

## Full Time 361

### Chapter 361: Seizing Power\_2

And he had always felt that these "kids" hadn't seen much of the world; as long as he overpowered them with his presence, they wouldn't dare to fight back.

But he had misjudged Chen Gu. The "world" Chen Gu had experienced was far beyond Zheng Zhixing's imagination. Moreover, Chen Gu was furious at Zheng Zhixing's inexplicable insistence on forcing the warriors to advance at the risk of their lives—how could he possibly not retaliate?

Zheng Zhixing was a seasoned military man. Although he came from a staff background, his physical training scores were quite impressive. An ordinary student would indeed have been no match for him.

But this time, he picked the wrong person. Chen Gu grabbed his wrist, twisted it, and brought Zheng Zhixing to the ground. Then, Chen Gu twisted his body, pressed his knee against Zheng Zhixing's neck, and delivered two sharp slaps.

SLAP! SLAP!

Zheng Zhixing's face immediately swelled up. Chen Gu scolded angrily, "Idiot! You don't even know how to fight. How dare you make a move with such flashy, useless techniques? Trash!"

Han Zhuangzhi and the others were stunned. After all, assaulting a superior officer on the battlefield could lead to a court-martial! Even if Chen Gu wasn't military personnel, it was wartime, and Zheng Zhixing had supreme jurisdiction over the team. In short, it was a "military control" situation.

This meant big trouble ahead!

However, Qiao Shuangyi cheered and clapped. "Well done, that's my Bro Chen! Hahaha, I've disliked this idiot for a long time. He has no real skills but acts all high and mighty!"

He came over and patted Chen Gu on the shoulder. "Don't worry, if you run into any trouble after we get out, I'll ask my family to help you solve it!"

Qiao Shuangyi was delighted. By helping Chen Gu out of this trouble, he had effectively placed the "Qiao Family" label on him. I'm recruiting a formidable warrior for the family! Grandfather will definitely reward me.

Chen Gu casually tossed Zheng Zhixing aside and waved to the warriors. "Follow me and obey my commands!"

The warriors hesitated. Chen Gu's mind raced. He knew he had to completely resolve the Zheng Zhixing problem, or the subsequent actions would be difficult to manage.

He revealed his other identity. "I am the director of the 745 Research Institute, directly under the Central Operations Room. My military rank far surpasses Zheng Zhixing's. From now on, I command this squad! First, we'll deal with the Subterraneans in this cave. Then, we'll retreat to a place with a signal so you can confirm my identity!"

Han Zhuangzhi was stunned. Idol, why didn't you reveal this identity earlier? You made us tolerate this waste for so long!

Previously, Chen Gu hadn't known Zheng Zhixing would cause such trouble. Moreover, Zheng Zhixing had been personally assigned by General Ling Yitong, so Chen Gu had wanted to give the general some face.

But now, not dealing with Zheng Zhixing was no longer an option.

Han Zhuangzhi's next thought was: The 745 Research Institute? The same institute that issued the tactical manual earlier? Wow, my idol is truly amazing! He can confront things head-on and also make shrewd moves behind the scenes!

The tactical manuals were indeed very practical. The data collected by Bai Yunpeng showed they had been a great help on the front lines.

As for Chen Gu not stating his military rank... it was because he himself didn't know what it was. He had never officially joined the military, so Bai Yunpeng had deliberately kept that detail vague.

The director of a research institute definitely wouldn't have a low rank. Even Zhao Junzhi is a colonel!

"Yes, sir!" Han Zhuangzhi shouted, accepting the command. He waved to the warriors behind him.  
"Everyone, with me!"

Chen Gu quickly switched his energy rifle to "high energy" mode and charged forward, taking the lead.

"Ten o'clock, 12.7 meters, one man-portable missile!"

SWOOSH—

BOOM! Several bodies were flung out.

"One o'clock, 14.2 meters, suppressive fire!"

RAT-TAT-TAT—

Several Subterraneans screamed as they tumbled out, their bodies riddled with holes.

"Nine o'clock, 24 meters, two man-portable missiles!"

SWOOSH—

SWOOSH—

BOOM!

BOOM!

The Subterraneans were blasted in all directions.

Chen Gu led the warriors, advancing swiftly. The warriors executed his orders without fail, their coordination perfect. It took Chen Gu and his team merely five minutes to fight their way through the several-hundred-meter-long cave.

During this time, not a single mistake was made. All of the hundred or so Subterraneans ambushing in the massive cave were eliminated, and not one of their own warriors was injured!

Left behind, Zheng Zhixing sat slumped on the ground, his face so red it looked like blood might drip from it, his eyes practically spewing flames of fury.

Qiao Shuangyi and Lin Xiaochen cheered repeatedly, "Bro Chen is awesome—"

"Such a fierce man, slaughtering all around!" Lin Xiaochen yelled. Qiao Shuangyi glanced back at him strangely, then silently put a safe distance between them.

Then, Chen Gu led everyone swiftly back, saying, "Let's go!"

The entire squad quickly exited the cave, with Zheng Zhixing trailing at the very end, ignored by everyone. He hesitated for a moment, then gritted his teeth and followed.

If I stay here alone, I'll definitely die if I encounter Subterraneans. In the face of life or death, pride doesn't matter anymore.

From the cave entrances surrounding the large cavern, rustling sounds emerged. Countless Subterraneans were hidden within, having witnessed their kin being slaughtered. They seethed with rage, wanting to charge out, but ultimately restrained themselves.

Chen Gu led his men in a rapid retreat. When they reached a spot with three cave exits, Han Zhuangzhi said, "Bro Chen, according to your earlier plan, let's take the right exit."

But Zheng Zhixing, who had been silently and ignominiously fleeing for his life along with everyone else, suddenly spoke up, "We need to verify a certain person's identity!"

### Chapter 362: Seizing Power\_3

Chen Gu smiled faintly. "Alright, let's find the signal first."

The group continued to retreat, and before long, they re-established communication signals. Back at the command center, a projection screen suddenly crackled, and a series of images reappeared.

Chen Gu merely gave Zheng Zhixing a cold glance and said, "Feel free to go and verify."

Then, ignoring him, he directly called Bai Yunpeng. He had every reason to feel confident in doing so.

Zheng Zhixing was reporting the incident to Ling Yitong but was too embarrassed to admit Chen Gu had hit him; he found the admission humiliating. His report faithfully described the entire conflict between them, but he employed some "little tactics" in his wording. Most people, upon hearing it, would naturally side with Zheng Zhixing and think Chen Gu had gone too far. Even if Chen Gu truly was the Director of the 745 Research Institute, Zheng Zhixing wasn't about to let Ling Yitong develop a dislike for him because of it.

Once Bai Yunpeng answered the call, Chen Gu also recounted the conflict, though he was very direct: "I beat that weakling up."

Bai Yunpeng keenly perceived the underlying issue: Why had Ling Yitong suddenly assigned Zheng Zhixing to this?

Eventually, Bai Yunpeng said quietly on the phone, "Don't worry. You're the Director of the 745 Research Institute and a Colonel. You definitely outrank Zheng Zhixing. You did nothing wrong."

Ling Yitong was also frowning. He wasn't troubled by the thought that he had made a mistake, nor that his trusted subordinate had handled the situation poorly. Instead, his concern was that the incident had reached Bai Yunpeng. He realized he had tried to pull a fast one behind his old superior's back and now had no way to explain it.

"Forget it, come back," Ling Yitong said. "We'll assign the reconnaissance task to Han Zhuangzhi."

Zheng Zhixing bit his lip, bitterly unwilling to accept that such a golden opportunity had slipped through his fingers—all because of that little bastard!

"Yes, General," he said, bowing his head to accept the order, his eyes flickering with fierce hatred.

The danger level here was very low, so Zheng Zhixing could leave on his own. Ling Yitong had already dispatched an aircraft to pick him up.

Watching Zheng Zhixing's retreating figure walk farther and farther down the tunnel, the whole squad smiled at the sight of the "loser." Qiao Shuangyi, fearless to the core, even let out a flippant whistle.

Ling Yitong wasn't surprised to see the exuberance of the new students from Huai Shan Branch School. However, he was taken aback to see that Han Zhuangzhi's group of warriors also appeared relieved, leaving him somewhat puzzled.

Could it be... He had some suspicions, but he wasn't certain yet and needed to observe further.

He excused himself to Director Xue and then went out to call his own old superior.

Director Xue had already prepared to "support" Chen Gu. In past military training for new students, conflicts with military personnel were common. Typically, it was the new students from prominent backgrounds who couldn't handle the strictness and harshness of military life. This usually meant the Huai Shan Branch School was in the wrong. However, every teacher leading the team would find a way to smooth things over, preventing a complete fallout. Only on rare occasions would ill-informed military personnel intentionally make things difficult for the new students.

If Chen Gu had instigated the conflict, Director Xue could understand. Why should Chen Gu, who achieved success so young, listen to some junior officer's commands?

She would support the school's student, have Chen Gu transferred to another group, and then, after the operation ended and they returned to school, she would 'educate' Chen Gu in her capacity as Deputy Head of the Guidance Department.

But this time, the situation was far beyond Director Xue's expectations. Regardless of how Zheng Zhixing utilized his "rhetoric," Director Xue—with her Eighth Energy Level, long life, and vast experience—saw right through the heart of the matter: Zheng Zhixing was utterly defeated. He had wanted to suppress Chen Gu, but lacking the strength, he was instead thoroughly humiliated by him. Moreover, Chen Gu's military rank was higher than Zheng Zhixing's, leaving the latter with no recourse. Even Ling Yitong couldn't find any fault with Chen Gu.

Director Xue smiled with satisfaction. If all the students were as capable as Chen Gu, the school's teachers would have a much easier time!

Getting rid of Zheng Zhixing meant a large amount of military merit would soon be theirs. The warriors were in high spirits, flattering "Brother Chen" all the way back to the three tunnel entrances.

This time, Chen Gu didn't rely solely on his previous instincts. He activated Mind Belief once again and still sensed a vague, fog-like danger emanating from the rightmost tunnel.

"Let's go," he said, leading the way straight into it.

This time, Chen Gu didn't dare to be complacent. He immediately activated the Radiation Field, closely monitoring his surroundings.

They hadn't gone far when Chen Gu suddenly stopped and turned to his two classmates. "Lin Xiaochen, what is your profession?"

"I am of the 'Slumbering Ancient Clan'."

Qiao Shuangyi boasted proudly, "Ah, an old profession."

Lin Xiaochen rolled his eyes helplessly. There's a pecking order among professions, with new ones looking down on the old. It's not like he could control which one he awakened.

Lin Xiaochen asked, "Brother Chen, do you need us to take action?"

Chen Gu nodded. His Radiation Field clearly perceived the complex cave topography a hundred meters ahead, along with the densely packed Subterraneans lying in ambush within!

Chen Gu was now certain this tunnel concealed a major secret of the Subterraneans, which was why they were guarding it so heavily.

Chapter 363: Seizing Power (Long Chapter)\_4

"In a bit, I don't expect you to kill the enemy, just protect yourselves!" Chen Gu said solemnly. Qiao Shuangyi suddenly panicked. "Brother Chen, you promised to look out for me during the new recruit training..."

Chen Gu felt helpless. After a thought, he said, "Alright, stay behind me."

He missed Dora a little right now. At a time like this, Big Rabbit wouldn't be a drag at all. On the contrary, her abilities were extremely suited for this kind of battle. With nine guns at her disposal, she could charge out and, with a burst of rapid fire, might not even need anyone else to take action—she alone could deal with these Subterraneans.

Lin Xiaochen heard this and, not caring whether Brother Chen agreed or not, shamelessly followed Qiao Shuangyi. The two were like stubborn leeches, relentlessly sticking themselves to Great Actor Chen.

Han Zhuangzhi and the other warriors were somewhat excited. "Brother Chen, a big scene?"

"Heh heh..." Chen Gu laughed. "Consider it a big scene, with plenty of military spoils to be had!"

"Good, we'll all follow Brother Chen's command."

The scout squad had ten people in total. Chen Gu divided them into five groups, with two people in each group covering each other back-to-back. Then, after some additional instructions, he gave the order, "Charge!"

The group suddenly burst out, with Chen Gu constantly issuing orders.

"Group Three, upper left cave mouth!"

"Group One, shadow to the right rear!"

"Group Five, subterranean passage straight ahead..."

Following Chen Gu's every command, the warriors moved swiftly, pouring fire in the directions he indicated.

Subterraneans pounced out one after another, baring fangs and brandishing claws. They were immediately met by a barrage of energy ammunition that riddled their bodies with bloody holes, sending them screaming as they collapsed to the ground.

Chen Gu, armed with dual pistols, specifically picked off any that slipped through.

The terrain in this area was complex and interconnected, with large and small caves winding about, offering numerous spots for ambushes.

But no matter how cleverly the Subterraneans hid their ambushes, they were "plain as day" in Chen Gu's eyes. Their ferocious assaults turned into suicidal charges right into the muzzles of the squad's guns.

Han Zhuangzhi and the others grew increasingly proficient and synchronized with Chen Gu. The entire process felt like a shooting drill. They hardly needed to consider any danger; they just had to follow commands and keep firing, and targets would practically deliver themselves to be reaped.

They advanced steadily for ten minutes, and each warrior's kill count reached double digits.

Qiao Shuangyi and Lin Xiaochen, hiding behind Chen Gu, faced no danger at all. Gradually, they grew bolder and sneakily fired a few shots. Lin Xiaochen managed to kill two Subterraneans, and even the chubby Qiao Shuangyi got one.

Suddenly, they charged toward a massive cave opening. Before them lay an open area when, BANG! A shower of arrows shot out from the darkness!

This was the first time the Subterraneans had demonstrated a "ranged attack" weapon.

The warriors, caught off guard, were shocked and had no time to dodge.

However, they suddenly felt a powerful surge of energy beside them, rushing forward like a tidal wave.

The volley of arrows that could have turned them into human sieves simply hung suspended in mid-air before them.

Through their infrared imaging helmets, they could clearly see the thick layer of poison coating each arrowhead!

A drop of cold sweat rolled down Han Zhuangzhi's face, splattering on the ground at his feet. Simultaneously, Chen Gu waved his hand. The arrows instantly changed direction and shot back even faster.

WHOOSH! WHOOSH! WHOOSH—

A series of agonized screams erupted from the vast cave. Countless Subterraneans were hit by their own poisoned arrows, writhing in pain as they fell.

Chen Gu ordered, "Suppressive fire!"

This was what the warriors loved most: the enemy in dense formation, allowing them to unleash an indiscriminate hail of fire!

The roar of energy rifles was deafening. The warriors maintained their suppressive fire for a full thirty seconds until the vast cave fell quiet and the screams disappeared.

From the far end of the cave came the sound of rapidly retreating footsteps—the Subterraneans were withdrawing.

Chen Gu sighed in relief. "Rest in place."

#### Chapter 364: The White Bone Shaman

Qiao Shuangyi laughed heartily without a care. "Chen Gu, I've made splendid gains in battle! I've already killed three Subterraneans!"

Chen Gu smiled and complimented, "Well done. You must have the fewest battle merits in the entire team. Your father will certainly be proud of you. Now you'll have something to brag about when you get together with friends."

Qiao Shuangyi stammered, "Er... really? Even Lin Xiaochen, that old-profession reject, did better than me?"

Lin Xiaochen was furious. "You, who can't even shoot straight! What gives you the right to look down on this young master?"

"PFFT—" Qiao Shuangyi scoffed. "The impotent fury of old professions."

The two bickered for a while until Han Zhuangzhi came over to ask Chen Gu, "Chen Gu, I've sent someone to look ahead. There are four cave entrances. Which one should we choose?"

Chen Gu didn't answer immediately. He walked to the front of the four entrances and once again used "Mind Belief" to sense his surroundings.

"Are you all rested? If so, let's set out." He led everyone into the second entrance on the left.

Han Zhuangzhi noticed that of these four entrances, the first one on the right showed the most traces of Subterraneans; most of those who had just retreated had entered this one. The traces left in the other three were roughly the same.

If Han Zhuangzhi himself were leading the team, he would have definitely chosen the first entrance on the right. If Zheng Zhixing had made the same choice as Chen Gu, he might have questioned the commander's decision. But now, everyone had complete faith in Chen Gu, so they executed the order without hesitation.

However, after entering this tunnel, even though they pursued for a long distance, they did not encounter any more Subterraneans.

Chen Gu reminded everyone, "Be careful. The Subterraneans' tactics are definitely not limited to what we've seen!"

Chen Gu remembered that there were powerful Shamans among the Subterraneans.

Not long after Chen Gu had spoken, they walked into a dead end—just like when Zheng Zhixing was leading, the path ended abruptly, and they faced a stone wall.

"Chen Gu, let's turn back," Han Zhuangzhi suggested. He didn't complain, as no one can always make the right choice.

Chen Gu, however, shook his head slightly. He stepped forward, raised his hand, and touched the rough stone wall. His "Radiation Field" could sense that just over a meter behind the stone wall, there was another passage.

Chen Gu mused internally, Has a Subterranean Shaman made a move? A powerful Shaman, unwilling to confront us head-on, conjures up a stone wall out of thin air, merely wanting us to turn back... What lies hidden behind this stone wall that makes the Shaman so cautious, not daring to take the slightest risk?

Chen Gu turned back to look at everyone and smiled. "Dare to take a risk?"

Qiao Shuangyi, habitually timid, shrank his neck, not daring to respond.

Han Zhuangzhi and the warriors all laughed. "Chen Gu, when has war ever been without risk?"

Chen Gu laughed heartily. "Don't worry, I'm confident."

He knocked on the stone wall and said to Han Zhuangzhi, "Set the explosives and blow up this wall. The wall is 1.34 meters thick; control the yield carefully."

Qiao Shuangyi quickly interjected, "Chen Gu, don't mess around! What if the whole cave collapses and we're buried alive?"

Of course, Chen Gu had already used "Radiation Field" to check the geological structure within a hundred-meter radius. He was confident enough to instruct Han Zhuangzhi to proceed.

He waved his hand. "Trust me."

Han Zhuangzhi immediately and faithfully executed the order, leading his warriors to quickly calculate the necessary amount of explosives and then set up the charges.

"Retreat thirty meters," Han Zhuangzhi commanded. After everyone had moved back, Han Zhuangzhi detonated the explosives without hesitation.

BOOM—

In the confined space of the cave, the power of the explosion was magnified, sound waves echoing back and forth in the surrounding tunnels. Everyone felt the ground beneath their feet shake several times as debris rained down.

Qiao Shuangyi let out a sharp scream, like a startled little girl. Lin Xiaochen, though also frightened, managed not to cry out. This alone made Lin Xiaochen feel he had the right to look down on Qiao Shuangyi, suddenly filling him with a sense of superiority!

Once the aftermath of the explosion had completely subsided, the warriors brushed the dust from their clothes and all looked towards Chen Gu. Holding his gun in one hand, Chen Gu straightened up and strode first towards the newly blasted entrance. "Stay close to me."

Beyond the newly revealed opening, it was pitch-black but seemed very calm.

Han Zhuangzhi and the warriors, however, had a vague sense that innumerable dangers lurked within that darkness.

Chen Gu walked through the opening into a moderately sized chamber. Its walls were punctuated by a dozen or so tunnel entrances at various heights.

In each of these tunnels, the dark red, glowing eyes of Subterraneans glinted in the shadows!

In the center of the chamber stood a relatively slender Subterranean. Her neck was adorned with a necklace of red and green gemstones, and her forehead was inlaid with a piece of metal of unknown material. On her wrists were bracelets made from the fangs of some beast. In her left hand, she held a Magic Wand fashioned from some sort of snow-white bone, its shape twisted and bent, making it look exceedingly strange and eerie.

The moment Chen Gu sensed the Shaman's presence, his unreliable heart began to THUMP-THUMP-THUMP wildly!

Those ornaments on her body are all incredibly precious materials! Each one emits rare energy fluctuations and could be used to create powerful artifacts!

That bone Magic Wand... it smells so good. I really want to take a bite...

Damn that Isabella Wu, get out of my head!

Those battle merits are the warriors' spoils, but these precious materials are my prize from this trip!

When Chen Gu was at the base and saw the drawing of the Subterranean Shaman presented by Wang Chengqian, he had never imagined that a "live" Shaman would be so "expensive."

Therefore, Chen Gu took the lead, heading straight for the Subterranean Shaman!

HISS HISS HISS—

From the surrounding tunnels, the threatening roars of Subterranean warriors immediately erupted. In the darkness, several Subterranean archers aimed at Chen Gu. He, however, remained unmoved, his eyes fixed solely on the Shaman before him.

TWANG—

The sound of a bowstring, and several swift arrows shot through the air. Chen Gu didn't even raise an eyelid. With a mere thought, "Entanglement Control" activated, and the arrows instantly froze in mid-air.

A hint of surprise flickered in the Shaman's blood-red eyes, quickly replaced by solemnity.

She swiftly raised the white bone Magic Wand in her hand, chanting a spell in a guttural growl that sounded almost animalistic to human ears.

POP POP POP...

The arrows frozen in mid-air by Chen Gu's "Entanglement Control" instantly shattered.

Then the Shaman waved her Magic Wand again, her unique incantation continuing. A gale-like force surged, yet it carried a peculiar "heaviness."

From beneath the ground, a sound like muffled thunder emerged. Suddenly, the floor beneath Chen Gu cracked open, and countless palm-sized stone knives and swords shot out, their speed no less than that of bullets!

Chapter 365: Fancy Old Spell

Chen Gu still stood unyielding, intending to test the mettle of this Subterranean Shaman.

It was still "Entanglement Control" at work, as a mysterious power established a defensive area before him.

CRUNCH—

The stone knives and swords, obviously more powerful than the earlier arrows, managed to penetrate deep into this area, contending with the Quantum Wizard's power for a while before Chen Gu completely immobilized them.

But as Chen Gu prepared to counterattack, the stone knives and swords turned to stone dust in an instant at the sound of the Shaman's incantations.

The booming sounds arose once more. The Subterranean Shaman swung her bone Magic Wand forward with a vigorous motion, pointing across the distance at Chen Gu.

The cracks on the ground spread rapidly, heading straight for Chen Gu's feet. Just as they reached him, the cracks suddenly widened. Blazing red light erupted from beneath as magma from the earth's core was drawn forth. It coalesced into a huge, vicious claw of lava right before Chen Gu, lunging at him.

Chen Gu stood still as before; the power of "Quantum Entanglement" he had laid out before him had not yet dissipated. That giant hand made it more than ten meters before it was firmly controlled and could no longer move.

At the First Energy Level, he could wield the strength of a Quantum Wizard at the Second Energy Level. At that stage, he needed a certain connection to the object he controlled using "Quantum Entanglement."

Upon reaching the Second Energy Level, he could call upon the power of a Quantum Wizard at the Third Energy Level, and the need for such a "connection" was not as crucial.

Now, Chen Gu was at the Third Energy Level, capable of exerting the power of the Fourth Energy Level, making the use of "Quantum Entanglement" seem entirely at his command.

After two head-on probes, Chen Gu had gained some understanding of the Subterranean Shaman's abilities.

She possessed power equivalent to a Third Energy Level practitioner, but could only exhibit combat effectiveness at what amounted to Level Two-and-a-Half.

Why?

Nothing but pomp and flair.

Take that recent strike, for instance, where unnecessary power was wasted to shape the magma into the form of a claw, thereby needlessly weakening her own attack.

Ancient ability bearers often had this common problem, inherited from their unenlightened origins when they used such showmanship to intimidate and awe other ordinary beings.

Among the Subterranean people, Shamans secured their lofty status precisely through their extraordinary powers and a variety of flamboyant spells that seemed outlandish to the average Subterranean.

That magma claw strike just now was sure to become legendary among the Subterraneans: "The Shaman can control demons from the abyss" or something similar.

Similarly, some "fancy" class skills continue to exist in old professions even now.

But human practitioners, especially those in the new professions, have learned the importance of "efficiency," avoiding such wanton waste of power.

Facing such a Shaman, Chen Gu had an overwhelming 120% certainty that he could easily defeat her.

Chen Gu also did not overlook another detail: Wang Chengqian had introduced the Subterranean Shamans to the new students as a combination of "Quantum Wizard" and "Nuclear Explosion Nun."

Yet the Shaman before him utilized "the power of the earth"—it was very possible that humans had not encountered Shamans like this one in previous battles with the Subterraneans.

This indicated that the power system of the Subterranean Shaman was more complex than what the human race had presumed.

After Chen Gu once again neutralized the Shaman's spell, she was no longer so composed. She took a beast tooth from her bracelet and fiercely cut her own wrist, dripping blood onto her bone Magic Wand.

But how could I just sit back and watch her attempt a power-up like that?

He took a fierce step forward, the power of "Entanglement Control" pouring out. The Subterranean Shaman's expression changed; she thought Chen Gu was about to kill her. But to her surprise, Chen Gu used "Quantum Teleportation" to instantly appear behind her. With a palm strike, he struck the Subterranean Shaman on the neck!

With Chen Gu's current terrifying physical prowess, even the sturdy body of a Subterranean could not withstand it; the palm strike directly broke the Shaman's cervical spine.

CRACK!

The Subterranean Shaman's body went limp, and she collapsed.

The other Subterraneans immediately erupted into chaos. Chen Gu, without looking, switched to Isabella Wu's memory, turned around abruptly, and with an imperious lift of both hands, thrust his hands out towards those tunnel openings:

"Mental Storm"!

An invisible wave, like the shockwave of an explosion, swept toward the tunnel openings behind Chen Gu. The openings themselves were silent, not affected in the least, but the Subterraneans inside all rolled their eyes and fell down in unison.

Chen Gu, now able to wield the power of a Fourth Energy Level "Brain Domain Hacker," could, with one skill, easily wipe out the minions without breaking a sweat.

Han Zhuangzhi and the others stood by. Several times, they felt the situation was "critical" and raised their guns to support Brother Chen. Yet, before they could even fire, Chen Gu effortlessly resolved the "critical" moments, so they lowered their arms again.

It wasn't until Chen Gu casually dealt with the Shaman and all the Subterraneans that they still felt as if in a dream: Since when were Subterranean Shamans so fragile?

They had rich experience combating Subterraneans, and every previous encounter with a Subterranean Shaman had come at a great cost before they could kill her.

Just like that moment with the lava claw bursting from the fissure—faced with such a spell, most warriors would panic and turn to flee.

And this, in turn, would greatly boost the morale of the Subterraneans, who would chase after them recklessly.

So it wasn't that the Subterranean Shaman had become weaker, but rather... Brother Chen was too strong.

However, Brother Chen, who in everyone's eyes had already become a grandmaster of significant stature, suddenly became very undignified, starting to rummage over the Subterranean Shaman's corpse.

All her adornments, as well as that bone Magic Wand, were thoroughly looted by him.

Chen Gu, noticing the looks from Han Zhuangzhi and the others, asked worriedly, "Should these items... be turned over to the authorities?"

Han Zhuangzhi hurriedly said, "There's no need for that. The Subterraneans have a very low level of civilization. Aside from certain sacrificial statues and the like that might pertain to their beliefs, the spoils from the battlefield can be disposed of at will by the warriors present. Our comrades often keep some as souvenirs."

However, very few people actually liked Subterranean adornments; they were crudely made and couldn't compare to human jewelry at all.

Chen Gu's thoughts quickly shifted, and he understood. Historically, there must have been practitioners like him who, after fighting side-by-side with the military on Maoshi Star, discovered the value of these Subterranean Shaman ornaments—and just like him, they must have taken them secretly, concealing these "details" from the military.

He chuckled inwardly, stuffing everything into his large backpack. Only the excessively long bone Magic Wand had to be carried in his hand.

#### Chapter 366: Merit of Beheading

By this time, Han Zhuangzhi had already directed his warriors to drag out all the Subterranean corpses from the cave entrances. After a quick tally, he excitedly said to Chen Gu, "Chen Bro, one Subterranean Shaman, sixty-eight Subterranean warriors!"

"Chen Bro annihilated the Subterraneans with a single blow; his moves are unbeatable!"

Chen Gu smiled slightly and said, "I'll take half of these military achievements, and the rest can be divided amongst everyone else."

He felt a bit guilty for monopolizing the most important spoils of battle and wanted to share the benefits. However, to his surprise, Han Zhuangzhi glared at him. "Chen Bro, we are all warriors! We long for military achievements, but we will use the guns in our hands to earn the true glory that belongs to us! We appreciate your kindness, but it's really not necessary!"

Looking around, Chen Gu saw that the other warriors also had somewhat agitated expressions. Now that's the spirit of good lads! he admired in his heart.

Then suddenly, Han Zhuangzhi flashed a mischievous grin and said, "Plus, the cameras on our chests and helmets will faithfully record everyone's trophies. Even if you wanted to share with us, the military wouldn't acknowledge it."

"Tch—" Chen Gu regretted that he had even been momentarily touched.

"Let's go. As long as Chen Bro is with us, we won't lack military achievements in this campaign."

The other warriors also spoke one after another, "Because of that idiot Zheng Zhixing, we've already fallen behind the other squads; we need to catch up fast."

Chen Gu nodded and walked forward to the cave entrances. He activated his Mind Belief once more, trying to sense from which one they should continue the chase.

But unexpectedly, the moment he cast Mind Belief, the power of his profession coursed through the white bone staff in his hand and radiated outward. Surprisingly, the effect was much smoother, covered a broader area, and provided clearer feedback than when he executed it on his own!

This thing... is really a treasure! It's naturally an excellent tool! Chen Gu was elated.

Now, with the white bone staff in hand, Chen Gu quickly detected a distinct "calling" from one of the cave entrances.

He smiled lightly, pointing the white bone staff toward the entrance. "This way."

Chen Gu now felt his current situation was quite fantastical: Wearing a military uniform, as a college freshman, holding a bloody, ancient staff... A fantasy mash-up? He chuckled to himself and led everyone inside.

Along the way, traces left by the Subterraneans were everywhere. Qiao Shuangyi and Lin Xiaochen whispered to each other, then approached Chen Gu with smirks. "Hehe, Chen Bro?"

"You've worked hard. Back at the base, I'll treat you to a feast in the cafeteria, at the custom-order counter. You can order anything you want. How about that?"

The moment Lin Xiaochen made this generous promise, he saw Qiao Shuangyi's face change drastically beside him. What's wrong? It's just a meal. Even if it's a bit pricey at the cafeteria, it's only a few million at most. No need to be so stingy, right? he wondered.

Qiao Shuangyi heaved a silent sigh. Forget it, I'll just borrow some money from my cousin again. It's not like I have to pay him back anyway.

Chen Gu beamed. "Oh, why so formal? Since you've said it, if I didn't accept, that would be disrespecting you guys. Tell me, what's the matter?"

Lin Xiaochen rubbed his hands, looking a bit embarrassed. "Well, we also want to accumulate some military achievements. You know, our school's freshman military training also has rankings, and if the grades are too low... we'll get fewer credits, making it hard to get by in school."

As long as the payment is good, this 'Best Actor's' attitude and skills are top-notch, service guaranteed, Chen Gu mused. Then he said, "Fair enough, let me think. You're a Deep Slumbering Ancient, right? Dealing with ordinary Subterranean warriors shouldn't be a problem for you."

The chubby young man quickly chimed in from the side, "And me!"

Chen Gu stopped and pointed to a series of pits ahead. "As it happens, there's a group of enemies just right for you, Xiaochen."

Lin Xiaochen excitedly said, "Leave it to me!"

Chen Gu raised his hand into a fist to halt everyone and then said, "This time it's Xiaochen's turn. Same rules as always, we take turns."

Although the warriors felt somewhat regretful, they knew they had been reaping military achievements before and it was time to give the students a chance. They were fighting over who would take on the fierce Subterraneans as sources of military achievements, completely disregarding that other groups were still fighting for their lives.

Chen Gu lifted his hand and projected a holographic terrain map—it was the pit system right in front of them.

Chen Gu explained in detail, "The Subterraneans have changed their tactics this time; they've split up to lurk in various corners, waiting for the opportunity to ambush us."

"Here, here, and here..."

"I've marked all the ambush points of the Subterranean warriors with red dots. Remember them well."

"Come, I'll plan a route for you. After you transform into a Deep Slumbering Ancient, follow this route and hit them with a counter-ambush."

"At each of these ambush points, there are at most two Subterranean warriors. It will be no trouble for you to deal with them. What do you say, dare you take this on?"

Lin Xiaochen counted and found there were sixteen Subterranean warriors lying in ambush within the pits. Including the three he had already killed, that would make nineteen in total!

He couldn't help but get excited. If this goes well, I might even make it into the top three freshmen!

"I dare!" he said loudly. "A bunch of weaklings! In my hands, they're as easy to deal with as cutting vegetables. What's there to be afraid of?"

Chen Gu smiled. "Then that's settled. Go."

Lin Xiaochen stepped forward briskly, handing his rifle to Han Zhuangzhi and switching to two large-caliber energy pistols. Then, with a low roar, he instantly transformed into a Deep Slumbering Ancient and flitted ghost-like into the pit tunnels.

The warriors couldn't help but change their expressions. Professionals were indeed formidable. They hadn't thought much of these new recruits, and Lin Xiaochen's performance along the way had been mediocre at best.

But that ghostly agility just now made them realize that if they truly encountered each other on the battlefield, even with their higher tactical acumen, they would likely fall to Lin Xiaochen.

In the pits, the sound of gunfire boomed continuously. The Deep Slumbering Ancient's speed, agility, and strength were exceptional, and the gunfire was relentless. After seven or eight minutes, Lin Xiaochen returned. He tossed the pistols back to Han Zhuangzhi and said, "All of them are taken care of."

Chen Gu smiled. He had already sensed through the Radiation Field that all the ambushing Subterranean warriors had been eradicated.

"Good. Let's keep moving," he said.

After passing through this area of pits, Qiao Shuangyi became quite restless. However, when they next encountered another group of Subterranean warriors blocking their path, Chen Gu didn't arrange any tactics for him but cautiously led everyone to assault together.

It was only when they actually began to fight that Qiao Shuangyi realized the shocking number of Subterranean warriors they faced this time—there were seven to eight hundred!

Even though they held absolute advantages in capabilities and equipment, it was still a bitter fight.

#### Chapter 367: Spell Concealment (1)

The battle raged for two grueling hours, leaving the warriors soaked with sweat, sitting together and panting heavily.

Han Zhuangzhi checked their ammunition; less than half remained.

He was astonished, not because it was too little, but because he hadn't expected so much to be left. In a normal engagement, most of the ammunition would have certainly run out after such a battle, as it tends to be wasted.

Yet, during the recent fight, due to Chen Gu's commands, they had wasted very little ammunition. They shot wherever an enemy was spotted, as per Chen Gu's orders.

After the battle, they still had half their ammunition left—enough to press on. He had assumed his squad would have to withdraw from the operation.

The other warriors were tallying their kills.

"Hahaha, I got sixty-one this time! Enough for me to level up."

"Weakling!" another warrior boasted proudly. "I checked too. I got seventy-four!"

The warriors cheered up. Han Zhuangzhi checked his own count: an astonishing eighty-eight!

The chubby soldier, still gasping for breath beside his rifle, heard this. He opened his personal computer, connecting it to the camera on his chest to calculate his tally.

Soon, a number popped up, leaving him dumbfounded: fifty-one!

Previously, he had only taken down one Subterranean. This meant he had killed fifty in the recent fight!

The battle had been so intense that he had mechanically followed Chen Gu's commands—shoot, shoot, and shoot again. Although he felt he must have killed a fair number of Subterraneans, he had no idea it was this many.

A bizarre thought crossed the chubby soldier's mind: was he close to achieving the "hundred-man kill" milestone?

Fifty-one... if I round up, that's practically a hundred. That calculation works, right?

He suddenly saw Lin Xiaochen next to him and nudged him with his elbow. "How many did you get?"

Lin Xiaochen had just finished calculating. "A total of sixty-nine."

Overcome with excitement, Lin Xiaochen whispered, "I feel like I'm definitely in the top three this time!"

The chubby soldier mulled it over: Brother Chen was first, Lin Xiaochen was currently second, and he himself was third! If he put in a bit more effort and really stuck to Brother Chen's coattails, he could surpass that opportunist Lin Xiaochen—hey, wouldn't that mean he'd be sitting third but aiming for second? The situation was looking up!

"Eat something and take a rest," Chen Gu said. He then opened his large backpack, his gaze involuntarily falling onto some strange objects.

He had pried the gemstones, beast teeth, and metals from the Subterranean Shaman's corpse.

While looting the body, he'd felt an almost unbearable urge, as if some of those items were the epitome of worldly delicacies!

Now, that sensation was nearly overwhelming him again.

No, no, the mission is still underway, and this place is extremely dangerous. If I eat something that makes me vomit or gives me diarrhea, I'll be a dead man, Chen Gu thought. Isabella Wu, get lost!

He fought back the urge, forcefully grabbing twenty packs of military rations and then firmly closed his backpack.

After everyone had eaten, their strength was mostly recovered.

"Move out!" At Chen Gu's command, they continued to pick their way through the tunnel.

Several dozen minutes later, the observant chubby soldier suddenly exclaimed, "Hey, look! There's something on the surrounding stone walls."

Everyone was startled. Taking a closer look, they noticed rough, faintly visible murals on the stone walls.

As with all ancient civilizations, the murals mostly depicted scenes of hunting and daily life.

It was just that the Subterraneans' prey was also found underground: a creature resembling a giant lizard, much larger than the Subterraneans themselves.

Chen Gu examined these murals closely and suddenly noticed a peculiar one.

This mural, following a series of hunting scenes, depicted a Subterranean Shaman extracting an organ from an exceptionally large, lizard-like beast. Then, under her guidance, a young female Subterranean underwent a ritual, becoming a new Shaman.

Chen Gu stroked his chin, extracting some useful information from the murals.

"The appearance of these murals proves we're getting closer to the Subterraneans' core living area," he said.

Chen Gu motioned to the others. "Be cautious."

He then expanded his Radiation Field once more, a gun in one hand and the bone Magic Wand in the other. Enhanced by the Magic Wand, the Radiation Field's radius increased by another twenty meters, and his sensory "vision" within it became even clearer.

Yet, within a one-hundred-and-twenty-meter radius, not a single Subterranean was present.

Chen Gu frowned. That's not right.

He called out to Han Zhuangzhi at the front, "I'll take point."

Han Zhuangzhi stepped back, and Chen Gu took his place.

Chen Gu's advance slowed significantly. Traversing the complex terrain, he no longer relied solely on his abilities, instead conducting reconnaissance strictly according to tactical procedures.

Chen Gu's seriousness affected everyone. Even Qiao Shuangyi stopped joking around, gripping his rifle tightly, his nerves on edge.

After passing through a winding tunnel, they entered a huge cavern. Its scale took everyone's breath away—it was as large as dozens of football fields, with a ceiling soaring a kilometer high. In the center of this stone cavern stood an ancient altar built from massive stones.

The altar resembled a pyramid, three hundred meters tall, surrounded by other structures.

Chen Gu whispered to Han Zhuangzhi beside him, "Prepare flash grenades."

Flash grenades were an effective weapon against Subterraneans, who lived their entire lives underground. However, Chen Gu's squad hadn't needed to use them until now.

Chen Gu indicated several positions. Within my Radiation Field, these spots register as completely empty, he thought, choosing them based on his tactical judgment.

"Now!" At his command, Han Zhuangzhi and his warriors immediately launched the flash grenades.

BANG! BANG! BANG!

Clusters of intense light flared almost simultaneously throughout the massive cavern, followed by agonized howls. As the light dimmed slightly, Chen Gu and the warriors, using the residual glare, could see that most of those locations indeed concealed ambushing Subterraneans!

Han Zhuangzhi silently gave Chen Gu a thumbs-up. Everyone's admiration for Brother Chen needed no words; the gesture said it all.

But Chen Gu's heart sank.

Ever since seeing those murals, I've had a bad feeling, Chen Gu thought. The squad has clearly approached the core area of Subterranean activity, yet we haven't met any further resistance.

I don't believe the Subterraneans were 'scared witless' and fled. That leaves only one possibility: they're consolidating their forces, preparing for a big move.

Chapter 368: Spell Concealment (2)

Throughout the journey, Chen Gu had activated both "Mind Belief" and "Radiation Field," yet he hadn't detected a single trace of the Subterraneans. This led him to speculate that his earlier performance had caught the attention of the high-ranking Subterranean Shaman.

It was very likely that the high-ranking Shaman had used some kind of spell to obscure Chen Gu's professional skills.

When Chen Gu reached the altar, he tried using a flash grenade—something he had never used before—and his suspicions were confirmed.

Chen Gu was, after all, employing "Radiation Field," but he was completely unaware of the Subterranean warriors hidden and ready to ambush.

Now that they were exposed, the Subterraneans no longer concealed themselves. Suddenly, a commanding and ancient roar echoed from the high altar, seemingly a command.

In the vast cavern, the relentless scraping of sharp claws against rock resounded as hordes of Subterraneans emerged from within the massive stone buildings and from the myriad passageways.

These warriors were noticeably larger and more robust than the Subterranean warriors they had previously encountered, and their weapons were relatively more "sophisticated."

Han Zhuangzhi and the others looked at the densely packed thousands of Subterraneans and felt a chill run down their spines. "All elites!"

Qiao Shuangyi suddenly noticed a group of about a hundred tall Subterranean warriors emerging from beneath the altar and stuttered as he pointed at them, "You, you guys, look!"

That detachment of Subterranean warriors was astonishingly well-equipped. Each warrior carried a gun! There were rifles, handguns, shotguns, and more—a motley assortment if they were human troops, but surprisingly impressive among the Subterraneans.

Han Zhuangzhi and his companions wore grave expressions and instinctively wanted to retreat. Their ammunition was down to half, and even with full supplies, a small squad like theirs could not hope to confront the massive army of Subterraneans!

But Chen Gu paid no attention to the massive Subterranean force; his gaze remained fixed on the altar.

That commanding and ancient roar from a moment ago undoubtedly belonged to the leader of these Subterraneans. He guessed it was that high-ranking Shaman.

After all the Subterranean warriors had appeared, a Subterranean Shaman emerged from each of the massive stone structures surrounding them.

With each Shaman's appearance, Chen Gu felt an immense pull. So many precious materials! So much delicious food! The aroma is tempting... which one should I eat first? Ugh, what a frustrating choice.

At that moment, Chen Gu was resisting countless temptations, focusing solely on the highest point of the altar.

Once all the Shamans had appeared, a silhouette flickered atop the altar and then slowly solidified, transforming into a real Subterranean.

She was of indeterminate age, her face full of wrinkles, skin and bones, hunched and stooping. Accompanying her were four of the most robust Subterranean warriors, standing guard around her, full of reverence.

In her hand, she also held a Magic Wand. Compared to the one Chen Gu had seized, hers was also made of some kind of bone, but it was entirely blood-red and seemed to emit a faint glow, as if blood were about to seep from it.

The appearance of this high-ranking Shaman stirred a fervor among all the Subterraneans. They stomped their feet, thumped their chests, and howled towards the sky, filling the entire cavern with deafening sound.

The instant she appeared, Chen Gu felt a threat as cold as ice spanning thousands of years surge toward him, engulfing him in its relentless onslaught.

So powerful! Chen Gu's heart tightened. He stared intently at her, realizing she was also staring at him—or, to be precise, at the bone Magic Wand in his hand.

Chen Gu glanced at the other Shamans and noticed that most of their wands were made of wood. He couldn't help but smile. It seemed a bone Magic Wand was also a symbol of status.

What was the relationship, then, between the Shaman I killed earlier and this ancient Shaman before me? Her granddaughter?

Deliberately taunting her, Chen Gu proudly raised the bone Magic Wand high and swung it forcefully towards the ancient Shaman.

Indeed, this act completely enraged the ancient Shaman. She slammed her blood-red Magic Wand on the ground with force. BOOM—

A pale-red, blood-scented wave emanated from the altar, rapidly sweeping across the entire cavern.

Under the red light, the Subterranean warriors found their courage greatly bolstered, howling as they charged towards Chen Gu and his companions.

Meanwhile, Han Zhuangzhi and the others were struck by the red light and immediately felt dizzy, nearly collapsing on the spot.

Chen Gu waved his hand backward. Using "Entanglement Control," he gently lifted everyone into the air and pushed them back dozens of meters, out of the vast cavern.

"Retreat!"

Chen Gu's command echoed in the ears of Han Zhuangzhi and the others. Simultaneously, the power of "Entanglement Control" dissipated, and they landed outside the cavern.

Without a second thought, Han Zhuangzhi aimed his gun, ready to charge forward. He couldn't let the commander cover their retreat while he led the escape!

But Qiao Shuangyi grabbed him. "What are you doing?"

Han Zhuangzhi shook off his hand and barked, "If you all want to run, go ahead! But the Confederation has no warriors who abandon their commander and retreat alone! Follow me!"

Qiao Shuangyi cursed, "Idiot! I know Brother Chen better than you do. Don't mess up his plan!"

Han Zhuangzhi was taken aback. "What did you say?"

Qiao Shuangyi huffed. "I heard from my brother that Brother Chen's Class is 'Radiation Missionary.' Do you know? People of this Class are real explosion fanatics."

Lin Xiaochen also understood and added, "But the attacks of such explosion fanatics don't distinguish between friend and foe. We'd only get in his way if we stayed, which is why he sent us out. For Brother Chen's sake, the further we run, the better. The only thing we need to do is make sure he doesn't have to worry about us."

Han Zhuangzhi still didn't understand. "'Radiation Missionary'?"

Qiao Shuangyi dragged him away. "Let me put it this way: to Brother Chen, every Subterranean in there is a potential mini-nuclear bomb! Let's move! I don't want to get credit for a hundred kills only to be vaporized by one of our own nukes..."

Han Zhuangzhi still couldn't believe it. "Really? But there are so many Subterraneans in there..."

Qiao Shuangyi was getting impatient. "Even if he can't win, with his Third Energy Level strength, retreating safely won't be a problem for him at all."

In the cavern, a group of Subterraneans had already rushed towards Chen Gu. These elites were even more powerful, each towering a head taller than Chen Gu, which particularly annoyed him. With a roar, his body grew enormously.

Then, with a casual grab, he crushed two Subterraneans to death.

The Subterraneans were taken aback; often, the more ferocious a creature is, the more it fears something even more ferocious.

The ferocious Subterraneans were clearly intimidated by an even more ferocious Chen Gu.

But Chen Gu hadn't enlarged himself merely to intimidate the Subterraneans.

He grabbed two Subterranean warriors, then launched two "Biological Nuclear Explosions," forcefully throwing these two "biological nuclear bombs" toward the distant altar!

Immediately after, Chen Gu retreated without hesitation, his body shrinking rapidly as he ducked into the cavern entrance.

#### Chapter 369: Continuous Explosions

On the altar, the aged Shaman gazed down in confusion at her two subordinates below, who had collapsed and were frantically vomiting blood.

Mysteriously, lights began to emerge from their bodies. The Subterraneans detested light, but the aged Shaman seemed immune to the harm it caused them and continued to observe closely.

The light quickly grew unbearably intense. Even the aged Shaman had to close her eyes and raise a hand to shield her face.

When the light reached its peak, the surrounding Subterraneans let out howls of pure disgust, still not understanding what they were about to face.

**BOOM!**

**BOOM!**

In the terrifying explosions, the team of spear-wielding Subterranean warriors protecting the area beneath the altar were instantly pulverized.

Then, the force spread to the altar. The aged Shaman looked shocked. A moment later, a massive dark-red energy shield materialized before her, protecting her and her four bodyguards.

The force of the two explosions struck the shield. It shook precariously but ultimately held firm under the onslaught.

The force swept outward, destroying several buildings and a large number of Subterranean warriors.

Even another Subterranean Shaman, who had been closest, was instantly blown away. Her head struck a massive boulder, killing her instantly.

After this Biological Nuclear Explosion, the ground was a chaotic mess. Many Subterraneans were dead, even more were injured, and agonizing screams filled the air.

The most critical issue was that these two explosions had left all the Subterraneans dumbfounded. What just happened? Why did our people explode, and with such tremendous force?

Chen Gu hid around a corner near the cave entrance. The blast wave had weakened considerably by the time it reached him, leaving him unharmed. He was deeply moved. Ever since I took on this wretched profession—or more accurately, since Milna Katerina's memories awakened—this must be the first time I've used Biological Nuclear Explosion and come out unscathed, right?

In the past, I always suffered some collateral damage. This iron-headed, reckless profession... It really leaves one speechless.

Han Zhuangzhi and the others, who had already taken cover some distance away, paled when they felt the two explosions. Wow, Chen Gu is a walking arsenal! He doesn't need our help for this mission at all; he can handle it entirely on his own.

Han Zhuangzhi's group of warriors, along with the two new recruits Qiao Shuangyi and Lin Xiaochen, suddenly realized something. They exchanged glances, a single thought echoing in their minds: So, we're just burdens, deadweight... dragging Chen Gu down.

Then, each of them looked at their own combat contributions and nodded silently. This deadweight? We're committed to being it!

Great Actor Chen burst into laughter, spun around, and charged out to fight again. This time, however, he was struck head-on by a powerful blast of air!

BOOM!

The airwave hit like an explosion. In the instant he was sent flying, Chen Gu saw the prepared aged Shaman, her Magic Wand raised high, aiming at him from a distance.

The other Shamans also waved their Magic Wands, unleashing a barrage of lightning, boulders, and explosions at him.

Chen Gu's greatest fear at that moment was being focus-fired.

Measured in game terms, Great Actor Chen's attack power was astonishingly high, but he still lacked any decent defensive abilities tied to his profession.

Simply put, he was a glass cannon: high attack, low defense.

This barrage of attacks slammed into him, driving him—the esteemed 'Volunteer Soldier'—deep into the stone wall behind him.

The aged Shaman's expression turned grim. With a wave of her hand, one of her personal guards descended from the altar, preparing to retrieve Chen Gu's corpse.

Chen Gu's earlier guess was correct. The owner of the Bone Magic Wand was the aged Shaman's relative—her great-granddaughter, not her granddaughter. Though, by human reckoning, perhaps more specifically a great-granddaughter through a female line?

Among the aged Shaman's descendants, none had shown great talent until the owner of the Bone Magic Wand emerged.

The aged Shaman had poured immense effort into cultivating this descendant, only for Chen Gu to snap her neck with a single hand chop.

One could only imagine the depth of the aged Shaman's hatred for him. Death would not be the end; it wasn't that simple. As adherents of an ancient shamanic faith, they possessed far too many methods to deal with a corpse.

The personal guard reached Chen Gu's side and paused, seemingly checking his condition. Then, he roughly grabbed Chen Gu's leg, hoisted him up, and dragged him across the coarse ground to the foot of the altar.

Led by the Shamans, the Subterranean warriors formed two lines along the path, continuously roaring and howling at Chen Gu's 'corpse.'

The personal guard knelt, Chen Gu's 'body' beside him.

The Subterraneans' fervor reached a crescendo as they all gathered beneath the altar, roaring.

The aged Shaman stared at the 'corpse.' Suddenly, her eyes widened in alarm, and she pointed her Magic Wand at Chen Gu, screaming.

Hearing her scream, the Subterraneans initially froze in confusion, then scrambled to find cover.

But it was too late. Chen Gu's eyes snapped open. He winked cheekily at the Shaman. Then, the Subterranean personal guard who had dragged him froze, his body already erupting with that intense, familiar light—the kind they had just so recently witnessed!

Chen Gu, meanwhile, executed a Quantum Teleportation. Pale blue energy ripples expanded and contracted, and with a SWOOSH, he reappeared at the entrance of the cave where he had previously hidden.

BOOM—

This explosion was just as powerful as the previous two. But this time, unlike before, nearly all the Subterraneans were at its epicenter!

Isabella Wu, I owe you one! If it weren't for all those strange things you made me eat that massively boosted my physique, that last barrage of focus fire would have killed me or left me severely injured. But I pulled through.

My feigned death was never meant to fool the aged Shaman. With her power, she'd have known I was still alive if I got too close. From the very beginning, my targets were the minions around her.

The personal guard had been under his Mind Remote Control from the moment he approached. Great Actor Chen, however, had been truly ruthless with himself for this gambit, forcing the controlled guard to drag him for several hundred meters.

My back scraped against the rough rock, my head kept thudding against the ground... but judging by the results, it was all worth it.

If you want to win 'Best Actor,' you've got to be cruel to yourself!

Chen Gu peeked out. The Subterraneans were in a pitiful state. The personal guard had been one of their strongest warriors, and the Biological Nuclear Explosion triggered using him as its core was no less devastating than the previous double blast.

More than half the Subterranean warriors died instantly. Another thirty percent were injured, leaving less than twenty percent unharmed.

The Shamans hadn't fared much better. Their bodies weren't as tough as the warriors', but they each had defensive spells. Otherwise, all of them, except the aged Shaman, would have been wiped out.

As it was, half of the Shamans were killed instantly by the blast. The survivors were pale, still reeling in terror.

#### Chapter 370: Blood Moon Shaman

Chen Gu gave a slight smile, then reappeared at the entrance of the cavern.

On the altar, the elderly Shaman's face turned livid! More than half of her warriors and Shamans had fallen; she was utterly humiliated and seething with rage. And Chen Gu, as if to spite her, chose that moment to provoke her further! They faced each other from a distance. Chen Gu made a throat-slitting gesture—a gesture universally understood by humanoid intelligent life forms as a blatant threat.

The elderly Shaman could no longer contain her fury and, with a sudden movement, raised her blood-red Magic Wand towards Chen Gu.

However, just after making the provocative gesture, a faint blue ripple of energy swiftly enveloped Chen Gu. It contracted sharply inwards, and he vanished with a WHOOSH.

The elderly Shaman's heart skipped a beat. She didn't believe Chen Gu would flee at this critical moment, so he must be preparing to attack!

The elderly Shaman closed her eyes, roaring and muttering incantations. When she opened them again, her originally blood-red eyes had turned a milky white.

She scanned the entire cavern. Her eyes detected no living beings, only faint lines—the pathways of flowing energy.

Chen Gu abruptly appeared behind a Shaman, his palm, sharp as a knife, pierced the Shaman's neck with a HISS!

Then, his figure disappeared once more, along with a few stone weapons of the Subterraneans that lay on the ground.

THUD!

THUD!

THUD!

These stone weapons materialized almost simultaneously in the chests of several Shamans. They looked at their wounds in disbelief, thinking they had been ambushed by Subterranean warriors from behind. However, as they struggled to turn around before dying, they saw that the nearest Subterranean warriors were several steps away. It was clear they were not the attackers.

The elderly Shaman's eyes precisely tracked the energy trajectories of these stone weapons but still failed to detect Chen Gu's presence.

Just then, alarm bells screamed in her mind. With a muttered curse, a dark-red energy barrier materialized around her.

THUMP!

Suddenly, Chen Gu appeared behind her, his palm, knife-like, struck forcefully against the barrier.

The entire energy barrier shuddered violently.

Chen Gu launched another unexpected attack. Just when the elderly Shaman assumed he would first eliminate her subordinates before their final confrontation, Chen Gu attacked her directly.

This was true strategy: always unpredictable.

The elderly Shaman abruptly slammed her Magic Wand down, and dark-red flames swiftly spread, turning the top of the altar into a sea of fire.

This was a special domain spell. Chen Gu found himself trapped within this sea of fire. The abilities of the Quantum Wizard were strongly interfered with, and he couldn't escape using Quantum Teleportation.

The elderly Shaman raised her other claw. The withered, rough appendage seemed impossibly heavy. As the elderly Shaman roared her incantations, a thick, blood-red light enveloped the claw!

Chen Gu felt a profound sense of unease; he was being restrained in mid-air by this 'Ghost Claw'.

However, in the next moment, a maelstrom of conflicting thoughts uncontrollably erupted in the elderly Shaman's mind—she even 'wanted' to direct this attack against her own divine body!

It wasn't that she truly 'wanted' to, but rather Chen Gu \*made\* her 'want' to.

Isabella Wu—Mind Remote Control.

The elderly Shaman was of a high rank and not easily controlled. However, this momentary interference allowed Chen Gu to break free from her spell's lock. He quickly swept down from the altar and vanished into thin air once more.

When he next appeared, he had already snapped another Shaman's neck!

"ROAR—" The elderly Shaman roared furiously, unable to contain her rage any longer. She flew down from the altar. Behind her, four gigantic wings of flame unfurled with a great ROAR. Magic Wand in hand, she hunted Chen Gu relentlessly.

Chen Gu suddenly materialized among a group of Subterranean warriors, his tactical acumen once again on display. The elderly Shaman's full attention was on the other Shamans, but this time, his target was the warriors!

Chen Gu spread his hand wide and thrust it downwards. Thought Storm!

Chen Gu could now harness the power of a Fourth Energy Level Brain Domain Hacker. To him, the brains of these warriors were like undefended meat-machines.

The savage onslaught of the Thought Storm struck. Hundreds of Subterranean warriors collapsed to the ground without even a grunt, their bodies completely limp.

"ROAR! ROAR! ROAR!" The elderly Shaman raged helplessly. Her warriors had been almost entirely wiped out, and only three Shamans remained.

The three surviving Shamans, terrified out of their wits, scrambled towards the elderly Shaman. She raised her hand, and three streams of blood-red power enveloped her subordinates, pulling them to her side. I will protect them myself and fight Chen Gu to the death! she vowed.

Her three subordinates, tears of gratitude streaming down their faces, stood behind the elderly Shaman.

Chen Gu appeared with a cold laugh some tens of meters in front of the elderly Shaman. She raised her Magic Wand abruptly. A powerful spell began to gather. But behind her, one of the Shamans' eyes suddenly glazed over. She raised her own Magic Wand and plunged it into the elderly Shaman's back!

"AUGH—"

The elderly Shaman screamed in agony. Furiously, she whirled around and wrenched the Magic Wand out, a long spray of fresh blood following it.

When had this subordinate been controlled by the enemy?

Chen Gu, still controlling that Shaman, made her brandish the Magic Wand for another attack. After all, his control was brief and only allowed for basic, mechanical movements, not the execution of complex spells.

This time, the elderly Shaman merely raised a finger. With a single gesture, the controlled Shaman's head exploded with a POP.

Blood and brain matter splattered onto the other two Shamans beside her. They were so terrified they immediately dropped to their knees.

Chen Gu would not miss this pincer opportunity. He darted towards her, his combat style rapidly shifting, as if channeling the distinct abilities of Milna, Katrina, and Derek Kun Shea Ken. Across the tens of meters separating them, one moment he dashed with the speed of lightning, the next he teleported repeatedly. This left the elderly Shaman utterly unable to discern what kind of 'spell' he was preparing to cast.

Since she couldn't predict his moves, the elderly Shaman decided to stop trying. With her back still to Chen Gu, she slammed her blood-red Magic Wand forcefully onto the altar. A terrible power erupted from within her. The four fiery wings behind her WHOOSHED, transforming into an enormous pillar of fire that instantly engulfed Chen Gu, like a torrential river bursting its banks.

But just as a victorious smile touched the elderly Shaman's lips, the two Shamans kneeling before her suddenly struck! They lunged forward in unison, forcefully plunging their Magic Wands into the elderly Shaman's body!

Indeed, the bodies of Subterraneans were tougher than those of humans. However, the elderly Shaman was ancient, her body severely weakened by age and decay. Shamans, unlike human Experts whose bodies are naturally enhanced upon advancement, sometimes even had to sacrifice their physical health to progress.