

## Full Time 411

### Chapter 411: Unveiling the Battle Scene (2)

A spotlight shone down, and Man Suling, dressed in an evening gown, stood on a floating stage, slowly drifting out of the darkness like a spirit of the night sky.

Chen Qingyu exclaimed in surprise, "Sister Man Suling is here too! What a coincidence today. Yaoyao, you don't need to go to my recording studio; I can introduce you to Sister Man Suling in a little while."

In the stadium, with one of Man Suling's songs, the atmosphere was once again pushed to a climax. After her performance, the first match was about to begin.

Today's opening event featured seven matches, with Boraruz and Aodora scheduled for the final, headline appearance.

After Man Suling left the stage, Chen Qingyu immediately called her. The girl was so quick that Chen Gu didn't have time to stop her, and she was already on the phone with Man Suling, saying, "Oh yes, yes! My grandpa brought me; he's here too."

Chen Gu silently slapped his forehead, speechless.

The students all felt it was somewhat surreal. You, a newcomer who just debuted, make one phone call and your company's top star comes over? We're still students, inexperienced in the ways of the world, but even we understand that at a time like this, shouldn't it be you, the "rookie," taking the initiative to go backstage, meet Man Suling, and try to build connections with the top star?

However, what was even more astounding was that less than three minutes after the call, Man Suling actually appeared in their private box!

The future diva was very approachable. Not only did she lack any airs, but she also chatted casually with everyone. However, before she had even finished a few sentences, she shoed Chen Zili away and sat down beside Chen Gu herself!

Then, everyone saw her frequently roaring with laughter at jokes that weren't actually very funny, intentionally or unintentionally leaning towards Chen Gu!

The girl from before looked crestfallen and quietly moved to sit by the door. What did she have to compete with a diva?

The boys, however, had other ideas. So, in this family, the grandfather is the real hidden big shot! Why else would Man Suling give face to a newcomer like Chen Qingyu? It must be because she wants to get in with Chen Gu.

Chen Gu, being flirted with so openly in front of his grandson and granddaughter, felt his old face flush. He silently warned Man Suling several times, but since she had come alone today, without Gao Mengjiu to keep an eye on her, she was utterly fearless!

Fortunately, the matches started soon. The competition today was very exciting, and everyone's attention gradually shifted. But after today, no one in the student council would underestimate Chen Zili again; Chen Gu had inadvertently helped his grandson resolve the predicament he faced.

Finally, the moment for the headline match arrived. The entire audience's excitement reached a fever pitch. However, Aodora couldn't replicate last year's performance and, after a fierce twenty-minute battle, ultimately lost to Boraruz.

With this victory, Boraruz successfully defended his title as the "Alliance's Number One Player."

Chen Gu, however, observed, "This off-season, Boraruz must have undergone special training. His strength has increased, while Aodora has been treading water. Naturally, he was no match for Boraruz."

After the matches ended, everyone began to disperse. Chen Gu asked Chen Zili, "Are you coming with us, or going with your classmates?"

Chen Zili stole a glance at Yang Yaoyao. "I'll go with my classmates."

Chen Gu smiled. "Alright, off you go then."

So Chen Zili happily scampered off.

Before leaving, Chen Gu took Chen Qingyu and Man Suling to say goodbye to Bai Yunpeng. Bai Yunpeng was already somewhat intoxicated and, grabbing onto Chen Gu, rambled on endlessly. Left with no other choice, Chen Gu secretly sent a message to Bai Xianya. Soon after, she called Bai Yunpeng, and Chen Gu seized the opportunity to slip away.

Man Suling had her own car waiting, but she refused to take it, insisting that Chen Gu drive her home. This little she-wolf, when she got clingy, was just like a little vixen.

Chen Qingyu, having seen through it all, simply covered her mouth and snickered to herself.

Chen Gu planned to drop Man Suling off first, but the little she-wolf objected, "Send Qing Yu home first. She's younger and still in school; she can't get back too late."

This time, her ulterior motives were glaringly obvious! Chen Gu thought.

He shot a pleading look at his granddaughter, only to be ruthlessly betrayed by her, eager as she was to curry favor with her "big sister." "Sister's right, send me home first."

Chen Gu: "..."

After dropping Chen Qingyu off, only the two of them remained in the car. A man and woman alone, the atmosphere inside the car slowly grew charged. Chen Gu caught a special scent, as intoxicating as fine wine. He turned his head to find the little she-wolf had already snuggled closer...

The beastly side of her \*Demon Mountain Werewolf\* nature emerged; the beautiful female emitted a captivating mating scent, and Chen Gu almost lost control!

The night was still, a lone man and a lone woman in a top-of-the-line luxury car.

If something didn't happen, it would almost be a disservice to their respective sexes.

Man Suling was protected by Gao Mengjiu, and being a Professional herself, she had never encountered any situations in her many years in the entertainment industry where she was "forced against her will."

However, although she hadn't experienced such things firsthand, Man Suling had heard plenty of gossip among her colleagues and possessed a rich theoretical knowledge of various... positions. She also believed that with the powerful physiques of Professionals like herself and Chen Gu, they would undoubtedly be evenly matched, their encounter shaking the very earth! Whenever she thought about these things, her pretty face would flush, yet she was filled with anticipation.

It truly wasn't easy for Chen Gu to extricate himself! The process was far from smooth; in fact, it was quite awkward.

「...」

After the opening event, Chen Gu's "debut" was not far off. The very next day, the Alliance sent someone to contact him. "Mr. Chen," the representative said, "we're here to help you familiarize yourself with the Alliance's equipment and regulations in advance."

Chen Gu had already requested leave from the university. Since the school was still in its rebuilding phase and Professor Zhong Yuanbei couldn't conduct experiments anyway, there was little use in Chen Gu staying by his side. Consequently, Zhong Yuanbei had given him free rein for the time being.

Chen Gu, accompanied by officials from the Alliance, arrived at a training facility on the outskirts of the city. His primary tasks were to learn all the competition rules and to familiarize himself with the Alliance's 'consciousness-linking device.'

The rules aspect was actually quite straightforward, as many veteran fans possessed a level of understanding comparable to, if not exceeding, that of the Alliance's own referees.

Chen Gu was only slightly behind in this regard, so he didn't have much catching up to do. However, because he was an important "friend" of the Alliance, their preparations for him today were exceptionally thorough and considerate. They had even arranged for a senior referee to personally tutor him.

However, the Alliance was completely unaware of the [Brain Domain Hacker]'s terrifying memory. The moment the referee finished transmitting all the rules—including every detail and extended explanation—and was about to elaborate on some of the more difficult points, Chen Gu had already committed everything to memory.

"Alright," he said. "I've memorized it all. You can test me."

The referee was somewhat taken aback but assumed Chen Gu was simply a dedicated fan who had likely already spent considerable time thoroughly studying the rules.

He posed a few tricky questions, all of which Chen Gu answered fluently. The referee couldn't help but chuckle, "If every fan studied the Alliance's rules as diligently as you do, we referees would be in serious trouble."

Chen Gu merely smiled and offered no further explanation.

Chapter 412 Shortcomings in Talent

The Alliance officials had scheduled the "Rule Guidance" course for the entire morning, but Chen Gu finished it in just a few minutes!

This put them in an awkward position.

After a brief discussion, a few officials approached Chen Gu, looking embarrassed. "Our apologies, Mr. Chen," one said. "There are only two Consciousness Linking Devices in this training facility, and they're both fully booked for the morning. We assumed you'd need the entire morning to familiarize yourself with the rules and wouldn't be ready for the Consciousness Linking Devices until this afternoon..."

Currently, those two devices were being used by other competitors for training.

A thought crossed Chen Gu's mind, and he asked, "May I go take a look?"

"Of course."

The competitors training that morning weren't star players, so there weren't many restrictions or concerns about privacy. Thus, Chen Gu followed the officials to the Consciousness Linking Device training field.

Each training field was the same size as a standard competition arena, though the decorations and equipment were of a significantly lower grade.

In the first training field, a behemoth that somewhat resembled a triceratops was constantly practicing attacks.

However, its movements were somewhat disjointed. An Alliance official standing nearby explained to Chen Gu, "This is an issue with the consciousness link. After establishing a consciousness link between the player and their behemoth, the player's consciousness should dominate, with the behemoth's consciousness being secondary."

"With this combination, one can utilize the behemoth's formidable physical strength alongside the player's tactical thinking to maximize performance and deliver an impressive match."

In simple terms, while behemoths possess great strength, they lack intelligence. When humans control behemoth bodies, they become both cunning and powerful!

Chen Gu nodded inwardly.

The Alliance official continued, "For a player and behemoth to coordinate smoothly, three of the player's metrics must have high scores."

"Otherform Synchronization Degree: This metric measures the level of synchronization between the player and the behemoth. If this value is too low, the player will struggle to establish a consciousness link with the behemoth, even with the most advanced equipment."

"Thought Transmission Speed: This metric assesses the speed at which the player's consciousness is transmitted through the Consciousness Linking Device. If it's too slow, the player's commands will reach the behemoth's body with a delay, rendering efficient combat impossible."

"Adaptability Value: This metric indicates how well a player adapts to a behemoth's body. Behemoths come in countless forms, unlike humans who walk upright on two legs.

Some players possess high Otherform Synchronization Degree and Thought Transmission Speed, yet they are unable to effectively fight using a behemoth's quadrupedal locomotion. This is due to a poor Adaptability Value, preventing them from ever becoming top-tier behemoth players."

The player they were observing controlled the behemoth with noticeable stuttering. Besides issues with Otherform Synchronization Degree and Thought Transmission Speed, this might also stem from problems inherent to the behemoth itself.

It was uncertain if more training would improve the situation.

After just a brief glance, I understood, Chen Gu thought. If I were to release my Combat Rooster, it could end this fight within three moves, even without my direct command.

"Let's go, take a look at the other one."

The behemoth in the second training field was a massive, three-headed serpent. Each of its heads resembled that of a crocodile, and its thick, flat tail was planted firmly on the ground.

Compared to the first, this behemoth performed much better. Its movements were fluid and continuous, but its fighting style lacked an imposing presence.

A player like this might achieve decent results, Chen Gu mused, but their fighting style isn't what fans currently favor, making it difficult to gain significant fame. For players, fame means money.

Chen Gu watched for a while, nodding inwardly. Against this opponent, if I don't command it, the Combat Rooster would probably need ten moves to win.

An Alliance official suddenly recalled something. "Mr. Chen, you haven't undergone the physical assessment yet, have you?"

"There's assessment equipment here in the training facility. How about we conduct it now?"

This was standard procedure for the Alliance; every new recruit had to undergo this assessment. When rookies first appeared on the Behemoth Alliance stage, fans had no understanding of their capabilities. The assessment data provided the only direct, tangible measure of their potential.

"Okay," Chen Gu agreed.

The officials led him to a small building behind the training ground and had Chen Gu lie down in a sealed chamber before starting the device.

Inside the sealed chamber, Chen Gu felt himself float as if weightless. Fine, blue sparks of electricity continuously permeated his body, causing a slight tingling numbness.

On the external screen, various data flashed rapidly; numbers appeared and continually changed.

Chen Gu wasn't sure if he truly possessed the aptitude to be a behemoth battler. Regardless, his participation was confirmed, and he had immense confidence in his Combat Rooster. He believed that even without his direct command, this Energy Gathering Mechanical Species could defeat over eighty percent of the behemoths currently in the Alliance. In a few years, as the Combat Rooster continued to grow and evolve towards a super life-form, it would one day be capable of defeating every behemoth in the entire Alliance.

Outside, as the data gradually stabilized, the results began to emerge. The faces of the Alliance officials showed surprise.

Otherform Synchronization Degree was the first metric to be determined: 121!

This score was considered top-tier. Even Boraruz, the Behemoth Alliance's current number one contender, had only achieved a score of 117 for this metric during his rookie assessment.

Subsequently, the second metric, Thought Transmission Speed, also stabilized. The result was equally astonishing: 133!

For comparison, Boraruz's rookie score for Thought Transmission Speed was 113.

The officials grew excited. One couldn't help but exclaim, "Could it be? Has the Alliance struck gold this time? Are we going to have a 'Triple-Hundred' contender?"

Individuals with all three scores exceeding one hundred were dubbed 'Triple-Hundred' contenders. Such talents were exceedingly rare in the entire Behemoth Alliance, and every 'Triple-Hundred' contender had left an indelible mark on the Alliance's history.

Every 'Triple-Hundred' contender would incite a fierce bidding war among the major clubs, each desperate to acquire such a prodigious rookie at any cost.

Then, the final metric, Adaptability Value, also stabilized.

However, the officials' expressions turned to disappointment—a disappointment tinged with a hint of despair.

Chen Gu's Adaptability Value was too low: only 71.

This meant he might be completely unable to adapt to fighting in a behemoth's form.

"What a pity..." the officials lamented with great regret.

However, an Adaptability Value of 71 was somewhat ambiguous. The baseline for these three metrics was 70.

If all three scores surpassed 70, there was still hope of becoming a behemoth contender, though it would require far more effort than for an ordinary person.

Chapter 413 Marshal Bai Also Has a Superstar Dream

If all three stats were over 90, there'd be no doubt he would become an excellent pilot, and at the draft meeting, he'd rank at least among the top thirty picks of the first round.

Mao Yisheng's physical test data were as follows:

Body Synchronization Degree: 89

Thinking Conduction Speed: 77

Adaptive Value: 90

The "Thinking Conduction Speed" held him back; otherwise, he might also have been a first-round rookie.

Chen Gu's "Adaptive Value" was precisely 71. This meant that with extraordinary effort, he could adapt to Behemoth battles, but it would be a lengthy process. Expecting an excellent performance in his first match, or even in his first year of competition, was nearly impossible.

"Such a pity." The officials salivated over the first two stats, but the weakness was too obvious. They secretly shook their heads.

The machine stopped, the isolation chamber opened, and Chen Gu emerged. "How are my stats?" he asked.

The officials didn't know how to answer and simply let him see for himself. Chen Gu was stunned for a moment, then laughed. "Why is one stat so bad?"

Then he tossed it aside. After all, his main asset for making a name in the Behemoth Alliance was the Combat Rooster, which had very little to do with him personally.

As the morning passed, both training grounds emptied. Chen Gu entered one and first released the Combat Rooster from the Dimensional Prison Ring.

The Alliance officials' eyelids twitched. What kind of advanced technology is this? Why have we never heard of it?

They looked at Chen Gu, who showed no intention of explaining, so they dared not ask further.

Then, Chen Gu entered the "Consciousness Linker." A sophisticated, huge helmet slowly descended, covering his head.

The Combat Rooster looked around the training ground, appearing restless. What is this place? Why is it making this Beast so agitated, like I want to pick a fight!

Suddenly, it seemed to hear its master's call!

It spun in place several times, like a little dog chasing its own tail. Master? Where is Master? Why can't this Beast see him?

The master's call grew clearer and clearer until it suddenly realized it had lost control of its body; its master had entered its mind!

The Combat Rooster panicked. What's going on? This Beast is so scared! Master was always formidable, and this Beast was never his match. Now he has this ability too? This Beast's life and death are completely in Master's hands!

The Alliance officials continued to watch the monitoring equipment, nodding to each other. "Consciousness connection established smoothly, taking 0.73 seconds. Establishing a connection so quickly on the first try, with no discomfort for either the Behemoth or the pilot—both link stats are over 100. Truly impressive!"

Such a shame... As for what exactly was a shame, there was no need to say it aloud.

In the linked state, Chen Gu easily explained to the Combat Rooster what needed to be done. However, unlike the two pilots from the morning, he didn't conduct any combat training. Instead, he directly told the Combat Rooster, "Once the match starts, I'll enter the 'Consciousness Linker' just for show. You'll handle all the fighting."

"You have to win decisively and impressively! Don't you dare embarrass me, your master!"

The Combat Rooster eagerly agreed.

Then, Chen Gu exited the consciousness link and walked out of the machine.

The Alliance officials were somewhat surprised. "Mr. Chen," one said, "aren't you going to do any combat practice? Battles between Behemoths are different from what humans are used to..."

Chen Gu waved his hand. "No need."

The Alliance officials were helpless. They had advised him as best they could, but what more could they do if he refused to listen? They had heard that this wildcard pilot had a "deep background," and his participation in the Behemoth battles might just be for fun, as a fan of the sport. Perhaps after his first battle, he'd retire.

Chen Gu put the Combat Rooster back into the Dimensional Prison Ring and then drove himself back.

One of the officials mused, What a pity. If he were willing to train hard, he might become the Alliance's poster boy for inspirational pilots in three years, get heavily promoted, and become a top star.

「Back at school」

Chen Gu thought about it and gave Bai Yunpeng a call. Since Bai Yunpeng was also a Behemoth fan, it seemed impolite not to let him know that Chen was entering the league.

Bai Yunpeng was shocked when he heard the news. "You—you're really going to participate in the Behemoth League?!"

"I'll be making my debut the day after tomorrow night. But I'm a newcomer, so it won't be the main event. My opponent is Chalmos."

Bai Yunpeng knew him well. "Chalmos, the 'Bone Crusher.' A famously diligent pilot, one of the best supporting pieces for a championship team."

Then, Bai Yunpeng said with great emotion, "Your life is simply perfect! You know, if I had a choice, I'd rather be a star pilot in the Behemoth League than a Marshal in the military, my current rank."

"I've been watching the Behemoth League since I was young, never missing a single match. I remember every important duel like it was yesterday."

"I once snuck out to attend the rookie physical tests without telling my old man and nearly got my legs broken. But I have no regrets—it's every young person's dream."

"Unfortunately, my physical test data was too poor. Even after pulling all sorts of strings, no club was willing to pick me."

"Eventually, I just bought a small club and acted as both owner and pilot. COUGH. COUGH. Alas, our record was pitiful. After struggling for four or five years, I finally gave up."

Chen Gu chuckled to himself. Such absurd youthful days.

Bai Yunpeng earnestly said to Chen Gu, "You must cherish this opportunity!" It was rare for Bai Yunpeng not to try and persuade him to join the military directly.

Bai Yunpeng's attitude made Chen Gu further realize how important it was to participate in the league. He thought about it and sent a message to his friends on Capital Star, including his grandchildren, Gao Mengjiu, Darkray, Qing Ruyan, Gong Shuxu, Qiao Shuangyi, Lin Xiaochen, and others.

Then, after some more thought, he seized the opportunity and even sent one to his adult son.

Immediately afterward, Chen Gu's phone started blowing up.

Almost everyone was excited, their voices filled with envy, assuring him they would be there to support him. Chen Gu had no choice but to swallow his pride and call the Alliance officials to ask for match tickets.

Luckily, this wasn't a popular match, so there were plenty of tickets left; Chen Gu could have as many as he wanted.

However, when handing over the tickets, the Alliance officials once again earnestly advised Chen Gu: such an opportunity was rare. Even if his "Adaptive Value" was low, he shouldn't just give up. He should train more before the match, as "even sharpening your spear at the last minute makes it shine, if not sharp."

But Chen Gu simply paid no heed and never showed up at the training ground again.

「Finally, the day of the match arrived.」

Chen Gu left at two in the afternoon, heading for the Immeasurable Stadium to get acclimated to the venue.

He had rented a Behemoth transport truck in advance, without requesting a driver. He drove it off by himself, found a secluded spot, released the Combat Rooster into the truck, and then drove towards the Immeasurable Stadium.

Chapter 414: The Unfavored Contestant (1)

Outside the venue, many fans had already gathered, hoping to catch a glimpse of their idols up close.

Although tonight's match wasn't particularly important, two star players were present: one nicknamed "Night Fiend" Nan Zhibei, and the other, "Blood Asura" Karu.

However, these two were not each other's opponents. The rankings of their respective opponents were relatively low, and it was generally agreed that both could win with ease.

The difference was that "Night Fiend" Nan Zhibei was here with his club for the team competition, while "Blood Asura" Karu was here for the individual competition.

The Behemoth Alliance featured two types of competitions: team matches and individual matches.

Many capable players participated in both. Some formidable players, in order to vie for a club championship, willingly gave up individual matches to focus solely on team competitions.

Chen Gu, lacking a club affiliation, participated as a wild card and was only eligible for individual competitions.

For many years, the championship title for team competitions had carried more weight than that for individual matches.

Despite being a "guest of honor" in the Alliance, Chen Gu became a complete rookie once he stepped onto the competition field.

Therefore, the arena adaptation process began with the two star players. The rookies were scheduled last, allowing the big names to take as much time as they needed to adapt, provided it wasn't excessive—the Alliance rarely interfered.

Thus, Chen Gu found he had arrived early. After the two star players and other strong players like Chalmos, it wasn't until around seven in the evening that it was the turn of this year's rookies.

Fortunately, among the three rookies, Chen Gu was first in line.

He was just there to go through the motions. The Combat Rooster had already been herded into the arena by staff before he even entered.

The appearance of an Energy Gathering Mechanical Species attracted everyone's attention.

In the history of the Alliance, Energy Gathering Mechanical Species had appeared many times, and the outcomes had rarely been promising. However, their potential advantages tempted many to try.

Chalmos sat in his private box, watching the Combat Rooster below with indifference, knowing it was his opponent for the night. He took a sip from his teacup, then couldn't help but curl the corners of his mouth into a sneer. "There will always be those who think too highly of themselves, believing they're the exception, that they can succeed where others have failed."

"Haha, what makes them so special?"

"Such people are truly naive and laughable."

This year marked Chalmos's first attempt at participating in the individual competition. With average talent, he had always dedicated himself to training, participating only in team matches to prove his worth to his club.

It wasn't until this season, after signing a major new contract and undergoing rigorous off-season training, that he believed his abilities had reached a level where he could manage both team and individual competitions. Consequently, hints of his ambition began to surface.

The Alliance is quite considerate toward an inspiring representative like me, arranging such an opponent for my first individual match—enough of a spectacle and an easy win.

Chalmos was quite satisfied.

Under everyone's watchful eyes, Chen Gu's "arena adaptation" training did not disappoint. Chen Gu merely entered the "Consciousness Linker," and then the Combat Rooster wandered about the arena for a few agitated laps, and that was it.

The crowd exchanged knowing smiles; clearly, the biggest problem with Energy Gathering Mechanical Species participating in Behemoth Alliance competitions was still unresolved: they were too ferocious and utterly uncontrollable.

This newcomer, just as everyone had anticipated, demonstrated no ability to control the Energy Gathering Mechanical Species.

After Chen Gu had acclimated to the field, there was less than an hour before the start of tonight's matches, but still two hours until Chen Gu's own match began.

Chen Gu's match against Chalmos was scheduled as the fourth match, expected to start around nine in the evening. Before them was a three-round team competition.

Bai Yunpeng did not go to Tycoon Seven's private box today. Instead, he chose to sit in Chen Gu's box as a show of support—Chen Gu seriously suspected Marshal Bai was just being stingy and didn't want to spend his own money on a box.

Besides Bai Yunpeng, Darkray, Qing Ruyan, Gong Shuxu, and others were all in the private box.

Chen Gu felt somewhat unhappy that his unfilial son had only sent a brief message: "Returned to Empire River Star."

In other words, he wouldn't be able to witness his old man's glorious performance as he made his name in the Behemoth Alliance.

The tickets Chen Gu had requested were for Chen Zili.

Last time his grandson returned, he discovered Yang Yaoyao was also a fan of behemoths. After watching a match together, it seemed to have a good effect; the awkwardness between them lessened, and their relationship grew closer.

So, taking advantage of his grandfather's participation in the competition, his grandson acquired some tickets and brought the entire publicity department to watch the match live for the second time.

As for how Grandpa's match will go, it's not important. As long as it creates an opportunity for me to get closer to my goddess, that's all that matters.

Moreover, the guy was too timid to ask Yang Yaoyao out alone and even had to bring a bunch of third wheels.

This time, there were many people in the private box, so Chen Qingyu hadn't invited Yang Yaoyao and the others over. However, the tickets Chen Gu had obtained were for front-row seats with a great view, surrounded by either wealthy merchants or celebrities, so Yang Yaoyao wouldn't face the embarrassing situation she encountered last time.

When Chen Gu was warming up on the field, the Student Union members looked at one another. "Chen Zili, is your grandfather's behemoth an Energy Gathering Mechanical Species?"

They were also seasoned fans and, of course, knew that Energy Gathering Mechanical Species were almost universally acknowledged as unsuitable for the competition.

Chen Zili hummed in affirmation. A few of the boys silently breathed a sigh of relief, feeling slightly less pressure. His grandfather is already so 'well-connected'; if he also became a 'Behemoth Alliance star'... though it probably wouldn't make much difference. It's clear he's just here for fun, to fulfill a 'youthful dream.'

For the Behemoth Alliance to make an exception and issue him a wild card was already incredibly impressive.

The girls, however, had stars in their eyes. The old gentleman is so vigorous! To become a Behemoth player at his age!

In Chen Gu's private box, his friends and family more or less shared the same thought: An Energy Gathering Mechanical Species—it doesn't matter. As long as he's fulfilling his dream, that's what counts.

Only old Master Gong Shuxu, holding a glass of high-proof aged whiskey, stood alone in a corner. He wore a self-satisfied smirk, as if to say, I've seen through it all, smugly observing everyone's fervent discussions.

When the Energy Gathering Mechanical Species appeared on the field, there was an uproar from the audience. Some shouted their disapproval with rather unpleasant comments, but since Chen Gu's match wasn't the "main event" of the day, a few complaints didn't really matter.

After Chen Gu, the remaining two newcomers quickly went through their pre-competition field adaptation training. Very little time was allotted to them, and they were clearly nervous, yet also somewhat expectant.

Chapter 415: The Unfavored Contestant (2)

Eight o'clock, the match started on time. The Alliance was broadcasting five simultaneous matches across the interstellar network.

However, there was a distinction in importance; the truly significant matches featured the Alliance's top commentators, while Chen Gu's match had two rather ordinary ones.

The preceding team competition held little suspense. "Night Demon" Nan Zhibei led his team effortlessly through three rounds, as if it were a warm-up exercise, securing three points. The team competition consisted of three matches in total, with each victory earning one point.

Taking less than fifty minutes, Chen Gu entered the arena earlier than expected.

"Here he comes, here he comes!" In the private box, Bai Yunpeng clutched his glass and patted the couch, appearing even more nervous than Chen Gu himself.

Chen Gu, accompanied by his Combat Rooster, took to the field. As he greeted the audience around him, his physical test data flashed on the overhead projection screen.

The first two values caused gasps among the crowd. Many thought they were about to see a "three hundred" contender, only to be let down by the dismal third data point.

"Sigh—" A wave of disappointment swept the audience. The weakness was too apparent, and with an Energy Gathering Mechanical Species at his side, there seemed to be no suspense that "Bone Smasher" Chalmos would win tonight.

Bai Yunpeng's breathing quickened when the first two data sets appeared. "This kid," he exclaimed, "he never told me his talent was this good..." Then he saw the third data point. "Uh, how could this happen? Genius stifled by fate!"

Then he sank back into the couch, consoling himself with a drink, and muttered, "With a bit of effort, there's still hope."

Heh heh! Gong Shuxu chuckled to himself.

As a newcomer, Chen Gu's entrance was nondescript. It momentarily stirred interest because of the initial test data but quickly calmed down with the revelation of the final figures.

The on-site host then introduced Chen Gu's opponent: "Bone Smasher" Chalmos.

The atmosphere instantly soared. Chalmos, not particularly gifted, was known for his industriousness in the Alliance and was a symbol of aspirational players, resonating more with ordinary people. He wasn't as popular as a superstar, yet he had a substantial fan base.

To rousing cheers, Chalmos, his face framed with a beard, made his entrance with his behemoth, "Tonnage Devil." He continually waved, saluting the surrounding spectators. He also clenched his fists, displaying his muscular arms and eliciting even louder cheers from the crowd.

His giant beast, "Tonnage Devil," was a monstrous hybrid, resembling a mix of an octopus, a shark with a massive, downturned head, and a sauropod. It loomed excessively large. Dozens of thick tentacles twisted and wriggled beneath it, indeed displaying its massive tonnage.

"Please have both contestants enter the mental synchronization device!" commanded the referee, signaling the start of the match.

Chalmos arrogantly gestured a throat-slash at Chen Gu, laughed menacingly, and then turned to step into his device.

This provocation stirred the crowd's emotions to new heights, provoking a fierce round of cheers.

Chen Gu smirked. I should learn these "show-off" tricks for the arena too, he thought, if I want to make a name for myself quickly in the Alliance—look at the screams from the audience; these little gimmicks really work.

However, today, Chen Gu decided to keep it low-key and just get through the match.

He patted his Combat Rooster, which craned its neck, glaring with apparent malice toward the opposing Tonnage Devil.

In fact, from the moment Chen Gu and his Combat Rooster appeared, some seasoned experts had begun to notice something: this Energy Gathering Mechanical Species was a bit too docile.

The usual Energy Gathering Mechanical Species, even when standing with their so-called masters, were restless and agitated. They required special energy-arc chains to restrain them, lest they lash out violently on the spot.

Put simply, their hearts didn't truly recognize their "masters" as their masters.

"Consciousness link established!"

"Prepare—BEGIN!"

At the referee's command, the Tonnage Devil let out a desolate, echoing roar and moved its massive body, unleashing dozens of tentacles as it bore down on the Combat Rooster.

Yet the Combat Rooster was not afraid. It leaped into the air with several agile spins to dodge the lashing tentacles, ready to pounce on the Tonnage Devil's head.

But how could the experienced Tonnage Devil and Chalmos let it succeed so easily?

The Tonnage Devil's head shrank down, completely submerged in the soft mountain of flesh that was its body.

Then, even more tentacles suddenly pulled in from all around, weaving a cage in the air that ensnared the Combat Rooster.

There was simply no escape.

Many had already concluded in their hearts: It's over. "Bone Smasher" Chalmos will win this match.

But within the confines of the dozens of tentacles, the Combat Rooster suddenly lashed out with its sharp claws—a series of flashes!

SWOOSH, SWOOSH, SWOOSH!

The thick tentacles were instantly severed, spraying thick, viscous blood as they rained down. The Tonnage Devil let out a tremendous scream. The Combat Rooster pounced on it, its body nearly a hundred meters long, heavily pressing down on the Tonnage Devil.

The Combat Rooster's claws struck, accurately dragging the Tonnage Devil's head out from the mountain of flesh!

"AARGH—" The Tonnage Devil screamed repeatedly, and the red light on Chalmos's instrument lit up instantly—the sign of surrender!

The arena was silent. The very instant the red light came on, the Combat Rooster's claws also halted.

"GASP—" The experts took a sharp breath. This Energy Gathering Mechanical Species was indeed extraordinary, so obedient.

Given the volatile nature of Energy Gathering Mechanical Species, even if an opponent surrendered, it might still conflict with its master's will, killing the opponent regardless.

But this one had stopped. This Energy Gathering Mechanical Species has great potential, they thought.

Above the arena, enormous mechanical arms descended, separating the two beasts and dragging the seriously injured Tonnage Devil away for treatment.

With the current level of medical technology, even if a beast died on the spot, its head shattered, a new creature could still be cloned, albeit at an extra high cost.

Then, the referee entered the arena and announced loudly, "The winner of this match is: Chen Gu!"

After the initial silence, the audience finally understood what had happened and erupted into shocked cheers. While they had supported Chalmos, they also cheered for the victor, especially enjoying the spectacle of an underdog's triumph.

The doors of the consciousness link pods opened, and the two contestants walked out. According to procedure, the match would be completely over after they shook hands.

Under the watchful eye of the referee, Chalmos suddenly increased his grip strength while shaking hands with Chen Gu, his arm muscles bulging. Chen Gu was not pleased. You threatened to slit my throat before the match, and now you're trying to scheme against me after losing?

Chen Gu subtly increased his grip a little. Instantly, Chalmos looked as if he had eaten the spiciest chili in the world. His bearded face turned beet red as he struggled to shake off Chen Gu's hand, feeling as if his own would be crushed if the handshake continued.

But Chen Gu's hand was like iron, immovable no matter how hard Chalmos tried to pull away.

Chapter 416: The Most Advanced Generator (1)

Chalmos noticed the playful glint in Chen Gu's eyes and immediately showed a pleading expression, his body bowing low in a submissive posture.

Chen Gu just smiled and let go of his hand, not one to harp on once he had made his point.

As the contestants left the field, the audience was still immersed in the shock of the battle they had just witnessed.

Chen Gu had won too quickly!

In the private box, Gong Shuxu, who had long known the Combat Rooster's strength, watched Bai Yunpeng and the others' astonished expressions and drank down the last bit of wine in his glass. The feeling of solely possessing the truth was indeed refreshing.

In the spectator seats below, Yang Yaoyao hugged Chen Zili's arm tightly, shaking it as she exclaimed, "We won, we won, we really won! Your grandfather won!"

Chen Zili was somewhat dumbfounded. Did that old man really win?! Wasn't it said that Energy Gathering Mechanical Species weren't suitable for the Behemoth Alliance competition? How come my grandfather's creature was so obedient?

The boys nearby, seeing Yang Yaoyao hugging Chen Zili, burned with jealousy.

The Minister, moreover, realized this old man was poised to make serious waves in the Alliance.

After the match, Chen Gu went to praise the Combat Rooster. The creature got so excited it hopped up and down, nearly breaking free from the cage provided by the Behemoth Alliance. The Behemoth Alliance's security personnel watched worriedly, fearing an accident.

They had just witnessed the destructive power of this Energy Gathering Mechanical Species.

The Tonnage Demon, for all its massive size, had looked as helpless as a child before it, utterly unable to withstand a blow.

Chen Gu soothed the Combat Rooster for a while longer, then went to his private box. As for the Combat Rooster, Behemoth Alliance staff would, of course, take it back to the truck.

As soon as Chen Gu entered the box, Bai Yunpeng rushed up and gave him a strong hug. "Well done, kid! I knew you could do it, haha!"

The others came forward to congratulate him. The orangutan had brought Man Suling; her eyes, full of a mournful longing that seemed on the verge of tears, made Chen Gu flee on the spot.

He still felt there needed to be some emotional foundation between them before they could engage in... that sort of intimacy.

Chen Gu watched the following matches with everyone in the box. Suddenly, he received a message; it was from his unfilial adult son: "The match was thrilling."

A slow curve appeared at the corner of Chen Gu's mouth.

「The following day.」

Media outlets big and small focused on reporting the previous day's matches. The main stories, of course, covered those key battles. However, among all the reports from Capital Star, the coverage of Chen Gu's match even surpassed that of "Night Fiend" Nan Zhibei and "Blood Asura" Karu.

Many expert commentators pointed out that Chen Gu and his Combat Rooster differed from previous Energy Gathering Mechanical Species. They exhibited exquisite cooperation and a significant level of understanding. Most importantly, the Combat Rooster possessed a certain "rationality"; it wasn't blindly aggressive and was willing to obey its master's commands.

In summary, the expert commentators still maintained a cautious stance on their prospects. The number of past failures of Energy Gathering Mechanical Species was too high to be blindly optimistic after just one success.

Chen Gu ate his breakfast, looking through all the major media coverage about himself, and was rather satisfied. The Alliance seemed to have intervened behind the scenes, as the reports were almost uniformly positive, with very few being pessimistic. The Alliance wants to promote me too.

What a pity, all these views are cautiously optimistic—when will I, like those megastars, have a large group of diehard fans?

Following this match, Chen Gu's next appearance in the Behemoth Alliance would be in a week.

Before he had finished his breakfast, he received a call from Dr. Meng Ji. The doctor barked at him, "Where are you? Why haven't you come to cooperate with my experiment yet?"

In short, the impatient Dr. Meng Ji always adopted an aggressively critical attitude towards everyone, at all times, feeling they were all delaying his research.

Chen Gu hummed, "But you didn't inform me of the time!"

Dr. Meng Ji said, "Come right now. The experiment can start at any time; we're just waiting for you."

Dr. Meng Ji's experiment is bound to fail. So, despite the generous promises Aviloya had made, Chen Gu lacked enthusiasm. After hanging up the phone, he dragged his feet, taking several hours to return to the Bureau of Mystic Security headquarters.

He pushed open the large door to Dr. Meng Ji's laboratory and said repeatedly as he entered, "Doctor, I rushed here as fast as I could..."

Inside the lab, it was silent. Dozens of people were sitting neatly together, their luggage and backpacks at their feet. Dr. Meng Ji stood at the front, and everyone else just sat there, quietly staring at Chen Gu.

Next to them, various instruments were already packed into safety boxes.

"Uh—" Chen Gu felt a bit embarrassed. "Are you really all waiting for me? Where are we headed?"

Dr. Meng Ji stepped forward, grabbed him, and with a CLICK, handcuffed Chen Gu to himself. He said, "Now that we're starting human trials, we need to use the Generator. It's not safe inside the city, so we've found one outside the city.

"This time, don't expect me to let you go before my experiment succeeds!"

Chen Gu immediately wailed, "I'm still a student, and my advisor is quite brutal! I have another match next week, and my fans are eagerly anticipating my next performance!"

Dr. Meng Ji paid him no mind and dragged him out. Several large maglev buses emerged from beneath the Bureau of Mystic Security headquarters and headed straight out of the city.

Chen Gu tried to negotiate with Dr. Meng Ji a few times, but the doctor completely ignored him. Chen Gu had no choice but to think, I'll cooperate with his experiments for a few days, then bring up regaining my freedom.

As the convoy left the city, each bus carried a Professional, along with two armed field agents responsible for everyone's safety. Notably, His Excellency Gong Shuxu sat beside Chen Gu and Dr. Meng Ji.

Hours later, they entered another protected area on Capital Star: a dense tropical rainforest with extremely vigorous plant life. Sometimes trees and vines tangled together, forming veritable "walls of forest," slowing their progress. It wasn't until evening that they finally reached their destination.

After their identities were verified, the mysterious base opened its doors. Chen Gu discovered there wasn't a single soul inside—it was a completely sealed base!

Gong Shuxu explained, "Typically, colonial planets have several secret bases like this, kept dormant and regularly maintained. Should a war break out and other bases be destroyed, people would retreat here.

"After the war with the Alien Insect Race began, the number of these backup bases increased substantially. Capital Star has at least thirty, though only a few are accessible to our Bureau of Mystic Security."

Chapter 417: The Most Advanced Generator (2)

Chen Gu found it hard to believe. "Even in this kind of backup base, there's a generator?"

Gong Shuxu shrugged. "It's always good to be prepared."

Chen Gu gained a new appreciation for the Bureau of Mystic Security's depth. It was quite a feat for other forces to possess even one generator—like the Wuning Temple. Yet, the Bureau could actually afford to equip even its backup bases with one.

The elevator took them down to an underground residential area where the researchers temporarily settled. However, Dr. Meng Ji pulled Chen Gu aside. "My research has two main directions."

"Both directions are based on your experiences, so I need you to provide some opinions."

"The first direction," Dr. Meng Ji spoke rapidly, "is what I call 'shatter-and-reforge.' To put it simply, after becoming a Professional, one is suddenly stripped of all power, reverts to an ordinary person, and then takes up a Profession again."

"You were once subjected to 'Soul Imprisonment,' then you awoke and subsequently became a Professional—this is the origin of my 'shatter-and-reforge' concept. If the second Profession taken up is different from the previous one, perhaps one could become a dual-Professional."

"What do you think?"

When Chen Gu heard 'Soul Imprisonment,' he immediately felt this idea wasn't very sound.

"Uh..." He hesitated before finally asking, "How do you plan to do it?"

"The Bureau found three Special Agents for me. They all suffered serious injuries during missions and lost their abilities as Professionals. The Bureau has arranged a very comfortable retirement for them, but when they heard about this experiment, they all volunteered to try it."

Chen Gu sighed internally. Once one has tasted the power of a Professional, who could bear reverting to an ordinary person? As long as there's a glimmer of hope, they would be willing to try.

"What about the second direction?" Chen Gu asked.

"The second direction is 'Supra-Limit Endurance.' I have specifically studied this. Your physical constitution far surpasses that of Professionals at the same Energy Level, allowing you to endure more energy."

"Furthermore, when you became a Professional and advanced in rank, the quantity of exotic substances and remains of super-beings you utilized was also far above average."

"So, my guess is that as long as one possesses a sufficiently powerful physical constitution and can tolerate more of these mysterious substances, perhaps there is a chance to directly take on multiple Professions."

"The Bureau has found two candidates willing to participate in this experiment. They are both Reserve Special Agents, but they come from poor backgrounds and lack sufficient Merit Points, meaning their chances of becoming Professionals through their own efforts are remote."

Chen Gu thought for a moment and couldn't help but admire Dr. Meng Ji's bold thinking. He found he couldn't offer any meaningful advice and simply said, "I think the arrangements you've made are already very good. I can't think of any other suggestions."

Dr. Meng Ji, however, was not optimistic, frowning as he nodded. "If the experiment fails... these five participants might lose any chance of becoming Professionals for the rest of their lives, and they might even sacrifice their lives because of it."

Chen Gu felt a pang of sympathy. But the secrets of 'The Past of Four Hundred People' simply can't be disclosed.

Dr. Meng Ji continued, "We'll start with the first 'shatter-and-reforge' approach. The participants for the 'Supra-Limit Endurance' approach currently have physical constitutions far inferior to what yours was initially. This will require your help; use your past experience to train them and help them improve as quickly as possible."

"Leave it to me," Chen Gu immediately agreed.

"Alright, rest now. We'll start the experiment first thing tomorrow," Dr. Meng Ji said, then lay down fully clothed, ready to sleep.

The handcuffs still linked Chen Gu to Dr. Meng Ji. Chen Gu protested, "You want me to sleep with you? Sorry, I don't have the habit of sleeping with men!"

Dr. Meng Ji nonchalantly waved his hand. "My preferences are quite normal; you have nothing to worry about..."

Chen Gu became furious and reached out to snap the handcuffs. Dr. Meng Ji knew Chen Gu was a Professional; these handcuffs weren't security locks and couldn't possibly restrain him.

He hurriedly said, "Alright, alright, I'll unlock them. Don't be hasty."

Chen Gu snorted, waiting. Yet Dr. Meng Ji didn't immediately unlock the handcuffs. Instead, he fished something out from a nearby cabinet and, without a word, CLACKED it onto Chen Gu's ankle.

"A tracking anklet?!" Chen Gu was speechless. Only then did Dr. Meng Ji, grinning, unlock the handcuffs. "No offense. I just don't want you running off."

Chen Gu: "..."

"The moment you leave this base, I'll receive a signal. If you attempt to forcibly remove the anklet, I'll also be alerted immediately."

Chen Gu rolled his eyes at him and went off to find a room to rest.

After taking a shower, he discovered a brand new bathrobe in the room. The base's facilities are remarkably well-equipped. Chen Gu put on the bathrobe and suddenly received a call from Gong Shuxu. "Want to take a look at that generator?"

Chen Gu felt a flicker of interest. "Sure."

Gong Shuxu came to pick him up. Together they took the elevator down to the very bottom level of the base, where he saw a colossal generator, far larger and more structurally complex than any he had previously encountered.

He instantly understood. "Is this the latest model?"

"Yes," Gong Shuxu answered. "The backup bases were constructed more recently. Human technology is constantly advancing, and our methods for hunting super-beings have become increasingly sophisticated. Consequently, the more recently a generator was built, the more advanced it generally is."

He turned to Chen Gu, earnestly advising, "I know there has been some... unpleasantness between you and the Director-General. However, the generators the Principal can mobilize are far inferior to those of the Bureau of Mystic Security, because this falls squarely within our jurisdiction."

"So try to cooperate with the Director-General as much as possible. She's someone who keeps her word. If you wish to one day reach the Ninth Power Level, your best path is to continue advancing within the Bureau."

This was the advice of a high-Energy Level Professional—a brief suggestion, yet very valuable.

Chen Gu sincerely said, "I understand. Thank you, old man."

His heart filled with helplessness. It's not that I don't want to cooperate; it's just that this time... there's simply no chance of success.

Gong Shuxu nodded, then led Chen Gu away from the lowest level. They each went back to rest.

Chen Gu lay in bed, suddenly struck by a thought: Is it really impossible to hold multiple Professions? Dr. Meng Ji's research direction was doomed from the start. So, could I find an alternative path, devising my own method to acquire multiple Professions?

For some reason, once this thought appeared in Chen Gu's mind, it became an uncontrollable, intense impulse.

He began to seriously consider how to achieve this. Walk my own path? Then what could replace 'The Past of Four Hundred People'?

He mulled it over for several hours, ultimately making no headway on the problem of acquiring multiple Professions, yet it made him notice another issue: Why am I so fixated on researching how to acquire multiple Professions? Is it solely because of Aviloya's promise?

Chapter 418: Three Sets of Experiments

"Multi-tasking" was actually Chen Gu's greatest advantage at the moment. If the secret of multi-tasking was uncovered by others, then he would no longer be unique and could even be surpassed one day.

But he recalled his state a moment ago—even after admitting to the Bureau of Mystic Security that he was multi-tasking, what he feared wasn't being surpassed, but being subjected to cruel research.

Why had he never worried about being surpassed? Was it just because "The Past of Four Hundred" had given him confidence?

Chen Gu carefully retraced his actions and faintly felt it wasn't so simple; it was as if, from the deepest part of his being, on a level he wasn't even aware of, he hoped the secret of multi-tasking would be understood by all humanity.

"Why is it like this?" Chen Gu muttered to himself.

The reason he could multi-task was "The Past of Four Hundred." So, what was the purpose of creating this mysterious item—let's call it an item—in the first place?

Thinking of this, Chen Gu seemed to understand: it was probably to explore the secret of multi-tasking.

That was why he was subtly influenced by "The Past of Four Hundred" and also wanted to find a feasible method of multi-tasking for all humanity.

「...」

The next morning, before the experiment began, Chen Gu suddenly pulled Dr. Meng Ji aside and asked, "Doctor, you were inspired by my experiences and came up with 'Break and Reconstruct' and 'Exceeding Limit Endurance.' Have you considered that it might be the combination of these two conditions that are the essential elements for actual multi-tasking?"

Dr. Meng Ji was stunned for a moment, then slapped his forehead. "You make a lot of sense; I was looking too narrowly."

He put the experiment on hold and conducted some deductions and calculations. Then, he irritably made a phone call to Aviloya. "I need test subjects! The people here right now simply cannot verify whether my hypothesis is correct!"

"I need at least three hundred subjects!"

"...Don't tell me those things. I don't care. You're the director, and you should solve the problems. I'm only responsible for research, telling you what I need!"

"You can't solve it? Go to the Elders' Council, go to the principal. Our research isn't just for the Bureau of Mystic Security."

After arguing with Aviloya, he happily hung up the phone and said to Chen Gu with a smile, "Thanks to my excellent negotiation skills, I've secured sixty volunteers for our experiment."

Chen Gu, seeing he seemed very satisfied, asked, "Didn't you say at least three hundred?"

"How could that be possible?" Dr. Meng Ji said. "Professionals are already very rare, and even fewer meet our experiment's requirements—those willing to volunteer are an even smaller group."

He sighed with resignation. "It's already the limit for the Director to gather this many people."

The first group of volunteers had three people, and the second group had two. After consulting with Chen Gu, Dr. Meng Ji chose a short-haired girl named Chu Zheng from the first group as the sole volunteer for "the third approach."

While the first group of volunteers began their trials, she and the second group, under Chen Gu's supervision, started to fully improve their physical condition.

Chen Gu became the instructor.

As for the sixty volunteers Aviloya had later promised, they remained just a promise for the time being. It was uncertain when they would be delivered.

The two volunteers from the second group, one man and one woman, were named Shi Chenghua and Fei Ji.

Both of them were already in strong physical condition and even had exceptional talents as Professionals.

They were willing to become volunteers simply because they came from ordinary backgrounds and lacked the resources and points needed to formally establish their Professions.

"You've all seen my training plan," Chen Gu said on the first day of training, distributing his original training methods without any reservation.

Then, with a raise of his hand, transport robots in the base silently glided over. "This is the most advanced medicine from the Confederation, capable of greatly enhancing physical fitness without any side effects—such resources will never be in short supply in the future. What you need to do is train with all your might, aiming to reach my level back then as soon as possible."

Seeing those precious medicines, Shi Chenghua's and Fei Ji's eyes lit up with excitement.

Such expensive medicine had been beyond their wildest dreams before. Only Chu Zheng, who came from the first group, remained cold and indifferent.

In fact, from the beginning of this experiment, Chu Zheng, with her deep blue short hair and slender figure, had seemed indifferent to everything.

After three days of training, the effects on Shi Chenghua and Fei Ji were very evident; their physical fitness had doubled!

The two originally had great talent but had hit a bottleneck due to a complete lack of resources. Now, with the most advanced medicines from the Confederation, they were soaring immediately.

However, Chen Gu, looking at their data, still secretly shook his head. They were indeed not bad among ordinary people, but there was still a significant gap compared to my own level back then.

To everyone's surprise, Chu Zheng had made almost no progress at all.

On the evening of the third day, after training ended, Chen Gu returned to his room. While he bathed, he thought about discussing with Dr. Meng Ji the next day about letting him go back to the city before competition day.

Now, as he thought about it, he found it somewhat amusing. He was a university student at Huai Shan Branch School, yet he never attended classes. He was a potential candidate for the Behemoth Alliance but had never gone to training!

Either of these identities held more promise than this troublesome Bureau of Mystic Security special operative role.

Yet it was this special operative identity that tethered him.

After his bath, Chen Gu had just changed into clean clothes when a knock on the door sounded. Thinking it was Gong Shuxu coming for a chat, he opened the door only to see his two students standing outside: Shi Chenghua and Fei Ji.

"You two? What's the matter?"

The two exchanged a glance. "Instructor, may we come in and talk?"

Chen Gu let them enter and sit. Seeing their serious expressions, he asked with confusion, "What exactly happened?"

Fei Ji was the first to speak. "Instructor, when do you think we can meet the experiment's requirements?"

Chen Gu thought for a moment, then smoothly pulled out a list. On it were the delivery times for various upcoming advanced medicines.

Actually, in Chen Gu's view, when they could meet the requirements depended less on their own training and more on when the various medicines could be delivered.

The two students might believe they had good talents and were working hard enough. But Chen Gu had a different perspective, having seen too many geniuses, too many who were madly diligent. These two lacked in several respects.

The final dose of the currently most advanced physical enhancement medicine wouldn't be delivered for about another month.

These medicines were the Confederation's most advanced achievements at present and, hence, in high demand. Many influential figures sought them for their descendants, which meant the Bureau of Mystic Security's experimental needs had to be pushed back.

"About another month."

Chapter 419 Volunteers

In Chen Gu's view, this was already quite slow. He knew that back in his own days, without any help from potions, it had only taken him approximately half a month to reach that standard.

Now they were using a precious potion every single day.

However, Shi Chenghua and Fei Ji were very excited. To them, such a rate was unquestionably "earth-shattering." This bolstered their confidence even more. With that boost, the words they were about to say carried an extra bit of assurance.

It was still Fei Ji who spoke first, "So, Instructor, for our second group experiment, do we start as soon as someone meets the standard, or do we have to wait until everyone has reached it?"

Chen Gu frowned. "What do you mean by...?"

Fei Ji looked him directly in the eyes and said bluntly, "We're worried that Chu Zheng will hold us back."

Shi Chenghua spoke up too, "Chu Zheng is different from us. We know her situation is more tragic since it's about breaking down and rebuilding. But we also don't want to be dragged down by her. To speak bluntly, Instructor, we really have no personal connection to her; why should we have to bear her problems together?"

The volunteers for the second group's [Extreme Endurance] experiment, in fact, faced much less risk than the first group. In theory, they could almost achieve a fifty percent or higher success rate in becoming Professionals from this one experiment—which was already very high.

And becoming a Professional one day earlier would mean they could advance in their career one day sooner.

Chen Gu could understand their urgency, but such indifference was somewhat distressing.

Chen Gu made good use of his ability to control his facial micro-expressions, concealing his inner emotions well. "This matter is up to Dr. Meng Ji to decide. If you want to know the answer, you shouldn't be asking me."

Chen Gu politely escorted the two students out, then pondered for a moment, feeling somewhat troubled himself.

He put on his coat and went out to find Dr. Meng Ji.

Dr. Meng Ji seemed very unwelcoming of his arrival. He had been busy with the first group's preparatory work for the past few days, which had reached a critical stage. He estimated that the experiment could officially begin either tomorrow evening or the morning of the day after tomorrow.

At that moment, Dr. Meng Ji was about to rest for thirty-four minutes, timing it with a stopwatch.

"If you have something to say, say it quickly. If not, then please go back immediately."

Chen Gu went straight to the point, "Why did you choose Chu Zheng in the first place? She seems very pessimistic about the whole experiment and lacks enthusiasm."

Dr. Meng Ji's overbearing presence faded slightly, and he ruffled his messy hair. "Three years ago, Chu Zheng's brother was a volunteer for another experiment of mine."

"Her brother, also a Professional, was contaminated by a Mutant during a mission. However, his condition wasn't severe. According to the Bureau's standard procedure, they would attempt to remove the contamination and then transfer him to a desk job. This would prevent him from undertaking dangerous missions, but, also by standard procedure, he would lose eligibility for future promotions."

"At that time, I was researching a related subject and needed a group of volunteers. If the experiment had succeeded, it could have completely eliminated the risk of subsequent mutation for those with minor contamination, giving them hope to continue advancing their careers."

"Her brother and she argued over whether to participate in the experiment because there were certain risks involved."

"But Professionals simply cannot resist the hope of moving forward; her brother disregarded her dissuasion and insisted on participating in the experiment."

Dr. Meng Ji paused, then hurriedly blurted out as if avoiding the subject, "The experiment encountered an accident, and after its failure, all the subjects experienced a rapid increase in the degree of mutation. The Bureau had no choice but to destroy that batch of experiment subjects."

Immediately after, he pushed and shoved Chen Gu out of the door.

However, Chen Gu had already understood: Chu Zheng's brother could have lived a stable life. The Bureau always took great care of former special agents who were injured on such missions and had retired to second-line duties.

But then Dr. Meng Ji had shown up and told him, "Join my experiment, and you'll have the chance to return to the battlefield!"

So he participated, and as a result, the experiment failed, and he was gone, just like that.

How could his sister not resent you?

Yet upon further reflection, Chen Gu felt that things might not be so simple. If Chu Zheng truly resented and mistrusted Dr. Meng Ji, why would she come to volunteer?

"Could it be she wants to intentionally ruin the experiment as revenge against Dr. Meng Ji?" Chen Gu muttered to himself.

It was possible, but something didn't quite add up. Chu Zheng had displayed a demeanor of detachment and indifference throughout the training process, not one of vindictive revenge or calculated plotting.

"It's also not out of the question that this girl is cunning, deliberately disguising herself this way."

"But why would Dr. Meng Ji let someone with such an obvious potential threat participate in such a crucial experiment?"

Chen Gu decided to talk to Chu Zheng the next day. If there really was an issue, he would eliminate the threat beforehand.

Waking up early in the morning, Shi Chenghua and Fei Ji arrived at the strength training room ahead of time. They did the maximal tests for the bench press, squat, and deadlift. They were quick to high-five and cheer each other as their scores had clearly improved compared to yesterday.

They had already completed their respective tests and had done extra training together until eight o'clock in the morning, when Chu Zheng entered the training room, right on time.

According to Chen Gu's plan, the training started at eight in the morning—Chu Zheng was neither early nor late. Then she would leave on time at six-thirty in the evening, not staying a minute longer.

Chen Gu and Chu Zheng entered the room one after the other. Today's training proceeded as usual, and Chen Gu did not show any signs of anything out of the ordinary.

It wasn't until the end of the day's training that Chen Gu said to Chu Zheng after dismissal, "Come to my room after dinner; I have something to talk to you about."

Chu Zheng was clearly taken aback, but Shi Chenghua and Fei Ji showed a look of anticipation, thinking that their "suggestion" from yesterday had worked.

After dinner, however, Chu Zheng did not show up. Chen Gu waited until after eight and was about to call her when he was suddenly startled by forceful knocking on the door.

Upon opening the door, Chu Zheng stood there, drenched in sweat, her face still showing that same indifference. She barged in and asked, "Spill it, what do you want?"

Chen Gu frowned. "Did you go for extra training?" If he remembered correctly, this was the first time Chu Zheng had done extra training.

"Yes." Chu Zheng held her head high, looking at him with a touch of scorn. "Do you need me to take a shower first?"

Chen Gu's brows furrowed even more. "What do you mean?"

"What do you want? Isn't it just those things men are interested in?" Chu Zheng said flatly, trying hard to sound nonchalant.

Chen Gu suddenly realized. "You think I... This... It's not..." He stumbled over his words, then took a deep breath, his gaze sweeping over Chu Zheng's lean, flat figure. "Please don't insult my taste!"

Chapter 420 This misunderstanding is a bit embarrassing

Chu Zheng was genuinely insulted. Chen Gu certainly understood the damaging power such words could have on a woman. However, if he hadn't said it, truly explaining the situation and convincing Chu Zheng would have required quite an exhaustive debate.

And Chen Gu was furious as well. In what way is Man Suling not better than you?

Fury flashed in Chu Zheng's eyes, but the Great Actor Chen, preempting her, assertively took on the mantle of a drill instructor, and commanded with his hands behind his back, "Go clean yourself up, then come back and listen to my lecture!"

Resentfully, Chu Zheng left. Half an hour later, she returned, refreshed. Yet, reality was cruel. It was easy to turn from sloppy to neat, but what one lacks remains absent, immutable.

Chen Gu asked with a stern face, "Why are you so negative?"

"If you have no hope whatsoever in this experiment, there's no need for you to come here. After all, the Bureau of Mystic Security has always generously treated those who have made sacrifices for it. You're not in want of food or drink."

Chu Zheng remained silent.

Chen Gu continued, "This experiment is very important, and you've been singled out as a separate group. Can't you feel how seriously you're being taken?"

Suddenly, Chu Zheng interrupted him, "Did Meng Ji send you?"

Chen Gu was startled. Then he noticed the complex expression in Chu Zheng's eyes. No way... he thought.

He didn't deny it but kept on persuading, "Shi Chenghua and Fei Ji's talents are far inferior to yours. Despite their high opinion of themselves, I can tell that you haven't been using your true strength in the training."

Chu Zheng interrupted again, "I don't want to participate in this experiment at all, and I didn't come here of my own free will. I'm only here because I followed the orders from my superiors."

"Even though I've lost all my power due to a serious injury, I'm still a part of the Bureau of Mystic Security. I can't disobey the head office's orders."

"Moreover, this order was issued due to the personal intervention of the influential Dr. Meng Ji."

Chen Gu chuckled to himself. So the Doctor specifically brought her in. No wonder he immediately assigned Chu Zheng to this slot when I mentioned my third idea.

He sized Chu Zheng up again, amused. So that research-obsessed Doctor likes this kind of figure, the same front and back. TSK TSK, indeed different from ordinary people, such unique tastes.

Although he had plenty of internal monologue, the Great Actor Chen hadn't forgotten the real reason he had specifically sought out Chu Zheng. Feigning the demeanor of an instructor, he said, "Even if you don't have much hope for the Doctor's experiment because of what happened to your brother, there's no need to be so despondent. Even if the experiment fails, the strength you accumulate during this training will still genuinely belong to you.

"With physical conditioning far superior to ordinary people, even in an administrative role, you will enjoy many conveniences."

Chu Zheng spoke assertively, "There's no other reason. I just don't want my life to be manipulated and arranged by him, like my brother's was."

Eh? As Chen Gu listened, he felt something was a bit off. What did she mean by her life being manipulated and arranged?

Unable to hold back, he asked, "How did the Doctor manipulate and arrange your brother's life?"

Chu Zheng spoke indifferently, "When our mother died, she entrusted him to take care of me and my brother. But what does so-called familial affection count for to someone like him? Nothing is more important than his research.

"From our childhood, he visited us no more than ten times. But once my brother came of age, he suddenly showed up and arranged for my brother to join the Bureau of Mystic Security. Then he gave my brother a sum of merit points, and my brother became a Professional.

"Then when my brother was injured and contaminated, he appeared again, arranging for him to enter his laboratory—his own nephew, in his eyes, is nothing more than a relatively valuable test subject."

Chen Gu was taken aback. He had thought Dr. Meng Ji wanted to play father to Chu Zheng, never expecting that the man was actually Chu Zheng's maternal uncle! This misunderstanding was rather large.

"But if you don't want him to arrange your life, why did you become a Professional?"

Chu Zheng said indifferently, "I awakened naturally and worked as a freelancer for a while. Then, during an attack by a Mutant, I had to reveal my powers to protect myself and was consequently recruited by the Bureau of Mystic Security."

Chen Gu had one overriding feeling: Their family truly has a cursed relationship with the Bureau of Mystic Security.

Chu Zheng revealed a self-mocking, cold smile. "Then I too was severely injured, and then I too had to join his experiments like my brother, becoming a test subject! He's succeeded splendidly—the last two relatives he has in this world have both become his test subjects!"

Chen Gu and Chu Zheng had different perspectives. Actually, Dr. Meng Ji's actions were understandable. A person like him possesses extremely strong self-confidence and has developed the habit of controlling everything in the lab. Subconsciously, he would therefore arrange what he believed to be the 'best' choices for his relatives.

Unfortunately, he had a deficit in emotional intelligence and had absolutely no idea that his niece didn't want to take part in any experiment or to receive another "opportunity."

Chen Gu couldn't say much about these matters. However, he had achieved his objective: he could basically confirm that Chu Zheng wasn't intentionally infiltrating to cause destruction.

He thought for a moment and said, "If you think you're incapable of resistance, why not make good use of this opportunity to strive to enhance your strength?"

Chu Zheng pursed her lips and didn't respond.

Chen Gu was still considering whether or not to help Dr. Meng Ji persuade his niece when suddenly, a rapid alarm bell rang throughout the base!

BEEP BEEP BEEP—

Following that, Gong Shuxu's voice came over the broadcast: "Severe contamination in the test subject!"

"All non-combat personnel evacuate to the outer perimeter!"

"Chen Gu, Chen Gu, come to the generator immediately!"

Chen Gu immediately rushed out. Dr. Meng Ji had already begun experimenting on the first group tonight, aiming to break them down and then rebuild them.

The outcome was self-evident.

On the way, both sides were lit with flashing red lights and earsplitting alarm sounds.

This time, they hadn't brought many people from the reserve base, so the evacuation was very swift. Chen Gu didn't encounter any panicking crowds. He passed through the empty corridors and took the elevator to the deepest level of the base at top speed. As the elevator descended, Chen Gu could distinctly feel a cold, evil, savage, and chaotic power growing increasingly strong in the direction he was heading.

The elevator finally came to a halt. The moment the doors opened, a fierce power, like a violent wind, surged towards him. A multitude of complex and evil thoughts continuously emerged in Chen Gu's mind.

He stood in the elevator, his whole body involuntarily shaking, almost becoming mentally disturbed.

Fortunately, his will was strong enough to resist these crazy temptations, and then he stepped out with firm strides.

At the same time, he switched to Derek Kun Shen's memories, transforming into the Fourth Energy Level "Quantum Wizard"—a profession well-suited for... escape.

This accident was very serious. Save as many as possible, he resolved.