

Full Time 421

Chapter 421: The Flesh Mountain Mutant

The underground hall where the generator was located was wide open. Most of the electronic equipment had been damaged by some mysterious force, and blue electric sparks were bursting continuously. It was no longer possible to isolate the hall to prevent the contamination from leaking out.

Chen Gu walked in. Despite being mentally prepared, the sight before him still shocked him greatly.

The entire hall was filled with mountainous, sea-like black organic matter. Dr. Meng Ji and his research staff were all tightly enveloped by this substance. Only one of Gong Shuxu's professionals remained standing next to him. The two were unleashing their power, struggling against the countless black tendrils that were growing and spreading towards them!

Doctor, you've really outdone yourself this time...

After muttering to himself, Chen Gu stepped forward, shifting his memory from "Derek Kun Shen Ken" to "Milna Katerina."

Upon laying eyes on this massive Mutant, a judgment instinctively formed in Chen Gu's heart: Nuclear Melting Ray Eyes could dissolve it.

Why he felt that way or made such a judgment, Chen Gu couldn't say for sure. It might have been intuition or perhaps experience.

He positioned one foot forward and one back, arms slightly spread and exerting force, guiding with his eyes, as if the entire focus of his strength was concentrated in those eyes.

FSSSHH—

Intense nuclear fusion rays shot out from his eyes, quickly burning a huge hole in the massive black flesh mountain. A thick, acrid smell of burning followed.

The flesh mountain trembled violently, clearly in agony. Simultaneously, it rapidly grew countless black tendrils, resembling the long hair of a banshee, accompanied by soul-piercing screams, wildly sweeping towards Chen Gu.

But no matter how fast they moved, they couldn't escape Chen Gu's "sight." Chen Gu turned his head to look, and under the 'Nuclear Melting Ray Eyes,' those tendrils were instantly reduced to ash!

Gong Shuxu was engaged in a tough battle with the enormous Mutant, mindful that his attacks shouldn't harm the colleagues wrapped within it—those people were essentially hostages, severely limiting Gong Shuxu's ability to fight effectively.

That special agent had never encountered such a terrifying Mutant. During regular missions within the city, facing a four or five-meter tall Mutant was already considered extremely dangerous.

But this time, he was confronted with a literal mountain of flesh! The Mutant's horrifying presence made him hide behind the Sixth Energy Level, trembling slightly, continuously grateful in his heart: Thank goodness for such strong backup!

But at the same time, he felt uneasy: This Mutant is too powerful, and even the Sixth Energy Level seems to be struggling...

What do old people fear most when others talk about them?

Four words: "His strength fails his will." How utterly heartbreaking.

But the special agent didn't anticipate that with Chen Gu's arrival, those fiercely hot, radioactive powers bursting from his eyes would be so effective that the Mutant began to dissolve instantly.

And the Mutant's frenzied counterattack appeared feeble in front of Chen Gu, who easily neutralized it and still had energy to spare for a counteroffensive.

Under the 'Nuclear Melting Ray Eyes,' that black flesh mountain rapidly "melted" away, just like a snow-capped mountain under the blazing sun.

The special agent's admiration was clearly evident in his eyes.

Gong Shuxu felt the pressure lift off him after Chen Gu arrived, finally allowing himself to catch his breath. But when the old man turned around, he saw the special agent he had been protecting looking at Chen Gu with such fervent eyes...

Comparing their "achievements" in battle, the old man felt like shutting down completely. He could already imagine the belief being infinitely reinforced in the mind of the special agent he had worked so hard to save: 'Psychological Spies' really aren't suited for frontal combat. The results of a Sixth Energy Level aren't as good as a Third Energy Level 'Radiation Missionary.'

The old man was weary in his heart.

Chen Gu's 'Nuclear Melting Ray Eyes' lasted a full three minutes before finally extinguishing. He closed his eyes for a moment's relief, and his 'Radiation Field' opened up simultaneously.

The entire underground hall, where the launcher was located, was now almost completely under his control.

Within those black biological tissues, Dr. Meng Ji and the others who were trapped were not in immediate danger. This Mutant was very cunning, not eager to feast on its spoils. It had "evenly distributed" these people within its body so that in battle, no matter where Gong Shuxu attacked, he risked injuring his own people.

But Chen Gu was different. His 'Nuclear Melting Ray Eyes' were highly precise. If Chen Gu wished, he could even use them like a scalpel to remove the black biological tissue from Dr. Meng Ji and the others, bit by bit.

However, using the 'Nuclear Melting Ray Eyes' was extremely taxing for Chen Gu.

The Mutant, sensing Chen Gu was growing weak, seized the opportunity. A black wave, carrying sharp, piercing screams, surged from its body and rushed towards him from all directions.

Seeing Chen Gu needed a breather, Gong Shuxu was about to step forward and block for him, to buy him time, but then he heard Chen Gu say, "Please, senior, retreat for now!"

The two had fought side by side many times, and Gong Shuxu had complete trust in him. So, without a second thought, he grabbed the special agent behind him, and the two of them rapidly retreated.

Chen Gu stepped forward once more to take Gong Shuxu's place. Watching as the black waves rushed toward him, ready to knock him down and drown him, his body suddenly became blistering hot, and a rich, dark red light emerged—so intense that it formed a thick layer of light and fire drifting around his body.

WHOOSH—

Scorching power radiated from Chen Gu as the center, instantly charring, collapsing, and scattering the black waves...

This was one of Chen Gu's seldom-used Professional Skills: 'Radiation Scouring.'

With Chen Gu's current strength, this skill was no longer like when he first acquired his Profession, capable only of emitting a bit of radiation. Now, it produced a genuine 'melting' effect.

Step by step, Chen Gu pressed forward. The power of 'Radiation Scouring' was persistent and unending, forcing the black flesh mountain to retreat before him.

Even so, its colossal body continued to be scorched and collapse under Chen Gu's relentless assault. Chen Gu reached out, and the 'Riverwash Sword' appeared in his grasp.

The power of 'Radiation Scouring' extended to the sword. Aided by the perception from his 'Radiation Field,' Chen Gu knew he was nearing a trapped person. His sword swung with precision, stripping away all the black tissue encasing the individual. Then, with his other hand, he pressed lightly, considerably reducing the strength of 'Radiation Scouring' to thoroughly "cleanse" them. Any residual black tissue clinging to them was completely melted away.

With a nudge of his heel, Chen Gu sent the person flying out to land next to Gong Shuxu.

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This was a researcher under Dr. Meng Ji. Gong Shuxu immediately took control of him, planning to conduct a thorough check on these people once the event concluded.

The black Meat Mountain trembled violently, emitting sharp screeches, appearing extremely angry. Yet, it was completely helpless against Chen Gu. Due to its nature, it needed physical contact to cause contamination, and Chen Gu gave it no such opportunity. Moreover, for some reason, ever since Chen Gu appeared, it had faintly sensed a terrifying danger, as if this person was its natural nemesis.

Chen Gu, relying on Radiation Scouring, forcefully advanced twenty meters, effectively reducing the Meat Mountain's massive body by a full twenty meters. At this point, the Radiation Scouring ability finally ended.

The black Meat Mountain was ecstatic. It must devour this detestable creature! It rolled up waves of flesh to crush him, determined to make him a part of its body. This creature's power is so strong; it will surely enable me to evolve! But as the waves of flesh began to swell, Chen Gu suddenly opened his eyes, and his Nuclear Fusion Laser Eyes activated once again.

BOOM—

This time, Chen Gu was not firing aimlessly. He had already located the 'core' of this Mutant using the Radiation Field. For such Mutants, the so-called 'core' was actually their primary consciousness.

The Nuclear Fusion Laser Eyes burned through the thick black tissues. The instant Chen Gu unleashed them, he switched to Isabella Wu's memories. The Brain Domain Hacker ability was fully activated, sending forth a Psychic Storm.

BOOM!

The Mutant's primary consciousness was instantly blasted into pieces. Chen Gu didn't bother to check the results, immediately switching his memory back to Milna Katerina and launching a second Radiation Scouring!

I feel like I'm burning alive! Chen Gu felt scorching heat all over his body, but he gritted his teeth and persisted. This is a test of willpower! Who will break first? The searing power activated again, and Chen Gu, wielding the Riverwash Sword, charged through the colossal Meat Mountain!

After its primary consciousness was shattered, the Mutant did not die immediately. After all, this was no ordinary Mutant; it lacked an absolute 'vital spot.' The disintegration of its primary consciousness merely

left the Mutant in a stunned state. The massive Meat Mountain became inert. Without the restraint of its primary consciousness, the black biological tissues began to flow and disperse.

Chen Gu swiftly cleared away the black tissues, using the Riverwash Sword to rescue the hostages, one by one, who were held captive by the Mutant. When he reached the seventh hostage, he finally found Dr. Meng Ji. Chen Gu quietly breathed a sigh of relief. After kicking Dr. Meng Ji clear with his heel, he noted the entire Mutant was still struggling to reconsolidate its consciousness.

Afterward, Chen Gu rescued the remaining three hostages. He then swung his sword, carving a path through the black Mutant directly to the generator. Then, Chen Gu's second Radiation Scouring ended. With blue smoke rising from his body, he dashed into the generator.

The space was already packed with the Mutant's mass. Enduring intense physical discomfort, Chen Gu switched to Derek Kun Shen's memories. With a press of his hands, he activated Quantum Teleportation, transporting all parts of the Mutant within the generator out!

If Chen Gu hadn't shattered the Mutant's primary consciousness, this operation would never have succeeded. But now, the Mutant's body was on the verge of disintegrating, allowing him to smoothly transfer this portion of its tissue. This bizarre maneuver caused the Mutant, which was about to reform its primary consciousness, to falter momentarily, further slowing its recovery.

Chen Gu quickly surveyed his surroundings. Just as I guessed! Sure enough, some materials needed for empowerment remained inside the generator, all related to super-life materials! Chen Gu sat in the generator's core position. Then, with a press of his hands, he 'ignited' those materials. Enduring his body's discomfort, he initiated Radiation Scouring for the third time!

With the boost from these materials and the amplification from the generator itself, this Radiation Scouring—though somewhat weakened by Chen Gu's condition—actually exhibited far greater power than the previous two.

WHOOSH—

A torrent of fiery light swept out. The Mutant's mass was all around the generator. Having just begun to reform its primary consciousness, it screamed sharply as it started to disintegrate, layer by layer, within the Radiation Scouring.

Chen Gu released his hands and switched to his Quantum Wizard aspect, performing a Quantum Teleportation to transport himself outside the hall. If the Mutant isn't completely dead, Gong Shuxu will have to handle the rest. Great Actor Chen can do no more. He had already handled the most difficult part. Thus, even if some cleanup tasks remained, they shouldn't pose a challenge to a Sixth Energy Level Psychological Spy, who was supposedly 'not adept at head-on combat.'

Gong Shuxu was also ready to take over. However, they had both overestimated the Mutant and underestimated Chen Gu. Outside the generator, layers of the Mutant's burnt black biological tissue turned to ash and fluttered down. Without a physical entity to inhabit, the consciousnesses from the Endless Realm let out frustrated roars as they were pulled back by the force of some worldly law.

Yet, Gong Shuxu dared not slack off in the slightest. The entities of the Endless Realm were always enigmatic and unpredictable. This might look like a loss for them, but they could still be hiding some unknown schemes. He immediately called the Bureau of Mystic Security, "Send out the highest-level cleanup crew immediately!"

"Seal off all involved floors! No one in the base is to approach without permission! Violators will be dealt with as Mutants!"

The commands were issued crisply and decisively. Chen Gu was gasping for breath from exhaustion, feeling helpless. Who knows how long this cleanup and investigation will take? Will I have to postpone my second match?

Under Gong Shuxu's command, a special operative from a nearby warehouse procured safety restraints and clamped them on all the 'hostages.' They had all been in close contact with the Mutant and were therefore at extremely high risk of contamination. These safety restraints were specifically designed for individuals who had come into contact with Mutants. They were equipped with special helmets that prevented the wearer from communicating with the outside world through facial expressions, breath, or speech.

Gong Shuxu specifically explained to Dr. Meng Ji, "Doctor, this accident is very serious; you know the rules—you don't have to answer me, don't nod, don't do anything."

Then, without waiting for Dr. Meng Ji to react, he snapped the helmet onto him.

Chapter 423 Attitude

The laboratory was in close contact with the headquarters. The moment something went wrong, Aviloya was informed. Various support teams, including the cleanup crew Gong Shuxu later requested, were dispatched immediately.

So, a few dozen minutes after the Mutant was dealt with, the first support team arrived. The cleanup crew entered first. Starting from the entire base's perimeter, they carried out search and safety checks but found no signs of potential Mutants. Only then did they enter the incident site. One group began cleaning up the residual dust, while another group first conducted checks on Chen Gu, Gong Shuxu, and the sole remaining professional operative.

They used the most advanced equipment developed by Dr. Meng Ji. It was too expensive to be widely used and was thus only equipped by the headquarters for the time being. However, its accuracy was very high, far exceeding that of ordinary devices.

The trio was quickly confirmed to be problem-free.

Then it was Dr. Meng Ji and his team's turn.

The results of the examination allowed Aviloya to breathe a sigh of relief; none of them had been secretly contaminated. Aviloya was only truly concerned about three people: Dr. Meng Ji, Gong Shuxu, and Chen Gu.

As for Chen Gu, it wasn't so much "concern" as caution. After all, one always pays attention to something valuable.

But with everyone confirmed okay, an unsettling feeling began to creep in because it defied logic. Given the nature of those beings from the Endless Realm, every invasion typically left a string of troublesome issues. This was true even though humans had fought them for many years and were now very cautious; no matter how deeply any threats were hidden, they were inevitably discovered. Those beings still seemed to relish this, as if they enjoyed causing trouble for the Bureau of Mystic Security.

This time, they hadn't left behind any follow-up measures. This struck Aviloya as improbable, prompting her to immediately order another thorough examination. Another six to seven hours were wasted. By the evening of the next day, no "hidden threats" had been discovered.

Strange... Aviloya muttered to herself. However, after two consecutive highest-level security screenings, the results were deemed trustworthy. Dr. Meng Ji's team was finally cleared to resume their work.

However, after this contact, they would need to visit the relevant departments at the Bureau for an examination every three months to ensure there was no subsequent contamination. This included Dr. Meng Ji.

This greatly annoyed the Doctor, as it meant he would waste an hour every three months.

"This time... I really didn't see it coming," the Doctor said helplessly. "Pang Yue had already undergone his second Induction. Before undergoing the 'Deconstruction and Reconstruction' process, he had reached the Third Energy Level and possessed considerable experience facing the Endless Realm. Yet this time, he was defeated so easily and quickly seduced. Moreover, the Morph from the Endless Realm arrived with astonishing speed."

Everyone outside the generator, including Gong Shuxu who was present, had no time to react. Almost at the exact instant the monitoring equipment warned of an invasion from the Endless Realm, black biological tissue erupted within the generator like a flood.

After thinking for a moment, Chen Gu reminded Dr. Meng Ji, "It's precisely because they were part of the 'Deconstruction and Reconstruction' trial that they were so full of anticipation and desire to regain their powers. If the beings from the Endless Realm saw through this, they could indeed easily succeed by exploiting this vulnerability. When the next volunteer undergoes their Induction, Doctor, you must caution them."

Dr. Meng Ji realized this was indeed the case. He nodded repeatedly. "You're right. We didn't consider things thoroughly enough this time."

However, after this incident, the Induction of the second volunteer would have to be delayed.

Taking advantage of the situation, Chen Gu requested a day off from the Doctor to participate in the Behemoth Alliance competition.

Dr. Meng Ji was very reluctant. However, Chen Gu had just saved him and, arguably, his entire experiment. Chen Gu was making a small request, and even if Dr. Meng Ji's emotional intelligence was painfully low, he didn't know how he could refuse.

And so, Chen Gu obtained a day off.

The incident, however, had left the entire base in disarray. This was especially true for Shi Chenghua and Fei Ji from the second group. They hadn't yet experienced their Induction and had only heard rumors about the risks of mutation.

They had always considered themselves superior, thinking that being unable to resist temptation was something that could never happen to them—and they still firmly believed this.

But the horror of the mutation filled them with apprehension, though this anxiety wasn't about their own potential weakness. They sought out Chen Gu again, with the outspoken Fei Ji once more taking the lead. "Instructor, if a mutation occurs, the more residual supermatter and remains there are in the generator, the more dangerous it is, correct? These resources would also empower the Mutant?"

Chen Gu nodded. "That's correct."

Fei Ji continued, "So, if Chu Zheng undergoes mutation during the trial, it would be more dangerous than today?"

Chu Zheng was originally a volunteer from the first group for 'Deconstruction and Reconstruction.' Now, she was participating in the 'Extreme Endurance' trial. The amount of supermatter and remains within the generator for her trial would be much greater than what was present for Pang Yue today.

Chen Gu looked at them calmly and said, "These are issues for Dr. Meng Ji and myself to consider. You just need to focus on your training and do what you need to do."

The two glanced at each other, still somewhat unwilling to let it go, but Chen Gu had already waved them off. "Go back."

Their concerns aren't unreasonable, Chen Gu inwardly shook his head. But I've keenly detected another issue: the two of them have developed a somewhat problematic mindset. For reserve operatives awaiting their Induction, this is also very dangerous! Figuratively speaking, Chu Zheng's presence has become a 'mental block' for them. And the beings from the Endless Realm excel at discerning internal weaknesses. This could become an opening for their infiltration and seduction. But would removing Chu Zheng from this experiment solve their problem? Even without considering the impact on Chu Zheng, doing so wouldn't resolve the issue. A problematic mindset has taken root in them, and that's an unchangeable fact. Now, I'm less worried about Chu Zheng and more concerned about these two. But after thinking it over for a while, I don't have an immediate solution. Fortunately, there's still some time before the second group begins their trial. I'll have to discuss this matter with Dr. Meng Ji and Gong Shuxu later. Gong Shuxu is a Psychological Spy; perhaps he'll have a way to resolve such mental issues.

「The next day, training for the second group continued as usual.」

After her previous talk with Chen Gu, Chu Zheng, the short-haired girl with a flat figure, was no longer so negative. She slowly began to demonstrate her full strength during training.

Today, for instance, Shi Chenghua and Fei Ji were stunned to see her 'slender' frame easily push a weight far exceeding her own.

Chen Gu's brows furrowed deeply. This is trouble.

Chapter 424: Mindset (2)

Shi Chenghua and Fei Ji looked at Chu Zheng with renewed envy. Their mindsets were already problematic, and now these issues had become even more complex.

However, before their last conversation, Chen Gu hadn't known that Pang Yue's unforeseen incident would occur. The situation had now become even more complicated and tricky.

It's true that no plan can keep up with changes. Great Actor Chen could only sigh to himself.

The time arrived for Chen Gu's second match of the season. He left the base early to return home. Still driving the same behemoth truck, Chen Gu personally transported the Combat Rooster to Immeasurable Stadium.

For the first half of the season, the schedule was quite favorable to Chen Gu, with most of his matches being home games on Capital Star.

His opponent for this second match was nowhere near as strong as "Bone Crusher" Chalmos; it was a veteran who had left his club.

Back in his prime, he possessed considerable strength and was a mainstay in the club. However, he tried to juggle both team and individual matches, which led to a falling out with the club, and they parted ways on bad terms. In his first season after leaving, the veteran's individual match performance was outstanding, ranking him twenty-fourth in the Confederation.

The club, due to his departure, struggled to find a replacement, and their results plummeted that season.

That season was the highlight of the veteran's career. Subsequently, however, his lack of individual strength and waning potential became increasingly evident, and his results declined year after year. In contrast, the club, with its strong financial resources, managed to recover easily.

Now, more than a decade since the veteran left his club, he stubbornly participated only in individual events, and his performance continued to decline.

Tonight, Chen Gu easily secured victory. He didn't even need to issue any commands; the Combat Rooster alone was enough to defeat the opponent in just four rounds.

Afterward, Chen Gu didn't linger in the city. He drove off in the truck with the Combat Rooster overnight. En route, he recalled the Combat Rooster into the Dimensional Prison Ring, returned the truck, and then drove back to the base alone.

The next day, on the interstellar network, there wasn't extensive coverage of Chen Gu's match, as several high-profile battles had taken place the previous night. Chen Gu still drew some attention for "the second victory of an Energy Gathering Mechanical Species," but that was about it.

While eating breakfast, Chen Gu browsed these reports and checked the detailed schedule for his subsequent matches, sent by Alliance officials after last night's game.

For the first half of the season, the Alliance had been considerate of him as a newcomer. The schedule was very friendly, primarily home games, and mostly one match per week. Grueling schedules with two or even three matches a week were rare. This allowed Chen Gu to slowly adapt to the pace of the matches—truly preferential treatment, showing the Alliance had put considerable thought into easing him in.

Chen Gu then stopped paying attention to the league; his primary focus remained on the training at the base. The Beast League was a part-time job for him. Although he enjoyed it, his main goal was still to earn money to support his household.

In the following days of training, Chu Zheng's performance improved markedly. Then, one day, she finally surpassed Shi Chenghua and Fei Ji!

The two stood to the side, woodenly wiping sweat from their foreheads without a word.

To think that the teammate they had worried would hold them back had so effortlessly surpassed them!

During the remaining training time that day, even the usually outspoken Fei Ji became very silent.

Chu Zheng seemed utterly oblivious to all this, still training at her own steady pace. When it struck half-past six in the evening, she immediately left, not training a minute extra.

When she departed, a terrifying number remained displayed on the super-gravity trainer, making Shi Chenghua and Fei Ji's faces burn. They, who diligently added extra training sessions each day, appearing extremely hardworking, had been surpassed by the slender girl they initially dismissed.

After dinner, there was another knock on Chen Gu's door. When Chen Gu opened it and saw Shi Chenghua and Fei Ji standing outside, his face already bore a trace of displeasure.

The two students entered, and Fei Ji, without any preamble, said, "Instructor, if the experiment fails, won't Chu Zheng become more dangerous as she gets stronger?"

Chen Gu waved a hand. "Get out."

But Fei Ji stood her ground. "Don't think we're just jealous of Chu Zheng's training results; that doesn't prove anything. The final outcome still depends on who becomes a Professional.

"We're also participants in the experiment, and its success or failure is closely linked to our own interests. Of course, we have the right to be involved..."

Before she could finish, Chen Gu, thoroughly impatient, grabbed one in each hand and tossed them out.

Their training achievements, of which they had taken such pride, were first surpassed by the "slacker" Chu Zheng, and now, in Chen Gu's hands, they lacked any ability to resist whatsoever.

Chen Gu felt a growing distaste for these two, so he had put a bit more force into his throw, causing them to crash against the opposite wall. They then tumbled down, too dazed and seeing stars to get up.

Chen Gu silently shook his head. They can't even admit to themselves that they're jealous of Chu Zheng.

He once again realized the severity of their problematic mindsets. He immediately initiated a call with both Gong Shuxu and Dr. Meng Ji. Soon, the three of them gathered in Dr. Meng Ji's room.

Chen Gu relayed how Shi Chenghua and Fei Ji had sought him out three times regarding Chu Zheng. He discreetly observed Dr. Meng Ji's reaction as he spoke. Sure enough, before Chen Gu could finish, the doctor was practically exploding. Chen Gu held him back, "Calm down, let me finish."

"These two volunteers have developed serious psychological issues," Chen Gu continued. "We must intervene. Otherwise, if they enter the generator, their mental defenses will surely be breached by those things from the Endless Realm, leading them to degenerate and mutate!"

Dr. Meng Ji slammed his hand on the table, enraged. "Those two imbeciles! Wasting so much of our funding! We should just replace them entirely! Send them to do logistical support for the rest of their lives!"

"The Director-General promised another sixty volunteers; the first batch of twenty is almost here."

Gong Shuxu gently shook his head. "The more volunteers for the experiment, the better. Besides, we've already invested so much in them. Let me handle this."

As a Psychological Spy, he was, of course, the most suitable person for the job.

Chen Gu and Dr. Meng Ji both nodded in agreement. Then Dr. Meng Ji said to Chen Gu, "Basler is ready, and the generator has been checked multiple times; there won't be any issues. I plan to conduct the second trial for the first group in two days. This time... you should be there to oversee things. I have a very bad feeling about this."

Chen Gu nodded. "Alright."

Chapter 425: The Dual Professional (1)

Perhaps it was because of a scolding from Chen Gu, or perhaps because of the effect exerted by Gong Shuxu, but Shi Chenghua and Fei Ji both became "more normal" the next day, focusing intently on their training and no longer fixating on Chu Zheng.

Chu Zheng herself found it strange that no matter how she trained, what potions she used, or how much she ate, her body remained stubbornly unchanged, the same flat figure without a hint of transformation.

Two days flew by, and from four in the morning, the first group was already starting to prepare in earnest. By eight o'clock, Chen Gu had arranged the day's training tasks for his group members and then excused himself to rush to the generator on the lowest level.

Everything was ready there; they were just waiting for Song Zheng to arrive.

The second volunteer from the first group, Basler, was a sturdy man standing two meters tall with a somewhat comical little mustache and clearly defined muscles, his trapezius muscles bulging under his training suit.

He sat in the chair, appearing somewhat nervous, his left leg occasionally trembling.

Dr. Meng Ji was directing his researchers in the final checks of the instruments. Chen Gu arrived, and Dr. Meng Ji only gave him a casual wave. Twenty minutes later, at the doctor's command, "Insert all ascension materials into the generator!"

"Prepare yourself, Basler."

Gong Shuxu stepped forward, patted Basler on the shoulder, "Go ahead, remember what I told you before, there won't be any problems."

The soothing effect of the Psychological Spy was remarkable; Basler visibly calmed down as he stood up and entered the generator.

Everything proceeded in an orderly and methodical fashion.

"Close the generator!"

"Prepare the dedicated energy circuit."

"Start up!"

Following Dr. Meng Ji's command, the generator quickly lit up with the intense brightness that Chen Gu had become all too familiar with.

The light soon peaked, blinding everyone so that they could only see a piercing white light, everything else obscured by its brilliance.

Then, the light slowly diminished, and Dr. Meng Ji along with several senior researchers stared intently at the various monitoring devices, but unfortunately, the data on these devices remained at a very low level.

Dr. Meng Ji, with arms crossed, shook his head helplessly; these were not the readings of a Professional. Without a doubt, this experiment had failed as well.

Suddenly, a series of urgent alarms blared, and the piercing red lights around the generator flashed incessantly.

"Invasion from the Endless Realm detected!"

Chen Gu stepped forward, gazing at the generator.

Inside the generator, a malevolent and chilling presence began to spread.

Dr. Meng Ji, in agony, massaged his temples, "Is Basler also unable to withstand it?"

The monitoring devices kept sounding alarms, and everyone watched the generator as if facing a formidable enemy, Gong Shuxu ready to act at a moment's notice.

Yet the alarms continued to sound, while inside the generator, all remained calm. Time ticked by, unbearably slow.

Then, in an abrupt moment, the alarm, which felt as though it had been echoing in everyone's ears for hours, suddenly fell silent.

The flashing red lights around the generator went out as well.

Everyone snapped to attention, and then realized that the lights from the generator and the dedicated energy circuit had also completely faded out.

"Is it over?"

Dr. Meng Ji gestured for his researchers to take action, "Check for contamination status."

The results came out quickly, "Confirmed no contamination."

"Open the generator."

The airtight door hissed open, and Basler sat dejectedly inside, motionless, aware of his failure.

A few researchers entered, patted his shoulder, "Let's go."

Basler was extremely disappointed and listlessly let them guide him as he walked out of the generator.

Gong Shuxu stopped him, "Didn't those beings from the Endless Realm tempt you?"

Basler gave a wry smile, "No, I felt the power of the Endless Realm. Through a haze, it seemed like I saw some evil entities pointing at me from afar, but not one of them came over."

"Maybe they think... they simply disdain to tempt an ordinary person like me."

He shook his head, no longer wanting to speak, and left in dejection.

Chen Gu understood his feelings. In despair, he had suddenly glimpsed a ray of hope, but in the end, that glimmer too had been extinguished—a second bout of despair—it was tough on anyone's heart.

"This is strange..." Dr. Meng Ji muttered to himself, "The last promotion didn't succeed either, yet it attracted such a powerful demonic form. Why would the other side of the Endless Realm voluntarily give up this time?"

He couldn't understand the reason for a while and could only attribute it to the beings being too bizarre, beyond conventional reasoning.

The remaining trivial tasks of wrapping up were naturally handled by his subordinate researchers, and Dr. Meng Ji approached Chen Gu, "From now on, it all depends on you."

Chen Gu gave a bitter smile, "From the current situation, apart from Chu Zheng, the other two volunteers will need at least three more months to meet the standard."

Dr. Meng Ji gritted his teeth, "As long as Chu Zheng meets the requirements, we'll start with her."

The dual failures of the first group spread a mood of disappointment throughout the base. Everyone harbored a pessimistic attitude about whether the results they desired would be achieved this time.

Only Chu Zheng remained indifferent as ever.

Days passed, and half a month flew by in the blink of an eye. During this period, Chen Gu went out to fight in three giant beast league matches, with opponents of varying strengths, though relatively weak compared to Combat Rooster.

By this time, Chen Gu had already won five consecutive matches! Various experts and columnists finally began to take notice of this.

On the current individual competition scoreboard, the scores had not widened much. Most of the competitors had only participated in five or six matches, and there were quite a few who maintained an undefeated status. Currently, the "top rankers" included over thirty people, all with six victories.

Chen Gu, having fought one less match, was tied for second place with fourteen others with a record of five undefeated matches!

An Energy Gathering Mechanical Species making it this far caught everyone's attention, and the commentary about him began to increase.

By now, public opinion was beyond the Alliance's control. Overall, the skeptics still outnumbered the optimistic, as there had never been a successful case involving an Energy Gathering Mechanical Species before.

Chen Gu's record was more often seen as a fortunate but fleeting wonder.

Chen Gu, finding that too many were pessimistic about his prospects, decided to ignore the comments during this period and focus entirely on training his three trainees.

「Three days later,」 with the injection of a precious medicinal concoction, Chu Zheng finally reached the physical condition Chen Gu had before his employment.

Dr. Meng Ji, having waited anxiously for so long, immediately ordered the preparation of the third experiment.

This "urgency" of his only lowered his esteem in her eyes, confirming her judgment of his emotional coldness and his sole focus on experimentation.

Yet, Chen Gu was somewhat worried. On the day before the experiment, he sought Chu Zheng out and abruptly asked, "Do you want to die?"

Chapter 426: The Dual Professional (2)

Chu Zheng was momentarily startled and looked at him in confusion. "There's nothing wrong with my brain!"

"If you don't want to die, you need to let go of those obsessions," Chen Gu said indifferently. "Once you enter the generator and face the Endless Realm, any psychological defect you have will be immediately seen through by those things."

"Your resentment towards Dr. Meng Ji will become the perfect breach for them to tempt you into falling!"

Chu Zheng snorted coldly. "Are you saying that I shouldn't resent him?"

Chen Gu shook his head. "Why resent? Actually, I think the indifferent you is more suited to enter the generator. Since you've long stopped seeing him as your kin, why hold on to resentment? You can view him as someone completely unrelated to you, and this experiment is merely a collaborative relationship."

"He is the expert hosting the experiment, and you are a volunteer participant, nothing more."

"If you still hold resentment, it only shows that you care."

Chu Zheng scoffed. "I don't care at all!"

Chen Gu shrugged his shoulders, suddenly feeling that this type of communication was truly "inefficient." If he could elevate himself by one more Energy Level, he could directly employ the Fifth Energy Level of the Brain Domain Hacker's abilities and wouldn't need to persuade Chu Zheng like this—he could just implant his own thoughts into her head.

However, after Chen Gu left, Chu Zheng appeared to be deep in thought. Of course, I don't want to die, even though I've lost the abilities of a Professional. But now, under Chen Gu's training and with the

support of no-expense-spared drugs, my physical fitness has greatly improved, and my future prospects look very bright. Even if this experiment fails and I can't become a Professional again, I just have to endure a few years in the agency, sign a confidentiality agreement, and then I can leave. With my skills by then, my annual salary would be over three million.

That guy's words do make some twisted sense, Chu Zheng thought. She pursed her lips, though her expression showed she didn't truly agree.

The next day, at four in the morning, the generator area began preparation once again. Dr. Meng Ji, like the previous two times, seemed no different, except that he was more stringent towards his subordinate researchers and a bit more irritable.

No one noticed anything odd about the doctor because he was always like that.

Only Gong Shuxu, the Psychological Spy, could sense the subtle "difference" in the doctor compared to before.

At five o'clock, Chu Zheng arrived—this was the time she had been notified of the day before. She was still the same, never arriving a minute early.

Chen Gu, as usual, dawdled until eight o'clock before he finally reached the generator's hall.

He stealthily observed Dr. Meng Ji and Chu Zheng, noting how they really seemed like strangers to each other, not even exchanging a glance—which in itself was abnormal. During Basler's time, Dr. Meng Ji had been very concerned about his volunteers and had asked several questions.

However, as the staff were transporting materials into the generator, Chen Gu noticed that there were a full thirty percent more resources than originally planned for the experiment!

All these resources were related to super lifeforms and exceedingly expensive. Compared to ordinary people, Dr. Meng Ji might be considered wealthy, but his salary and project bonus, when put against the luxurious affair of Professional advancement, suddenly seemed insufficient.

Without a doubt, this was Dr. Meng Ji abusing his authority for personal gain, securing these resources for Chu Zheng.

Chen Gu chuckled and shook his head. Dr. Meng Ji, what happened to your principle of 'equal treatment for all subjects'? he mused.

Chu Zheng was oblivious to everything until the generator was ready and Dr. Meng Ji announced in a calm voice, "Prepare to begin!"

She then walked into the generator on her own, sat down, and let the researcher fasten her safety buckle. Subsequently, everyone left the generator, and the airtight door sealed shut.

Inside, Chu Zheng simply closed her eyes. I really didn't want to take part in this experiment. Because of my brother, I didn't even want to become a Professional. Just when I finally had the chance to return to an ordinary life, I was forcibly dragged back by that person to serve as a volunteer—ha! More like his human guinea pig.

Throughout the experiment, Chu Zheng had remained indifferent to everything. At the beginning, she wasn't enthusiastic about the training either. After a conversation with Chen Gu, she vaguely noticed the attitudes of Shi Chenghua and Fei Ji, and a sense of pride had emerged within her: she had always been outstanding from a young age, leading the pack in all sorts of scores, including physical techniques. Being regarded as a subpar student was something she wasn't accustomed to. So, she exerted a little effort, and those two true underperformers were quickly left behind. How uninteresting, was her appraisal of this experiment.

Then, sitting inside the generator, she heard the announcement outside that the experiment had begun, followed by the sensation of the generator becoming energized, creating a special force field.

Under this force field, those precious induction resources began to dissolve...

Suddenly, Chu Zheng opened her eyes, as if she could see through the technologically aesthetic generator to a future utterly unlike the so-called "ordinary." That future... it should have been mine—belonging to the Chu Zheng who hadn't been severely injured and lost her abilities, the Chu Zheng who was a Professional.

In an instant, flashbacks emerged: the cosmic ray storm encountered on that accidental journey to becoming a Professional; the heroic actions during the Mutant assault, saving numerous innocents; and those reliant gazes of hostages during rescue missions as a special agent... They all flitted before her eyes.

If I could really become a Professional again, even without aspiring to be some dual-Professional, it would be an interesting life indeed, Chu Zheng suddenly thought. This notion had been buried deep in her heart, hidden by her past stubbornness, and was only now fully revealed.

At that moment, Chu Zheng paused, then realized, My brother... he must have felt the same way back then.

The massive induction resources decomposed into mysterious particles that fused into her body without her noticing. Suddenly feeling something, she abruptly raised her head, her eyes deep and vast, and with a thunderous sound, the boundless Endless Realm appeared before her!

Chen Gu stood with his hands behind his back next to Gong Shuxu, just outside the generator.

The two of them were twelve meters from the generator, the closest of all the personnel. Everyone else, including Dr. Meng Ji, was at a distance of thirty meters.

Suddenly, Chen Gu had a premonition and looked towards the generator. At the same time, an ear-piercing alarm went off on the monitor in front of Dr. Meng Ji, with red lights flashing incessantly: "Detection of Endless Realm intrusion!"

Dr. Meng Ji rose involuntarily, his gaze fixed on the generator. Everyone else, apart from Chen Gu, assumed he was merely concerned about the success or failure of the experiment.

The alarm grew more and more urgent. Dr. Meng Ji's heart felt like it was pounding out of his chest when he suddenly realized something, looked at the time, and exclaimed in a choked voice, "The intrusion of the Endless Realm has been ongoing for seven minutes!"

Chapter 427: The Dual Professional (3)

In the last experiment, the Endless Realm invasion Basler faced lasted only one minute and nineteen seconds.

The one before that, which led to the demonic invasion and the creation of the flesh-mountain Mutant, lasted only two minutes and fifty seconds.

Normally, the results of the experiment—whether it was successful or not—should have been clear by now.

Chen Gu also felt something was amiss. Chu Zheng indeed possessed exceptional qualities. Furthermore, with Dr. Meng Ji secretly manipulating variables, she already had significantly more resources than for a standard Profession Conferral, and this had been increased by another thirty percent. If a problem occurred, the resulting Mutant would be exceptionally powerful, perhaps even surpassing the previous one.

Could Shi Chenghua and Fei Ji actually be right? If Chu Zheng mutates, will it lead to an even more severe disaster?

Chen Gu grew more cautious. He exchanged a glance with Gong Shuxu, and the two powerful Profession Holders each took several steps forward, positioning themselves to the left and right of the generator. They were ready to launch a pincer attack if anything went wrong.

The alarm blared piercingly, and the flashing red light was dazzling, but the inside of the generator remained calm. Another six minutes passed, and then the alarm and the lights suddenly vanished.

The Endless Realm invasion had silently retreated.

Dr. Meng Ji then saw the data representing the test subject's various skills begin to skyrocket. They quickly surpassed the limits of an ordinary person in unison and continued to climb, reaching the peak of the First Energy Level before finally stabilizing.

The doctor's jaw dropped. It took him a while before he rubbed his eyes in disbelief and looked at the data again. There was no mistake—it was real!

His two senior research associates leaped to their feet, pumping their arms in the air and cheering, "Success! It's a success!"

Dr. Meng Ji showed a relieved smile but, ever rigorous, shook his head. "We can't determine if it's a success yet. This data only shows that Chu... this volunteer has successfully undergone her Profession Conferral again. We still don't know if she's a Multi-Profession Holder."

"Next, let's proceed according to protocol."

Although everyone was anxious to find out if the Multi-Profession Holder experiment had succeeded, they methodically checked the contamination levels first before finally releasing Chu Zheng.

When the generator opened, Chu Zheng sat inside, looking disoriented. The researchers called her name twice, but she didn't respond. It was only after they unbuckled her safety restraints that she suddenly jerked awake, looked around, and asked, "Did I... undergo my second Profession Conferral?"

The researchers smiled. "Yes, congratulations!"

Chu Zheng stood up on her own and slowly walked out, feeling as if she were treading on clouds. But just as she was about to leave the generator, she suddenly frowned. "I feel like something's not quite right."

Dr. Meng Ji rushed over at once, asking nervously, "What's the problem?"

Gong Shuxu instantly appeared beside Dr. Meng Ji, pulling him behind for protection. If something was indeed wrong with Chu Zheng, she absolutely could not be allowed to harm the doctor—he was an important "asset" of the Bureau of Mystic Security.

Chu Zheng's expression suddenly twisted in pain. Then, with a scream, she clutched her head and knelt at the generator's doorway. "AH—"

"I... It seems like there are two completely different sets of memories in my mind..."

Her features contorted in agony, and she screamed repeatedly before her eyes rolled back, and she fainted completely.

Gong Shuxu was greatly alarmed and ordered, "Special Operations Team, advance! Highest-level security restraints!"

The Special Operations Team quickly moved in and secured Chu Zheng, who looked as if she was about to mutate and lose control, with the highest-level security restraints.

Dr. Meng Ji, held tightly behind Gong Shuxu, finally couldn't help but cry out, "Chu Zheng, Chu Zheng... what's wrong with you..."

The entire underground hall instantly descended into chaos. However, no one noticed that Chen Gu, who should have been a "pillar of stability" like Gong Shuxu, was left dumbfounded, frozen in place after Chu Zheng uttered her last words.

「Two full days later.」

In a room with the highest security level in the deepest part of the base, Dr. Meng Ji personally conducted a series of the most stringent contamination checks on Chu Zheng.

Chu Zheng showed no risk of mutation.

Her contamination level was 10.07%. While not low, this value was completely acceptable for a Profession Holder who had just undergone her second Profession Conferral.

Chu Zheng had also calmed down by then. Although she still suffered from the two distinctly different sets of "memories" in her mind, she had gradually learned to self-regulate and no longer fainted at the slightest provocation.

At that moment, Dr. Meng Ji, Gong Shuxu, and Chen Gu stood before Chu Zheng's bed. Dr. Meng Ji, filled with anticipation, said, "Next, we need to conduct some tests to verify if our experiment was successful this time."

In fact, two days earlier, Chen Gu had privately told the other two that the experiment was very likely a success. He knew all too well what the so-called "two sets of different memories" implied.

This made Dr. Meng Ji extremely excited; holding back until now had been his limit.

Chen Gu also hadn't expected that something he believed to be impossible had actually resulted in a "miracle."

During these two days, Chen Gu had also been pondering: Why was it successful?

Perhaps my ability to use multiple Profession skills isn't solely because of "Four Hundred People's Past"; or perhaps Dr. Meng Ji stumbled upon the method for holding multiple Professions by sheer luck.

In any case, everything would be revealed today.

But when Dr. Meng Ji spoke, Chu Zheng's expression grew even colder. Just hearing the word "experiment" from the doctor's mouth made her feel like a "human lab rat."

"Come with us," Gong Shuxu said.

The three of them took Chu Zheng to the largest and best-equipped Profession Holder training ground in the base.

Dr. Meng Ji gripped Chen Gu's hand tightly, his voice filled with trust and expectation. "Chen Gu, it's up to you now."

Chen Gu nodded and led Chu Zheng to the center of the training ground to impart his "experience."

"If I'm not mistaken," he said, "your so-called two completely different sets of memories are the abilities of two different Professions. Because that's how it is for me."

"You need to work hard to control them, to completely separate the two."

"When using the abilities of one Profession, don't think about any knowledge related to the other Profession at all. Otherwise, interference is very likely to occur, leading to skill activation failure."

Chen Gu explained a few more details and then had Chu Zheng begin attempting to activate her skills under his guidance.

The Profession Chu Zheng had naturally awakened before was the old Profession [Mist Singer], the same one as the "little demoness" Selena.

The second Profession she awakened, through conferral, was the new Profession [Medium Instructor].

She first tried to use her [Mist Singer] abilities. However, as soon as she opened her mouth, no sound came out; the memories of the two Professions were intertwining and interfering with each other.

"Don't rush," Chen Gu said. "Take it slow."

Gong Shuxu stood to one side, calm and composed, while Dr. Meng Ji was like an anxious old monkey, scratching his head in frustration.

This training, which appeared tedious but was actually crucial and incredibly difficult for Chu Zheng, continued unknowingly for two hours. Chu Zheng was utterly exhausted, and Chen Gu had no choice but to announce, "Let's stop here for now. Get something to eat and rest. We'll continue this afternoon."

Chapter 428 Trial Successful

With Dr. Meng Ji's help behind the scenes, the base prepared a vast array of precious ingredients at noon. These offerings, much like the cafeteria fare at the Huai Shan Branch School, greatly benefited the professionals.

Chu Zheng indeed ate a lot, which significantly aided her recovery.

And Chen Gu, in his role as instructor, also took advantage of his position to eat his fill.

His appetite alone was equivalent to that of more than ten Chu Zhengs.

Initially, Chu Zheng felt somewhat embarrassed about eating so much, being a girl. However, with Chen Gu around, this embarrassment vanished completely, replaced by a heart full of respect and gratitude for her instructor.

The afternoon training mirrored the morning's session: Chu Zheng made repeated attempts, but consistently met with failure.

It wasn't until evening that she finally let out her first shriek—she had successfully activated a skill from the "Mist Singer" profession!

In the training ground, Dr. Meng Ji, as excited as a child, threw his arms high and ran a victory lap around the entire field, cheering all the way.

Over the next two days, Chu Zheng managed to activate the first skill from the "Medium Mentor" profession.

At this point, it was technically confirmed: the experiment was a success!

Dr. Meng Ji was ecstatic. He drove out of the base alone, rushing non-stop to Aviloya's office. He barged through her door without preamble and, leaning heavily on her desk, demanded, "Quick, tell me how brilliant I am!"

Aviloya, also in high spirits, paid no mind to Dr. Meng Ji's presumptuous intrusion. She smiled and praised, "Doctor, you truly are a pillar of our Bureau of Mystic Security!"

"HAHAHA!" Dr. Meng Ji laughed heartily, then turned and left.

Several minutes later, he arrived alone at a high-end cemetery, a bouquet of flowers in hand. He placed them before a gravestone.

He let out a gentle sigh and touched the tombstone. A holographic projection bloomed silently, revealing a woman with a gentle smile.

The doctor gazed at her lovingly, and after a moment, tears streamed down his face.

...

Although Chu Zheng could now use skills from two different professions, she was still very clumsy at switching between them. She had a long way to go before she would be ready for actual combat.

Her training now rested entirely on Chen Gu.

However, on this particular day, Chen Gu needed to participate in a Behemoth Alliance competition.

When Dr. Meng Ji learned of this, he flew into a rage, banging on his desk and yelling loudly, "How can you possibly leave at such a critical juncture?"

"What if something happens to you while you're out? Who will instruct Chu Zheng then?"

"We are conducting an experiment of monumental importance, one destined for the history books! Can't you sacrifice your trivial personal interests for once?"

Judging by his demeanor, if he weren't certain he couldn't win a fight against Chen Gu, he would have already grabbed him by the collar and sprayed spittle in his face.

Chen Gu shot the man a fierce glare. The emotional intelligence of these research fanatics is infuriatingly low. 'If something happens to me'? What's he implying?

He tapped Dr. Meng Ji's desk. "I'm leaving tonight."

Then, ignoring the doctor's protests, he turned and walked out. Dr. Meng Ji called after him a few times, "Hey! Hey!" but couldn't stop him.

However, as Chen Gu prepared to leave the base, he found Gong Shuxu and Chu Zheng waiting by his car.

Gong Shuxu said, "We're going with you."

Chen Gu was taken aback. Gong Shuxu explained, "It's the doctor's idea. During this period, it would be best for you and Chu Zheng to have more contact, allowing for hands-on instruction. Chu Zheng has much to learn, including many practical details of daily life.

"We understand far too little about multi-professionals. It's highly probable that some details, ones we haven't even considered, are crucial for multi-professionals to utilize their full strength. This requires Chu Zheng to be by your side, observing and learning."

During this time, Chu Zheng had developed a strong sense of reliance on Chen Gu. The opportunity to stay by his side was more than she could ask for.

She nodded vigorously at every point Gong Shuxu made.

Then Gong Shuxu smiled. "Chen Gu," he said with a chuckle, "you're about to experience the highest level of security our Bureau of Mystic Security can offer."

Upon leaving the base, Chen Gu noticed that Gong Shuxu wasn't following their usual route. Instead, he detoured to pick up two Eighth Energy Level "special advisors." Only then did Chen Gu understand Gong Shuxu's earlier remark.

This was likely the most formidable force the Bureau of Mystic Security could deploy, second only to Aviloya herself!

Previously, Chen Gu had only Gong Shuxu for covert protection. But now that it was proven multi-professionals could be "replicated," the importance of the newly emerged multi-professional, Chu Zheng, suddenly seemed to eclipse even Chen Gu's. Every bit of progress she made would serve as a vital reference for constructing the multi-professional system in the future.

Chen Gu gave a wry smile. While he felt it was all a bit excessive, making a mountain out of a molehill, he nevertheless enjoyed the protection of two peak Eighth Energy Level experts.

Although this competition was still on Chen Gu's home turf, it wasn't at the Immeasurable Stadium. Instead, it was held at the "Potential Combat Gym," a more distant venue on Capital Star.

He was finally facing a significant opponent: Lu Chang, also known as "Nightmare."

Lu Chang was a star player in the league, renowned for his brutal fighting style and ruthless attacks. He consistently delivered excellent results and boasted immense popularity among fans.

He was even considered a cut above Meng Guangzhi ("Thunderbolt") and Kostia ("Storm"), the recent signings of Mao Yisheng's Battle Fire Club.

Numerous columnists had already published their predictions for today's match. When it came to the outcome between Chen Gu—an Energy Gathering Mechanical Species player whose second-place rank in individual matches was considered somewhat inflated—and the popular star Lu Chang, they unanimously sided with Lu Chang.

The vast majority believed Lu Chang was not an opponent Chen Gu could handle. Lu Chang's behemoth combined strength and agility, allowing it to easily employ hit-and-run tactics. This would render the Energy Gathering Mechanical Species powerless and likely cause it to descend into a berserk state, ignoring commands.

Most predicted the battle wouldn't last longer than twenty minutes.

Only a small minority of experts, priding themselves on their "unique insight," thought Chen Gu might hold out for over thirty minutes.

Before the match, his grandson Chen Zili had specifically called his grandfather to ask for two tickets. Chen Gu was delighted. Only two tickets! It seems my grandson and his 'goddess' are finally progressing to solo dates.

However, when the match began, Chen Gu spotted Yang Yaoyao and another girl by the arena. Chen Zili was nowhere in sight!

That useless brat! Chen Gu seethed, clenching his teeth.

Yang Yaoyao, however, was very supportive. She had made a large sign emblazoned with slogans like "Chen Gu for the Win!"

When "Nightmare" Lu Chang made his entrance, the arena erupted in cheers, countless fans waving frantically. He, too, felt this trip to Capital Star was merely a "leisure visit"; facing him, such a rapidly rising newcomer's momentum was bound to stop.

This Alliance has always belonged to biological species. Mechanical species? Heh, they can go back where they came from. If they refuse to leave, then we'll use our strength to drive them out!

But Lu Chang never anticipated facing a Chen Gu whose rage meter was nearly full—all thanks to his incompetent grandson.

And so, Lu Chang was headed for disaster.

Chapter 429 Grandpa Will Teach You

As soon as Chen Gu appeared, he didn't say a word before snatching command from the Combat Rooster. Faced with such a domineering owner, what could the little Combat Rooster do but cower in a corner of its own brain, trembling?

Chen Gu took control of the Combat Rooster's body—this was downright cheating. Other beasts and their companions were connected via consciousness, meaning their minds would link together while the beast still controlled its own body, only following their partners' suggestions. But the Brain Domain Hacker was just so overbearing.

Chen Gu, controlling the Combat Rooster, performed a set of "Ancient Martial Nine Forms" with the massive body of the Energy Gathering Mechanical Species!

With the brain-computing capabilities of a Brain Domain Hacker like Chen Gu, modifying high-level martial arts techniques to suit the Combat Rooster's body was a breeze.

It was like someone who had never learned martial arts, fighting on instinct alone, battling a true martial arts master. Moreover, this master's body, strength, and other attributes were several times stronger than an ordinary person's...

How could one possibly fight?

In less than five minutes, the Combat Rooster easily won, knocking its opponent out on the ring without giving them a chance to surrender.

The fans, shocked to see their idol Nightmare Lu Chang defeated so easily by Chen Gu, let out a chorus of boos. Only the commentator sighed with emotion, "Tomorrow's comments are going to explode, ladies and gentlemen! I think I can say it now: a new era has truly arrived!"

The cheers that erupted on the scene, aside from Chu Zheng and the others in Chen Gu's box, probably only came from Yang Yaoyao in the front row.

When Chen Gu came out to thank the audience, he specifically waved to her, and the live cameras captured Yang Yaoyao, a tall, youthful, and beautiful girl.

After the match, Chen Gu immediately called his grandson. "You idiot, why didn't you accompany Yang Yaoyao here? Have you fallen for someone else?"

His grandson sounded downhearted. "Of course, I wanted to go with her, but when she asked me for the tickets, she said she wanted to go with her bestie to watch."

Chen Gu facepalmed. "Stupid! Bribe her bestie! Make her bestie feel unwell for a bit, then you can take the opportunity to replace her and accompany the goddess to the match!"

"..." Chen Zili was speechless. Could one really do that? Grandpa, you're truly a sage.

When there was silence on the other end, Chen Gu knew this idiot hadn't thought of that at all and angrily hung up the phone.

After the match ended, Chen Gu was hurried back to the base by two Eighth Energy Level supervisors. The longer he stayed outside, the greater the risk of encountering "unexpected incidents."

Chen Gu couldn't help but find the situation both funny and exasperating, but he didn't object. Heading back to the base with the group, Chu Zheng was extremely excited the entire way, a stark contrast to her usual indifference at the base.

"Instructor, you're really amazing!"

"In the history of the Alliance, no Energy Gathering Mechanical Species has ever succeeded. You're going to make history!"

"Your tactics are very special. It feels like you've integrated martial arts into beast combat, right? That's a brilliant idea."

That's when Chen Gu realized Chu Zheng was also a hardcore fan of beast combat matches—and the type who truly understood the technicalities.

He casually chatted with Chu Zheng, thinking that if such conversations could make the girl more cheerful and optimistic, it would be immensely beneficial to her career path.

When the group finally returned to the base and everyone went to rest, Chen Gu plucked up the courage to call Aviloya.

He had wanted to make this call a long time ago, but gathering the courage had taken him more than ten days.

But there was no response on Aviloya's end, and Chen Gu became irritated. What did she mean by this? Was she trying to renege on our deal?

Chen Gu immediately sent a message: "Director-General, as a person of your stature, you will surely honor your promise, right? When can I be promoted to the Fourth Energy Level?"

The moment the message was sent, Chen Gu regretted it. While there was technically nothing wrong with what he said, it came off as a bit sarcastic.

Aviloya already had some "misunderstandings" about him, and this message was rather ill-advised.

But a sent message couldn't be taken back. Even if such a function existed, retracting it would seem even more suspicious and hard to explain.

So, Chen Gu simply resigned himself to his fate. But as Aviloya didn't respond, he shook his head and started to worry. If Aviloya was really holding a grudge and blocking him... would he need to go beg the Headmaster?

Chen Gu didn't sleep well that night.

「The next morning.」

During training, Chu Zheng noticed that he seemed out of sorts and asked with a concern akin to a fan's for their idol, "Instructor, is something troubling you?"

Chen Gu smiled lightly. "It's nothing. I was just thinking about some issues regarding promotion. It's inevitable to feel a bit anxious. Come on, let's start today's training."

"Okay," Chu Zheng agreed, giving him a vibrant, youthful smile.

Flat-chested she might be, but beautiful she also was. Those two things... weren't entirely mutually exclusive.

Dr. Meng Ji watched the two in the training ground with some envy. She's my niece! Why is she so chatty and happy with that guy?

He also wanted to have such lively chats with his own relatives, but Dr. Meng Ji truly didn't know how. He always felt that no matter what he did, or didn't do, his family members were never happy...

He shook his head, crestfallen, then turned and headed to another facility. He sighed to himself. Forget it. I should just focus on my experiments.

With that, the sense of dejection vanished, replaced by a surge of enthusiasm at the thought of his experiments. He was filled with vigor once again!

Dr. Meng Ji had just left when Chen Gu's phone suddenly rang, the sound urgent, like a death knell!

The moment the phone started ringing, Chen Gu's heart skipped a beat, and he was overtaken by a strong sense of foreboding!

He looked—of course, it was the Director-General.

Chen Gu managed a forced smile towards Chu Zheng, "Practice by yourself for a while; I need to take a call." He then dashed out of the training ground.

Chu Zheng shook her head. Hmph, so sneaky. It must be a call from a woman.

Chen Gu found an empty, quiet corridor and cautiously answered, "Director-General!"

His attitude was impeccable, his tone extremely respectful.

Aviloya spoke indifferently, "Yesterday, due to certain circumstances, I entered a completely sealed space and therefore couldn't receive the call from the esteemed and hardworking Mr. Chen Gu."

Chen Gu tensed up. Her tone doesn't sound pleased at all.

"As for where I went, that could probably be considered a top-level secret of the Confederation. I'm not sure if I should report that to you, Mr. Chen Gu?"

"Or perhaps, should I give you a heads-up every time I'm very busy?"

Chen Gu chuckled awkwardly. "You're joking, Director-General."

Chapter 430 Finalizing Promotion

"Hmm, you still remember that I am the Director-General, while you are just a member of the Bureau of Mystic Security. I almost thought our roles had reversed."

Chen Gu shrank his neck. There's no way to communicate with an irate and unreasonable woman.

After mocking him for a while, Aviloya finally said, "When the Director-General speaks, it's as good as done. Your promotion has been in preparation since Dr. Meng Ji reported to me about Chu Zheng's situation."

"You'll use the generator that's already at your base."

"All other materials will be sent with the base's next supply shipment."

Chen Gu couldn't help but catch his breath. The base received supplies daily by maglev truck, which meant that his promotion could happen as soon as tomorrow.

During this time, while he was training his team members, he was also diligently earning skill points. He had already accumulated enough in that regard.

"Your Excellency the Director-General is indeed a person of her word!"

As long as he benefitted, Chen Gu could praise the other party without a blush—a basic skill of an acting master.

Of course, Aviloya didn't take it to heart and hung up the phone fiercely.

Chen Gu stood alone in the corridor, took a deep breath, and thought, The Fourth Energy Level, finally here!

...

In another refining field, Shi Chenghua and Fei Ji were training hard, now under the supervision of Gong Shuxu, who had replaced Chen Gu.

Technically, swapping a Third Energy Level supervisor for a Sixth Energy Level one could be seen as taking them more "seriously." However, both felt a sense of loss. They understood Chen Gu's importance to this project, an importance Gong Shuxu couldn't replace.

Both possessed their own pride. Chu Zheng had indeed succeeded, but it didn't mean they had failed. If they could become multi-professionals in the experiment, they might be even more valuable than Chu Zheng because they wouldn't have needed to "break and then establish." Their success would align better with the circumstances of all reserve special agents, as it wasn't feasible for every agent aspiring to multiple professions to undergo such a process. You couldn't just have all aspiring multi-professional special agents go through that, could you?

Even if they couldn't become multi-professionals, their group was focused on "exceeding the limits" and had abundant resources for promotion, which significantly increased their chances of becoming professionals. It would even greatly benefit future promotions.

So their training continued with great dedication, and their physical condition steadily improved.

Seeing Dr. Meng Ji approaching, Gong Shuxu knew what concerned him and proactively said, "The last of the serum will arrive by midday today. I'll have them take it this afternoon and test them tomorrow. They should meet the requirements, so I'll start with the one in better condition."

Dr. Meng Ji nodded, glanced at the two training, and said in a lowered voice, "I feel they... won't succeed. The path to becoming a multi-professional is like what happened with Chu Zheng."

"Moreover, I predict that multi-professionals will be much rarer than regular professionals, with both professional initiation and promotion being much harder."

"For these two, simply becoming professionals would be quite an achievement."

Everyone could see their anticipation for "multi-professions," which is why Dr. Meng Ji had said this.

Gong Shuxu understood his meaning. "They would have had to wait a long time in the reserve special agent ranks, missing their prime, or even waiting a lifetime. Your experiment gave them a golden opportunity to become professionals. They just took a risk that was always theirs to take, so you don't owe them anything—participating in this experiment was an opportunity for them."

As for the bright future they both coveted... that was up to them now.

For both, becoming professionals was indeed the hardest step. Future promotions would no longer be related to this experiment. But having become professionals, as long as they diligently completed the Bureau's missions and accumulated merit points, they could slowly rise through the ranks.

It would just be comparatively difficult.

However, Gong Shuxu was worried about other issues. "These two, I fear, will struggle to overcome the challenge of the Endless Realm. Chen Gu's judgment is quite accurate. There are some very obvious issues with their mentality. Although I have tried to enlighten them, I cannot control the outcome."

Gong Shuxu added in his mind: In fact, they brought this upon themselves. Whether they can get through this ordeal depends on them alone.

At noon, a maglev truck entered the base carrying a batch of precious materials, within which those two invaluable serums were hidden.

In the afternoon, when Shi Chenghua and Fei Ji saw the two serums, they were both very excited, understanding what this meant.

Gong Shuxu said indifferently, "Come, inject yourselves. This serum is the most advanced available. After using it, you'll enter a dormant state, so go back to your dormitories immediately after the injection. Tomorrow morning, we'll test together to see if the effects are as anticipated. If the results are ideal, you'll need to prepare for your professional initiation."

Both of them took an injector, their eyes flashing with something called anticipation, or perhaps ambition.

...

"No way, absolutely not tomorrow!"

Chen Gu found Dr. Meng Ji, telling him he needed the generator tomorrow, but the doctor shook his head like a rattle drum, refusing without hesitation.

"Tomorrow, we have to conduct a trial on either Shi Chenghua or Fei Ji."

Chen Gu glared. Why should I make way for those two "juniors" of mine?

Dr. Meng Ji provided sound reasoning, pointing down at the ground as he spoke, "We're all members of this project team, so naturally, the project takes priority."

Chen Gu rubbed his nose. He felt as though there was really no way to argue.

But he really didn't have high hopes for those two. If an anomaly occurred during their professional initiation, cleaning the generator would be a hassle, causing a delay of several days.

Adding it all up, Chen Gu estimated that this would waste a week of his time.

During this period, Chen Gu also had a Colossal Beast League match to compete in.

He scratched his head in frustration, yet was unable to persuade the stubborn doctor.

After leaving the doctor's office, he went to find Gong Shuxu to inquire about the success rate of the two undergoing their professional initiation. Gong Shuxu's expression was grave as he merely shook his head. Chen Gu, feeling helpless, pursed his lips. Well, wait another week then, he thought.

The next morning, Chen Gu was still in a poor mood. When Chu Zheng saw him like this, surprisingly, she started to give Chen Gu a pep talk, much like he had encouraged her before.

"Instructor, if someone like me can advance further and become a dual-professional individual, what do you have to be glum about?"

Chen Gu gave a wry smile and waved his hand. "Be careful in practice today. I suspect there may be an accident."

Chu Zheng laughed. "Instructor, I was trying to cheer you up! Don't take my good intentions the wrong way and jinx me."

Chen Gu knew she had misunderstood and gestured with his hand. "I'm not saying there will be an accident involving you." He paused, then continued, "Today, either Shi Chenghua or Fei Ji will undergo their professional initiation. I'm worried about them."

Chu Zheng said, "If you're worried, then go and keep watch over there. I can manage on my own."

Chen Gu shook his head. "I won't go." He did not have a favorable impression of those two individuals.