

Full-Time Public Enemy

#Chapter 41 - Forty-One: Informing the Parents - Read Full-Time Public Enemy Chapter 41 - Forty-One: Informing the Parents

Chapter 41: Chapter Forty-One: Informing the Parents

Chen Gu and the military students were halfway through their meal at Celestial Flavor Restaurant when the anxious classmates suddenly noticed that the police cars parked outside had silently vanished!

"Huh?!"

Everyone was puzzled, but Chen Gu guessed what had happened.

He had received a call from Zhao Ji when he was almost home. Zhao Ji, in his casual way, wanted to take credit, "You should really thank me this time."

"Zhao Zhenhuai is out of luck. He got kicked to some backwater office for some reason. The chief's position is vacant, and many people are getting restless. Luckily, I got wind of it early and immediately worked some angles for your big nephew. He'll soon be the deputy chief of Wuzhaoyin City's police department, and he'll be promoted to chief next year."

Chen Gu was momentarily stunned. *The world truly is a wondrous place*, he thought.

Of course, Zhao Zhenhuai's misfortune was Chen Gu's doing. Chen Gu hadn't asked the Central Operations Room for a favor for Chen Jixian for two main reasons: he didn't want to expose his identity, and he felt there was no need to intervene. *Chen Jixian owns a conglomerate worth tens of billions. If his post-transfer job isn't to his liking, he'll just be a bit gloomy; it won't have any substantial impact on his life. Besides, my adult son clearly hasn't 'lobbied' for a good position due to his personality. Now that he's grown up, I, as his parent, must respect his choices.*

But who would have thought? The king of freeloaders actually stepped in, and now my adult son's career is soaring!

"I will definitely thank you properly. How about I betroth Old Sara to you..."

"Get lost!" Zhao Ji cursed. He was about to say more when a woman's voice suddenly came through on the other end of the phone, prompting him to hurriedly say, "Bye," and attend to her.

Chen Zili received the news even faster than his father!

When he got home, he saw that the guards who had "taken leave" earlier had all returned, fully armed and looking spirited. The team leader, somewhat sheepish, still braved a smile and greeted, "Young Master Chen is back..."

Chen Zili ignored him. Instead, he merrily chatted with the old soldiers his father had called upon, showing great enthusiasm. These were the people who had helped when it mattered. At his young age, Chen Zili might not yet understand how to curry favor, but he simply believed that he should treat well those who treated him well.

Every year, the military sees a large number of servicemen retire and transition to civilian life, and the police force is undoubtedly one of the most appropriate and best places for them.

Next year, Chen Jixian was going to be the top man in Wuzhaoyin City's police system. Which soldier wouldn't want to secure a path for themselves after retirement? Consequently, Chen Jixian instantly became highly sought after.

Zhao Zhenhuai spent a day in the hospital with his son, utterly baffled as to how things had turned out this way. He had also reached out to the Lieutenant General, but the Lieutenant General wouldn't take his calls. Instead, a message was relayed through Anderson: it was a direct order from the Central Operations Room, advising Zhao Zhenhuai to reflect on whether he had offended some high-ranking military figure—a person not even the Lieutenant General dared to provoke.

Afterward, Zhao Zhenhuai hurriedly left Empire River Star for Capital Star to take up his new post.

He had set aside a day, planning to use his arrival at Capital Star to network and investigate just who he had offended.

In the following days, Chen Gu focused on the preliminary training for Star Battle Instructor. With the help of high-nutrition synthetic foods, he felt he could complete this final stage in one go.

Meanwhile, Wuzhaoyin City's major media outlets were competing to cover the "Dawn" dangerous species clearance operation commanded by Colonel Chen Jixian. Three regiments had conducted multiple joint operations to sweep all sorts of dangerous creatures within two hundred kilometers outside the Tranquil Ring, greatly enhancing the city's safety.

Only the alien hunters were complaining endlessly. Previously, they could easily find various steam-powered mechanical species and other dangerous alien creatures by merely venturing about twenty kilometers outside the city, beyond the protection of the frontier military forts.

Hunting these creatures meant money.

But now, they had to travel a full two hundred kilometers.

This military operation greatly enhanced Chen Jixian's reputation among the public and smoothed his path to taking over the Police Bureau.

Chen Zili perked up at school again. Those lackeys who had betrayed him to side with Zhao Junzhi wanted to come back, but Chen Zili ignored them all. Instead, he recruited a new group. Every time he appeared, he was surrounded by followers, looking quite impressive.

As a result, this upset Liu Shichan, the leader of the Dead Phoenix Gang. During a combat exchange class, she gave Chen Zili a severe beating.

Chen Zili was not Zhao Junzhi. Having been wronged, he was too embarrassed to use underhanded tricks against a girl. So, he... decided to ask his grandfather to fight a woman for him!

Chen Gu looked at Chen Zili in surprise. "You actually came to tattle to me? How is your behavior any different from a child running back to their parents after being bullied by the neighbor's kid?"

"Uh..." Chen Zili suddenly felt very childish as well.

However, his thoughts shifted, and he spoke in a pitiful tone, "You take such good care of my sister, helping her contact record companies and fulfill her dreams—but you don't care about me..."

Chen Gu couldn't stand it. "Enough already! Your acting is terrible. At least squeeze out a couple of tears."

It's not like I can force them out, Chen Zili thought to himself. He looked at Chen Gu with pleading eyes, but Chen Gu simply slapped him. "Scram! Men of the Chen family reclaim their own honor when wronged!"

I'm avoiding Liu Shichan myself, and you want me to stand up for you? Am I crazy?

One morning, after completing his training, Chen Gu suddenly felt an unprecedented hunger. It was different from before; this time, every cell in his body felt empty and in dire need of a massive energy supplement.

Chen Gu opened the fridge and, almost in one go, devoured all the stored high-nutrition food until nothing was left!

His digestive system worked rapidly, supplying energy to every part of his body. After finishing the meal, drenched in sweat, Chen Gu experienced an unparalleled sense of revitalization.

"The third stage is complete!" Chen Gu clenched his fist vigorously, and it made sharp cracking sounds. SNAP! SNAP! His physical constitution was now seven times that of an ordinary person, far exceeding his previous expectations.

This high-nutrient synthetic food company seems really good. I should invest in it if I get the chance.

Chen Gu took out the crystal stick and checked the auras of the unaffiliated professionals. Everything was as usual. The steam locomotive was still peddling goods, but its recent offerings were of no use to him.

Giant wood-type hypermaterials... they're not suitable for me either, Chen Gu sighed. Oh well, I'll wait for my adult son to return and ask him.

As a military professional, Chen Jixian should have access to the relevant channels.

However, to Chen Gu's surprise, Chen Jixian's original one-week duty rotation was extended. Before Chen Jixian could return, Chen Gu faced his first monthly exam in this lifetime.

Chen Gu's Physical Combat score was unsurprisingly first in the entire school, far surpassing even the military students. And that was with him holding back.

Third place in academics went to a boy with a scholarly air, pale skin, a frail figure, and a shy disposition, who seldom spoke to others.

Before Chen Gu arrived, this student, named Meng Erguan, had consistently ranked first in academics throughout his three years of high school.

However, his Physical Combat scores had always been poor, making it difficult for him to enroll in top-tier universities.

Of course, Chen Gu wasn't concerned about his own grades but about Chen Zili's. When he saw that his grandson was ranked 374th in the entire grade, Chen Gu immediately dragged Chen Zili to the restroom and gave him a thorough scolding.

This kid just doesn't get it. His grades are far too poor.

Chapter 42: Chapter 42: The Deputy Director's Ambition

Three days passed, and Chen Jixian finally returned. Chen Gu sent a text message requesting a meeting.

Chen Gu had initially thought his older son might still harbor some resentment and be unwilling to meet, but to his surprise, Chen Jixian quickly agreed, replying with a message: "Liuhe Martial Arts Hall, 7 PM."

Chen Gu arrived at the martial arts hall on time. A young man in a dark blue martial arts uniform greeted him at the door and led him inside to a private training room where Chen Jixian was.

Chen Jixian had just knocked down his opponent. The opponent, clearly well acquainted with him, complained repeatedly that Chen Jixian hit too hard and that he wouldn't spar with him anymore.

Only father and son remained in the training room.

As Chen Gu was pondering how to start the conversation, Chen Jixian spoke first. "I'll be concurrently serving as the branch director of the Wuzhaoyin City Bureau of Mystic Security, and I'm going to recruit you."

"Your professional identity... needs a legitimate background."

"Once you're in, don't reveal that you've already become a Professional. I'll arrange for you to enter the Generator. Be careful in there, and you shouldn't have any problems. After that, your identity will be legitimized."

Chen Gu: "!!!"

The long-standing problem was solved just like that? My older son is really capable!

But Chen Gu had some doubts. "I heard that the Bureau of Mystic Security is an independent system, not under the jurisdiction of the police system. How could they let you hold a concurrent post?"

"I am a Professional," Chen Jixian stated simply, offering no further explanation.

Then, there was nothing more for them to say. After a long silence, just as Chen Gu was about to leave, Chen Jixian slowly spoke up, "Zi Li and Qing Yu... you should look after them more."

Chen Gu nodded. "You don't need to tell me that."

They're my own grandchildren, after all.

When Chen Gu left the Liuhe Martial Arts Hall, he felt much lighter. With his identity legitimized, he would no longer have to worry about the repercussions of using his abilities.

Back at his apartment, Chen Gu suddenly slapped his forehead as he remembered something. "I knew I was forgetting something..."

Chen Gu immediately entered the gaming pod. Sure enough, his messages had exploded once again.

The earlier messages were various inquiries, but the latest ones had all converged into one terse, furious command:

"Get the hell out here for your mom!"

This one message from "Preparing Warrior's Makeup in Front of the Mirror" had been sent three thousand times in succession...

Chen Gu could feel the sender's explosive anger in every single word.

"I'm here, I'm here," Chen Gu replied nonchalantly. He then muttered to himself, *No wonder I felt like I was forgetting something. But it's fine. Ever since I've known this woman, she's always been this explosive. Probably because life in the army turned her into a female T-Rex, and lacking the nourishment of love, her endocrine system and... uh... monthly cycle must both be out of whack...*

Chen Gu was still rambling when suddenly a voice, tight with gritted teeth, sounded from within the gaming pod, "You definitely forgot you turned on the voice chat!"

Chen Gu was so startled he did a carp flip. His head went THUD against the pod lid, making him cry out in pain. He then noticed a large dent on the lid where his head had hit. The thought of repair costs made him groan in agony again, "OH—"

Bai Xianya must have exploded in place three hundred and sixty times by now.

That bastard! He stood up the entire Central Operations Room and still dared to slander me behind my back! You just wait! Don't let me find out who you really are! When that time comes, this little fairy will get all dolled up, appear right in front of you, and blind your damn dog eyes! Female T-Rex? Damn him!

She said coldly, "Everything has been prepared according to your demands."

"The combat staff selected from various fronts, the professors invited from military academies, and Zhao Zhenhuai, whom you specifically requested—these people have been assembled for over a week. Every day they ask us: what exactly is the mission!"

At this point, Bai Xianya was grinding her teeth. "But the Marshal and I can't answer any of their questions! We don't know if some arrogant, conceited, stubborn, selfish, self-righteous, senile old fool is going to stand us up!"

"We are the Central Operations Room, the military's core think tank. If he stands us up, centuries of painstakingly built prestige will be utterly destroyed!"

"The entire Confederation military will be humiliated!"

Chen Gu, in his gaming pod, twiddled his thumbs. *Sounds serious.*

Bai Xianya continued, grinding her teeth, "You remember this: you'd better not make the Central Operations Room regret this decision. Otherwise, the Central Operations Room will **definitely** make you regret **all** of your decisions!"

While still spitting out her anger, Bai Xianya's hands flew across her controls, directing the war AI to begin analyzing the "Idol Actor's" voice data.

Indeed, as the resentful yet dedicated fan girl who had been vigilantly waiting for the "Idol Actor" for over a week, Bai Xianya had already made all necessary preparations.

"Not a chance," Chen Gu immediately promised. "I can start working right now!"

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Capital Star was a vast, first-class colony planet. Its natural environment was exceptionally hospitable to humans, boasting lush vegetation and an atmosphere that could be breathed directly without any modification. Moreover, there were few deadly alien creatures in the wild.

Everything there was very similar to humanity's original home planet, only its surface area was much larger.

After thousands of years of development, the planet had a population of eighty billion and was becoming increasingly crowded. In many cities, housing was difficult to secure.

Guxiangyang City was one of the megacities on Capital Star. Here, every inch of space—above ground, below ground, and even in the sky—had been developed to its absolute limit, yet living conditions for its citizens remained extremely cramped.

In a certain area in the northwest of the city, an unusual tranquility prevailed. This was a military restricted zone.

More than a week ago, a small courtyard within this zone had a sign hung up. It bore no name, only a simple number: 745.

Every day, more than a dozen people came and went. Deputy Director Zhao Zhenhuai was "temporarily presiding over the work," but even he could only spread his hands in ignorance when asked what exactly that work entailed.

However, Zhao Zhenhuai was no longer as dejected as before. He had always thought he had offended someone, which was why he had been reassigned to this seemingly inconsequential research institute. But after arriving, he realized that the institute's standards were extremely high!

All the researchers were either renowned military academy professors or high-ranking military officers with real authority from the front lines.

Any one of them held more status, power, and reputation than Zhao Zhenhuai had previously possessed.

Gathering such individuals here means the 745 Research Institute must be extraordinarily important. And to think I could become its deputy director! It seems my career is about to take off! This is far better than being retired or transferred to a civilian post. He even began to fantasize: So what if Chen Jixian took over my old position? I still have the hope of becoming a general! I still have the chance for my dreams to come true! But Chen Jixian, you don't have that chance anymore!

Chapter 43: Chapter 43 Frog Jumps and High Knees

During this period, everyone at work simply drank tea and browsed the internet. Growing impatient, the researchers began to gossip, with Deputy Director Zhao Junzhi being the primary target.

"Where did this kid spring from?" a seasoned professor wondered suspiciously.

"Who does he think he is, leading us?" an impassioned, undefeated frontline strategist bluntly challenged.

Compared to these individuals, Zhao Zhenhuai was indeed a nobody. As time passed, rumors and whispers naturally reached Zhao Junzhi's ears. He was deeply resentful and silently vowed, *Just you wait! I've been promoted by an influential patron, undoubtedly due to my exceptional military talents! I'll make all of you see me in a new light very soon!*

He inquired with his superiors, already impatient to begin working. However, his superiors merely gave him a stern command, "Await instructions!"

Finally, the day arrived. A high-ranking military vehicle stopped at the entrance of the research institute. Bai Xianya, clad in a military uniform and as coolly elegant as an alpine rose, stepped out accompanied by two junior strategists.

"Research Institute 745 carries the fervent hopes of the entire military command!"

"All of you are among the Confederation's most brilliant tactical minds. We need you, under the leadership of a true master tactician, to develop the most suitable tactics to counter the Alien Insect Race!"

"Your director is someone you are all very familiar with."

As Bai Xianya spoke, she gestured to a screen. A battle video began to play, showing the player [Idol Actor] defeating [Officer's Wings] in the game "Inferno" during the event known as [Pillar of Heaven's Fall].

Zhao Zhenhuai stared, dumbfounded. *What in the world is happening?*

Bai Xianya scanned the room. "Due to personal reasons, [Idol Actor] himself will not be present at the research institute. However, you can all maintain contact with him at any time."

The two junior strategists distributed the experimental combat data for the [Pillar of Heaven's Fall] tactic. Everyone reviewed it and nodded in agreement; the tactic was indeed feasible.

"Research Institute 745's short-term goal is to develop a tactical manual for the [Pillar of Heaven's Fall] against the Alien Insect Race, covering three thousand different combat scenarios."

"The long-term goal is a comprehensive all-environment tactical manual."

"Looking even further ahead, the objective is to devise corresponding counter-tactics for other intelligent species we might encounter."

"Zhao Zhenhuai!"

Still in a daze, Zhao Zhenhuai suddenly heard his name and instinctively stood at attention. "Present, sir!"

"You, as Deputy Director, were personally requested by [Idol Actor]. You are the crucial link between him and the entire research institute. You will report the situation to him at all times and relay his instructions. Your role is extremely important. You must provide excellent service and ensure the Director is satisfied!"

Zhao Zhenhuai's blood boiled, and he almost cursed aloud. *So that's how it is! I was wondering why I, a perfectly capable city police chief, was suddenly made a deputy director in this dead-end research institute! My millions of Starshields! How much funding can I possibly embezzle in this wretched place? It'll take forever to earn that back! And what's even more infuriating is that not only did that damned [Idol Actor] humiliate me in front of millions, but now I have to be his subordinate, under his thumb for life! What grudge does he have against me, what have I ever done to him!*

"Have you understood?" Bai Xianya asked, but Zhao Zhenhuai, his mind in turmoil, hadn't heard a word.

"Have you understood?" Bai Xianya repeated sharply, her voice louder.

Zhao Zhenhuai clenched his molars and bit out, "Understood!"

Following his reply, Zhao Zhenhuai immediately felt a barrage of mocking gazes from... every single researcher present.

They looked at him with a look of sudden understanding. *So that's how you became Deputy Director! Ah, yes, if that's the case... we can only express our admiration! We would never dare compete with you for this position, Your Excellency. The price is simply too high—to be humiliated in front of millions, then to be constantly reminded of it, to have your disgrace paraded and picked apart at almost every tactical studies conference across the Star Sea, like having your corpse publicly flogged. You've made such an immense sacrifice; this Deputy Directorship is truly what you deserve!*

Zhao Zhenhuai wished a hole would open up and swallow him. He had never felt so embarrassed in his entire life.

Bai Xianya suddenly added, "Oh, right. Because His Excellency [Idol Actor]'s identity is confidential, in addition to being the liaison Deputy Director, you are also his sole personal assistant. You are required to satisfy all of his demands! This is a military order, understand?"

All demands? Zhao Zhenhuai felt his world crumbling. But Bai Xianya had stressed it was a military order, her almond eyes glaring at him menacingly. Armed military police stood guard outside the door. Steeling himself, Zhao Zhenhuai forced out two words through clenched teeth, "Understood."

"Good. Now, let us begin your first interaction with the Director," Bai Xianya said, nodding in satisfaction.

These strategists and professors didn't particularly doubt [Idol Actor]'s abilities, but the man was so secretive, not even showing his face and only providing remote guidance via the internet. *How reliable could that be? Could anything useful actually be developed this way?* Everyone felt that the Central Operations Room's arrangement was somewhat farcical.

And [Idol Actor]'s first interaction with them was even more dubious. He simply left a single message: "Begin your research based on the existing data. I will contact you all in three days. We can discuss any questions then."

Then, [Idol Actor] logged out of "Inferno" on the spot.

Bai Xianya could feel the strange stares around her. In her mind, she was already cursing that damned old fool. *You had better not embarrass the Central Operations Room, or I swear I'll do more than just embarrass you!*

Without another word, Bai Xianya left the research institute. She returned to the Central Operations Room and found her uncle. "Uncle... I feel we've been too hasty this time!"

"That man is insufferable!"

Bai Yunpeng ignored his niece's complaints, merely asking, "What is the progress on screening the individuals around Zhao Zhenhuai?"

"It's complete, but we haven't found anyone who could be [Idol Actor]."

"Check again," Bai Yunpeng ordered. "If you still find nothing... then perhaps our investigation was misdirected from the start. Actually, I've suspected from the beginning that [Idol Actor] bringing Zhao Zhenhuai into this was merely a tactical misdirection."

Understanding dawned on Bai Xianya. Her lovely almond eyes widened until they were round, and after a long moment, she burst out with a curse, "That despicable old fool, he's playing us!"

Bai Yunpeng, however, offered a word of praise, "Truly worthy of being the top tactical master in this Star Sea!"

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After Bai Xianya departed, Zhao Zhenhuai commenced his "daily work," feeling like a zombie.

His so-called daily work now consisted of monitoring the game "Inferno," lest he miss any "instructions" from the esteemed Director.

Zhao Zhenhuai's eyes were vacant, as if he had lost half his soul and spirit.

It took him a while to rally his spirits. *It might not be so bad. After all, I am the Deputy Director now. I don't have any real feud with that [Idol Actor]. He used me to climb higher, true, but he's already made me miserable enough. What more could he want? Hmm... perhaps he specifically named me for this Deputy Director position because he feels a bit guilty and wants to compensate me.*

Just as Deputy Director Zhao was optimistically trying to console himself, his "Inferno" account suddenly chimed. A small speaker icon flashed insistently, and a message cheerfully popped up.

He clicked on it. Indeed, it was from [Idol Actor].

"Perform frog hops with your hands clasped behind your head all the way to the Yingtai Flower Market in District D of the city. Buy a pot of Dream Fantasy Orchids. Then, holding it in front of you with both hands, run back with high knees. I want to see that pot of flowers in my office before six o'clock this afternoon."

Chapter 44: Chapter 44: Performance Art Internet Celebrity

Zhao Zhenhuai's head exploded with a bang. "What did you say?!"

"Are you trying to kill me?!"

The previously optimistic Zhao Zhenhuai collapsed. It turned out that in this world, there were many despicable souls who loved to kick a man when he was down!

"The research institute is more than ten kilometers away from the Yingtai Flower Market, and you want me to frog-jump there and high-step march back?!"

"Why? What's the point of doing this? You're just doing this to mess with me, right?"

Zhao Zhenhuai's hands flew rapidly, sending a stream of messages back. He didn't have the grandeur of Bai Xianya, though, who would spend a fortune on exploding fonts.

Chen Gu looked at these messages, his eyebrows raised. "I do want to mess with you. What are you going to do about it?"

Then, Chen Gu replied with a clear and concise message, "This is an order!"

Zhao Zhenhuai sat in front of the screen for a long while. Finally, he rose in fury and smashed his desk with a punch.

He promptly made a holographic video call to Bai Xianya. "I resign! I quit!"

Bai Xianya spoke with a cold expression, "Zhao Zhenhuai, I remind you, you are a soldier, not a regular employee!"

Zhao Zhenhuai showed her the message from 'Idol Actor.' "That old bastard is an asshole! Look at what he's doing! I can't do this. I'm not serving anymore!"

Bai Xianya's eyelids twitched, cursing inwardly at the troublesome old man. *I knew it wouldn't be that easy...*

"Hold on, I'll communicate with the director."

Bai Xianya ended the call with Zhao Zhenhuai and immediately went to find 'Idol Actor.'

This time, the other party replied quickly:

'I have ample reason to do this.'

'Yes, this time I am deliberately making things difficult for him.'

'I can't reveal myself. To control the entire research institute via Zhao Zhenhuai, I must ascertain that he will fully accept any of my directives and confirm his unconditional obedience to me.'

'This is a probe, and a test.'

'Do you understand?'

Bai Xianya was silent. The troublesome old man might be excessive, but he seemed to have some rationale.

She silently dialed Zhao Zhenhuai's number. "You're a soldier, follow orders!"

"Surely you understand what it means for a soldier to defy military orders!"

"A military court is waiting for you."

Zhao Zhenhuai was stupefied, on the verge of tears.

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Chen Gu, using his hacker methods, sent messages to several famous streamers: "In Gu Xiangyang City, near the Yingtai Flower Market, there will be a unique performance art event!"

These streamers, ever fearful of not having novel content to attract viewers, swarmed towards the Yingtai Flower Market immediately.

Chen Gu even divided the route from Research Institute 745 to the Yingtai Flower Market into sections and sent them to these streamers, making sure they would appear along the entire route so Zhao Zhenhuai couldn't slack off.

Then, he exited his gaming pod. Lying comfortably on a chair, he turned on the live broadcast, opened a bag of sunflower seeds, prepared a chilled beer, and settled in to joyfully watch the spectacle.

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Zhao Zhenhuai changed out of his military uniform and into his training gear. He then hurried out of the research institute and began to frog-jump.

More than ten kilometers, Zhao Zhenhuai thought, his heart trembling.

Even though the physical fitness of humans in this era had greatly improved, it was still a challenge akin to scaling Mount Everest during the era of our home planet.

He had barely hopped a few steps when someone holding a recording device, much like a floating mechanical eye, WHOOSHED in front of him. The device nearly touched his face.

The streamer spoke in an exaggerated tone, "Look everyone! There's actually some idiot using the ancient exercise method of frog-jumping for performance art!"

"What's he trying to express?"

"Nostalgic sentiments?"

"Or a protest against modern high-tech?"

Zhao Zhenhuai cursed inwardly, *You're the performance art! Your whole family is performance art! Express a point, my ass! I don't have any point right now, just a bellyful of curses!*

The streamer was a real daredevil. "Let's go interview this performance artist to see why he's doing this."

He approached and asked, "Hey, hey! May I ask..."

"Scram!"

Zhao Zhenhuai sped up his hopping. Dressed in his army-green fatigues, he looked just like a... giant toad.

The streamer chased after him. "Wow, he's hopping quite fast! I'm having a bit of trouble catching up, even while running..."

The streamer was very popular, with tens of millions of viewers in his live stream. Soon, someone recognized him, commenting, "This guy looks familiar. Isn't he that guy from the gaming video that was popular a while ago, the one beaten up by 'Idol Actor'?"

With that clue, someone else recognized him. "Yes, yes, exactly! The 'Tactical Sandbag'! In the game, he's called 'Wing of the Generals.' In real life, I heard he's a colonel. What's his name... let me think..."

Immediately someone replied, "Zhao Zhenhuai!"

"Wow, Zhao Zhenhuai!"

Zhao Zhenhuai faithfully executed his orders. He had no choice. He didn't know where all these streamers were coming from. Along the way, more kept joining, dozens of mechanical eyes ZOOMING and BUZZING around him like a swarm of flies.

And he, Zhao Zhenhuai, was obviously the piece of... shit that the flies were swarming.

Chen Gu watched and laughed heartily. But after finishing a bottle of beer, he found it boring. Zhao Zhenhuai kept frog-jumping, burning a tremendous amount of energy and sweating profusely. The sight of a middle-aged man in a sweat-soaked shirt, each movement graphically outlining certain parts of his physique... It was an eyesore.

Chen Gu turned off the live stream and went about his own business.

What he didn't know was that, because of this bizarre "performance art," the live streams of dozens of streamers had their popularity soar!

Across Star Sea, billions watched this live broadcast.

And so, overnight, Zhao Zhenhuai became notorious, a well-known... internet celebrity!

The mastermind Chen Gu thought with satisfaction, *When I'm bored in the future, I can always train Zhao Zhenhuai a bit more!*

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At six o'clock in the afternoon, the researchers saw their deputy director holding a pot of orchids to his chest. He moved into the research institute with high-kneed, robot-like steps. He then placed the orchids in the empty director's office.

A group of researchers exclaimed, "That's some innovative ass-kissing."

"Our deputy director truly deserves his position! Zhao Zhenhuai has really lived up to his name!"

"Impressive, impressive!"

"We simple folks can only honestly dedicate ourselves to research."

An unintended consequence was that the researchers, afraid of being tormented in various ways by the director, actually began to focus on their research!

Chapter 45: Chapter Forty-Five: Star Military God

Three days whisked by. On the morning of the fourth day, everyone at the research institute had compiled their findings and presented them to Zhao Zhenhuai, who was to report to the "Idol Actor."

On his first day of work, Zhao Zhenhuai was completely exhausted. No one in the entire research institute was more "diligent" than he!

The researchers, judging by that pot of orchids, concluded: *This is a sycophant without real talent, someone who has climbed the ranks by ingratiating himself with superiors.*

Everyone loved to take down a "monster," and the researchers also had quite a few complaints about the Director's arrangements. As a result, Zhao Zhenhuai shockingly found himself caught between a rock and a hard place, enduring frustrations every day.

Speaking of which, Zhao Zhenhuai was also a well-known tactical prodigy in the military. However, those selected for this research institute were all tactical geniuses, making his abilities seem quite ordinary.

The aggregated research results revealed both achievements and lingering questions.

The "Heavenly Pillar Collapse" tactic had a central idea: commanders needed to make on-the-spot decisions when facing different enemies and battlefield situations. However, most of the army's junior officers lacked this capability, necessitating a significant expansion of the tactical manual.

Yet, there were some situations that even these tactical geniuses didn't know how to address.

So, they simply threw all the problems to the Director.

When Chen Gu received these questions, he immediately lashed out at Zhao Zhenhuai, "Do these simple questions need me, the Director, to address them personally? What are you all even doing? Living off the taxpayers' money, aren't you ashamed?"

Zhao Zhenhuai had also reviewed the compiled findings. Although he had previously been frustrated with the researchers, after seeing the results, he couldn't help but feel some respect for them.

He realized he had been a frog at the bottom of a well. Each of these researchers was more skilled than he was.

Faced with such a scolding from the Director, he kept silent, sneering inwardly, *So fierce and threatening. Probably all bark and no bite. These are problems the geniuses couldn't solve; you're likely out of your depth too.*

Zhao Zhenhuai suddenly realized, *These researchers are no pushovers either! They're deliberately giving the 'Idol Actor' a hard time by stumping him with difficult questions!*

At this thought, Zhao Zhenhuai felt a profound sense of satisfaction, his mood as refreshed as if he'd drunk a glass of ice water on a scorching summer day.

Yet, what he didn't expect was that while scolding him, the "Idol Actor" rapidly laid out various solutions!

For two of the toughest problems, he even provided three different combat plans, all capable of achieving the operational goals!

Drawing upon the ingrained memories, Chen Gu quickly found solutions to the problems. It was at this moment that Chen Gu had an epiphany: the greatest boon *The Past of Four Hundred People* provided him wasn't the skills of those professionals, but their wealth of experience!

Thrusting all the solutions at Zhao Zhenhuai, Chen Gu added disparagingly, "Tell those incompetents that if they can't handle this job, they should resign. Don't make me fire them; it will be awkward for everyone."

"Alright, back to your research. The same rule applies: exchange information every three days. But next time, I expect them to come up with some more profound questions, not waste my time with these idiotic ones!"

"Do you understand?"

Zhao Zhenhuai instinctively lowered his head. "Understood, Director. Please take care."

Inside the research institute's main conference room, the researchers sat slouched, their attitude lax. They were still chatting casually when Zhao Zhenhuai entered. This deputy director truly had no authority in their eyes.

Then, Zhao Zhenhuai casually tossed out the solutions provided by the "Idol Actor" and sat down without a word.

The chatter gradually quieted. The researchers were drawn to the answers, growing more astonished as they read, and slowly, they all sat up straight.

After a while, they finally finished reviewing the material. One of them glanced at the time and asked in astonishment, "He... he came up with solutions this quickly?"

Zhao Zhenhuai knew what role he played in the eyes of these people. He had initially been filled with resentment towards the "Idol Actor," but seeing the stunned looks on their faces suddenly gave him an idea: *A true man can bend and stretch!*

Why not use the 'Idol Actor's' influence to knock some sense into these people who look down on me?

As for the grievances between myself and the 'Idol Actor,' outsiders don't know about them, do they? I can always find a way to deal with that damned old man later!

So, with an expression of grave concern, he tapped his knuckles on the table and said, "Gentlemen, gentlemen!"

"Please, take your work more seriously. The Director effortlessly solved these problems. He is very angry and feels you are wasting his time."

"Moreover, he said that if such superficial problems arise again, he will start firing people."

The researchers shuddered. *Being sent back like this would be utterly humiliating.*

What would we say to our colleagues and comrades back home?

Although no one said it aloud, the researchers secretly resolved to work twice as hard. They were determined not to be underestimated by the Director again!

Zhao Zhenhuai watched their expressions change and felt incredibly satisfied, thinking, *Look down on me, will you? Now you'll see there are always people better than you! Before our Director, you're all just juniors!*

After his silent gloating, he suddenly reflected: *If I'm indeed not as good as these 'juniors,' then what am I?*

A lesser junior?

...

Chen Gu had a nagging feeling that something was amiss. According to the memories of Milna Katerina and Griffin Wester, there were nine major Energy Levels for professionals. Griffin Wester was at the Fifth Energy Level, already considered 'mid-tier' among them.

Yet, in terms of tactics, he could utterly dominate the Confederation's military tactics research institute!

After concluding his exchange with Zhao Zhenhuai and exiting *The Gap,* Chen Gu immediately logged into the Star Network to look up information on Griffin Wester and the "Blue Blood Hooligans."

What he discovered startled him. Griffin Wester had a low profile among the public. Even in authoritative historical evaluations, he wasn't considered "prominent." However, in many specialized military works, Griffin Wester was highly esteemed, with many authors suggesting he should be regarded as the "Number One Military God of the Star Era!"

The starship fleet he commanded, the "Blue Blood Hooligans," had scarcely tasted defeat and boasted numerous classic battle records. Each one could be written into textbooks, enough for a tactical history expert to spend a lifetime researching as a major project!

However, because the "Blue Blood Hooligans" were a mercenary group, official histories seldom mentioned them, and the various Star Nations were reluctant to acknowledge Griffin Wester's status in military history.

*Good heavens, this paranoid lug is really something else, Chen Gu muttered. Then a new thought: If Griffin Wester is this impressive, Milna Katerina, who is listed with him in *The Past of Four Hundred People,* must also be far from simple...*

However, Chen Gu had yet to discover what exactly made the "Nuclear Explosion Nun" so remarkable.

He immediately searched for Milna Katerina on the Star Network but found nothing significant. He only located her name on a very old list of nuns from the Atomic Holy Church.

This doesn't make sense... Chen Gu murmured.

Chapter 46: Chapter 46: Eyewitness

The alarm went off. It was half past six. Chen Gu left the house under the escort of his bodyguards to meet Zhao Ji and Ossosa.

The time and place had been chosen by Chen Gu. It was seven o'clock, at a restaurant named "Four-Leaf Clover," slightly less renowned than Xihui Restaurant but just as expensive.

The reason was to "thank" Zhao Ji for helping his adult son secure the position of Director of the Police Department.

Zhao Ji knew Chen Gu's financial standing and exclaimed that he needed to fleece him thoroughly.

The three of them drank some wine, reminiscing about the past, and didn't disperse until after ten that evening. This time, Zhao Ji's phone remained unusually quiet.

Zhao Ji looked somewhat embarrassed. "She's gone traveling. I'm quite free these days; I call the shots on my time!"

Before parting, Chen Gu told him, "Now that Zhao Zhenhuai is finished, I'm not in any danger. You can take back the bodyguards and the car."

Zhao Ji waved his hand carelessly. "I'll have the bodyguards return, but you keep the car."

Chen Gu didn't stand on ceremony with him either. "Fine, saves me the trouble of squeezing onto a public bus every day."

In this era, maglev cars had an automatic driving feature, and driver's licenses were no longer required.

After the three parted ways, Chen Gu set the route and destination, allowing the maglev car to drive at a normal speed.

At ten-thirty at night, as the car passed Gurong Street, a secluded harbor area, the right side of the street bordered the vast Bokong Docks.

This was a cargo dock where sixty percent of the goods brought to Wuzhaoyin City from outer space were unloaded.

Just as Chen Gu's car was about to leave Gurong Street, an explosion suddenly erupted from Bokong Docks, and flames soared into the sky.

Following closely, a hail of gunfire, sounding like popping beans, erupted, and a stream of high-explosive ammunition swept across the ground. A dark figure leaped up from the conflict zone, weapons striking his body to no effect.

Then, another figure came hurtling through the air, slamming sideways into the first dark figure.

The collision between the two unleashed a massive shockwave pulsing with blue electromagnetic energy!

The recoil sent the two figures crashing into separate buildings. Chen Gu's maglev car, only dozens of meters from the conflict, was flung away like a toy. It tumbled over a dozen times in the air before embedding itself heavily into the ground.

A large number of warriors in black uniforms, carrying weapons, stormed out from the docks, surrounding the first dark figure.

Chen Gu had actually seen these people once before: the action team of the Bureau of Mystic Security.

They only surrounded the figure, not daring to truly attack the dark figure that had crashed into the building.

Four more figures arrived quickly. Three stayed back while one raised his hand. From within his broad sleeves, countless small insects flew out, rushing into the building and quickly locating the target.

Then the other three charged in. The building continuously echoed with the tremendous impacts of the fight, accompanied by flashes of various lights. About twenty minutes later, they emerged, stained with some black tissue, and quickly headed back to Headquarters to clean up.

Before leaving, one ordered, "The cleanup team is to move immediately! Seal off the entire block. The docks, the streets, and this building must all be thoroughly cleaned."

The action team sealed off the entire block, and the cleanup team entered. Everything proceeded methodically. Suddenly, a member of the action team discovered Chen Gu's maglev car. "Report, witness found!"

「...」

Chen Jixian was roused from sleep by a call and rushed to Headquarters.

He had officially retired three days prior and joined the Wuzhaoyin City police system as the Deputy Director of the Municipal Bureau, concurrently serving as the Director of the Bureau of Mystic Security's Wuzhaoyin City Branch.

Tonight's operation was not large, deploying only a single special operations team.

Within the Bureau of Mystic Security, only the special operations teams were composed of Professionals. Each team consisted of five members, and the entire Wuzhaoyin City Branch had a total of five such teams.

However, the number of internal affairs teams, action teams, and cleanup teams was substantial.

Handling ordinary witnesses wasn't difficult, but upon discovering Chen Gu's identity, they immediately called Chen Jixian.

However, the decision on how to handle Chen Gu, the witness, unexpectedly stalled.

Chen Jixian had arrived over an hour ago, but they still hadn't come to a decision.

"Why can't we recruit him? Chen Gu does have a criminal record, but many special operators in our Bureau of Mystic Security also have criminal pasts. Besides, Chen Gu has served his sentence and paid for his actions."

The woman arguing fervently was dressed in professional attire. Upon closer inspection, her features were quite appealing. She looked to be in her thirties and possessed a

certain charm. However, she deliberately dressed in a staid, old-fashioned manner, and her makeup was severe, seemingly to project more authority in the workplace.

Opposite her sat a sanctimonious old man, short and slim. With a grim, business-like expression, he said, "Director Mei, indeed, many criminals have been recruited as special operators. But you should seriously examine Chen Gu's crimes.

You would then understand that someone with such a sordid mind is inherently untrustworthy. Our Bureau frequently comes into contact with Mutants. His potential for contamination and subsequent corruption is far greater than others, and he could become a liability!"

The old man pressed his hands on the table, speaking commandingly, "I still suggest memory excision. Erase this segment of his memories from tonight, and then send him back."

"You're taking this too lightly!" Director Mei retorted sharply. "Memory excision surgery is highly unpredictable! There's a significant probability of complete amnesia or madness induced by memory confusion!

And even if successful, there are various side effects! Subjecting a high school student to this is a highly bureaucratic and irresponsible act!"

But the old man was unyielding. "This individual is too high-risk. Don't forget the incident two years ago in Liu City! A member of our Bureau there was contaminated and became corrupted, causing massive losses to the Liu City Branch! We cannot afford such a risk!"

In the conference room, the other directors remained silent.

The old man was Director Marcel of the First Division. Among all the divisions in the branch, the First Division had consistently been the top performer. Marcel himself had originally been the most promising candidate for Director of the Branch.

And everyone knew that the witness, Chen Gu, was Chen Jixian's biological father.

However, Chen Jixian was new to his position and had not yet fully established his authority over the entire branch. Surprisingly, Director Mei, who had shown no prior inclination to support the new Director, was now ardently defending Chen Gu, which surprised everyone.

The argument continued endlessly with no resolution in sight. Chen Jixian sat silently at the head of the long table, eyes downcast, not uttering a word.

Finally, Marcel looked at him. "Since opinions differ, let the Director make the decision."

Chen Jixian remained silent—not because he found the decision difficult, but because, outside of combat, he was simply a beat slower to react than others.

A barely perceptible glint of amusement flashed in Marcel's eyes as he pressed his point. "If the Director decides to recruit, we will certainly carry out the order. However, I reiterate: if Chen Gu becomes corrupted and causes significant losses to the branch, who will bear that responsibility?"

Chen Jixian was still processing Marcel's point and was about to speak when his confidential secretary burst in, breathless. "Director, urgent communication from Headquarters!"

Chen Jixian remained silent for another moment. As the secretary grew anxious, he finally said calmly, "Connect it."

Chapter 47: Chapter 47 Director-General

WHOOSH—

A holographic projection appeared on the conference room's long table, and a valiant female figure materialized. The other directors quickly lowered their heads in greeting, "Director-General!"

Chen Jixian remained motionless.

Some directors who were still neutral couldn't help but admire inwardly: *The Director is no ordinary man, unaffected by beauty and undaunted by power.*

If Chen Gu had been there, he would have recognized this woman as the lead actress of the original sixteen-part artistic blockbuster, the goddess of all male members of Star Sea forty years ago, Aviloya!

After so many years, no one knew that the Valkyrie Aviloya had become the Director-General of the Confederation's Bureau of Mystic Security.

Aviloya looked at Chen Jixian and said only one sentence, "Chen Gu must become a member of the Bureau of Mystic Security."

Then, the communication was cut off.

Marcel pursed his lips and looked down to hide the disappointment he couldn't contain. *So close!* he thought. *I had pushed the new Director into a no-win situation. No matter what choice Chen Jixian made, it would be wrong. If he agreed to the recruitment, he would be planting seeds of future trouble. If it all came to light, Chen Jixian would only have one way out: to resign in acknowledgment of his faults. If he denied the recruitment and Chen Gu underwent the memory wipe surgery—not to*

mention the various risks—Chen Gu was his father. If he couldn't even protect his own father just after taking office, what kind of authority would he have left? Too bad, I was just one step away... Damn it! Why would the Director-General, clearly the one wronged by that young man, come forward to recruit him into the Bureau of Mystic Security?

Even Marcel, with all his cunning and schemes, couldn't understand it.

Chen Gu, locked in an empty white room, was unaware of this slight interlude in the plan—he could never imagine that he and the Valkyrie had the same idea: *Place the enemy under my control, where they can't escape. Then I'll have plenty of time to teach them a lesson!*

Chen Gu waited for two hours before members of the administrative department finally came for various inquiries, including why he left his home tonight, where he had gone, and what he had done.

Behind the scenes, the administrative department even conducted a detailed analysis of why Chen Gu had chosen to travel via Gurong Street.

Another hour and a half later, the administrative department's report was released: it was determined to be an accidental sighting with no suspicions.

Only then did the recruitment process begin.

The person assigned to talk to Chen Gu was Director Mei. With Chen Gu's acting skills, it was as if he was hearing about the secret world behind this world's advanced science for the first time. He displayed shock, doubt, questioning, and rebuttal, until he was finally compelled to accept—all flawlessly.

After completing all the procedures, Director Mei handed Chen Gu a crystal core. "Alright," she said, "from now on, you are a member of the administrative department of Wuzhaoyin City's Bureau of Mystic Security, Section Five."

"Let's get reacquainted. I am the director of Section Five. My surname is Mei."

"Director Mei, good to meet you." *So this is my boss from now on*, Chen Gu thought.

"You are still a student, so there's no need for you to come to work every day. However, when you receive a summon order, regardless of what you are doing, you must immediately report back to the bureau."

"Additionally, you should also come to the bureau during weekends and holidays to do what you can. Consider it an internship."

"Work hard. The bureau offers good compensation and benefits."

"By the way, how are your body technique scores?"

Chen Gu feigned a lack of confidence. "Pretty good, I guess..."

Director Mei didn't take it to heart. "If you're interested in becoming a professional, then work hard to improve your body technique scores. Once you meet the standard, the Bureau will give you a preliminary training plan. Complete the plan and accumulate enough merits, and you can apply to become a professional."

Director Mei walked out with Chen Gu, explaining these basic details along the way. Upon reaching her office, she summoned someone. "Silver Eagle, take him for a body technique test to see what his level is."

Silver Eagle was a very attractive young man.

In Chen Gu's opinion, he was somewhat effeminate. *Look at that soft, fair skin, those red lips and white teeth, that fine, straight nose, and those bright, clear eyes that seem almost capable of speech... Not a trace of a tough guy, is there?*

However, Chen Gu also knew that this kind of appearance was very popular among women these days—his good friend Zhao Ji, for example, was this type when he was young.

Director Mei added to Chen Gu, "Silver Eagle is a professional from the special service team. You can ask him anything you don't understand."

"Okay."

Silver Eagle beckoned to Chen Gu. "Follow me," he said, revealing a dark-golden watch beneath his sleeve.

Chen Gu silently curled his lip. *Way too showy!*

In this era, mechanical watches were a true luxury. Chen Gu recognized at a glance that it was a popular model among the 'big players,' with a public price of two million two hundred thousand Starshield.

Just from this first meeting, Great Actor Chen, skilled at analyzing characters, could tell. *This Silver Eagle fellow loves to show off.*

After the two left, the office door closed automatically. Director Mei sat behind the large desk, a sly smile creeping across her face.

Illuminated by the faint bluish glow of the surrounding electronic devices, she looked somewhat eerie.

In the Director's office, Chen Jixian, who was slow to react, suddenly thought of an issue: *Why would Mei Lixue support me? Is she offering allegiance spontaneously?*

Silver Eagle led Chen Gu toward the training ground, strutting with his head held high. When people greeted him, he responded with nothing more than a slight nod.

Yet, the girls just ate it up. Following behind, Chen Gu overheard female staff members whispering to each other several times after they passed by, "So handsome."

Chen Gu secretly pursed his lips. *Blind!* Then, looking at himself again, he felt a sense of resignation. *It's because I'm ugly.*

Arriving at the training ground, Silver Eagle adopted the pose of a senior, speaking indifferently, "You're still a student; don't aim too high. In the Bureau of Mystic Security, everyone wants to be a professional, but even at the city-level branch, the number of special agents rarely exceeds thirty."

He pointed to the nearby training equipment, instructing, "Spend more time exercising here. At your age, this is precisely the time to trade effort for your future. The facilities here are much better than at school. Whether you can become a professional depends on talent, but even if you don't make it, you'll still develop a strong body."

Just then, several muscle-bound men from the action team were exercising with heavy weights. The other trainees felt inferior and didn't dare approach, carefully maintaining the hierarchy of the training space.

However, when these men saw Silver Eagle, they all put on ingratiating smiles. "Brother Eagle, you're here! Want to give it a try? We'll make space for you."

Silver Eagle hadn't planned to train, but the attitudes of these men greatly satisfied his vanity. He smiled modestly, rolled up his sleeves, and removed his watch. "Just a quick try," he said. "I'm here today to accompany the newcomer for the body technique test."

Silver Eagle stepped onto a high-gravity barbell rack.

One of the muscle men immediately said, "This weight for the bench press is too light for you. Shall I increase it to double gravity, three hundred pounds?"

"Fine," Silver Eagle replied casually. "Just to warm up."

Chapter 48: Chapter 48 Physical Skill Test (1)

The weaklings at the bottom of the training ground's food chain shivered in the distance. Double gravity, three hundred pounds! And this was just the warm-up! It would have been impressive if those weaklings could push that weight under normal gravity conditions.

Silver Eagle was even more satisfied. *Why did he enjoy training? Of course, it was to show off... no, of course, it was to maintain his condition and continuously improve!*

Silver Eagle easily completed six sets, then increased the weight to five hundred pounds and performed three more. A light sheen of sweat appeared on his body. The surrounding weaklings trembled, practically drooling at the sight of Silver Eagle's muscles.

They all secretly marveled, "As expected of a Professional from the Special Service Unit. His strength is terrifying!"

Silver Eagle, appearing nonchalant and not giving them a sideways glance, had already taken in all the expressions of admiration and envy with his peripheral vision. He then waved his hand dismissively. "Alright, that was just a bit of fun. I have other things to do."

He pointed at Chen Gu and said to a few muscular men, "The new guy from the admin team..."

Upon hearing "admin team," the muscular men's faces filled with disdain. *Weakling +1.*

"He's with me!" Silver Eagle emphasized, displeased. The muscular men's attitudes changed immediately. "Don't worry, Eagle! If you're not around, we'll look after him for you!"

Silver Eagle nodded in satisfaction. But when he turned his head, he saw Chen Gu looking calm, showing neither heartfelt gratitude for his patronage nor even a perfunctory word of thanks. This immediately displeased him.

Chen Gu was also annoyed. *Thank *you*? Damn it, you're using me, the Film Emperor, as a prop for your showboating!*

"Alright then." Since Chen Gu showed no gratitude, Silver Eagle didn't bother to say more. "Let's move on to the physical skills test."

Just need to complete the task the Director assigned.

For someone so unappreciative, Silver Eagle, the self-proclaimed aloof Prince, couldn't be bothered to utter another word.

"We'll do it! We'll do it! Eagle, you rest," a few muscular men volunteered eagerly. The physical skills test wasn't complicated, mainly covering four aspects: strength, speed, flexibility, and reaction.

Strength had three main benchmarks: bench press, squat, and deadlift.

Seeing one of the muscular men about to adjust the double gravity back to normal, Chen Gu stopped him. "No need, this is fine."

The muscular man looked at him and said, "Kid, don't bite off more than you can chew. You only see Eagle doing it easily because you don't know how strong he really is."

Chen Gu smiled sheepishly, his desire to perform flaring. "My physical skill scores are decent. I'd like to give it a try."

The muscular man looked at Silver Eagle, who curled his lip. *Letting this kid learn a lesson the hard way wouldn't be bad.*

The muscular man didn't adjust the gravity but was about to reduce the five-hundred-pound barbell to one hundred pounds when Chen Gu stopped him again. "No need to adjust it; this weight is perfect for warming up."

"This weight? For a warm-up?" the muscular man asked, his eyes bulging. *He said 'adjust', not 'add'... but warming up with *this*?*

The surrounding weaklings swarmed over. *Finally! We're not at the bottom of the training ground's food chain anymore! A new guy has arrived who's not only a weakling but also arrogant. For a long time to come, this guy is destined to be buried in the basement of the food chain.*

The heavens have eyes! We finally have someone we can look down on!

Look at this kid, he's so endearing right now! Just stay weak and arrogant like this; please don't suddenly get smart!

Chen Gu nodded. "This is how I warmed up in school."

Muscle Man A looked at Chen Gu's unremarkable physique and couldn't help but sneer. "Kid, did you major in Bragging Studies at school?"

Chen Gu smiled shyly and innocently. "I'm still in high school. But I'm preparing for the university entrance exams next year; I plan to attend Tiangong Military Division."

Right, Muscle Man A thought. You've probably already been specially recruited by the Tiangong Military Division's Department of Epic Bragging—the one where the bullshit flies sky-high.

"Fine, try it yourself then," Muscle Man A said, clearly displeased. Anyway, the equipment had automatic safety features, so there was no risk of injury.

Chen Gu stepped in, lay down, adjusted his position, and then, with one effort, pushed the barbell up.

SSS—! The weaklings all gasped in unison.

All the muscular men stared, their eyes wide. Silver Eagle's hand twitched; he almost failed to maintain his "aloof Prince" persona and nearly revealed a dumbfounded expression.

Then, amid everyone's silence, Chen Gu effortlessly and cheerfully pushed out thirty-six reps. He then racked the barbell, got up, and stretched. "A bit lacking, but it'll do."

"Let's start the test," Chen Gu said, personally increasing the weight on the barbell to eight hundred pounds.

The newcomer test at the Bureau of Mystic Security was divided into three levels: normal gravity, double gravity, and triple gravity.

Normal gravity was the simplest: a one-hundred-and-fifty-pound bench press. For clerical staff, pushing up one rep was considered a pass. The Clean-up Team had a higher requirement: three reps to pass.

The Combat Unit required even more: eight reps for a pass.

The requirements for the Special Service Unit were at the second level: double gravity, five hundred pounds. One rep was a pass, three was good, and eight was excellent.

Only very rarely would those Professionals inherently focused on strength—like Abyssal Blacksmiths, Hell Titans, or Star Battle Instructors—attempt the third-level difficulty.

What Chen Gu had just done, warming up with five hundred pounds for thirty-six reps at double gravity, was already far beyond the most outstanding result for the Special Service Unit's test.

Chen Gu ignored their astonished gazes and returned to the machine. At double gravity, he smoothly knocked out another thirty-six reps with eight hundred pounds.

Muscle Man A reached out to steady his companion. "Help me out, my knees suddenly feel like they want to give way."

As Muscle Man A leaned on him, his companion promptly buckled, kneeling on the ground with a THUD.

Beat you to it, the companion thought.

Chen Gu got off the machine again, lips pursed as if it still wasn't satisfying enough. He went over to examine the Gravity System—this equipment was a bit different from what he used at school.

Everyone, Silver Eagle included, watched him in a daze, unsure of what this guy was planning next. *Haven't you seen all the jaws on the floor? What more do you want to stir up?!*

BEEP!

Chen Gu finally set the gravity to triple, smiled with satisfaction, then got back under the bar. The moment he pushed up eight hundred pounds under triple gravity, aside from Silver Eagle, there wasn't a single person left standing in the entire training field.

The weaklings were in tears. *The training ground's food chain has indeed changed. It's just that we're still at the very bottom, the most despised. The newcomer has trampled everyone else to reach the top!*

Chen Gu completed thirty-six reps, a little out of breath, a layer of sweat coating his body. He got out again and asked, "Is this result okay?"

For a good while, no one answered him. He asked again. Muscle Man A scrambled up from the floor. "Okay? It's way more than okay! I'll record your score right now!"

He simply couldn't accept it. "Are you really just a high school student?"

Chen Gu spread his hands. "I told you my physical skills were alright!"

"Alright"...?

"Alright" my ass! The muscle men felt like ten thousand frustrated voices were roaring in their heads: *Damn it, these results are heaven-defying!*

Modesty helps one progress, but excessive modesty is just criminal-level showboating! Don't you know that?!

Chen Gu looked at Silver Eagle, who was silently covering his watch with his sleeve, and felt a wave of satisfaction. *Serves you right for treating me like a mere tool! Now, this Film Emperor, with my superlative natural performance, has turned *you* into the pretentious tool!*

Chapter 49: Chapter 49 Physical Skill Test (2)

"What's the next event?" Chen Gu asked, sounding nonchalant.

"D-deadlift..." the muscular man stammered. In fact, after that bench press performance, it didn't really matter whether the other two strength events were tested or not.

The weaklings scattered all at once, all making phone calls: "Hey, hey, hey, come to the training field to see the god in action! I guarantee you'll regret it if you don't come!"

"Why? Because there's a freak here!"

Soon, the training field's door was continuously opened, and clerical staff, cleaners, field agents, and even some special agents arrived.

Chen Gu, a minor actor, could never bear such scenes. Years of acting without an audience had led to a situation where, once the audience grew, his desire to perform would skyrocket!

At this moment, his acting skills took over. Damn being low-profile or not, he had to offer his best "performance" to everyone, to repay their deep affection!

Consequently, his scores in the following two events also went through the roof.

Generally speaking, for these three strength events, the squat score is usually the highest, and the bench press the lowest. Chen Gu had, in fact, already concealed some of his strength during the bench press. When he fully let loose, his scores in the subsequent two events soared.

Under triple gravity, he squatted 1,200 pounds for fifty-seven reps!

Under triple gravity, he deadlifted 1,100 pounds for sixty reps!

The people at the training field were all exercise enthusiasts. One look at these results and they understood that this freak had been holding back on his bench press...

Chen Gu was discreetly observing the "audience's" reactions the entire time, finding them very satisfied with his performance, which filled him with a sense of achievement.

Meanwhile, Silver Eagle was feeling rather down.

Chen Gu's results were indeed astonishing, but as a professional, he could achieve them too.

However, Silver Eagle's profession was "Star Wind Centurion Commander," and strength wasn't his forte. As the division's "aloof, showboating Prince," Silver Eagle found it deeply upsetting to see someone else showing off in front of him. He was so upset it was almost like he'd suffered internal injuries.

But he had already "exercised" just a while ago. Going back up now to post a result that would best Chen Gu would make him seem petty and narrow-minded. Moreover, as a distinguished professional, even defeating an ordinary person wasn't exactly something to be proud of.

Of course, the most important reason was that Silver Eagle knew that even if he could win, it would be a narrow one—hardly something to show off and offering no satisfaction.

He numbly said to the muscular man, "Have you recorded that? The next test is speed."

"Okay."

The "Star Wind Centurion Commander" excelled in speed and reflexes, and was quite flexible too.

This time, Silver Eagle decided to let Chen Gu go first. He would then follow, aiming to crush the newcomer with an overwhelming performance to teach him to be "modest."

Perfect!

But after Chen Gu completed the speed test, Silver Eagle could only grimly say, "Next event, flexibility."

One hundred meters in 3.57 seconds, four hundred meters in 14.28 seconds, one thousand five hundred meters in 53.55 seconds.

When all three results were in, everyone realized that his times for the four hundred meters and one thousand five hundred meters were exact multiples of his one-hundred-meter time. They almost wanted to kill this freak. He clearly still had energy to spare and could even perfectly control his pace.

Weren't they satisfied with my performance? Chen Gu was a bit puzzled. *Why did they all look like they were grinding their teeth in frustration?*

Just as the flexibility test was about to begin, Chen Gu suddenly realized, *I've been too obsessed with skill, neglecting that the core of a performance is sincerity!*

After the four tests concluded, Chen Gu's results were outstanding. They were the best within the Bureau of Mystic Security, not just in Wuzhaoyin City, but could be considered top-notch even throughout the entire Confederation.

"Alright, let's go. Don't delay other people's training," Silver Eagle said sullenly, motioning for Chen Gu to leave. The muscular men who usually dominated the top of the training field's food chain respectfully escorted them out. Bowing at the door, they said, "Take care."

"Please come and guide us more when you have time!"

As soon as they left, the training field erupted. "My goodness, is he even human!"

All of Chen Gu's paperwork had been processed. Now, Silver Eagle couldn't help but feel annoyed every time he saw him, telling him, "Alright, you can go back now."

It was already midnight. The only reason so many people were at the training field at this hour was due to the unique nature of the Bureau of Mystic Security's work. Most people were always on standby, living on the premises.

Thinking of the training field, Silver Eagle felt depressed again. He knocked on Director Mei's office door and said indifferently, "You have a good eye. This kid is a good prospect."

As he spoke, he showed Director Mei Chen Gu's physical test results. Director Mei's pupils dilated, and he couldn't hold back a quiet exclamation, "That remarkable?"

"These results are simply indicative of an elite agent. He doesn't need any preliminary training," Director Mei said, his eyes revealing a complex look. "As long as he has enough merit points, he can directly become a professional."

However, Silver Eagle, still smarting from being thoroughly humbled by Chen Gu in their recent 'show-off' at the training field, was too dejected to notice.

"You should mentor him more," instructed Director Mei. Silver Eagle nodded, dispirited, and left.

Along the way, the pretty female staff members greeted him with shy smiles, but even that now seemed tasteless to him.

Chen Gu returned to his residence, and dawn was about to break. At this moment, he still didn't know the many twists and turns that had occurred. After stripping, he turned on the shower. The gentle stream of water cascaded over his body, and Chen Gu smiled. *The plan is going very smoothly.*

This, of course, was something that Chen Gu and his older son, Chen Jixian, had agreed upon.

Chen Gu needed an opportunity to join the Bureau of Mystic Security. The bureau recruited new members every year, but he had already missed this year's recruitment. Chen Gu was eager to obtain official status and thereby gain access to professional resources. For him, witnessing an operation by the Bureau of Mystic Security and then being recruited was the quickest method.

However, neither Chen Gu nor Chen Jixian had anticipated that this otherwise logical process would be manipulated by others, almost trapping his older son.

And at this moment, Chen Gu was even less aware that his smooth entry into the Bureau of Mystic Security was due to Aviloya having spoken out. If he had known,

Great Actor Chen would surely have sensed a whiff of something he'd call "danger." He might have even chosen to undergo memory erasure surgery on the spot.

After showering and a short nap, it was time. That day, Chen Gu skipped his training and went straight to school.

Yet, throughout the entire day, he was distracted in class, continuously reflecting on yesterday's physical test.

By now, Chen Gu had come to realize that Silver Eagle was clearly a professional, yet he too was surprised by Chen Gu's physical test results.

What did that mean? It meant that I, having just completed the Star Battle Instructor's preliminary training, possessed physical qualities that were outstanding even among professionals!

Previously, the Central Operations Room had eagerly invited him to lead tactical research at Facility 745. Chen Gu had looked into it and indeed discovered Griffin Wester's extraordinary status in the history of tactics.

And Chen Gu's preliminary training had been based entirely on Griffin Wester's memories. *It seems I've trained myself into a... little superman?*

Chapter 50: Chapter 50: The Great Ancestry of This Seat

Chen Gu focused, delving into Griffin Wester's assimilated memories, and began a meticulous search, eventually uncovering the reason in an inconspicuous "corner" of the vast trove of memories.

The preliminary training for any Professional wasn't set in stone. Large organizations tailored different training plans for different trainees.

Each profession had several "templates" for preliminary training, which were modified from these base models.

These different templates varied in difficulty and the potential achievements they offered.

For example, there were five templates for preliminary training as a Star Battle Instructor. However, in Griffin Wester's memories, there was no trace of the other four; he only possessed the most challenging one, the one that promised the greatest achievement.

According to the memories of this "innately arrogant" Star Battle Instructor, no one in history, prior to Griffin Wester, had ever successfully completed this template!

Griffin Wester was just that driven, firmly believing he could accomplish what no one else could, and if he couldn't succeed, he wouldn't become a Professional at all!

But this Griffin Wester was the type to be "strict with himself, yet lenient with others." His memories indicated that other Star Battle Instructors had completed their preliminary training using the four simpler templates...

In Griffin Wester's mind, all Star Battle Instructors were divided into two categories: "me" and... all the other Star Battle Instructors.

When Chen Gu found this information, he was speechless for a long moment, feeling quite certain that Griffin Wester must have once uttered that classic line: "I'm not targeting anyone specifically. I'm saying that everyone present is trash."

Then Chen Gu considered his own situation: *Clearly, I am not "trash"—so, could the original owner of this body, just a high school student, have been a hidden genius?*

During the afternoon's combat training class, Teacher Zhou seemed a bit nervous. While Chen Gu was wondering why, the principal suddenly entered with a large group of people, bustling in.

After some pleasantries and small talk, they took their seats at the back.

Chen Gu nudged the nameless classmate, a mere extra, next to him with his shoulder. "Check if there's any news on Lubei's dark web?"

After logging into Lubei's dark web and spending one gold shield, he finally found the information: it was an exchange class.

The higher-ups from the city's education system had arrived, bringing with them the principals from the other five of the six major schools. It was a surprise inspection, giving Lubei Middle School no time to prepare. Even Teacher Zhou had only received the notification just before class started.

Fortunately, the class proceeded without any mishaps. In the final match, Chen Gu used the 'Ancient Martial Great Nine Styles' to decisively defeat a skilled classmate from Class One, bringing the lesson to a perfect conclusion.

Chen Gu saw the elderly principal nod and smile at him towards the end, seemingly satisfied.

The next two days passed uneventfully, leading up to the weekend.

As per regulations, Chen Gu reported to the sub-bureau's Internal Affairs Group at eight o'clock. However, he was informed, "Your assignment has changed. Report to Special Operations Group Five."

Confused, Chen Gu made his way to Group Five, but from eight o'clock until half-past nine, the office was still empty.

Chen Gu had no choice but to step out and ask an internal affairs staff member in the main office, "When will the people from Group Five arrive?"

Every sub-bureau was structured around its special operations groups as its core. Group Five, likewise, had a large contingent of support staff, including internal affairs personnel, cleaners, and field agents.

The Internal Affairs Department was predominantly female. However, the women in Group Five's support staff had already developed a high resistance to the "cold prince" charm, thanks to individuals like Silver Eagle. Consequently, Great Actor Chen found his usually irresistible smile hitting a wall here.

The internal affairs lady barely glanced at him. "Just wait..."

But suddenly, an older woman from internal affairs stood up, her face all smiles. "You're early! Don't worry. Special agents have privileges. They can show up anytime if there's a mission and don't need to keep regular office hours otherwise."

"Wait here for a bit, shall I get you a cup of coffee?"

"Over in that small room, there are all sorts of snacks. Do you want me to get some for you?"

"There's a dedicated 'Endless' gaming pod in the special agents' office. If you're bored, you can go play..."

Her enthusiasm made Chen Gu wonder if he had suddenly become a "killer for middle-aged and older women."

Chen Gu beat a hasty retreat. "No, no, thank you! I'll just wait a little longer." Then he scurried back into the special operations office, feeling deflated.

However, with Chen Gu's extraordinarily sharp senses, he clearly overheard a group of young women in the outer office whispering around the older internal affairs woman, whom they called Big Sis Bao:

"Has Big Sis Bao changed her tastes? Is she into younger guys now? What's going on? Did our 'cold prince' prove too tough for her, so now she's looking for something softer?"

Big Sis Bao snapped, "You cheeky girls! Your heads are filled with nothing but nonsense about men and women! Let me tell you, don't underestimate this one. He's got powerful connections!"

Inside his office, Chen Gu's favorable impression of Big Sis Bao plummeted solely because of her "unimpressive" remark!

Am I not a graceful young man, a phoenix among mortals, wiser than Kongming, braver than Zilong, more righteous than Lord Guan, more skillful than Lu Ban, a figure who shakes the ages and dazzles the contemporary, one whose presence makes neighboring girls peek over walls, a person of profound and extensive knowledge? Isn't that so?

Such an old woman with no discernment!

However, the young women outside were intrigued, chattering, "How powerful? What kind of connections?"

Big Sis Bao couldn't help but scoff. "Stop fooling around, I'm serious! This... tender morsel—no, this young man was personally requested for recruitment by the Director-General himself!"

"That's impossible! The Director-General is such an important figure, handling countless affairs daily. How would he have time for trivial matters in our little Wuzhaoyin City?"

"Believe it or not, it's true. I heard the higher-ups were meeting to decide what to do with this kid when the Director-General himself called, specifically requesting him. Old Ma, the head of the First Division, had apparently wanted to challenge the new Bureau Chief, but he immediately backed down and complied..."

Chen Gu, listening from inside, nodded in agreement. *Marcel—Old Ma. That affectionate nickname makes perfect sense!*

Big Sis Bao's information wasn't entirely accurate; it was mostly hearsay.

The other young women were finally convinced. "Really?"

"Was I too cold to him just now? I don't really care if he has powerful connections or not. The main thing is, he's still just a kid. I'd hate to have hurt his feelings."

"Psh—"

"Oh my! Do you think he might be the Director-General's little lover?"

The discussion veered further and further off-topic, but Chen Gu suddenly found this particular subject much more interesting! *Yes, keep talking! Even I don't know about these supposed "unspeakable affairs" between myself and the Director-General!*

Suddenly, it went quiet outside. Then, the clear and rhythmic click-clack of high heels reached Chen Gu's ears.

Then the office door opened, and at the doorway, there appeared a tall girl in loose clothing.