

Full Time 201

Chapter 201: Ambush Comes Suddenly

Chen Gu immediately contacted his adult son. The matter was of great importance, and he needed to complete the procedures as quickly as possible; this involved a cross-border capture and required coordination with the Wanfulu City sub-bureau.

Chen Jixian's response was very swift indeed. He sent various legal documents to Chen Gu, and along with them, a message reminding him, "Be careful! I suspect there's a mole on the Wanfulu side, but since the two doses of the drug sold could very well be there, I must alert their sub-bureau to be on high alert!"

Chen Gu's heart sank. He grabbed Wu Minzhe in one swift motion. "Everyone, be careful. We're heading back immediately!"

They had just left Wu Minzhe's apartment building when Chen Jixian's second message arrived: "The special duty officers assigned for your backup have already set off."

Chen Gu breathed a slight sigh of relief.

On the way, he had already donned the 'Apocalypse Hand' and placed the demonic gun 'Evil Moon' at his waist, while covertly preparing the 'Silent Tuning Fork.' It was just too bad that 'Mokasaro's Roar' was still unusable, leaving him without an extra layer of life-saving protection.

Seeing Chen Gu geared up as if facing a formidable enemy, Joseph sensed that something was off and asked, "What exactly is this 'Consfino Type II'?"

Dora already had a gun in each hand, and Boluo had crafted six alchemy bombs for backup. Both wore serious expressions as they took turns explaining to Joseph, who glared at Wu Minzhe, teeth clenched in anger. "This idiot has been used!"

It was only then that Wu Minzhe understood what the so-called "Consfino Type II" he had sold really was. He said in disbelief, "Impossible! This stuff... they dare to expand their network so aggressively to sell it?"

Chen Gu kept observing his surroundings, as if searching for something hidden. Without turning his head, he said to Wu Minzhe, "How do you know they've been aggressively expanding their network? What if they've actually only approached you, or a limited number of people? Giving each person three doses of the drug and secretly observing them to collect data?"

Wu Minzhe was at a loss for words. It took him a moment to realize, "Doesn't that mean they must be secretly watching me?"

Chen Gu snorted with disdain. You've finally figured it out.

However, their departure went smoothly. Whether or not someone was covertly surveilling Wu Minzhe, no one made a move.

They quickly hailed an autonomous taxi and rushed to the spaceport.

Wu Minzhe, a fashionable magazine photographer with a polished exterior, lived near the city center, a long distance from the spaceport. The maglev vehicle was incredibly fast. As soon as Chen Gu boarded, he used his citizen-rank privileges to apply for maximum priority, allowing the vehicle to zip through the city. They quickly left the bustling urban area behind and, after another ten minutes, reached the expressway to the spaceport.

This route was remote, and it was here that Chen Gu truly started to become nervous.

If the hidden enemy were to strike, this would clearly be the most opportune place.

Just as they were halfway through the journey, a sudden CRACK sounded from the roadside – a large holographic advertising device sparked furiously and came crashing down.

Everyone in the vehicle became extremely tense, but surprisingly, the most unnerved was Wu Minzhe, who let out a shrill, effeminate scream!

The vehicle decelerated rapidly. Before it came to a complete stop, the doors opened, and Dora and Boluo somersaulted out, each securing a strategic position and warily scanning the surrounding darkness.

The advertising device slammed onto the ground with a series of loud THUDS, electricity arcing around it.

But aside from that, all was quiet around them; nothing else occurred.

Chen Gu also activated his 'Mind Belief' skill but didn't sense any threats. He waited a bit longer and then whispered, "Come back."

Dora and Boluo got back into the vehicle. After waiting a moment longer, they continued on their way.

Wu Minzhe let out a long sigh of relief. "You guys scared me to death! It's probably not the kind of poison you mentioned, and there's no one secretly watching me..."

Suddenly, a tiny speck of light appeared in the sky directly in front of their vehicle. It moved with unbelievable speed, instantly rushing to the front of the maglev. The speck of light then exploded into a blinding, massive orb. Within it, a figure completely enveloped in arcing electricity raised a war blade longer than they were tall, bringing it down in a slash aimed at the vehicle!

Chen Gu didn't have time to think. The 'Nuclear Combat Technique' activated, and the 'Apocalypse Hand' met the attack with a punch!

The war blade of the incoming enemy CRACKLED with huge, twisting bolts of lightning; Chen Gu's 'Apocalypse Hand' also lit up with the dark blue glow of 'Radiation Scouring'!

The windshield caught between the two forces didn't even last long enough for the fist and war blade to truly impact it, shattering instantly into a cloud of fine powder.

Then, Chen Gu's fist viciously smashed onto the edge of the war blade.

BOOM—

The terrifying force erupted. 'Radiation Scouring' trembled from the impact, momentarily becoming erratic and intermittent.

The fearsome electricity from the war blade poured onto Chen Gu's body like a flood, making all his hair stand on end.

Yet, this punch managed to block the slash.

The enemy, wreathed in electricity, flipped back into the air, retreating.

Chen Gu, along with the maglev car, was slammed onto the ground with a CRASH.

The ground suddenly turned from solid to liquid, sweeping up from all around, trying to engulf the entire maglev car.

Boluo roared, thrusting the alchemical bombs in his hands into the liquid. With a rapid series of explosions (BANG! BANG! BANG!), the liquid was blasted outwards, temporarily halting the enemy's attack.

"Get out of the car!"

Chen Gu shouted, electric sparks still flashing over him. He grabbed Wu Minzhe and rushed out, defiantly standing beside the vehicle. He flipped off the enemy hovering in the sky—buoyed by crackling electricity—then tossed Wu Minzhe to Joseph. "Watch him!"

Then, facing the enemy's second dive, he clenched his fists tightly!

But secretly, Chen Gu had activated the 'Silent Tuning Fork.'

The 'Multistate Special Agent,' which had just turned the liquid on the ground into gas in an attempt to regroup quickly, suddenly felt a loud HUMMING sound. Its gaseous body undulated violently, tormented by the invisible sound waves.

Meanwhile, Dora extended eight metallic spider legs from her backpack, anchoring herself firmly to the ground. Eight firearms materialized around her, all set to rapid-fire mode, and she immediately opened fire on the enemy plummeting from the sky!

The bullets were extremely dense, streaking across the night sky as tight lines of light, accurately striking around the target.

Dora herself quickly assembled various components she produced, piecing together a strangely-shaped two-meter-long gun. She inserted eight energy blocks, then immediately cranked the power to maximum, aimed at the enemy in the sky, and decisively pulled the trigger.

ZZZING—

A straight beam of energy shot out!

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The man radiating electric light was dealing with the dense volley of ammunition when an energy beam, like a giant sword, precisely pierced his body.

A scream tore through the sky as he plummeted.

Chen Gu had already turned and crashed into the Multistate Special Agent's gaseous form.

Unexpectedly, the gas abruptly solidified into chains, firmly entrapping Chen Gu!

A sinister voice arose, "You killed Leder. As a fellow Multistate Special Agent, did you think I'd be unprepared for your 'Radiation Scouring'?"

On the chains, two solid spikes continuously lengthened, stabbing toward Chen Gu's eyes!

Chen Gu smiled faintly. "Just confirming you're a Multistate Special Agent is enough for me."

In Chen Gu's hand was the demonic gun 'Demon Moon,' its barrel tightly entwined by the chains. Without hesitation, Chen Gu pulled the trigger.

BOOM—

A hazy glow erupted, quickly becoming viscous and adhering to all the chains, visibly corroding them!

The sinister voice now let out an incredulous cry, followed by agonized screams. The chains rapidly transitioned from solid to gas, then to liquid, but no matter the change, they couldn't escape the power of the demonic gun 'Demon Moon'!

Chen Gu had already freed himself, 'Demon Moon' ready for another shot.

He swiftly charged toward the electric-light man who had just crashed to the ground dozens of meters away. The electric-light man, a huge wound in his chest, was coughing up blood and fumbling for a vial of medicine, preparing to inject himself.

Chen Gu swept in like a gust of wind, mercilessly kicking the electric-light man's head to pieces!

Then he dashed back as fast as lightning. The Multistate Special Agent, on the brink of death from the might of 'Demon Moon,' revealed its true form, riddled with a thousand holes.

Chen Gu struck out with a punch, 'Annihilation Saint Fist' combined with the force of 'Radiation Scouring,' and BANG! shattered the enemy's skull.

Then, Chen Gu joined Joseph, warily surveying their surroundings.

The enemy knew their strength yet dared to intercept them; they clearly had more than just two professionals.

Chen Gu had brutally killed the two enemies before him, hoping to prevent a sneak attack during a future battle if these defeated foes weren't completely dead. He wanted to eliminate this potential vulnerability.

The battlefield suddenly fell silent. Dora and Boluo were also on full alert, but the enemy seemed to have truly ceased their assault.

Suddenly, from the darkness, came a series of WHEEZES. Chen Gu spun around; in that direction, some huge creature seemed to be approaching through the gloom.

Then, two thick beams of light suddenly blazed on. Dora and Boluo were shocked; blinded by the light, they mistook it for a weapon or ability and swiftly somersaulted to evade, only to realize they were just ordinary lights.

Chen Gu narrowed his eyes. These two beams of light... they look just like... headlights?

Following that, the sound of a heavy vehicle grew louder. The two beams drew closer, and everyone finally saw it: a pitch-black, heavy-duty van.

Even the front windshield was completely black, obscuring any view of the cabin's interior.

Chen Gu pricked up his ears. That peculiar WHEEZING noise was emanating from the van's rear compartment.

The heavy van stopped about a dozen meters ahead of them. Boluo instinctively wanted to attack, but Chen Gu raised a hand, signaling him not to act rashly.

The van's compartment suddenly opened, its panels THUDDING loudly as they fell to the sides. A group of figures clad in black, wearing strangely shaped helmets, swiftly jumped down, each holding a thin chain.

After disembarking, they neatly retreated, pulling the chains taut.

At the end of the chains was a vast, black behemoth.

This heavy van was, in fact, used to transport this enormous being.

The creature was as massive as an elephant, its surface wrinkled and pockmarked like a whale's skin, entwined with numerous thick and thin black blood vessels.

The WHEEZING sound everyone had heard was this behemoth, its body rising and falling as if gasping for breath.

Chen Gu watched the creature with suspicion, then suddenly realized, "This is a giant brain!"

"This is a brain modified by 'Cosfino Type II'..." Chen Gu recalled how in the Yingudusi Devil's Pit, professionals like Hu Ling and Glove, after being injected with 'Cosfino Type II,' had their demonic forms exhibit connections to their original professions.

And which profession could this giant mutated brain have once belonged to?

In an instant, Chen Gu grasped the terrifying possibility and shouted, "Not good, it's a 'Brain Domain Hacker'! Watch out—"

But it was too late. With a WHEEZE, the giant mutated brain released a visible, pale black ring of brainwaves. Like an expanding smoke ring, it swept across the area instantly, sending the black-clad figures hiding behind it tumbling, despite their full-body protection.

On Chen Gu's side, completely defenseless, Boluo went rigid. His eyes bulged like copper bells, and vivid red blood vessels, like earthworms, quickly crawled across the whites of his eyes.

Two alchemical bombs had been prepared but, fortunately, not triggered.

If Chen Gu hadn't warned him against acting rashly, the activated alchemical bombs would have undoubtedly blown Boluo to smithereens!

Dora's long, pointed elven ears shot up, then drooped limply. Big Rabbit closed her eyes, her head tilting to one side.

The eight metallic spider legs behind her CLANGED and retracted into her backpack.

Big Rabbit and the eight firearms around her crashed to the ground.

Wu Minzhe, still shackled, had no power to resist; his eyes rolled back, and he collapsed.

Such a terrifying attack was at least Third Energy Level, possibly even Fourth Energy Level! Clearly, after the Yingudusi Devil's Pit incident, the "boss" behind the scenes had acquired a high-Energy Level professional as a test subject.

Several ice spikes materialized around Joseph. He fiercely jabbed them into acupuncture points on his head to stimulate his brain, resisting the 'Brain Domain Hacker's' ability.

Soon, his face and head were covered in blood. But with another WHEEZE, the second pale black brainwave struck. Joseph could no longer hold on; his body tilted, and he collapsed.

After shouting his warning, Chen Gu had been knocked down by the brainwave.

When the second wave was emitted, Chen Gu lay silent and unresponsive.

Of the entire team, Joseph had lasted the longest.

Chapter 203 Doubts in the Case (1)

The black-clothed figures who had chained the giant demonized brain also feared it greatly. Seeing that all their targets had fallen, their commander immediately said, "Operation over, secure the Demon Brain now. Second team, move out and capture the targets."

Some black-clothed figures rushed toward the cockpit, preparing to operate the controls to raise the containment box again.

Several maglev vehicles came swiftly from the darkness, with armed black-clothed figures disembarking, ready to capture Chen Gu and the others lying on the ground.

Suddenly, Chen Gu raised his hand, and the demonic gun 'Demon Moon' aimed at the giant demonized brain and he pulled the trigger!

BOOM—

A cloud of light resembling a nebula burst forth from the muzzle. After flying several meters, it automatically contracted into a multicolored light cone—its form seemingly determined by the target's abilities—and plunged into the giant demonized brain with a pop.

Once hit, the light cone began to spin rapidly, drilling deeper into the brain!

The giant demonized brain shook violently, unleashing terrifying brainwave shockwaves in a furious burst!

BOOM, BOOM, BOOM...

Under the onslaught of the pale black brainwave shockwaves, the second team's defenses were clearly inferior to those of the first team escorting the Demon Brain. The second team bore the brunt of the attack. After enduring two rounds of brainwave bombardment, they were nearly wiped out by the third wave. Team members foamed at the mouth, their eyes rolled back, and they convulsed as they fell to the ground.

Although the first team had strict protections, they too suffered; they staggered and fell about. Some less powerful members knelt on the ground, painfully clutching their heads and screaming incessantly.

After firing the gun, Chen Gu's figure vanished on the spot.

He was in a state of 'Quantum Teleportation', successfully avoiding the raging brainwaves.

On the giant demonized brain, the light cone fired by the demonic gun 'Demon Moon' continued to drill deeper, but its strength was being sapped; the light dimmed and its rotation slowed.

Finally, the light cone extinguished completely, leaving a fearsome wound on the giant demonized brain.

However, compared to the Demon Brain's vast body, this wound was clearly not fatal.

The dark green blood vessels on the Demon Brain surged from all directions, twisting together and quickly beginning to heal the wound.

The huffing and puffing sounds became more frequent and intense, indicating that the repair process was no simple task for it.

Suddenly, several thick blood vessels shot out from its body, piercing into the nearest black-clothed figures. The blood vessels easily penetrated the black protective suits and burrowed up into their skulls, draining their brains dry.

Chen Gu suddenly appeared outside the Demon Brain, which was already prepared for his stealth attack. Chen Gu tapped his finger, and the 'Silent Tuning Fork' and the Demon Brain's brainwaves were released almost simultaneously.

Chen Gu grunted and fell forward, while the Demon Brain was also briefly stunned by the silent, thunderclap-like soundwaves.

Chen Gu had been able to hold on until now, he analyzed, for two main reasons besides 'Mind Belief'. First, his physical fitness far surpassed that of other professionals at the same 'Energy Level'. Second, the remnants of a superhuman life form within his body provided him with powerful regenerative abilities.

But the Demon Brain was no longer a professional. Although its brainwaves were extremely powerful, it had lost the mysterious professional abilities of a 'Brain Domain Hacker', leaving it with only its powerful brainwave assault.

The Demon Brain had just devoured the brains of the team members, who were now so terrified that they had scattered and fled; otherwise, they would have swarmed and killed the nearly defenseless Chen Gu by now.

Chen Gu and the Demon Brain recovered almost simultaneously. Chen Gu was bleeding from all seven orifices, looking as ghastly and wretched as a fierce ghost. Gritting his teeth, he suddenly raised the demonic gun 'Demon Moon'. The Demon Brain, like a bird startled by the twang of a bowstring, was unaware that the demonic gun 'Demon Moon' no longer had any energy.

Above the Demon Brain, at the point targeted by the gun's muzzle, countless blood vessels quickly erupted, attempting to withstand the power of the shot. Chen Gu, however, had already used 'Quantum Teleportation' again and instantly moved to the Demon Brain's other side, placing the hand wearing the 'World-ending Holy Hand' upon it!

The 'World-ending Holy Hand', a powerful artifact, displayed its true force for the first time in Chen Gu's possession. With this artifact's enhancement, the activation speed of the 'Biological Nuclear Explosion' greatly increased. The Demon Brain shook violently, emitting a deep azure light from its depths, a light that rapidly intensified.

Mustering all its strength, the Demon Brain released its most potent brainwave, like a circle of pitch-black steel rings exploding outwards.

Chen Gu grunted and was thrown far back. After landing, his brain almost crashed, but his strong survival instinct maintained a singular thought: Sooner or later, this iron-headed, reckless, and foolish profession will be the death of me!

I need to find somewhere to hide! At such close range, even with the 'World-ending Holy Hand' activating the 'Biological Nuclear Explosion', I'm not confident I can withstand it...

Struggling, he rolled and fought to stand, then broke into a frantic sprint.

BOOM...

A terrifying mushroom cloud burst skyward in an earth-shattering explosion. High-temperature, high-pressure gas swept everywhere, and the horrific shockwave was the first to reach Chen Gu, blowing him and the others on the ground away like straw.

The men in black, who were closest, had far inferior physical constitutions compared to professionals and were predictably crushed to dust instantly, with not even residues left behind.

After the explosion, several people fell from the sky with a series of thuds, landing motionless on the ground, their fate unknown.

「In the distance」

A series of urgent siren sounds approached. A fleet of police cars sped toward the scene, accompanied by the action team, special duty team, and cleanup crew from the Wanfulu City Bureau of Mystic Security's sub-bureau.

In the special duty team, a young-looking agent's eyes flashed with disappointment. With the police also arriving, the risk of exposure if he tried to secretly deal with these individuals had significantly increased. After a moment of thought, he decided to abstain.

The Police Department and the Bureau of Mystic Security supervised each other, a situation deliberately arranged by Chen Jixian. Using his two different identities, he had simultaneously reported the situation to the Wanfulu City authorities.

Soon, ambulances arrived, rushing the injured agents to the hospital.

「Half an hour later」

Marcus, Charles, and others, having rushed to the hospital, stood guard by their teammates' bedsides.

Marcus, looking at Chen Gu inside the life support pod, could not contain his anger. "You disobedient little brat! Since the first day you became a special agent, I've been harping on about safety first, safety first. And look at you, habitually ending up in a life support pod—how long has it been since you were discharged last time? Now you're back in again. You might as well live in there!"

"Such a minor mission, and you manage to draw out a big conspiracy. Are you bloody conspiracy bait?"

Charles came over, glaring at Chen Gu inside the pod with disapproval, and said to Marcus, "Boss, it's not personal, but Chen Gu took the only two members of my team, and now they're both in life support pods too. If they don't make it, I'll be a squad leader without a squad! This can't be let slide. Once this guy pulls through, I need to have a serious talk with him!"

Chapter 204 Suspicions in the Case (2)

Marcus said irritably, "That brat is lying in a life support capsule too. How can you be so sure he'll definitely make it out?"

Charles curled his lip. "How many times has this kid been in a life support capsule? Each time, his injuries are critical, as if he's about to die. But in the end, he always bounces out, alive and kicking—like a cockroach that can't be killed!"

Marcus opened his mouth but was unable to refute that point.

"Boss, do you know what other traits cockroaches have aside from their tenacious vitality?"

Marcus's brain couldn't quite keep up. "What traits?"

Charles burst out, "They're annoying! Ever since this kid joined the Bureau, he's been thwarting me at every turn! We must be at odds. Is he sent by heaven to punish me? What did I do wrong to encounter such a scourge in my fate? I finally became a team leader, not even a month in, and I'm about to become a team leader in name only..."

Marcus didn't know why, but he felt an urge to laugh. However, schadenfreude wasn't right. He gently patted Charles's back. "It's okay, it's okay. There's no hurdle we can't get over..."

Charles sighed deeply, pointing to Chen Gu inside the medical capsule. "This kid truly has no hurdle he can't get over, but my two team members... I'm afraid they won't make it this time."

Chen Gu's injuries were severe. But compared to the last time, when Qing Ruyan had forcibly excised the remnants from his body, he was still much better off.

He lay in the life support capsule for a whole day, and his condition stabilized. Two days later, he came out of the capsule, lively and energetic.

However, Dora's and Boluo's conditions were still not optimistic; they were still lying in life support capsules. This made Chen Gu feel very guilty; after all, this incident was his fault, a consequence of his private business. However, this time, they had inadvertently stumbled upon the Boss's grand conspiracy. If Dora and Boluo could pull through, they would earn a great deal of merit, truly turning misfortune into a blessing.

Chen Gu kept vigil beside them, and Charles was also there. Charles found fault with everything Chen Gu did, nitpicking every detail. But Chen Gu felt guilty and didn't retort. Whatever Charles said, he endured it, letting it go in one ear and out the other.

This case eventually became a joint operation between the Wuzhaoyin City branch and the Wanfulu City branch.

Chen Jixian was extremely opposed to this. He had always believed that there were moles within the Wanfulu City branch, and a joint operation might cause the case to fail at the last hurdle.

However, the Wanfulu City branch wouldn't budge. They felt helpless, as the incident had occurred on their turf. A charge of "negligence of duty" or something similar was now unavoidable. Their only way to salvage the situation was to atone for their mistakes with meritorious service. Their reasoning was also sound: the Wuzhaoyin City branch was unfamiliar with the area, and without their cooperation, the investigation would undoubtedly progress slowly.

In the end, it was Aviloya who stepped in to mediate between the two sides and formed a joint investigation team.

Each side selected elite special agents to join, and they cross-vetted each other's personnel to ensure no moles infiltrated the team.

Marcus had been busy with the case for the past few days. Because the matter was of great importance, the Bureau of Mystic Security had already begun using technical means to read Wu Minzhe's memories, even though he had not yet awakened. This was another extremely complex task.

However, Marcus found Wu Minzhe's secret datastick and began searching it for clues. This led him to two freelancers who had purchased the other two units of Consphino II. After sifting through big data, he quickly located them and covertly brought them under control.

Fortunately, although these two had purchased the potion, they had not yet encountered a life-or-death situation and therefore hadn't used it.

The two potions were also recovered and taken back to the Bureau of Mystic Security, where they were locked in the evidence room safe.

Wu Minzhe's secret datastick also contained information on most of his procurement channels, but the source for Consphino II was conspicuously absent.

For this information, they could only wait for Wu Minzhe to awaken for interrogation, or hope for a breakthrough in the interpretation of his memories.

While Chen Gu was watching over Dora and Boluo, he spent his idle moments pondering the case. One day, he called Marcus. "The mastermind, the Boss, provided Wu Minzhe with Consphino II and told him that while it has severe side effects, it can triple one's strength in a life-or-death situation. Why would he tell Wu Minzhe that?"

Marcus pondered for a moment. There was indeed something illogical about it. The Boss hadn't released these potions to make money, but rather to gather more data from live experiments or to use the potions to create chaos. Regardless of his objective, he should have wanted freelancers to use the potion immediately after purchase. Yet, the information he provided actually delayed its use; freelancers wouldn't use the potion unless they encountered danger.

"In that case..." Marcus, a veteran special agent, analyzed, "he still wants to collect data covertly. He hopes freelancers will stagger their use of the potion after purchasing it. If freelancers used the potion immediately after purchase, it might lead to a concentrated outbreak, attracting the attention of the Bureau of Mystic Security. If usage was staggered, with instances occurring one by one, they could collect data secretly without drawing the Bureau's attention or inviting a crackdown."

Chen Gu said, "That's a reasonable explanation, but I have a gut feeling it's not that simple. Why would he give the potion to someone like Wu Minzhe? The risk is just too high."

Marcus was also puzzled. "Moreover, in the last case, the Boss had already fled the Confederation. Even if he wanted to collect data this way, he could do it abroad. Why did he have to return to the country? Doing so greatly increases the risk."

The two discussed for a long time but felt as if they were shrouded in mist, unable to grasp the key to the problem.

Suddenly, Chen Gu had a flash of inspiration. "Boss, send me all the data from Wu Minzhe's secret datastick."

"Okay."

The data was sent over shortly. Chen Gu hung up the phone and began to carefully study it.

He thought of another key question that was easily overlooked: Why Wu Minzhe? Even if the Boss wanted to find a few distributors to circulate the Consphino II potion, there were many freelancers throughout the Confederation. Why did he specifically choose Wu Minzhe? Wu Minzhe had connections with the President. Could there be some hidden secret in that?

Chen Gu reviewed all the contacts and chat records on Wu Minzhe's secret datastick. Then, he accessed Wu Minzhe's biographical information from the Bureau's internal network. Finally, he meticulously studied the inflow and outflow records of Wu Minzhe's various accounts, but he found nothing.

Chen Gu tapped his fingers lightly on the desk, reorganizing all the information in his mind.

Charles, who was nearby, was getting annoyed by the tapping. However, seeing that Chen Gu was deep in thought about the case, he held back from scolding him.

Chapter 205 [The Slumbering Ancient Tribe]

Marcus transmitted the data to Chen Gu and then led a team to raid a factory.

In that battle, the Monstrous Brain's Biological Nuclear Explosion blew all the men in black to pieces, making it impossible to investigate their identities.

However, remnants of the heavy-duty van used to transport the Monstrous Brain were left behind. Through these remains, they traced the factory—the van was registered under this factory's name.

This was a place that produced "naturally-grown" meat products, requiring a large number of vans for transportation.

The operation was supported by the task force from the Wanfulu City sub-bureau; fifty fully armed task force members swiftly breached the factory's outer walls and charged in.

But unlike the tense task force members, Marcus got out of the car, hands in his pockets, standing to one side. He appeared somewhat casual, occasionally looking around.

After a while, the task force leader came out, shaking his head. "They've all fled."

Marcus wasn't surprised. He sauntered into the factory and said, "Let's see if there are any clues."

As he was inspecting the factory, several team members suddenly started shouting in the communication channel, "We found an underground cold storage!"

Marcus and the others immediately rushed over.

Once they arrived, the team leader nodded, and the team members violently broke open the cold storage door. Three members stormed inside, covering each other.

A moment later, they rushed out, crouching to the side and vomiting loudly. The other task force members were baffled. Marcus, however, walked in unhurriedly and immediately understood. This must have been where the "Boss" cultivated the Monstrous Brain, he realized. The cold storage was filled with human corpses.

The tops of these corpses' skulls were sawed open, hollowed out inside; their brains had already been devoured by the Monstrous Brain.

Crucially, not only did this creature enjoy eating human brains, but it also reveled in bloody torture. Using tentacle-like blood vessels, it had torn the victims' internal organs to shreds, scattering them everywhere. The brutality of the scene was too much even for the battle-hardened task force members to bear.

Marcus, fighting back his discomfort, began to carefully inspect the cold storage—it was the only clue left, as those individuals had no time to clean up in their hasty retreat.

As he investigated, Marcus suddenly frowned: a few of the fragmented skulls looked familiar.

He took holographic photos and sent them back to the Wuzhaoyin City sub-bureau, then called Mei Lixue. "Chief, send someone to investigate 'Divine Poison.' During our last mission there, I recall these few individuals were vagrants from that area. Now they've died in Wanfulu City, having become food for the Monstrous Brain."

Mei Lixue agreed. This would take time, and she would notify Marcus as soon as she had any results.

「...」

Chen Gu mentally reviewed all of Wu Minzhe's information again. One of Wu Minzhe's accounts showed frequent and sizable monetary transfers; it must have been the account he used specifically for buying and selling goods.

Chen Gu sifted through these transactions and found the two most recent ones, most likely payments for "Konsfino Type II."

Then he called the sub-bureau, asking the female clerks in the office to help investigate these two accounts.

In the sub-bureau, Qing Ruyan immediately took personal charge of the matter.

Then Chen Gu directly requisitioned the AI from the Wanfulu City sub-bureau and began analyzing all the freelancers listed on Wu Minzhe's secret staff.

The final result surprised Chen Gu. Among Wu Minzhe's clients, there was no shortage of high-Energy Level professionals, including four at the Third Energy Level.

Chen Gu's attention focused on a member of the [Sleeping Ancient Clan] who happened to live in Wanfulu City. This old profession's traits resembled those of the "Blood Clan" from ancient legends of their home planet—disliking sunlight, seemingly always "tired," and often lying down in dark places.

However, they were immune to many forms of damage and possessed both physical and magical attacks, making their combat prowess outstanding among the old professions.

Chen Gu surmised that this member of the [Sleeping Ancient Clan] was the "Boss's" target.

The Boss had hired Dora, and through Dora, the President. So, there was a high probability that the Boss knew the President and Wu Minzhe were acquainted.

This meant the Boss was fully aware that giving [Konsfino Type II] to Wu Minzhe to sell might expose it to the President, yet still took the risk. There had to be a compelling reason.

After synthesizing all the clues, the giant Monstrous Brain gave Chen Gu an inspiration.

Although the Monstrous Brain possessed incredible offensive power, it was inherently weak with fragile defenses. Chen Gu destroying it was proof of this.

It was very likely that the Boss wanted to collect data from experimental subjects while simultaneously providing a bodyguard for the Monstrous Brain.

The [Sleeping Ancient Clan] member was probably the Boss's target.

However, this member of the [Sleeping Ancient Clan] was not among those who purchased the two [Konsfino Type II] agents, which must have been somewhat disappointing for the Boss.

Just as Chen Gu was considering whether to meet with this member of the [Sleeping Ancient Clan], he suddenly saw a flash of light on Dora's secret staff, which lay nearby.

Dora and Boluo were both in life support pods. Their personal belongings had been removed by the nurses and placed in a transparent bag beside their beds.

Chen Gu opened the bag and took out the secret staff.

Charles, the team's sub-node maintainer, grabbed his arm. "What are you doing? This is Dora's privacy."

Chen Gu had a strong intuition urging him on. "I just want to see who sent the message!"

Charles looked at him skeptically for a long moment before saying, "You two... is there something... you know... between you?"

Chen Gu instantly understood and smiled bitterly. "It's not what you think. I feel this message is critical to the current case. How about this: you take a look for me. See if the sender is [Gravekeeper Under the Moon]."

Hearing Chen Gu's denial, Charles's expression became one of understanding. "That's what I thought. How could a nice girl like Dora fall for you?"

Chen Gu felt the conversation was going nowhere. I've been holding back from retorting for several hours for Dora and Boluo's sake, he thought. Aren't you getting a bit carried away?

Still somewhat skeptical of Chen Gu's judgment, Charles snatched the secret staff from his hand. "Let me see... Don't think you can fool me. Actually, Chen Gu, you don't look too bad yourself, just a bit less handsome than me. As a senior, let me give you some advice: the most important thing when pursuing a girl is a sincere heart. With your fondness for sneaky tricks, you're bound to fail sooner or later..."

Chen Gu internally disagreed. Isn't the most important thing when chasing girls spending money?

As Charles prattled on, he opened Dora's secret staff. A projection of light and shadow flew up, displaying a message: "Rabbit, have you heard any news about the train recently?"

The sender's avatar was unmistakably that of [Gravekeeper Under the Moon]!

Chapter 206 - Winery Mansion (1)

Charles looked embarrassed, and Chen Gu became excited. He snatched the secret wand and was about to reply when Charles blurted out, "That's Dora's secret wand; you can't just use her account..."

Chen Gu stopped, not because of Charles's intervention but to double-check. He immediately called Marcus. "Boss, where is Wu Minzhe's secret wand? You need to go back at once and see if Wu Minzhe's secret wand has received a message."

It wasn't long before Marcus called back. "How did you know? There's a message on Wu Minzhe's secret wand from someone called 'Gravekeeper Under the Moon' wanting to purchase the 'Consphino Model II!'"

Marcus was thrilled, guessing that Chen Gu had found the key to solving the case. He continued, "Come on, share your thoughts with me. I feel like you've found the crux of the case! HAHA, you're really quite the talent. Of all the rookies I've trained, Charles used to be the sharpest, picking things up quickly after joining the Special Service Team..."

Charles beamed with pride. However, Marcus then added, "But compared to you, he's far behind. He's at best a smart kid, but you're a genius. How long have you been in the Bureau, and you've already cracked so many major cases..."

Before his old team leader could say anything more disheartening, Charles quietly interjected, "Boss, I'm still here."

Marcus abruptly stopped, then laughed to cover his embarrassment. "Good afternoon, Charles. I was just discussing the technical aspects of the case with Chen Gu. COUGH, COUGH. Chen Gu, please answer my question."

Chen Gu held back his laughter, shared his previous judgment, and then said, "This 'Slumbering Ancient Clan' did not buy the 'Consphino Model II.' If the perpetrator's target really is her, then he certainly wouldn't just wait around doing nothing. I suspect he will cause some commotion to compel the 'Slumbering Ancient Clan' to make a purchase. For example, he might make the 'Slumbering Ancient Clan' feel that their lives are threatened. As long as the perpetrator does that, he's bound to leave behind clues, and we can follow the trail to find him!"

Marcus praised loudly, "I'll come find you right away, and we'll plan something out."

「...」

At four o'clock in the afternoon, Zuo Qianyun stepped out of her "bedroom" to start her day's work.

She appeared to be a middle-aged beauty in her thirties or forties, fond of wearing the era's niche, modified ancient-style clothing. These clothes, made from expensive silks and linens, drew their styles from the Han and Tang dynasties of the mother planet's ancient past.

Her temperament exuded classical beauty. Consequently, the clothes she wore, even in a high-tech, futuristic building, seemed perfectly natural and only enhanced her mysterious allure.

This building was Zuo Qianyun's private property, a modern winery well-known throughout Empire River Star and even the Confederation. From red wine and whiskey to baijiu and huangjiu, it offered everything.

Zuo Qianyun's workday lasted only two hours. By six o'clock, it was dinner time, and by eight in the evening, her leisure time began, lasting until five in the morning when the sun rose, at which point she would retire to sleep.

Even though she worked just two hours a day, she considered herself very "hard-working," deeply moved by her own dedication.

However, Zuo Qianyun had been somewhat uneasy these past few days. After working for only half an hour, her assistant—a handsome young man—notified her through the video intercom, "Boss, people from the Police Department are looking for you."

Zuo Qianyun frowned. "What do they want?"

"They refused to say, but they were very aggressive," he reported. "They said if you don't see them, they can immediately apply for a search warrant."

Zuo Qianyun pursed her lips in dissatisfaction. If someone really barged in with a search warrant, it would be a severe blow to her "dignity."

"Let them come in." Zuo Qianyun temporarily compromised. However, she resolved to protest later to senior city government officials at some wine reception, pressuring them to lean on the Police Department so she could regain her standing.

In the building, the assistant gestured to Marcus and Chen Gu. "The boss invites you in."

Marcus entered with his head held high. Chen Gu followed, his gaze constantly sizing up the assistant, which made the young man uneasy.

Marcus asked in a low voice, "What's wrong?"

"It's nothing," Chen Gu brushed it off, but a thought nagged at him. This assistant's outfit... it's identical to what Qing Ruyan made me wear at the Moonship Hotel! That woman... damn her!

Upon seeing Marcus and Chen Gu, Zuo Qianyun's demeanor changed abruptly. Marcus and Chen Gu instinctively stepped back two paces as she slowly rose, her voice sharpening like a sword. "Bureau of Mystic Security?"

Marcus raised his hands. "Please don't misunderstand; we have no ill intentions. As you should know, the Confederation is quite lenient towards freelancers. If we harbored any schemes, we would have brought agents of a higher Energy Level."

Zuo Qianyun's aura gradually retracted, and she reverted to the classical beauty who owned the winery.

"Take a seat," she said flatly.

Marcus, facing a high-Energy-Level professional, showed some restraint as he sat. Chen Gu, however, unceremoniously plopped down. In his "The Past of Four Hundred," even the weakest individual, Milna Katerina, was of the Fourth Energy Level. A mere Third-Energy-Level professional was hardly worth his concern.

"You're very alert. Is it because you've been threatened recently?" Chen Gu said, getting straight to the point. Zuo Qianyun's elegant brows arched like twin swords.

Chen Gu waved his hand, ignoring her threatening posture, and pressed on directly, "You're busy, and our case is urgent, so let's not waste anyone's time."

Chen Gu said gravely, "What I'm about to say is confidential! You mustn't let it leak. Otherwise, a Third-Energy-Level 'Slumbering Ancient Clan' member isn't a threat the Bureau of Mystic Security would find difficult to handle."

Marcus secretly tugged at Chen Gu's sleeve, but Chen Gu completely ignored him, meeting Zuo Qianyun's gaze directly and fearlessly. Marcus inwardly broke out in a cold sweat for him...

Zuo Qianyun said coldly, "A Third-Energy-Level 'Slumbering Ancient Clan' member could kill an agent and escape, and the Bureau of Mystic Security wouldn't be able to track them."

Marcus tensed up; he could feel the genuine killing intent emanating from the Third-Energy-Level master!

Chen Gu waved his hand. "Why bother? You have all your favorite wines here, which I assume took you many years to collect, right? If you flee, you can't take any of them with you. They'd all go to the Bureau of Mystic Security for free. Those crude high officials—how many of them can truly appreciate these wines? They might even carelessly gift these fine vintages to their subordinate operational teams. Such a terrible waste. Why bother?"

Zuo Qianyun's killing intent did not diminish. Her slender hand gently pressed on the table. A force transmitted through it, making Chen Gu and Marcus, who sat opposite her, feel as if two great mountains were pressing down on them! She said mildly, "First, state your purpose for coming."

Chapter 207 - Winery Mansion (2)

Chen Gu quickly summarized the case. "You suddenly wanted to purchase the 'Consphino Type II' reagent. We suspect it's because your life is under threat. We want to know exactly what's going on, and then we'll take care of this threat for you!"

Zuo Qianyun laughed angrily. "What a bold claim!"

Chen Gu ignored her sarcasm and continued, "You should understand that once 'the Boss' has set his sights on you, he's not someone who gives up easily. Unless we catch him, he will keep pestering you, as annoying as a resentful ghost."

Zuo Qianyun's face showed no flicker of emotion. Marcus's heart was in his throat; time seemed to stretch endlessly. Like a prisoner awaiting sentencing, he felt an excruciating agony.

Suddenly, Zuo Qianyun began to speak. "The day before yesterday, some unidentified individuals started appearing around my vineyard. Over the years, I have encountered many such incidents, most of them

targeting my wealth. And I've long had reliable ways to deal with them. I sponsor politicians and maintain close relationships with high-level officials in the city government and the police system. When these people show up, a phone call to them resolves the issue without me having to lift a finger. But this time, the police told me they didn't find anything unusual after their investigation. That's when I knew something was seriously wrong."

As she calmly spoke, the 'mountain' that had been pressing down on Chen Gu and Marcus silently vanished.

Marcus heaved a long sigh of relief. Being with this kid Chen Gu was like riding a roller coaster! Can't you just take it easy? Why not ensure our safety first, then gently persuade Zuo Qianyun to cooperate? Wouldn't that be better?

Zuo Qianyun rose and opened a very antique-looking solid wood wine cabinet nearby. She selected a bottle of red wine, opened it, and poured two glasses for them. Then, taking a glass for herself, she savored it before continuing, "So this time, I made an exception and conducted a private investigation."

Chen Gu asked, "And then you felt threatened?"

Zuo Qianyun handed over an address. "This is their base. After I tracked them down, I found out that they're backed by... Star State!"

Chen Gu and Marcus were surprised. "They're reaching too far!"

This was a serious provocation and offense against the entire Confederation and the Bureau of Mystic Security.

"Although the base is currently filled with underlings, the strongest being only Second Energy Level, I could easily deal with them single-handedly. However, I expect that high-level special agents from Star State will arrive soon, and by then... I can't be sure of victory."

A Third Energy Level individual was already a formidable force among freelancers, but they would be crushed like trash before a powerful state apparatus.

Chen Gu nodded. "So you thought of 'Consphino Type II'."

Zuo Qianyun nodded and then took out a bottle of obviously expensive red wine from the old cabinet, offering it to Chen Gu. "This is a small gift, worth about three hundred thousand Starshields on the market. Thank you for helping me get rid of this trouble."

She raised her glass in a toast. "You talk a big game, young man. Now let me wait and see if you're as capable as you claim."

「...」

Chen Gu left the building with Marcus, wine in hand. Marcus, still shaken, punched him on the arm. "Kid, you're playing with fire, provoking a Third Energy Level expert like that! I was nearly scared to death. Lucky for us, she's magnanimous..."

Chen Gu smirked. "You've seen her life—orderly and refined in every aspect. People like her, who are very satisfied with their current lives, fear trouble the most. She's the last person who would want to disrupt her current lifestyle."

Marcus laughed. "You pinpointed that fact, which is why you opted for this sort of direct negotiation."

"We don't have time to beat around the bush with her," Chen Gu said helplessly. "Who knows how many units of 'Conspino Type II' are out there, each one a ticking time bomb."

Marcus nodded again. "What I said earlier was right. You really are better than Charles."

Fortunately, Charles wasn't present this time.

The two descended the tall steps of the building, got into a car, and sped away. On the road, Marcus felt a bit sour. He was the team leader, so why had Zuo Qianyun given the wine to Chen Gu? He thought resentfully. It must be because this guy is young and handsome. Judging by Zuo Qianyun's little assistant, she clearly has designs on Chen Gu.

Chen Gu, on the other hand, thought This wine is good enough to take back and show off to that oafish gorilla. However, his main concern was still the case. "'The Boss' can leverage the power of the Star State? This means that when he fled last time, he must have sought refuge with them."

The Star State often meddled in the internal affairs of the Confederation, and the Confederation had never been polite to the Star State in return.

Marcus looked at the location: a rather remote mining company situated outside the city.

Unlike Wuzhaoyin City, Wanfulu City was surrounded by large mineral deposits. Four hundred years ago, the city's army carried out a major sweep of the dangerous species in the vicinity. Since then, they repeated the operation every three years, securing the area around the city. Many mining companies established themselves directly outside the city, closer to the mines, which facilitated their operations.

Marcus pondered. "Based on the intelligence from Zuo Qianyun, there are Second Energy Level experts holding the fort, and their numbers are unknown. I'll apply for support from high-Energy Level special operatives. Let's take down this stronghold first. If possible, we can then set up an ambush for when the high-Energy Level elites from the Star State arrive. We could catch a big fish!"

Chen Gu nodded and smiled.

「...」

The operation preparation progressed swiftly. Although the entire case was led by the Wuzhaoyin City branch, with the main leads discovered by Chen Gu and Marcus, the Wanfulu City branch was very "proactive" in this operation, assigning almost all of their special operatives to it.

Moreover, the branch chief rejected the request for high-Energy Level special operative support, deciding to take the field himself. He was a Third Energy Level 'Potential Postman' and believed his strength was sufficient to control the situation. His deputy chief, a Third Energy Level Microscopic Analyst whose strength was only slightly less than his own, was also mobilized. The Wanfulu City branch was going all out this time.

In contrast, the Wuzhaoyin City team became the "supporting" party. Marcus, discontented, phoned Mei Lixue to complain. The director told him, "The Chief said Wanfulu City is eager to claim credit. On one hand, it's a gesture; after all, the incident is on their turf, so they need to appear proactive. On the other hand, they hope to make up for past shortcomings; otherwise, they'll have a hard time once the case is closed. The Chief is magnanimous and told us not to fight over it."

Marcus curled his lip, realizing he wouldn't earn much merit from this operation. He could only sigh silently. I'm so broke...

The joint operation was scheduled for eight o'clock at night. A large number of tactical team members secured the perimeter. Then, the special operatives swiftly moved in, and the battle between experts erupted. Ten minutes later, a tremendous explosion destroyed the entire mining area!

Chapter 208 - Good Evening

The Wanfulu City sub-bureau was wealthier than the one in Wuzhaoyin City, and its facilities were also far superior.

For instance, they had a specialized hospital where Dora, Boluo, and Wu Minzhe were all being treated. The only difference was that Wu Minzhe's life-support pod was inside a cage, with two heavily armed Action Team members guarding the door.

Ostensibly, this hospital was an unremarkable pharmaceutical research institute, identifiable only by a single, pale green door.

At half-past eight, several figures appeared under the streetlights; their leader seemed quite slim.

The slim figure said, "Begin."

One of the subordinates stepped forward. Holding out their hands towards the door, a hazy halo emanated from their palms, engulfing the composite material door.

Subsequently, a chemical reaction between the door and the surrounding air was accelerated to its extreme.

This composite material was exceptionally strong and stable, normally capable of lasting for hundreds of years. However, it now aged rapidly. Cracks appeared, and within a mere dozen seconds, it crumbled and collapsed!

This was the work of a Catalyst Envoy, a class capable of accelerating any reaction within the normal parameters of the universe.

This profession was very powerful in its early stages, developing rapidly, but it became completely useless at truly high Energy Levels. Its greatest limitation was the "normal state universe"; practitioners at the Sixth Energy Level and above often transcended these constraints. However, below the Sixth Energy Level, it was an exceedingly formidable profession.

The Catalyst Envoy easily breached the main door, triggering a cacophony of alarms within the hospital. Several Action Team members, weapons raised, rushed out.

The Catalyst Envoy turned, bowed respectfully, and gestured with an open hand. "Boss, after you."

The Action Team members aimed their energy guns at the doorway, shouting, "Surrender immediately, or you declare yourselves enemies of the entire Confederation!"

Simultaneously, camouflaged alloy armor panels on the rooftops of the buildings flanking the entrance slid open, revealing weapon stations. Each was equipped with a triple-barreled rapid-fire energy cannon. With a whirl of machinery, all cannons locked onto the figures in the doorway.

The boss sneered. A man resembling a bodyguard stepped forward. He wore a black suit, but his face was covered in dark blue tattoos. A brown beard was plaited into a small braid beneath his chin, and his grim eyes seemed to hide countless unspeakable schemes.

He abruptly tilted his head, gazing towards the zenith of the night sky.

A mysterious power surged silently through the vast natural environment. The Action Team members sensed it, looking up at the sky in confused alarm. Their highly vigilant leader made tactical hand signals and shouted, "Fall back! Fall back! Take cover!"

Just as the Action Team members retreated into the hospital building, a colossal crimson lightning bolt tore across the night sky from south to north.

Then, like frenzied serpents, more bolts CRACKLED and struck down from the night sky.

This was a Charge Dominator, capable of manipulating ambient electrical charges to unleash powerful electrical energy.

The primary targets were the two rooftop weapon stations. Each was struck by seven or eight lightning bolts, instantly blasting them to pieces.

The suited bodyguard raised his arms, drawing the dark red lightning from the sky to wreath his body. He strode into the hospital, and with a push of his hand, sent a bolt of lightning surging forward. The interior immediately erupted into chaos—a cacophony of explosions and arcing electricity shattered everything in sight!

Amidst terrified screams, doctors, nurses, and patients clutched their heads and fled. The Action Team, taking cover within the building, swiftly returned fire. However, neither energy blasts nor physical projectiles could penetrate the dense network of lightning enveloping the suited bodyguard.

He charged brazenly into the hospital's main building, unleashing a barrage of lightning strikes that threw the entire treatment lobby into disarray.

Their objective was clear: they headed straight for the fourth floor, where Wu Minzhe was located.

The Action Team leader yelled into the communication channel, "Large group of professionals invading! Repeat, large group of professionals invading! We need immediate backup!"

He then led the Action Team warriors in a fighting retreat, but they were unable to halt the invaders' advance. They quickly fell back to the fourth floor. The leader ordered a few members to prepare Wu Minzhe's life-support pod for extraction, but it was too heavy. Before they could move it, the enemy professionals had reached their level.

Helpless, the leader shouted, "Abandon it! Retreat!"

The Action Team fell back once more, and the professionals quickly secured the fourth floor.

The boss slowly approached the life-support pod, gazing at Wu Minzhe inside. Just as he reached out to touch it, a loud BUZZING sound filled the air.

Several armed drones arrived swiftly as reinforcements. Their bright searchlights cut through the darkness of the fourth floor, weapon systems locking onto the intruders.

The suited bodyguard sneered, positioning himself by the window. With a violent shrug of his arms, countless dark red lightning bolts erupted outwards. The drones had no time to fire before the raging electrical currents blew them apart, sending them crashing to the ground.

A sinister, triumphant smile spread across the suited bodyguard's face. Suddenly, a high-velocity, spinning physical projectile shot forth silently. Its tremendous kinetic energy pierced his lightning barrier and slammed into his forehead with a soft PTHUD!

The five-centimeter-diameter projectile, after penetrating his skull, continued its high-speed trajectory straight towards the boss.

The third individual beside the boss splayed their fingers. A honeycomb-patterned energy shield rapidly materialized, intercepting the projectile.

The boss, unfazed by the attack from behind, looked at the life-support pod with puzzlement. Inside, Wu Minzhe suddenly opened his eyes, grinned slyly, and then—BOOM!—the pod exploded.

The explosion was immensely powerful, instantly collapsing the hospital's main building and sending debris flying. Outside, several energy projectors activated, generating a reverse force field that contained the blast and prevented damage to the surroundings.

The military rapidly deployed. On a distant building, Dora lightly pressed a button, chambering a second large-caliber electromagnetic round into her rifle. She scanned for her next target through the holographic scope.

Eventually, the smoke from the explosion dissipated, revealing a spherical, honeycomb-patterned energy shield at the epicenter. The boss and his remaining subordinates were protected within it.

The suited bodyguard was dead, leaving four of them. The individual maintaining the honeycomb energy shield was drenched in sweat, clearly having exhausted considerable strength to protect everyone from such a blast.

Outside the energy projectors' force field, Chen Gu, Marcus, Boluo, Joseph, and others appeared. The Action Team members, who had just been engaged in a fighting retreat, now stood gathered behind them. After evacuating the fourth floor, the Action Team had immediately exited the hospital. Everyone else in the hospital had subsequently been evacuated; the life-support pod had only contained a realistic holographic projection.

From a distance, Chen Gu waved to the boss. "Good evening! You greeted us with a bomb, so I thought I'd return the favor. How did you like our leader's alchemical bomb?"

Chapter 209 - "Boss"

The boss looked at Chen Gu with interest and asked, "Where did I slip up for you to notice?"

In the night sky, a large number of unmanned attack aircraft appeared again, their searchlights all focused on them. The boss, slender and clad in a real silk cheongsam, turned out to be none other than Zuo Qianyun!

Chen Gu beckoned. From the shadows beside him, a figure emerged, dressed in women's clothing, with seductive facial features and straight long legs—it was Wu Minzhe.

The boss paused. "You... you're alright?"

Wu Minzhe was a Regeneration Warrior, a profession that, at higher Energy Levels, could almost rival the mythical stories of "blood regeneration" from the era of the mother planet.

But Zuo Qianyun was well aware of this. She had precisely calculated the impact of the Biological Nuclear Explosion. With such force, Wu Minzhe would have been killed on the spot if he hadn't been a Regeneration Warrior. There was no way he, being only at the First Energy Level, could have recovered so quickly.

Chen Gu gave a faint smile but did not explain. However, his heart was actually bleeding!

In Wu Minzhe's safe, one of the last two boxes he had not had time to open contained 2.4 grams of supermatter. Chen Gu had used this supermatter on Wu Minzhe, allowing him to recover so quickly.

Chen Gu had originally planned to embezzle this supermatter for himself, to charge his 'Roar of Moksha'...

However, the severity of the case forced Chen Gu to "reluctantly sacrifice" it. After Wu Minzhe recovered, there was an unexpected surprise: not only could he restore himself, but he could also use his ability to restore Dora and two others.

Wu Minzhe was a coward. After Chen Gu informed him about the whole case and detailed the serious consequences it could have, Wu Minzhe nearly wet his pants and spilled everything he knew, like beans pouring out of a bamboo tube.

Chen Gu quickly found a clue from his purchase account transaction records—the account, after multiple attempts at concealment, pointed to Zuo Qianyun's winery!

Chen Gu immediately sensed something was amiss and reviewed all the clues again. The original speculation was overturned, and another, more reasonable explanation emerged: The boss, Zuo Qianyun, had given the so-called 'Consphino Type II' to 'Steam Locomotive' to sell, and her target was none other than Wu Minzhe himself! This was because Wu Minzhe's profession was Regeneration Warrior.

Despite being an old profession, it was just too well-suited for the 'Consphino Type II' drug. Imagine, a powerful, unkillable magical test subject! Even Chen Gu felt a thrill at the thought.

Such a test subject, when paired with the magic brain, or even by extracting the "regeneration" ability directly from his body to inject into the magic brain, would render the magic brain an invincible being below the Fifth Energy Level.

After Wu Minzhe's arrest, Zuo Qianyun, without any hesitation, sent attackers after Chen Gu's group. She wasn't worried about killing Wu Minzhe; as long as they could capture him alive, one injection of 'Consphino Type II' would suffice.

After the failed attempt to abduct him, Zuo Qianyun sent a message to 'Steam Locomotive.' It was a probe, and also a part of her scheme.

At this moment, she still had not given up on her attempt to get Wu Minzhe. She actively exposed "clues" and then contacted 'Golden-Toothed Cowboy Rabbit,' hoping these clues would lead Chen Gu and his people to the winery, and then to the Bureau of Mystic Security's ambush location at that mining company.

She had prepared many sets of explanations, but unexpectedly, Chen Gu and his team concocted a very complete "logic" on their own. All Zuo Qianyun had to do was go with the flow. At that time, she was secretly delighted, thinking that this plan was going exceptionally smoothly. Looking back now, it was this cunning kid who had set her up!

As long as she could kill the main force of the Bureau of Mystic Security inside the mining company, she dared to barge into the hospital and snatch Wu Minzhe back.

The Wuzhaoyin City branch office was out of reach; from the Wanfulu City branch, the only person Zuo Qianyun was wary of was the director. She believed she had an eighty percent chance of defeating the deputy director.

That's why in the "intelligence" she gave to Chen Gu, she specifically emphasized that she had followed those "agents from the Star State" and discovered they had professionals at the Second Energy Level, so the Wanfulu City branch would likely send out professionals at the Third Energy Level.

She had buried special bombs designed for professionals underneath the mining company.

After the explosion, she immediately led her people to the hospital, only to find that Wu Minzhe had unexpectedly recovered early! All her scheming had backfired, causing her to walk right into her own trap.

For someone who prided herself on being more cunning than others and had always been in control from the shadows for many years, this was hard to accept.

Her feelings for Chen Gu were a mix of hatred from the bottom of her heart and yet some admiration. He was a junior capable of scheming against her.

Chen Gu, watching her from outside the force field, asked, "But there's one thing I still don't understand. If your target was Wu Minzhe, why didn't you tell him that the so-called 'Consphino Type II' is a drug that boosts strength and can be used directly?"

Zuo Qianyun smiled slightly. "That would be too unbelievable. Drugs that can clearly enhance strength and have no significant side effects are well-known in the Star Sea, and nobody dares to use such drugs with an unknown origin.

But the most important reason is..."

Zuo Qianyun's voice trailed off, as if to play coy. But just as Chen Gu and his team patiently waited to hear more, her features suddenly became harsh, her eyes blood-red, her ears pointed like those of the blood race from the era of her home planet. With lightning-fast speed, she summoned a chilling gale and attacked Chen Gu and his people!

Her subordinates were highly in sync with her.

The Catalyst Envoy shook his whole body with effort, and a mysterious and powerful force violently erupted, first striking the energy manipulator, causing it to age visibly and rapidly.

Then, the action team's and the army's entire arsenal of weapons and equipment also quickly deteriorated and became unusable. Even Chen Gu and his people felt themselves "aging" rapidly!

The subordinate who had controlled the beehive energy shield earlier was an Energy Enlightenment Teacher, who could "educate" energy—as if it were a child just starting school—into any form.

But the Energy Enlightenment Teacher was not an Energy Manufacturer. In the recent explosion, he had exhausted too much energy, so his abilities were now limited. He waved his hands towards the sky, and four bright yellow streams of light fell, bestowing an additional layer of energy shielding upon Zuo Qianyun, the Catalyst Envoy, himself, and one other individual.

This protective film's efficacy was limited and couldn't compare to the previous beehive shield, but it could fend off normal energy ammunition.

Zuo Qianyun had another subordinate whose body was continuously twisting. From afar, Dora was closely monitoring the situation. She was at a great distance, beyond the reach of the Catalyst Envoy's powers, and she immediately noticed this subordinate's strange movements. Her finger lightly pulled the trigger, and a high-caliber electromagnetic kinetic rifle fired a physical projectile at incredible speed.

Chapter 210 - Skill: Head Blocks Bullets

ROAR— His subordinate roared. The "human skin" covering its body ripped apart like a cocoon, revealing a green behemoth that leaped out, as if this was its "true" form.

It had six claws and two fierce heads, each opening its mouth wide to reveal a mouthful of sharp teeth, roaring in anger.

And right at that moment, PFFT! The large-caliber physical bullet fired from Dora's gun precisely blew one of its heads to smithereens!

Big Rabbit clenched her tiny fists on top of the building. "Yay!"

But the shattered head quickly regrew from its neck!

[Abyssal Troll]!

This was an inherently "evil" old Profession, its origins widely disputed. Indeed, many old Professions were more akin to "monsters" than to Professionals. For instance, the [Abyssal Troll] was lustful, bloodthirsty, cruel, and violent.

Dora was stunned for a moment. Then, KLAK, KLAK, KLAK, she hurriedly reloaded physical bullets into her gun. Gritting her teeth in a furious, "red-eyed rabbit" stance, she declared, "Today I, the rabbit, will see if you have more heads or I have more ammo!"

On both sides of her, neatly arranged, were one hundred energy blocks and five hundred large-caliber physical bullets!

Even a rabbit bites when cornered; get a rabbit angry enough, and it'll fixate on you! That's why they call it a "March Hare"!

Zuo Qianyun, like a phantom, charged straight at Chen Gu. This was Chen Gu's first true battle with a Third Energy Level practitioner. The moment Zuo Qianyun attacked, he suddenly realized he had become the target of a powerful hunter!

Chen Gu's heart trembled. This is what a true powerhouse is! My [Mind Belief] was completely oblivious to the danger this time, an experience I've never had before.

The [Sleeper Ancients] weren't a Profession known for an imposing presence; their abilities leaned towards the peculiar and the mysterious!

Chen Gu could clearly see Zuo Qianyun's trajectory, yet he felt his own actions were incredibly "slow"!

For example, he keenly sensed Zuo Qianyun's left hand transform into a strangely shaped claw. It wasn't a five-fingered palm but rather a three-fingered one, each finger excessively long and bony, like steel hooks!

The claw aimed for his heart. He clearly judged that this attack could easily tear through his body—dozens of times stronger than a normal human's—and rip his heart out.

Moreover, Chen Gu guessed that his heart would be a scrumptious delicacy for the bloodthirsty [Sleeper Ancients].

But whether it was because the opponent was truly too fast or because their powers limited his own actions, he could clearly "see through" everything but was simply too late to counterattack.

He had just begun to move when he felt the opponent's claw reach his chest—there was no time!

Although Chen Gu knew he had a "Big Backer" and it was highly improbable he would die this way, the "approach of death" nonetheless made every hair on his body stand on end, enveloping him in intense fear!

In Zuo Qianyun's now blood-red eyes lay a trace of cunning laughter.

Bigwigs, especially leader-types like her, had to be decisive. In the current situation, she had only one goal: escape.

All experimental data had been covertly backed up in multiple locations. As long as she escaped, she could continue her experiments. Relying on her Third Energy Level expertise, she could start over anywhere and quickly stage a comeback.

So, at this very moment, terms like "enemy" and "subordinate" were insignificant. The only thing that mattered was escaping.

The attack on Chen Gu, this "enemy," had a very clear objective: to draw out the Chief from Wanfulu City's branch office, a Third Energy Level [Potential Energy Mailman].

Or at least the Deputy Chief, also a Third Energy Level [Microscopic Analyst].

In the eyes of Marcus and other bystanders, Zuo Qianyun's strike was terrifying. The entire night sky, up to tens of thousands of feet, filled with floating, omnipresent ghostly phantoms.

These phantoms all resembled Zuo Qianyun, but her former classical, intellectual, and mature beauty had transformed into a sinister, chilling presence, radiating a murderous aura.

Simultaneously, innumerable phantoms lunged from all directions in the night sky, all reaching their claws toward Chen Gu!

Just watching made Marcus and his group of veteran special agents feel a chill run down their spines.

Just then, a figure suddenly flew in swiftly from Chen Gu's side. With almost absolute superiority in speed, BANG! A kick landed accurately on Zuo Qianyun's claw.

Zuo Qianyun's upper body shook violently from the kick, and she was shocked. So fast! So strong!

The [Sleeper Ancients] were known for both speed and strength among the old Professions.

Meanwhile, Zuo Qianyun was also filled with confusion. This person is neither the [Potential Energy Mailman] nor the [Microscopic Analyst]. Who could it be?

The newcomer saved Chen Gu with a kick. Then, without a word, they engaged in close combat, their strength and speed steadily increasing. It was a straightforward fight of punches and kicks, devoid of flashy skills, yet it made Zuo Qianyun extremely uncomfortable.

Not only were the speed and strength of the [Sleeper Ancients] formidable among old Professions, but they also possessed many "secret arts"—skills that leaned towards the arcane and malevolent.

But when she felt unable to match her opponent in strength and speed, she prepared to use her secret arts. However, each attempt was shattered mid-preparation by the man's punch.

Alternatively, when she finally managed to release a secret art, the opponent would use their speed advantage to charge straight at her, forcefully breaking through.

Her secret arts hadn't even had a chance to take effect!

After a dozen rounds, Zuo Qianyun was terribly uncomfortable.

Chen Gu stood behind, hands clasped behind his back, watching the battle with the eyes of a protective father. He could tell that his older son was completely dominating Zuo Qianyun, not only due to his own superior strength but also because Zuo Qianyun was caught completely off guard by the unexpected appearance of a high-Energy Level [Abyssal Blacksmith].

All of Zuo Qianyun's preparations had targeted the [Potential Energy Mailman] or the [Microscopic Analyst]; she was utterly unprepared for this.

Chen Jixian's fighting style, influenced by his military career, was straightforward and solid, without a single superfluous word.

This style perfectly countered the [Sleeper Ancients] Profession. Chen Gu could see from the fight that while this Profession was strong in many areas, it couldn't reach the pinnacle in any single one. Therefore, any ability taken to its extreme could overwhelm it, just as Chen Jixian was doing now.

However, despite Chen Gu's appearance as a high-minded spectator with his hands behind his back, he was prepared. Actually, one hidden hand gripped the "Soundless Tuning Fork" while the other held the demon spear "Moon Demon." If my older son gets into trouble, I'll jump in immediately. To hell with a 'fair fight'!

Chen Gu had already fully charged the demon spear "Moon Demon" in advance using the branch office's special line.

