

Full Time 381

Chapter 381: Teacher Zhong Seems to Have a Lot of Influence (Three in One)_3

Chen Gu was astonished. "Teacher is so rich?"

"When Teacher was younger, he roamed the world with the Principal. He had participated in hunts for super life forms alone on three occasions. His family's wealth is very substantial," Bai Shengyuan said with a smile.

"Moreover, all of Teacher's research topics are Star Nation's top-secret key projects, allowing access to many influential people. These research topics also greatly help professionals broaden their horizons and solidify their foundations. It can be said that staying with Teacher for three years will bring immeasurable benefits to your future development!"

All the way there, Bai Shengyuan kept introducing the various facilities while also praising Teacher's abilities and status to Chen Gu.

However, he only briefly mentioned some of Zhong Yuanbei's "minor flaws."

Chen Gu still felt: I've been duped by Bai Yunpeng!

Finally, Bai Shengyuan brought him to a laboratory deep beneath the palace. A short, stocky, and slovenly middle-aged man with dark skin and a messy mop of hair was bustling between several huge instruments, busily carrying out various operations.

Before Bai Shengyuan could speak, they heard Zhong Yuanbei roar, "Idiot! Why did you waste so much time just picking someone up? Come and help me! If you dare to slack off again, watch out, or I'll smash your head!"

"Yes, Teacher!" Bai Shengyuan tensed up and quickly returned to his position, beginning to cooperate with Teacher on the research.

Meanwhile, Chen Gu was "forgotten" to the side.

Zhong Yuanbei hadn't said a word to him.

He didn't know what to do, but having already gotten a sense of Teacher's temperament, he just waited obediently to the side, not daring to do or touch anything.

This wait turned into a whole four hours. By the time it ended, it had already gotten dark outside, and Bai Shengyuan was exhausted. Zhong Yuanbei finally recorded the last piece of data and let out a breath. He then commanded Bai Shengyuan, "Go get some food. We'll continue after dinner."

"Yes, Teacher."

The weary Bai Shengyuan, who also doubled as Zhong Yuanbei's "servant," dragged his feet out of the room.

He was already at the Fifth Energy Level, yet a single afternoon of experiments had thoroughly exhausted him. It was clear how demanding the experimental tasks were.

Suddenly, Zhong Yuanbei noticed there was another person in the lab and immediately glared, bellowing, "Who are you? How dare you enter my laboratory without permission!"

Chen Gu: "..."

Bai Shengyuan quickly explained, "Teacher, this is the new junior, your new student."

Zhong Yuanbei became even angrier. "Nitwit! We were short-handed all afternoon, and you just stood there doing nothing? Don't you know to come and help proactively?"

Chen Gu: "..."

Bai Shengyuan urgently signaled Chen Gu with his eyes, telling him to apologize to Teacher.

But Chen Gu was completely baffled. What the heck? You left me hanging here all afternoon, and now you're the one blaming me? With that attitude you showed at the start, who would dare interfere with your experiment?

This unreasonable, foul temper! I'm not putting up with him anymore!

Chen Gu promptly said, "I want to change mentors..."

"What did you say?!" Zhong Yuanbei flew into a rage. A terrifying aura burst from within him, crashing toward Chen Gu like an unstoppable force. "You've entered my Yuanbei Hall, and you think you can just leave?"

Chen Gu complained internally, Is this a den of bandits or something?

Then, under the overwhelming aura of his mentor, he snapped to attention and declared loudly, "Teacher, I was wrong! My loyalty to you is absolute!"

Bai Shengyuan gave Chen Gu an appreciative look. Good junior, very promising!

Zhong Yuanbei strode over, hands on his hips, his large, bull-like eyes glaring as he sized up Chen Gu. "You're not exactly prime material, but you'll do."

"From today on, you're in charge of my and your senior brother's living needs. You must be on call at all times, and any request we have must be fulfilled within ten minutes!"

"Yes, Teacher, I guarantee I'll complete the task!" Chen Gu agreed loudly. Damn, if I don't agree, he'll really smash my head and personally drag me to the hospital for emergency treatment...

Zhong Yuanbei waved dismissively. "Go get us something to eat."

"Yes!" Chen Gu turned and rushed out like the wind. However, when he reached the canteen, he had missed mealtime; all the stalls had closed.

He looked around in confusion and grabbed a chef at a stall that was closing slowly. "Is there any food left?"

The chef rolled his eyes. "None!"

I'm done for... Chen Gu wailed internally. Teacher will definitely smash my head...

Hearing this familiar phrase, the chef shuddered and asked, "Whose student are you?"

"Zhong Yuanbei."

The chef immediately nodded frantically, like a chicken pecking grain. "Yes, yes, there's still food! What do you want? I'll have it ready in five minutes, guaranteed!"

"Hmm?" Chen Gu realized something and looked at the chef. It seems... Teacher is quite infamous throughout the school!

Interesting!

If that's the case... then don't blame me for using his fearsome reputation to my advantage.

Chen Gu quickly ordered a large amount of food, enough to ensure he himself would get full.

The chef's face fell. "I can't prepare that much in such a short time."

Chen Gu said very "amicably," "Just prepare some for now. I'll take it to Teacher and Senior Brother so they can start eating. Then I'll come back for the rest."

"Alright, alright," the chef hastily agreed. "Please, little sir, say a few kind words for me to Master Zhong. It's not that I'm delaying on purpose; I genuinely have practical difficulties."

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"No problem."

Then Chen Gu's eyes widened—the cook was actually a Fifth Energy Level master! With professional skill, the cook swiftly prepared a portion of food and handed it to Chen Gu. "Hurry and take this to Master Zhong," the cook urged. "We can't let him go hungry. His temper gets even worse when he's starving..."

Chen Gu took the food and dashed off. This was the first time he had truly experienced the formidable presence of a mentor within the school.

So, after Chen Gu returned to the Far North Hall with the first portion of food, he adopted a demeanor completely different from the proud defiance he'd shown earlier. He stood attentively by his mentor, "thoughtfully" holding a glass of ice water, and leaned in slightly to ask, "Teacher, are you satisfied with today's dishes? Are they to your liking? Is the seasoning right? How is everything cooked?"

What an actor I am, Chen Gu mused. Changing personas on a dime like that.

Bai Shengyuan glanced at his junior brother in surprise. Good lad, very promising, he thought. No wonder Uncle told me you were the only new student this year with any hope of saving me from this mess!

Zhong Yuanbei wasn't particular about his food. In his opinion, as long as it met a professional's normal energy requirements, it was sufficient. Of course, there was a difference between good and bad-tasting food, but he considered it meaningless. The priority was not to delay his research time.

However, Zhong Yuanbei's personality also meant he had a strong desire for control. While Chen Gu's flattery didn't particularly impress him, he was quite satisfied with this display of "obedience" and "compliance."

So, he glanced sideways at this new student and said, "Acceptable."

This was an answer to Chen Gu's questions about the food, and also a subtle assessment of Chen Gu himself.

Bai Shengyuan was so excited that his hands, holding his rice bowl, trembled. A new student, on only his second meeting with the teacher, had received a positive evaluation: "Acceptable!"

What? You say 'acceptable' isn't a positive evaluation? he thought incredulously. For a strict and demanding mentor, any feedback that isn't negative **is** positive! In fact, 'acceptable' is quite high up in the teacher's ranking of positive evaluations! There are others like 'not bad,' 'ordinary,' and 'so-so,' all of which rank below 'acceptable.' Do you know how long it took me to get my first positive comment from him? Three whole months! And that first positive comment was just 'so-so'!

His heart brimming with longing for the outside world, dreams of a bright future, and the desperate hope of escaping this cage, Bai Shengyuan forced a calm tone and said to his teacher, "With Junior Brother here to help you, I can finally graduate with peace of mind."

"Dream on," Zhong Yuanbei said flatly, shattering Bai Shengyuan's hopes. But just as Bai Shengyuan felt himself plummeting into an abyss, Zhong Yuanbei pulled him back at the perfect moment, saying, "If he wants to take over your duties, he must at least become proficient with all the laboratory equipment, thoroughly understand every ongoing project, and instantly know the significance of any data I mention."

"Teacher, you must keep your word!" Bai Shengyuan exclaimed, jumping to his feet.

Zhong Yuanbei, ever efficient, finished the large remaining portion of his rice in one go, calmly wiped his mouth, and said, "Of course, I keep my word."

"Alright! Give me three months, and I will definitely graduate!"

Chen Gu looked at his senior brother, who was brimming with hope and confidence, and sighed inwardly. Senior Brother, you underestimate me. Three months to get familiar? I'm the Brain Domain Hacker! A born top student. If I wanted to, you could graduate tonight. But recently, some sly old fox tricked me into taking the fall for his nephew, and I'm not happy about it. Something I could master in thirty minutes, I now plan to spend three years on, studying much more diligently and deeply. Of course,

if that sly old fox is willing to pay a price, my learning schedule is very flexible. The higher the price, the shorter the time! Marry Bai Xianya to me, and I guarantee, Senior Brother, you'll be a graduate of Huai Shan Branch School by tomorrow morning! Scratch that last part; I accidentally let my true thoughts slip out.

Zhong Yuanbei was well aware of his senior disciple's burning desire for freedom. As for which number disciple Bai Shengyuan actually was... that was unimportant.

Zhong Yuanbei waved his hand at Chen Gu. "You go eat as well. I'll give you ten minutes, then come straight back."

"Okay!"

Chapter 383: Respecting Students' Wishes

Chen Gu used "Quantum Teleportation" to go directly from Yuanbei Hall to the canteen, then packed up enough food to truly satisfy his appetite and took it back to his dormitory.

"Put it on my teacher's account," Chen Gu instructed the cook before leaving. "Make sure the bill is clear. My teacher won't let you off if you get it wrong!"

"Don't worry," the cook quickly replied. "Other stalls give Teacher Zhong a 20% discount, but if you come to me every day, I'll give Teacher Zhong a 30% discount."

"Sounds good," Chen Gu thought. His teacher's influence is indeed very useful.

Andreyao and a few others were gathered in a pavilion beside a palace plaza. He looked displeased, and his "good brothers" knew why he was in a bad mood.

One of them said, "Bro Yao, we can't make a move inside the school, but we can get him outside."

"I just had someone check that kid out. He's with the Bureau of Mystic Security, has to report in regularly, and often leaves campus to return to the city. We'll have plenty of chances."

The others suddenly understood. "No wonder he got a spot in our Huai Shan Branch School! It's said that Aviloya has some... HEH HEH HEH... relationship with the Headmaster!"

Andreyao frowned. He vaguely felt it wouldn't be as sordid as they imagined, but he seriously considered his underling's suggestion.

After a moment, he finally spoke slowly, "I have my own arrangements for this matter. You don't need to interfere."

His subordinates nodded. They certainly understood their boss. If Andreyao said he had "arrangements," then there definitely were arrangements. Based on past experience, Andreyao's plans were often several times more ruthless than their suggestions.

After the group dispersed, Andreyao returned to his dormitory and made a phone call. "Second Uncle, this person... help me deal with him. Do it outside the school."

As he spoke, he sent over Chen Gu's basic information.

His Second Uncle asked indifferently, "The reason?"

"For Ye Feileng."

"To what extent?"

"Ruin his aptitude, destroy his future, but leave him alive. After all, he's a student at the school, and the Headmaster would probably be furious if we killed him."

"Understood."

A person's fate was decided in a casual conversation between the two. At least, that's what they believed. They had grown so accustomed to "manipulating" the fates of ordinary people like this that they no longer remembered how many times they had done it.

After hanging up, Second Uncle gestured casually. His subordinates, understanding implicitly, worked quickly, and soon various documents were delivered.

Second Uncle first reviewed Chen Gu's file, then smiled faintly. "He's a good prospect. What a pity."

His connections to the Bureau of Mystic Security might be troublesome, but the An Family could handle it. Besides, compared to the potential gains concerning Ye Feileng, these costs were entirely bearable.

Ye Feileng's file was also delivered. Second Uncle had seen the initial parts before; it recorded that Ye Feileng had become one of the representative figures of a certain small clique.

And this small clique was the "commoner faction" of the Huai Shan Branch School.

By winning over Ye Feileng, it might be possible to win over the entire commoner faction. Even if they couldn't make the commoner faction completely loyal, they could at least establish a good cooperative relationship.

Moreover, among all the students at the Huai Shan Branch School, Ye Feileng's aptitude ranked among the highest, with the potential to reach the Ninth Power Level in the future.

The An Family's long-standing weakness had been "insufficient combat strength." If they could win over this small clique, they could compensate for this weakness. Of course, this weakness was relative to other powerful and influential families.

That's why the An Family fully supported Andreyao in his pursuit of Ye Feileng.

The supplementary information detailed the conflict between Ye Feileng and Chen Gu concerning the incident outside the Wuning Temple generator. This matter was still under strict secrecy, and they had

not uncovered the details, but evidence from various sources indicated that Ye Feileng harbored a particular disdain for Chen Gu.

The intelligence work of these powerful and prominent families is indeed impressive.

Second Uncle tapped the table with his finger. "Have Gui Wan lead a team there."

"Yes."

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Over the past few days, Chen Gu had become quite friendly with the Fifth Power Level chef in the canteen.

Instead of pocketing the extra discount, Chen Gu used the same amount of money to get more food, savoring the small joy of finally being able to "eat his fill"!

Life was quite pleasant. For the time being, his mentor Zhong Yuanbei's attention was still focused on his senior brother. Until Chen Gu could take over Bai Shengyuan's work, his senior brother couldn't expect to be relieved of his duties so easily.

However, Bai Shengyuan had recently noticed that his junior brother's learning progress was exceptionally slow, and Chen Gu always had a legitimate excuse!

Bai Shengyuan suspected Chen Gu was deliberately dragging his feet to keep him stuck there, but he had no proof.

Before he knew it, the weekend arrived. Chen Gu told his teacher he needed to go home.

Zhong Yuanbei nearly exploded. "Weekend? There's no such thing as a weekend in this world! Don't be delusional!"

"Well..." Chen Gu fidgeted with his fingers. "I'm afraid the Bureau of Mystic Security might not react well. I need to report in every weekend."

Zhong Yuanbei glared, casually flipped through his contacts, and quickly found Aviloya's number. "Hello, it's me, Zhong Yuanbei."

"Chen Gu belongs to me now."

Then poor Teacher Zhong was thoroughly rebuffed. Aviloya had clearly rejected him without mercy. His expression turned ugly as he gritted his teeth. "Aviloya, don't you forget you're a student of the Huai Shan Branch School!"

However, the next second, his face turned even uglier; he had undoubtedly been rejected again.

There's actually a woman in this world who can reject me, Zhong Yuanbei, twice! Zhong Yuanbei's pride was wounded, and his stubborn temper flared. "I don't care! Chen Gu is my student! From now until he graduates, he can only be at Yuanbei Hall or his dorm! He will not take a single step outside the Huai Shan Branch School!"

At that, Aviloya on the other end of the line exploded. Her voice shot up in decibels, and both Chen Gu and Bai Shengyuan could hear her clearly:

"Where's my sword?!"

"Listen well, Zhong Yuanbei! Let Chen Gu report to the Bureau of Mystic Security immediately, or I'll storm your shabby Yuanbei Hall in three minutes! Neither the Headmaster nor the Huai Shan Branch School's defense system will stop me!"

"Don't give me that nonsense! I'm not buying it! Try me if you dare!"

Zhong Yuanbei roared in fury, "Try me then! Just try me!"

Then, with a CLICK, he slammed down the phone, frustrated beyond measure. He waved Chen Gu away. "Go, go, go! If you want to go back, then go! I'm done caring, you little traitor! Although I am your mentor, I must also respect your personal wishes."

"Huh?" Chen Gu was baffled. What's going on? Sir, why are you backing down now?

When you shouted 'Try me then! Just try me!' at the Valkyrie just now, I actually felt a tiny bit of admiration for you.

Bai Shengyuan rarely saw their mentor suffer a setback like this. He felt incredibly refreshed but dared not show it, struggling hard to suppress his amusement.

Teacher, this democratic approach of respecting a student's personal wishes... could it possibly apply to me as well?

Chapter 384: Transforming Mecha

"Yes," Chen Gu replied, then walked away, quite disappointed. It seems that even big shots have their own levels. Zhong Yuanbei is a schoolyard bully, but Aviloya is clearly a heavyweight on the principal's level.

He left the school and drove back to the city.

Tens of minutes later, as he passed through a lush primeval forest, a bright beam of energy suddenly shot up from the ground and accurately hit Chen Gu's maglev car.

BANG!

The energy beam exploded on impact, flinging the maglev car dozens of meters into the air. The car shook violently, tumbling for a moment before stabilizing, then abruptly accelerated, fleeing into the distance.

The Lightning Edition [Xuanwu III] is indeed formidable.

The ambusher on the ground was quite surprised. But soon, twelve heavy maglev motorcycles roared out, relentlessly pursuing and attempting to intercept the Lightning Edition [Xuanwu III].

Both sides chased each other through the sky, covering dozens of kilometers in an instant. The pursuers gradually grew impatient. Their heavy maglev motorcycles suddenly split and transformed, their components reconfiguring into Mecha parts that attached to the riders.

After transforming into Mechas, their speed increased again. They quickly caught up and surrounded Chen Gu from all sides.

The leading Mecha warrior, with an incredibly deft maneuver, got underneath the vehicle. He smashed the thick armor of the maglev car with a punch, then reached in and disabled the car's power system.

Inside the car, Chen Gu put on an exaggerated expression of "terror," desperately calling out to his instructor, "Teacher, Teacher, save me!"

Zhong Yuanbei and Bai Shengyuan were conducting an experiment and paid him no mind. In fact, Chen Gu hadn't counted on them to rescue him anyway.

BANG! BANG! BANG!

Each strike from the Mecha warrior carried a special "mechanical rhythm," unleashing the full power of their equipment as they dismantled Chen Gu's Lightning Edition [Xuanwu III] into a heap of scrap...

Star Battle Instructor... this is High-Energy Combat Art! Chen Gu realized. And it seems to be on par with Griffin Wester.

Griffin Wester's professional rank wasn't considered high; his real strength lay in the training and command abilities of a Star Battle Instructor.

However, the Star Battle Instructor who was fiercely attacking suddenly stopped. He had an abrupt feeling that the person before him was not his enemy.

This feeling is bizarre. I know perfectly well Chen Gu is the target Second Uncle ordered me to eliminate, yet... I also feel he isn't my enemy. I know I should strike, but I don't want to.

During this moment of hesitation, several Mechas suddenly approached from behind him, unleashing an onslaught of high-energy weapons.

A traitor! Gui Wan cursed inwardly.

Even though he was ambushed, his strength far surpassed that of his team members. He twisted to evade, then counterattacked.

BOOM! BOOM!

He blew up two Mechas on the spot.

However, the remaining Mechas all turned on him, attacking with lethal intent. Something is very wrong. The entire team are traitors? Impossible! Gui Wan sensed.

He then recalled the sudden thought about Chen Gu—"not an enemy"—that had inexplicably surfaced. Instantly, a cold sweat drenched his entire body. A high-level Psychological Spy!

It was too late, however. The entire squad swarmed him. Gui Wan managed to kill all his subordinates, but not before sustaining multiple injuries himself.

Then, he saw an old man approaching through the air. He knew full well this old man was a Psychological Spy, his enemy, yet some part of him could not bring himself to attack.

In the end, amidst intense inner conflict and struggle, he watched helplessly as the other party opened his Mecha's faceplate and delivered a fatal punch to his head.

Chen Gu watched the old man with a smile. "Senior Gong Shuxu, thanks!"

Only after Gong Shuxu had killed Gui Wan did the powerful energy fluctuations of his Sixth Energy Level Psychological Spy ability slowly dissipate.

He shook his head at Chen Gu. "You've only been in school for a week, and you've already provoked such a powerful enemy?"

Chen Gu shrugged. "I never cause trouble without reason; you should know that." He glanced at the falling Mechas and bodies. "But I think I know who it is."

Gong Shuxu said indifferently, "Since you know, just keep it in mind."

Chen Gu remained noncommittal, understanding Gong Shuxu's meaning. Gong Shuxu had smashed Gui Wan's head, rendering identification and memory retrieval impossible. Consequently, there was no concrete evidence pointing to the An Family.

He did this considering the Bureau of Mystic Security's broader interests, not wanting to pit the Bureau directly against the An Family. Later, Aviloya would undoubtedly approach the An Family. The An Family, in turn, would tacitly pay a certain price for their actions today. However, two major powers within the Confederation would not go to war over Chen Gu.

Chen Gu understood Gong Shuxu's approach, but that didn't mean he was willing to let the matter rest.

"Let's go," Gong Shuxu said to Chen Gu.

Chen Gu followed him to headquarters. To his surprise, Dr. Meng Ji didn't pester him about researching his body this time.

"The Doctor has found the right research direction and is reportedly at a crucial stage for achieving results," Qing Ruyan told him.

Chen Gu was inwardly astonished. No way! Could it be that Dr. Meng Ji actually found a way to moonlight? That seems a bit... magical.

After strolling around headquarters for a bit, Chen Gu was ready to leave when he was approached by one of Oubayang's students.

"This is for you," the student said, a mysterious smile on his face as he handed over a silver-white metal box. Chen Gu opened it to find a plain ring inside.

Puzzled, Chen Gu looked at the student, who gestured for him to put it on. As Chen Gu slipped it onto his finger, he immediately understood what it was.

A miniature Dimensional Cage!

He looked at the student in shock. "So, a finished product actually exists!"

"The first batch consists of ten rings. This can be considered mass production, but approximately fifty percent of the materials used are exotic substances, remnants of super-life forms, and... certain special ores. These ores are mined from specific planets in the universe and cannot yet be artificially synthesized."

"Therefore, true mass production is actually very difficult. There's still a long road ahead to reduce costs to an acceptable level."

"Each Dimensional Prison Ring is still considered a precious experimental prototype."

Then, Chen Gu saw all the researchers on this floor gather around him, their faces wreathed in smiles.

"What... is this all about?" Chen Gu asked, a sense of foreboding washing over him.

"Heh heh. This ring was applied for under our teacher's lab's name. It can be yours, but we have one small request," one of the researchers said, grinning.

Chen Gu immediately became wary. He took the ring off. "State your request first."

"We want to continue the Combat Rooster research."

Chen Gu breathed a sigh of relief. As long as they don't research *me*! He had no qualms about selling out his pet. He slipped the ring back on. "That... can be discussed."

Of course, I can't agree outright. I need to haggle for more benefits.

Chapter 385: The Anneng Nuclear Car

From Dr. Meng Ji, Chen Gu had already figured out the habits of these researchers. To them, nothing was more exciting than achieving results and uncovering true secrets.

Of course, those who masqueraded as academics merely to gain power and benefits were not, at their core, pure researchers.

After some haggling, Chen Gu secured a considerable "consulting stipend" and the right to use the laboratory's various research resources to a limited extent.

Chen Gu agreed to bring his Combat Rooster to assist with some experiments when the laboratory needed it.

There was one condition: no harm would come to the Combat Rooster.

Once the terms were settled, Chen Gu went to see his pet, which gave him a start. In just a week, it had grown significantly, already reaching sixty to seventy meters. It wouldn't be long before its size exceeded a hundred meters.

Upon seeing its owner, the Combat Rooster happily shook its head and wagged its tail, hopping around erratically, constantly rubbing against Chen Gu and roaring.

This was only because its owner was a professional; an ordinary person would have been sent flying with a single nuzzle...

Chen Gu played with it for a while, then took the Combat Rooster to assist the graduate students with some tests.

The graduate students all grinned like foxes who had stolen chickens, whispering amongst themselves. Little did they know, Chen Gu, with his keen senses as a professional, heard everything.

This group of graduate students has great ambitions, Chen Gu thought. Taking advantage of their advisor's absence, they plan to use the Combat Rooster's special traits to achieve a major breakthrough! They might even get a step ahead of their advisor!

Chen Gu exclaimed in admiration, "You rebellious lot, well done."

Then, around three in the afternoon, Chen Gu placed the Combat Rooster into the Dimensional Prison Ring and left the headquarters building with it.

The Combat Rooster could sense that this place was entirely different from before, and it could vaguely sense its owner's presence. Therefore, it remained calm inside the Dimensional Cage, unlike its previous agitation.

The graduate students had thoughtfully prepared a large amount of "food" inside the cage space, consisting of various precious metals. The Combat Rooster's happiness index kept rising as it alternated between eating and sleeping. With no need to fight and no pressure from competitors, its body quickly swelled like an inflating balloon.

Without a car, Chen Gu had to resort to using public transportation, cutting a rather pitiable figure. However, he didn't head straight home.

While on the maglev train, Chen Gu opened the interstellar network and began searching for information on the An Family.

There wasn't much information available online. Large families like theirs routinely engaged in public relations to scrub any leaked secrets unsuitable for public knowledge.

As for "noble family" gossip, which might seem embarrassing, they didn't mind it remaining online for the commoners to gossip over.

From this superficial information, Chen Gu learned that the An Family's influence in the energy sector was formidable, and politicians with ties to the An Family all held positions in energy-related departments.

Now that he had a clearer idea, Chen Gu continued his search and quickly uncovered some of the hidden information he sought.

Afterward, he changed his destination and took the maglev train to a high-end commercial district on Capital Star—a floating island of Capital Star.

Due to Capital Star's immense population density, a law had been passed hundreds of years ago establishing access levels for certain areas. This floating island, for instance, had an access level of "Distinguished."

But, in the name of "fairness" and to avoid discrimination, the maglev train, a public facility, still had a station on the floating island.

To Chen Gu, this seemed like a futile attempt to conceal the obvious, yet reality is often so fantastical, he mused.

By the time the maglev train reached the station preceding the floating island, Chen Gu was the only passenger left.

On Capital Star, citizens of "Distinguished" rank would, under normal circumstances, almost never take the maglev train.

This floating island was also the maglev train's final destination. It offered significantly more open space compared to ground level, making it quite suitable for train dispatching and management.

Chen Gu stepped off the train and looked up. Coincidentally, the place he was heading to was right at the station exit.

It was a large composite material building, beautifully designed to resemble a sailboat cutting through the waves at sea.

A sign at the entrance read: "An Energy Nuclear Car Experience Store."

Chen Gu walked in. His Lightning Edition "Xuanwu Mark III" had been destroyed, and he needed a new car.

At the store entrance stood four salespersons in sapphire blue business suits, adorned with metallic name badges. There were two men and two women: the men were tall and handsome, the women slim and beautiful. All possessed outstanding appearances—a rarity even in an era where looks could be readily modified through various means.

However, as Chen Gu approached, the four salespersons merely offered a lukewarm, "Welcome," and remained standing still. No one took the initiative to greet Chen Gu or introduce him to the cars inside.

They stood at the entrance, having watched Chen Gu walk out of the train station with their own eyes.

Even if being on this floating island proved Chen Gu's citizen level had reached the "Distinguished" tier, the gap between that status and affording the expensive An Energy nuclear cars was still insurmountable.

They had seen plenty of people who had just attained the "Distinguished" level wandering about, visiting places they previously couldn't access just to broaden their horizons.

As salespersons, they excelled at "reading people"; they could tell at a glance which customers entering their store were just browsing and which were serious about making a purchase.

And they weren't wrong—Chen Gu really wasn't there to buy anything.

Chen Gu didn't mind. It would be nice to be warmly received, but he wasn't bothered by the lack of attention. Having lived two lives, he certainly wasn't the kind of immature youth who'd feel "slighted" at the drop of a hat and want to enact some "don't underestimate the poor young man" cliché.

Chen Gu entered the store and casually browsed the displayed information.

An Energy nuclear cars were not ordinary civilian maglev vehicles. Their presence in this location indicated that ordinary citizens could not purchase such cars.

At the very least, one needed to be of 'Expert' rank, Chen Gu deduced.

The core power of the vehicles came from the An Energy Group's patented nuclear engines. Each was similar in size to an ordinary engine but possessed performance comparable to a small starship's core reactor.

With such formidable energy backing, the car could generate an energy shield, making its safety features superior even to those of his previous Lightning Edition "Xuanwu Mark III."

The Lightning Edition "Xuanwu Mark III" had been specially customized for the dignitaries in the Council of Elders, but none of those prominent figures would own just one car.

The Lightning Edition "Xuanwu Mark III" was originally a product from Tao Industrial intended to curry favor with these dignitaries, who would also own many other vehicles, such as nuclear cars.

They would choose different cars for different occasions.

Some An Energy nuclear car models were even equipped with energy rapid-fire guns capable of "defensive counter-attack" in case of an assault.

Chapter 386: All About Acting Skills

According to the laws of the Confederation, civilian facilities could be equipped with energy guns, but there were stringent requirements regarding the caliber of these weapons.

However, obtaining a permit for such modifications was extremely difficult.

For Aneng nuclear cars, this was never an issue.

Moreover, the rapid-fire energy guns added to Aneng nuclear cars were riddled with irregularities. For instance, their firing and projectile speeds far surpassed those of ordinary energy guns, rivaling the most advanced military technology.

And although the caliber didn't exceed the standard limit, these rapid-fire energy guns employed a patented technology exclusively acquired by the Aneng Group. This technology allowed for energy compression in the ammunition to far exceed normal levels. With the same caliber, each energy bullet's power even surpassed that of standard military energy grenades!

To put it simply, it was essentially an energy autocannon!

This was the benefit of privilege. All these details were highly classified and out of reach for the average citizen, who could only access publicly available data that ostensibly complied with all laws of the Confederation.

If ordinary citizens truly believed that those in the privileged class adhered to the law just as they did, they were simply naive.

Chen Gu took a stroll around the spacious showroom, which housed dozens of models of nuclear cars.

In front of each model stood a dedicated salesperson responsible for providing introductions. Seeing that Chen Gu wasn't accompanied by any other sales staff, they all treated him with indifference.

Only when Chen Gu asked questions did they offer a few lukewarm replies.

Chen Gu moved to the front of the most expensive model, the "Ground Palace IV." The car's design was exceptionally sleek, featuring a transformation capability that allowed it to switch freely between two distinct styles.

Currently, it was displayed in a sports car-like configuration, which was very eye-catching.

Its other form boasted a "reserved and sophisticated" appearance—much more understated. It could drive right past you, and you might never realize it was a car worth two hundred forty million.

Yes, this car's price tag was two hundred forty million.

Chen Gu was quite satisfied with this car. If it were my own money, I definitely wouldn't spend over two hundred million on a vehicle. That amount could buy a significant amount of advancement resources, he thought.

He checked the time and muttered to himself, The Bureau of Mystic Security is moving a bit slowly.

Just then, several salespeople—three women and one man—emerged from a nearby office area, complaining as they walked. "Why do we even need sales targets for a shop like ours? We barely get any customers all year."

"We just need to land one rich sucker, and that'll cover us for the year. What's that old saying again...?"

"No business for three years; one deal feeds you for three."

"Exactly!"

One of the female salespeople, who was slightly more attractive than the others, added, "You all really lack ambition. What's the big deal about car sales commissions? Anyone who can afford these cars is loaded. If you can just seize the opportunity to marry into a wealthy family..."

"Stop dreaming! You think anyone from a wealthy family would actually look at us? The best we could hope for is to be a kept woman in a gilded cage."

"I'd be perfectly fine with being a kept woman in a gilded cage!"

"Speaking of daydreaming, Xiao Xi, are you still clinging to your dream of becoming a movie star?"

Nearby stood a saleswoman named Xiao Xi. She was petite, with a pale complexion. Her features weren't striking at first glance, but she possessed a naturally soft and delicate aura that tended to evoke a man's protective instincts. She blushed slightly and silently lowered her head.

The only male salesperson in the group couldn't bear it any longer. "Xiao Xi graduated from a proper film academy! What's wrong with her wanting to be a movie star? Is that a crime? You're the ones who should be ashamed, always dreaming of becoming mistresses to rich men!"

Chen Gu couldn't help but glance at the girl named Xiao Xi. As a Great Actor, he saw through her act in an instant.

A perfectly timed expression, combined with her natural demeanor, was enough to make the male salesperson jump to her defense, even at the risk of offending his other colleagues. This girl's got some skill, Chen Gu noted with an inward nod.

Just as the other women were about to retort, Xiao Xi spoke up again, perfectly timed, in a soft voice, "Stop arguing. There's a customer here, and the manager is watching from upstairs."

The group of salespeople stopped bickering, though they muttered amongst themselves, "You can tell he can't afford anything. Anyway, I'm not serving him."

Xiao Xi, however, adopted an "every visitor is a guest" attitude and walked briskly towards Chen Gu. "I'll assist him," she offered, more to her colleagues than to Chen Gu directly.

"Hello, sir. This is our most advanced 'Ground Palace IV.' Is there anything specific you would like to know? I can introduce it to you," she then said to Chen Gu.

Chen Gu smiled faintly, glanced at the time, and said, "Alright, show me around."

Xiao Xi gave a very earnest presentation, her enunciation clear and her intonation well-controlled. Chen Gu made another mental note: Her foundation in line delivery must be quite solid too.

After introducing the "Ground Palace IV," Xiao Xi showed Chen Gu several other models.

Throughout the showroom, the other salespeople remained at their posts, looking indifferent. They couldn't be bothered that Xiao Xi was willing to waste her efforts. Only the few female colleagues who had come out with her earlier stood to the side, making snide remarks and constantly rolling their eyes in Chen Gu and Xiao Xi's direction.

At that moment, while Xiao Xi was mid-introduction, Chen Gu's phone rang, interrupting her. He answered it.

"Hello, Chen Gu. This is An Guanghai," said the voice on the line. "There were some misunderstandings before. I think we need to clear things up."

Chen Gu replied nonchalantly, "I'm at the Aneng Nuclear Car Experience Center."

Then, he hung up and gestured for Xiao Xi to continue.

Suddenly, the manager who had been upstairs, along with the general manager from an even higher floor, rushed down hastily. Reaching the main hall, the manager urgently called out, "Everyone, gather around! The big boss is coming!"

He then warned sharply, "All of you, look sharp! If anyone messes up in front of the big boss, they'll have me to answer to, and it won't be pretty!"

The manager shouted to Xiao Xi, "What are you still doing with him? Get over here, quickly!"

"But..." Xiao Xi's expression perfectly conveyed her dilemma. Chen Gu, greatly appreciating her performance, said encouragingly, "Go on, don't worry about me."

"That... wouldn't be right, would it?" she hesitated.

Chen Gu gave her an encouraging nod. "It's fine. Go ahead."

"Sir, I'm truly sorry," Xiao Xi said with a slight bow, then turned to greet the "big boss."

Soon, several cars pulled up to the store entrance. An elderly man with narrowed eyes and graying temples, holding a walking stick and surrounded by a retinue of bodyguards, strode into the store with an air of extraordinary authority.

"Mr. An, hello! I am the general manager of this store..."

The general manager hadn't even finished his introduction when An Guanghai gently raised a hand, his white-gloved palm silencing him.

Chapter 387: The An Family's Money is Taken

An Guanghai tossed his cane to his subordinate and straightened his suit before walking toward Chen Gu inside the store.

He looked Chen Gu over and said with a smile, "Indeed, a young man of great promise!"

Chen Gu nodded earnestly. "I think so too."

An Guanghai laughed heartily and then said, "About the earlier matter, it was a misunderstanding. I came here specifically to resolve this misunderstanding."

He didn't mention what the "misunderstanding" was, nor did he deny that their people had attacked Chen Gu. Even though the An Family and the Bureau of Mystic Security had reached a compromise, the An Family had its pride. We'll compensate you, of course, was their unspoken position, but not because of you personally—it's for the Bureau of Mystic Security behind you. This was the kind of arrogance common to elite clans in any era.

Chen Gu nodded and pointed to the "Earthly Mansion IV" on display. "You damaged my car. Compensate me with this one."

An Guanghai agreed readily. "No problem. Someone, come and handle the procedures for Mr. Chen Gu immediately."

Chen Gu then said, "Ten of them, in different colors. I want to match them with my ten different girlfriends."

The hall fell silent. The salespeople and managers were stunned by this audacious move!

One car cost 240 million; ten would be 2.4 billion! Even if the actual cost was much lower than this figure, it was still an exorbitant demand. The An Family would have to pay at least five to six hundred million.

An Guanghai, whose eyes had been narrowed just a moment ago, suddenly widened them. He asked flatly, "Young man, one must practice moderation."

Chen Gu replied indifferently, "You know I'm not like most people. I'm in good health!"

Chen Gu wasn't going to just let things slide with the An Family after being compensated for one car, not after they had ambushed him with intent to kill.

He understood Gong Shuxu's position and actions, but he absolutely did not agree with them. His conflict with the An Family wouldn't be so easily settled either.

The An Family was very powerful. He wouldn't challenge them now, but he wanted them to feel some pain. With many protections currently in place, he certainly wasn't afraid of the An Family.

An Guanghai snorted, the smile on his face gone. He waved his hand dismissively. "Give it to him." Then he turned and left, without saying another word to Chen Gu.

The general manager stood there dumbfounded. Ten cars? Given away with just a single sentence?

Indeed, he couldn't comprehend the "deals" made at the top echelons of Star Nation.

With the big boss gone, the rest was naturally left to his subordinates. The general manager quickly checked the inventory to gather ten "Earthly Mansion IVs" in different colors for Chen Gu.

While the procedures were being processed, salespeople who considered themselves exceptionally attractive, both male and female, kept approaching, hoping to strike up a conversation with Chen Gu.

They all had their ambitions: maybe they too could become one of the girlfriends to accompany those ten "Earthly Mansion IVs."

Some male salespeople even thought they had an edge. Rich people really knew how to enjoy life, after all. The adage that "three flat things are no match for one round one" was common knowledge, and the wealthy themselves were undoubtedly even more intimately familiar with all its connotations.

However, Chen Gu remained aloof. He merely gestured to Xiao Xi. "Do you want to become an actress?"

A look of anticipation flashed in Xiao Xi's eyes, and she nodded vigorously. Chen Gu called Kong Kong. "I have a potential movie star here. Are you interested?"

Kong Kong was rather skeptical. "Just because you say so?"

Chen Gu said, "Don't regret it then."

Man Suling's voice came from Kong Kong's side; he was incredibly annoyed. "Fine, fine, fine. We'll go have a look."

Completing the paperwork took a long time. No matter how much Gao Mengjiu tried to delay, Man Suling eventually dragged him over. When Man Suling, wearing sunglasses, appeared in the store and snuggled up to Chen Gu like an obedient puppy, his earlier boast—"I want to match them with my ten different girlfriends"—seemed to be confirmed!

The sales staff immediately looked crestfallen. No wonder this gentleman wasn't interested in us.

While most salespeople only recognized Man Suling, Xiao Xi knew the true weight Gao Mengjiu carried!

Although Gao Mengjiu's main focus was the music scene, he also managed many stars who excelled in film, television, and music. Man Suling herself had recently begun to venture into film and television.

Xiao Xi was thrilled, never expecting such a great opportunity today. She assumed her earlier kindness to Chen Gu, when he was being snubbed, had paid off. Little did she know, her entire act had been seen through by the Film Emperor, who merely thought she was a promising talent and a way for his dense friend to make some money.

Gao Mengjiu took Xiao Xi aside to discuss matters. Before leaving, however, he shot a fierce glare at Chen Gu and Man Suling, a clear warning in his eyes: "Don't mess around!"

After all the paperwork was completed, Chen Gu drove one car back himself, arranging for the store to deliver the rest to his residence.

Man Suling insisted on riding in Chen Gu's car, much to Gao Mengjiu's exasperation. She reasoned quite plausibly, "You and Ms. Xiao Xi should take one car. More interaction will help you understand her better and discover her potential."

Man Suling slid into Chen Gu's car. The car was... well, the color didn't matter. The moment Man Suling sat inside, everyone around felt that the superstar and the car's color were a perfect match. A beautiful woman and a luxury car—they complemented each other perfectly!

Even the general manager inwardly sighed with admiration. The joy of the rich truly is this simple and unadorned!

Gao Mengjiu was also surprised. After a brief interaction, he too discovered that this girl, Xiao Xi, was a natural-born actress; there was drama in her every move.

Chen Gu, that blockhead, has such incredible luck! He stumbles upon such a good prospect just by strolling through a store.

With a few resources to promote her, in a few years, she'll be a money-making tree no less impressive than Man Suling.

But then Gao Mengjiu's thoughts took a strange turn. Did that blockhead give me Xiao Xi out of guilt for luring away my Man Suling? Is this his way of compensating me?

CRACK!

Andreyao crushed the glass in his hand. He had just received feedback from his second uncle: they couldn't make a move against Chen Gu for the time being.

His second uncle didn't blame him. After all, An Guanghai himself hadn't realized before taking action just how significant Chen Gu's "background" was, with the Bureau of Mystic Security vouching for him.

The An Family could only swallow this hidden loss for now.

However, fortunes change. As the saying goes, "Thirty years east of the river, thirty years west." Prodigies who flare up like shooting stars are a dime a dozen; how many are truly remembered? Great families, on the other hand, stand firm for centuries, even millennia.

Just because we can't move against you now doesn't mean we can't in the future. Is the An Family's money really that easy to take?

Ordinarily, after such a warning from his second uncle, Andreyao would have backed down. A major reason the family valued him was his ability to "see the bigger picture and consider the overall situation."

But this time, for some reason, a rage burned relentlessly in his heart, growing fiercer and fiercer. I, a scion of a great family, have to tolerate a nobody?

I told my subordinates I had this handled, that I had a plan. And this is the 'plan'? To swallow my anger and remain silent? How will I ever face my men again?

I hinted to Ye Feileng that I'd help her get revenge. And now what? I just take a slap from Chen Gu and offer a smile in return? Ye Feileng will probably never look my way again. And the family's subsequent plans? Forget about them!

Andreyao gritted his teeth. "This matter isn't over!"

Chapter 388: Rookie Training Camp

Half an hour after nightfall, Zhong Yuanbei and Bai Shengyuan wrapped up their experiment. Both of them heaved a sigh of relief before taking a short break to prepare for dinner.

But damn it, the new student actually left for the weekend! Zhong Yuanbei couldn't hide his annoyance and could only glance at Bai Shengyuan. "Go to the cafeteria..."

Then Bai Shengyuan suddenly noticed a flashing message in his inbox. Upon opening it, he heard the voice of a Fifth Energy Level chef, "Student Bai, Chen Gu had instructed earlier that all the meals have been prepared in advance. Just let me know when you are ready to eat, and I'll deliver them right away."

Bai Shengyuan and Zhong Yuanbei showed a hint of satisfaction on their faces, and Zhong Yuanbei thought to himself, This new disciple isn't entirely useless after all.

Bai Shengyuan immediately made the call. "Send it over."

Two minutes later, the meal was delivered. Bai Shengyuan went to pick it up, and in the meantime, Zhong Yuanbei opened his own inbox.

By the time Bai Shengyuan returned, he just caught Chen Gu's voice crying out, "Teacher, Teacher, save me!"

Bai Shengyuan instantly had a bad feeling. He noticed Zhong Yuanbei's complexion had changed.

He knew his teacher was extremely protective of his students, harsh when they fought among themselves and even harsher on outsiders.

A few minutes later, Zhong Yuanbei stormed out of Yuanbei Hall.

Andreyao's dormitory was probably the best in the entire Huai Shan Branch School, with ample space, good lighting, and the most complete set of exercise equipment.

Just as Andreyao was silently swearing revenge on Chen Gu, there was a sudden BOOM! From the main entrance to his bedroom, someone had punched clear through with a single blow!

Urgent alarm sounds resonated throughout the school. The security staff jumped up from their posts, rubbing their hands together excitedly. "Finally, after so long, we've found someone daring to cause trouble at school! Let's go, let's stretch our muscles!"

"Oh, it's Teacher Zhong Yuanbei. Never mind then. Everyone sit down, sit down. Turn off the alarms; they're too noisy. Don't disturb the other students' studies."

Zhong Yuanbei charged at Andreyao like a behemoth. Andreyao, baffled, was sent flying out of the dormitory by a punch from the teacher.

Andreyao crashed through the exterior wall and plunged into an artificial lake outside with a SPLASH.

That wasn't the end of it, though. Zhong Yuanbei followed, hauled him out of the lake, swung him around in the air twice, then tossed him high before landing another skyward punch that sent Andreyao even higher.

When Zhong Yuanbei appeared, Andreyao had already guessed: Could it be that Chen Gu's chosen mentor is Zhong Yuanbei?

This mentor had an infamous reputation throughout the school; virtually no student would choose him. Even Andreyao and his peers had overlooked this fact.

THUD—

Andreyao smashed heavily into the ground. The rough, stone-paved surface immediately formed a large crater surrounded by a spiderweb of cracks.

Andreyao had long since lost consciousness, not knowing how many bones he had broken.

Zhong Yuanbei checked the time. "Garbage, wasting ten minutes of my time!" Then, the teacher turned and returned to his lab as if nothing had happened, continuing his experiment.

Andreyao's lackeys hurried over and rescued him. One person said indignantly, "The school should do something about this, letting such a person..."

A companion by his side quickly covered his mouth, grinding his teeth. "Are you crazy? That's Zhong Yuanbei! If you spout nonsense, he'll beat us all up together! If you want to die, don't drag me down with you."

Chen Gu spent a delightful weekend. On Sunday afternoon, he went to the school ahead of time—not to return to school, but to visit Mao Yisheng at the rookie training camp.

The "Fourth Generation Palace on the Ground" had switched to a low-profile appearance, so he easily found the place.

This area was originally a protected zone, where the Behemoth Alliance's rookie training camps are usually situated to facilitate the most accurate assessment of the rookies and their behemoth partners.

Due to the Confederation's laws, permanent structures are not allowed in such protected zones. So, the region was filled with various kinds of bio-mimetic architecture that could be disassembled and recycled multiple times.

Only the Behemoth Alliance could do this. Other organizations wouldn't even dream of getting approval to rent a protected zone.

Chen Gu was stopped at the entrance by several uniformed staff who declined his visit. "Sorry, this year's rookie training camp is not open to the public."

Chen Gu was surprised. "Hasn't it always been open in the past?"

The staff member still shook his head. "Sorry, this year is an exception."

Chen Gu found it all rather baffling and, shaking his head, drove away.

The rookie training camp had to be open, as the Behemoth Alliance needed the hype. Before the games began, the rookie training camp was the Alliance's biggest buzz generator.

Instead of rejecting visits and interviews, the Alliance would even encourage them. Any piece of news coming out of here was a mix of truth and lies, real and fake. This gave fans plenty to guess and talk about, naturally raising the hype.

Not to mention, they could use "incidents" at the rookie training camp to create "grudges" and stir up all sorts of sensationalism.

Chen Gu parked his car at a distance and called Mao Yisheng, only to be surprised once again—the call to his close friend didn't go through!

It wasn't that nobody answered; the call was completely unreachable.

Even in a protected zone where the signal could be weaker, it shouldn't be this bad. Besides, since the Alliance had set up the training camp here, they would have surely boosted the signal strength.

A sense of suspicion began to rise in Chen Gu's mind, so he switched to Milna Katerina's memories and activated Radiation Field!

He was parked seventy to eighty meters away from the training camp. At this distance, his Radiation Field could detect every move of the staff near the sentry post. Even the subtle expressions on their faces were clearly reflected in Chen Gu's mind.

Chen Gu noticed the staff were very vigilant, keeping an eye on him. A few of them, realizing he had parked and wasn't leaving, had already gone back inside the sentry post.

They opened a box hidden underground inside the sentry post, which was filled with superweapons!

Chen Gu's heart skipped a beat. No way! Could something have actually happened on Behemoth Alliance territory?!

The Behemoth Alliance was wealthy and powerful; its security should be very strong.

Chen Gu nonchalantly started his car and drove away. Only once he was out of the staff's line of sight did they finally let out a sigh of relief and report over their communication channel, "He's gone. He must have given up after failing to contact his friend."

Inside the training camp, what should have been a vibrant and energetic place was now laden with a heavy atmosphere.

Huge, heavy cages, like dark iron domes, covered the ground, with dense ion plasma occasionally flashing across their surfaces.

In the rookies' dormitories, there was complete silence. Dozens of heavily armed warriors patrolled the corridors, vigilantly watching their surroundings.

All of this was completely invisible to Chen Gu outside, as the entire rookie training camp was enveloped in a layer of "Phantasm."

Chapter 389: Rookie Training Camp (2)

In the center of the camp, within a three-story bionic building resembling an ancient tree stump, a middle-aged commander with a stern face, wearing light-shifting bionic camouflage, heard the report

from the sentry post but still felt uneasy. He commanded over the public channel, "All perimeter sentries, heighten vigilance!"

...

Chen Gu parked his vehicle under a dense copse of trees, concealing it with branches and leaves.

After some thought, he sent a message to Gong Shuxu and Zhong Yuanbei, informing them that he intended to sneak into the rookie training camp to investigate.

There was no response from Zhong Yuanbei, but Gong Shuxu appeared before him instantly. "Don't be reckless!"

"The agency might protect you during this time, but that's not a get-out-of-jail-free card," Gong Shuxu said earnestly. "The Behemoth Alliance is no ordinary organization, and you shouldn't think of them as just a simple business alliance. The massive interests they represent are backed by powers far more formidable than you can imagine.

"Even the Director-General won't be able to save you if you truly offend the Behemoth Alliance."

Chen Gu shook his head and shared his assessment.

After hearing it, Gong Shuxu also grew suspicious. "I'll contact the Director-General."

Aviloya acted quickly, immediately seeking verification from the Behemoth Alliance, which provided a definitive confirmation.

Gong Shuxu showed Chen Gu the reply Aviloya had forwarded. "Are you relieved now? The rookie training camp has indeed been temporarily closed this year. It's the same old routine every year; fans are probably tired of it. The Alliance probably wants to try something new this year, perhaps play up the mystery angle."

But Chen Gu still felt something was not quite right. While he was hesitating, a few high-speed flying vehicles suddenly skimmed the treetops of the forest and rushed by, heading towards the rookie training camp.

Chen Gu and Gong Shuxu exchanged a look, realizing that the situation was indeed not that simple. Chen Gu immediately said, "Let's go take a look."

Gong Shuxu shook his head. "No. Regardless of what's happening in there, the Behemoth Alliance already knows and is dealing with it. We shouldn't interfere—they certainly don't want outsiders knowing."

Chen Gu insisted stubbornly, "No, I have friends inside. I have to check on them before I can rest easy."

Gong Shuxu said, annoyed, "We're friends. Don't make me knock you out and drag you away!"

Chen Gu wouldn't back down. "Do you really think a Sixth Energy Level like you can deal with me silently and without a trace? If we start fighting and alert them..."

Gong Shuxu hesitated, considering for a long moment before relenting, "You're only allowed to observe. No interfering!"

"Agreed!"

...

Under the cover of Gong Shuxu's abilities, the two easily slipped to the outskirts of the rookie training camp.

The battle had already begun. Several flying vehicles landed, and hundreds of fully armed warriors bearing the Behemoth Alliance insignia poured out.

These warriors were all elites. They effortlessly broke through the outer sentry posts and even eliminated all the hidden guards.

They split into three groups and pushed deeper into the training camp. Surprisingly, they advanced all the way inside without encountering a second wave of resistance!

Following these warriors, several Behemoth Alliance officials in lightweight bulletproof Mecha emerged from the flying vehicles. Escorted by a squad of warriors, they went to inspect the staff at the sentry post.

"They are our people..." an official exclaimed in shock.

The warrior captain reacted instantly, quickly radioing, "A Professional is involved! Most likely a 'Brain Domain Hacker'!"

From the flying vehicles, several figures soared into the air, their speed surpassing even the Mechas. Gong Shuxu and Chen Gu, observing from their hiding spot, understood these were Professionals.

One of them grabbed the corpse of a staff member. After a brief examination, he tore open the collar and found two tiny, healed puncture wounds on the neck.

The Professional pressed his communicator, his voice sharp. "Not a 'Brain Domain Hacker'! It's a high-Energy Level 'Sleeping Ancient Race' member—at least Sixth Energy Level! Everyone, be extremely careful..."

Before he could finish, the illusion enveloping the training camp flickered and vanished. A muffled BOOM then erupted from beneath the ground, shaking it violently.

Cracks spiderwebbed across the training camp grounds. The elite mercenaries who had charged in were experienced; they quickly slapped a button on their chests. From their combat suits, slender steel wires shot out—SWISH! SWISH! SWISH!—magnetically linking them together.

All the mercenaries were now tethered together. Some who lost their footing and fell into the fissures were pulled to safety by their comrades.

But then, countless black "hairs" erupted from the fissures. There were so many it made one's scalp tingle. In an instant, they enveloped all the mercenaries. Not a single scream was heard; those monitoring from the rear watched as the warriors' life signs extinguished one by one on their instruments.

The ground continued to tremble. The "hairs" slowly retracted, leaving behind only desiccated corpses!

"Damn it!" a Behemoth Alliance member cursed. The Professional from earlier waved his hand. "Fall back!"

The remaining personnel, weapons ready and on high alert, swiftly retreated towards the flying vehicles and established a defensive perimeter.

The Professional grabbed a nearby Alliance official, demanding, "I need all data on the behemoths in this training camp!"

"This..." The Alliance official hesitated. The Professional exploded in anger. "Are you serious? Dilly-dally any longer and we'll all die here!"

"Understood," the Alliance official quickly agreed.

Hidden nearby, Chen Gu glanced at Gong Shuxu. The latter grimaced and whispered, "Alright, kid, you guessed right again."

Gong Shuxu quietly let out a heavy sigh. He hadn't expected the Behemoth Alliance to actually face such a massive incident.

Furthermore, the incident's severity far surpassed expectations. The Alliance's crisis management had failed right from the start; their first wave of mercenaries was annihilated without even sighting the enemy.

Chen Gu, however, felt no pleasure. Instead, he was filled with anxiety. Where is Mao Yisheng? And those endless, bloodsucking hairs—what in the world are they?!

He had already made up his mind. "I'm going in, Senior," he told Gong Shuxu. "You can try to stop me."

Then, without waiting for Gong Shuxu's reply, he stealthily approached the Behemoth Alliance's defensive position.

Gong Shuxu hesitated for a moment, then sighed to himself and followed Chen Gu, ready to protect him.

Most of the time, as a Sixth Energy Level Senior Advisor to the General Directorate, he handled problems with composure. For instance, when Chen Gu was attacked previously, he had destroyed all evidence pointing to the An Family.

But that very incident had left him feeling a measure of guilt towards Chen Gu. He already owed Chen Gu a significant favor. Besides, even a Sixth Energy Level adept was still human; he couldn't bring himself to forcefully stop Chen Gu this time.

Besides, if we only participate covertly, with me keeping an eye on things, it shouldn't lead to a direct conflict with the Behemoth Alliance, Gong Shuxu tried to reassure himself.

However, Chen Gu's next actions made his eyelids twitch. This is a direct provocation against the Behemoth Alliance!

Chapter 390: Seeing Director Xue Again

Chen Gu did not approach to join the Behemoth Alliance's operation but to silently lurk nearby, positioning himself behind one of their officials.

This official's position was not high-ranking. At most, he played a coordinating logistical role during the entire operation. He was far from the professionals and mercenaries. Gong Shuxu saw the official's eyes become visibly dull and wooden; his whole body was as stiff as a malfunctioning bionic robot.

However, at that moment, everyone's attention was either on the training camp or on studying the newly acquired behemoth data. Not a single person noticed the official's abnormal state.

The official was merely an ordinary person. Chen Gu extended his abilities via "Psychic Tentacles," silently infusing the official's body with "Mind Remote Control."

Because of the stealthy nature of the "Psychic Tentacles," none of the nearby professionals detected it. Chen Gu easily took control of the official.

The entire process took very little time.

The official soon became a puppet for Chen Gu. He walked over to the professionals and observed the behemoth data with them.

And with Isabella Wu's memories enhancing his own, Chen Gu's mental capabilities were incredibly potent; he possessed an eidetic memory, and his logical analysis skills were at their peak.

All the data on the behemoths and recruits in the training camp were imprinted in his mind, including information about the camp staff.

He quickly cross-referenced this with his previous experiences and understood: the guards at the training camp entrance had originally been Behemoth Alliance personnel, but the "Slumbering Ancient Tribe" had controlled them.

This was different from Chen Gu's "Mind Remote Control." The Slumbering Ancient Tribe could control any ordinary person they had bitten and whose blood they had consumed.

What the outside world knew was that with this method, they could control at least dozens of "descendants," possibly even up to a hundred.

As for whether they drained a person into a desiccated corpse or turned them into a controllable descendant, the Slumbering Ancient Tribe was privy to the secrets of this process.

Regarding Chen Gu's "Mind Remote Control," even if he reached the Sixth Energy Level, the number of targets he could simultaneously control would not exceed ten. Moreover, the higher the target's Energy Level, the fewer he could control.

"It's the behemoth Kumataro!" a professional from the Behemoth Alliance suddenly declared. He pointed, pulling up an image from the behemoth data.

It was a bizarre creature, sixty to seventy meters in size, its body covered with tendrils, resembling a mollusk, and constantly writhing.

It hailed from a dangerous planet inhabited by various highly aggressive giant beasts. Humanity had not yet successfully colonized that planet, but behemoth hunters were very fond of it and often formed teams to hunt there.

Each behemoth could fetch a high price.

The officials also had a moment of realization. "That high-Energy Level member of the Slumbering Ancient Tribe turned the behemoth Kumataro into a behemoth descendant!"

The professional hesitated. "Our opponent... this member of the Slumbering Ancient Tribe is extremely powerful. We need backup—at least a Seventh Energy Level!"

In this batch of the rookie training camp, the behemoth Kumataro was ranked fourth on the official potential list. Its behemoth partner was the rookie "Mo Xiushan," who was this year's seventh pick in the first round!

It could be said this combination had a great future and was considered a promising pair, favored to participate in the Beast Emperor Tournament.

That a member of the "Slumbering Ancient Tribe" could transform such a powerful behemoth into a descendant and even enhance its strength was a testament to their own power. The previous assessment of Sixth Energy Level was very likely an underestimate.

An official from the Behemoth Alliance considered this, then contacted headquarters. A moment later, the official returned, face flushed with excitement as he hung up. "The Alliance has requested the Huai Shan Branch School to intervene! A powerful expert will arrive soon!"

Chen Gu's heart skipped a beat. A school? Who could be coming?

He mentally sifted through Mao Yisheng's information.

Mao Yisheng's club had just acquired two star players and wasn't prioritizing the training of new recruits. They had equipped Mao Yisheng with a behemoth named "Nocturnal Devourer." According to the information, it was forty-two meters long, possessed six spiny claws and a crocodile-like snout with a powerful bite, and was a behemoth that leaned towards agility.

Such behemoths often couldn't serve as a team's main force but rather played a supporting role.

Chen Gu was pondering Mao Yisheng's data when, suddenly, in the open space ahead of the group, between them and the rookie training camp, potent energy fluctuations emerged. The energy escalated with extreme rapidity, from initial ripples to a massive energy storm, and then a slender figure abruptly appeared.

Her back was to the Behemoth Alliance members as she faced the rookie training camp. She suddenly spread her arms and clenched her fists forcefully, as if grasping something, then yanked upwards.

BOOM! BOOM! BOOM!

The ground instantly shattered, and a colossal dark shadow was yanked directly from beneath it by her.

The members of the Behemoth Alliance were agape. The behemoth descendant Kumataro, which had just forced their horrified retreat, had been casually yanked from underground by the newcomer.

And subjected to terrifying crushing power, Kumataro writhed in pain but was still compressed, bit by bit. In mere seconds, its body burst with a POP, exploding into a shower of blood and gore.

"HISS—" The members of the Behemoth Alliance drew a sharp breath. So powerful! Finally, a dependable backer had arrived!

Chen Gu, hidden in the shadows, looked at the familiar figure, hesitating whether to reveal himself.

Her hair was as white as snow, yet her face exuded youthful vigor. It was Director Xue.

Director Xue easily dealt with the behemoth descendant Kumataro using "Entanglement Control." Then, she turned and waved to the Behemoth Alliance members. "Come over."

With a strong backer now present, the Behemoth Alliance pushed forward without hesitation, preparing to re-enter the rookie training camp.

During this lull, Director Xue glanced towards Chen Gu and Gong Shuxu's hiding place and gave a subtle shake of her head. Chen Gu understood and remained hidden.

The mercenaries from the Behemoth Alliance entered the rookie training camp again, but moments later, they withdrew, their faces etched with confusion. "No one's here. Not a single person."

This time, the Behemoth Alliance had also hired eight professionals. One of them twisted his body, unleashing the power hidden within. Amidst a deep roar, he transformed into a "Demon Mountain Werewolf."

His Energy Level was clearly higher than Man Suling's, and his transformed state was even larger and more ferocious.

He lowered his head, sniffing the ground continuously, and soon found a clue. "The sour stench of the Slumbering Ancient Tribe—I'm all too familiar with it! They went that way! Everyone, follow me!"