

Full Time 61

Chapter 61: Thank-you Gift

The Bureau of Mystic Security's Special Services Fifth Group "Siren," [Misty Songstress] Selena.

With her chin raised high, Selena looked down on Liu Shichan with disdain, her small, pale hands casually stuffed into her pockets, and her hip-length hair tied at the back of her head like a red waterfall.

When Chen Gu and Chen Zili arrived, the two groups of girls had already drawn closer to each other, almost ready to come to blows.

Chen Zili hurriedly stepped forward. "It's a misunderstanding, all a misunderstanding. My sister came here looking for me."

When Liu Shichan saw Chen Gu, the flames in her eyes blazed even more intensely, but Chen Gu ignored her, walking over to ask Chen Qingyu, "Is something the matter?"

Upon seeing him, Chen Qingyu immediately transformed into a docile girl, hands pressed against her school skirt, adopting the look of a frightened bunny. "My dad asked me to deliver something to you," she said. "I had no idea your school... is so, dangerous."

Chen Gu rolled his eyes. Don't think for a second that I didn't see you sneakily hiding a pen-shaped baton behind your back just now.

Well, my granddaughter studies music. She always needs to strike gongs and beat drums and the like, so carrying a heavy alloy baton is quite reasonable, right?

No problem, girls should be pampered at home; there's nothing wrong with that. As for Chen Zili... well, let that grandson go to hell.

Chen Gu beckoned. "Let's go to Xianwei Residence. None of you have had dinner yet, it's on me."

As for the little siren, Selena, she maintained that arrogant look the whole time, seemingly not even noticing Chen Gu.

Liu Shichan clenched her teeth tightly. "Sisters, who wants to eat at Xianwei Residence?"

Among the Eight Phoenixes, one of the girls immediately showed a troubled expression. "Big Sis," she said, "the food at Xianwei Residence uses the most primitive cooking methods—too much oil and salt. It's really unhealthy..."

Liu Shichan glared at her fiercely. "I want to eat!"

"Eat! Eat! Eat!" the other girls quickly chimed in, pulling back the plain-looking girl who was still trying to advocate her health theories.

As luck would have it, no private rooms were available at Xianwei Residence, so the two groups sat in the main hall, exchanging hostile glances while they ate.

The other customers in the hall kept complaining, "Boss, the air conditioning isn't strong enough! It's so hot..."

After the meal, Chen Qingyu pulled Chen Gu aside and gave him a sealed iron box. "This is from my dad," she said.

Chen Gu was puzzled. His adult son had come over just yesterday; why didn't he deliver it personally?

After the meal, Chen Gu sent Chen Qingyu and the others away. The little siren kept her head held high the entire time, not saying a word to Chen Gu.

Liu Shichan and her group remained vigilant, escorting Selena and her party a whole block away before triumphantly returning: the Dead Phoenix Gang had defended their turf!

However, by that afternoon, the Lubei dark web featured a gossip item for sale at the cost of five gold shields: "Big Sister Head Liu Shichan and Melissa Music School's number one enchanting songstress, Chen Qingyu, have a significant showdown over love, nearly causing large-scale bloodshed near the school gates!"

There was also less reliable news suggesting: "Chen Qingyu's close friend, Melissa Music School's lead 'soprano' Selena, seemed to have fallen for the object of their dispute at first sight."

Note: "Soprano" at Melissa Music School is equivalent to the position of Big Sister Head, similar to Liu Shichan's status.

And there was another piece of news—"The identity of the man Liu Shichan and Chen Qingyu were fighting over"—sporting a high price tag of twelve gold shields!

When Chen Gu found out that he was the "answer," he was startled. Am I being shipped with my own granddaughter?!

That's so wicked! So...

The whole afternoon, Chen Gu's seat was surrounded by boys. The "beasts" from senior year three expressed their wishes very clearly with all kinds of flattery towards Great Actor Chen: "Boss, please let us tag along!"

Liu Shichan was out of the question for them, but the Eight Phoenixes around her were fair game!

Chen Gu found it very surprising that even that plain-looking girl had a multitude of secret admirers...

Well... indeed, whether for men or women, power and status are the best aphrodisiacs.

This group of crazed individuals followed Chen Gu everywhere, even to the bathroom. It got so bad that Chen Gu didn't open the iron box until after school, in his car.

The box was very well-sealed. The outer layer appeared to be ordinary high-strength alloy, but the inner layer was a special coating, two centimeters thick! Inside the small space lay an item the size of a soybean.

Although he had no idea what to expect, the moment Chen Gu saw it, he understood. It was a piece of super-material!

And it had to be a super-material from the Terror series.

Chen Jixian had rambled on somewhat incoherently yesterday, and today his daughter had brought him a small piece of super-material. Everything became clear: Chen Jixian was trying to express his gratitude to Chen Gu for helping Chen Qingyu.

It wasn't that his perception of his old man had changed in any way.

Now that Chen Gu had this legitimately obtained super-material, his chances of successfully becoming a Professional had greatly increased. Upon exiting the "generator," he could declare himself a Professional.

It's really tough for that clueless old son of mine to come up with such a meticulous and convoluted line of logic, Chen Gu thought, finding the situation both amusing and exasperating. He decided there was no need to take risks anymore; he was going to turn down the mission from that sycophantic rabbit.

But just as Chen Gu pulled out his social crystal stick and opened the profile of "Big Gold Tooth Cowboy Rabbit," a long string of messages popped up:

"President, good news!"

"The rich, foolish client learned that you're joining and immediately raised the commission to 12 million Starshields!"

"You're a Second Energy Level powerhouse! This price isn't an exaggeration."

"However, they've also hired another team of Professional mercenaries, currently on a different mission. We'll need to wait for ten days."

"Should Big Rabbit transfer two million Starshields as a deposit to you first?"

"Once you're online, please reply to Big Rabbit and give me your account number."

Following this was a string of various rabbit emoticons trying to be cute.

Chen Gu frowned. They've hired someone else? What does this mean? Are they looking down on me, a Second Energy Level powerhouse and the President?

Humph!

Chen Gu mentally engaged in a near-perfect, self-indulgent performance of an offended dignitary, then, with a flick of his finger, haughtily replied with one word: "Noted."

He was planning to use this as an excuse to refuse the mission, but as soon as his reply was sent, Big Gold Tooth Thug Rabbit quickly sent over a barrage of messages:

"President, please don't be angry! I've just received a message from the employer. They asked me to explain to you that the other team of Professionals was a last-minute hire. This was due to a change in circumstances; they have found some new information."

"In the battle at Empire River Star, a legendary spaceship appeared and took part in the fight."

"That ship is the 'Four Hundred Brave'! In the early days of humanity's entrance into interstellar pioneering, this ship was a legend."

"You must have heard of this ship. Their involvement in that battle suggests the potential existence of super life forms of extraordinary strength. For everyone's safety, the employer decided to increase their forces, hence hiring a second team."

Chapter 62: Purchasing Supramaterials

When Chen Gu saw the "Four Hundred Braves," he couldn't help but think of "The Past of the Four Hundred."

The Original Entity's memories contained nothing about the Four Hundred Braves, so Chen Gu immediately logged onto the interstellar quantum network to search.

The Four Hundred Braves weren't part of official history; they were more like a group of "space pirates." However, their experiences were truly legendary, filled with many inconceivable "pasts."

Even today, many legends about them circulated on the interstellar quantum network, making it difficult to distinguish truth from falsehood.

One legend even claimed the "Four Hundred Braves" was a ghost ship, much like those from the Age of Sail on the home planet. It was said to be crewed not by the living, but by the cursed Souls of four hundred starship members, forever trapped aboard.

This seemingly most absurd legend stirred something within Chen Gu, giving him a vague sense that he might have grasped a connection between the "Four Hundred Braves" and "The Past of the Four Hundred."

Chen Gu considered for a moment and decided not to reject the mission for now, opting to see how things developed.

After all, if he didn't go, Big Golden-Toothed Cowboy Rabbit couldn't do anything to him anyway.

Thus, the aloof President sent back a single word, "Understood."

After a short wait, with no further messages from Big Golden-Toothed Cowboy Rabbit, Chen Gu put away his social crystal rod.

Back at his new home, Chen Gu weighed the piece of supermaterial on an electronic scale: 11.09 grams. Based on Steam Train's price estimate, his adult son had handed him over one hundred million Starshield with that single gesture!

Chen Gu exclaimed, My family is indeed wealthy!

After storing the item, a worry surfaced. But my seemingly sweet and lovely granddaughter is actually a little delinquent at heart! What am I going to do?

Chen Gu wasn't scheduled for duty today, but after dinner, he headed straight for the Bureau of Mystic Security.

Unsurprisingly, the small office of Special Operations Team Five was empty. Chen Gu asked the administrative staff outside for Little Demon Girl's number. Before Great Actor Chen could dial, he heard the staff in the main office, their gossip fires already blazing. They had "collaboratively" concocted seven or eight versions of scandalous stories about him and Little Demon Girl.

They're ruining my reputation! Great Actor Chen lamented silently, then called Little Demon Girl. As soon as the call connected, the pounding beat of electronic music blasted from the other end.

No doubt about it, that Little Demon Girl is out partying again, he thought. Did she take my granddaughter with her? Will she lead her astray?

"Where are you? I need to talk. Is Chen Qingyu with you?" Chen Gu's tone, as a concerned guardian, was somewhat stern.

Little Demon Girl snorted disdainfully. "You? Talk to me when you become a Professional."

CLICK! The call disconnected. When Chen Gu tried again, he was startled to find Little Demon Girl had blocked him. He then called Chen Zili and finally breathed a sigh of relief: Chen Qingyu was home, obediently doing her homework.

Chen Gu walked out of the small office looking relieved. The administrative staff immediately deduced from his expression: The rookie succeeded!

A wave of admiration swept through them. This new guy has some serious skills.

On the way home, Chen Gu mulled it over, then took out his social crystal rod again. He tapped the "Steam Train" icon and sent a message: "Supermaterial."

As an excellent purveyor of goods, Steam Train likely had his social crystal rod in hand all day, replying instantly, "Available, available, available."

"Asking for a friend. Terror Insect type."

"Don't have any on hand."

"Willing to pay extra!"

Those words were like a magic spell. Steam Train's enthusiasm immediately surged. "President, please wait a moment. I'll ask my contacts."

Chen Gu waited quietly. As his maglev car stopped at the entrance of his new home, Steam Train replied, "There are two. One is 4.18 grams, asking sixty million Starshield, or trade for items of equivalent value—preferably a Starship main cannon or the body of a Guilo-system super life form."

"The other is 8.87 grams, asking one hundred million. Cash only, no barter."

Chen Gu understood that joining the Bureau of Mystic Security, while achieving his goal of "laundering his identity," had also backed him into a corner. He absolutely had to succeed on his first try, or he would inevitably arouse his adult son's suspicion.

Therefore, Chen Gu had to do everything possible to increase his chances of successfully establishing his new Profession.

The two pieces of supermaterial would cost a total of one hundred and sixty million Starshield. He only had one billion Starshield in total, so this transaction would consume 16% of his assets.

Still, he gritted his teeth. "I'll take both."

Steam Train promptly added, "Thank you for your patronage, President. My commission is the usual 8%."

Chen Gu felt his heart nearly seize. He would have to pay Steam Train an additional twelve million eight hundred thousand Starshield! What did this guy do, just ask a few questions?

Great Actor Chen, grinding his molars, sent back one word, "Outrageous!"

"I can round it down for you, twelve million."

Chen Gu swore that if this bastard were in front of him, he would—even at the risk of exposing his own secrets—hit him with a Biological Nuclear Explosion on the spot, blasting this vampire into dust!

Great Actor Chen, mimicking the bargaining tactics of his ex-girlfriends, employed a "slash-it-in-half" strategy: "Six million."

"Deal!" Steam Train replied instantly, as if fearing the President would renege.

Chen Gu clutched his chest. I still paid too much.

But his current persona was that of a cold and aloof President, not some old woman haggling at a wet market. He could only pinch his nose and endure it.

"Initiate the transaction immediately."

「The next day.」

The old headmaster looked at the leave request on his desk with some confusion. He's in such good health, why is he always sick?

Chen Gu had specifically taken sick leave that day to covertly monitor the transaction's completion.

To this end, Chen Gu had registered an account on a bounty hunter website and posted a task with a reward of thirty thousand Starshield.

The previous night, Chen Gu had used the Original Entity's hacking skills to make several transfers, moving a total of one hundred sixty-six million Starshield into a special neutral account.

The mysterious owner of this account specialized in mediating various clandestine transactions, extending beyond freelance Professionals to include significant black market deals.

For this service, Chen Gu had paid a fee of one million, six hundred sixty thousand Starshield.

Great Actor Chen, feeling the sting, was almost suffering from angina.

That afternoon, the two pieces of supermaterial would be delivered to two designated storage lockers. Although it was highly unlikely anything would go wrong during the transaction, or that anyone could trace the "President's" identity through the parcels, Chen Gu still decided to be cautious.

The bounty hunter who accepted Chen Gu's task retrieved the items. After traversing a large part of Wuzhaoyin City, they deposited them into a different storage locker.

Chapter 63: Code Name Xuelel

Chen Gu had been observing in secret. With his body possessed by Milna Katerina's memories, he activated the "Mind Belief" skill and waited until 10:00 p.m. before quickly grabbing the items.

Then, he took several large laps around Wuzhaoyin City, constantly changing various modes of transportation, and did not return to his residence until midnight.

After checking the two super-materials and confirming there were no issues, he finally breathed a sigh of relief. All that was left was to quietly wait for the inauguration ceremony.

Chen Gu lay in bed, his heart pounding uncontrollably. Everything is ready—now, all I have to do is wait for that moment to arrive!

「The weekend came in a flash.」

Chen Gu, as usual, went to the local station for duty. On Sunday morning, Special Duty Team Five had a minor mission, and Chen Gu was taken along by Marcus.

This mission was without surprises or danger, and they caught a Wild Professional.

Everyone split the merit points, which weren't high. Chen Gu, who coasted through the whole mission, only received 10 merit points.

However, through this mission, Chen Gu roughly understood the Confederation's official stance towards Wild Professionals, which was relatively lenient.

This Wild Professional was truly natural-born—he had naturally awakened to an "Old Profession," the "Glacier Spirit," possessing the ability to manipulate temperatures.

Old Professions had a certain chance of natural awakening, but New Professions required entering an originator or obtaining some kind of opportunity. For example, the first "Nuclear Explosion Nun" emerged by coincidence after a terrible nuclear explosion.

If this "Glacier Spirit" had continued living his life honestly, even if the Bureau of Mystic Security knew of his existence, they would not have "disturbed" him. At most, they would create a file and monitor him from time to time.

But once he acquired his abilities, he immediately became arrogant. He believed himself to be "one of a kind" and ambitiously aimed to unite the underworld of Wuzhaoyin City!

Then, this minor operation occurred, and Silver Eagle easily captured him.

Later, in casual conversation, Chen Gu also learned that among the major Star Nations today, the Confederation and the Freedom Alliance were lenient towards Wild Professionals. The Star State, however, leaned towards strictness, having formulated "covert laws" to regulate the actions of all Professionals. Within the bounds of the law, one could enjoy "freedom."

The Empire was the most severe, not allowing the existence of Wild Professionals. They either served the nation or were captured to become experimental subjects.

Therefore, in the other three major Star Nations, there were many Wild Professionals who had fled from the Empire.

After the mission, Director Mei approached Chen Gu. "Have you decided yet? Which Profession do you plan to choose?"

Chen Gu took a deep breath. "I've made my decision. I choose 'Radiation Missionary.'"

Director Mei smiled and nodded. "Good choice. That Profession's combat strength is very powerful."

Silver Eagle flipped his golden hair, criticizing arrogantly, "A Profession keen on destruction, blindly pursuing killing power, lacking control, violent and brainless... Hmm, it does seem quite suitable for you."

Chen Gu glanced at him. If I didn't need to hide my abilities, I'd deal with you "violently and brainlessly" right now, he thought.

Marcus was also somewhat worried. "That Profession... is quite unsafe. If you're not careful, you might end up blowing yourself up along with everything else."

The Little Devil Girl didn't even pay Chen Gu any attention. She arrogantly tilted her head, doing her eyebrows with a small mirror, her mind already on the new nightclub in North City. It was said to be very trendy, and she planned to go all out and have a blast that night.

Only Melincha smiled gently. "It's also quite good. Our team happens to be lacking a high-burst damage Profession."

「At noon.」

Silver Eagle was responsible for interrogating the recently captured Wild Professional. Half an hour later, he returned with the Professional, named Joseph.

With an expression that clearly said, "When I make a move, it's just this easy," Silver Eagle announced to everyone, "This is our team's new recruit. He's been recruited."

Marcus grunted and opened his Bureau of Mystic Security account. Sure enough, he saw the file of a new recruit had been sent his way. But after a mere glance, his eyes widened. He looked back and forth between the file and Joseph. "You're a woman?!"

Silver Eagle was also surprised. "The guy I interrogated for half an hour is a woman?"

Joseph shrank back a bit and glanced at the two women in the group. "I heard the Bureau of Mystic Security has great benefits. Do female staff get extra days off, like... you know, for those certain days each month?"

Melincha asked, "And what if they do?"

"Then I can be a woman too," Joseph replied.

Marcus stated flatly, "There's no such thing!"

Joseph swore through gritted teeth, "Damn it! They got my gender wrong! That's an unforgivable mistake!"

Melincha laughed so hard she nearly fell over. Joseph still seemed unwilling to accept it. "I've always heard people talk about menstrual leave. Isn't that really a type of holiday?"

The Little Devil Girl moved closer to Joseph and suddenly let out a piercing shriek right in his ear. Joseph's eyes rolled upwards, his body convulsed, and soon, foam started dribbling from his mouth.

Chen Gu remarked, "I like this guy. His shameless and silly personality fits well with our group's vibe..."

And so, Joseph officially joined Special Duty Team Five, becoming an even newer recruit than Chen Gu. Marcus liked to shout everyone's codenames during operations, so the group began discussing Joseph's codename.

As for Joseph, he was still slumped on the table, drooling—he hadn't recovered yet.

"This guy's a [Glacier Spirit]. How about just 'Spirit'?"

The Little Devil Girl slammed her fist on the table. "No!"

"Icepuck?"

"Avalanche?"

"Zero Degree?"

"No! No! Absolutely not!" The Little Devil Girl shot down three suggestions in a row, leaving everyone else exasperated. "What do you think he should be called then?"

A wicked glint appeared in her eyes, and her whole demeanor took on a devious quality. "Look at him just now—eyes rolling back, shaking all over, like he was struck by lightning! I think we should call him... Xuelei!"

She continued, "The name sounds impressive, so it won't embarrass him in front of outsiders. But *we'll* all know its true meaning, so he'll never be able to hold his head high in front of us."

Chen Gu, from his seat, raised both hands and feet in the air. "I've never agreed with you more!"

If the timing weren't so inappropriate, I'd raise a fifth limb in agreement! Chen Gu thought.

Melincha covered her mouth, stifling a laugh. "That's... not very nice, is it?"

The Little Devil Girl approached Joseph and tapped the table. "Hey, got any objections?"

Joseph hadn't recovered yet; he could only drool, unable to respond. The Little Devil Girl spread her hands. "See? He himself has no objections. It's settled!"

Chen Gu suddenly had the urge to ask, What about my codename? But then he came to his senses with a start. I absolutely have to get my codename sorted out when the Little Devil Girl isn't around!

Chapter 64: Racing Towards the Future

Marcus pressed the call button, summoning support staff to take Joseph to the medical room. Then he pulled Chen Gu aside. "I heard the news. Your initiation ceremony is basically set. So, how about it—are you prepared?"

Silver Eagle, standing to the side, adjusted his lapels. "It's not easy to succeed on the first try. I spent thirty million and prepared three grams of supermatter myself to succeed in one fell swoop."

Chen Gu really wanted to roll his eyes at him.

Melincha's greatest strength was that she didn't spoil things when others were showing off and often unwittingly played along.

She said with regret, "I was such a rookie back then; I didn't understand anything. My family didn't have money, and I hadn't prepared anything. I failed the first time and only succeeded on the second attempt with the help of a senior."

Marcus then said to Chen Gu, "What about you? Have you prepared any extra supermatter? The bureau will only provide the most basic amount."

Silver Eagle tried to look nonchalant, but his ears perked up attentively.

Not to boast, but when it comes to "showing off," I, Chen Gu, am second to none! After all, I'm a man destined to become the Best Actor!

Chen Gu feigned a puzzled look, as if he barely understood anything. "Well, my family did prepare some supermatter for me, about 27 grams or so. I don't know if it's enough..."

"How much!?" Silver Eagle's voice hitched, his face all but spelling "JEALOUSY."

"Almost 27 grams, yes, definitely less than 28." Chen Gu looked at Silver Eagle with a "confused" expression. "What's wrong, not enough? Then I'll ask my family for a bit more..."

"Even more..." Silver Eagle became visibly distressed. He considered his family "wealthy." However, during his own initiation ceremony, they had spent thirty million to prepare three grams of supermatter for him. This dried up the company's liquid assets, and it took a long while for them to recover.

Marcus hurriedly said, "That's more than enough, definitely enough! In fact... during the ceremony, the more supermatter, the better, of course, but there's a limit. What you have is absolutely overflowing."

Silver Eagle's handsome face twisted slightly as he said sourly, "It's not purely about quantity. Attribute compatibility matters too. The supermatter I used was all of the most suitable Gui Luo series for me."

"Oh, I know about that. It was in the information the Chief gave me. My target is 'Radiation Missionary,' and the most suitable is the Fear Insect series. Luckily, all the supermatter my family prepared for me is of the Fear Insect series."

Silver Eagle forcefully ran his hands through his hair. He didn't want to speak another word to Chen Gu for the next two hours.

Melincha asked with a complex expression, "Chen Gu, what does your family do? Are they really that rich?"

"I don't know either." Chen Gu was answering Melincha's question, but his voice drifted toward Silver Eagle. "When I was in school, my family gave me a billion Starshield for allowance. I don't really know how much money they have."

SNAP!

The chair beneath Silver Eagle shattered.

Defeated, utterly defeated. In the art of "showing off," I am far beneath him.

The little imp's eyes lit up at his words. She stared at Chen Gu, thinking: I heard that new nightclub in North City is really expensive, and I've almost blown through my salary for the month... Suddenly, this genius beauty has a daring idea!

"Heh." Marcus no longer wanted to talk to Chen Gu either.

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Thanks to Joseph's brave self-sacrifice, everyone had a very enjoyable weekend, especially the little imp.

Of course, thanks to a certain someone's crushing verbal blow, Silver Eagle had spent the entire night drowning his sorrows.

The following week, Chen Gu attended classes calmly. On Wednesday, he received a message: the initiation ceremony was scheduled for this weekend.

When Chen Gu received this message, his heart thumped hard. He was finally about to become a professional.

Although he calmly finished his classes for the next half-day, his mind was already a raging tempest.

He then began to count the days on his fingers.

Each day truly felt like an eternity.

...

On Friday afternoon, after school, Chen Gu parked his car in the precinct's parking lot. He then slept for a few hours in a small dormitory arranged by the precinct. At four in the morning, his alarm woke him, and he went to the lobby.

This moment was very important for Chen Gu. He was going to board an interstellar flight to Zhaojieze City on Yinglong Star, where he would use the emitter to strive to become a "Radiation Missionary."

But at this hour, no one significant was there to see him off. Everyone was asleep. Who would want to get up so early to bid him farewell?

An older son, perhaps? Absolutely impossible.

Accompanying Chen Gu was Nagano Takesakura, a middle-aged woman of average stature and appearance, but with an elegant demeanor and a somewhat nervous expression.

An unlucky clerical worker, rubbing his sleepy eyes, led them to the spaceport.

After completing all the formalities, Chen Gu and the woman entered the cabin through a special passage.

Such special passages were typically reserved for politicians, tycoons, and celebrities.

Throughout the journey, Chen Gu felt rather uneasy. Despite having made the most comprehensive preparations, he was inevitably anxious as the moment approached.

Nagano Takesakura also seemed preoccupied and didn't talk much. Once the two were seated, Nagano Takesakura ordered a glass of fruit wine. After downing it in one gulp, she let out a long sigh and looked at Chen Gu with envious eyes. "This is my third time..."

Chen Gu was taken aback. Nagano Takesakura smiled bitterly. "If I fail again, I'll have to resign myself to being an operations team member for the rest of my life.

"But after experiencing the power of professionals, who can resist such a temptation?"

"I may truly lack the talent, though. The first time, I was most prepared, but I didn't succeed.

"It took me three years to pay off the medical bills for the damage to my body, and then another six years to accumulate enough merit to get a second chance.

"And I still failed.

"This third attempt has cost me ten years, and it's my last chance. I don't know if I can still fulfill that dream..."

Perhaps due to the immense psychological pressure, Nagano Takesakura blurted it all out. Chen Gu remained silent, unsure how to comfort her.

Chen Gu knew very well that this was the reality for most people. Those who truly became professionals were the fortunate ones favored by the heavens.

Behind every professional stood the shadows of several, even dozens, who had failed.

At this moment, the broadcast announced that the spaceship was about to take off. The anti-gravity engines ignited, first lifting the ship into space. After traveling for a while to reach a safe zone, all passengers entered their safety cabins, and then the ship's AI activated the warp drive.

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On Empire River Star, Xiao Jiangxia slept soundly beside her husband, oblivious to the fact that he had, at some point, opened his eyes and was now staring intently at the wall clock on the opposite wall.

Chapter 65: Three Battles Yet to Succeed

At 8:00 AM, Chen Gu was already standing inside the spaceport of Yinglong Star.

Empire River Star also had a generator, but that one could only be used by the Star Wind Centurion and the Star Battle Instructor.

An internal affairs officer from the local branch came to receive them. "You can rest for the morning. The initiation ceremony will begin at 2:00 PM; everything has been arranged here. If all goes well, you will be Professionals when you take the flight back this evening."

"I wish you good luck in advance!"

At noon, the director of the Zhaojieze City branch personally went to the nineteenth floor beneath the building, where the incredibly precious generator was housed.

Staff members were expertly calibrating the instruments. The branch director found the person in charge and said, "When the second initiate enters the generator, set the Omega Index to its maximum."

The person in charge was startled. "The higher the Omega Index, the harder it is for the initiation to succeed..."

It was common for those with connections to do each other favors and try to set the Omega Index lower. After all, different branches had different generators, and one never knew when someone from Yinglong Star might need to go to Empire River Star for their initiation.

The branch director said indifferently, "Just do it. This is an order from the Director-General."

"Yes." The person in charge secretly pondered about this second initiate. A minor figure, how had he managed to offend the Director-General?

After arriving at the Zhaojieze City branch, Chen Gu felt a persistent sense of unease. This was an intuitive ability Milna Katerina had left him, originating from Mind Belief.

The feeling was awful. Could he even complete the initiation to become a Professional? Chen Gu wondered.

If he failed, the consequences would be unthinkable. His adult son would definitely become suspicious. Chen Gu had no confidence his son would keep his secret; that fellow would most likely choose righteousness over kinship. Would he be forced to become a lab rat from now on?

Chen Gu hadn't rested well all morning and had a bland lunch. After waiting for over an hour, at 1:30 PM, an internal affairs officer from the Zhaojieze City branch came to take the two of them to the nineteenth sub-basement level.

This was Chen Gu's first time seeing a generator. It was a nine-meter-tall, advanced instrument imbued with a high-tech aesthetic.

However, even through the instrument's casing, Chen Gu could feel the formidable power emanating from the super life form within.

"Number One first."

Nagano Takesakura was Number One. She took several deep breaths, composed herself, and then approached the generator. Chen Gu, standing behind her, clenched his fists forcefully and shouted, "Come on!"

"Triumph in your trials!"

"We'll return to Empire River Star together as two Professionals."

Nagano Takesakura paused, turned back to look at him, and revealed a bright smile. Her ordinary features seemed to possess a special beauty at that moment.

Then she nodded firmly and resolutely entered the generator.

"Super-material filling complete."

"Energy invocation complete."

The person in charge pressed a button. "Begin."

The operators methodically opened one energy channel after another. In that instant, even the lights in the room dimmed.

Inside the generator, an incredibly intense light burst forth, so bright it seemed to penetrate even the thick metal casing.

This was only because the casing was specially constructed; otherwise, the intense light would have caused immediate blindness.

The process lasted for merely a dozen seconds. Suddenly, a swath of red numbers lit up on the surrounding instruments, and various indicators skyrocketed!

The person in charge immediately ordered, "Terminate the ceremony! The initiate can't bear it any longer. If this continues, she'll explode and die!"

The lab staff quickly cut off the various energy channels, and the generator's light swiftly extinguished.

Then the generator's hatch opened. Several people rushed in. Chen Gu saw Nagano Takesakura sitting motionless, her face blank, her clothes charred black. As the staff reached her, she suddenly began to scream hysterically and struggle, refusing to leave. "I can still hold on! Why did you stop?!"

"Damn it, you ruined my dream!"

"I really can! Let me try again! Don't mind whether I live or die—I'd rather die than fail to succeed!"

Chen Gu felt a surge of sympathy, but the staff couldn't possibly let her try again; they had seen this scenario too many times.

They tried to pull Nagano Takesakura out, but she resisted fiercely. Having completed the preliminary training, her physical fitness was far superior to an average person's. She easily overpowered the group of lab staff, tossing them about. Suddenly, a figure appeared before Nagano Takesakura, seized her by the throat with one hand, and lifted her out.

Nagano Takesakura was like a helpless chick in that person's grasp. A Professional,

Chen Gu thought.

The person tossed Nagano Takesakura out of the generator, then shot Chen Gu a cold glare, warning, "Don't you dare act like her later. I have a bad temper, and I won't go easy on you if I have to intervene a second time!"

Chen Gu pursed his lips and said nothing. In truth, he was extremely nervous at that moment and had no mental capacity to concern himself with such matters.

The person in charge patted Chen Gu on the shoulder. "It's your turn. Go in."

The person in charge felt some sympathy for this unlucky fellow. A newcomer who's offended the Director-General—what good end could there be for him? With the Omega Index set to its maximum, he's doomed to fail this time.

"I've prepared some super-material myself," Chen Gu said quickly.

The person in charge said nonchalantly, "Bring it out, then. They'll guide you on how to load it."

Such matters had to be handled by the individual concerned. Otherwise, if the initiation failed and they suspected the staff of secretly withholding their super-material, it would lead to an intractable dispute.

When Chen Gu took out his super-material, even the staff couldn't help but stare. Such a large quantity wasn't something an ordinary family could afford.

"All set." Chen Gu exhaled deeply. He glanced at the spot where Nagano Takesakura had been sitting, then silently sat down and fastened the safety harness.

CLICK—

The hatch closed, and the person in charge's voice came through the intercom, "Are you ready? We're about to begin!"

The Professional stood outside, hands clasped behind his back, his face impassive, ready to intervene at any moment.

"Ready."

Chen Gu responded. He suddenly felt the ambient temperature soar and was quickly enveloped by an intense light that blinded him completely.

"AAAAHHH—" Chen Gu let out an agonized scream, feeling as if his entire body was about to melt.

The super-material began to take effect, disintegrating in the light into a fine dust that filled the space, constantly permeating and transforming Chen Gu's body.

Under such immense pain, time seemed to stretch. Chen Gu felt as if years were passing in mere moments. Every time his body reached its limit, seemingly on the verge of a violent mutation from the intense radiation or on the brink of total collapse, the super-material dust would penetrate his system and stabilize his condition.

There were many moments when Chen Gu felt as though he had become a monster! His muscles, blood vessels, organs—everything—seemed to be transforming into some tentacled demonic entity. Even his bones seemed to have developed a life and consciousness of their own, wildly growing into thorny, jagged shapes.

Chapter 66: Promotion

Outside the generator, the person in charge and the experimenters were chatting idly.

"This guy's family is really rich. I saw the supermatter he brought himself—a whole twenty-six or twenty-seven grams! Using so much supermatter for an initiation ceremony is such a waste."

"Yeah, plus the three grams provided by the bureau, that's nearly thirty grams. All this supermatter would have been enough to advance to the Third Energy Level."

"He can't possibly absorb so much supermatter. HEH HEH, once he fails later, we'll just collect the remaining supermatter in the generator—even though reused supermatter sells for a bit less, it could still fetch over a hundred million..."

The person in charge's face darkened. "That's his property!"

The workers all fell silent. Then, the person in charge's expression suddenly changed to a smile. "Collect it. After we sell it, most of it will be kept as research funds. We'll take out ten million to distribute among ourselves."

"Oh wow!" Everyone cheered. If they were really given a share of over a hundred million, they wouldn't dare accept it. But with ten million split among them, each person would get several hundred thousand to a million, equivalent to their salary for three years.

As for the other practitioner present, he stood there indifferently, unresponsive to everything. He knew clearly that within that money, there was definitely a portion for himself—and certainly the largest portion.

At this moment, when he looked at Chen Gu inside the generator, he felt much better about him.

"I really hope this guy fails, ideally using up all three chances. That way, every few years, we could all make a hefty sum on the side, HAHAAH!"

The workers indulged in their happy fantasies. The person in charge said, "At least this time, he's bound to fail. There were instructions from above to set the Omega Index to the highest level. He can't possibly succeed."

Only then did the workers remember that when the generator started up this time, the lights in the room hadn't dimmed.

Suddenly, someone recalled, "How long has this guy been in there?"

"Let me check... it's been thirty-four seconds already."

"That long!"

Failures usually happened within the first fifteen seconds.

So, those who failed were all 'quick finishers.'

「...」

Nagano Takesakura sat in the empty hospital room, dispirited and distraught. Failing the initiation for the third time had caused severe damage to her body, and the upcoming medical expenses needed to be covered privately.

Despite the exorbitant cost, she didn't actually need to worry, because these expenses could be paid with merit points.

Nagano Takesakura used to live a hard life because she was saving up merit points for her next attempt at initiation.

So, for the first two recovery periods, she had paid with her salary.

But now, her mind wasn't on these things; her heart was filled with endless regret and unwillingness. In pursuit of becoming a practitioner, she had strived for over twenty years, throwing away the best years of her life for nothing.

She had never dated. She had cold-heartedly rejected several suitors she had actually been moved by, living a life like an ascetic every day. And for what?

In the end, all for naught.

Why! Nagano Takesakura roared in her heart.

Suddenly, a voice answered her in her mind: It's unfair! You know, this is unfair!

What's so great about being a practitioner? They're just people with great power, after all. We can give you power, even stronger power than practitioners possess!

Come, join us. Apart from power, we can give you... immortality!

Nagano Takesakura's eyes suddenly emitted a strong light, a light called desire.

「...」

Chen Gu was hanging by a thread.

It felt as if his body had been crushed countless times, then reassembled and resurrected.

Throughout this process, his physical strength kept increasing, but the pain did not lessen at all. Chen Gu felt as if all his strength was being drained away.

So, it turns out that initiation is really this difficult! I've substantially exceeded the preliminary training requirements, and my physical condition far surpasses that of the average initiate.

I prepared a large amount of supermatter, which, by all accounts, should far exceed the amount required for initiation.

Even so, it's still this tough. Those successful practitioners... they really are lucky.

Indeed, no matter the era, luck is always a part of strength.

As Chen Gu's thoughts ran wild, he experienced another agonizing round of his body being crushed and reconstituted. But in reality, if someone could have seen clearly at that moment, they would have found that Chen Gu's body had not undergone any visible changes from start to finish!

Everything was happening subtly, beneath the surface.

Outside the generator, on the monitoring instruments, all indicators were hovering just below their critical values. Several readings only needed to rise by another three to five points to immediately turn red, prompting the person in charge to declare the initiation a failure.

But it was precisely those few points; they just wouldn't budge any higher!

Trouble! The person in charge began to sweat nervously. The Director-General had given the order, and the branch director had personally come to convey and oversee its execution. If this guy still managed to succeed, the person in charge could forget about buying shoes for himself in the future. He'd be forced to wear 'small shoes'—meaning he'd be given a hard time—for the rest of his days, and they might even become a family heirloom!

But everything that could be done had been done. He was powerless over what remained.

The person in charge stared intently at the monitoring instruments, ready to declare failure the moment any data went into the red, giving Chen Gu no chance whatsoever.

Don't blame me. If there's anyone to blame, it's yourself for offending a super bigshot.

However, the person in charge didn't find his opportunity. The light inside the generator began to dim slowly.

A staff member inhaled sharply. "This... is he going to succeed?"

On the monitoring instruments, all data began to stabilize and fall, gradually approaching normal human standards.

It's over... the person in charge inwardly wailed. He wanted to make a last-ditch effort, but the process ended quickly. Before he could think of a solution, a few seconds later, the generator completely cooled down, followed by a CLACK as the hatch opened.

Chen Gu sat in the chair without moving. After quite a while, he cried out, "Can someone come and help me? I really don't have the strength to unlock the safety lock..."

Only then did the staff members rush in clumsily and hoist Chen Gu out.

Chen Gu had succeeded in his initiation. The person 'responsible' was the one in charge; this had nothing to do with these ordinary staff members. They would still get their share of the money from selling the supermatter, so everyone was quite pleased.

This was a major patron, after all; they ought to look after him.

"Hungry..." Chen Gu mustered all his strength to utter a single word. This situation occurred frequently, so the lab always kept high-nutrition food on hand. Immediately, someone pushed over a whole cart of it, and Chen Gu began to eat ravenously.

Meanwhile, the person in charge was already considering collecting the remaining supermatter. It could sell for over a hundred million. He might as well take the money and resign.

That practitioner looked deeply at Chen Gu. To succeed in the initiation under the highest Omega Index standards! Just how incredible was this guy's talent and luck?!

He wouldn't want to be an enemy of such a person, but this guy had offended the Director-General... Better to keep a respectful distance.

Chapter 67: Degeneration

The Professional nodded slightly at Chen Gu and then turned to leave.

It was a gesture of goodwill—but Chen Gu, his head buried in his meal, didn't notice at all, oblivious to his surroundings.

After eating for a while, Chen Gu felt something was off. He looked up to see the entire staff of the experimental lab gathered around him.

"You all..." Chen Gu, a bit embarrassed, offered, "Would you like to have some?"

Please don't agree! This little bit of food isn't even enough for me! The Zhaojieze City sub-branch is so stingy, not even providing enough to get full!

"No need, no need," everyone declined, waving their hands.

At that moment, an impatient staff member asked, "Is that enough? There's plenty more at the restaurant upstairs."

The crowd rolled their eyes. He's being far too obvious trying to get rid of him! This small cart of high-nutrient food is enough to replenish seven or eight Professionals.

"Still so young, unable to contain his eagerness," they all thought.

To their surprise, Chen Gu actually nodded. "It's not quite enough, so I'll head up then?"

Everyone was taken aback, then unanimously nodded. "Sure, sure. Can you walk on your own? I'll send you the location of the restaurant; it's easy to find."

"No problem." Chen Gu walked off, using the cart both as a crutch and to continue eating as he went.

As soon as Chen Gu left the lab, the staff swarmed towards the generator, grabbed various collectors, and frantically began to extract from it.

"BEEP—No recyclable super-substance detected."

"BEEP—"

"BEEP—"

"No recyclable super-substance detected."

All the instruments showed the same result, leaving everyone dumbfounded. What's going on? That's impossible!

It took a while before someone screamed, "This is impossible! All from a single initiation ceremony—he absorbed more than thirty grams of super-substance?!"

The person in charge turned pale. It's all over. Even the last resort of fleeing with the money is blocked.

Visions of countless tiny red embroidered shoes danced before his eyes...

A few senior researchers were discussing. "We've always heard that the more super-substance absorbed during the initiation ceremony, the greater the future potential. This guy has absorbed the most out of all the Professionals I've seen in this lab."

Another said solemnly, "Not just this lab. I've been with the Bureau of Mystic Security for nearly twenty years. In all the records I've seen, the highest was only twenty-four grams. That person... was our Director-General, the Valkyrie Aviloya!"

「...」

On his way, Chen Gu devoured the entire small cart of high-nutrient food, yet he was still only half-full.

He then checked the electronic map and found he was only two doors away from the restaurant. He powered his legs and charged towards it. Before he even realized what was happening, THUD! He crashed into the wall at the end of the corridor.

CRACK, CRACK, CRACK...

The high-polymer material wall now bore a human-shaped dent from which he struggled to emerge, scattering debris all around.

Chen Gu shook his head, apparently still not accustomed to his body's new capabilities, such as its strength and speed.

The second time, Chen Gu was ready. With another burst of strength in his legs, he vanished with a WHOOSH.

In the surveillance room on the central floor of the building, a newcomer witnessed this scene, his mouth agape in shock. "Boss, look at this guy! His speed is so fast, it's like he just vanished from the surveillance footage!"

But no response came from his superior. The newcomer turned around in confusion. "Boss..." He froze. Behind him, three colleagues lay on the ground, reduced to skin-and-bone mummies. His boss, barely retaining a human shape, had a body that was already swelling, threatening to burst his black uniform.

Underneath his thinly stretched skin, black, worm-like tissues were rapidly growing.

The newcomer opened his mouth to scream, but a massive, insect-like sucker covered his face. With a revolting GURGLING sound, the newcomer rapidly shriveled.

The sucker connected to a series of pulsating tubes, which pumped something back through them.

BANG! The supervisor of the surveillance room's body suddenly exploded, spraying black, viscous fluid everywhere. It let out a gratified HISS, its tail—now dozens of insect-like suckers and tubes—flailing wildly. Finally, no need to hide anymore!

It approached a control console, its sharp claws shattered the bulletproof glass shield, and it forcefully pressed a button.

「...」

Chen Gu gradually adapted to his improved physical attributes. He gracefully twisted his body as he passed through the last security door and burst into the restaurant.

However, engrossed in his meal, Chen Gu didn't notice that as soon as he entered, the security doors in the corridor outside silently closed.

Outside the Zhaojieze City sub-branch building, a magnetic levitation vehicle was entering the main gate when it suddenly slammed shut. The thick, heavy alloy gates, powered by eight hidden super-frequency motors, effortlessly sliced the maglev vehicle in two, as cleanly as a guillotine!

The two action team members in the rear seat slammed into the gate due to inertia, their heads buzzing. What just happened? they wondered, still trying to make sense of it.

One of them, his mind a bit dazed, earnestly reminded the other, "We really should buckle up from now on."

Then, both of them realized the gravity of the situation and screamed, "Emergency situation!"

「...」

Nagano Takesakura felt fantastic. What did I dream of becoming a Professional for, if not for this thrilling feeling of easily controlling the lives and deaths of others?

She did not realize that her mind had unknowingly become twisted.

Her primary body still retained a human form. However, compared to her previously plain and mundane self, her appearance had undergone subtle changes. With a few new black, tattoo-like patterns on her face, she now exuded a sinister charm.

Her figure was exceptionally voluptuous, with an ample bosom and a dramatically narrow waist that flared out at the hips.

However, her lower half had transformed into the shape of a scorpion. Unlike other Mutants, her body lacked any disgusting mucus; instead, it was clean and smooth, covered with an obsidian-like carapace.

She now had four arms, and sixteen flexible tentacles had sprouted from her back.

At that moment, the corpse of the Professional who had pulled her from the generator hung on her enormous scorpion tail, while one of her tentacles was curled around the neck of an action team member, lifting him high into the air.

She advanced down the corridor. Due to her massive size, she often encountered "obstacles," which she smashed through without a second thought.

Ahead of her, dozens of action team members, under the command of four Professionals, continuously opened fire on her, but all their ammunition merely ricocheted off her carapace.

Chapter 68: Full and Satisfied, It's Time to Work

The same situation was unfolding elsewhere in the building, with a total of twenty-four Mutants appearing simultaneously inside!

At the very top floor of the building, the precinct chief was sweating profusely as he reported to Aviloya, "...They had already infiltrated the precinct, hiding all this time, and for some reason, they suddenly launched an attack today.

"Our entire precinct building has been sealed off by them. My special service group is caught in a fierce battle. I'm not clear about the casualties yet, but the situation is quite grim. Please dispatch support immediately..."

Aviloya's face was solemn. "The first batch of reinforcements comes from other city precincts on Yinglong Star, totaling sixteen professionals, and they will arrive shortly..."

The precinct chief let out a mournful howl. "There are nine precincts on Yinglong Star, and only sixteen professionals as reinforcements?"

Aviloya shouted angrily, "They still need to ensure the safety of other cities! Mutants are cunning. We must guard against them striking the reinforcements or exploiting the situation to attack other cities!

"You are a professional too. What are you still doing in the office? Because of your stupidity and incompetence, Zhaojieze City Precinct is about to become the first branch organization of the Bureau of Mystic Security to be overturned by Mutants!"

The precinct chief clenched his teeth. "I understand what needs to be done!"

The communication was cut off. Outside in the city, wailing alarms sounded. The whole city activated emergency plans, the military began to move in, and citizens were immediately evacuated.

This was the evacuation of hundreds of millions of people, an evacuation impossible to carry out quickly in any era. The precinct chief took a deep breath. He knew that if they couldn't hold the precinct, it would be a catastrophe for the entire city once the Mutants broke out!

「...」

BELCH...

Ah, satisfying...

Chen Gu finally had his fill. His belly protruded high before his powerful organs rapidly processed the food, visibly flattening in no time. A massive amount of nutrition was delivered to every cell in his body, transformed, and stored away.

The restaurant was open twenty-four hours a day, mainly catering to professionals who might feel hungry at any time due to training. Therefore, this restaurant wasn't large, nor did it have chefs; all food was pre-made, packaged, and then transported here.

All was quiet in the small diner. Suddenly, Chen Gu felt something was off—it was too quiet.

Chen Gu stood up. His ears twitched at a sound from the hallway outside—the HISS of a safety door opening.

Chen Gu was startled. The safety doors were closed before?

These safety doors within the building were usually open unless there was a special situation.

Chen Gu's figure flashed, moving as nimbly as a swift swallow, gliding to just above the diner's main entrance. His back muscles unbelievably tensed against the wall, sticking to it like suction cups, motionless.

A familiar stench wafted over. Chen Gu's eyes snapped open. Mutants?! How could there be Mutants here, in the Bureau of Mystic Security? This is bad!

A Mutant, only slightly larger than a human, entered spiraling along the walls of the corridor, using hands and feet.

It roared as it rushed into the diner, looking around but finding no target. Chen Gu had already dropped down silently. His palm pressed atop the Mutant's head, and with a loud BANG, the Mutant's body exploded.

A moment before the explosion, Chen Gu had already moved away, avoiding being splattered.

After landing, he shook his head slightly. This won't do. The combat skills of the Radiation Missionary consume too much energy. Even if I meticulously control the power, I can't kill many Mutants.

Chen Gu looked around. He dismantled a metal leg from a table and held it in his hand to test its heft. Not satisfied, but it'll have to do.

He scanned the area. There were no weapons, not even in the kitchen; he couldn't find any knives.

Chen Gu checked and confirmed this Mutant must have been recently contaminated. The mutation was recent, and it didn't possess much strength.

Chen Gu switched to Star Battle Instructor mode and stealthily made his way through the corridors. The safety doors were all open. After turning a few corners, he came upon several corpses.

They were all members of the tactical team. Their deaths were violent, and one body even had clear signs of being gnawed on.

He moved forward to examine them. Just as he squatted down, he suddenly spun to the side, slamming the table leg he was holding heavily behind him.

BANG!

The skull of a Mutant that had just leaped down from a hiding spot above exploded, splattering him with black viscous fluid.

The Mutant fell to the ground but was not yet dead. Its six limbs twisted and scabbled as it tried to charge again.

Chen Gu stepped forward and struck it several more times with the table leg to finally kill it.

The moment he saw those corpses, Griffin Wester knew it was a trap. Once on the battlefield, the Star Battle Instructor was terrifyingly calm. Whether in tactical command or battlefield intuition, he was among the very best.

After dealing with the ambushing Mutant, Chen Gu began to truly examine the bodies.

Chen Gu finally found some weapons. The team members were equipped with guns and military sabers.

However, when Chen Gu picked up the firearms, he was dissatisfied and tossed them aside. They were merely standard physical ammunition weapons, hardly lethal to Mutants. Their heavy ammunition would also slow him down if he carried too much.

Fortunately, Chen Gu quickly found two energy pistols on a body that seemed to belong to a team leader, along with four extra compressed energy blocks.

Fiddling with them in his hands, Chen Gu's heart leaped with joy. The famous Wilderness Howls! Ranked among the top ten most powerful energy pistols!

These pistols were originally designed for hunting large game, their design filled with violent aesthetics. They were well-balanced in terms of power, ammunition capacity, and heat dissipation, becoming popular as soon as they were released.

The Wilderness Howl was expensive and not a standard-issue weapon in the Bureau of Mystic Security. It seemed the team leader had bought them himself.

Without hesitation, Chen Gu cranked the power up to maximum. According to the weapon company, this setting could take down a Tyrannosaurus-sized beast with a single shot.

Then, Chen Gu found a military saber on one of the bodies.

However, this saber was a low-end product. Made of high-quality alloy, it was approximately thirty-five centimeters long, sharp, and durable—but that was all.

Chen Gu removed the saber and its carrying gear from the body, securing it to the outside of his right leg. He then cautiously moved forward, a gun in each hand, into the flickering-light corridor.

「...」

Eight members of the tactical team were holding out in a small room. Dozens of administrative team members huddled behind them, mostly women, clinging to each other for encouragement. Despite their streaming tears, not one made a sound, so as not to disturb the tactical team at the front.

Outside the room was a horde of Mutants!

The Mutants moved with agility far exceeding that of humans, and gunfire did not inflict significant damage on them. They often continued their charge despite being shot at. This compelled the tactical team to turn their energy weapons' power to maximum to repel them. However, doing so brought a hint of tragic resolve to the faces of the team members.

"Team leader, how many shots do you have left?"

"Sixteen shots. You?"

"I have nine shots left."

"I have eleven rounds."

"I have thirteen rounds."

Chapter 69: Centipede Mutant

The team members each called out their count, tallying up to just over a hundred rounds left. The Mutants seemed to have sensed something, for they suddenly grew restless, emitting terrifying howls and charged forward, trampling the bodies of their fallen comrades.

Gunfire erupted immediately. The dense assault formation of the Mutants significantly increased the hit rate of the action team, but their ammunition was depleting faster as well.

One Mutant after another fell, charging within a fifteen-meter range, when suddenly, one team member's gun jammed—its energy cell depleted. Then a second gun failed, and a third...

The team leader let out a loud roar, firing three consecutive shots, felling the three Mutants at the very front. His ammunition was also spent.

He drew his combat knife and stood tall, unflinching in the face of the black tide of Mutants rushing toward him, raising the knife in a battle-ready stance. "Come on! I've already made a profit by taking down eight of you!"

The team members stepped forward shoulder to shoulder, forming their last line of defense.

The Mutants howled and charged from the ground of the passageway, the walls, and the ceiling. Just as this black tide was about to engulf the action team, a series of energy flashes flew from behind the Mutants, accurately piercing through their dense formation and shattering the heads of the Mutants in the forefront.

The claws of the foremost Mutant were just inches from the team leader's nose.

The Mutants were thrown into chaos, furiously turning back, only to see a person darting out of the passageway. He agilely charged into the midst of the Mutants, moving with unbelievable agility, his body twisting in any direction while his dual pistols ensured that "not a single shot was wasted"!

With every crack of the energy pistols, a Mutant's head would explode.

Dozens of furious, agitated Mutants kept trying to encircle him, but he weaved through them; their sharp claws and gaping, fanged maws always just missed him, falling short by a hair's breadth of killing him.

After twenty-four Mutants had fallen, his two Wilderness Howler energy magazines were depleted. The man efficiently reloaded, barely pausing before firing another twenty shots, turning all the remaining Mutants into corpses.

The team leader and his group stood there, mouths agape. Compared to him, our marksmanship is... shameful!

Watching the man approach, the team leader hurried forward. "Brother, which team are you from? I haven't seen you around before." He gave a thumbs-up. "Impressive, truly impressive!"

Chen Gu said, "I'm here to report for duty. What exactly happened at the Zhaojieze City branch?"

"So you're a Professional!" the team members realized.

The team leader sighed, his expression gloomy. "Mutants have infiltrated. The whole branch is locked down by them, and they're massacring people everywhere. The situation is very bad; the city outside has begun to evacuate."

Chen Gu was also shocked. What in the world are you guys doing? You're the Bureau of Mystic Security, specifically tasked with handling Mutants, yet you've allowed them to infiltrate!

But after seeing these people bravely protecting their administrative counterparts, he swallowed the words he was about to speak.

"Where can I find weapons?" Chen Gu asked. His pistols held twelve shots per energy magazine. He now had only two shots left in the two currently loaded. Additionally, he had two energy blocks, totaling twenty-six shots.

The team leader thought for a moment. "The nearest armory is in C-9 Area, three floors above us."

"Take me there."

The team leader hesitated. "We retreated from there... There's a very powerful Mutant on that floor."

Chen Gu didn't say a word and just confidently walked towards the staircase leading up.

The team leader gritted his teeth. "Follow!" Staying here meant certain death.

In the stairwell, Chen Gu dealt with two ordinary Mutants without even firing a shot; his combat knife was enough.

Reaching the C-9 Area, the team leader led the way cautiously for a while, then pointed to a large door ahead. "It's behind that door. We're lucky; it seems that powerful Mutant has already left this area."

However, Chen Gu stared at the door and shook his head slightly. "You guys fall back."

The team leader immediately retreated ten meters. Chen Gu shook his head. "Back up some more."

The team leader led his men back another twenty meters, but Chen Gu still shook his head. "Further back."

The team kept retreating until they were sixty meters away.

Only then did Chen Gu step towards the large gate, having already holstered his pistol. Even the Wilderness Howlers would be useless in the fight to come.

Chen Gu's hand pressed against the large doors, and with a gentle push, a violent force erupted, shattering them with a BANG. Behind the doors, all was quiet. The spacious hall was filled with thick blood oozing across the floor.

Office furniture lay scattered and broken all around, leaving a large clear area in the center. There, bodies were piled up to form a small hill!

A six-meter-long Mutant lay next to the bodies, feasting!

It looked like a centipede but was immense, with a pair of skeletal wings growing on its back, the tips of the bones sharp as spikes.

It had a strange, large mouth at each end, filled with rows of sharp teeth. At that moment, it was gnawing on a corpse with each of its mouths, the crunching sound chilling to the bone.

The sound of Chen Gu shattering the door alarmed the Mutant. It shifted its body slowly to face Chen Gu, and small red dots—its eyes—lit up around both its toothy maws.

This was no ordinary Mutant; it was very powerful.

Chen Gu stepped in. The centipede Mutant suddenly quickened, its massive body unnaturally agile—its previous slow movements had just been a tactical deception.

Had Chen Gu been fooled, that pounce could have killed him on the spot.

But the "Star Battle Instructor" possessed a terrifying insight into the battlefield, and the centipede Mutant's trickery seemed childish and laughable to him. Chen Gu dodged, slipping under the lunging Mutant, while his combat knife slashed upwards, SCRAPING against the entire underbelly of the creature.

However, the sharp blade only produced sparks against the Mutant's skin, leaving it unharmed!

Chen Gu glanced at the combat knife in his hand. Its edge had become serrated, so he tossed it aside without a second thought.

The centipede Mutant twisted its body, its two large mouths opening and closing as if in triumph. Its insectile legs moved rapidly as its huge body rumbled towards Chen Gu like a small mountain.

To its surprise, Chen Gu neither dodged nor fled but fiercely raised his hands and pressed them onto the centipede Mutant's body.

SWISH! SWISH! SWISH!

The bone wings abruptly stabbed down, one spike after another aimed at Chen Gu, who merely smiled coldly. "Too late!"

Bright light flared from within the centipede Mutant's body, melting its organs first. Chen Gu leaped backward, leaving the Mutant twisting in agony as the light inside grew brighter, now lancing out through the gaps in its carapace.

BOOM!

A loud explosion followed, and a foul, sticky fluid sprayed everywhere as the centipede Mutant was blown to pieces!

The explosion created a terrible shockwave, which reached dozens of meters away. The team leader and his men, who were hiding far away, were struck by a powerful blast of air that stung their faces.

"No wonder he told us to back off farther," the team members murmured, shaken.

The team leader, who had some knowledge, blurted out, "This is... the Radiation Missionary!"

"Outside the Atomic Holy Church, you rarely see Radiation Missionaries or Nuclear Explosion Nuns."

Chen Gu took cover behind a low wall, only twenty meters from the blast site. The shockwave completely destroyed the wall, and Chen Gu was sent flying several meters. As he got up, pain wracked his body, and he inwardly grumbled about this 'bull-headed, reckless fool' of a Profession: Indiscriminate slaughter! Dammit, you have to rely entirely on faith to withstand the fallout...

Chapter 70: [Wrath of the Azure Sky]

On the ground lay the broken bodies of Mutants everywhere. Chen Gu carefully examined them, making sure these things wouldn't revive, while the team leader and others followed him in. Seeing the corpses scattered around, many of whom were once close friends with bonds forged in life-and-death situations, even the most hardened men couldn't help but feel their eyes sting.

Chen Gu sighed and said, "Now is not the time for sorrow. The Mutants are still rampaging inside the building, and we still don't know the purpose of these disgusting creatures!"

The team leader nodded and went to open the armory. The alloy door was somewhat deformed. Although the electronic lock disengaged, the door wouldn't budge. Chen Gu went over and yanked it, sending the several-ton door flying out.

Team Leader: "..."

Chen Gu rushed in, his eyes immediately drawn to a composite material battle saber.

This saber inexplicably attracted him.

The team leader came out from behind him and said, "This is a special combat saber infused with super-lifeform skeletal material. This one is called 'Sky Fury'."

The saber had an exaggerated design. Its blade was broad and thick, and its tip was blunted and oddly shaped, as if it had been snapped off. The hilt could be grasped with both hands and was covered in patterns resembling dragon scales.

Chen Gu stepped forward and grabbed it, certain that the attraction came from the super-lifeform bones and their resonance with the super matter within his body.

Holding it, he felt as if they could 'communicate' with each other. Chen Gu was certain that if he had held this saber during the previous fight, he would have slit open the centipede Mutant with the first strike, without needing to use the 'Biological Nuclear Explosion' ability.

"Great saber!" Chen Gu praised. The team leader looked on enviously and said, "Of course, it's a great saber. It was intended for Professionals, and according to the Bureau's regulations, it requires nine hundred merit points to exchange..."

"That expensive!" Chen Gu exclaimed, then clutched 'Sky Fury' tightly, unwilling to let go.

The team leader said, "This saber has been in the Bureau for decades. It's so expensive no one can afford it. And anything related to super-lifeforms is especially pricey. Do you want to select some firearms as well?"

The rest of the action team also came in and began replenishing their weapons; even the logistics staff found something suitable for themselves.

Chen Gu nodded. The greatest drawback of his heavy-hitting, straightforward combat style was the lack of long-range attack capabilities, which certainly required the support of firearms.

"I recommend this one." The team leader opened a weapons cabinet, which held a row of energy firearms slightly larger than normal.

"Produced by Dow Industries, the 'Sanctioner Mark III' energy grenade launcher. It has enormous power and ample energy storage! A single shot can kill a large group of Mutants, and even the centipede Mutant we encountered earlier could be suppressed with its firepower."

Chen Gu picked it up to give it a try, then shook his head. "Too light."

The team leader was somewhat puzzled. Was Chen Gu planning to wield the gun like a big iron club? Chen Gu quickly explained, "I'm looking for a more powerful weapon, as long as it doesn't affect my agility."

The team leader understood and thought for a moment before saying, "Try this one."

He pulled open an iron door where two bulky weapons were stored. "Produced by Hart's Laboratory, the 'Heaven Swallower' single-soldier energy cannon."

Chen Gu picked it up for a try and still shook his head. "Too light."

The team leader was left speechless. This thing already weighed twenty kilograms!

He then pulled open another iron door beside him. "Then there's only this left. This isn't our Bureau's equipment; it's an over-limit weapon seized during an operation three days ago. It comes from a secretive underground weapons modifier and was made by retrofitting a tank cannon into the 'Sky-Defying Dragon Fire'."

This was an exaggerated energy weapon, its main body consisting of two barrels as thick as arms. However, to make it suitable for individual use, the barrels had been sawn off to just sixty centimeters in length. With the module-shaped firing mechanism in the back, it was a total of ninety centimeters long.

However, this weapon also had a large, backpack-like energy reservoir connected to its body with a flat pipeline.

Chen Gu picked it up with one hand, trying it out. It felt just right. "Good, this is the one."

The team leader's eyelids twitched. Ninety kilograms total, and it felt like a small handgun in Chen Gu's grasp! A Professional truly was a Professional!

Once Chen Gu was geared up, holding 'Sky Fury' in one hand and the 'Sky-Defying Dragon Fire' in the other, he felt like he could take on any kind of Mutant head-on. "Let's move out!"

The team leader had good organizational skills. He had the logistics staff take only simple weapons, their main role being to carry energy blocks. The actual fighting still relied on the action team.

The team leader himself shouldered the 'Sanctioner Mark III'.

"The most important goal for us now is to exterminate as many Mutants as possible. If there are any clues, we must uncover the true purpose of these creatures," the team leader summarized. They began to fight their way up from that level, clearing a path. Many people in the Bureau had already been contaminated by the Mutants' surprise attack. However, those who had turned had done so too recently, so their strength was quite mediocre.

With Chen Gu there, these ordinary Mutants stood no chance at all. Caliber is justice, and that has always been the truth, no matter the era.

Chen Gu advanced with the twin barrels of his cannon pointing forward. This weapon could blast through an armored vehicle with a single shot, and Chen Gu's cannon had two such barrels!

The team leader and his men trailed behind, often unable to even catch a single Mutant that slipped through. And although the team leader was originally quite pleased with his 'Sanctioner Mark III,' standing next to Chen Gu, he felt like he wasn't much of a man at all!

Along their path of assault, the bodies of Mutants littered the ground, but Chen Gu grew increasingly vigilant. The 'Mind Belief' emanating from the 'Nuclear Explosion Nun,' Milna Katerina, gave him an increasingly clear sense that he was approaching a massive danger.

The level of danger made Chen Gu feel as if he had fallen into an ice cellar; fear involuntarily rose in his heart, making him want to turn around and run.

At that moment, Chen Gu could have found a window, broken it, jumped out, and escaped the building, but he consistently resisted doing so.

He glanced back at the team leader and the others, who saw him as their pillar of support, and cursed himself inwardly, "Addicted to playing the hero, are you? Really think you're one, huh!"

Despite his thoughts, Chen Gu truly couldn't bring himself to abandon these people and run. After all, they had fought side by side.

Along the way, they had rescued two groups of survivors, swelling their small team's numbers to around one hundred and twenty people.

When Chen Gu blew open the door to the level above with one shot, that sense of imminent danger instantly skyrocketed!

Chen Gu flipped to the side, shouting loudly, "Get back—"

A mass of black liquid shot out from the doorway, smashing against a wall. The black water splattered, drenching dozens of people nearby.

SIZZLING sounds erupted. The black liquid was terrifyingly corrosive. The flesh and blood of those people melted away rapidly, and their screams echoed everywhere.

The worst-off individual had half of his face obliterated in an instant!

At that moment, Chen Gu thought of the bodily fluids from the creatures in his previous life's "Alien" movie.