

Full Time 401

Chapter 401: The Impersonator

Principal Hua Buwu traced a line in the void with his hand, and a kind of power unfamiliar to Chen Gu sliced and isolated the space where Joe Madus was, trying to trap him inside.

Joe Madus's own alchemy process was forcibly interrupted by the isolated space, but the principal's face changed. "How cunning!"

With a wave of his hand, the isolated space rapidly shrank and fell into his palm. Pressing his hands together, a point of bright light exploded in his palm, leaving it pitch black. He shook his hand as if it stung a little.

Zhong Yuanbei had recovered quite a bit by now. The "minor" clash between Joe Madus and the principal, both of the Ninth Power Level, bewildered the onlookers, deviating greatly from the "earth-shattering battle" they had imagined.

But Zhong Yuanbei saw it clearly: "Joe Madus created a 'pseudo body' to replace himself, and within that 'pseudo body,' he hid an alchemy bomb no less potent than an Antimatter Bomb!"

From the start, the one who had appeared here wasn't the real Joe Madus, but his 'pseudo body.'

Just an ersatz entity like this had routed over two hundred professionals into disarray!

As soon as the principal arrived, he adopted the stance of "unwilling to fight on the principal's turf" and immediately began to alchemize himself to escape.

In truth, it was a ploy to lure the principal into trapping him there and then detonate the alchemy bomb within the 'pseudo body.' However, the principal saw through it at the last moment, and the alchemy bomb, upon which Joe Madus pinned great hopes... only caused the principal a bit of hand pain.

Joe Madus was indeed cunning; his plan nearly succeeded, but he underestimated the principal.

Although it seemed like he had the upper hand, the real headache lay with Joe Madus, who was now hiding in some corner, because he and the entire Star State were about to face the principal's frenzied retaliation—a strength far beyond their expectations!

The principal was indeed infuriated!

The entire school was destroyed in an instant. This wasn't just a matter of losing face; many facilities within the school were built with precious materials. Some research facilities were irreplaceable because their core components were either remnants of super life forms or mysterious minerals from the Star Sea.

Rebuilding the school wouldn't be difficult, but restoring its former research level would take a very long time and gradual accumulation.

One could say that with this incident, the Huai Shan Branch School had regressed overnight.

Furthermore, even if one excluded those special research facilities, simply rebuilding the school and purchasing ordinary equipment would cost tens of billions of Starshields.

Looking at Zhong Yuanbei and the others, the principal finally breathed a sigh of relief. Fortunately, everyone was okay. As long as the people were there, hope remained.

He looked gratefully at his old friend. "Old Zhong, we really owe you one this time."

Zhong Yuanbei said triumphantly, "Of course! It's all thanks to the good student I took in. He saw through Joe Madus's conspiracy in advance and informed me, which allowed me to turn the tide and gather everyone to confront Joe Madus! Let me tell you, I was quite the miracle worker just now..."

Zhong Yuanbei, in the company of an old buddy, habitually began to boast, but the principal showed a hint of surprise.

"Your good student?"

Zhong Yuanbei pointed at Chen Gu. "This kid here, though he's a bit slow in learning, not as good-looking, eats a bit too much, and has a bit of a temper, at least he's filial.

"And just now, thankfully, he pulled me out of helmet number three. Otherwise, this face of mine, which stands alongside yours as one of Huai Shan's 'Twin Handsomes,' wouldn't have been preserved! Then I wouldn't be able to join you in looking down on Shentu Lu's old tangerine-peel face with contempt..."

Chen Gu was already starting to regret pulling this guy out of the helmet.

What does he mean by "a bit slow at learning, a bit lacking in looks, eats a bit too much, and has a bit of a bad temper"? At least the part about lacking in looks—that's one thing I refuse to acknowledge.

He had always known his mentor to have a fiery temper and be notoriously fierce. Only now did he realize the old man was blind to the obvious and utterly lacked insight.

Chen Gu subconsciously wanted to retort, but when he looked up, he happened to see the principal behind Zhong Yuanbei gesture to him with a "don't mind him" sign, then worriedly point to his head, implying that the old fellow's mind was not right.

Chen Gu almost laughed. Are all you peerless experts this approachable?

The principal's mood, which was originally quite bad, improved a lot after Zhong Yuanbei's shameless ramblings and distractions.

He indeed started to see Chen Gu in a new light.

Originally, tonight had been a complete disaster for him, with the whole school torn apart. The only consolation was that the students and teachers were all safe and sound.

Initially, he thought it was the work of his old fellow Zhong Yuanbei, but now he understood that a good portion of the credit went to Chen Gu.

Of course, he remembered Chen Gu, whose Third Energy Level resonator he had arranged for in secret.

"Not bad," he acknowledged with a nod.

...

By dawn, Shentu Lu and Director Xue had rushed back, and a large number of powerful individuals hired by the Behemoth Alliance had arrived, suddenly expanding the school's power to a frightening extent!

Not only that, but high-ranking officials from many secret departments within the Confederation also arrived on the scene. A Ninth Power Level individual from another Star State had appeared on Capital Star without a sound—a serious security incident.

What if his target was to assassinate the members of the Elders' Council!

The principal casually dealt with these officials and then convened a high-level meeting within the school. Only four people attended: besides the principal were Shentu Lu, Director Xue, and Zhong Yuanbei.

Shentu Lu summarized the recent events: "It's basically been cleared up now. This was a conspiracy directed specifically at our Huai Shan Branch School, intended as retaliation for the prior Blue Bay Mineral Vein incident. Joe Madus was the mastermind behind the operation, with his subordinate, the Seventh Energy Level Psychological Spy Wan Lunnuo, executing the plan."

The Blue Bay Mineral Vein is located on Bestar 5, belonging to a minor Star Nation called Xinlan.

This mining area contained a significant amount of precious minerals. Once news got out, a scramble ensued among the four major Star Nations to acquire mining rights from the Xinlan Star Nation.

In the end, the contention narrowed down to the Star State and the Confederation. At a critical moment, the Star State suffered consecutive "leaks," which led to the Confederation ultimately securing the Blue Bay Mineral Vein's mining rights.

The reason behind the Star State's successive leaks was precisely those students cultivated over the years at the Huai Shan Branch School.

Many of them had been sent out to other Star Nations to live under assumed identities, carrying out various secret operations.

But in reality, the Blue Bay Mineral Vein incident was most likely just a spark. Over the years, the outstanding students that Huai Shan Branch School had sent out did a lot in the shadows, angering the other three major Star Nations.

And the most furious of them all was the Star State.

Chapter 402 Squeezing a Persimmon

This Star Nation has always been a "do as I say, not as I do" hypocrite. Their spies are scattered across the Star Sea, possessing the most numerous spy network of all Star Nations. Yet, they declare that if anyone sends spies into *their* territory, it is unacceptable—a violation of interstellar law and an act that undermines the great unity of humanity!

"Wan Lunnuo secretly infiltrated our country in advance. Starting from within the Behemoth Alliance, he guided its executives through multiple sessions of psychological suggestion until they ultimately decided to place this year's rookie training camp in the conservation area near the school."

"Then he personally rushed to the conservation area and attacked Andreyao, planting a time bomb."

"Under his command, Star State's secret agents and mercenaries took control of the rookie training camp."

"You all know what happened next. Andreyao suddenly erupted, drawing everyone's attention to the school, and through this incident, I was drawn out of the school."

"If the principal had insisted on defending the school, Wan Lunnuo might have teamed up with another of Joe Madus's subordinates, the Eighth Energy Level 'Magnetic Constrictor' Weia, to seize what lies beneath the river."

"If the principal had secretly returned to the bamboo house, then Joe Madus would have had roughly forty seconds to massacre the entire school!"

Principal Hua Buwu leaned back in his chair, his fingers lightly tapping on the desk. He quickly made a decision, "The An Family will bear the school's losses."

With one sentence, he had decided the fate of the An Family.

Andreyao had indeed been used, but ultimately, Andreyao was the one who had erred. If he hadn't had psychological issues and been filled with jealousy and hatred towards his schoolmate Chen Gu, he wouldn't have been exploited by the Psychological Spy.

Then, he continued, "Shentu Lu, do not leave for now. I will deal with the An Family's affairs and then head straight to Star State!"

Vice Principal Xue seemed somewhat worried, "During this period, Star State will definitely be on high alert. Perhaps it's better to lay low for the time being..."

The principal waved his hand emphatically, "The one thing I've never learned in my life is to lay low!"

Zhong Yuanbei, not the brightest bulb, slammed his hand on the table forcefully, "That's right! It's just Star State, screw them! I support you, Principal!"

However, as an Eighth Energy Level, he certainly didn't dare to charge into Star State alone as brazenly as the principal. His so-called support could only remain verbal.

After the principal had made his arrangements, he left the school briskly, not even taking his numerous lady friends with him this time.

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An Guangtian was somewhat perturbed. The events that transpired last night at the Huai Shan Branch School were something ordinary people could not possibly know. Indeed, ordinary people didn't even know the Tiangong Military Division had a Huai Shan Branch School.

There wasn't a single piece of news about it on the Interstellar Network.

But of course, the high ranks of the Confederation knew about it. An Guanghai had also received the news this morning.

He didn't gloat; on the contrary, he was full of worry. The principal was probably furious by now, and An Guanghai was painfully aware of how terrifying a furious principal could be.

That evening, after worrying all day, An Guangtian finally let out a sigh of relief when nothing happened. He reckoned, as he had previously guessed, that while the principal was indeed fearsome, the An Family was a behemoth not easily manipulated.

After dinner, An Guanghai read for a while, following his routine, and went to bed at eleven o'clock. The life of an elderly person was just that regular.

But no sooner had he lain down than his brother, An Guanghai, rushed in anxiously. This was the same An Guanghai who had displayed such "imposing family pride" before Chen Gu. "Big Brother, something's wrong!" An Guanghai exclaimed.

"Why the panic!" An Guangtian slowly sat up, glaring at him. However, An Guanghai was not calmed by his brother's composure and continued in a frantic tone, "The Elders' Council just signed an order overnight! All the people we supported have been dismissed. This is... they're taking action against us now!"

An Guangtian was stunned for a moment. The Elders' Council? Who could drag the most powerful elders of the Confederation out of bed in the middle of the night to sign an order? Of course, it was the principal. These old fools have no backbone! As soon as the principal threatened them, they immediately compromised. But why should our An Family be the unlucky ones?

An Guangtian waved his hand, "Don't lose your nerve. Our An Family is not some soft persimmon to be kneaded at will. They've knocked out our allies in the political arena; what more do they want? We just need to keep a low profile for a while."

No sooner had he spoken than the sound of a servant attempting to block someone came from outside, "Cousin Lord, please wait while I announce your arrival..."

But an old man, about the same age as An Guangtian, burst in, his eyes glaring. The old servant behind him looked helplessly at An Guangtian.

An Guangtian motioned for the old servant to withdraw. The visitor was his cousin, his third aunt's son. He had grown up with An Guangtian, and their relationship was naturally extremely close. So, over the years, even the old servant's habitual address had shifted from "Cousin Young Master" to "Cousin Lord."

Cousin Lord charged over, his eyes furious, "Big Brother, our family's sixth son was just taken away by the police from a nightclub! I tried to find someone to intercede, but they wouldn't listen at all. What on earth is going on?"

An Guangtian's eyelids twitched. Before he could reply, his phone suddenly rang. His brother An Guanghai's phone rang almost simultaneously!

"What? Deyang has been arrested?"

"The twelfth has been arrested as well?!"

Bad news poured in, one piece after another, leaving the three An brothers momentarily stunned by the relentless onslaught.

A moment later, An Guanghai was the first to react, his voice trembling, "Big Brother, think of something, quickly! They're pulling out the radish to bring up the dirt—targeting the younger generation to investigate our An Family!"

As for whether they themselves were clean, the three of them knew it all too well; it went without saying. Having thrown their weight around for so many years, their mountain of misdeeds could not withstand a serious investigation.

An Guangtian's lips quivered. He wanted to say again, "Our An Family is not a soft persimmon," but after stuttering "An" a few times, the words that came out were, "The An Family... is finished..."

Indeed, the An Family wasn't any soft persimmon, but before the principal, it was nothing but a squishy, mushy one.

Just a light squeeze, and it burst with a SPLAT.

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On the edge of the school ruins, a temporary camp had been quickly set up in just two hours using high-polymer lightweight materials. It provided accommodations for the school's teachers and students, as well as everyone from the Bureau of Mystic Security and the Behemoth Alliance.

Moreover, the conditions were quite good; every instructor had their own independent building.

These rapidly built camps, though durable, still left every teacher with various complaints.

After all, this was a far cry from their former "palace." Furthermore, the structures were currently just empty shells, devoid of any research equipment. For academic fanatics like Zhong Yuanbei, suddenly having nothing to do and being truly idle was torturous. It felt just like a drug addict without a fix. Whether standing, sitting, lying down, or walking, they felt uncomfortable in every way. Everything and everyone around them seemed irritating, and they were constantly looking for something to complain about.

Chapter 403 [Valkyrie's Protection]

As a dutiful disciple, Chen Gu took the hint and quickly found an excuse to leave.

He went to find Mao Yisheng, who winked at him and said, "Thanks, Brother Chen, the deal is done!"

Chen Gu breathed a sigh of relief and cautioned him, "Don't be careless. Since you've joined this line of work, you can't easily trust anyone."

Mao Yisheng slapped his chest. "Brother Chen, rest assured, I've watched hundreds of secret agent movies!"

Chen Gu: "..."

Well, regardless, he was just an informant within the Behemoth Alliance, not someone actually assigned to carry out dangerous secret missions.

Before Chen Gu had said much to Mao Yisheng, his mentor's call came through. "Where have you run off to? Get back here now!"

Chen Gu helplessly dragged his feet back. Zhong Yuanbei glared at him fiercely, but considering the young man had just helped him show off in front of his old companions, he suppressed his anger and threw something at him. "Take good care of it; it's a reward from the principal."

Chen Gu hurriedly caught it and saw that it was an ancient bronze bracelet. It was covered with intricate, dense engravings that seemed to follow some pattern, hiding a great mystery. At first glance, the bracelet felt familiar to Chen Gu, as if he had seen it somewhere before, but he couldn't quite remember where.

"A reward from the principal?" Chen Gu asked in confusion. "Is this an... artifact?"

Zhong Yuanbei humphed. "Be grateful you have a mentor like me who has good relations with the principal. Otherwise, you would never get your hands on something this good!"

"Try it on and see. Its power has reached the standard of a numbered artifact!"

Chen Gu was overjoyed but also a bit conflicted. "But my dear mentor, this is... too exquisite. It doesn't seem like something a man would wear."

"If you don't want it, give it back to me!" Zhong Yuanbei snapped, irritated by his fussiness.

Chen Gu quickly clutched it. "That's not what I meant, Mentor. Don't be so hasty. What I meant was, could we ask the principal if he could finish what he started and modify the appearance to make it more imposing? This looks too delicate..."

Zhong Yuanbei reached out to snatch it back, but Chen Gu held on tightly. "No need to change it, I'll take it! I am the Master of a Thousand Faces; versatile in style, I can pull this off!"

Then he quickly slipped it onto his wrist and, with a thought, sensed the artifact's ability.

"'Resonance Council Celebrity'? No, it's not that simple..." Suddenly, Chen Gu's mouth dropped open. "Is it Unit Three?!"

Zhong Yuanbei glared at him harshly, then said, "This is the alchemical creation that Joe Madus destroyed the entire school to make."

Chen Gu was genuinely surprised; no wonder it felt familiar.

Zhong Yuanbei continued, "Of course, Joe Madus created this alchemical creation to wipe us all out at once. We can no longer know what its initial power was. After Joe Madus saw Unit Three, he likely had a sudden inspiration and actually modified this alchemical creation's ability to be similar to Unit Three."

"However, Joe Madus was later driven away by the principal, and this alchemical creation was left unfinished. The principal then took it and made some modifications. But, after all, the principal is no Alchemist like Joe Madus. He could only manage to get it to its current state. With your strength, you should be able to wield about thirty percent of its power, which is enough to combat a Fifth Energy Level professional."

Chen Gu was thrilled. Neither the principal nor his mentor knew that he possessed the "Past of Four Hundred." They believed that at the Third Energy Level, this artifact would allow him to combat a Fifth Energy Level opponent. This meant he could actually use it to take on a Sixth Energy Level opponent!

"Thank you, Teacher! Thank you, Principal!" Chen Gu expressed his heartfelt gratitude.

Zhong Yuanbei said, "Enhance your strength as quickly as possible. The limit of this artifact should allow it to exert the power of the Seventh Energy Level. Don't waste it."

"Yes!" Chen Gu was overjoyed; it was indeed a powerful artifact that could reach the numbered standard. He sidled up to Zhong Yuanbei with a sheepish look. "Teacher, don't you think we're short on lab assistants? When the new students arrive next year, I'll figure out a way to coax a few to help you out, okay?"

Zhong Yuanbei's face broke into a smile, but then he reacted, puffing his beard and glowering, "What do you mean by 'coax'? Can't you speak properly? My lifetime of learning is unprecedented, and the experiments I'm responsible for are key projects of the Star Nation! It's their honor to be my students!"

"Yes!" Chen Gu humbly accepted the criticism. With good artifacts, it's no problem if you scold me three thousand times a day. "I misspoke; the teacher's lesson is correct. Next year, I'll recommend a few juniors with excellent aptitude. Please be sure to give them a chance!"

Now, Zhong Yuanbei felt much more pleased and nodded with reserve. "That will depend on whether they are sincere."

"Don't worry, Teacher, I'll make sure they're truly earnest!"

Zhong Yuanbei couldn't help but fantasize about the future. Having more than one student under his wing—what a wonderful prospect that would be! Poor Master Zhong. For a full three years, only Bai Shengyuan was at his beck and call. He too dreamt of the feeling when, with just a word, disciples would flock to his side. Then, there would no longer be a shortage of hands for experiments. Many times nowadays, robots had to fill in—cold and impersonal, lacking the warmth of science. It was a sorry state of affairs, truly. But what could be done? He had a fierce reputation and an unchangeable temper. No one dared to sign up under him.

He nodded in satisfaction but then asked his disciple with some concern, "How sure are you?"

"Don't worry, Teacher, I am absolutely sure!" Chen Gu was full of confidence. Juniors don't listen? Hehehe, have you not noticed the size of your senior's fist? It's as big as a sandbag!

Chen Gu caressed the bracelet on his wrist. Though it looked effeminate, its power was immense, and he liked it more and more.

He suddenly remembered, "Teacher, does this artifact have a name? If not, I'll come up with one."

It definitely had to be a name that was domineering, masculine, and straightforward—something to counteract the effeminacy of the artifact.

Zhong Yuanbei said, "It already has one, personally named by the principal: Guardian of the Valkyrie."

Chen Gu: "..."

The principal did that on purpose, didn't he? He knew about my situation with Valkyrie Aviloya, yet he deliberately chose such an effeminate name. Since he named it personally, I can't change it.

Chen Gu knew very well that if he changed it and the principal found out, he would definitely make things difficult for him. So, at least publicly, the artifact's name would have to be "Guardian of the Valkyrie."

Chen Gu winced, imagining Aviloya's reaction if she found out that something called "Guardian of the Valkyrie" was on his wrist... She definitely wouldn't dare trouble the principal, but she could certainly take it out on me.

Ah, the mess I'm in; it's so deep and dark! Chen Gu sighed inwardly.

But to actually give up this artifact was absolutely impossible. There's nothing more irresistible in the world.

Chapter 404: The Gratitude of the Alliance

Chen Gu grabbed the prop and found another excuse to slip away from his teacher. Zhong Yuanbei saw right through him. However, without any equipment at hand, Zhong Yuanbei couldn't continue his research. So, he glared at Chen Gu and admonished, "Take your studies seriously, and take over your senior brother's work soon!"

"He's already delayed his graduation by a year," Chen Gu replied, "I can't exactly keep him here for another one."

Zhong Yuanbei wasn't truly clueless. He had long seen through Chen Gu's intentions: to recruit new students next year, bamboozle a few juniors into joining, and then take over Bai Shengyuan's work. That way, Chen Gu could lead a carefree life without having to stay by his mentor's side and endure his "guidance" every day.

Chen Gu kept agreeing, then let it go in one ear and out the other.

Upon leaving Zhong Yuanbei's presence, he ran into Mao Yisheng, who was accompanied by two middle-aged men in conservative suits.

"Brother Chen," Mao Yisheng hurriedly called out, "I was just looking for you. These two gentlemen are officials from the Alliance; they're here to see you about something."

The two middle-aged men approached with a smile. One of them shook Chen Gu's hand, saying, "We really owe a lot to you, Student Chen."

As they shook hands, their gaze fell upon the effeminate "Valkyrie's Guard" on Chen Gu's wrist. He instinctively retracted his hand, hiding the bracelet back up his sleeve.

"You are too kind. I didn't really help the Alliance much."

"You can't say that. If it weren't for you detecting the seriousness of this incident early on, the Alliance might have suffered even greater losses. These newcomers might not have been saved."

They weren't making it up; the President had cleanly slain the newcomers' giant beasts, but at least this batch of newcomers was preserved.

If these newcomers had encountered further problems, the Alliance's loss would have been truly severe. Moreover, the newcomers from the three major Star Nations were thriving. In contrast, the Confederation would lack a year's worth of new talent, inevitably causing them to fall behind in strength. This would have a profound and fatal impact.

They continued, "...So we've come here on behalf of the Alliance to thank you, Student Chen." The officials glanced around. "How about we head back to the city and find a place to talk in detail?"

It seemed there was more to this than just gratitude; there was probably something else too, Chen Gu mused.

Chen Gu agreed; anything to "escape" from his mentor was fine. The school's cafeteria was also destroyed, he thought with some regret. Otherwise, it would have been great to eat there while discussing—after all, the Alliance would certainly reimburse any expenses these two incurred.

Director Xue will also receive thanks from the Alliance, I suppose, Chen Gu guessed. And the officials sent to him will undoubtedly be of a higher rank than these two.

Although Director Xue, accompanied by the Alliance's professionals and mercenaries, wandered around the protected area for a whole day, they were actually led astray by Gu Bu, Joe Madus's subordinate, and found nothing.

The officials had a car, but Chen Gu still got into his own, with Mao Yisheng joining him.

The "Ground Palace Generation IV" was still in its understated form. Mao Yisheng saw it and commented, "Brother Chen, going low-key, I see. What happened, swapped the flashy "Black Tortoise III Model" for something this ordinary?"

Chen Gu merely smiled without replying. Once Mao Yisheng settled into the car, he immediately realized something was off with this vehicle!

Touching the exquisite interior, he exclaimed, "Brother Chen, what kind of car is this? It must be even more expensive than the flashy "Black Tortoise III Model," right?"

Chen Gu didn't elaborate. "It was a gift," he said. "It's just a means of transportation, so I drive it."

The two Alliance officials had already reserved seats at a restaurant. Mao Yisheng made a point to mention, "Brother Chen has a big appetite." The officials immediately ordered considerably more food. However, Chen Gu inwardly lamented, This little bit won't even fill the gaps between my teeth.

Be modest, a boy should be modest.

Chen Gu resisted the urge to grab the menu and order three more of everything.

"We won't indulge in more pleasantries," an official said with a smile. "The Alliance has a special fund to reward friends who have helped us. Before we came, the Alliance specifically allocated a sum from it."

At this point, Chen Gu's account received a DING notification. He opened it to find that nine million Starshields had been deposited.

Chen Gu smiled slightly, without any great surprise. After all, as a professional, every promotion costs hundreds of millions; this money... can only slowly add up to something significant, he thought.

The officials, seeing Chen Gu's reaction, were secretly amazed. A college student suddenly receiving a whole nine million Starshields would normally be ecstatic, wouldn't they? they thought.

The two exchanged a glance, both thinking, Such composure—he's truly extraordinary.

"Furthermore," the official continued, "Mr. Chen will now be a VIP guest of the Alliance. No matter what match you wish to see, we will prepare a VIP box for you."

For Chen Gu, such benefits were merely optional. He still smiled. "Thank you for your consideration."

The dishes began to arrive, and Chen Gu proactively picked up his chopsticks.

After eating for a while, the other official said, "We hear from Mao Yisheng that Mr. Chen has a very obedient Energy Gathering Mechanical Species?"

Chen Gu glanced at Mao Yisheng, who spread his hands and said sheepishly, "I let it slip..."

Chen Gu shook his head with a wry smile. "I do have one."

"I wonder if Mr. Chen has considered joining the Giant Beast Battle League?"

Chen Gu looked up at them, surprised. The official explained further, "Although the Alliance is always thriving, we are always vigilant and striving to bring new elements into the league to keep the fans engaged."

"We've been adding new rules and modes of competition over the years for this very reason."

"To be frank, we've actually been trying to incorporate Energy Gathering Mechanical Species into the competition, but previous attempts have failed; those Energy Gathering Mechanical Species were completely uncontrollable."

"If Mr. Chen's Energy Gathering Mechanical Species is very obedient, we can issue you a wildcard entry to compete."

"If you perform well, we can make you a professional player and officially welcome you into the Alliance."

As he spoke, he opened a contract in front of Chen Gu. "The Alliance takes great care of its star players," he said. "Take a look at the contract and give it some thought."

Chen Gu glanced at the contract. The appearance fee for the first wildcard match was four million Starshields. This was quite high for a wildcard player.

Victory would bring a further reward of two million Starshields.

And if he could become an official player, then everything would follow the Alliance's rules, with appearance fees and prize money linked to performance.

Not to mention other factors, maintaining a win rate above fifty percent for a season would mean appearance fees and prize money alone could reach a staggering one hundred and twenty million Starshields!

Chen Gu was taken aback. "Alliance players earn this much money?"

The two officials smiled proudly. "The Alliance is incredibly sought after. While youthful dreams are one factor, the substantial income is another major reason."

"And what you see is just the income from matches. In reality, those star players also receive high salaries from clubs, signing bonuses, and even more lucrative endorsement deals."

Chapter 405: The First Opponent

"We've calculated that the average income of the top thirty star players in the Alliance was seven hundred sixty-four million last year!"

"The number one player in the Alliance, Boraruz, earned up to 1.7 billion last year!"

Chen Gu was moved; the advancement of professionals required a substantial amount of funds. The higher the Energy Level, the greater the cost. Beyond a certain Energy Level, many resources needed for advancement couldn't even be bought with money, yet money remained indispensable.

After arriving at Capital Star, Chen Gu truly understood that the Chen family, with only Chen Bio to its name, was indeed "poor."

He couldn't always rely on Chen Bio, which still belonged to his adult son, for the funds needed for advancement.

Besides, his adult son also needed money; one Chen Bio simply couldn't sustain the financial needs of two high Energy Level professionals.

Chen Gu wouldn't underestimate the Behemoth Alliance, but he had confidence in Combat Rooster.

"Alright, I agree."

The two officials smiled. "You've made a wise decision; you'll never regret it in the future."

Now that he had decided to join the Behemoth Alliance, Chen Gu was no longer polite with them and waved, "Waiter, bring three menus."

The two officials watched in astonishment as Chen Gu finished all the food from three menus, their jaws nearly dropping onto the table. Mao Yisheng wished he could find a hole to crawl into...

Chen Gu asked, wiping his mouth with a napkin, "When is my first match scheduled?"

Chen Gu regarded the officials' shock with disdain. *Simpletons who haven't seen the world,* he scoffed internally. *Scared by this little amount of food? This Film Emperor was merely whetting his appetite.*

Before coming to discuss with Chen Gu, the Alliance had already made various preparations. One of the officials replied, "The Alliance will begin its full season on the first of next month. That day will feature many major events and draw significant attention. The players in the opening matches will also be very strong. Considering it's your first competition and you lack experience, we decided not to schedule you for that day."

"The third of next month. That day has fewer matches, so we've selected an opponent of moderate strength for you."

As he spoke, he opened the opponent's profile and displayed it before Chen Gu.

"Bone Crusher" Chalmos.

This was a seasoned Alliance player—not the most talented, but very diligent. He'd been in the Alliance for ten years, practiced on his own every off-season, refrained from smoking and drinking, and was extremely self-disciplined.

This player had a good reputation in the Alliance. His loyal fan base wasn't large, but nearly every seasoned behemoth fan acknowledged his strength, recognizing him as an important piece of the "championship puzzle."

Chen Gu nodded. "I have no problem."

The official smiled contentedly. "Then it's settled?"

"It's settled!"

The happiest person was Mao Yisheng. He raised his glass high, "Welcome, Brother Chen, to the Behemoth Alliance! We can fight side by side in the future!"

Chen Gu smiled and clinked glasses with him.

This meeting was also very important for Chen Gu. It provided him with a stable income, meaning he wouldn't have to deplete his savings as he had before.

The prerequisite was that Chen Gu had to win his first match beautifully and secure his standing in the Behemoth Alliance.

After the meeting, Chen Gu didn't stay in the city but immediately returned to the school. To be precise, he returned to the reserve. He found a remote, mountainous area and opened the Dimensional Cage to let out Combat Rooster.

Although he was very confident in his Combat Rooster, believing his entry into the Behemoth Alliance would definitely allow him to triumph everywhere... "Still," one must despise the opponent strategically while taking them seriously tactically. This was a unique principle passed down from his ancestors.

Chen Gu still wanted to check Combat Rooster's condition.

Combat Rooster had been cooped up for too long. Once released, it landed and let out a LOUD ROAR... only to be slapped by Chen Gu. "Quiet down."

Although this was a wild and mountainous area, it was within Capital Star's reserve. How many years had it been since a behemoth was last seen here? If its roar attracted the school's teachers, explaining it would be a hassle.

Combat Rooster whimpered, seeming thoroughly wronged. But this creature had already grown to eighty meters long; trying to whimper and act cute like a puppy or kitten... wasn't that just a clumsy imitation?

Chen Gu beckoned with a curl of his finger. "Come on, let's train a bit."

Combat Rooster paused. It understood its master's intention but was somewhat puzzled. No way. I don't want to get beaten up.

Chen Gu commanded, "Hurry up, let's check your current strength."

Combat Rooster was still reluctant, mainly because the image Chen Gu had seared into its mind was too "brutal." Due to this "childhood trauma," Combat Rooster had no thought of resisting him.

Chen Gu threatened, "If you don't come over, you'll have no food later!"

Combat Rooster wailed miserably. This is unfair! This is too much for me!

Chen Gu glared. "Hurry up!"

Combat Rooster, feeling utterly helpless, charged forward in a wild sprint... Then, Chen Gu shamelessly raised his hand: Valkyrie's Protection!

A special fluctuation of mysterious power instantly made Combat Rooster's entire body tremble; it felt extremely uncomfortable.

Since Chen Gu controlled the item's power, Combat Rooster didn't feel pain, but rather an indescribable discomfort and awkwardness.

This also provoked its behemoth ferocity. Roaring continuously, it pushed through the oppressive waves of energy and charged forward.

One step, two steps, three steps... It made it to the seventh step before finally collapsing heavily in front of Chen Gu with a THUD.

WHIMPER! WHIMPER! Combat Rooster whimpered again, mentally fawning over its master. You're so powerful! I can't take it anymore!

Chen Gu, however, was somewhat dissatisfied. He dismissed Valkyrie's Protection and slapped Combat Rooster's massive head. "You useless thing! You've eaten so much precious metal and you only made it seven steps. You need to train more and quickly improve your strength."

Combat Rooster still whimpered. It watched its beautiful, idle life of "eat, sleep, repeat" slip further and further away...

Chen Gu checked the Dimensional Cage; not much of the precious metals remained. It seemed it was time to return to headquarters and have Oubayang's students prepare another batch.

He didn't always suppress Combat Rooster. This time, after letting it out, he let it play to its heart's content in the reserve before recalling it.

When he got back to school, Qing Ruyan found him. "Chen Jixian has completed his advancement and is now at the Sixth Energy Level."

Chen Gu was thrilled! But he quickly composed his expression and said nonchalantly, "Oh, I see."

After a while, he asked as if it were an afterthought, "Where is he now?"

"The Bureau conducted a routine check on him. After he passed, he left, saying he had some matters to attend to."

Chen Gu was also puzzled. What matter could be so urgent that he had to attend to it right after his advancement?

Chapter 406: Sixth Energy Level [Abyssal Blacksmith]

An Guangtian looked disheveled, holding a wine glass in his hand, his expression glazed as he sank into the sofa.

The An Family had already moved out of their original floating island mansion, plummeting from the clouds to the dirt in just one day.

The reason for this swift downfall was entirely because the Principal was eager to head for the Star State, so he accelerated his handling of affairs within the Confederation.

As a result, under the personal supervision of the Principal—a Ninth Power Level expert—all departments, trembling, worked with unprecedented efficiency. They quickly concluded several cases, leading to the arrest of key figures from the An Family one by one, including An Guanghai.

The An Family's industries were consequently sealed off, becoming tasty prey that various behemoths were fighting to snatch.

These industries had extremely high profits and were very high-quality assets, available to anyone willing to pay; they would go to the highest bidder.

The money went directly to the Principal, who would use it to rebuild the school.

An Guangtian had always felt the An Family wasn't a pushover. The Principal, however, was not one to be intimidated by reputations and insisted on testing them, only to conclude with a curl of his lips, "I have a strong grip; all persimmons are soft persimmons to me."

An Guangtian personally experienced the An Family's colossal collapse overnight. Utterly unable to accept it, his mind completely shattered.

In fact, the An Family had some premonitions about the situation. They had money but had always lacked "martial power."

This so-called martial power didn't refer to the military but to high Energy Level professionals.

If the An Family had possessed one Ninth Power Level, or even an Eighth Power Level professional, they wouldn't have collapsed so quickly.

It was for this reason that the An Family had wanted to curry favor with the seemingly rootless Huai Shan Branch School of the commoner faction. Little did they expect that this very move would lead to their downfall.

Thankfully, a starved camel is still bigger than a horse. Though fallen and kicked out of the ranks of the elite families, the Principal wasn't intent on completely annihilating them. Andreyao was dead, and the Principal only wanted the An Family's wealth to rebuild the school.

An Guangtian would remain a wealthy man for the rest of his life.

He still had over a dozen professionals protecting him, all of whom were powerful individuals cultivated by the An Family themselves. They were deeply entangled with the An Family, and no one else would take them if they sought to switch allegiances.

An Guangtian suddenly gulped down a mouthful of alcohol, gritted his teeth, and said, "My An Family is not finished yet!"

"One day, my An Family will rise again!"

He violently smashed the wine glass, then staggered to his feet and shouted outside, "Get An Debine to see me!"

Before long, a young man with an indifferent face walked in.

He was one of An Guangtian's illegitimate sons; his mother had been a dancing girl. Twenty years ago, after An Guangtian got drunk, he had assaulted her. Unexpectedly, he had fathered a child with her.

The dancing girl, however, was no simpleton. Instead of reporting to the authorities, she quietly gave birth to the child and continuously blackmailed An Guangtian, seeking an astronomical sum in compensation.

An Guangtian, "experienced" in dealing with such situations, ruthlessly sent out assassins.

The dancing girl was inevitably killed, and the child was brought back. An Guangtian named him An Debine and raised him alongside the family's professionals.

Unexpectedly, An Debine exhibited tremendous professional talent from a young age, already reaching the Third Energy Level in his early twenties!

An Guangtian immediately took steps to suppress him.

An Guangtian hoped his favorite son would inherit the An Family, and if An Debine became a high Energy Level professional, he would pose a threat to this cherished child.

Despite the suppression, An Debine still managed to advance to the Fourth Energy Level not long ago.

However, An Guangtian had now changed his mind. His legitimate sons were all imprisoned, and since they were flowers raised in a greenhouse, the An Family couldn't count on them to rise again.

"I will support you with all my might!" An Guangtian, reeking of alcohol, came before his illegitimate son, grabbed him by the collar, and shouted fiercely.

An Debine's eyes were cold and indifferent as he looked at him and asked, "What must I give in return?"

"I want you to enhance your strength as much as possible. To what extent can you achieve this?" An Guangtian's eyes blazed with ferocity.

A powerful confidence suddenly burst forth from An Debine. "Within thirty years, I will surely reach the Ninth Power Level!"

"Hahaha!" An Guangtian laughed loudly. He didn't even consider whether this was just An Debine's "arrogant delusion," because what he needed now was hope, and at last, there was hope!

"Good! Good! Good!" An Guangtian said repeatedly. "I want you to revive the An Family. The day you reach the Ninth Power Level, I will give you a knife, and you can personally kill me to succeed as the An Family Head."

An Debine nodded firmly, "It's a deal!"

Just then, a series of gasps came from outside, followed by a loud bang. The wooden door of the room was shattered by two bodies crashing into it. Both individuals fell to the ground, screaming in agony, many of their bones broken, unable to stand up again.

"Who is it!" An Guangtian roared angrily. Through the broken door, he saw that the dozen or so professionals guarding him had already fallen to the ground. A tall, middle-aged man strode in majestically.

His eyelids were half-drooped, as if nothing in this world could arouse his interest enough to make him open his eyes and take a serious look.

An Debine's usually impassive face twitched a few times. "Sixth Energy Level?"

Chen Jixian raised his hand, pointed at An Guangtian, and said earnestly, "Andreyao is a disgrace!"

An Guangtian was baffled, yet he felt that this statement seemed to be in response to what he had once told Shentu Lu: "Andreyao is a good kid."

As An Debine forcefully stimulated his power, Chen Jixian had already turned to him, slowly raising his fist—it was like a sledgehammer!

THUD!

An Debine was smashed away without any power to resist. Under Chen Jixian's hand, he was like an iron ingot that needed to be hammered.

"PFFT—" An Debine spurted out a mouthful of blood, his entire body instantly becoming listless.

A Fourth Energy Level was no match for a Sixth Energy Level.

An anomaly like Chen Gu was rare indeed. Even if An Debine was extraordinarily gifted, a genius among ordinary people, his defeat was utterly inevitable when facing the family vengeance fist of the Sixth Energy Level Abyssal Blacksmith.

Gritting his teeth, he looked at his opponent. "Who exactly are you? What grudge do you have with the An Family? For a Sixth Energy Level to strike a Fourth Energy Level is beneath your dignity!"

In the face of his accusation, Chen Jixian did not even lift his eyelids. He then took another step forward, bringing down his hammer-like fist once again.

As An Debine faced Chen Jixian's attack, a chilling sensation filled his heart, for he realized he couldn't move at all!

It was like a red-hot iron ingot thrown on an anvil, waiting to be hammered.

THUD!

With the second punch, An Debin felt his strength dissipate. His eyes widened as he glared at Chen Jixian with bitter resentment, "Wh-why..."

He couldn't understand. His opponent's punch could have easily killed him, but it had only scattered his energy. Once he recovered from his injuries, he would merely be an ordinary person. Even if he could become a professional again, he no longer had the confidence to aspire to the Ninth Power Level.

Chapter 407: A Dilemma

In fact, countless geniuses at the beginning of their careers have set their sights on the Ninth Power Level, and they, like An Debin, have all boasted grandly. But in the end, those who succeed are as rare as phoenix feathers and unicorn horns—An Debin is probably no exception, and An Guangtian likely doesn't truly believe he has any hope of becoming a Ninth Power Level cultivator either.

But no matter what, both father and son still clung to such hope.

Now, all hope was gone. Reinstatement itself was exceptionally difficult. Historically, few succeeded, and even the strongest among those who managed it only reached... the Fifth Energy Level.

Chen Jixian didn't answer, instead turning to the utterly despairing An Guangtian. "The An Family," he said indifferently, "is truly finished."

Chen Jixian turned and walked away, leaving An Guangtian collapsed on the ground, wailing in complete despair.

He didn't have the Principal's ability—at least not yet—to enter the Star State alone and execute the mastermind. However, he *could* thoroughly crush the An Family. The Principal is a person of high status; such thorough destruction is beneath him. He wouldn't do it. But I, Chen Jixian, am from a small

place. I haven't seen much of the world. Where I come from, we believe in kicking a man when he's down!

Chen Gu had waited for over a day, but his unfilial son still hadn't contacted him. He huffed. Fine, if you don't come to see me, I won't look for you either.

He called his grandson and granddaughter. "You've all arrived at Capital Star, haven't you? Let's get together as a family; your grandfather will treat."

He deliberately emphasized the words "as a family." Chen Qingyu was overjoyed, chattering to her grandfather about all the new things at her school and the gossip she'd encountered while promoting her album. She prattled on for nearly half an hour until her dorm mates called her for a meal, and only then did she hang up.

Chen Zili, on the other hand, seemed sullen. His grandfather had said the family should have a meal together, and Chen Zili, perhaps seeking some warmth, readily agreed.

Chen Gu was privately smug. So what if my son is unfilial? At least my grandson and granddaughter are obedient and well-behaved.

He was feeling quite pleased with himself when Qing Ruyan called. Her voice was serious. "Come back with me. The Director-General wishes to see you."

Chen Gu's hair stood on end, like a startled cat.

"What... does she want with me?"

Qing Ruyan rolled her eyes on the other end of the line. "I'm just an assistant, alright? The Director-General wants to see you; how would I dare to question why?"

Chen Gu, feeling he had no choice, secretly hid the Valkyrie's Guard on his wrist. Then he went out to meet Qing Ruyan, and they drove back to the city.

The moment Qing Ruyan got in the car, her eyes twinkled. "A Ground Palace Series Four? TSK TSK, you're really something, aren't you? You've only been on Capital Star for a few days and you've already changed cars."

Chen Gu shrugged and said nothing. But then he suddenly recalled that this car wasn't something an ordinary person would recognize, which made him glance at Qing Ruyan again.

Back at the General Administration Bureau Headquarters, Chen Gu grew nervous again. He whispered to Qing Ruyan in a pleading tone, "How about you tell the Director-General you couldn't find me?"

Qing Ruyan pushed him from behind. "Don't be scared. The Director-General is actually very nice. You just have some misunderstandings about her."

This isn't about misunderstandings, Chen Gu thought.

A few minutes later, on the top floor of the building, Chen Gu met the imposing Aviloya.

According to publicly available data, Aviloya was forty-seven years old this year, yet she still looked like a young woman in her early twenties. Her long, thick, jet-black hair was tied back in a simple ponytail. The two shining epaulets on her uniform, signifying her position as Director-General, made her shoulders seem slightly higher than usual, adding to the imposing aura of a high-ranking official.

"Director-General, Chen Gu is here," Qing Ruyan announced.

Chen Gu stood before Aviloya, resigned to his fate.

Aviloya glanced up, put down her work, and leaned back in her chair. She sized him up for a moment, making Chen Gu feel a little uneasy. Finally, a subtle, unreadable smile touched her lips as she said slowly, "You've been riding a wave of success lately.

"The data collection work with Dr. Meng Ji has concluded, so he's no longer pestering you.

"You made quite a splash at school; even the Principal remembered your name.

"Zhong Yuanbei broke school rules and struck a student for your sake.

"The Behemoth Alliance owes you a favor and has arranged a wildcard spot for you in the competition."

Chen Gu remained silent. As long as she doesn't mention the bracelet artifact, I'm fine! he thought.

"But haven't you gotten a bit too comfortable lately? Do you plan to remain a Third Energy Level cultivator forever?"

Chen Gu's eyes lit up. Does this mean Aviloya isn't going to suppress my advancement anymore?

"I don't!" Chen Gu snapped to attention like a new recruit answering an officer. "I want to advance! I want to reach the Ninth Power Level!"

"The Ninth Power Level? Heh." Aviloya scoffed dismissively, offering no further comment on that. She gestured, and a light screen appeared before Chen Gu. "These are the various resources required for a Radiation Missionary to advance to the Fourth Energy Level."

Chen Gu scanned the list, memorizing it all instantly. He then looked at Aviloya with a resigned air. "Alright, I admit it will be very difficult for me to gather these resources on my own. What are the Bureau's conditions?"

Aviloya wouldn't have summoned me for no reason to talk about my advancement, Chen Gu thought. She definitely doesn't want to see me any more than I want to see her.

Sure enough, Aviloya immediately replied, "Dr. Meng Ji's research has reached the experimental stage, and we've begun selecting test subjects.

"As long as you cooperate with Dr. Meng Ji through this phase, and if the experiments successfully produce even one multi-class individual, the Bureau will provide all the resources for your advancement to the Fourth Energy Level. That includes the generator!"

Chen Gu was speechless.

This is utterly ridiculous, he thought. I know for a fact that Dr. Meng Ji's research direction is completely wrong. It's impossible for it to produce any multi-class individuals. But I can't say that outright. The experiment is doomed to fail, regardless of my cooperation. And if the experiment doesn't succeed, I won't get the Bureau's support.

Chen Gu left the Director-General's office in a daze. He walked a long way before his head cleared, and a wry smile touched his lips. Well, this trip wasn't entirely fruitless. At least now I know what I need to advance to the Fourth Energy Level.

Forget it, Chen Gu mused. No point relying on the Bureau. I'll have to find a way to gather these materials myself.

This realization gave him a headache. This time, even if I sell everything I own, it won't be enough.

Fortunately, his skill points were still quite a way off from the requirements for advancing to the Fourth Energy Level. He still had some time to figure things out.

As Chen Gu returned to school, he occasionally saw promotional posters for his granddaughter, Chen Qingyu. With a 'gorilla' pulling the strings, the young woman was already making a name for herself in the music scene and steadily gaining popularity.

Chapter 408: Our Pig Has Grown Up

The "family" dinner was scheduled for the day after tomorrow, which coincidentally was the opening day of the new season for the Behemoth Alliance.

Chen Gu, unfamiliar with Capital Star, had found a restaurant with good reviews on the interstellar Web and then drove to pick up his grandson and granddaughter. Once everyone had arrived, Chen Gu

constantly awaited his eldest son's arrival, but even by the time the meal was meant to start, the son still hadn't shown up!

Such an unfilial son!

Chen Gu's mind was full of reproaches. When all the dishes were served, he couldn't help but ask, "Where's your father?"

Chen Zili had already started eating. Upon hearing the question, he paused for a moment before answering, "I don't know, Grandpa. The last time he went on a business trip, he said it was a secret mission, and we haven't heard from him since."

Chen Gu: "..."

So, that meant after his son's successful promotion, he hadn't been in touch with his grandchildren either. Not only was he unfilial, but he also neglected his family!

But for some reason, after hearing this news, Chen Gu felt slightly relieved.

The three of them ate and drank, and most of the time, Chen Qingyu chirped away like a little sparrow. She had a lovely voice, which was part of why Gao Mengjiu valued her.

Even as she talked non-stop, Chen Gu indulged her without annoyance. My granddaughter is perfect in every way, he thought.

Then he glanced at his grandson, who sat silent and sulky. Frustration welled up inside him. No matter how I look at him, he just seems useless!

No, no, that wouldn't do—he couldn't favor his granddaughter too much, or else this boy would start grumbling again about how no one cared for him.

So, the doting grandfather put on a show of concern and asked his grandson, "Zili, is something troubling you?"

As it turned out, Chen Zili was indeed a bit simple-minded. As soon as Chen Gu asked, he began to voice his issues with a gloomy face, "I feel isolated at school... It's not that everyone's intentionally targeting me, it's just... everyone's so strong. You know, there are four of us in the dorm, and my average score is 838.5, but one has 861, another 877, and the last one! It's infuriating—he told us: 'You have to take exams to get into Tiangong Military Division?' He's been guaranteed admission to every school since childhood, including Tiangong Military Division. It turns out there are actually students in this world who have to take exams to get into a school!"

"Is that even human speech!"

Both Chen Gu and Chen Qingyu couldn't help but snort with laughter. What a master of humblebragging.

Chen Zili looked even more downhearted. "I feel like there's such a big gap in academic performance between me and my classmates, so I decided to join the student council. But then I realized, if my grades are nearly at the bottom among my classmates, then my family background is definitely at the bottom in the student council."

He said with a somber face, "Grandpa, our Chen family is pretty much poor on Capital Star."

Chen Gu nodded with profound agreement, "You're absolutely right."

Chen Gu began to feel an increasing resentment towards Qiao Shuangyi, that little chubby kid. So what if he was born lucky? Does that give him the right to do whatever he pleases?!

Chen Zili's grades weren't good enough for Tiangong Military Division. It was Chen Gu who had used his Brain Domain Hacker abilities to cram a ton of knowledge into his grandson's head, and even then, he was admitted by a hair's breadth.

Chen Gu quietly berated himself. He'd been swept up in his grandson's enthusiasm, wanting to help him achieve his dream, and now the repercussions were clear.

As a grandfather, he couldn't just wash his hands of the situation, could he?

Could he really?

No, he probably shouldn't.

「...」

Inside the Bureau of Mystic Security's headquarters, Aviloya looked at Chen Jixian with frustration bordering on disappointment.

"You've lost your position as the top officer of the Wuzhaoyin City police system!"

"The position of director of the Wuzhaoyin City branch of the Bureau of Mystic Security is gone, too!"

Aviloya rapped the table hard with her knuckles. "Recklessly audacious, without regard for the consequences! Chen Jixian, you're in your forties already, with a wealth of life experience. Why do you still act so impulsively!"

Chen Jixian had injured An Debine and intimidated An Guangtian—the An Family had fallen from grace, but still had some old friends, and many felt a sympathy likened to 'when the rabbit perishes, the fox grieves.'

These people were all shrinking turtles; they wouldn't dare stand out in front of the principal, but Chen Jixian... Sorry, who are you again?! they thought.

So, various pressures surged. Since Chen Jixian had indeed done something wrong this time, Aviloya was helpless and had to institute a punishment to give them an explanation.

Originally, Aviloya was prepared to be harsh in words but lenient in action, simply adding "acting" in front of Chen Jixian's title of director, and that would have been it. Unexpectedly, among those people,

one was from the police system and directly removed Chen Jixian from his position as the number one figure in Wuzhaoyin City's police system.

Chen Jixian listened calmly, not even lifting his eyelids, which infuriated Aviloya. Every time she saw him like this, she felt as if he was about to fall asleep while she was talking!

"You get back there and properly guard our patch in Wuzhaoyin City! If there's any more trouble, you will answer to me!"

"Yes," Chen Jixian calmly agreed and turned to leave. Aviloya held her forehead and shook her head, grinding her teeth. "This whole family!"

「...」

Chen Gu was still unaware that his grown son had been stripped of all positions. He had just finished dinner with his granddaughter and grandson, the three of them enjoying their time together. Along the way, Chen Qingyu was recognized by several fans who approached for autographs. The girl's eyes curved into happy crescents.

So Chen Zili was even more disheartened. Just then, his phone rang. He looked at the number and answered with a somewhat awkward expression, "Hello?"

An agreeable voice came through the phone, "Chen Zili, our department is going to watch the Behemoth Alliance's opening match tonight. The Minister is treating us. Haha, his family managed to get tickets. Do you want to come along?"

Chen Zili nodded repeatedly. "Okay, where are you guys? I'll come right over."

The other party gave him the location and then added, "Hurry up, it starts at eight tonight. We'll be waiting for you."

Chen Zili reluctantly hung up the phone and turned around to see his grandfather and sister staring at him with half-smiles.

He instantly became flustered and stammered, "Wh-why are you looking at me?"

Chen Gu stepped forward and patted Chen Zili's shoulder with satisfaction. "Our family's piglet has grown up; he's got his eye on a fine head of cabbage."

Chen Zili: "..."

Chen Qingyu's eyes sparkled with mischief. "What's the girl's name? What type is she? Big Sister will help you out with some advice."

Chen Zili shook them off. "You guys stop making things up; she's just a colleague from the student council. I have to go now. There's an event at the student council tonight."

Chen Qingyu wasn't willing to let her brother off so easily, but Chen Gu stopped her with a look. Chen Zili fled as if he were flying.

Chen Qingyu felt somewhat unsatisfied and asked, "Grandpa, are we just going to let him off like this?"

"How could that be possible?"

"Then, shall we follow him?"

Chen Gu glared at his granddaughter. "Nonsense! We're family; we should respect each other's privacy. Especially since I, as an elder, must set an example for you all!"

Chen Qingyu almost believed her grandpa's seemingly principled stance, when Chen Gu followed up with a sly smile, "Tonight is the opening match, and the stadium on Capital Star is Immeasurable Stadium. We are also Behemoth Alliance fans and want to watch the match. If we 'accidentally' run into Zili there and happen to meet his classmate, that's reasonable, right?"

Chapter 409: Manufacturing a Coincidence

Chen Qingyu said admiringly, "Grandfather, you truly have a wealth of life experience."

He can say such shameless things so righteously.

Chen Gu clapped his hands. "Come on, let's go watch the match."

But Chen Qingyu was somewhat worried. "But Grandpa, today is the opening game, and Capital Star is sure to have scheduled a highlight match. The tickets must have sold out ages ago... Should we ask Teacher Gao for help?"

Chen Gu remembered he was a "VIP" of the Alliance and waved his hand. "Why bother with that idiot? Just follow me."

The two boarded the [Sky Palace IV], soaring into the sky straight for Immeasurable Stadium.

「...」

The meeting place Yang Yaoyao had arranged with Chen Zili was at the western entrance of Immeasurable Stadium. After transferring twice on public transportation, Chen Zili finally rushed there by 7:30 P.M.

There were many spectators around. He scanned the crowd, looking left and right, until he finally spotted the tall, short-haired girl.

Yang Yaoyao saw him too, and they both waved vigorously.

"Over here!" Yang Yaoyao called out cheerfully, and Chen Zili hurried over.

"What took you so long?" Yang Yaoyao was accompanied by several classmates. One of them, a tall, sturdy boy with long limbs, grumbled, "We've been waiting for over twenty minutes."

Chen Zili offered an apologetic smile. "Sorry, public transport is just slow."

Another boy, one with small eyes, gave an understanding smile. "Don't blame him. He's not from Capital Star, unlike us; we all have our own cars here."

Chen Zili felt a pang of dismay. Their student council's publicity department had a few local students from Capital Star, and some others also came from wealthy families. They naturally carried an air of superiority, and among them, Chen Zili was the "least noticeable."

And just as Chen Gu had guessed, Chen Zili had joined the student council and insisted on getting into the publicity department, not because he felt "out of place" in his dorm and wanted to join an organization.

It was solely because when the student council was recruiting, the person in charge was Yang Yaoyao, his senior. He had impulsively signed up on the spot.

Yang Yaoyao glanced at the two boys, defending Chen Zili. "Today is an official activity for our publicity department, so stop complaining. The director said no one should be missing."

Just then, a slim, rather fair and delicate-looking young man walked over. He nodded at Chen Zili. "Is everyone here? Let's go in."

He then ordered Chen Zili, "Go buy some popcorn and drinks."

Then, as if being considerate, he asked, "Do you have money?"

"Yes, yes," Chen Zili quickly replied.

Yang Yaoyao immediately interjected, "He can't carry all that by himself. I'll go with him." A flash of jealousy flickered in the eyes of the other boys.

Why does Yang Yaoyao seem to treat this newcomer with special favor?

The belle of the publicity department had many admirers, including these few boys. They had competed both openly and secretly before, but none had won her favor. Were they going to let a newcomer steal a march on them?

On what grounds! What was so good about that kid? He couldn't compare to us in any aspect!

Yang Yaoyao and Chen Zili went to buy popcorn and drinks. Along the way, Yang Yaoyao noticed Chen Zili kept his head bowed, so she smiled and asked, "You've just started school. Are you still finding it a bit hard to adjust?"

Chen Zili truly was having trouble adjusting, and such an understanding senior made it even harder for him to extricate himself from his growing admiration. He nodded. "I always feel... a bit out of place here."

Yang Yaoyao said, "When I was in junior high, my father's job transfer took us to an unfamiliar planet for my schooling. I felt just like you do now. But it's okay; you'll get used to it little by little. Don't dwell on these things. Instead, focus on your studies. Once your attention is diverted, you'll find that everything will pass before you even realize it."

Chen Zili nodded with a simple smile. "Okay, I'll listen to you, Senior."

Yang Yaoyao looked out for Chen Zili partly because she empathized with his situation. Back then, if someone had been there to comfort me, I probably would have gotten through it more easily too.

They bought popcorn and drinks and were heading back when Chen Zili suddenly froze.

Yang Yaoyao looked puzzled. "What's wrong?"

A man and a woman approached them, their faces plastered with exaggerated expressions of "delighted surprise at an unexpected encounter." The woman said enthusiastically, "Oh, Little Brother, you came to watch the match too!"

Three black lines appeared on Chen Zili's forehead. Didn't I already tell you I was coming to the opening match when we parted ways just now?

Of course, he knew why these two had "accidentally" bumped into him here. He asked, without much curiosity, "What are you two doing here?"

Chen Qingyu replied, "It's the opening match today! We came to watch."

She then looked at Yang Yaoyao. "Is this your classmate? Aren't you going to introduce us?"

Chen Zili had no choice but to make the introductions. When it came to Chen Gu, Chen Zili felt incredibly awkward. "Senior, this is... my grandfather."

However, Yang Yaoyao barely registered the absurdly young "grandfather." She stared at Chen Qingyu in disbelief, then exclaimed with delight, "You're Chen Qingyu! You're Chen Zili's sister! Oh my gosh, I bought your album! Your voice is so beautiful, and your singing skills are amazing. You're definitely going to be a huge star!"

In that instant, Chen Qingyu wholeheartedly approved of Yang Yaoyao as a match for her brother. She even decided that when they had children, she would definitely give her future nieces and nephews huge red envelopes!

Chen Zili desperately wanted to drag his senior away, but Yang Yaoyao was too busy chattering endlessly with her "idol." Chen Gu quietly gave Chen Zili a thumbs-up. Grandson, you've got good taste.

Chen Zili rolled his eyes and interrupted the two women, who were still deep in discussion. "Senior, we should hurry back. The director and the others are getting impatient."

"Okay then," Yang Yaoyao said, reluctantly bidding farewell to Chen Qingyu.

Chen Qingyu's eyes twinkled as an idea struck her. She invited, "Yaoyao, next time I'm recording a song, would you like to come? You're a big fan of Man Suling, right? I can introduce you."

Overjoyed, Yang Yaoyao exclaimed, "Thank you, Sister Qingyu! I'll definitely be there!"

Chen Zili couldn't stop rolling his eyes, only to receive a sharp glare from his sister that clearly said, "You ungrateful boy!" Silly brother, I'm helping you out here!

Chen Zili and a reluctant Yang Yaoyao departed. Chen Gu and Chen Qingyu were left beaming, clearly very satisfied with this Yang Yaoyao.

Chen Qingyu remarked, "I'm very pleased with this prospective sister-in-law. I'll have a good talk with Mom about her later."

Then, she added with some concern, "I'm just worried about Dad..."

Chen Gu, eager to appear authoritative in front of his granddaughter, waved his hand dismissively. "He wouldn't dare disagree!"

Chen Jixian actually would dare, but since he wasn't present, it didn't spoil his grandfather's display of authority in front of his granddaughter.

Chen Gu found a staff member and gave his name. Soon, an Alliance manager hurried over, warmly welcomed them, and led them to a specially reserved VIP box.

Chapter 410: Unveiling the Battle Scene (1)

The Behemoth Alliance always reserved a VIP box for every match, just in case of unexpected events. For example, if some untouchable big shot suddenly decided to watch the game on a whim, they couldn't just tell them there were no seats left, could they?

Yang Yaoyao and Chen Zili found their seats and distributed the popcorn and drinks. However, their spots weren't great; they were situated towards the back and were quite narrow, with everyone squeezed together.

Next to Yang Yaoyao was a large, portly man, squishing her uncomfortably. The portly man knew he was taking up too much space and was trying his best to contract himself to avoid bothering others, but his sheer bulk was difficult to contain.

Yang Yaoyao felt very uncomfortable but couldn't bring herself to say anything.

Just then, Yang Yaoyao's phone rang. To Chen Zili's surprise, the call was from his own sister.

Chen Zili was dumbfounded. Seriously? How did these women build a friendship so quickly? They just met and already exchanged phone numbers?

"Yaoyao, I see you guys. Are your seats not comfortable?"

Yang Yaoyao craned her neck, searching for Chen Qingyu. Chen Qingyu said, "Over to your left, diagonally up! I'm waving, do you see me?"

Yang Yaoyao then spotted them in the VIP box above and excitedly waved back to Chen Qingyu.

Chen Qingyu said, "Come on up here, it's too crowded down there. Bring all your classmates along."

Yang Yaoyao agreed without a second thought. She hung up and told everyone about the offer. Hearing there was a VIP box, they all cheered. Their families were all well-off, so they weren't accustomed to sitting so far back in such cramped conditions.

However, this was the opening match, and tickets were incredibly hard to come by. It was already quite an achievement for the Department Head's family to have secured so many.

Now that they could escape their current seats, everyone enthusiastically agreed. Even if the Department Head was slightly displeased, he didn't object since it was his goddess, Yang Yaoyao, who had made the suggestion.

The group excitedly clutched their popcorn and drinks and headed through the aisle toward the VIP box. Chen Zili trailed behind, his head hanging low. Seeing his dejected expression, the other boys secretly gloated. This just shows the gap again! A poor kid with no power or status, still dreaming of chasing Yang Yaoyao? He should get real!

There were eight people in the Publicity Department group, and the VIP box was spacious enough for twelve, so there was still plenty of room even after they all entered.

Upon seeing Chen Qingyu, the boys exclaimed in surprise, "Yaoyao, so your friend is Chen Qingyu! No wonder you could get a VIP box!"

Gao Mengjiu's first wave of publicity for Chen Qingyu was aimed at college students.

Since Chen Qingyu was also a college student, there was a natural sense of affinity, making promoting to this group the easiest. As a result, Chen Qingyu was currently very well-known among college students.

Yang Yaoyao quickly said, "Chen Qingyu is Chen Zili's sister."

The members of the Publicity Department fell into a brief silence, then all turned to stare incredulously at Chen Zili. He remained sullen, feeling that his grandfather and sister were just stirring up trouble and putting him in an awkward position.

The boys who had initially looked down on Chen Zili felt a pang of resentment. However, they quickly adjusted their thinking. She's just a celebrity, after all.

The atmosphere in the VIP box was a bit subdued, but Chen Qingyu and Yang Yaoyao chatted happily, preventing it from becoming too awkward.

Besides Yang Yaoyao, there were two other girls in the Publicity Department, but they were somewhat lacking in looks and other aspects compared to her.

One of the girls had stars in her eyes and kept staring at Chen Gu.

After a moment, one of the girls leaned toward Chen Zili and whispered, "Who's that man? Is he Chen Qingyu's boyfriend?"

If he's the boyfriend of a big star, I'd have no chance at all.

Chen Zili replied irritably, "That's my grandfather."

"What?" The girl was stunned. While it was true that advanced biotechnology in this era allowed many "elderly" people to look young, it was still quite uncommon.

The girl instantly thought: If I got together with him, wouldn't that make me Chen Zili's... step-grandmother?! The idea was somewhat... thrilling!

While the girl was lost in her wild imagination, down in the stadium, the host had already begun to warm up the crowd, his impassioned voice introducing the players appearing tonight. Chen Gu heard the name of the Alliance's top player, Boraruz.

Ironically, his opponent today was "Barbarian Bear" Aodora, who had "double-killed" him during last year's regular season.

Although Boraruz had won the Confederation championship last season, he had subsequently lost to Star State's champion, Shangguan Yunding, in the "Beast King Decisive Battle"—the championship contest among the four major Star Nations.

Moreover, during the regular season, he had been double-killed by "Barbarian Bear" Aodora, who ultimately finished fourth in the rankings. It was safe to say Boraruz had regrets about the previous season.

For this year's opening match, the Alliance had arranged for Boraruz and Aodora to be the main event—they certainly knew how to stir things up and boost ratings.

Chen Gu was thinking about his own match when suddenly the door to the VIP box was knocked. A student opened the door to find a server in a vest standing outside, who respectfully said to Chen Gu, "Sir, I am here to escort you to VIP box number seven."

While Chen Gu was wondering about this, his phone rang. It was Bai Yunpeng. "Chen Gu, I see you! I didn't expect you to be at the opening match today. Come on over, I'm in VIP box number seven."

Chen Gu responded, "I'm with my family."

Bai Yunpeng said, "Oh, then never mind, you should stay with your family. Heh heh, I have good wine here. It's your loss if you don't come."

Chen Gu, recalling Bai Yunpeng's appalling behavior when drunk, quickly hung up, not feeling it was a loss at all.

Chen Gu smiled and waved his hand at the server. "You can go back, I won't be going over."

"Yes, sir."

This small interlude passed quickly, but the Department Head and a few of the other boys couldn't help but lower their heads, hiding the deep envy in their hearts.

Outsiders wouldn't know that VIP box number seven at Immeasurable Stadium was the famous "titan's box"—anyone who could sit there was a significant figure in the entire Confederation!

And Chen Gu had casually declined such an invitation, simply saying he was "with family"!

Despite their own distinguished family backgrounds, if they had received such an invitation, they would have dropped everything and rushed over immediately.

They knew very well that even their fathers would do the same.

Naturally, Chen Gu was unaware that Marshal Bai had inadvertently helped him show off yet again. He had come to watch today's match mostly for Chen Zili and certainly couldn't abandon his grandson to go off by himself.

The atmosphere in the arena suddenly reached a climax as the host excitedly announced, "Ladies and gentlemen, let us welcome today's special opening guest with the warmest applause: Man Suling—"

Man Suling was already on the cusp of "diva" status, so being able to invite her as the opening guest was a testament to the Alliance's prestige.

The entire arena erupted in thunderous cheers, with the audience rising to their feet, clapping vigorously.