

Full Time 51

Chapter 51: Members of the Group

The girl's hood was pulled low over her head, with strands of rainbow-colored hair peeking out from the sides near her ears.

She sauntered in, her delicate high heels deftly kicking the door shut behind her. Sitting down opposite Chen Gu, she flipped back her hood to reveal a small, oval face with snow-white skin. Her large eyes brimmed with laughter, and her nose and mouth were small and exquisite—she was a beautiful girl with the charm of the girl next door.

But Great Actor Chen, with his vast experience in judging people, sharply noted that beneath her loose clothing, the woman was hiding 'assets' that could incite criminal thoughts: a pair of heavy **, whose weight alone looked lethal. Extremely dangerous, and not to be underestimated!

"Are you new here? Hehe, you're quite cute. What's your name?" The girl crossed her legs. Like the archetypal 'girl next door' who often serves as a young boy's introduction to the world, she naturally had an easy-going and approachable personality.

"Chen Gu." Chen Gu behaved obediently. But he just couldn't bring himself to call her 'Older Sister'—he had an idol's burden... No, it was a parental burden. Chen Gu himself could be shameless, but he had to consider his grown son's self-esteem. How could he call his subordinate's subordinate "Older Sister"? Alas, a thousand words boiled down to one phrase: It's tough being a parent.

"My name is Melincha Stephanie, but everyone calls me Doll." Melincha, or Doll as she was known, showed no wariness toward strangers and began chattering away as if looking after a younger brother. "There are four other people in the group. You've met Silver Eagle Charles. He mentioned he was the one who conducted your physical fitness test."

"There's also 'Witch' Selena, and our group leader, 'Bartender' Marcus."

The 'big' sister next door leaned her upper body onto the table, a wide smile playing on her lips. "Selena is a cute little thing, you know, right around your age, little brother. Want me to introduce you two?"

Chen Gu glanced over discreetly, wincing internally for the table as it creaked under the pressure from those oversized items.

"Melincha!" Before Chen Gu could respond, a sharp, haughty voice cut in as a petite figure stormed in angrily. "Can you please stop being so tiresome?"

The girl who entered was undoubtedly 'Witch' Selena. She was half a head shorter than Melincha—though one shouldn't assume Melincha's 'oversized assets' would stunt her growth; in fact, Doll was quite tall and slender.

Selena had peach-blossom eyes, strikingly contrasted by clean, sharp sword-like eyebrows. At her young age, she already combined cuteness, charm, and a heroic spirit. If she were taller, she would be perfect—even more 'criminally' alluring than Melincha's oversized assets.

"Hehehe," Melincha laughed breezily. "Big Sister is just trying to help you get along with the newcomer."

"I don't need it!" The little witch pouted, clearly unappreciative.

The door was pushed open again, and Chen Gu finally saw someone familiar: Silver Eagle Charles.

He followed a middle-aged, world-weary man whose wrinkled face told a story of hardship. The man was unfortunately balding, with a noticeable paunch that his uniform struggled to contain.

"Alright," the middle-aged man interjected, stopping the argument. "Let's not squabble." He extended his hand to Chen Gu. "Hello, young man. I'm 'Bartender' Marcus, the leader of this group."

Chen Gu quickly shook his hand. "Hello, I'm Chen Gu."

Marcus spread his hands helplessly, gesturing towards the others. "As you can see, it's because of these characters that I..." He then pointed to the top of his head, the meaning self-evident.

Chen Gu couldn't help but smile; the group leader was an easygoing person, which was good.

"Your physical skills assessment was excellent. We'll take you on a few missions to accumulate some experience and merits, then you can apply to become a Professional."

Hearing Marcus's explanation, Chen Gu immediately understood. So, I'm here to leech experience.

It seems that with my grown son looking out for me, I should do quite well at the sub-bureau.

If he only knew how crucial Aviloya's role had been in all this, he certainly wouldn't be so optimistic.

"Alright, now let's continue working on that case. Selena, send the newcomer a copy of the data..."

"Why not let Melincha send it? I'm not going to talk to him first!" the little witch retorted, proudly stubborn.

Marcus looked exasperated, clearly at a loss with the young girl. "Alright, Melincha, you do it."

Melincha gave a knowing smile and passed a set of documents to Chen Gu. When he opened it, he was utterly stunned. It was the case from the last time Chen Jixian had been targeted for assassination by a Mutant!

Moreover, the case wasn't isolated; another one was attached. Almost concurrently, Zhao Zhenhuai had also faced an assassination attempt by Mutants.

However, according to the case file, the "intensity" of the incident involving Zhao Zhenhuai was much lower. There was only one Mutant, and its degree of mutation was far less significant than that of the two who had attacked Chen Jixian.

The Mutant assassin had barely gotten close before Zhao Zhenhuai's security detail riddled it with bullets, tearing it to pieces.

Silver Eagle Charles reported on recent developments, including several leads he was pursuing. The other members also gave their updates, while Chen Gu listened silently.

He might not have even realized it himself, but he was growing increasingly concerned about these "family" members of his.

Finally, Marcus concluded, "Based on the information we currently have, this appears to be a targeted operation by the Wuzhaoyin City Mutants against the future leaders of the police department."

"Both targets have military backgrounds and are known for their decisive leadership styles. This is certainly not good news for the Mutants, giving them ample reason to plan such an operation."

"The problem now is that all our leads have gone cold. We need to find another way to identify the mastermind and, ideally, root out all the Mutants hiding in Wuzhaoyin City in one fell swoop!"

Marcus looked deeply troubled again. In the past, if leads dried up, a case would be temporarily shelved. Mutants were bound to cause trouble eventually, and new clues might surface in other cases, allowing them to be linked.

But now that Chen Jixian was the Branch Chief, his attempted assassination case couldn't remain unsolved. Otherwise, everyone's future would be difficult.

However, conjuring a new lead out of thin air to continue the investigation was extremely challenging.

"Let's all share our thoughts. We need to hurry; the Chief is putting a lot of pressure on me."

Silver Eagle furrowed his brow, his mind racing. If I can turn the tide now, it'll be a stroke of genius!

This was the kind of moment Silver Eagle lived for.

Melincha, the 'big sister' from the Lin family, looked from one person to another; her expression suggested even she doubted she could come up with a solution.

As for the little witch Selena... she was happily painting her nails.

Marcus sighed inwardly, his face a mask of woe. He had little hope for this eclectic group of team members. Just then, a soft cough drew everyone's attention. Chen Gu, who usually behaved much like a high school student, raised his hand as if to speak in class. "Um... I have a half-baked idea."

"Go on," Marcus said, his tone suggesting it was better than nothing.

"Since all the leads are dead ends, I think we could try to lure the snake out of its hole."

Marcus's interest was piqued. "Continue."

"What are these Mutants most interested in? We can release some information related to that and lure them out." Solving cases, tracking leads—I'm not good at any of that, Chen Gu thought. But in my past life, I read countless scripts, including many detective screenplays. I just need to follow the formulas.

Silver Eagle sneered dismissively. "What they're most interested in? All that's left is our dear Chief. What, you want the Chief to be our bait?"

If I weren't afraid of scaring them, I'd immediately order my grown son to be the bait! Chen Gu thought.

Er... on second thought, no. If I actually said that, what if my grown son didn't give me face? It's a tiny possibility, but it still exists... around 99.999%, I'd say.

Chapter 52: The First Action (1)

"Of course, it couldn't be the Police Chief." Chen Gu racked his brains, starting to analyze like the protagonists in scripts. "Those Mutants must have their own channels of information to know about the future police leaders in our city, and these channels must be extremely powerful."

"What are Mutants usually interested in? Things like supermatter, for instance. If we release some information..."

"Right!" Marcus slapped his thigh forcefully. "Mutants often hide among crowds. If they could know in advance who the new Chief of Police is, that means there are Mutants lurking within the city government, and their positions must be quite high."

"Mutants require radioactive materials for sustenance. We could release information about a batch of radioactive materials. If they take the bait, we can trace them back to their source!"

"Great idea, I'll report it to Director Mei right away!"

The distress on Marcus's face faded considerably as he rushed to find Director Mei.

As for whether the Mutants apprehended with this plan would be connected to the assassination case... it didn't matter. As long as they had something temporary to present, it would suffice.

In the office, Silver Eagle eyed Chen Gu with hostility. This new recruit had stolen the spotlight from him twice in one week.

He decided to take this newcomer seriously; at the very least, in the domain of putting on airs, this was an opponent worth his full effort!

Before Chen Gu could feel too pleased, a clear, haughty voice interjected, "Brown-noser!"

Chen Gu: "???"

The plan quickly got Director Mei's approval, and he specifically instructed, "Include Chen Gu in the Operations Team for this plan."

Preparing for the operation took time, as did releasing the information. So, for the following week, Chen Gu stayed quietly in school, and the Bureau of Mystic Security did not disturb him much.

It was only on Wednesday that Chen Gu was informed to visit the Bureau of Mystic Security in the evening to get accustomed to the Operations Team's equipment.

Then, from Friday night on, Chen Gu joined all personnel for the ambush.

Among the personnel supporting Special Task Force Unit Five, the Cleanup Crew was the largest, with 240 people.

Next was the Operations Team, consisting of 180 fully armed men.

Before the operation, the team leader distributed tactical maps to everyone. He explained in detail the covert position of each team and their respective areas to cordon off, demanding, "If a mosquito flies by, you need to catch it and check whether it's male or female for me."

As the Special Task Force members passed by, Silver Eagle saw Chen Gu standing among the crowd, dressed in a combat uniform that was obviously too large for him. Silver Eagle finally found an opportunity to show off in front of this guy. He smiled and said, "If you're faced with danger and can't cope, run in my direction. I'll take care of you."

With my memory possession, I could take out three of you with one hand! Chen Gu thought.

But outwardly, he put on a professional and appreciative smile.

However, Silver Eagle didn't derive much pleasure from this successful posturing because he noticed the Operations Team members around him were looking at him with strange expressions.

Silver Eagle walked over, What's going on? he wondered.

What he didn't know was that Bao Jie, the bigmouth, had already spread the word that Chen Gu came from "significant origins," and now the entire branch knew.

He had just expressed an intent to curry favor with Chen Gu, so these straightforward team members promptly labeled him a brown-noser.

The "Aloof Prince" and "fawning sycophant" personas were in sharp conflict, almost shattering.

The other Special Task Force members filed past. Selena, the "little demoness," was dressed in a flamboyant outfit; she actually had several small bells hanging from the hem of her skirt!

She didn't even glance at Chen Gu—but he noticed she had a vacant look in her eyes. Clearly, she had partied too hard and was severely low on energy. Her body was still moving, but her brain had already started to rest.

Impressive! Chen Gu silently praised.

Melincha smiled gently and made an encouraging fist pump. "Little brother, keep it up!"

Chen Gu felt quite awkward. 'Little brother' is one thing, but it's hardly appropriate for her to be judging its 'size,' especially since we're not that close yet.

The team leader, Marcus, lagged behind. He was the only one to say something actually useful. "Special Task Force members usually earn 30 merit points per mission, while the team leader earns 90. This isn't fixed; it's comprehensively evaluated based on performance during the mission."

"If you're with the Operations Team, your merit points will be calculated according to the standard for operations personnel—roughly 10 points per mission. You need 100 merit points to apply for official employment."

After speaking, he patted Chen Gu on the shoulder and whispered, "I've spoken with the Operations Team leader. He'll give you some extra points. Work hard, and you'll soon truly become one of us."

Chen Gu instinctively glanced at the Operations Team leader, whose expression was stern, seemingly clueless about Marcus's implication.

However, the Operations Team members, seeing Bartender's deferential treatment of Chen Gu, became even more convinced that this kid had a "huge background."

Chen Gu dutifully squatted with all the team members for an entire night, but they found absolutely nothing. As dawn broke and the team packed up, the members cursed, "What kind of crappy plan is this? How can we be sure those Mutants will even get the message? If they don't come, are we just going to keep waiting like this?"

"Which idiot came up with this lousy idea? It's purely tormenting us!"

"Those energetic freaks in the Special Task Force can stay up all night and still go out to have fun during the day; we can't. Let's just go back and catch up on sleep. We can't do anything else today."

Chen Gu decided to perform a bit of self-hypnosis, repeatedly telling himself, I'm an Operations Team member now, I'm an Operations Team member now. He immediately filled with rage toward "the idiot who came up with the lousy idea" and joined the others in cursing furiously.

The Operations Team and the Cleanup Team rested for a day. In the evening, they had to continue the stakeout. Before they set off this time, Selena, the little demoness, arrived dressed in outlandish red and green clothes—clearly fresh from a party.

This frustrated the Operations Team members even more. Several young men howled, "We want to hit the bars too! We want to chat about life with young women... This damned mission! I curse the guy who came up with this idea—may his dick shrink three centimeters!"

Chen Gu stood up. "I'm going to use the bathroom. You know, as a newcomer, being a bit anxious before an operation leads to frequent urination."

When Chen Gu returned, looking visibly relieved, the team leader urged, "Hurry up, we're just waiting for you."

Indeed, the night was fruitless again. In the latter half of the night, Chen Gu would hear a yawn from the little demoness over the public communication channel about every 30 seconds.

Chen Gu secretly thought with a touch of malice, Serves you right for partying so much. Now you're out of energy, huh?

But even the little demoness's yawns carried a haughty tone.

Director Mei left first in the command vehicle. He said to Marcus over the encrypted channel, "Bartender, tomorrow is the last day. If there's still no result, we'll abandon this plan. You need to come up with a more reliable one for me!"

When they gathered on Sunday evening, Chen Gu saw the little demoness again. She was wearing a miniskirt, her fair, slender legs exposed. Her face was covered in heavy silver-blue eyeshadow that somewhat masked her fatigue. She hasn't slept yet and went out partying again! Chen Gu realized.

Chapter 53: First Action (2)

The ambush site was at a research institute. Director Mei's command vehicle was parked in the shadow of a tall building just outside. Atop the building, holographic neon advertisements flickered with red and blue images, an inviting female voice reciting the ad script.

Chen Gu followed his team leader to their ambush spot near the back door of the institute. The team leader, lacking confidence, chewed on nicotine gum and complained, "Another night destined to yield nothing."

A voice from the outpost came over the channel: "Attention!"

"Suspicious individuals approaching on 87th Street!"

Surveillance footage immediately switched to the devices in the command vehicle, liaison vehicle, and others. For the field ambush team, it was projected directly onto the inner surface of their helmet visors.

On a street west of the institute, two drunks supported each other, mumbling incoherently. They zigzagged for a stretch, then both tumbled to the ground, bursting into laughter together.

These two men caused a ruckus for a solid half-hour. The Bureau of Mystic Security's members were experienced warriors; when these two appeared on the surveillance footage, the team leader had already deduced from their body language that they weren't the target—just two ordinary drunks.

But they dawdled and didn't leave. Even if a Mutant were drawn over, it wouldn't show itself under these circumstances.

However, if the Action Team revealed themselves to remove the drunks, they might also be spotted by a Mutant lurking in the shadows.

Everyone waited patiently. A yawn from the Little Witch came through the public channel again, almost putting Chen Gu to sleep.

Just as he was in this dazed state, someone suddenly nudged him. Chen Gu, startled awake, saw the focused group leader next to him. Over the public channel, the operation's chief commander, Director Mei, was reminding everyone, "...heading towards Warehouse 48, no mistake."

Chen Gu watched the surveillance footage. A person dressed like a vagrant had just climbed over the institute's perimeter wall and slipped inside, stealthily heading toward a warehouse—which, according to misinformation deliberately leaked by the Bureau of Mystic Security, housed 8 kilograms of radioactive material the institute had just purchased.

The group leader kept a close watch on the surveillance footage, explaining in a low voice, "Just after those two drunks passed, this guy entered the surveillance range. It's very likely the first two were decoys he sent to test the waters."

Director Mei's cool voice came through, "Command, ready the Action and Special Operations Teams. Arrest him the moment he opens the warehouse. If there is resistance, he may be killed, depending on the circumstances!"

An elderly voice responded over the public channel, "Received. Kill."

Director Mei, feeling rather helpless, couldn't help but roll her eyes. "Bartender, don't alter my orders! Priority is arrest; I want him alive—we need the intelligence in his head."

Bartender sounded reluctant. "Alright, alive."

The middle-aged woman shook her head, already imagining the operation's outcome: as long as he's alive, that's good enough.

The target brazenly approached the door of Warehouse 48 and began to use tools to cut the electronic lock.

Suddenly, piercing alarms blared all around. In an instant, over a dozen drones appeared in the sky, casting chaotic beams of light onto the target.

Teams of black-clad, armed personnel burst out from their hiding spots, bellowing, "Get down! Hands on your head!"

Chen Gu also rushed out, but his team's ambush position was quite far from the warehouse, not on the front line.

The target, startled, instinctively raised his hands, shouting, "Don't shoot, don't shoot! I—I just wanted to take something to sell, buy some food. I haven't eaten in three days..."

The Action Team leader led the charge, rushing forward with four team members to within ten meters of the target. Completely disregarding his pleas, the leader decisively pulled the trigger, striking the "vagrant" with three High-Concentration Plasma Control Rounds.

POP POP POP...

A powerful electric current burst forth, and the vagrant inevitably collapsed.

The Bureau of Mystic Security had extensive experience dealing with Mutants, and all their equipment was designed to counter them. The High-Concentration Plasma Control Rounds were enormously powerful; even the robust bodies of Mutants couldn't withstand them.

Yet the Action Team still didn't immediately move forward. The vagrant fell stiffly, his body crashing heavily onto the ground, and then, with a BANG, it exploded!

Chen Gu was astonished. "Is it that powerful?"

The team leader's face changed drastically. He shouted, "Retreat! Request support from the Special Operations Team!"

High-Concentration Plasma Control Rounds shouldn't be this powerful. Any "unusual" occurrence regarding Mutants signified immense danger.

The members of the Action Team withdrew quickly. After the vagrant's body shattered upon impact, it split into dozens of small pieces. Disgusting, eerie, and terrifying black tissue rapidly appeared on each piece. Then, these pieces swiftly grew compound eyes, bladed legs, needle-like mouths, and cicada wings!

HUMMM—

Dozens of giant Demonic Insect Mutants took flight together, their wings thrumming with a sound like Chen Gu's high-powered motorcycle from his previous life!

The Demonic Insect Mutants viciously pounced in every direction amid the roar of gunfire. The Action Team members, unruffled, formed groups back-to-back, covering each other and denying the Mutants any opportunity.

This made the Demonic Insect Mutants extremely agitated. One of them suddenly emitted a thick mist from its body. Using this mist, it actually managed to withstand energy bullets and forcefully break into one group's defensive circle!

That group was thrown into disarray instantly, team members scattering for cover. The Mutant's needle-like proboscis pierced a team member's leg. With just one suck, the team member screamed in pain as his leg withered away.

His team leader roared and fired madly, pinning down the Mutant, while another team member swung a knife, severing the injured leg, then quickly dragged his comrade away in a swift retreat.

After feeding on a human leg, the Mutant's strength greatly increased, and it refused to back down. Slowly adapting to the intensity of the gunfire, it began to push forward relentlessly. Its giant proboscis inched closer to the team leader, only a dozen centimeters away!

From the darkness, two agile figures rushed out. One wore an advanced individual Mecha, which reflected a silvery-white light under the glare of the searchlights.

Behind her, four kinetic engines sputtered rapid blue flames, propelling her like a cannonball as she crashed heavily into the Demonic Insect Mutant.

The Demonic Insect Mutant shrieked and tumbled away.

The other figure was much smaller. Her hands were concealed in her sleeves, held in a special posture before her chest. Then, she let out a piercing scream.

AHHHH—

Special sonic waves surged in layers towards the monstrous creatures. Around her, within a ten-meter radius, the Demonic Insect Mutants popped into a gooey black sludge.

Within twenty meters, the black tissue on the bodies of the Demonic Insect Mutants continuously collapsed and reassembled under the sonic attack, a process causing them unbearable pain as they writhed and fell from the sky.

Even those Mutants within thirty meters suffered severe effects, swaying unsteadily as if drunk, their flight unstable.

The Siren's scream killed seven or eight Demonic Insect Mutants, while Puppet grew ever more valiant in battle. From within the Mecha, new weapons continuously emerged, cleaving and slashing, felling Mutants one by one.

Chapter 54: First Action (3)

Soon, dozens of monster insect Mutants were completely slain, and the members of the Operations Team had safely withdrawn.

However, on the common channel, the Bartender's old and distressed voice rang out, "Be careful, that thing is still alive."

The carcasses of the monster insects and the thick black sludge kept wriggling, congregating.

The demoness Selena wanted to scream again. However, after opening her mouth several times, she could no longer make a sound. She had been a bit too wild these past few days, and her condition was awful; the scream she had just uttered had exhausted all her strength.

Melincha sprayed ultra-high-temperature flames from her Mecha, but it had little effect, leaving her at a loss.

All the corpses and black sludge gathered. With a fierce tremble, they swelled into a massive black, mollusk-like Mutant over five meters tall. It was viscous and repulsive, and its damp, crimson, beastly eyes snapped open!

At that moment, from a tall building near the battlefield, a figure leaped down gracefully. He was dressed in a black, tight-fitting leather outfit that highlighted his almost perfect musculature. A silver cape, its edges adorned with golden patterns, draped over his back. He glided in like a great peng with outstretched wings.

Chen Gu heard a member of the Operations Team beside him exclaim in admiration, "Lord Silver Eagle is so cool!"

Chen Gu couldn't help but curl his lip. The flashier they are, the faster they die!

Silver Eagle glided forward, his silver cape rippling in waves behind him. He approached the gigantic mollusk-like Mutant. Nonchalantly, he spread his arms as if to embrace it. Two visible streams of particles shot out from his palms, striking the Mutant and inflicting strange damage. The Mutant's entire body began to shake uncontrollably, like a piece of jelly being jiggled.

Suddenly, another figure appeared atop the Mutant's head and, upon landing, lightly placed a hand on its body.

"Get away!"

BOOM—

The Mutant exploded entirely. Foul-smelling slime and black tissue scattered in all directions. The figure, having anticipated this, vanished in a swift flash.

Lord Silver Eagle, however, was too close. Despite hearing the warning to "Get away," he couldn't react in time. He was drenched from head to toe, an indescribably wretched sight.

Silver Eagle was stunned for a moment, then said with a touch of grievance, "Leader, you should have said something sooner."

Marcus stood to the side, holding something. "That was the safest moment to act; it couldn't be missed."

Director Mei, his expression dark, flung open his car door and rushed to the battlefield, grinding his teeth. "Dammit! I said I wanted it alive! The Mutants' activities have increased greatly recently. I need intelligence, intelligence! This is the only Mutant we've managed to capture recently! Damn it, Bartender, you've ruined everything!"

Marcus raised his hand, cradling a limp, black brain in his palm. It was covered in blood vessels, some of which were still pulsating.

"It's still alive," Marcus said, offering a sycophantic smile to his superior. "The Mutant's vitality is strong; this brain can remain viable for at least another ten minutes. Safety first. This way, we preserve the intelligence, and the Mutant can't harm us."

"Dammit, Marcus, you just wait! I'm going to trash you in the mission report!"

Director Mei dared not delay. He quickly returned to the command vehicle. "Head back to headquarters immediately! Notify headquarters in advance to prepare the highest-level Life Support System! My God, that Life Support System is worth three million five hundred thousand! This operation has massively overrun the budget again! Damn Bartender, I'm not finished with you!"

Following that, the cleanup team entered the scene to erase all traces. They scanned the area with precision instruments, ensuring they didn't miss even a shred of Mutant flesh, as that could potentially create other Mutants.

The cleanup team surveyed the devastation and wailed in anguish, "Marcus, this was your doing, wasn't it?"

Marcus's expression became even more troubled. He pulled Silver Eagle along. "Hey, kid, I'm taking you back. You've been in contact with Mutants; you need a thorough examination."

The Special Ops team strode off, giving Chen Gu a wave from a distance.

Chen Gu waved back as they left. The Operations Team had to remain to protect the cleanup crew—according to regulations, the Special Ops team shouldn't have left either.

The Mutant's death had been gruesome; black organic matter was scattered everywhere. The cleanup team cursed under their breaths as they meticulously scanned every inch with various advanced instruments, collecting all the Mutant tissue into sealed containers.

It took a full two hours to complete all the work. The entire team was exhausted. They boarded the vehicles under the protection of the Operations Team to return to the precinct.

Chen Gu, rifle in hand, followed the others back. Before departing, he glanced back at the battlefield and couldn't help but sneer. That's it?

Chen Gu criticized inwardly. A trap, a battle, and it's over? Such a plot is too thin and simple. If this script were handed to producers, they'd definitely shake their heads. It's not good enough.

It was now three in the morning. Everyone had been awake for three straight nights and was exhausted. Once in the vehicles, they leaned against their seats and dozed off.

But Chen Gu suddenly jolted awake. The keen perception he had gained from Milna Katerina, the Nuclear Explosion Nun, had suddenly sensed something... Danger!

This was when everyone was most exhausted, their alertness at its lowest. As living beings, even though they knew they shouldn't relax at this time, the limitations of their biological functions meant they inevitably succumbed to their current drowsy state.

Chen Gu analyzed. If I were the enemy lurking in the shadows and had further schemes, I'd definitely choose this moment to strike. He had become deeply engrossed in his role recently, gradually adopting the mindset of a "master detective" and "commander."

Chen Gu straightened up, quietly drawing upon the memories of Milna Katerina, the Nuclear Explosion Nun. The Mind Belief skill granted him even sharper intuition.

A strong sense of danger engulfed him like an icy flood! The sensation was like a slimy, cold venomous snake flicking its tongue right behind him in the infinite darkness, baring its sharp fangs.

Chen Gu's thoughts raced. Something is definitely going to happen! How should I warn everyone?

Speaking out directly is definitely not an option. I'm not a Professional yet, and I wouldn't be able to explain how I knew a conspiracy was imminent. I can only pretend to stumble upon it...

Chen Gu closed his eyes, focusing on his "mind." Among the Nuclear Explosion Nun's abilities, the more he focused on his inner self using Mind Belief, the sharper and more accurate his intuition became.

The moment Chen Gu immersed himself in his mind, his perceptual range indeed expanded—but along with it, a young girl's obsession and attachment to "atoms" surfaced!

An uncontrollable, girlish whim suddenly surged in his heart: a yearning to "devote herself" to the object of her faith!

Caught off guard, Chen Gu emitted a flirtatious, intoxicated whimper from his nostrils!

Chapter 55: An Old Acquaintance Appears

Fortunately, everyone was dozing off. Only one team member beside Chen Gu opened his eyes in confusion. He glanced around but, seeing nothing, murmured to himself and closed his eyes again.

Chen Gu broke into a cold sweat. Not at this time, please!

As the convoy drove between two large buildings, through a narrow passageway, Chen Gu's feeling of danger reached a peak. Without any hesitation, he abruptly stood up and shouted, "Stop the car, I need to pee!"

The voice was sharp and high-pitched, with a hint of a feeble quality, not at all manly!

The maglev car came to a sudden stop. The driver turned around, ready to curse, but seeing it was Chen Gu, a person of considerable status, he kept a straight face, lowered the vehicle, and said, "Hurry up!"

Due to this vehicle's mishap, the entire convoy gradually came to a halt. Various inquiries arose on the common channel; some were wary of Chen Gu's "identity," while others cursed out of impatience.

Amidst the chaos of voices, a few specks of light suddenly flew from a distance. The driver of the lead vehicle saw them. What are those things? he wondered, just as his face filled with horror.

The specks of light touched down, instantly erupting in blinding light and flames. A thunderous noise filled the sky, and the earth trembled!

Immediately, several large trucks burst out from the front and rear of the convoy. With a loud CLANG, their compartments opened, and gunmen inside started firing wildly at the entire convoy!

RAT-TAT-TAT-TAT...

But the bullets hitting the Bureau of Mystic Security's vehicles ricocheted off with PINGS and PANGS. The Action Team swiftly counterattacked, with two of their vehicles charging towards the enemies still bombarding them from a distance.

The scene looked chaotic, but the Action Team, all elites, were already beginning to slowly gain the upper hand.

Inside the truck compartments, gunmen were being hit and falling one after another.

Chen Gu hid inside a nearby building, peeking out only to be reassured. He didn't want to get involved in such a fight. The Action Team was sure to win, so there's no need for me to rush out with a gun and take a risk.

Each of the two security guards at the building was equipped with a small handgun, commonly referred to as a "pop-gun"—sharing a name with a famous weapon from Chen Gu's previous life.

On a normal day, the two burly guards would use them to scare off local troublemakers or chase away homeless people stealing at night, but this spectacle had frightened them so much that they cowered under a desk, clutching their heads!

Sitting against the wall, Chen Gu smiled and gave them a reassuring gesture.

Then, Chen Gu periodically checked the battle's progress. The Action Team's vehicles had formed a circle outside, safeguarding the Cleanup Team's and the Logistics Team's vehicles in the center.

The circle was quite large. On Chen Gu's fourth peek, he saw a member of the Action Team crouching and running towards the Cleanup Team's side. The battlefield was chaotic and filled with gunpowder smoke, so no one noticed him.

Chen Gu frowned. Something's off, he felt instinctively. But the man had his back to him, and his face was hard to see.

Chen Gu quickly pulled up the camera feed from the Cleanup Team's maglev car that the man was facing. A stranger's face appeared before him.

A spy! Chen Gu fastened his helmet, gritted his teeth, and rushed out.

Just as he ran out of the building, Chen Gu was hit by three shots in succession, knocking him down and causing him to tumble across the ground three times.

He checked himself. The high-energy rounds had only left three deep pits in his bulletproof vest. Though the impact sites were painful, he wasn't injured. He got up, crouched, and rushed forward again.

Despite being shot twice more, Chen Gu finally broke into the circle formed by the Action Team's vehicles. He was a few dozen meters from the mole. To his astonishment, the door of a Cleanup Team car opened. The team members inside were beaming, as if greeting the person they most wanted to see. They warmly welcomed the mole. Inside the car, the mole twisted open a sealed can. Six black threads, wriggling like live worms, emerged and burrowed into the nostrils of the six Cleanup Team members.

Then, the mole got out of the car and reached for another vehicle.

Similarly, members of another Cleanup Team actively and enthusiastically opened their car door, smiling as they welcomed the mole. He twisted open another sealed can, and six more black threads burrowed into their bodies.

Chen Gu had quietly surged to the mole's rear. Just as the mole was about to board the third maglev car, Chen Gu raised his weapon, turned the energy setting to maximum, and fired!

The mole eerily shifted his body sideways, dodging the fatal shot. The energy bullet struck the ground in front of the maglev car, blasting a large crater into it.

Suddenly, the mole turned around. Chen Gu felt an abrupt reluctance to shoot. An extremely familiar and intimate sensation emanated from the mole, as if he were facing... Ossosa, Zhao Ji, Orangutan, or even Chen Beiliu!

In that moment, Chen Gu was even a bit confused. Could Ossosa and the others have been corrupted?

Mind Belief activated at that moment, and Chen Gu suddenly snapped back to reality. No, that's a Professional's skill!

Then Chen Gu saw that the mole had already reached two meters in front of him, wielding a sharp short sword that was rapidly thrusting toward his eyes.

He hastily dodged to the side, but his stomach still took a heavy kick from the mole!

BANG!

Chen Gu was instantly kicked several meters away. Even with the protection of a bulletproof vest, the kick churned his stomach, causing him excruciating pain.

The opponent, ghostlike, charged over. In his high-speed sprint, his figure could incredibly shift and flicker, appearing now to the left, then to the right.

Chen Gu raised his gun but couldn't lock onto his opponent at all. He gritted his teeth, threw the gun away, and raised his fists.

BAM! BAM! BAM...

A flurry of strikes came at him. The mole's fist techniques were terrifyingly traceless. Chen Gu kept getting hit. While staggering back, he gritted his teeth and switched to the memories of Griffin Wester—High-Energy Combat Art!

Chen Gu's entire demeanor underwent a drastic change. When the mole attacked again, all his movements appeared childishly simple in Chen Gu's eyes, as Chen Gu predicted his every move with ease.

However, just as Chen Gu was about to teach the mole a fierce lesson, a burst of gunfire erupted, and dozens of energy bullets precisely bombarded his body.

"AUGH—" Chen Gu roared in anger. He turned his head toward the source of the gunfire and, simultaneously, his left hand shot out, firmly grasping the hand of the mole who had tried to attack him in the interim.

The dense gunfire abruptly ceased, the shooters clearly afraid of injuring the mole.

What infuriated Chen Gu was the source of the bullets. They came from the Cleanup Team!

Inside the open maglev car, six members of the Cleanup Team were aiming at him, teeth clenched. One of them had even switched their weapon to 'sniper' mode, preparing to deliver a vicious shot to his forehead!

Chen Gu felt helpless. Their eyes are still clouded over, he observed. They're obviously still under the control of the mole's mind-influencing skill.

With a forceful yank, Chen Gu hoisted the mole up to shield himself.

It was at that moment that Chen Gu suddenly cried out in pain and let his hand loosen, allowing the mole to seize the chance to escape.

Chapter 56: [Psychological Spy]

Chen Gu shook his head, feeling as if a steel needle had just pierced his brain. Gunshots rang out again, but this time, they failed to hit him. The Star Battle Instructor possessed terrifying combat instincts; Chen Gu had already dodged to a different spot as soon as the spy made a break for it.

However, the spy had disappeared. Under his helmet, the corner of Chen Gu's mouth curled into a sneer. Child's play!

With the rich and fearsome combat experience of a Fifth Energy Level Star Battle Instructor, such amateurish attempts at "visual stealth" on the battlefield were laughable and clumsy.

Chen Gu's body moved as he pounced toward the spy's hiding spot, but a stream of energy bullets came shooting at him.

Damn it! Chen Gu roared, an explosive aura of dominance bursting forth from the Star Battle Instructor Griffin Wester. He leaped over ten meters in a single bound, reaching the magnetic levitation car. With a fierce punch, he pierced through its bulletproof exterior, obliterating its power system.

The magnetic levitation car whined and slumped to the ground. The massive jolt caused the cleanup crew members inside to fall. Chen Gu grabbed two crew members by their necks and slammed their heads together, knocking them out cold as their eyes rolled back.

Then, like a raging tornado, Chen Gu swept through and knocked out the remaining four as well.

By the time Chen Gu had dealt with these pesky, buzzing insects, the spy had already crept a hundred meters away, preparing to flee the battlefield.

Chen Gu let out a thunderous shout and chased after him. The gunmen in the cargo trucks outside had taken note of Chen Gu. To his astonishment, they abandoned their firefight with the Action Team and concentrated all their firepower on him!

In the night sky, high-energy bullets drew bright, long lines, POP! POP! POP! hitting the ground around Chen Gu.

With the Star Battle Instructor's wealth of battlefield experience, Chen Gu instinctively dodged the truly dangerous bullets. As for the rest, in true Griffin Wester fashion, a tough guy just takes the bullets and charges forward!

The spy glanced back and was instantly terrified. In the darkness of night, bathed in the red and blue neon light reflecting off the surrounding building walls, Chen Gu—with arms slightly spread and strides like flight—moved with terrifying speed. He was already like a demon god, only thirty meters behind him.

The spy couldn't fathom it. Why doesn't my skill work on this guy?

How did he so easily see through my "Psychological Stealth" ability?

At this moment, Chen Gu had already analyzed the spy's profession from Griffin Wester's memories: Psychological Spy.

This was a new profession with weak combat capabilities but extremely strong infiltration and stealth abilities.

Because their combat strength is weak, even though I'm not yet a Professional, relying on the powerful abilities I showed in the physical skills test, killing such an enemy shouldn't raise suspicions.

In fact, this analysis was more about Chen Gu deceiving himself. He had already merged with Griffin Wester's memories, and the Star Battle Instructor had never let an enemy escape in his life. If he let the Psychological Spy get away, a Fifth Energy Level Professional would probably go berserk on the spot.

There was a pure metal sculpture by the roadside, depicting a man about to throw a shot put. Chen Gu flashed beside the sculpture and, with a strong grasp, ruthlessly tore off the "shot put."

He no longer pursued the Psychological Spy. He weighed the shot put in his hand twice and looked up at the surrounding buildings—High-Energy Combat Art activated. The "shot put" is also a weapon.

Chen Gu forcefully hurled the shot put at a nearby building. The heavy projectile, like an ancient cannonball, flew out and hit the corner of a building. It deflected, struck a huge lamppost, and broke it with a crash. The shot put changed direction again, hitting the alloy support of a holographic neon sign, which erupted with a CRACKLE! POP! of large electrical sparks. The shot put, slanting downward, landed with a heavy THUD directly onto the forehead of the Psychological Spy.

The Psychological Spy had been on guard against Chen Gu chasing from behind, never expecting to be hit head-on. His mind buzzed as he toppled backward.

Chen Gu rushed up, grabbed his neck with one hand, and swung him around several times, nearly dislocating every bone in the Psychological Spy's body.

With the spy captured, the large trucks immediately turned to flee. Chen Gu, now completely assimilated by Griffin Wester, violently pulled a piece of rebar from a nearby shattered building and used it to tie up the Psychological Spy. Then, he grabbed the recently broken lamppost and, with all his might and a loud roar, hurled it.

The lamppost shot through the trucks like a javelin thrown in the Games of the Gods on Mount Olympus, piercing them one after another.

Before such a "weapon," the truck cabins were as fragile as sheets of paper.

Chen Gu stood tall, punched his chest mightily, and roared, "I will not allow a single enemy to escape!"

The members of the Action Team were so stirred by Chen Gu's maneuvers that they were filled with fiery passion. They charged out of the armored vehicles, howling as they rushed toward the trucks and captured everyone inside who was still alive.

Then, a few of the muscular men from the physical skills test rushed up to Chen Gu. Almost drooling, their hands trembled as they reached out, wanting to touch the Kylin arm that had just punched through the armor of a vehicle and thrown the "earth-shattering javelin."

Yet they hesitated, worried about offending their "idol."

"The Great One is indeed great, dominating everywhere!"

Chen Gu's eyes rolled back, and he collapsed with a THUD.

「...」

Chen Gu didn't know how long he had been unconscious. When he regained awareness, he began to recall what happened, and a sudden pang of anxiety struck him. This isn't good.

The Psychological Spy's combat strength wasn't high. If I had defeated him with brute force alone, I might have been able to explain it away.

But this time... the shot put clearly wasn't just brute force; I used High-Energy Combat Art. In the Bureau of Mystic Security, surrounded by Professionals, I'll surely be recognized.

And that final move with the lamppost piercing several large trucks... that was even more exaggerated. It completely surpassed the limits of the human body, didn't it?

Great Actor Chen cursed Griffin Wester in his heart over and over, but he had no choice but to open his eyes and face reality.

With this era's medical technology, monitoring brainwaves was easy. Others would know at a glance from their instruments that he had awakened.

He saw the white walls of a hospital room. He wasn't restrained in bed, so Chen Gu breathed a slight sigh of relief. It wasn't the worst-case scenario.

A lazy voice, like that of the girl next door, came from nearby. "You're awake."

Melincha stretched lazily in her chair. As she did, certain assets, usually concealed by her oversized T-shirt, were momentarily revealed. Oblivious, she rubbed her eyes and looked at Chen Gu. "The doctor has examined you," she said. "You were just exhausted. After a large infusion of nutrient solution, you should be fine now."

Chen Gu looked at her. "Thank you," he replied.

Chapter 57: Post-Incident Investigation

Melincha waved her hand. "No need to be polite. You're part of our team; it's only right."

Her gaze suddenly became complex. "However, little brother, you're not simple at all... Even though the Psychological Spy is pretty useless, and you're not even a professional yet, you managed to capture him alive. And I've seen the battle footage—that last move with the streetlight pole was powerful!"

She made a "skewering" gesture with her fingers, making Chen Gu's face turn red.

"I was just very angry..." Chen Gu suddenly remembered. "Right, the cleanup team with the two vehicles was..."

"The higher-ups are already aware. They checked the surveillance footage immediately," Melincha said. "You've made a major contribution this time. If you hadn't discovered that Psychological Spy, he would have actually succeeded."

"Checking the in-vehicle surveillance footage isn't standard procedure. That Psychological Spy was likely trying to contaminate all the cleanup teams. If he'd succeeded, then in every future operation, those contaminated individuals would have deliberately leaked some Mutant tissue. It wouldn't take long for the entire Wuzhaoyin City to be overrun by Mutants!"

The thought terrified Chen Gu. So, I actually made a major contribution this time? Could I ask the higher-ups to stop investigating the anomalies surrounding me?

Melincha patted the side of the bed. "Alright, you rest. I'm going back to catch up on some sleep."

Inside the Branch Director's office, Marcel and Director Mei were arguing fiercely.

A holographic projection between them repeatedly played Chen Gu's battle footage from the previous night. Marcel's face was livid, his voice filled with anger. "This absolutely cannot be the strength of a normal human! He must be hiding a significant secret. We have to figure it out; otherwise, he's a ticking time bomb for our branch and for the entire Wuzhaoyin City!"

Director Mei slammed a medical report onto Marcel's face. "Cut it out with your disgusting conspiracy theories! Our medical team conducted three comprehensive examinations on Chen Gu. He's not a Mutant, nor is he a professional. The medical team's experts concluded he possesses innate superhuman strength. Why can't you just believe it? Why must you insist on your own speculations?"

"Is it just because you don't have such abilities that you're jealous of a newcomer? Or perhaps... you have ulterior motives!"

Marcel roared in anger, "I'm just being cautious! I'm doing this for everyone's safety!"

"Heh!" Director Mei sneered.

Chen Jixian, sitting behind the desk, hadn't been listening to his two subordinates quarrel at all. His mind was still stuck on his own question: Chen Gu is clearly a professional; I saw him in action myself. So why can't it be detected?

Only after pondering it fruitlessly did he suddenly look up and notice. Oh, these two are arguing.

In fact, by this point, Marcel and Director Mei had already said everything they wanted to say. They stood with hands on their hips, glaring furiously at each other like two fighting cocks.

Chen Jixian was still thinking, What are they arguing about? while the other two awaited their Branch Director's judgment on their respective viewpoints.

Amidst the awkward silence, a video call window suddenly popped up in front of Chen Jixian. Marcel and Director Mei immediately lowered their heads respectfully. "Director-General."

Aviloya said calmly, "Medical experts from Headquarters will arrive at Empire River Star in four hours. They will conduct the most authoritative examination on Chen Gu."

"Yes."

Chen Gu was greatly drained, his body filled with exhaustion, yet he couldn't fall asleep. He kept worrying: Am I going to be "investigated" or something?

Four hours later, a group of people suddenly rushed in. Chen Gu didn't recognize any of them. They prodded and poked him with various strange instruments—no introductions, no explanations—and then, just as irresponsibly, they left without a backward glance.

I really want to see if I can break through that ward door and just run away, Chen Gu thought. But he suppressed the restless urge in his heart.

He lay quietly on the hospital bed, playing the part of a Bureau of Mystic Security member with a "clear conscience" very well.

In a small meeting room, the experts reported all their findings to Aviloya. "There's nothing suspicious. He's just a normal human."

"Individuals with such extraordinary talents aren't actually rare. According to our statistics, about one in every hundred million people is like this. It's just that many of them remain hidden, unknown to others."

Aviloya nodded and looked at Chen Jixian. "Watch him closely!"

Then the Director-General ended the call. She didn't give any specific instructions on how to handle Chen Gu, but anyone could detect a hint of dissatisfaction in her three words.

That evening, the ward door was pushed open again. Marcus walked in, his face etched with worry. He glanced at Chen Gu and patted his shoulder. "Come with me."

Chen Gu's heart sank. This is bad... He hadn't expected that the moment he stepped out the door, POP! A shower of party poppers erupted, dousing Great Actor Chen in glittering confetti.

Outside the ward, members of the administrative, cleanup, action, and special service teams had all gathered, their faces beaming. "Welcome back to the team!"

Marcus, standing beside him, gave him a tight hug. Chen Gu heaved a long sigh of relief. I don't know why, but it looks like I've passed this hurdle.

Members of the cleanup and action teams came forward to thank Chen Gu. If it hadn't been for his sudden need to relieve himself, the convoy would have driven between those two buildings and been trapped by the ambushing truck. In such an unfavorable position, the action team would likely have suffered heavy losses.

If Chen Gu hadn't discovered that Psychological Spy, all the cleanup teams would probably have been contaminated, and the consequences would have been even more horrifying.

When they had mostly finished, Marcus waved his hand. "Alright, it's still work hours. Everyone, back to your posts."

He pulled Chen Gu towards Team Five's office. When they reached an empty corridor, he turned back and gave Chen Gu a sharp flick on the forehead.

"OW!" Chen Gu yelped.

Marcus gripped his arm tightly. "You little rascal, listen up! The most important thing about being in special service is: safety first!"

"You were lucky this time. A rookie like you, going head-to-head with a professional? Are you insane? Good thing you encountered a Psychological Spy. If it had been any combat-proficient professional, you'd be dead for sure!"

"I don't want the rookie I'm training to become a martyr before he even lasts a month!"

Marcus was clearly displeased. He grumbled and scolded for quite a while before finally letting go of him. "From now on, you stick with me on missions. No acting on your own!"

"Okay." Chen Gu didn't object. Speaking as Great Actor Chen, unless a performance calls for it, I'm not one to grandstand.

Of course, if Milna Katerina or Griffin Wester were to "merge" with Great Actor Chen, and he declared, "Not a single foe shall escape!"

Or: "You shall not desecrate my god!"

Then it would be all over; not even ten Marcuses could hold him back.

Chapter 58: The Dog Magnate

The two chatted as they walked into the office of Team Five, where Marcus immediately noticed the odd looks from the other three.

"What's up?"

Melincha said faintly, "Boss, didn't you check your secret account?"

Marcus, puzzled, opened the account—a Bureau of Mystic Security internal account that registered merit points instead of money.

Marcus's face fell immediately. "They only gave me 20 merit points?"

Chen Gu remembered Marcus had once told him that field agents normally received around 30 merit points per mission, while a team leader got 90. Now Marcus was earning less than his own subordinates.

"Director Mei deducted them," Silver Eagle explained. "She said you had to compensate for that expensive life support equipment..."

Marcus grumbled something under his breath, certainly nothing pleasant. He continued to read, "Silver Eagle, you got 32 this time, with 130 in the account already, making it 164 merit points total!"

Marcus looked at his own total merit points: 76...

He glared at Silver Eagle fiercely and cursed, "You rich bastard!"

"Let's see how the lass did, Selena... oh, nice, 35, well done. You've got 152 merit points now, excellent, keep it up and surpass this rich bastard!"

Silver Eagle just rolled his eyes.

"And our most popular puppet beauty, hmm, 30, not bad, you've got a nice pile of merit points too, 155!"

"Oh, my God, why am I, the team leader, the poorest one?!"

Marcus was in utter pain. "Life is truly a bitter journey for me!"

Silver Eagle reminded him in a wooden tone, "Keep reading. Don't forget we've got another person in our team now..."

Marcus, remembering the newbie he was supposed to be taking care of, felt a rare moment of relief. "Right, we've got a new guy now. At last, I, the glorious team leader, am not the poorest bachelor in the team anymore... 200!"

His voice suddenly rose, his eyes nearly popping out as he refreshed the simple secret account dozens of times, double-checking that the number representing merit points next to Chen Gu's name was "200"!

Marcus, green with envy, was ready to breathe fire. "What the hell is going on?"

Silver Eagle shrugged. "Director Mei said..."

He coughed and mimicked Director Mei's tone and posture, jabbing his finger forcefully on the table, his voice laden with endless resentment and dissatisfaction, "He, Marcus, still wants merit points? Where do I even begin to find mine?"

His life support equipment has made my operational budget overrun by 78%! Thanks to his hindrance, I, a venerable director planning a major operation, ended up with a measly 26 merit points. How much more does he, Marcus, want?

Every single time it's like this, every time I'm cleaning up after him, the bastard!

Do you know how many merit points I have in my account? A total of 83! My God, there was a big discount for exchanging merit points bureau-wide in March, half price! I watched other directors go on a shopping spree, and what about me! Thanks to him, Marcus, I taped my eyes and handcuffed my hands to the back of the chair!

On the bureau-wide merit points exchange leaderboard, your director—I'm ranked last!"

Marcus, who had been in a "spewing dragon" mood, slowly shrank down but still murmured defiantly, "I... safety comes first."

He looked enviously at Chen Gu again. "Why does he have so many?"

Silver Eagle didn't speak this time. It was the mischievous Selena who stood up with malicious intent. "The Director herself addressed this issue to Silver Eagle in person."

Then, with a cough, she showcased her professional talent, imitating the voice perfectly. She nearly poked Silver Eagle's nose with her small finger. "How can you have the nerve to ask?!"

Your esteemed operative team just took out a minor monster and ran away—leaving the big boss to a newbie! And the newbie wasn't even a Professional but still managed to save all of the clerical, cleaning, and action teams with a desperate struggle!

You five Professionals, seasoned operatives, didn't even have basic vigilance. If I were you, I would be so ashamed of these merit points that I'd want to kneel before some little newbie, offering my merit points and remorse with both hands, begging them to accept!"

Silver Eagle felt embarrassed being pointed at and stepped back, only to be grabbed by the little demoness who then seriously measured the distance between her finger and the tip of Silver Eagle's nose, nodding in satisfaction and saying to Marcus, "That's right, the Director's finger was exactly this far from poking Silver Eagle's nose."

The office fell silent. After a while, Chen Gu suddenly raised his hands and cheered, "I've saved enough merit points! I can become a Professional now!"

This feeling... It's just like in my previous life when the big shots would show off. It was like, 'I need to save up for a Lamborghini!' One second, two seconds, three seconds, four seconds, five seconds— 'Alright, I've saved up enough!'

"Hey, I'm going to save up merit points to exchange for a position!"

"One mission!"

"All right, I've saved enough!"

This time, the whole group couldn't stand Chen Gu anymore, and various objects from all around the desk came flying at him.

...

Chen Gu submitted his "induction" application to Director Mei. Director Mei, whom Silver Eagle and the 'little demoness' had portrayed in their imitations as an old woman with a comically distorted face, treated Chen Gu quite kindly. Chen Gu attributed this kindness to the 'face' of his 'grown son,' preferring not to dwell on certain unbearable memories from his past life.

Director Mei promised to report it immediately. If everything went smoothly, preparations could be done within a week, and by then, Chen Gu could become a Professional.

"Have you decided which profession you'd like to become?" Director Mei suddenly pulled Chen Gu's hand and seemed to ask offhandedly before he left.

Chen Gu almost blurted out "Star Battle Instructor," but then, with a turn of his thoughts, he displayed his skilled acting abilities.

A hint of confusion, a smidgen of bewilderment, mixed with some speculation... but above all, reverence and anticipation for the future. "I don't really know. I'm not very familiar with Professionals."

Director Mei patted his hand like an old aunt. "With your physical fitness, you meet the preliminary standards for any Professional, so you can choose any profession available with authority in the Bureau... TSK, TSK, look at these biceps as hard as iron and... the quadriceps!"

"The sub-bureau has a general introduction to Professionals; I'll send it to you. Consider it carefully."

Chen Gu gracefully left the Director's office and casually opened the document on his way.

The document wasn't comprehensive. It started with a disclaimer: Humanity is still just a stumbling explorer in the vast Star Sea. The boundless Star Sea hides too many mysteries.

Professionals are just one of those mysteries, perhaps not too prominent.

Many professions still haven't seen anyone reach the Ninth Power Level, and they can't claim to fully understand their own fields.

Moreover, with the great development of interstellar navigation and the war between humans and the Alien Insect Race, new professions and skills continue to emerge.

Chapter 59: Discerning the Self, Complying with One's True Heart

Current professions are divided into two major categories: old professions and new professions.

Old professions have existed for a very long time, since the days of humanity's mother stars. Many of those Mutants or bizarre existences beyond the comprehension of ordinary people were practitioners of specific professions.

For example, Abyssal Blacksmiths, Psychological Spies, and Hell Titans.

New professions, on the other hand, all emerged after the great development of human technology, such as the Nuclear Explosion Nun and Star Battle Instructor.

In most cases, new professions possess greater destructive power than old ones. This introduction's wording is very precise; it doesn't claim new professions are stronger than old ones. This is because, in the Star Age, various situations are complex. There's no absolutely powerful skill, only the most suitable one.

Correspondingly, the resources required by new professions, such as the hypermatter needed for each promotion, are also more extensive than those required by old professions.

Chen Gu looked at this introduction. It only mentioned six old professions and eight new ones. Great Actor Chen was certain that this was not all the information about Professionals that the Bureau of Mystic Security possessed.

But this was already enough to give Chen Gu a point of reference.

Originally, Chen Gu only wanted to become a "Star Battle Instructor," but now, other professions, such as "Quantum Wizard," "Silver Eagle Commandant," and "Multistate Special Agent," also seemed very appealing.

Especially "Multistate Special Agent," which allows one's body to switch between various states of matter—solid, liquid, gas, superconducting, etc.—it seemed tailor-made for the Great Actor!

However, Chen Gu then looked at "Quantum Wizard" and found that this profession's skills, "Entanglement Control" and "Quantum Divination," were very suitable for... showing off!

The world of Professionals is truly extraordinary; it makes for such a difficult choice...

While Chen Gu was preoccupied with these thoughts, he unwittingly returned to the office of Team Five. Only Marcus was left there. When Marcus saw the material, he patted Chen Gu's shoulder and said, "Don't rush to decide, but as a predecessor, I can offer you a piece of advice."

Chen Gu looked at him expectantly, only to see the team leader crazily gesture for money!

"Hehehe, my advice isn't free."

Chen Gu rolled his eyes and turned to walk away. Marcus quickly grabbed him, then scratched his own head in frustration, saying, "I was just kidding." Then he added, "Anyway, you're the team's fat cat with the most merit points right now, so giving it a try won't hurt. Who knows, you might even succeed."

Team leader... Chen Gu didn't know what else to say. Could you please maintain a bit of your "leader" dignity? Look at Director Mei... Director Mei just checked the hardness of his own quadriceps... that hardly seemed dignified either.

Chen Gu felt like he had joined the wrong team.

"Always follow your heart," Marcus said earnestly. "You can only persevere in something you truly love. Professionals face constant infiltration and temptation from the Endless Realm. Without such passion, it's easy to fall from grace!"

Chen Gu's heart skipped a beat; he took this suggestion seriously. "I understand. Thank you, Team Leader."

"Don't just thank me with words... Okay, okay, as I said, giving it a try won't hurt."

Chen Gu became curious. "Team Leader, what's your profession?"

"I'm an 'Alchemist Magus,'" Marcus readily introduced. "Silver Eagle Charles is a 'Silver Eagle Commandant,' Melincha the Puppet is an 'Equilibrium Arbitrator,' and Selena the Banshee is a 'Mist Singer.'"

From the names, it was clear that Charles and Melincha had new professions, while Marcus and Selena had old professions.

Marcus grabbed his coat. "Alright, I'm off work. Once you become a Professional, we need to exchange information within our team and know each other's skills so we can cooperate better in battle."

Before he left, he turned back to remind him, "Hey, kid, make sure you obediently go back to class tomorrow."

Chen Gu shrugged.

Since everyone else in the team had slipped away, as a newcomer, Chen Gu was supposed to be on duty. But how could Great Actor Chen just sit around obediently? He casually strolled out of the precinct. His Lightning Edition Xuanwu III Type was parked in the underground garage.

However, halfway through the drive, Chen Gu's secure comm-ID received a message: Your accommodations have been arranged.

Chen Gu glanced at it and saw a new address.

The Bureau of Mystic Security arranged accommodations for each staff member. These places appeared to be ordinary residences but had much higher levels of security.

In fact, many people lived directly within the Bureau.

They engaged in special professions; if Mutants discovered this and they were contaminated in their ordinary lives, the consequences would be unimaginable.

Chen Gu wanted to go back and move, but then another message came in: Your personal belongings have already been transferred to the new residence. You may move in directly.

Chen Gu curled his lip, thankful that those truly "personal items," like the social crystal wands and such, had already been properly disposed of.

The Lightning Edition Xuanwu III Type changed direction, and Chen Gu headed straight for his new home.

This was a mid-range community, somewhat better than Chen Gu's previous apartment, located between the school and the Bureau of Mystic Security.

The house was quite nice, more than twice the size of the previous one.

Upon entering, Chen Gu immediately let Griffin Wester's memories possess him and quickly located six "security risks" in the house. However, compared to his previous apartment, which had made Griffin Wester barely able to suppress the urge to immediately start remodeling, this place was much better. Griffin Wester, at least, indicated he could "barely tolerate it..."

Five minutes! That was the estimated safe window, derived from a comprehensive risk assessment of these six security flaws. Due to these vulnerabilities, the house might only be genuinely safe for five minutes.

Without hesitation, Chen Gu dismissed Griffin Wester, then filled a large tub with hot water and comfortably soaked in a bath.

That night, Chen Gu had an unexpected visitor: Chen Jixian.

"The average success rate for attaining a profession is 32.44%. The Bureau of Mystic Security has covertly funded a great deal of research on Professionals over the years to raise this probability."

"In other organizations, most rates are below 20%."

"Fortunately, with advanced medicine these days, most people can have three chances at attaining a profession. However, the more hypermatter, the greater the odds."

After his adult son said this, he left, leaving Chen Gu utterly confused. What did he mean by that?

However, this did remind Chen Gu: he could only choose "Radiation Missionary," which was the male counterpart to "Nuclear Explosion Nun."

Because in Chen Jixian's perception, his respected old father was a "Radiation Missionary."

Alright, Chen Gu admitted to himself, that whole "respected old father" thing was utter nonsense.

This favorable situation was all thanks to Griffin Wester. It was his extremely abnormal preliminary training that had given Chen Gu such a terrifying physical constitution, allowing him to freely choose a profession.

The preliminary training for "Radiation Missionary" demanded even higher standards than that of the "ordinary" Star Battle Instructor.

Chapter 60: The Cowboy Rabbit with the Big Golden Tooth

After a good night's sleep, Chen Gu's sharp senses remained active, even in his slumber. He vaguely detected a few seemingly unrelated people passing by outside the house at regular intervals. These were security personnel from the Bureau of Mystic Security.

The next morning, Chen Gu habitually went through the pre-training for the "Star Battle Instructor" again and was astounded to find that his physical fitness could still improve!

At this point, Great Actor Chen was no longer surprised by the various peculiar occurrences happening to him; there was always an explanation in the end.

Since I can still improve, I'll continue training. Stronger is, of course, better.

On his way to school, while in the lightning-fast "Black Tortoise III" self-driving car, Chen Gu mysteriously pulled out a cylindrical object from a hidden spot on his body.

Social Crystal Rod.

His older son's words from yesterday reminded Chen Gu: there was a chance of failure for him.

Chen Jixian thought he was already a professional, but in reality, he was not. If he didn't find a way to increase his chances of securing a Profession, and if he failed... his older son would probably flip his eyelids.

Then he would be unable to explain.

Chen Gu checked the wares sold by Steam Locomotive and found that they had become increasingly diverse, even including men's grooming products!

The most suitable for "Star Battle Instructor" was the Demon Hound series of supermaterials, while the most suitable for "Radiation Missionary" was the Fear Insect series.

The most common supermaterial from the Alien Insect Race Empress can barely be used.

Chen Gu had initially wanted to ask Steam Locomotive if they could get it, but while browsing those halos, he unintentionally noticed a post from "Big Gold-Tooth Cowboy Rabbit" from the day before:

Mysterious mission, difficulty: ☆☆☆

Mission reward: 6,000,000 Starshields in regular compensation.

Note: Supermaterials may appear in the mission.

If interested, contact privately.

After hesitating for a moment, Chen Gu opened a private chat.

To his surprise, as soon as he sent over a question, Big Gold-Tooth Cowboy Rabbit swiftly replied with a heap of information:

"Is President interested in this mission?"

"That's great! If President is willing to participate, the difficulty of this mission can be directly reduced to ☆☆."

"Big Rabbit can make a decision on behalf of the client and offer President 10,000,000 Starshields."

Big Rabbit? Is that a self-reference? Cui Siting, you're quite confident, girl.

With a flick of his finger, Chen Gu sent over a message: "Tell me about the mission."

The persona of the aloof female President was solidly established.

"Okie dokie!"

"It's like this. According to the research of those eccentric historians, a battle took place during the occupation of Empire River Star. It's speculated to have been directed against super lifeforms."

"So, the client conducted some investigation and decided to go on an archaeological expedition to a dangerous location."

The smart President must have guessed by now—it's the site of that battle from back then.

Chen Gu had mentally replaced the icon of "Big Gold-Tooth Cowboy Rabbit" with a "Flattery Rabbit" avatar.

"What do you think, President, are you willing to join?"

Chen Gu asked another question, "What type?"

After thinking it over, he became even more aloof and deleted "what," only sending "Type?" over.

Big Gold-Tooth Cowboy Rabbit was extremely quick to respond, "There's insufficient data. Those eccentric historians can't determine it either. They can only confirm it's a super lifeform on the animal side, most likely the Octopus series or Sea Serpent series."

Chen Gu frowned. The Fear Insect series isn't on the animal side; it's on the insect side.

Big Gold-Tooth Cowboy Rabbit immediately sent another message, "However, in my opinion, any type is possible. You know those eccentric historians—their words can't be trusted in the least."

"If an employer needs the body of a super lifeform from the animal side, they can then claim it's from the animal side, hehe."

Chen Gu thought about it and still replied, "I'll join."

"Yay! Yay! Yay!" followed by a long string of cheerful rabbit heads.

"Alright, here's the mission information..."

Chen Gu glanced at it. The mission location was at "Yingudusi Devil's Pit," and the meeting would be in Empire River Star's "Stargazing Corner City" one week later.

Chen Gu searched online. It was a famously dangerous place on Empire River Star, with the nearest city being 1,700 kilometers away.

It was enveloped by thick acid mist year-round, and terrifying thunderstorms frequently erupted.

The surrounding area was populated with many dangerous Steam Mechanical Species and even more terrifying Energy Gathering Mechanical Species. The difference between them could be simply understood: the power core of Steam Mechanical Species was a 'steam engine,' while for the latter, it was... a nuclear reactor!

Before reaching school, Chen Gu further researched historical expeditions into Empire River Star's Yingudusi Devil's Pit. The smoothest one resulted in the deaths of 40% of the exploration team. The farthest penetration reached 400 kilometers into the Devil's Pit.

And the entire area of Yingudusi Devil's Pit spanned 2,000,000 square kilometers!

"Really not easy to deal with," Chen Gu muttered to himself. "No wonder the price of supermaterials is so expensive."

I'll go take a look, try to keep a low profile, and if things get too hairy, escaping is the priority. After all, I am a newbie and should listen to the team leader's advice: Safety first.

...

At the school entrance, the old principal stood with a beaming smile, his hands behind his back, greeting the students. Nearby, the dean of discipline had a stern face and clutched a teaching whip. The two formed a perfect 'good cop, bad cop' combination.

As Chen Gu entered the school gate, he saluted the old principal, whose facial muscles seemed to twitch in response. The principal asked Chen Gu, "Recovered from your sickness?"

Probably, the Bureau of Mystic Security had called in sick for him yesterday. Chen Gu nodded, "All better."

"Good, head in quickly. Put in the effort to train. Next year's quota for Tiangong Military Division from our school is counting on you."

The dean of discipline snorted coldly, indicating his doubt.

Chen Gu glanced at the dean of discipline. Feeling a surge of confidence, he began to plot. He was about to become a special agent for the Bureau of Mystic Security; surely he could find a way to get one over on this stern-faced old man!

He paid attention in classes all morning. During lunchtime, there was a faint stir among the students. Chen Gu was preparing to find a classmate to tap into the Lubei darknet when Chen Zili approached him. "My sister is looking for you."

"At the school entrance."

Chen Gu felt puzzled. What was Chen Qingyu doing looking for him at this hour? He followed Chen Zili to the school entrance and from afar saw two groups of girls facing off.

Chen Gu smiled. Now he didn't need to check the Lubei darknet to know what had happened.

Chen Zili kept shaking his head. "Troublemaker and problem attractor. Now I have to clean up her mess again..."

Chen Gu couldn't help but glance at him. Something felt off.

When they got closer, Chen Gu could see clearly the two groups of girls. One was led by big sis Liu Shichan, with her Death Phoenix Gang's eight "Phoenix Gods" standing behind her.

Don't doubt it; this preposterously childish name was conceived by the mighty Liu Shichan herself. She had even spent sixty gold Starshields to have this name posted on the Lubei darknet...

However, Chen Gu was taken aback by the other side, as the leaders of the group were two people he actually knew: one was his precious granddaughter Chen Qingyu, and the other was... Selena!