

Full Time 341

Chapter 341: Maoshi Star [Wuning Temple] (2)

Qiao Shuangyi replied softly, "The standard is professional talent."

"Then those two students of humble origin..." After thinking for a moment, and apparently feeling that this term was somewhat blunt, he corrected himself. "Those two students from ordinary backgrounds were the ones with the highest hidden talent during the physical fitness exam. They have a hundred percent chance of becoming professionals and are very likely to reach a high Energy Level in the future."

Chen Gu was surprised. There's a part of the physical fitness exam that also detects talent?

The so-called professional talent was a subject of much debate within the Star Sea professional circles.

Does this kind of talent actually exist? It must exist, right? Otherwise, why can some people become professionals, while others, like Nagano Takesakura, end up unable to awaken their abilities despite chasing their goals with all their might? But what exactly is this talent, and how is it judged? To this day, there is no systematic theory. Unexpectedly, the Confederation was already able to assess this kind of talent on a large scale.

Qiao Shuangyi, knowing what he was thinking, explained further, "Not all planets have this kind of assessment, just some on the fringes."

"And it is said that this theory isn't complete; it can only detect the talent for about four or five professions. However, the accuracy is said to be very high."

"Every year, two special recruitment spots are reserved for ordinary students. That's something the old Headmaster insists on. Because of this, prominent families like ours, the Qiao Family, are somewhat discontent with him."

Realizing he had spoken out of turn, he didn't delve further into the topic.

The old Headmaster wanted to keep a ray of hope alive for those from humble origins. This naturally caused discontent among the great families, like the Qiao Family and the Shangguan Family, and even made them secretly wary.

Chen Gu looked at the two students from humble families, who were obviously a bit nervous, and asked, "Have they taken up a profession yet?"

"Who knows? The old Headmaster's thoughts are hard for others to fathom. He might arrange for them to take up a profession right after the university entrance exam, or he might not."

As the twelve freshmen gathered, the burly, middle-aged Teacher Wang and the icily beautiful female instructor appeared together. Qiao Shuangyi then resumed "educating" Chen Gu with anecdotes.

"The man is surnamed Wang—Wang Chengqian. He's an associate professor, a Fifth Energy Level Hell Titan."

Chen Gu cursed inwardly. This teacher is so shameless! You're a Fifth Energy Level Hell Titan, the epitome of strength, and you want to 'measure' the performance of a newcomer who scored full marks in the physical fitness exam? 'Measure' how, exactly? Isn't it just an excuse to beat up students?!

"The woman's surname is Ye—Ye Feileng. She's a professor and seems to have already been assigned as our instructor for this session. She's a Sixth Energy Level Charge Dominator."

Chen Gu regarded the icily beautiful female instructor with newfound respect; she was also a formidable Sixth Energy Level expert. The Huai Shan Branch School truly has hidden dragons and crouching tigers—any random teacher is of a high Energy Level!

Qiao Shuangyi noticed his gaze and smiled sleazily. "What do you think? Got any ideas about the pretty teacher? HEH HEH HEH, don't let her youthful appearance fool you; she's already ninety this year."

Upon hearing Qiao Shuangyi say this, Chen Gu's first reaction was: Based on the original body's age, I'm sixty too, so it's not inappropriate. She's a whole thirty years older... so what? Is it true that a woman three years older is like finding a treasure?

A chill ran down his spine at his own thoughts. He quickly banished these messy ideas and glared at Qiao Shuangyi. "Nonsense! One should have genuine respect for a teacher!"

"HEH HEH HEH..." Qiao Shuangyi just snickered mischievously.

Wang Chengqian stepped forward. "Alright, now that everyone is here, let's set out. The destination for this year's new student military training is Maoshi Star."

Then the burly, middle-aged man swung his arm, as thick as a bodybuilding champion's. "Let's go."

Nothing else was said. Since the vast majority of the new students were already somewhat familiar with the Huai Shan Branch School, they didn't ask any questions and simply followed along.

Only those two students from ordinary backgrounds were completely puzzled. Are we setting off just like this? What exactly are we supposed to do?

Contrary to Chen Gu's expectations, they didn't head to the nearby spaceport. Instead, they went directly to a huge underground base behind the school, where several beautifully designed and novel spacecraft were docked.

After everyone boarded, the spacecraft soared into the sky, heading straight for the Star Sea.

However, just as the spacecraft was about to leave the Capital Star, the electronic system on board began to sound an alarm, and red dialog boxes flashed: "Identity verification failed. Departure from Capital Star prohibited."

「...」

Hundreds of kilometers away from the Huai Shan Branch School, within an area marked "Nature Reserve," lay a place of picturesque mountains and clear rivers.

Alongside a babbling creek, a clear and serene lake had formed. On its shore, a house was built from bamboo, wood, and other purely natural materials.

A young-looking man was playing Go with an elegantly beautiful woman.

Around the man sat four other stunning women, each possessing a unique beauty, like the varied splendors of spring orchids and autumn chrysanthemums. From their speech and behavior, it was clear their relationship with the man was very close.

But a closer look revealed that the house had only five bedrooms—one for each of the women—while the man, surprisingly, lacked a bedroom of his own.

Suddenly, a phone rang, breaking the silence. The man frowned slightly before answering. A holographic projection unfolded—it was Aviloya.

"Principal," she said, nodding in greeting. She showed a barely perceptible hint of disdain for the five beautiful women beside the man.

"What is it?" the Principal asked nonchalantly.

"Is it true that you sent Chen Gu to Maoshi Star?"

The Principal nodded. "Yes."

"But you know he shouldn't leave the Capital Star. That's the Elders' Council's decision! He's going to Maoshi Star to use that generator to advance to the Third Energy Level! The secrets he carries are still not fully understood. If he advances to the Third Energy Level, he will become even harder to control. Besides, for him personally, advancing to the Third Energy Level is very risky. If something unexpected happens, we might never uncover that secret!"

There was a hint of reproach in the Principal's voice. "Aviloya, since when did you start acting like those old fossils on the Elders' Council, always thinking of controlling any promising young person you see?"

Aviloya was taken aback. Had anyone else criticized her like this, the Female Lifeless would have drawn her sword with a cold expression long ago. But this was the Principal, so instead, she began to reflect.

The Principal added, "I was the one who instructed Wuning Temple to lend the generator to Chen Gu."

Aviloya realized. No wonder the usually obedient Wuning Temple acted as if they had 'delayed information' this time, defying the Bureau of Mystic Security to assist Chen Gu.

She couldn't help but ask, "Why?"

The Principal didn't answer her question. Instead, he said, "Let him go." Then he suddenly added, "Let the past stay in the past."

Aviloya knew what he was referring to. Her pretty face blushed, and she cut off the communication.

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In the spaceship, the students were baffled. How could their identity verification have failed? Only Chen Gu knew that the problem lay with himself.

Yet, inside the spaceship, Wang Chengqian and Ye Feileng maintained an air of calm. Without even a single inquiry, they simply waited.

After a moment, the red dialog box vanished with a BANG.

"Verification passed. Permission to leave Capital Star granted."

The spaceship whizzed free from the planet's gravity and plunged into the Star Sea.

Chen Gu was astonished. This Huai Shan Branch School really is extraordinary! They just took on the Bureau of Mystic Security head-on – and won!

Next came something else that surprised Chen Gu: such a small spacecraft was actually equipped with a warp drive, capable of interstellar travel!

Therefore, it took only three hours for them to reach Maoshi Star.

However, this time they landed at an ordinary civilian spaceport.

Maoshi Star's proximity to Capital Star had led to its natural neglect. Consequently, despite being in a highly developed star cluster for many years, it remained dilapidated. Less than five percent of its surface was developed, leaving vast swathes of uninhabited land.

Safety here wasn't an issue, however; even in the uninhabited areas, most dangerous species had already been cleared out.

Chen Gu privately inquired with Qiao Shuangyi about the content of this new student military training, but Qiao Shuangyi didn't know either.

Chen Gu guessed it would likely involve some militarized training and hunting some dangerous species.

Most of this batch of new students were individuals with prestigious backgrounds. The so-called dangerous species probably weren't too dangerous—likely intended to provide a 'scare' without posing an actual threat to life.

Yet after landing and settling in the hotel, Ye Feileng spoke up, "Chen Gu, Bai Zhijin, and Sun Kexin, you three, come with me."

Bai Zhijin and Sun Kexin were the two students from ordinary backgrounds admitted through special recruitment.

Chen Gu felt puzzled. Why single out the three of us?

Without explanation, Ye Feileng led the three out to a maglev car waiting at the hotel entrance, which then sped away.

About half an hour later, they stopped at the parking lot on top of an ancient building.

A few people were waiting there. Upon seeing Ye Feileng, an elderly man in his fifties approached with a smile. "Teacher Ye, it's been a tough journey."

Chen Gu could detect a hint of obsequiousness in the man's demeanor.

Ye Feileng nodded and asked, "Is everything prepared?"

"The Principal gave the orders; how could we dare to delay? Everything is ready."

"Good." Ye Feileng led the way, and the others hurried to follow. The elderly man saw Chen Gu and smiled. "You must be Chen Gu. I am Kou Dingyi, the Director of Wuning Temple. Everything you need has also been prepared. I owe Mr. Gao Mengjiu a favor, so we've taken great care in preparing for your advancement ceremony. Please rest assured."

Chen Gu paused, glancing at Ye Feileng ahead. Huai Shan Branch School had everything under control all along!

So, it seems this time there will be an Investiture Ceremony for two new students, as well as my own advancement ceremony.

Ye Feileng paid no attention to the new students behind her. Upon entering the building, she was led by Kou Dingyi to an elevator that took them straight to the basement where the generator was located.

After reaching the deepest level of the basement and passing through strict security checks, the group entered an immense underground hall.

Chen Gu surreptitiously sized up the generator. It indeed looked rather dated, but all replaceable parts had been upgraded with the latest models.

Its 'age' was mainly evident in the core components that couldn't be replaced.

Moreover, from what he had observed along the way, it was clear Wuning Temple wasn't short of money. It seemed that if not for the Principal's directive, Wuning Temple would certainly have declined this particular business with them.

Compared to Chen Gu's outward calm and inner anticipation, the other two new students, Bai Zhijin and Sun Kexin, could hardly suppress their excitement and shock.

Having been exceptionally admitted to Huai Shan Branch School, they felt as if they were living in a dream.

Although their grades were decent, they were still insufficient for normal admission into the Tiangong Military Division, and their family backgrounds were quite ordinary. Their special recruitment was truly an unexpected blessing.

Later, they were urgently transported to the school by a school-arranged spaceship. Along the way, they gained a vague understanding of so-called 'Professionals.'

However, it wasn't until the security check just moments before that the two experienced the Professionals' abilities firsthand.

A Professional from Wuning Temple stood idly by the door. He merely exhaled a lethargic breath, and the two students witnessed a colossal beast materialize from it—immense, majestic, and looking down on them from on high. Those massive and cold eyes seemed to peer through their souls, prying into the deepest secrets of their hearts!

In an instant, cold sweat slicked their backs. Each was secretly relieved they harbored no unspeakable secrets; otherwise, that seemingly mythical beast would have apprehended them on the spot.

Chen Gu, observing from the side, saw everything clearly. This Professional must be a rare Dream Weaver. What he had performed on them was a Professional skill similar to 'daydreaming.' Simply put, the spectral image of the beast doesn't truly exist; the recruits are merely dreaming it up. They conjured this beast in their own 'dreams,' imagining it to be so powerful. They're just frightening themselves.

Such tricks, of course, couldn't deceive Chen Gu; his Brain Domain Hacker abilities were considered supreme among the various Professions in terms of mental power.

This placed him in an effectively invincible position when facing a broad array of Professions like Psychological Spy, Electric Communicator, and Dream Weaver.

Bai Zhijin and Sun Kexin were genuinely astounded, their hearts filled with even greater anticipation.

At Huai Shan Branch School, Chen Gu was like an unloved orphan, but these two new students from humble backgrounds were different.

They were at Huai Shan Branch School due to the old Principal's will. Furthermore, over the years, some students from non-influential backgrounds had remained at the school to teach.

After the two joined the school, these teachers had provided them with assistance, both overtly and covertly.

They had been secretly informed that during this journey, they would undergo their Investiture Ceremony. From the moment Ye Feileng called them aside in the hotel, they knew the Investiture Ceremony was upon them.

What they did not understand was why Chen Gu had also come along.

At this moment, the two new students stood beneath the massive generator. It was already preheating; specialized energy lines delivered immense power, and the generator itself flickered with a mysterious and awe-inspiring blue light. In their eyes, this sight held an unparalleled allure.

Although young, they both understood that this was the most important moment of their lives!

An older researcher approached Kou Dingyi. "Director, everything is ready."

Kou Dingyi nodded and looked towards Ye Feileng. The coolly beautiful teacher said without hesitation, "Sun Kexin will go first. Bai Zhijin, prepare."

Chapter 343: Sudden Escape (1)

Chen Gu hummed to himself. The implication was that Bai Zhijin was second, and he was ranked last. Clearly, these two were the favored sons of the Huai Shan Branch School.

Chen Gu's expression remained indifferent. Having lived two lives and faced several life-and-death trials, he had long since learned not to let such trifles affect his demeanor.

Sun Kexin was immediately taken away by two young researchers to make preparations, while other members of Wuning Monastery began to prepare by feeding supermatter into the generator.

Ye Feileng stood with her hands behind her back, calmly observing the massive generator, oblivious and unconcerned about Chen Gu's feelings behind her.

When the supermatter was ready and Sun Kexin had completed her preparations, Ye Feileng suddenly raised her hand. "Wait a moment."

"Kou Dingyi, take twenty kilograms of the super lifeform remains that the Dean has stored here. Add ten kilograms each for Sun Kexin and Bai Zhijin."

Kou Dingyi nodded and immediately went to follow the instructions.

Sun Kexin and Bai Zhijin, unfamiliar with the Professional initiation and promotion process, did not understand what these ten kilograms of remains meant.

Chen Gu, however, sighed inwardly, feeling somewhat envious. This was the advantage of having a powerful patron; the remains the Dean had prepared in advance were surely very suitable for their respective Professions. The two youngsters received great benefits without even understanding them.

However, upon reflection, when Chen Gu thought about the significant advantages his somewhat unconventional benefactor had provided during his own initiation, he felt at peace.

Soon, Kou Dingyi brought over the remains, and finally, everything was ready.

Before stepping into the generator, Sun Kexin looked back at Ye Feileng, somewhat uncertain. The usually icy teacher showed a rare touch of warmth, giving her an encouraging look and gently nodding. "Go ahead."

Sun Kexin clenched her teeth and stepped into the generator.

HISS—

With the sound of an airtight door closing, the generator was completely sealed, isolating the inside from the outside.

Ye Feileng nodded again. The researchers began to press buttons one by one, fully activating the generator.

Suddenly, the dedicated energy circuit reached its peak transmission, and the light inside the generator rapidly intensified. Soon, all that everyone could see was a strong glow, blinding them to anything else.

This extreme state did not last long. The light slowly dimmed, but the initiation ceremony was far from over.

The researchers quickly focused on various monitoring devices.

Bai Zhijin, who was next in line, also appeared very nervous. Chen Gu, however, was very calm. For some reason, he had a lot of confidence in the old Dean. Since the old Dean had chosen them, an initiation ceremony would surely pose no problem. Sun Kexin and Bai Zhijin would definitely become Professionals.

"All data are within safe ranges and very stable, with no signs of anomalies."

Kou Dingyi breathed a sigh of relief upon hearing the report.

But then, a BEEP from an alarm made his heart jump again.

A researcher's voice announced, "Invasion from the Endless Realm detected!"

"It's a Demon Form!"

This time, even Ye Feileng's cold eyes showed a hint of concern.

The initiation ceremony might attract the attention of the Endless Realm, but that was merely a possibility. Compared to the subsequent promotion ceremony, this probability was much smaller.

Who would have thought Sun Kexin's initiation ceremony could summon a Demon Form? The newbie had no experience resisting temptation and corruption from the Endless Realm. Furthermore, her youth and lack of life experience made her an easy target for the Demon Form to exploit.

Chen Gu frowned. This Sun Kexin was no simple character—or rather, anyone the old Dean favored was not simple. She surely had a very promising Professional future to attract the Endless Realm's attention even at her initiation ceremony.

Chen Gu glanced at Bai Zhijin beside him. His initiation ceremony, coming up shortly, would verify this deduction.

With the invasion of the Demon Form, all monitoring data surged. Several readings quickly approached critical thresholds, setting off a continuous series of alarm BEEPS.

Bai Zhijin was greatly anxious and stepped forward to ask Ye Feileng, "Teacher Ye, she... she won't be in any danger, will she?"

Ye Feileng gently shook her head; it was unclear whether she meant there was no danger or that she also did not know.

Kou Dingyi, a layer of cold sweat on his forehead, could no longer care about offending anyone and shouted, "All non-essential personnel, evacuate immediately!"

"Retain only the core operational staff! Everyone else, out!"

"Order the security system to prepare! Be ready to seal off this area at any moment and carry out emergency cleanup!"

Following a series of commands, the researchers quickly evacuated. Only the lead researcher and two senior researchers remained, as they were necessary to operate the old generator.

Their faces were filled with dread; If Sun Kexin inside underwent any mutation, they would be the first to suffer, doomed without a doubt.

However, Ye Feileng, Bai Zhijin, and Chen Gu—the three from the Huai Shan Branch School—did not heed his orders and stood their ground.

Kou Dingyi approached Ye Feileng to persuade her. "Teacher Ye, let's also step out for now..."

Ye Feileng raised her hand. "I brought my student here, and I will personally take her back."

"..." Kou Dingyi was speechless. After a moment's thought, he stamped his foot in frustration and left first.

Ye Feileng paid him no mind. With a gesture, she moved Bai Zhijin, who stood beside her, to her rear. As for Chen Gu, he was already hiding behind the Sixth Energy Level expert.

Ye Feileng ignored him, her attention fully on the generator. However, there was no doubt Chen Gu had already left Ye Feileng with the impression of being "indifferent to his classmates," "afraid of death," and "lacking youthful passion."

Chen Gu also watched the generator. He recalled his own last promotion: entities from Demon Forms to an Evil God had come one after another from the Endless Realm. Demon Forms? Looking back, they didn't seem too difficult to handle.

However, his mood was anything but relaxed at this moment. If Sun Kexin failed, it would undoubtedly result in an accident. This generator would then be unusable for a period, and his promotion plans would be utterly ruined.

It was a question of priority. In Ye Feileng's mind, Sun Kexin and Bai Zhijin were clearly more important. And of those two, perhaps because Ye Feileng herself was female, she had placed Sun Kexin first. Chen Gu's interests were ranked last by Ye Feileng, considered the least important in her eyes.

Suddenly, the lead researcher's face changed dramatically. "Not good! It's breaking through the critical threshold!"

On the monitoring equipment, several data points instantly soared past the red line. Alarm sirens blared throughout the underground hall. Outside, the Wuning Monastery guards, fully armed, prepared for combat.

No sooner had the lead researcher shouted the warning than he and his two assistants abandoned everything, desperately dashing behind Ye Feileng for cover.

Inside the generator, as those readings exceeded their limits, an extremely powerful and malevolent aura erupted instantaneously. It swept through the entire underground hall like an explosion's shockwave.

Chapter 344: Sudden Escape (2)

Ye Feileng's expression was grim, her hands slightly open as the power of the Sixth Energy Level burst forth, colliding head-on with the evil presence.

But the evil presence was like a vast ocean, and Ye Feileng's power was merely a small island within it.

The evil presence instantly enveloped her, spreading behind her.

Ye Feileng's expression shifted again, and she couldn't help but curse inwardly, These researchers are useless! This isn't a demonic form; it's a Mutant!

The individual chosen by the Principal was exceptionally talented. However, as a newcomer facing a Mutant during her induction ceremony, it was no wonder she couldn't resist and was contaminated.

Being of the Sixth Energy Level, Ye Feileng was confident in her ability to handle this incident. She even believed she could contain the battle within this underground hall without needing assistance from the personnel of the temple outside.

However, Sun Kexin, the promising new talent whom the Principal highly regarded, was ruined.

Rage filled Ye Feileng's heart, and her aura grew heavier, becoming as unyielding as iron. She stared at the emitter, silently gathering strength and activating her Professional skills.

She was just waiting for the Mutant to emerge, ready to blast it back with a tempestuous assault!

But suddenly, the Mutant's evil presence paused abruptly and then retreated rapidly, seemingly even faster than when it had burst out. In the blink of an eye, it had all retracted into the emitter, and the beeping alarm from the monitoring instruments immediately ceased.

Sun Kexin's vital signs quickly normalized, soon returning to the stable green range!

Ye Feileng frowned. What's going on? Did it retreat because it sensed I'm of the Sixth Energy Level? This doesn't align with the habits of creatures from the Endless Realm.

The head researcher was already trembling with fear. Having hidden behind Ye Feileng, his legs had gone weak, and he couldn't run.

Yet, that evil and terrifying presence had retreated inexplicably.

It took a while for the head researcher to calm down. He peeked out from behind Ye Feileng to look at the monitoring instruments, equally puzzled. "Is it over?" he asked.

He hesitantly approached the instruments, checked them once, then checked them a second time more carefully. He said to Ye Feileng in disbelief, "It's really over. That girl... she succeeded. She's a Professional now."

Ye Feileng felt an unreal and unsettling sensation in her heart and said coldly, "Check the contamination levels! Prevent any lurking Mutants!"

"Yes!"

All the necessary equipment was readily available, as this check was a standard procedure after induction and promotion.

The head researcher, along with his two subordinates, quickly operated the equipment, strictly following procedures. It didn't take long to get the results: "No problems."

Ye Feileng said in a stern voice, "Check again, more carefully!"

The head researcher dared not complain, especially since the recent events had seemed quite peculiar to him.

This second check took a bit longer, but the result was the same: "Indeed, there are no problems."

Ye Feileng let out a sigh of relief. Although she didn't know why the Mutant had suddenly given up, Sun Kexin was unharmed and had become a Professional, which was a good thing.

"Let her come out," Ye Feileng said.

At this moment, however, Chen Gu made an untimely suggestion, "I recommend we ask Dr. Meng Ji to check her again."

Chen Gu felt even more unsettled than Ye Feileng. He wasn't sure if it was his imagination, but that sinister and powerful presence had rushed past Ye Feileng, spread out before him, then suddenly stopped. It had then swiftly retreated, even abandoning Sun Kexin...

He didn't have much trust in those experts from the temple outside. He felt that only a thorough examination of Sun Kexin by Dr. Meng Ji could completely rule out the suspicion of mutation.

Bai Zhijin asked, "Who is Meng Ji?"

The head researchers were all aware of Meng Ji's great reputation.

Ye Feileng glanced back at Chen Gu with a mocking tone. "Is this your concern for your college classmate?"

Chen Gu frowned. He wasn't targeting Sun Kexin; he just felt the situation was strange and warranted caution. If Sun Kexin truly had a problem, the potential harm would be immense.

Ye Feileng turned and said assertively to the head researcher, "Open the door. Let her out."

She moved forward to greet Sun Kexin and, without looking back, said to Chen Gu, "The Bureau of Mystic Security isn't the only place with experts. Huai Shan Branch School has its own elites. After the freshman military training ends, I will take Sun Kexin back for a detailed and comprehensive examination."

"If you're worried about being contaminated by Sun Kexin, feel free to quit this freshman military training. Heh, but quitting the freshman military training means withdrawing from Huai Shan Branch School. You understand that, right?"

Chen Gu couldn't bear it any longer. Is everyone at the Sixth Energy Level this obstinate? Or is it just you, Ye Feileng? When I worked with Gong Shuxu, the old man was proud, yet he was willing to listen to differing opinions. That's how we managed to cooperate effectively and make it back alive from that hellish battlefield.

But with Ye Feileng, communication seemed impossible.

You dragged me into this mess, to say nothing of that, and now you're telling me I have to drop out of school for offering a reasonable suggestion?

His expression also grew cold. He said indifferently, "I request to speak with the Principal. The team leader's obstinacy is threatening the safety of all freshmen, and potentially the entire Huai Shan Branch School!"

Ye Feileng scoffed, "Sure. Contact the Principal yourself."

She went over to the emitter, which the head researcher had already opened at her command.

HISS—

The airtight door opened. Sun Kexin sat inside, looking bewildered. Upon seeing Ye Feileng, she immediately asked, "Teacher, what just happened?"

Ye Feileng's attitude towards her softened considerably. "It's alright," she said gently. "Come on out."

The emitter, connected to various monitoring instruments, tracked not only Sun Kexin's vital signs but also its own operational status. After the powerful and evil presence had completely retreated, no contamination remained within the emitter, and it was safe for continued use.

Chen Gu no longer bothered with Ye Feileng. After a moment's thought, he called Dr. Meng Ji.

He didn't exaggerate but simply recounted the process of Sun Kexin's induction as a Professional. As expected, Dr. Meng Ji became very interested. "This isn't normal!" he exclaimed.

"Even when facing a Sixth Energy Level individual, Mutants are not entirely powerless. More importantly, beings from the Endless Realm, when presented with an opportunity to invade the real world, would not act rationally. They would attempt to break through even if they knew it meant certain death."

"There's definitely a secret here we don't know about. I must find out what it is!"

"Wait for me; I'm going to see the Director-General."

Chen Gu didn't directly call Aviloya, knowing the Valkyrie most likely wouldn't take his call. However, given the anomaly during the induction, Chen Gu knew that once he informed Dr. Meng Ji, the doctor would vigorously pursue the matter.

Chapter 345: Sudden Escape (3)

Ye Feileng didn't stop Chen Gu from making the call. She was somewhat surprised to hear him directly contact Dr. Meng Ji. She couldn't say she knew Chen Gu well; what information she had on him was superficial and official. The Huai Shan Branch School only recruited about ten students each year, so the teachers had certainly reviewed all the new student files.

However, Ye Feileng was a Sixth Energy Level expert. Aside from the parts of Chen Gu's record that were highly classified by the military and the Bureau of Mystic Security, the rest wasn't significant enough for her to scrutinize.

As for those classified parts... even a university professor, including one from the Huai Shan Branch School, wasn't qualified to know them.

She was aware of Dr. Meng Ji's standing within the Bureau of Mystic Security. She hadn't expected a mere Second Energy Level special agent to have a direct line to him.

But what of it? This is a "family affair" of the Huai Shan Branch School. Could the Bureau of Mystic Security actually interfere? Even Aviloya, a graduate of the Huai Shan Branch School, would have to act like a student in the Principal's presence.

She didn't care in the slightest that Chen Gu, not yet officially enrolled, dared to question a professor. He might have some backbone, but I'll soon deliver his first lesson for entering the Huai Shan Branch School: "Social Realities." Even if you truly are one of Heaven's favored, you must learn to bow your head.

Ye Feileng softly inquired about Sun Kexin's condition and once again concluded, "Sun Kexin has not been corrupted."

Coming from an ordinary family, Ye Feileng understood these two special admission students the best among this new cohort. This represented her stance!

"Alright, she's fine now. Come out with me," Ye Feileng said gently, patting Sun Kexin's shoulder. She unlocked the safety restraints and led her out of the device chamber.

Then she glared at the chief researchers. "Tell Kou Dingyi and those other cowards to come back and prepare for the second induction ceremony."

"Bai Zhijin, you go make the preparations."

"Yes, Professor Ye!" Bai Zhijin answered solemnly and respectfully. He wasn't a fool; he was gradually seeing Professor Ye's support for students from ordinary backgrounds like themselves.

Chen Gu couldn't help shaking his head. This Ye Feileng truly is the epitome of stubbornness! For a Sixth Energy Level expert to be this careless is unreasonable. An accident just occurred, yet she insists on using the same device? It's utterly illogical! The device definitely needs several thorough cleanings and multiple inspections to eliminate any potential hidden dangers. But Ye Feileng simply refuses. Moreover, she's using this to send me a message: 'I say it's fine, so it's fine!'

Chen Gu recalled the old adage: 'It's easier to change rivers and mountains than a person's inherent nature.' The Sixth Energy Level is no exception.

Chen Gu gave another wry smile internally. Forget the Sixth Energy Level; isn't Aviloya, at the Ninth Power Level, just the same?

Kou Dingyi and the others gradually entered. They first congratulated Sun Kexin. Then, the sly old fox Kou Dingyi sensed the tense atmosphere in the hall. He didn't dare ask further and kept quiet, obediently preparing as Ye Feileng directed to avoid trouble.

His smooth demeanor even made the people from Wen Ning Si forget that their own Chairman was a rare Seventh Energy Level expert!

But if he didn't possess this trait, he wouldn't have held the position of Wen Ning Si's Chairman for long.

Soon, everything was ready again. Bai Zhijin took a deep breath and stood before the device. Ye Feileng gave the command, "Prepare to activate the device..."

Her phone suddenly rang. She glanced at the caller ID with surprise and quickly answered, "Principal!"

A magnetic male voice, not sounding old, came through. "Stop."

"What?" Ye Feileng was taken aback. "Stop what?"

"Stop everything you're doing. Don't act rashly," the Principal said solemnly. "I've already called Old Master Bai. The garrison on Maoshi Star is mobilizing and will soon seal off the Wen Ning Si building. No one is to enter or exit."

"The Bureau of Mystic Security has dispatched Bureau Enforcers, led by Gong Shuxu, to escort Dr. Meng Ji. They will proceed at maximum speed to thoroughly investigate the entire incident."

"Deputy Director Xue from the school's Guidance Office has also departed. She's an Eighth Energy Level expert; should any unexpected situation arise, she can stabilize things."

This series of arrangements left Ye Feileng dumbfounded. "Principal... do you really believe that freshman... Chen... Chen Gu?"

The Principal sighed. "Professor Ye, you really need to work on that arrogant streak of yours."

Those who are stubbornly opinionated are often focused and resolute. Such a trait can be advantageous when facing the Endless Realm, helping them become powerful experts. But in everyday life, it's extremely disadvantageous.

The call ended. Ye Feileng felt as if she had swallowed a fly—utterly disgusted and extremely reluctant, yet she dared not defy the Principal.

She turned her head, her eyes narrowing as she looked towards Chen Gu in a distant corner. A string of questions flooded her mind: He could actually influence the Principal? But why would the Principal support him? I am a distinguished professor at this school, and my reputation has been tarnished because of a mere student! What significant benefit could the Principal possibly gain from this student to make it worth his while? Her mind raced with speculations, none of which she could confirm or clearly understand. She tried to analyze the situation, but it only left her feeling dizzy and confused, with no answer in sight.

In reality, however, the answer was simple: she had made a mistake.

But for Ye Feileng, this was inconceivable. A mistake? Impossible! How could I be wrong? I never am!

But the Principal had spoken, and the arrangements were clearly serious. She could only stand down for now. In as calm a tone as possible, she announced, "The Principal is concerned about everyone and specifically inquired about this matter. The induction ceremony is suspended until Deputy Director Xue from the Guidance Office arrives. We will proceed then."

The chief researcher and a few others nearby gaped. Quickly realizing the situation, they feigned ignorance with an 'I didn't see anything, I don't know anything' look, lowering their heads. However, their eyes couldn't help but drift towards Chen Gu. This student is really something! He actually got the Principal to intervene with a single phone call and overrule the supervising professor! This is the Huai Shan Branch School! And she's a Sixth Energy Level professor! The Principal even sent a Deputy Director from the Guidance Office, seemingly to back him up! Deputy Director Xue's actual purpose no longer mattered; to outsiders, she was clearly here to support Chen Gu!

Kou Dingyi was baffled. What exactly had happened? He shot a questioning look at the chief researcher. The researcher, unable to speak in front of Ye Feileng, cleverly sent Kou Dingyi an email.

After reading the email, Kou Dingyi was secretly amazed and couldn't help but glance at Chen Gu again. So, this is a student favored by the Principal!

Then Kou Dingyi turned his gaze, now filled with a strange sort of admiration, towards Ye Feileng. Impressive! A mere professor daring to give the Principal's favored student a hard time? You've got some serious nerve!

With his mind racing, Kou Dingyi quickly ordered, "Seal the building! No one in or out! Effective immediately!"

Chapter 346: Third Energy Level (1)

The sharp alarms blared within the building. Several large doors automatically closed, and an outer layer of electrical currents formed a 'fence,' enveloping the entire structure. From afar, it looked as if giant azure serpents were coiling around the building.

Twenty minutes later, the Maoshi Star garrison was the first to arrive. A large contingent of ground troops tightly sealed off the building, while fighter jets and Mechas continuously flew low overhead.

Two hours later, Director Xue arrived urgently aboard the Huai Shan Branch School's spacecraft.

Four hours later, Dr. Meng Ji and Gong Shuxu arrived together.

Dr. Meng Ji, wearing a special protective suit, charged into the building. "Where is the test subject? Let me see it quickly!"

The people around were speechless. That was a living person, not some specimen!

But it didn't matter to Meng Ji. In his eyes, it was a test subject; even Chen Gu was a test subject. If Dr. Meng Ji took an interest in you, congratulations, your entire family became test subjects.

Gong Shuxu hurriedly followed. Director Xue, after a word with the military commander, also entered the building close behind them.

Everyone wore protective suits specially made by Dr. Meng Ji, capable of isolating contamination to the greatest extent, but they couldn't block the 'temptations' from within one's heart.

Though Dr. Meng Ji was physically as weak as a chicken, he ran with surprising speed at this moment, charging ahead of everyone into the underground hall.

Gong Shuxu followed closely. His gaze quickly scanned the corner and found Chen Gu. He felt relieved, and Chen Gu also felt much more at ease.

Following Gong Shuxu, a woman whose age was indiscernible entered. She had a head of snow-white silver hair, yet her face was filled with a youthfulness that seemed to spring from an abundance of collagen. Her beauty surpassed that of the cold and stunning Ye Feileng. However, within her large eyes seemed to settle the vicissitudes of many years, calm and profound.

Chen Gu thought to himself: A white-haired witch...

Ye Feileng, her face an icy mask, stepped forward. "Director Xue."

Director Xue paid her no mind, lifting her hand slightly in an unhurried and calm manner. "Doctor, a moment."

In the entire underground hall, an invisible force quietly arose—gentle, without a trace of killing intent, yet so immense and overpowering that it was irresistible.

Everyone, including Gong Shuxu and Ye Feileng of the Sixth Energy Level, involuntarily stopped, 'halted' by this force.

Chen Gu's heart leaped. A peer, a Quantum Wizard! A Quantum Wizard even more powerful than Derek Kun Shen.

Ye Feileng and Gong Shuxu had easily 'obeyed.' This must be a super-expert at the Seventh Energy Level or higher!

Chen Gu didn't yet know that Director Xue was at the Eighth Energy Level, second only to Aviloya.

Dr. Meng Ji, that weakling, was of course also 'halted' without any suspense. He had spotted Sun Kexin; she was the only female student in the entire underground hall. He desperately wanted to rush over but couldn't move an inch.

Director Xue said, "Doctor, the principal sent me with two tasks. One is to protect the safety of our students. Please remember, Doctor, they are not your test subjects."

"Alright, alright," Meng Ji agreed repeatedly, though it was only verbal acquiescence. As for what he truly thought... that went without saying.

Director Xue didn't elaborate on the other task. Ye Feileng, however, sneered inwardly. Isn't it just to suppress me, worried I won't give face to the Bureau of Mystic Security and the military?

She continuously sneered at Director Xue internally. You loyal hound of the principal!

However, within this silent sneering, how much was resentment, how much contempt, and how much was jealousy, only Ye Feileng herself knew for sure.

How many female teachers didn't wish to become the principal's 'loyal hound'? Preferably a female one at that.

It was just a pity that Ye Feileng lacked the qualifications—neither in terms of ability nor looks.

After receiving Dr. Meng Ji's agreement, Director Xue finally cracked a slight smile and lowered her hand. "Please begin your work, Dr. Meng Ji."

WHOOSH! The Entanglement Control was released, and that power, as vast as an ocean or the Star Sea, disappeared. No one needed to 'wait' any longer. Dr. Meng Ji pounced toward Sun Kexin, who was like a little lamb.

He had brought his full set of equipment and half of his subordinates, and quickly began to 'examine' Sun Kexin.

Ye Feileng came to Director Xue's side, a hint of resentment in her voice. "The principal just won't trust me. Sun Kexin has already undergone a comprehensive risk assessment; there shouldn't be any problems."

Director Xue simply shook her head gently. But in her heart, she somewhat disagreed with Ye Feileng. This concerned new students, and their military training was about to commence. Being more cautious at this time was the correct approach.

Dr. Meng Ji busied himself for more than an hour yet still came up with nothing.

Ye Feileng became increasingly confident, but she failed to notice that in Dr. Meng Ji's eyes, a certain frenzied gleam was growing brighter and brighter.

After two hours, Dr. Meng Ji announced, "Alright, beginning the final test!"

Ye Feileng, seeing victory within reach, regained her cold and elegant demeanor, stating calmly yet haughtily, "My judgment cannot be wrong!"

But Dr. Meng Ji suddenly let out a loud roar, "Got you!"

Sun Kexin, her youthful and vibrant body undergoing the final test in the instrument, suddenly swelled with a HISS. Various black, dull yellow, and grey-brown energies burst forth, instantly enveloping the instrument. The young girl, in the bloom of her youth, transformed in an instant into a massive monstrosity—a fusion of biological and mechanical parts!

"SKREEE—!"

It let out a bizarre, exceedingly sharp shriek. Everyone in the underground hall, except for the Practitioners, rolled their eyes back and fainted, including Dr. Meng Ji.

Director Xue remained calm. She simply raised her hand lightly. The hulking monster, rampaging a moment ago, froze the next. Yellow-brown eyes were opening all over its body, but they, too, stopped, half-opened.

Director Xue remained still, then looked around the room. Her gaze paused briefly on Ye Feileng before moving past her to Chen Gu. "Revive Dr. Meng Ji."

"Okay." Chen Gu hastily agreed and went over to check on Dr. Meng Ji. He had been working with the doctor for a long time and knew him well. He searched the doctor's protective suit and indeed found a row of buttons. He selected one and pressed it.

HISS!

A hidden needle in the protective suit jabbed down, injecting the drug. The doctor quickly woke up. He knew the risks involved with such an examination and had prepared thoroughly for any danger—not to save his life, but to awaken as quickly as possible to continue his experiments.

Dr. Meng Ji sat up abruptly. Looking at the Mutant controlled by Quantum Entanglement, he laughed proudly, full of accomplishment, and declared, "No matter how deep you hide, I, this Doctor, can drag you out!"

Chapter 347: Third Energy Level (2)

The yellow-brown eyes covering the Mutant's entire body uniformly expressed anger.

Director Xue asked, "Doctor, I need your professional opinion. Can Sun Kexin still be saved?"

The Doctor snorted derisively. "How can she be saved in this condition?"

Director Xue sighed. Such a promising young talent...

Then, her soft, smooth, pale hand gently clenched, and with a BOOM, the massive Mutant completely burst apart.

An Eighth Energy Level expert had made a move—they were virtually invincible!

Director Xue ignored Ye Feileng, who had already lowered her head in embarrassment, and turned to Dr. Meng Ji and Gong Shuxu. "I request that the Doctor strictly examine all those who came into contact, myself included."

"Once all the checks are completed, please have the Bureau of Mystic Security's cleanup team come in. You are the most professional in this regard," Director Xue continued.

Dr. Meng Ji and Gong Shuxu nodded in agreement.

Dr. Meng Ji laughed heartily. "Rest assured, no matter how deeply those things are hidden, this Doctor can root them out—just like I did just now."

「...」

The inspection process was extremely lengthy. It included not only everyone in the underground hall, but also Kou Dingyi and the people he had led out earlier. They had come into contact with the guards outside, so these guards also needed to be checked.

Then, the entire building had to undergo a comprehensive screening.

The entire process took a grueling four days!

Furthermore, after the cleanup team came in to thoroughly decontaminate the generator, even more time was lost. Chen Gu was rendered somewhat speechless. So much time had been needlessly wasted, all because of Ye Feileng's obstinate self-righteousness.

Fortunately, the results of the inspections were encouraging: aside from Sun Kexin, no other contaminated individuals were found.

The alien entity hiding inside Sun Kexin's body seemed extremely cautious and made no unnecessary moves. It looked as though it had been 'frightened.'

Once everything was finally over, Ye Feileng jumped in again. "Have Bai Zhijin take up his post immediately! The military training for the newcomers has already been delayed for too long."

During these four days, Wang Chengqian, who was staying at the hotel, had also grown somewhat desperate. The time initially set aside was for him to conduct some temporary training for these newcomers. This was intended to somewhat increase their safety during the upcoming military training.

The military training for newcomers at Huai Shan Branch School was completely different from that of other universities—it actually had a mortality rate!

But now, with those three newcomers missing, he had no time for training. If something genuinely went wrong during the military training, he would also have to bear the associated responsibility.

Chen Gu was utterly speechless at Ye Feileng's behavior. Even in this situation, she still insists on speaking up for 'her own people'! This isn't just obstinacy; it's sheer narrow-mindedness.

Sun Kexin was already dead. If Bai Zhijin's inauguration ceremony proceeded and something similar to what happened to Sun Kexin occurred, Chen Gu would have to wait several more days.

He would very likely miss the newcomers' military training because of this.

At this juncture, the most appropriate choice was undoubtedly to let Chen Gu advance first. After all, Dr. Meng Ji had already endorsed him, stating that Chen Gu was the professional with the highest spiritual purity he had ever encountered.

Chen Gu's initial impression of Ye Feileng had actually been quite favorable, but he never anticipated she would turn out to be this kind of person. Looking back now, Wang Chengqian's straightforward, brash personality seemed far more agreeable.

Director Xue glanced coolly at Ye Feileng and said, "Instructor Ye, the Principal has already issued an order. Once you've completed all checks and it's confirmed you haven't been contaminated, return to the school first. There are other arrangements for you."

Ye Feileng was stunned, finding it hard to accept. "The Principal, he..." This is holding me accountable, forbidding me from overseeing the new student military training this time!

"For a mere new student?" Ye Feileng pointed at Chen Gu. "The Principal actually values him more? Impossible! The Principal specially recruited two ordinary students. It's absolutely impossible that he values *him*!"

Director Xue shook her head gently, not wishing to explain further.

The Principal hadn't said anything, but his actions had already made his stance clear. To be honest, Director Xue also found it somewhat difficult to understand why the Principal valued such a student.

For Huai Shan Branch School, Chen Gu was not a 'quality' student.

He was already on the brink of advancing from the Second Energy Level to the Third Energy Level. Furthermore, he was a special agent of the Bureau of Mystic Security and the director of the military's advanced research institute.

Ye Feileng was unaware of the matter concerning Research Institute 745, but Director Xue knew.

Huai Shan Branch School hoped to recruit students like Sun Kexin and Bai Zhijin: those with no background whatsoever, who weren't even professionals before enrollment.

They could mold such students into the individuals they desired.

Alternatively, students like Qiao Shuangyi were also acceptable. They came from profound family backgrounds and had only recently become professionals. Such students could help Huai Shan Branch School become even more deeply entrenched.

But the Principal was always visionary, with far-reaching plans. Director Xue only executed orders, never questioning the reasons.

Chen Gu was also somewhat surprised. The Principal has never met me. He admitted me to the school, secretly arranged for the generator at Wuning Temple to aid my advancement—even risking a fallout with Aviloya—and now he's firmly supporting me, even to the point of dismissing his capable subordinate professor.

Although Ye Feileng mostly brought the dismissal upon herself, it still illustrates the Principal's attitude.

Why is he so good to me? It's not like he's one of my idiotic close friends.

Could it be that he has seen something? Chen Gu couldn't help but think of the secrets he carried, a sense of unease stirring within him.

However, on the surface, Chen Gu maintained an indifferent and unruffled demeanor—the composure of Great Actor Chen. In Ye Feileng's eyes, this merely appeared as the new student being smug about his victory.

"Fine! I'll leave!" Ye Feileng snapped, turning to leave with a sweep of her sleeves. But at the doorway, she suddenly spun around, glaring at Chen Gu with resentment. "College is long, Chen Gu!"

Director Xue's assessment of Ye Feileng plummeted once more. The Principal was right; Ye Feileng's character is deeply flawed. She's narrow-minded and unlikely to achieve true greatness. The Sixth Energy Level is almost her limit. Whether she can break through to the Seventh Energy Level is entirely up to fate; the Eighth Energy Level... absolutely impossible.

It's a pity, too, Director Xue mused. Ye Feileng's innate talent is exceptionally high. She was also specially recruited into Huai Shan Branch School from a humble background. Based on the tests from her year, her talent ranked within the top five of all students at Huai Shan Branch School; she genuinely had a chance to strive for the Ninth Power Level.

Chen Gu was taken aback. You're a professor! A dignified Sixth Energy Level expert, and you're publicly threatening a new student like me in a place like this?!

This isn't just about your own dignity; you're disgracing Huai Shan Branch School!

Director Xue also looked somewhat embarrassed and gently consoled Chen Gu, "Instructor Ye just has that kind of temper. Don't take it to heart."

Chen Gu smiled faintly. He didn't believe that Ye Feileng, as an instructor, could really do anything to him, a mere student. As for making things difficult... heh, Great Actor Chen has lived two lives; when has he ever shied away from a few difficulties?

Besides, the Bureau of Mystic Security still has Aviloya. When it comes to making things difficult for others, she's the true master.

Chapter 348: Third Energy Level (3)

Director Xue waved to Bai Zhijin, beckoning him over, then said, "I'm going to adjust the order. Chen Gu's spiritual purity is very high, so let's have him promote first, and then we'll hold Bai Zhijin's inauguration ceremony."

Bai Zhijin felt somewhat reluctant, but since the Deputy Director of the Academic Affairs Department had spoken, he had no room to resist.

Chen Gu naturally agreed, "Alright."

Director Xue said to Kou Dingyi, "Chairman Kou, please prepare yourself."

The generator's chief research scientist now stood aside, as Dr. Meng Ji had dismissed him. The doctor wanted to personally oversee Chen Gu's promotion ceremony to collect data for his research.

Dr. Meng Ji had made these preparations before his arrival. Therefore, among the instruments he brought, in addition to those for detecting pollution, there were many other monitoring devices. He was now directing his subordinates to connect these to the generator.

Dr. Meng Ji was typically blunt and complained repeatedly about the Wuning Temple's generator: "This is so outdated... What kind of junk is this... It's unbelievable that people are still using this stuff... Well, we'll have to make do..."

Kou Dingyi stood by, his expression stern, perhaps numbed by the doctor's incessant grumbling.

Finally, the doctor had everything ready. "Chen Gu, we're about to start."

All the resources Chen Gu used for his promotion were self-funded. As Chen Gu took them out one by one, Bai Zhijin couldn't help but drool.

Having spent the last few days associating with professionals, he had learned a few things. The super-life remains the principal had specially approved for him and Sun Kexin were already quite rare—a testament to how much the principal valued them—but they paled in comparison to what Chen Gu had prepared.

This was also thanks to Qiao Shuangmu's generous arrangements. In addition to the basic materials, there were three types of auxiliary materials. Each of these was provided in quantities that greatly exceeded what the principal had prepared for them, and their rarity was incomparable.

"I've been ready for a while," Chen Gu said as he headed toward the generator, having been prepared for four days.

Dr. Meng Ji's assistants helped Chen Gu fasten the safety lock and arranged all the materials inside the generator before they exited and closed the hatch.

Then Dr. Meng Ji firmly pressed the button, laughing loudly, "HAHAHA, it's starting!"

The dedicated energy lines swiftly reached their peak transmission capacity, and the glow from the generator became incredibly bright!

"All data steadily rising!"

"Data collection proceeding smoothly."

"No Endless Realm invasion detected."

Dr. Meng Ji's assistants reported methodically, but Dr. Meng Ji didn't even glance at Chen Gu; his eyes were fixated on the monitoring instruments.

Director Xue and Gong Shuxu were both covertly on guard. They knew about some of Chen Gu's past experiences. Despite Dr. Meng Ji stating that Chen Gu's spiritual purity was unparalleled, they remained prepared for any unexpected occurrences.

After the light inside the generator peaked and then slowly receded, Chen Gu's promotion would normally have been completed. The threat from the Endless Realm would greatly increase during this period.

When the glow returned to its normal state, Dr. Meng Ji couldn't help but scratch his messy hair. "How can everything be normal? The monitoring data shows no problems..."

With things like this, how am I supposed to conduct my research?

Suddenly, an urgent, BEEPING alarm sounded from one of the instruments.

One of Dr. Meng Ji's research assistants shouted, "Endless Realm invasion detected!"

Director Xue immediately asked, "What is it?"

The research assistant stared intently at the instrument, which displayed four calibrated levels.

"BEEP—"

The first level lit up, indicating Mutant.

"BEEP—"

The second level lit up. Surpassing Mutant, it was Aberrant!

"BEEP—"

When the third level lit up, everyone's expression changed. This signified that the invader had surpassed Aberrant; it was Sinful Desire-level.

A Third Energy Level promotion had actually attracted a Sinful Desire!

Gong Shuxu was suddenly reminded of Chen Gu's last promotion... Could this kid have an affinity for the Endless Realm? Every time, he seems to attract a 'visit' from one of its great powers!

Immediately after, the fourth level also lit up with a BEEP!

The research assistant panicked. "An Evil God! It's an Evil God! Oh my God..."

If an Evil God invaded the real world, even with Director Xue present, they wouldn't be able to handle it; they'd all be annihilated.

Chaos erupted in the underground hall. Director Xue bellowed, "Don't panic!"

"Everyone, evacuate in an orderly manner!"

"Gong Shuxu and I will remain behind."

Everyone rushed towards the main door, but Dr. Meng Ji laughed heartily. "This is precious data! I'm not leaving. I'll operate the generator myself to collect it!"

"Doctor!" Director Xue clicked her tongue in dissatisfaction, but Dr. Meng Ji was unfazed and, in fact, quite excited. "You're from the Huai Shan Branch School; you can't order me around!"

Gong Shuxu whispered, "Let him stay. Apart from the Director-General, no one can command him."

Even Gong Shuxu wasn't qualified to command him.

Director Xue reluctantly nodded.

Kou Dingyi led everyone out and immediately activated the highest alert system. The entire underground hall was once again completely sealed off to prevent any contamination.

"Evacuate everyone from the building," Kou Dingyi swiftly commanded. "Request an emergency evacuation of all people in the surrounding blocks from the city government."

"Contact the military. Request they dispatch a Close Range Attack Ship and prepare to bombard the building!"

Most generators were located in urban areas, which was, in fact, a significant safety hazard. However, because generators required dedicated energy lines, situating them outside the city was prohibitively expensive.

Furthermore, if located outside the city, they would be vulnerable to attacks by Mutants and factions like True Knowledge Sin, posing even greater risks.

Currently, the prevailing practice among various factions was to build a small number of generators outside urban areas, but the majority remained within cities.

Promotions to the Fourth Energy Level and above, which could attract powerful entities from the Endless Realm, were conducted using generators outside the city.

For promotions to ranks below the Fourth Energy Level, the visiting entities from the Endless Realm were weaker. If such promotions occurred within the city, even if an incident occurred, timely intervention could resolve the issue with manageable losses.

Yet, here was someone of a clearly lower Energy Level who could attract the "patronage" of powerful beings from the Endless Realm...

For a Third Energy Level individual, attracting an Aberrant would, under normal circumstances, already be a big deal for them.

An Evil God? Do Evil Gods have no dignity? Why would they bother with a minor character like you? Wouldn't they consider it demeaning?

Therefore, the whole situation left Director Xue feeling utterly helpless. She immediately dialed the principal's number and said concisely, "Principal, an Evil God has appeared during Chen Gu's promotion!"

The principal, evidently interrupted, sounded quite displeased. "Has it broken into the real world?"

"Not yet."

"Has Chen Gu been tempted and fallen?"

"Not yet either."

"Then why are you calling me?"

Director Xue was taken aback. Then, she quickly noticed something suspicious. Does the principal not seem surprised by the appearance of an Evil God?

She couldn't help but cast a deep, searching look at Chen Gu.

Despite everyone being on high alert, the generator experienced no malfunctions, and the data from all monitoring instruments remained normal. Several tens of minutes later, the promotion concluded.

Director Xue immediately ordered, "Conduct a contamination check on him right away."

Chapter 349: Third Energy Level (4)

"I'm on it." Dr. Meng Ji snapped his fingers, activated the generator, and after disconnecting Chen Gu, immediately conducted another test.

Chen Gu cooperated throughout the process, knowing it was routine.

"The contamination level has increased by three-tenths of one percent." Dr. Meng Ji nodded. "Not bad at all. At this rate, you'll become the high-Energy Level professional with the lowest contamination level."

Upon this announcement, Gong Shuxu and Director Xue simultaneously applauded in congratulations.

Chen Gu also secretly breathed a sigh of relief. Yes, he had encountered the Evil God again this time, and for some unknown reason, it had retreated without a sound or trace. This left him somewhat uneasy.

Only when Dr. Meng Ji declared him problem-free could Chen Gu finally allow himself to feel happy about his advancement to the Third Energy Level. With a grin, he turned to Bai Zhijin, who was waiting nearby, and said, "It's your turn now, good luck!"

This was a sincere blessing; after all, there was neither opposition nor any past grievances between him and Bai Zhijin.

Taking a deep breath, Bai Zhijin stepped forward. With Chen Gu's successful advancement, he felt that "commoners" couldn't afford to appear inferior. Sun Kexin was already dead; he had to succeed to preserve the honor of this cohort's remaining commoners.

When Director Xue, an Eighth Energy Level professional, and Gong Shuxu, a Sixth Energy Level professional, both applauded Chen Gu's successful advancement, it filled Bai Zhijin with envy. At the same time, it also made him understand more clearly how difficult it was to become a professional—truly one step from heaven, the next to hell!

Kou Dingyi quickly made all the arrangements. Bai Zhijin went inside, while Chen Gu and Gong Shuxu watched from the side.

Director Xue was also extremely nervous. If both students from humble backgrounds encountered problems, the Principal would likely be furious. Director Xue was also perplexed by the Principal's stance. The Principal himself came from a distinguished background, so why did he place so much

importance on these students from ordinary families, insisting on reserving at least two spots for them each year?

Fortunately, there were no accidents this time. A demonic form flickered around for a moment before being repelled by Bai Zhijin's unwavering conviction, and then the induction ceremony concluded.

After Bai Zhijin came out, Dr. Meng Ji also conducted a contamination check on him. The result was a spiritual purity of 87%. This wasn't particularly good, but not bad either. He was definitely not contaminated. With some careful cultivation, he had a good chance of raising this value back above 90% before his next advancement.

Director Xue secretly sighed in relief and turned to Kou Dingyi with a smile. "We've troubled Wuning Temple this time. For the inconvenience caused to you and Maoshi Star, the Huai Shan Branch School will certainly provide compensation."

Kou Dingyi's face lit up; a favor from the Principal was highly valuable. He feigned modesty, "Hahaha, the Principal is too kind! It is Wuning Temple's honor to be of assistance to the Principal."

The freshman military training had already been delayed for too long. Director Xue, along with Chen Gu and Bai Zhijin, bid farewell to Kou Dingyi and set off to rendezvous with Wang Chengqian and the others.

On the way, Gong Shuxu took Dr. Meng Ji and the others back to the Bureau of Mystic Security.

Sitting in the vehicle, Chen Gu felt a wave of dazed disbelief. I've finally become a Third Energy Level professional! It truly wasn't easy! The resistance this time was greater than any I've faced before. And if the Principal hadn't intervened, Aviloya might still have blocked me.

After these quiet reflections, he shifted his focus to the upcoming freshman military training.

"Director Xue, what exactly is the objective for this freshman military training?" If it had been Ye Feileng, Chen Gu wouldn't have dared to ask. But Director Xue... He seems like a superior one can actually talk to.

Director Xue hesitated for a moment. Recalling the Principal's earlier actions and reactions, he decided to speak. "Even if I don't tell you, you'll find out by tomorrow anyway, so it's no harm telling you now."

"The targets for this freshman military training are the Subterraneans."

Both Chen Gu and Bai Zhijin were hearing this term for the first time, their faces showing a mix of confusion and curiosity.

"The Subterraneans are indigenous intelligent beings of Maoshi Star." Director Xue explained, "Your guess is correct. In this Star Sea, we are not the only intelligent life. There are powerful ones like the Alien Insect Race, and weaker ones like the Subterraneans."

"When our ancestors colonized Maoshi Star, they discovered their existence. However, their interactions were not friendly. The Subterranean civilization was still in a primitive state, at best comparable to our ancestors' Neolithic Age."

"Communication with them proved exceedingly difficult, so war eventually erupted, and the vast majority of Subterraneans were exterminated."

Chen Gu grimaced. This wasn't a war, but rather a unilateral slaughter by the human race. What could a species with a Stone Age civilization do against a Star Sea-faring human civilization?

"During our interstellar colonization, we've encountered many species in situations similar to the Subterraneans. With those capable of communication, peaceful coexistence is naturally preferred. However, most possess low levels of civilization. To date, aside from the Alien Insect Race, the most advanced civilization encountered is only equivalent to our home world's medieval period. They often harbor an innate hostility towards outsiders, leading to the eradication of most such species."

"Some chose to surrender after being defeated in war. For humanitarian reasons, the major Star Nations would designate special reservations on their planets, allowing them to continue their existence there."

"Given the vast chasm between our civilizations, they have no means of integrating into our society. Thus, such an arrangement is considered the best option."

Chen Gu agreed with this point. Unless both are Star Sea-faring civilizations, even basic communication is difficult, let alone peaceful coexistence.

"Yet, these indigenous populations within the reservations are slowly dying out. As far as I know, only three such indigenous protected reservations remain across all major Star Nations. Their populations are dwindling annually and they will vanish completely before long."

Saying this, Director Xue added a specific warning, "The matter of these protected reservations is classified. Don't speak of it carelessly. Besides, even if you did, no one would believe you."

A flicker of pity crossed Bai Zhijin's face, but Chen Gu remained unmoved. This is a struggle between species for the resources of the Star Sea. There is no right or wrong, only the future of one's own kind. The war between humanity and the Alien Insect Race is much the same. Humanity portrays the outbreak of war as a result of the Alien Insect Race's savagery and treachery. Chen Gu had no desire to understand the true situation, nor did he need to. This isn't the time to be a saint.

After a brief introduction, Director Xue returned the topic to the Subterraneans. "Some indigenous species inhabit unique environments that make their complete eradication exceedingly difficult. Remnants always survive and continue to resist. The Subterraneans are one such example."

"They dwell underground, possess extremely robust physiques and tenacious vitality. The subterranean cave networks of Maoshi Star are vast and labyrinthine, and since we cannot simply destroy the planet, they have managed to survive to this day."

Chapter 350: Subterraneans

"It's said that they've recently amassed considerable strength, and traces of their activity have been discovered numerous times on the planet's surface."

"The target of your new recruits' military training this time is the Subterraneans. Wang Chengqian will explain the specific details to you tomorrow."

Chen Gu nodded but couldn't help but say, "This isn't some military training; this is a military operation!"

Director Xue showed a hint of a smile. "Correct. The Huai Shan Branch School is very special, and its students will never be coddled flowers in a greenhouse."

She glanced at Bai Zhijin beside her and reminded him, "Bai Zhijin, if you want to ensure your safety during the operation, stick close to Chen Gu."

What's wrong with being a Third Energy Level? Bai Zhijin fumed internally. Is it just because he became a professional a bit earlier than me? In a few years, I'll definitely surpass him!

Director Xue had only mentioned Bai Zhijin out of consideration for the principal. Seeing that Bai Zhijin was unappreciative, she didn't say more. She was also well aware of these young people's pride.

If she pressed further, it would be tantamount to forcing Chen Gu to protect Bai Zhijin.

But Bai Zhijin didn't realize that Director Xue had said this because of Chen Gu's extensive battlefield experience. In a real war, a Third Energy Level individual wouldn't have a significant impact.

Chen Gu himself felt somewhat troubled. I definitely have to take care of Qiao Shuangyi in this military operation, since I've devoured all his allowance. But why should I also take care of Bai Zhijin? I haven't received any benefits from him. This isn't just a small favor; this is life and death on the battlefield!

Since Bai Zhijin hadn't taken Director Xue's hint, Chen Gu was quite pleased, as he wouldn't need to bother with him.

Wang Chengqian had been waiting in the hotel so long he felt like he was about to grow mold. Why were there so many issues with this batch of new recruits? The entire military training plan for them had been thoroughly disrupted.

Wang Chengqian knew this was an actual military operation. Even though these new recruits were all professionals now, the Subterraneans also possessed some mysterious powers!

However, seeing Director Xue appear, he finally felt a bit more at ease—if an Eighth Energy Level powerhouse were overseeing things, the students' safety wouldn't be an issue.

And even if something did happen, there was the "big shot" Eighth Energy Level expert to shoulder the blame; it was unlikely to fall on him.

But Director Xue's next words plunged him into despair: "There are still matters to attend to at the school. I'm heading back tonight."

"Ah?"

Left with no alternative, Wang Chengqian sullenly said to Chen Gu and Bai Zhijin, "Return to your rooms and rest well. Don't wander around tonight. We set off early tomorrow."

As Chen Gu reached his room door, a door nearby opened, and Qiao Shuangyi's head poked out. He winked and nudged. "Great Actor Chen, wanna go out and have some fun tonight?"

Chen Gu shook his head. "Not interested."

He pushed the door to enter, but Qiao Shuangyi squeezed in too. "Don't be so quick to refuse! I've thoroughly scouted the area these past few days. Believe it or not, even a dump like Maoshi Star has some surprisingly good-looking girls, and the night market here is quite tasty too. There are a number of food trucks that still use primitive cooking methods. The inspections here are strict, though. Last time, while I was eating at one of the trucks, law enforcement officers arrived, and those food trucks sped away. I didn't even get to eat my fill."

Chen Gu didn't have much interest in nightclubs, but the mention of food piqued his interest.

As for what Wang Chengqian said earlier about not running around at night... we're not actually running around, are we? Of course not. We're just going out to eat.

"Alright," Chen Gu agreed.

"Excellent!" Qiao Shuangyi was excited. "I'll call you in a bit."

Within just a few days, Qiao Shuangyi had already befriended most of his classmates. Even with those he didn't particularly like, such as Shangguan Yuqing and Shang Qingye, they would nod and greet each other when they met.

However, their main objective tonight was the nightclub, so they didn't invite the two girls. Led by Qiao Shuangyi, he and four other classmates went to fetch Chen Gu. They practically trampled over Wang Chengqian's "ban" as they buzzed out of the hotel, full of laughter and high spirits.

All four classmates came from influential families; one was on par with the Qiao Family, and the others were only slightly less prominent.

They wondered why Qiao Shuangyi wanted to include Chen Gu, an "oddball," but they remained polite and didn't voice their curiosity.

As soon as Qiao Shuangyi stepped outside, he patted his belly. "Let's go, let's go! First, food! We need to eat our fill to be ready for action tonight. HEH-HEH-HEH!"

The other classmates also joined in with suggestive chuckles, while Chen Gu just shrugged.

Qiao Shuangyi, clearly familiar with the area, quickly led them to where the food trucks operated. When the aroma wafted over, Chen Gu's eyes lit up.

Chen Gu, feigning modesty, said, "You guys go first."

"Let's go together," one classmate named Lin Xiaochen politely suggested, but Qiao Shuangyi quickly stopped him. "We eat first. As for Chen Gu's appetite... you have no idea. If we eat with him, there won't be anything left for us. Let's eat our fill first and not worry about him."

The others were skeptical. With over ten food trucks around, how could there not be enough food for all of them? But Qiao Shuangyi had already taken the lead and ordered a heap of his favorite foods.

While the rich young masters feasted upfront, Chen Gu followed behind. By the time the others had eaten their fill and looked back, they saw one food truck after another hanging up 'Closed' signs and starting to pack up to go home...

Chen Gu methodically ate his way from one truck to the next, like a true locust. Each truck he visited promptly closed up shop...

The group was stunned. Lin Xiaochen quietly asked Qiao Shuangyi, "What Energy Level is he, and what's his profession? He can eat so much!"

They had all heard of professions that made one exceptionally strong in combat, but one that made someone an exceptional eater... this was a first.

Qiao Shuangyi scratched his head. "I don't know either."

When Chen Gu finally stopped eating—not because he was full, as that was impossible for him, but because there was simply nothing left—Qiao Shuangyi gestured. "Let's go! We're hitting Big H tonight."

Big H was a nightclub they had all been very satisfied with over the past few days. Its entrance was marked by three glittering golden letters: 'H'.

Chen Gu waved them off. "I'll pass. You guys go and have fun."

Qiao Shuangyi said plaintively, "Bro, we waited ages for you to eat your fill, and now you're not going?"

Chen Gu thought it over and felt it wasn't quite right to decline, so he reluctantly agreed. "Alright then, let's go."

But once they reached the nightclub, Lin Xiaochen and the others complained, "We should've just let him go home earlier."

With Great Actor Chen's looks, girls naturally flocked to him. What about the others sitting nearby? Who were they? Just some nobodies, completely overshadowed and invisible.

The most pitiful was the instigator, Qiao Shuangyi. Without a doubt, the little chubby guy ranked near the top in terms of wealth within the group, but at the bottom when it came to looks.

He was at the absolute bottom of the pecking order in their little clique.