!

Beneath the man in black leather's pale skin, blindingly sharp lines of light erupted, like incandescent scalpels!

The man in black leather was in excruciating pain. He struggled feebly as his sunglasses and leather attire disintegrated first.

Driven by an inexplicable instinct from Milna Katerina's memories, Chen Gu found himself about to perform a signature move of the Nuclear Explosion Nun: the 'Fiery Red Lips.' It was her habit, before obliterating an enemy, to seductively blow them a kiss...

Chen Gu felt like he himself was about to explode. What the hell is this?! He quickly suppressed Milna Katerina's memories. Then, with a push of his hands, he sent the man in black leather flying high into the air. Hundreds of meters up, the man exploded into smithereens with a BOOM!

Chapter 175 - 175 Underground World

Chen Gu had already found cover and simultaneously notified the action team on the communication channel, "Take cover, it's about to blow..."

This explosion, Chen Gu didn't face the blast directly but still felt uncomfortable. The most critical part was that the look of terror and astonishment in the eyes of the man in the black leather jacket, when he received the "flying kiss," lingered in his mind...

Chen Gu retched for a while. I've had it! he thought, steeling himself. Unless absolutely necessary, I will never use Milna Katerina's memory again.

From a distance, Marcus had just used a super-explosion to deal with Sidro's big toy. The explosion was so powerful that it completely disintegrated the massive thing. Sidro's "King Kong Muscle" cybernetic body was left in pieces, with only his skull rolling away.

Marcus was quite smug as he boasted to Boluo, a fellow Alchemist Sorcerer rookie, "This is the true essence of an explosion..."

Before he could finish, a Radiation Missionary set off a nuclear explosion like a firework in the sky...

Marcus, feeling somewhat deflated, cast an irritated glance in that direction. "Silver Eagle, grab that head!"

"Everyone else, come with me to check it out."

On the way, he secretly called Director Mei Lixue and asked with humility, "Director, about that... we might need another set of life support equipment..."

Director Mei was about to explode as well, roaring over the phone, "Millions, millions! Half of your merit points for this mission, Marcus, will be deducted!"

Marcus hastily ended the call and, in front of his team members, regained his leader's demeanor, directing them, "Search carefully. The box could be hidden around here."

He also called the leader of the Cleanup Team with great enthusiasm, "HAHA, let me tell you, there are no Mutants this time! It'll be very easy to clean up, so hurry up and thank me."

"However, we have to find one big box in a tiny pile of ruins. The task is very simple, and the merit points are significant—you're in luck."

Chen Gu quietly glanced at the building's mountain of ruins, thinking of the box that was hardly bigger than a soccer ball. And the team leader talks about it so casually! A wave of admiration for him surged through Chen Gu.

Marcus had snagged an easy job. This small convenience store's rubble wasn't much to deal with.

A group of professionals rummaged around, quickly clearing the entire pile of debris.

But they found nothing; the box had left no trace. Marcus had no choice but to say, "We'll have to interrogate Sidro's head for clues."

But everyone knew that for a criminal boss like Sidro, especially now that only his head remained, getting him to talk was far from easy.

Punishments were of no use. Only offering him sufficient benefits to make a judicial deal that satisfied him would work.

And Sidro was sure to demand a king's ransom, likely resulting in the Internal Affairs Team having to forcefully read his memory and then piece together various clues.

Suddenly, Dora's long ears started twitching, and she slowly walked to one side.

The nearby houses had also collapsed due to the battle. Next to the convenience store's warehouse, Dora cleared away a pile of debris, revealing a square cover plate underneath.

Marcus immediately rushed over, "Don't act recklessly!"

As a veteran of the Special Operations Team, he recognized this type of cover plate. "This is an entrance to the Poison of the Gods' underground world."

Chen Gu stepped forward and gently lifted the cover plate's latch, which fell off with a CLICK!

Marcus's face turned grim. "Someone has been in and out of here recently! It's very likely that someone has taken the box into the underground world!"

Chen Gu understood. "That guy held me back while his accomplice took off with the stuff!"

He reproached himself, "I still lack experience..."

Marcus patted his shoulder. "You can't blame yourself for this. We underestimated the task, which led to a shortage of manpower. Even if you knew someone had escaped, you wouldn't have been able to catch up alone. We were all tied up by Sidro and couldn't make it in time."

He thought for a moment, then contacted headquarters and received instructions from above. "First, block off this area. Everyone stay put. The Director and the Chief are on their way."

Sitting to one side resting with everyone else, Chen Gu silently apologized to the team leader in his heart.

Although he understood that this was for the good of the whole team, Chen Gu still felt extremely guilty, believing that he had deceived and betrayed the entire team. In the future, I must find a way to make it up to everyone, he vowed.

He received a signal from Gorilla and saw that they had entered the underground world.

Gloomy, dirty, chaotic, dangerous—Gorilla and Man Suling were tracking a target, with Man Suling's nose twitching constantly. The guy ahead had no chance of shaking them off.

When Chen Gu spotted the man in the black leather jacket, he had switched to Griffin Wester's memory. The tactical master immediately saw through the man's delaying tactics.

But by that time, the one carrying the box had already entered the underground world.

So, Chen Gu handled the man in black leather while Gorilla and Man Suling immediately gave chase.

During the fight with the man in black, Chen Gu could have used Quantum Teleportation to instantaneously escape the metal cage and cleanly kill him, but instead, he "patiently" sparred with him in a back-and-forth battle.

When he used High-Energy Combat Art to send the man in the black leather jacket flying, he could have switched memories and finished the fight with a Biological Nuclear Explosion.

The man in the black leather jacket must also be connected to the one who secretly took the box, Chen Gu speculated. My fight with him was to reassure that person that the pursuers had been delayed.

「Before long.」

Chen Jixian arrived with Mei Lixue and the others, but First Division's Marcel was nowhere to be seen.

Director Mei and Marcus discussed swiftly, exchanging sentences quickly, with urgent tones, as the case was very critical and the contents of the box extremely important.

As for the Director... he kept his arms folded, his eyelids half-closed, quietly listening.

The two of them secretly admired him. That's indeed our Director—calm in chaos, always composed in critical situations! What is the manner of a great general? This is it. No wonder he's the Director!

"Director, what do you think of this arrangement?" Director Mei asked cautiously.

Chen Jixian nodded slightly. "Execute it."

"Yes!"

Immediately, Marcus chose two agents, "Silver Eagle, Ragdoll, follow me down!"

He looked at the other operatives. "You guys go back and get some rest, be ready to replace us at any time."

Selena the Siren was instantly dissatisfied. "They are newcomers, and you exclude them from this mission. But I am a veteran, so why can't I go?"

Marcus glared at her fiercely, dragged her aside, and said in a low, firm voice, "If all three of us run into trouble, you'll be the cornerstone for forming the fifth group! Do you understand? I need to leave one veteran behind!"

Chapter 176: Gascolin

"Team leader..." The little demon girl hadn't expected to shoulder such a weighty responsibility, her eyes reddening slightly. "Please, don't any of you get into trouble... At the very least, you and Puppet, okay? I'm afraid I can't handle it..."

Marcus placed a large hand on her shoulder. "I trust you!"

After comforting the little demon girl, Marcus prepared to enter the underground world with two veteran team members.

Meanwhile, Director Mei was briefing the head of the Action Group, "Here, here, and here... these are all the known exits of the 'Gods' Poison' underground world. Station people at these exits around the clock. Arrest anyone suspicious emerging!"

"But be careful; they might be professionals. If the situation becomes critical, call for backup immediately."

"Yes!"

Director Mei didn't station professionals at every exit because there were over thirty of them, and the sub-branch simply couldn't spare that many.

Moreover, the person fleeing would most likely not use these public exits but would choose some newly dug, private ones.

So, whether they could find that person depended largely on Marcus and his team.

Silver Eagle whispered to Marcus, "You didn't let Selena go. She must be furious."

Marcus revealed the real reason: "That girl's parents only have her."

Puppet sounded surprised. "But I heard you tell her..."

Marcus chuckled. "That unreliable little girl? I wouldn't pick her as my successor. What would she lead the team to do? Go out partying all night?"

The three of them checked their equipment one last time. Then, Marcus tested the communication link with Director Mei again to ensure everything was working. Silver Eagle pulled open the cover panel, and they entered one by one.

Mei Lixue approached Chen Gu and the others. "Go back and rest. Get a good night's sleep. When the critical moment arrives, we'll need you to step up."

Chen Gu knew Mei Lixue had created this opportunity for him to leave the main group and quickly meet up with Gorilla and his team.

Everyone went their separate ways.

On the way, Chen Gu contacted Gorilla, who said, "We haven't disturbed them yet. Wait for you to join us. With the three of us working together, we'll have a much better chance of success. This thing is too important; we must ensure it's foolproof."

This was the agreed-upon plan: at least two of the four parties involved had to be present to ensure no single party could monopolize the remains.

Chen Gu's car left 'Gods' Poison'. After making a detour to get out of public sight, he confirmed no one suspicious was secretly monitoring him, then circled back.

However, en route, he detoured to a storage locker and retrieved the super life remains he had purchased.

When he got his hands on it, Chen Gu almost swore at 'Steam Locomotive'. What a con artist!

The holographic photo made it look as large as a watermelon, but in his hand, it was only the size of an egg!

"This tiny piece for fifty million?" Chen Gu gritted his teeth. He tucked it away for the moment. There's no time to deal with this now. I'll test it later. If it doesn't help my body, I'm definitely getting a refund from that guy.

Chen Gu's maglev car entered the commercial district adjacent to 'Gods' Poison', and he checked into a hotel.

Chen Gu rented a room and patiently waited for nightfall before slipping out the window.

「...」

Marcel suddenly received a call from Gascolin, the director of the Second Office. "Gao Mengjiu and Man Suling have disappeared together!"

"And Chen Gu hasn't gone home either! No one knows where he is!"

Ever since the last 'True Knowledge Sin' incident, Gascolin had kept these three individuals under covert surveillance.

Marcel, however, had no time for this. "I'm in the middle of an urgent operation. You handle it for now."

Then he hung up.

Gascolin pondered for a moment. He swiped his hand, and a hidden phone number appeared on his personal account interface. He dialed it. "You're familiar with the underground world of 'Gods' Poison,' aren't you?"

"I need your help with something."

"The target is also a professional. This won't be easy. After this, your debt to me will be cleared."

「...」

Then Gascolin thought for another moment. He used his authority at the Bureau of Mystic Security to access the city's transportation system. "Track vehicle [X478W51]."

This was the license plate of Chen Gu's lightning-edition [Xuanwu III Model].

In this era, every maglev car was connected to the local traffic system, which managed routes and right-of-way.

Therefore, if necessary, authorities like the Police Chief or the Bureau of Mystic Security could use this system to track any vehicle's movements.

However, the traffic system gave a curt response: "Car owner's citizen level: Expert. You do not have authorization to query!"

"To proceed, prepare appeal materials and apply for an investigation order from a planetary-level tribunal or higher, three working days in advance."

"Thank you for using the Confederation's Third-Generation Traffic Inquiry System. We hope our service meets your satisfaction."

Gascolin almost cursed. What century is this? Traffic systems are still so impersonal, using such a rigid tone with users. Satisfied, my ass.

But Gascolin was also stunned. That kid's citizen level is Expert? Higher than mine? What kind of expert is he?

Regardless, he couldn't pinpoint Chen Gu's current location.

The men he had assigned weren't actively tailing the three individuals but were conducting stationary surveillance outside their homes, offices, and similar locations.

Tailing professionals is too risky; exposure is almost guaranteed.

「...」

Following a map from Gorilla, Chen Gu found a very secluded street near the "Peace Ring," an area almost no one ever visited.

Chen Gu reached the location marked on the map. He stomped lightly with his foot, and sure enough, a paving stone was loose.

He activated [Mind Belief] to confirm there was no surveillance nearby, then lifted the paving slab.

A foul stench wafted up.

Below the slab was a sewer channel. In this era, all wastewater was thoroughly purified before discharge. The only place in Wuzhaoyin City without such sewage treatment was 'Gods' Poison'; this sewer carried its untreated waste directly outside the "Peace Ring."

Shining his flashlight, Chen Gu spotted an irregular hole in one side of the channel. He carefully crawled in, then pulled the slab shut from below.

This was a hidden entrance to the underground world, not monitored by any Action Group members, dug by someone at some unknown time.

In fact, the underground world of 'Gods' Poison' had several times more hidden entrances and exits than were officially documented.

This part of the underground world had originally been the subterranean pipeline system for this large district.

But as the authorities gradually abandoned the area, many people entered it for various reasons, turning it into a thoroughly lawless zone.

At almost any given moment, heinous crimes were being committed there.

As Marcus had said, while the surface world of 'Gods' Poison' was chaotic and frenzied, it was still part of the human realm; this place, however, was pure hell.

Over the years, it had been privately excavated in all directions and dug ever deeper, until no one could truly say how vast it had become.

Chen Gu contacted Gorilla. "I'm in."

Chapter 177: Darkness

Gorilla quickly responded, sending over his location: "Be careful on the road; danger could be lurking anywhere."

The information Gorilla gave him was the latest version, purchased at a high price from the black market.

Chen Gu looked at the route. "Moving forward, I'll come across an [Arena]."

He could already hear roars and cheers coming from ahead. Then, in this dark, cold, and dirty world, he saw a neatly cleaned path covered with a red carpet!

A group of fierce-looking individuals, armed with all kinds of weapons, were guarding the surroundings tightly.

At the end of the corridor was a thick, heavy iron door. A group of people was approaching, led by an extravagantly dressed old man who was proudly introducing to those behind him, "Ladies and gentlemen, I've prepared some special entertainment for tonight. It will surely make for an intense and thrilling evening. Old Felix here never lets his friends down..."

The people following him clearly didn't belong to this world. They were well-dressed, their hair meticulously combed, and each exuded an air of "high society."

One of them spoke indifferently, "The ticket price tonight is three times the usual, Old Felix. You'd better ensure tonight's setup is worth it."

Hiding in the shadows, Chen Gu saw several familiar faces among those people—they were some of Wuzhaoyin City's business magnates, often seen on the local news.

Chen Gu understood and couldn't help but shake his head silently. Whether it was [Gods' Poison] or this underground world, its continued existence owed much to these outwardly respectable gentlemen with their twisted minds.

The two iron doors were pulled open, and a wave of noisy shouts and curses exploded forth. As this batch of spectators entered, Chen Gu circled around from the outside.

At a certain spot, there was a gap through which the inside could be seen. Chen Gu glanced in. In the middle was a round iron cage where a human with stitched-on animal limbs and a human with spliced beast limbs were fighting to the death.

In their eyes was only ferocity and despair; clearly, neither wished to become what they had.

The audience outside excitedly banged on the iron cage. The distinguished guests who had just entered were seated in the second-floor boxes, watching while savoring fine wines and cigars.

Outside, in piled-up cages, "contestants" waited for their turn to fight.

Among them were a pair of half-human, half-monkey twin girls, looking to be only eleven or twelve years old.

They held each other in fear, huddled in a corner of their cage.

Chen Gu sighed inwardly. He understood that his power alone could not change the entire underground world, but he still found this reality hard to accept. Witnessing this scene, especially, made him feel a rage in his chest, ready to explode. He wished he could immediately possess the highest Energy Level to shatter this place with a single punch!

But at that moment, he had to restrain himself and do nothing. He had a more important mission—the remains.

After leaving the [Arena], Chen Gu activated [Mind Belief], moving quietly forward. Along the way, several people ambushing in the dark, ready to rob or hunt passersby, were grabbed by Chen Gu, tossed to the ground, and left with broken bones.

For these people, Chen Gu had no mercy; killing them was a meritorious act.

The distance between him and Gorilla was rapidly closing.

At that moment, through the shared vision, he saw Gorilla and his team suddenly quicken their pace. Man Suling noticed that their target appeared agitated, suggesting something unexpected had happened!

She could analyze the fluctuations in another organism's endocrine system through the body odors left in the air, thereby deducing a multitude of information.

Chen Gu also sped up; the matter was too important for any playfulness.

...

Marcus looked down at a body beneath his feet, shaking his head helplessly. "At most, in two more hours, the underground world will notice the invaders, and our troubles—will truly begin then."

"The underground world here formed a stable power structure over two hundred years ago," Marcus explained. "The most powerful people here are called the 'Ten Kings'; each one is incredibly evil and strong. It's said their combat strength is no less than that of professionals."

"Moreover, they have a huge number of henchmen, all extremely vicious thugs, and they're very familiar with the environment here. Everyone must be careful."

...

Away from [Gods' Poison], in high-end residential District 049, rows of single-family villas were neatly aligned.

This place wasn't the most upscale area in Wuzhaoyin City; in fact, it was often looked down upon by Wuzhaoyin City's traditional "upper class," who privately and mockingly called it the "nouveau riche concentration camp."

Indeed, in this era, in any city, those truly high-end residences couldn't be bought with just money.

But in District 049, money was enough.

Every day, a large number of servants, chefs, gardeners, and so on came and went, serving these so-called "nouveau riches." They were paid very generously.

In the dining room of one of the villas, servants filed in, placing delicious dishes on the table, which was covered with a snow-white tablecloth and adorned with shining silver candlesticks.

At the head of the dining table, only one person sat.

He wore a three-piece suit, his long hair combed back with glossy pomade, and his brown beard trimmed very neatly.

His frame was massive, yet he didn't appear bloated or cumbersome.

In front of him on the dining table were twenty servings of high-quality beef steak; the expensive price ensured they were all naturally-raised, top-quality ingredients.

The massively built man ate unhurriedly. After receiving the phone call from Das Colin, he let out a soft sigh and ordered his servants to prepare this dinner.

Let those so-called "aristocrats" think what they will—he was very satisfied with life in District 049. As long as he had money, he could have everything he wanted.

Those fools had never suffered, so they cared about such illusory issues as "status" and "dignity."

If they had ever lived in the underground world, they wouldn't think so much; they would be thoroughly satisfied with their current lives.

After finishing the twenty servings of beef steak, a great variety of other delicacies were brought out. The massively built man ate every last bit of these as well.

His servants were stunned!

Their master's order had been to prepare food for a banquet for fifty people. However, come evening, not a single guest arrived, and the food for fifty people was all eaten by the master himself.

The massively built man drank another glass of wine, wiped his mouth with a napkin, and said to all the servants, "You all have a three-day holiday."

Then, he stood up and walked out of his villa.

Chapter 178: Juglans

About an hour later, his maglev car stopped at a location within "Pantheon's Poison" where there was a highly secretive entrance to the underground world—even within the underground world itself, fewer than twenty people knew of this entrance.

He stood before the entrance, pulled a special electronic device from inside his clothes, and pressed it gently. Then, without hesitation, he strode into the underground world.

In the vast underground world, devices carried by ten powerful individuals, located in different layers and areas, suddenly began to BEEP.

Some of them were indulging in pleasure, some were engaged in grueling training, some were drunk to oblivion, and some were reprimanding their subordinates...

All of them simultaneously adopted a grave expression. "Juglans... that fearsome guy is back!"

An invisible wave spread rapidly to every corner of the underground world.

The ten kings all issued virtually the same command to their subordinates, "Go and investigate what's happened recently. I need to know why that fellow Juglans suddenly returned!"

「 」

A heavily armed convoy thundered past, the thugs aboard clutching their weapons and vigilantly scanning their surroundings.

Gorilla whispered, "Do you see that? That's the fourth armed convoy to pass by in a short time. These guys are going crazy!"

"We're trapped here now, and we don't dare make any rash moves!"

"Hurry over and meet up. We need to figure out what exactly is happening."

Chen Gu acknowledged. Just then, another group of armed thugs charged past him, shouting.

But Chen Gu had Mind Belief, which allowed him to avoid these thugs and plot a safe route forward.

Suddenly, at an unavoidable intersection up ahead, seven or eight thugs were setting up a checkpoint.

They were holding two unfortunate women, dragging them into the shadows. Soon, low growls and the women's painfully suppressed screams could be heard.

Chen Gu's expression turned as cold as steel as he emerged from the darkness.

The thugs shouted, "Who's there? Get over here and be searched! This is an order from Lord Night Fiend..."

He didn't finish his sentence when something in the dark slashed across his neck, and his head tumbled to the ground.

"Bastard! He killed A-Gou!" the thugs cried out, snatching up their weapons, only to feel something slash across their wrists. Their hands, still clutching their weapons, immediately detached from their bodies and fell to the ground.

Blood GUSHED from their wrists.

"AAHHH—"

Screams erupted one after another as something kept whirling through the darkness. Many a thug's scream was abruptly cut short as the object sliced through their throat.

The two unfortunate women suddenly felt the thugs pinning them down go still. Then, the thugs' heads fell off, some landing on the women's faces, followed by a gush of blood from their severed necks that drenched them.

The two women were petrified, not even noticing Chen Gu swiftly moving past them as everything quieted down.

When they came back to their senses, all they saw were mutilated corpses scattered everywhere. They quickly composed themselves and fled.

Seconds later, they returned, picked up some of the weapons from the ground, and stripped all the valuables from the bodies.

「 」

Chen Gu opened his hand. The object he had used to wreak such havoc landed in his palm—it was a stainless steel dinner knife he had brought from the hotel.

He looked at the map, realizing that he wasn't far from Gorilla now, and he quickened his pace.

「 」

Juglans interrogated a few underlings and quickly obtained the information he wanted.

He was very satisfied with his methods. Although he had left this world for several years, his "skills" had not diminished.

He tracked his target relentlessly, his nose constantly sniffing the air, finding many corpses cast aside in dark corners. Soon, he had outlined the entire trajectory of his target's movements in his mind.

He was somewhat puzzled. This guy seems to have a clear objective... What exactly does he want to achieve by entering this world?

「 」

Marcus and his two companions had just dealt with another problem. Four modified, ancient maglev cars were parked haphazardly around them, their thug occupants now all corpses. The nearby walls and ground were riddled with bullet holes.

"This is unreasonable..." Marcus muttered, full of doubt. "Has the response speed of the underground world increased this much?"

Their strategy was the same: avoid the thugs if possible, but if cornered, strike without mercy.

This was the second convoy they had taken care of.

Silver Eagle approached him. "Boss, what do we do now?"

Marcus reached out, seeming to catch something in the air. Man Suling and Juglans could track by sniffing scents in the air. Marcus, however, could capture the actual scent particles, analyze them, and draw conclusions for tracking—this was a use of his Alchemist abilities.

"We must speed up; that guy is getting further and further away," Marcus sighed. This situation is exactly what I wanted to avoid. It's too dangerous.

「 」

Gorilla and Man Suling had already changed hiding spots several times. The thugs were all too familiar with this area, and many places Gorilla considered secret were discovered by their pursuers.

Each time, they narrowly escaped at the last moment, thanks to their superior speed and agility as Professionals.

"Damn it!" Gorilla cursed. "Chen Gu, how much longer are you going to be?"

A hand reached from behind and patted his shoulder lightly, startling Gorilla.

Chen Gu said calmly, "I'm here."

The tense Gorilla relaxed. He turned his head and glared at Man Suling. My perception might be lacking, but you're a Magic Mountain Werewolf with sharp spiritual senses! You couldn't even warn me someone was approaching?

But one look at her nearly made Gorilla's blood boil.

Man Suling now sported a pair of fluffy beast ears and a snow-white wolf tail, which wagged happily towards Chen Gu!

Man Suling didn't notice Gorilla, who was on the verge of a meltdown. Of course, she had smelled Chen Gu's approach a long time ago. That scent... it's so comforting, so soothing—it's the Prince's scent!

For the moment, Man Suling was oblivious to anything else.

Gorilla's anger shifted to his old friend. It's all this idiot's fault! He viciously asked Chen Gu, "What do we do now?"

Chen Gu seriously considered for a moment before answering, "Fight our way through!"

Gorilla: "..."

Chen Gu switched to Nuclear Explosion Nun's memory and asked Gorilla, "Do we have any pretty weapons?"

Damn it! Chen Gu cursed inwardly once more. Those damned memories of Milna Katerina! What I meant to ask was if we have any 'useful' weapons!

Chapter 179: Spirit Beast Presents a Treasure

Fortunately, the gorilla was in a constant state of tension and didn't notice Chen Gu's odd choice of words. Off to one side, Man Suling used a maneuver called "Spirit Beast Offers a Treasure," presenting a dagger with both front paws.

Chen Gu took a look and saw that the dagger was slender and sharp, with beautiful lines. Moreover, it was well-crafted, with a handle inlaid with colorful gemstones.

He actually felt quite satisfied and gave Man Suling an "understanding" look after taking it.

The depth and complexity of that look were completely lost on Man Suling. She just knew that "Prince" was very happy, so she stuck out her little pink tongue and wagged her tail even more vigorously.

The gorilla really wanted to reach out and press down hard on that tail!

After receiving the dagger, Chen Gu activated his Nuclear Combat Technique, and like a gust of wind, he rushed out. Both the gorilla and Man Suling watched from the side, their faces revealing a rich mix of surprise, pity, and compassion. Almost every shift in their expression coincided with one or several thugs falling.

The gorilla felt a bit sour inside. This guy... he's improving too quickly. Just from this short performance, without using any powers, my hand-to-hand combat skills are probably no match for him now.

The gorilla clearly remembered fighting this goofball not long ago. Without using powers and relying only on hand-to-hand combat skills, Chen Gu had quickly found himself at a disadvantage.

For that, Chen Gu had even deliberately brandished a knife to scare him afterward...

How long has it been? Less than a month, and he has already reached this level! I need to work harder from now on, can't be lost in pleasures anymore, or else this grandson will definitely climb over my head!

The convoy outside was quickly dealt with. Chen Gu waved them over from the front. "Let's go, we must pick up the pace."

...

Juglans quickly realized something was wrong. From where the little henchmen died, it seemed there wasn't just one group of intruders. However, according to Gascolin's information, they should all be together and have no need to split up.

"That old codger is keeping something from me."

He thought about it and chose a direction to track.

...

While moving forward, Man Suling suddenly reached out and grabbed Gorilla Dad. The gorilla turned around and saw fear in Man Suling's eyes, her tail tucked tightly.

Chen Gu also stopped, and the three of them exchanged a gesture before quickly concealing all their auras and hiding.

From ahead in the tunnel, the rumbling sound of a convoy approached.

Soon, several modified hover vehicles appeared. The gorilla was shocked because the convoy consisted entirely of armored vehicles!

Two light armored vehicles were at the front and back. They were modified haphazardly, with weapon mounts welded onto every available space on their bodies. These included machine guns, short cannons, energy initiators, and so on.

The one in the middle was a much larger heavy armored vehicle. Contrary to the norm, both of its original energy cannons, usually on the left and right sides, had been removed. Instead, a thick, short Plasma Cannon was mounted on the front!

The convoy roared past as if in a hurry, without thoroughly searching the surroundings.

Only after they had passed did the three come out of the darkness. Chen Gu said, "There are very strong professionals on that vehicle!"

Man Suling nodded her dog head repeatedly.

The gorilla no longer had the energy to comment on his specially trained protégé. His knowledge and experience far exceeded the other two. He looked in the direction where the convoy disappeared and said gravely, "The warriors on those weapon mounts are elite, not the rabble of the underground world."

Chen Gu immediately perked up, "Who exactly is sitting in that vehicle?"

"Most likely one of the Ten Kings!"

The three continued talking as they came to a gigantic hole in the ground, which connected the two levels of the underground world. Man Suling sniffed, "That guy went down there."

Chen Gu was always tempted to toss her some snacks.

The hole was more than sixty meters in diameter, pitch-black below. Chen Gu sneered, "There are quite a few people lying in ambush."

These people weren't targeting them specifically but anyone moving from the first to the second level. They intended to extort a ransom or kill for food on the spot.

In this place, many had already become "addicted" to cannibalism.

Gorilla had a lot of experience dealing with this. He took out an empty can and threw it in the opposite direction.

The clatter of the can drew a commotion from the darkness below. Gorilla led them all to sneak down from the opposite direction.

But no sooner had they reached the second level than from the darkness behind Gorilla, suddenly, a curved blade of a sickle reached out, its sharp edge cunningly hooked around Gorilla's neck!

"Hehehe, such petty tricks can only fool those laughable newbies."

Chen Gu and Man Suling dared not make a rash move. Chen Gu surveyed the assailant in the dark, wearing a long hood that covered most of his face. The sickle in his hand was clearly a weapon perfected through countless experiences.

Man Suling crouched low, emitting a growl from her throat like that of a canine.

Chen Gu restrained her and asked, "What do you want?"

It was incredible that this person had managed to evade his and Man Suling's senses. This made him reluctant to use Entanglement Control readily; Gorilla's life was in the other's grip.

In this era, decapitation wasn't a fatal injury, but it required immediate medical attention. It was uncertain whether they could make it out in time from here.

"Money, food, energy, and the woman with you!"

"Hand over everything you have."

Chen Gu furrowed his brow, "How much money do you want?"

The figure in the shadow was extremely greedy, "How much do you have?"

Chen Gu opened his personal account, and the string of zeros made the other's breath hitch, momentarily losing focus.

Gorilla had already read Chen Gu's intention from his eyes or, to put it in old words... legend has it that dingbats are supernatural creatures with a mental connection that spans the Star Sea.

Gorilla quickly raised his hand to press down on the sickle.

BZZT! The metal blade vibrated rapidly.

And at the thought from Chen Gu, the dinner knife was already shot out.

SLICE—

Blood sprayed Gorilla's entire face and body. The attacker's head fell off, and the dinner knife, like a normal throwing knife, severed the neck and embedded itself in the ground.

Gorilla, emerging from his shock, wiped the blood from his face and handed the dinner knife back to Chen Gu. "I didn't expect you had this trick up your sleeve."

Chen Gu lifted an eyebrow proudly, "I have many skills up my sleeve, how much do you really know!"

He walked over, searched the body, and found the man had no eyes!

Gorilla understood as well, "I've heard that the underground world harbors such blind men, reportedly having modified themselves with some prohibited genetic drug, specializing in concealing their presence. In other respects, they're just so-so."

Man Suling sniffed the air again and pointed in one direction. "Over there."

Chen Gu casually stroked the dog's head, feeling good.

Man Suling also felt good! She wagged her tail and nuzzled her head upwards.

Gorilla's face darkened. Your relationship has reached this point already?!

He forcefully inserted himself between them, pushing Chen Gu aside with his body. "Let's go!"

Chapter 180 180 Nine Kings

Chen Gu asked unhurriedly, "Juglans, I've always wanted to ask you, why are you so invested in this? Even if this thing falls into the hands of the Bureau of Mystic Security, it shouldn't worry you this much, right?"

Juglans hesitated for a moment before finally saying, "That thing is very likely the piece from the True Knowledge Sin generator back then."

"That generator was also a bit unusual. We Professionals who came from that generator can be located by it."

"If the True Knowledge Sin gets ahold of that thing and repairs the generator, I won't be able to escape at all!"

Chen Gu asked angrily, "You told me that generator was destroyed! Weren't its critical remains ruined?"

"Of course not," Juglans retorted, full of righteous confidence. "I never said such a thing. The battle back then destroyed the generator, but the critical remains were taken by another prospective Prophet."

"That guy was later found and killed by Wei Jiangqi's people, but they didn't repair the generator. At the time, I thought he had destroyed the remains. I never imagined it would reappear!"

Chen Gu asked through gritted teeth, "How exactly did you find out about our operation?"

Juglans stammered, "I have my own information channels, which I can't reveal. Just stop asking. Trust me, your old man wouldn't screw you over..."

Chen Gu went up and started scuffling with him. After a moment, Juglans sported a black eye, confirming Chen Gu had made rapid progress in hand-to-hand combat and Juglans was no longer his match. He raised his hands high. "Enough, enough! You've let off some steam. Are you really trying to kill your old man?"

Chen Gu reluctantly stopped. Man Suling, wagging her tail to the side, suddenly said, "The scent is getting stronger. That guy isn't far ahead."

All three tensed and quickly moved forward, only to be shocked by the sight of another huge hole in the ground!

"He's escaped to the third level!"

Chen Gu was puzzled. He should be trying to leave the underground world as soon as possible—he entered it just to evade the Bureau's pursuit. After all this time, why isn't he looking for an exit? Why is he continuously fleeing deeper?

「 」

The convoy thundered through, quickly reaching a checkpoint.

A group of thugs immediately fired into the air, threatening, "Get out for inspection! This is by order of His Majesty the Night Demon King."

The convoy slowed. The marksman on the lead vehicle shouted, "His Majesty the Mad Demon King is in this vehicle!"

"So what?" The thug at the checkpoint was fearless. "You may be one of the Ten Kings, but according to our agreement, while on Lord Night Demon King's territory, you must follow our king's rules!"

From the heavy armored combat vehicle in the middle, a languid voice drawled, "Kill them all."

The checkpoint thugs hadn't even reacted when the two light armored combat vehicles in front unleashed a barrage from their weapons!

By the time the convoy reached them, not a single person was left alive at the checkpoint. The thug who had been shouting earlier had his body torn in two by several weapons.

The convoy smashed through the obstacles and sped away.

Several minutes later, another, much larger convoy sped over and thundered to a halt near the checkpoint.

A horde of armed thugs spilled out of the vehicles. Then, the door of a vehicle in the middle, resembling an "armored porcupine," swung open. A burly man, over two meters tall, stepped out. He was just a bodyguard.

After getting out, he stood by the vehicle with a predatory gaze, waiting to welcome the true "king."

From inside the vehicle, an old man, barely 1.7 meters tall, emerged. His face was lined with wrinkles, and his eyes were a cloudy white.

He appeared frail. Any of the armed thugs around him could have easily killed him, yet everyone looked at him with faces full of respect and adoration.

The elder was about to head toward the checkpoint when he suddenly turned. His milky eyes stared into the darkness as he asked indifferently, "Why have you come back?"

Juglans stepped out from the darkness and responded with a non sequitur, "That madman doesn't respect you at all. He killed your men so casually."

The elder—the Night Demon King—was not provoked. His milky eyes fixed on Juglans, filled with wariness as if facing his most formidable opponent. "Do you remember our agreement when you left?"

"I remember," Juglans said casually. "No one is supposed to leave the underground world with so many secrets and live to see the surface. So, the discussions back then were quite unpleasant. Though I left, I also vowed never to return. If I did, I'd have to pay all of you hefty compensation."

The Night Demon King was about to speak when Juglans wagged a finger. "You know what kind of person I am. With my pride, I would never renege on a debt. Otherwise, I wouldn't have bothered to press that button and notify all of you just before re-entering this world."

"Money is no object to me. I'll pay up. But first, I want to make a deal with you: I want to rent the Silent Tuning Fork from you."

The Night Demon King sneered, "Rent? You actually dare to say such a thing."

"Why not?" Juglans said boldly. "As rent, I'm prepared to kill the Mad Demon King for you. Think it over, old man. To get the Silent Tuning Fork, I've decided to kill a 'king.' Whether it's you or him, the choice is yours."

Behind the Night Demon King, the sound of weapons being readied filled the air. Everyone's weapons were pointed at Juglans. The Night Demon King's hulking bodyguard snorted angrily and advanced toward Juglans.

Unexpectedly, with just a casual glance from Juglans, the hulking man seemed to see something unimaginable. He raised his huge fists and repeatedly struck his own temple, spewing blood but continuing unabated.

In the blink of an eye, after seven or eight punches, the hulking man collapsed, bleeding from all seven facial orifices, dead.

The Night Demon King's underlings were shocked. Not understanding what had happened, they instinctively retreated from Juglans.

The underground world was brutally cruel. Even the men around the Night Demon King were replaced frequently. Including the personal bodyguard, all had only started following the Night Demon King in recent years. They had not lived through Juglans' era; otherwise, they would never have been so rash.

"The abilities of the Electric Light Operator are indeed as formidable as rumored," the Night Demon King frowned, saying with some dissatisfaction, "You are quite annoying. Now I have to find a new personal bodyguard, which is truly a nuisance."

Juglans shrugged. "Have you made up your mind?"

The Night Demon King pulled a box from his robes but didn't hand it over. "When will you return it?"

"I'll return it when I'm done," Juglans said, snatching the box impatiently. "You old fogey, always so long-winded."

He turned and walked back into the darkness. "Prepare to take over the Mad Demon King's territory. After today, there will only be nine kings in the underground world."