

## Full Time 611

### Chapter 611: Picking Up a Genius\_3

Chen Gu cut him off. "Don't rush. I need to see how much those mysterious substances you're talking about are worth before this cooperation agreement can take effect."

In this matter, Chen Gu actually played a mediating role. After all, the big shots' pride needed to be considered, and the best outcome was that no bridges were burned. From this point of view, both the Principal and Aviloya owed him a favor.

He made an appointment with the old man and then hung up the phone.

Wu Yihuo still felt like he was in a dream. "Instructor, did my level just get promoted like that?"

Wu Yihuo originally held the most basic T1 level, as he was a mid-career starter, not like those traditional special agents. However, just now, Aviloya personally spoke up and promoted his level to T3, the same as Chu Zheng's. With this promotion, the Bureau of Mystic Security would cover a large part of his resources for advancement.

Chen Gu laughed, but inside he was full of complaints about Aviloya. This film actor is a genius too, okay? What kind of attitude is this towards me? I struggled so hard on Empire River Star, went through life and death, achieving numerous miracles, and when I got to Capital Star, I was only T4. Although this kid is a genius, how can he possibly compare to this film actor? Yet, you promote him to T3 with just a word...

"Let's go, I'll take you home. You and your wife haven't seen each other in a while; you must both be missing each other very much."

The Bureau of Mystic Security had a dedicated operations team responsible for secretly protecting Wu Yihuo and his family.

After Chen Gu dropped off Wu Yihuo, he was whisked away by Director Yu Mozi because his filming schedule had fallen seriously behind.

He diligently shot scenes all day. While returning to the school to rest in the evening, he heard someone calling him just as he reached the main gate. The old man, his face bruised and swollen, got out of a car parked to one side.

Chen Gu was surprised. "What happened to you?"

The old man had just called out to Chen Gu. The effort tugged at the injuries on his face, causing him to wince and groan. "Who else would dare to hit me? The Principal, of course."

Chen Gu looked through the open car door and saw several high-security sealed boxes on the back seat.

His face changed instantly. "Are you using my stuff to go and apologize to the Principal?"

Clearly, the mysterious substances were inside the sealed boxes; the old man had nothing else of significance to offer the Principal. He probably wanted to show some humility and ease relations with the Ninth Power Level, but the Principal, being who he was, simply had him beaten and thrown out.

The old man couldn't help but lament, "You really are the Principal's student—utterly shameless, just like him!"

Chen Gu sneered, "You're bad-mouthing the Principal at the school gate. Do you think someone of the Ninth Power Level might be listening?"

The old man shrank his neck. "Let's go quickly!"

Without further ado, he pulled Chen Gu into the car. Chen Gu was puzzled. "Where are we going this late?"

"To the Great Redstone Energy Plant."

"Huh?"

"You are the 'Radiation Missionary,' right? I specifically ordered the energy plant to operate at full capacity tonight so you can experience a high-yield nuclear reaction."

Chen Gu was silent. He had been exposed to quite a few nuclear weapons, but they were all of small yield. To personally experience such a large-yield nuclear reaction was indeed a first for him.

Inside the Great Redstone Energy Plant, it was pitch dark with not a single worker in sight.

The old man led Chen Gu inside alone. "The secrets of the profession can't be leaked, so it's just the two of us tonight. I've had my people prepare everything; I just need to pull the switch."

The two approached the reactor, and the old man asked, "How close do you want to be?"

Chen Gu didn't answer. He kept walking until he was right in front of the reactor. He reached out and gently caressed its surface, sensing the 'familiar' and 'affectionate' power contained in the raw materials inside.

"We can start now," he said.

The old man pulled the switch from a safe distance, and a heavy sound rumbled through the facility. Chen Gu felt something inside him awaken simultaneously.

I can now advance to the Fifth Energy Level, Chen Gu thought.

Chapter 612 Perilous Situation

The next day, in the old man's so-called "vault," Chen Gu saw the meager collection of mysterious substances. Among them, the most precious were the two items the old man had taken to apologize to the principal. He couldn't help but turn and glare at the old man. "Is this all?"

Even the thick-skinned old man looked a bit embarrassed. "Well, I'll compensate you with some other assets. How about the Surging Electric Power Company?"

"The Big Red Stone Power Plant is one of the properties under this company. In addition, there are fourteen other power plants."

As he spoke, the old man transferred all the information about the Surging Electric Power Company to Chen Gu.

"You're a Radiation Missionary; you'll always find a use for it in the future."

Chen Gu carefully reviewed the company's information. These fourteen power plants were all located on densely populated, developed colonial planets with enormous energy demands.

The company had a three-hundred-year contract with the Confederation's civilian power grid. Simply put, as long as the factories operated, they would generate profit.

This was a far simpler enterprise than Chen Biotech. After all, Chen Biotech involved operational risks, whereas the Surging Electric Power Company had virtually zero short-term risk.

And, as the old man had said, these were all nuclear power plants. Being a Radiation Missionary, Chen Gu would surely find them useful.

He gritted his teeth, feigning deep dissatisfaction. "Alright then."

Then, he packed up and took the old man's pathetically few mysterious substances. The old man also very smoothly signed the transfer documents, and now the Surging Electric Power Company belonged to Chen Gu.

Chen Gu went straight to the headquarters building and found Qing Ruyan. "Help me apply for a promotion ceremony."

Qing Ruyan's eyes lit up. "That was fast!"

Chen Gu had initially thought the promotion was his concern alone, but to his surprise, Aviloya, Rainbow, and Dr. Meng Ji all showed up this time.

"You are the first multi-professional," one of them said. "Every promotion must be handled with utmost care. Any failure would be a significant loss for all professionals across the Star Sea."

"Moreover," another added, "each of your promotions will be a new exploration! I need to meticulously record every single piece of data!"

The three of them spoke in turn, and Chen Gu could only comply with their arrangements.

The only consolation was that Chen Gu didn't need to worry about resources for this promotion, as the Bureau covered almost all the costs. Any shortfall could be made up by the old man's mysterious substances.

This was probably the most relaxed Chen Gu had ever been in preparing for a promotion since becoming a professional.

Once everything was arranged, Chen Gu set off from the headquarters building early one morning with Aviloya, Rainbow, and Dr. Meng Ji.

A convoy of six cars took them to a military spaceport, where they boarded a spaceship bound for a military base.

This promotion ceremony would utilize a military-grade generator. After four hours of interstellar travel, they landed on a barren planet. A convoy of twelve heavy magnetic levitation armored vehicles then transported them to an underground base.

This high level of protocol was entirely due to Aviloya. Although the armed escort likely couldn't withstand a single strike from her sword, her status demanded such a significant display of respect.

Inside the base, all preparations were complete. Dr. Meng Ji was eager to begin, and Chen Gu didn't want to delay any further. "Let's start!"

Military personnel moved quickly, hoisting and transporting precious materials into the generator. Once the four dedicated energy lines were checked, Chen Gu straightened his clothes, took a deep breath, and walked into the generator.

Then, the generator's heavy door descended, sealing the interior completely.

Dr. Meng Ji's voice came through the broadcast system, "Are you ready?"

"Begin!" Chen Gu replied steadily.

Dr. Meng Ji gently pressed the button.

A massive surge of energy flowed through the four energy lines. Chen Gu watched the surrounding promotion resources slowly dissolve into fundamental particles, feeling a power within him awaken like an ancient beast from slumber...

Outside the generator, everyone stared nervously at the monitoring equipment.

Dr. Meng Ji barked at his researchers, "Everyone, focus! Not a single piece of data can be missed. Record everything completely! If I get back and find any data missing, your careers are over!"

Various readings on the monitors soared rapidly, approaching the red limit but fortunately remaining just below it.

Inside the generator, Chen Gu suddenly felt an intense wave of pain.

He couldn't pinpoint its origin; it felt as if every cell in his body was groaning in agony, on the verge of complete failure.

Chen Gu struggled against the pain, quickly becoming exhausted. In a daze, he sensed his body sinking heavily into an endless expanse of darkness, something seemingly approaching him from within it.

Outside the generator, an urgent alarm blared. "Invasion from the Endless Realm detected!"

Rainbow and Aviloya tensed up, their hands unconsciously clasping tightly together.

...

All of Chen Gu's previous promotions had gone smoothly, and he had expected this one to be no different. But reality once again proved to him that the path of a professional is arduous; the various "challenges" along the way are distributed fairly to everyone.

Chapter 613 - Perilous Situation\_2

It wouldn't grant him a pass simply because he possessed "The Past of Four Hundred People," nor would it become easier just because Wu Yihuo was a rare genius.

Chen Gu faintly sensed that the entity approaching him was so powerful it was invincible. Even the Principal, Aviloya, would seem powerless before this being.

And that entity, keenly sensing Chen Gu's desire for power, unleashed a flood of temptations!

But Chen Gu remained unmoved. Setting aside whether I can even obtain the so-called 'power' they're promising in my current state, there's also the matter of you beings from the Endless Realm. You've been using the same old tricks for years! Which professional hasn't prepared for Endless Realm contamination before their promotion ceremony? Your methods are still so rudimentary; it's no wonder that after so many years of covert scheming, human society remains rock-solid!

The entity... acted very perfunctorily. It seemingly didn't hold Chen Gu in high regard and appeared to just go through the motions. Seeing Chen Gu's unwavering faith, as firm as a rock, the entity simply departed.

The challenge Chen Gu still faced was the inherent difficulty of the promotion itself—the agonizing sensation that every cell in his body was on the verge of exhaustion!

Outside the generator, Aviloya and Rainbow were on high alert. Chen Gu's previous promotions had alarmed "big figures" from the Endless Realm. Generally, the higher the Energy Level of the promotion, the higher the rank of the Endless Realm entity that would appear.

But this time, after the loud alarm "Detecting Endless Realm invasion," the alert was called off within just a few minutes!

Everyone outside exchanged puzzled looks. Dr. Meng Ji found it hard to believe. He personally went to inspect the instruments thoroughly before turning to Aviloya and Rainbow. "There's nothing wrong with the equipment," he stated.

"The entire Endless Realm invasion process took two minutes and thirty-seven point five four seconds."

"The invading species was... a Demon Form."

Not only was the duration extremely short, but the rank was also the lowest level "Demon Form"! This seemed completely inconsistent with Chen Gu's stature.

Rainbow asked Dr. Meng Ji, "Has there ever been such a situation during Fifth Energy Level promotion ceremonies before?"

Dr. Meng Ji was familiar with these records. "Yes, according to official records, there have been two such instances in history."

"One was an obscure individual whose promotion to the Fifth Energy Level had already been a significant struggle. He remained at that level for the rest of his life, never again finding the courage to advance."

"The other had a promising future after their advancement and eventually reached the Ninth Power Level." At this, both Aviloya and Rainbow showed expressions of anticipation. However, Dr. Meng Ji paused, his expression turning somewhat grim as he continued, "This person is infamously known in history as the highest Energy Level Mutant, 'Disaster' Roby!"

Aviloya and Rainbow's expressions darkened at once. 'Disaster' Roby had been at the Ninth Power Level, yet he mutated suddenly and without any warning.

He was the War God of the Freedom Alliance, presiding over an important multinational conference at the time. Roby was supposed to be on-site, in charge of security, but he mutated then and there. During his attack, Aitosa, the Prime Minister of the Freedom Alliance at the time, was killed on the spot. Dozens of attending foreign ministers from various countries also died, ten more were gravely wounded, and there were countless other casualties!

Afterward, 'Disaster' Roby managed to evade the pursuit of four Ninth Power Level professionals from the major Star Nations and mysteriously vanished.

Then, every few years, he would reappear, each time causing a major disaster and successfully evading capture.

However, 'Disaster' Roby disappeared for the last time one hundred and twenty years ago and has not been seen since. Many speculated that this nightmare for all humanity had finally died of natural causes.

Over the years, countless scientists, Dr. Meng Ji himself included, have researched why Roby, a top-tier Ninth Power Level professional, mutated so abruptly.

Numerous theories abounded, but none were universally accepted.

One of the more credible theories suggested that Roby had likely been contaminated by beings from the Endless Realm long ago. However, they had somehow concealed this contamination so effectively that even Roby himself remained unaware of it.

Then, with the assistance of the Endless Realm, Roby's promotions progressed smoothly, making him the youngest Ninth Power Level of his era.

It was only then that the Endless Realm suddenly stepped forward to reap its harvest...

Comparing Chen Gu to these two "precedents," neither outcome was one Aviloya and Rainbow wished to see.

And no one could fathom what Aviloya was truly thinking at that moment. Chen Gu had saved her previously, but during that incident, Aviloya had noticed some "suspicious points."

This time... those suspicious points have only deepened.

She was doomed to be unable to fully trust Chen Gu for a long time to come, possibly even forever.

From an outsider's perspective, I might seem somewhat biased and unfeeling. But I know all too well that I am the Director-General of the Bureau of Mystic Security—the Confederation's line of defense against the Endless Realm. I am like a gatekeeper. Facing the perilous Endless Realm, with the entire Confederation behind me, the slightest misstep could doom the entire Confederation!

Chapter 614 Perilous Situation\_3

She had to be cautious; not a single suspicious detail could be overlooked!

Not until this moment did a researcher suddenly exclaim, "But... Chen Gu's promotion ceremony hasn't been completed!"

It was only then that the three leaders realized something was amiss. Usually, an invasion from the Endless Realm was the final step of the entire promotion ceremony. After enduring the trial of the Endless Realm, one would successfully ascend to the next Energy Level.

But several minutes had passed since the invasion from the Endless Realm, and the four dedicated energy lines were still supplying energy to the generator at full capacity!

"What's going on?" Dr. Meng Ji rushed back to the equipment. "Bring up all the data..."

Before he could finish his sentence, one of his researchers exclaimed in alarm, "Doctor, Chen Gu's life force readings are plummeting! They're already at the red line!"

Everyone's heart sank at once.

These researchers had all been working with Dr. Meng Ji for a long time and had interacted with Chen Gu frequently. They were all fond of him, so watching his life force readings drop continuously was distressing for everyone.

Soon, his readings had fallen below the red line and were still dropping.

Dr. Meng Ji had lowered his head, unable to bear looking. Rainbow covered her mouth, struggling to contain herself. Aviloya's emotions were complex; she was stunned to find that she felt not even a hint of joy. Instead, her heart was heavy.

...

Inside the generator, Chen Gu was in a "dying" state. He gave a bitter laugh. I really shouldn't have underestimated the perils of a practitioner's path.

But is this really the end?

Why did I return to this era?

Why did \*The Past of Four Hundred\* appear on me?

What secrets are still hidden aboard the \*Four Hundred Warriors\*?

To have come this far, only to leave so silently?

My family... perhaps they aren't my true family, but I clearly felt that complex emotion of kinship from them!

Chen Gu scoffed inwardly. Is this how it ends? No! Surrender and bow my head? Absolutely not!

What else can I do? He wracked his brain, then realized there wasn't much... It seems there's only Atomic Life!

That's right! I am a Radiation Missionary! I can use Atomic Life to heal myself!

Never had any practitioner activated their professional skills during the promotion process.

But Chen Gu didn't dwell on such things. His only obsession was to survive. I must live!

Survival means there's a chance for everything else. To die in silence means everything is for naught!

So he desperately tried to activate his ability. But the professional skill that usually manifested with a mere thought had now become incredibly difficult to activate; no matter how hard he tried, there was no response.

One failure, two failures, three failures... thirty failures... a hundred failures—it didn't matter. Chen Gu, maintaining a tenuous thread of consciousness, still arduously tried to activate the skill.

Outside the generator, Chen Gu's life force readings on the monitor had dropped to their lowest point and remained there for nearly a minute without any sign of recovery.

Dr. Meng Ji was filled with despair. He bit his dry lips and said in a low, somber voice, "Declare him dead..."

But just as he finished speaking, the life force readings suddenly jumped up a bit. Dr. Meng Ji thought he had misread it and rubbed his eyes forcefully. "Huh?"

The readings jumped again. Then, their rate of increase accelerated, ascending rapidly like an old-fashioned helicopter. In a matter of seconds, they had returned above the red line and quickly recovered to a green, healthy state!

"He's alive!" Dr. Meng Ji was ecstatic. The energy supply through the four dedicated lines finally began to decrease slowly.

About ten minutes later, the generator completely stopped running.

Dr. Meng Ji rushed forward impatiently, "Open the door!"

HISS—

The sealed door opened. Chen Gu sat inside, his face weary but smiling with relief. "That was a close call!"

#### Chapter 615: Heavy Nuclear Armor

All those outside the generator heaved a sigh of relief once more at the sight of the living Chen Gu. Then, several laughing researchers came forward to undo Chen Gu's restraints, but Dr. Meng Ji stopped them with a hand, saying, "Wait, I need to conduct a pollution check."

Aviloya nodded. "That's right, it's a necessary procedure."

But during the check that followed, Chen Gu vaguely sensed that something was amiss. After Dr. Meng Ji took over personally, not only was the inspection more meticulous than before, but he also brought out many new devices that Chen Gu had never seen before.

Chen Gu asked, "Did you detect an Endless Realm invasion? What kind of entity came this time?"

Dr. Meng Ji concentrated on the inspection, while Aviloya, standing to the side, replied, "What do you feel?"

Chen Gu frowned. "It's vague to me. From the beginning of the advancement ceremony, I fell into a state of life-force depletion..."

After his brief description, Aviloya glanced at him and said, "The invader detected this time was just a demon shape."

Then she stated bluntly, "This is highly illogical. You know, you're at the Fifth Energy Level now; there should have been at least one anomaly. And every time you've advanced in the past, a high-level being from the Endless Realm has appeared."

Chen Gu also found this odd. During his advancement, he'd sensed that the entity should have been of an Evil God's caliber, against which the headmaster and Aviloya would probably stand no chance.

Why did the external equipment only detect a minuscule demon shape?

Could it be because he was too weak at the time? Did the contrast lead to a deviation in his perception, making him feel the demon shape was also very powerful?

Chen Gu, however, always felt it couldn't be that simple.

He cooperated honestly with Dr. Meng Ji's inspection. Dr. Meng Ji himself began to wonder if he was overthinking things when he saw the reading: "Spiritual purity at 97.88%!"

Usually, upon reaching the Fifth Energy Level, especially just after advancing, maintaining spiritual purity above 80% is already quite good, he mused. This kid is practically flawless white jade!

Chen Gu glared at him fiercely. "You're a doctor, for goodness' sake! Can't you learn a bit of literary rhetoric? Is that a term to describe a man?"

Rainbow, laughing from the side, came forward to unlock Chen Gu's safety clasps. As she led him out, she asked, "So, you're at the Fifth Energy Level. How does it feel?"

Chen Gu gave a bitter smile and pointed to her and Aviloya. "At this energy level, I can more clearly sense the vast gap between you and me."

Chen Gu wasn't speaking nonsense. The moment the generator's doors opened, establishing a connection with the external environment, he immediately felt an invisible energy-level suppression exuding from the two powerful women. This wasn't pressure deliberately released by Aviloya and Rainbow; it was a natural suppression due to their difference in energy levels. Previously, when Chen Gu was with the two women, he couldn't feel this kind of pressure.

Back then, his strength was such that he couldn't even perceive how powerful the two women truly were, a bit like "ignorance is bliss." Now that he could see clearly, he understood reverence.

Aviloya turned and walked away, saying, "I'm giving you five days of leave to adapt to the new power you've acquired. Then... come back to work. Our plan against the Digital Group must proceed."

What this meant was: he could go out and enjoy himself for five days, then he had to return and continue toiling like an ox and horse for the Bureau Chief.

Chen Gu did indeed need this vacation, but he didn't go home to rest. Instead, he went to the Great Red Stone Power Plant, sitting cross-legged next to the reactor every day, quietly contemplating.

This advancement to the Fifth Energy Level had awakened a new professional skill in him:

## Heavy Nuclear Armor

This was a skill awakened at the Fifth Energy Level by both Radiation Missionaries and Nuclear Explosion Nuns. It involved stimulating one's biological nuclear energy to form a strong energy armor on the body's surface, a principle roughly similar to that of a nuclear-powered energy generator.

However, Chen Gu found his Heavy Nuclear Armor to be somewhat different from the usual. Perhaps due to Meng Moshi's influence, his Heavy Nuclear Armor combined with his Multistate Special Agent abilities, resulting in the Heavy Nuclear Armor skill having multiple "states."

Besides the normal "armor state," he could also transform Heavy Nuclear Armor into a uniform layer that clung to his body like a special type of "skin."

Chen Gu called this the "Radiation Battle Suit." Compared to the basic state of Heavy Nuclear Armor, this form was highly covert. Its defense power decreased by thirty percent, but it was transparent and undetectable, making it better suited for secret missions.

Additionally, the armor could be transformed into an almost "gaseous" state, enveloping him in a ten-meter radius.

In this state, the defensive power weakened gradually from the inside out, depending on the distance. At the outermost layer—about ten meters from his body—the defensive power was only about fifteen percent of Heavy Nuclear Armor's full capability. Closest to Chen Gu, the defensive power was about sixty percent.

Chen Gu called this state the "Doomsday Shelter." It was like a bunker in a nuclear apocalypse, capable of providing a safe haven for those around him.

The switching between the three states required exquisite control at the professional skill level. Even though Chen Gu already understood the differences and principles behind them, he found it difficult to execute them perfectly yet.

Chapter 616: Heavy Nuclear Armor\_2

Thus, Chen Gu continually "communicated" with the nuclear reactions in the power plant reactor, using this to deepen his understanding of the "Radiation Missionary" career and to perfectly and quickly manifest these three states.

By the third day, Chen Gu could easily switch between the three states, so he stood up and left the power plant.

He went to the school's training ground and practiced the three states tirelessly, working up a sweat and using up all of that day's career points.

After taking a shower, Chen Gu received a call from, surprisingly, Zhong Yuanbei, asking him to come to the lab.

Chen Gu was "flattered" and rushed over immediately. The last time he had been here, his mentor had somewhat "disdained" him for "causing trouble" and directly revoked his access, preventing him from even entering Yuanbei Hall. This time, at the door, BEEP. The doors opened, and he was granted free passage!

Zhong Yuanbei was still working tirelessly on experiments with his pitiable senior apprentice. After Chen Gu waited for a full two hours, Zhong Yuanbei finally noticed him when he took a drink of water and waved. "Come here."

Chen Gu approached with a smile. This person was also one of his "big backers," and Great Actor Chen always treated such individuals with outright "respect."

"What kind of potion did you feed the principal to get him to praise you? I know him too well; that guy may seem approachable on the surface, but he's incredibly proud at heart. It's basically impossible for anyone lesser than him to receive his praise. Even Aviloya hasn't been praised by him many times."

Chen Gu smirked. "What do you mean 'potion'? Can't it just be that your student here is truly outstanding?"

Chen Gu understood that his way of handling the old man had received the principal's tacit approval. The principal could act as he pleased, disregard the old man, and even beat him up when he came bearing gifts. However, the old man, after all, had those far-reaching connections, and truly falling out with him could trouble the principal in certain aspects. But since the principal's prestige was too high, he couldn't compromise or back down, so someone subordinate had to play peacemaker. Chen Gu himself benefited from this, making it a win-win situation.

Hearing Chen Gu say this, Zhong Yuanbei reached out and pinched his face. "Indeed, quite thick-skinned!"

Chen Gu: "..."

Having had a drink of water and taken a moment from his busy schedule to speak a few words with his direct disciple, Zhong Yuanbei felt as if he were committing a sin, a colossal waste of time. He had been delayed for another good dozen seconds on his path to becoming the top researcher in the Star Sea!

He waved his hand. "Here's something you should pay attention to: the principal told me that at the end of this term, he plans to specially recruit a group of students. Be quick to grab a few useful ones for me."

This was obviously Chen Gu's responsibility. "Don't worry, leave it to me. But the end of this term isn't usually the recruiting season. Why is the principal suddenly doing a special recruitment?"

Zhong Yuanbei grew impatient and returned to his experimental equipment. "How would I know? If you want to find out, go ask him yourself."

Then he resumed his experiments and paid Chen Gu no more attention.

Walking out of Yuanbei Hall, Chen Gu was still pondering this matter. The principal planned far ahead and would not recruit a new batch of students for no reason. But as for asking him directly... He didn't have the nerve. What right did a mere Fifth Energy Level like him have to question the plans of a Ninth Power Level master? In any case, he just needed to keep an eye out and lure some naive youths over to work as hard labor for his mentor.

With two days left in the holidays, Chen Gu suddenly realized his luck had turned. He himself had advanced to the Fifth Energy Level. Of his two trainees, Wu Yihuo had already advanced ahead of schedule. On the fourth day of the holiday, Chu Zheng called him in the middle of the night, whispering, "Coach, I think I'm going to advance soon!"

On the fifth day, Gong Shuxu had him go to the underground base. Once there, Gong Shuxu led him to inspect the reserve personnel. Their training progress was up to standard, and they were ready for multi-career employment at any time.

So, after five pleasant holiday days, Chen Gu returned to work at the Bureau of Mystic Security building, feeling refreshed. But just as he sat down in his office, he suddenly received an internal email. Before he could open it, the phone rang. Wu Yihuo called, flustered, "Coach, why has the Bureau suddenly instructed me to report to Team Leader Kang Kasi? Have I been transferred?"

Chen Gu frowned and clicked open the email. Indeed, it was a transfer order, assigning his subordinate, Wu Yihuo, to Capital Star's Fourth Investigation Team under Kang Kasi.

His good mood instantly vanished. Chen Gu faintly sensed that he was being targeted.

He tried to calm Wu Yihuo over the phone. "Don't worry yet. I'll find out what's really going on."

After hanging up with Wu Yihuo, he immediately went to find Qing Ruyan.

Upon seeing him, Qing Ruyan pulled him into a corner and whispered, "Kang Kasi is a Sixth Energy Level [Magnetic Constrictor], and his [Capital Star Fourth Investigation Team] holds a high administrative rank within the Bureau. But this matter... the person behind it is the First Deputy Director, Ding Zhou."

Chen Gu frowned. "Him?"

Qing Ruyan said, "Ding Zhou was never one to vie for power and profit; everyone said he had no ambition. But I feel it's not that he lacks ambition, but rather that he knew he had no chance before, since the Director-General was always holding him down. But after the last incident involving the Director-General, Ding Zhou served a tenure as acting Director-General and got a taste of holding great power. Moreover, rumor has it that after that incident, the Director-General was tainted. Though he underwent Purification, there are still some concerns at the top, so support for Ding Zhou has significantly increased."

Chen Gu let out a cold snort inwardly. Wu Yihuo's situation is probably the first move in Ding Zhou's challenge against Aviloya.

What Qing Ruyan and Chen Gu didn't know was that, aside from the reasons just mentioned, Ding Zhou had also decided to start his power struggle with Aviloya because of Chen Gu. In the film crew, Chen Gu had ousted all the personnel Ding Zhou had placed through nepotism, leaving Ding Zhou utterly humiliated before a group of "old connections." That matter, decided by Aviloya with a single word, left Ding Zhou with no way to resist, filling him with pent-up fury and further inflating his desire for power.

Chen Gu asked, "Wu Yihuo is my man, and our Special Operations Squad reports directly to the Director-General. To transfer Wu Yihuo, doesn't it require the Director-General's approval?"

Qing Ruyan replied, "The Director-General couldn't refuse."

"During yesterday's meeting, Ding Zhou basically staged a coup. Apart from Rainbow, four other deputy directors all sided with Ding Zhou."

Chen Gu was surprised. "Why would Ding Zhou have so many supporters?"

Qing Ruyan pursed her lips. "Among these deputy directors, aside from Lord Rainbow, who would sincerely support the Director-General?"

"They are all supremely powerful, each with their own backers. It was only because the Director-General was too strong before that they suppressed their ambitions and didn't dare to rebel.

"But the last time the Director-General was injured, it gave them confidence, and they seized the opportunity to collude!"

"The key argument Ding Zhou has for transferring Wu Yihuo is well-founded: the Special Operations Squad is already very strong, brimming with talent; one Wu Yihuo more or less doesn't make a difference.

"But the [Capital Star Investigation Team] has a total of five teams, specifically responsible for the security of Capital Star—a grave responsibility—yet they are somewhat lacking in successors. They keep saying they want to transfer Wu Yihuo over for focused development, so he can eventually carry the banner of the [Capital Star Investigation Team].

"Only when the [Capital Star Investigation Team] is truly strong can the security of Capital Star be guaranteed."

Qing Ruyan spread her hands. "For reasons of both public and private interest, the Director-General has no grounds to hold on to Wu Yihuo and refuse the transfer. However, Kang Kasi was personally promoted by Ding Zhou."

Chen Gu raised an eyebrow. "The Director-General won't just watch her people being poached, will she?"

Qing Ruyan let out a sly chuckle. "Of course not. You are Wu Yihuo's direct superior. According to the rules of our Bureau of Mystic Security, when negotiations fail, we resort to settling matters by force! As long as you can defeat Kang Kasi, they can't take Wu Yihuo away, no matter what!"

Chen Gu understood and looked speechlessly at Qing Ruyan. "This is all what the Director-General told you to tell me, right? Her position prevents her from stopping Wu Yihuo's transfer, but she wants me to step up and confront Kang Kasi and Ding Zhou?"

Qing Ruyan waved her hand dismissively. "Don't be angry. You won't be doing this for free; there's a reward in it for you!"

Chapter 617: Pawn in Front of the Horse

Chen Gu rolled his eyes and grimaced, looking utterly unwilling as he asked, "What's in it for me?"

Qing Ruyan replied, "The Director-General said you're still young, so you can't be promoted too high. However, as long as you can ensure Wu Yihuo stays this time, Chen Jixian will get another promotion!"

Chen Gu's previous display of unwillingness had been an act, but now, it was genuine.

He didn't want to become Aviloya's "henchman," charging into battle for her, but Wu Yihuo had to stay. So, he had to make a move, and it was best if he could extract some benefits from Aviloya in the process.

But what kind of logic was Aviloya using? He had finally climbed to T8 rank, on par with that unfilial son, yet the Director-General wanted to use his achievements to promote Chen Jixian, allowing him to continue this 'outrageous transgression' of suppressing him?

Besides, when you're making excuses, could you at least put some effort into it?

I'm too young to be promoted too high, so you propose to promote my son? What kind of divine logic is that?

He almost blurted out, 'I won't do it!' and turned to leave. But then he remembered: didn't his predecessor also rely on the military achievements of his adult son to get by? Without that adult son, Chen Gu wouldn't even exist in this era.

With a sense of resignation, he stroked his chin and asked, "Promoted to what rank?"

Qing Ruyan said, "At least T9. And the Director-General has a series of follow-up plans. As soon as we find the right opportunity, the Special Operations Squad can be upgraded another level, putting it on equal footing with the [Capital Star Investigation Group]."

The Special Operations Squad was directly under the Director-General. In terms of rank, it was slightly lower than the entire [Capital Star Investigation Group] but higher than [Capital Star Investigation Squad Four].

This time, Aviloya faced a challenge from the Deputy Directors led by Ding Zhou, and it seemed she also intended to strengthen her direct forces.

As for the 'right opportunity' Qing Ruyan mentioned, Chen Gu guessed it was the plan concerning the [Digital Group]—a plan only three people currently knew about.

"After the promotion, will Chen Jixian still be the captain?"

Qing Ruyan spread her hands. "That depends on Chen Jixian's strength. If he can advance to the Seventh Energy Level, he can continue as the squad leader. If not... at most, he'll be an acting captain until a suitable replacement is found."

Chen Gu nodded. "Alright, it's a deal!"

Kang Kasi led his four highly capable team members straight to the floor where the Special Operations Squad was located. In the elevator, as the floor numbers changed, Kang Kasi crossed his arms, his expression stern.

He knew taking Wu Yihuo wouldn't be easy this time.

But deep down, he was thrilled. For so many years, he'd known his 'boss,' Ding Zhou, was clearly destined for greater things; Ding Zhou had merely been lying low, awaiting the right opportunity.

So what if she was the Valkyrie? She'd held that position for so many years; it was time for a change.

He was Ding Zhou's point man. Naturally, he should be the one to initiate this first battle in the power struggle! As for Wu Yihuo, he was merely a bonus—like a beautiful captive from an enemy tribe, brought back by victors in ancient times.

He was more of a trophy to be flaunted.

Focus on training? Huh. How could someone snatched from the enemy truly be a priority for cultivation? Weren't they afraid he was an undercover agent? It was just an excuse.

As for going to retrieve the person today, would they face resistance? He was sure they would. However, their Special Operations Squad had just been formed, and its strongest members were only two at the Sixth Energy Level. He was completely confident.

Besides, one of those two was the captain and the other a veteran; he didn't expect them to personally intervene. Then there was that 'multi-professional' at the Fifth Energy Level.

When Kang Kasi thought of the term 'multi-professional,' he scoffed inwardly. Skill lies in specialization, not in dabbling in many things. Don't people understand such a simple principle these days?

Did they really think mastering a few more professions would let them 'overthrow superiors'? They'd probably bite off more than they could chew and end up weaker than someone dedicated to a single profession.

DING!

The elevator arrived. The doors opened, and Kang Kasi strode out with his subordinates, only to see a man leaning against the corridor wall, holding a drink and slurping loudly.

"You're here. Let's go. We'll settle this in the training ground. Make it quick, don't dawdle. I'm very busy and don't want to waste time on trash like you."

Anger flashed in the eyes of the four capable members behind Kang Kasi. One of them stepped forward, his body transforming into rock and flowing sand as he advanced, swelling continuously...

But before he could reach Chen Gu, he pitched forward and collapsed, unconscious. His professional transformation was incomplete; the sand and rock kept shifting, unable to coalesce into a humanoid form on the floor.

Chen Gu scoffed. Such trash, can't even withstand a single [Mental Storm], yet dares to attack first?

"So this is the so-called elite of [Capital Star Investigation Squad Four]? Hah! No wonder public security on Capital Star has deteriorated so much lately. And no wonder you're coveting my subordinate." Chen Gu straightened up, his expression turning fierce. "But if you want to poach from me, let's see if you have what it takes!"

The three men behind Kang Kasi started to move forward but were stopped by him.

Just moments ago, in the elevator, he'd looked down on so-called 'multi-professionals.' But now, he was taking this one seriously. He raised a hand. "Please, lead the way!"

Chapter 618: Pawn Before the Horses\_2

Chen Gu turned and left, with Kang Kasi and the others following, heading towards the forging area on this level.

The doors to the offices lining both sides of the corridor suddenly flew open. Just moments before, many ears had been pressed against them. Now, everyone rushed out, the flames of their gossip burning fiercely as they all headed to the forging area to spectate.

Chu Zheng and Wu Yihuo were among them, along with a large group from the operations team, the internal affairs team, and the cleaning team.

Chen Jixian and Gong Shuxu, however, sat in their office drinking tea, as steady as Mount Tai.

There was a knock on the door. Marcus seeped in, his nose twitching. "Nice tea! Let me mooch a cup."

Just as he sat down, Silver Eagle Charles barged in. "You guys... really not going to watch? I've heard that Kang Kasi is a Sixth Energy Level. Shouldn't we at least have someone of the Sixth Energy Level there to hold the fort? If Chen Gu stumbles, there should be someone to save the show."

All three laughed. Although Charles was concerned, he was only worried that Chen Gu might "stumble." In fact, almost everyone in the Special Operations Team knew very well that Kang Kasi was just a pushover.

The only two exceptions were Chu Zheng and Wu Yihuo.

Chu Zheng was typically the type where concern breeds chaos, while Wu Yihuo was naturally a bit flustered because the matter involved him personally.

Inside the forging area, Joseph swung his fists around. "Bro Chen, please be gentle! Don't hit them too hard. I've been courting a girl from the Capital Star Investigation Team recently; save some face for them."

Kang Kasi and his men were fuming. Is he pleading for us? He's just finding different ways to insult us!

Kang Kasi smiled coldly. "Does the Special Operations Team rely on verbal skills to carry out missions? Can you talk a Mutant to death?"

Chen Gu effortlessly raised a hand. "Please."

At Kang Kasi's thought, eight carp-shaped blades flew out from the palm-width belt around his waist. The blades were all edge, with no handles to grip. He used his professional ability to control them, maneuvering them before Chen Gu to showcase their properties and his own forthrightness. "These are tools forged from a special metal," he declared. "You'd best be careful!"

The eight blades flashed and disappeared, then reappeared around Chen Gu the next moment, shooting towards him from different directions as fast as lightning.

A pale red mist suddenly materialized around Chen Gu.

The blades kept advancing, encountering greater resistance as they progressed, finally stopping about half a meter in front of Chen Gu.

Kang Kasi wasn't surprised. If Chen Gu could be defeated so easily, he wouldn't have caught the Director-General's eye.

Kang Kasi's hands danced through the air like those of a symphony conductor. Under the control of his Magnetic Converger ability, the blades obediently executed various maneuvers, like nimble sprites.

This was one of Kang Kasi's points of pride. In his view, his profession as a Magnetic Converger was the most "elegant" combat job. Every move he made was imbued with artistic flavor. Sometimes, when he watched movies, he would unconsciously look down on the villains: too low-level. If it had been him, those villains would undoubtedly have had more flair.

But today, as Kang Kasi flicked his hands lightly, those eight blades didn't respond as swiftly as usual. Trapped within Chen Gu's Last Shelter, they remained frozen solid.

Kang Kasi's "little sprites" lost their liveliness. They stood dull, locked by Entanglement Control. Chen Gu had already switched to Derek Kun Shen's memories. Although only a Fifth Energy Level Quantum Wizard, he still firmly bound the blades under the interference of the Last Shelter.

Kang Kasi was surprised. He increased the force from his hands, but the "little sprites" seemed spellbound by an evil wizard, remaining utterly motionless.

Kang Kasi waved his arms with great effort—an action now devoid of any elegance. Joseph and the others nearby burst out laughing.

To the onlookers, it was quite comical. Kang Kasi had started with elegant hand movements. If the blades had "danced" accordingly, it would have been impressive. But with the blades motionless, the entire scene became awkward. Then, as Kang Kasi became visibly flustered and exasperated, he looked even more ridiculous.

Chen Gu sneered. "Do you know why Magnetic Convergents will always be inferior to Quantum Wizards?"

Two double-edged laser swords rose from behind him. Their speed climbed from slow to incredibly fast in an instant. The two laser swords then transformed into two sinuous lines of pale red, soft light, threading the eight flying blades together.

Then, the blades Kang Kasi had boasted were forged from "special metal" shattered into pieces of scrap. Chen Gu withdrew Entanglement Control, and the metal scraps CLATTERED to the ground.

Joseph cheered loudly, clapping his hands. "Bro Chen, what a move!"

Wu Yihuo finally let out a sigh of relief. Perhaps I won't have to leave after all, he thought. Of course, he preferred to stay by Chen Gu's side.

Kang Kasi's complexion turned ugly. "Good. If you were too weak, this would have been uninteresting."

He flung his arms wide open. From the backpack behind him, countless thin steel needles flew out with a WHOOSH!

Then, an innumerable, densely packed swarm of steel needles all aimed their tips at Chen Gu.

Chapter 619 Pawn Before the Horse\_3

Kang Kasi thrust his arms forward with force. The steel needles, even faster than energy projectiles, shot towards Chen Gu. These tiny "bullets" possessed the strongest penetration capability, making them the best choice for breaking through group defense skills like the "Doomsday Sanctuary."

But at the moment the steel needles were shot, the pale red mist surrounding Chen Gu suddenly contracted sharply inward, quickly coalescing into a suit of "Heavy Nucleus Armor"!

Like a heavy Mecha, it encased Chen Gu from head to toe, protecting him completely.

The steel needles TINGED harmlessly off the "Heavy Nucleus Armor," barely causing any damage. This widespread steel needle attack targeted the weakness of the red mist, but when facing the "Heavy Nucleus Armor," it seemed to lack the necessary offensive power.

Kang Kasi and his teammates behind him were dumbfounded. Can it be done like this? The same defense skill, yet it has different forms! You're only a Fifth Energy Level! Normally, only a Seventh Energy Level can do this. This is outright cheating!

And the experienced Kang Kasi immediately realized that Chen Gu's counterattack was coming.

His hands seemed to grasp something out of thin air. Then, he pulled back forcefully—like an ancient fisherman hauling in his net. The dense steel needles retracted at the same speed. With incredible efficiency, they linked end to end to form a "steel wire," simultaneously weaving a large, multi-layered net that blocked Kang Kasi.

And just as he adopted a defensive posture, Chen Gu's counterattack arrived, exactly as Kang Kasi had anticipated!

However, Chen Gu didn't move from his spot. He switched to Isabella Wu's memories, and a "Psychic Storm" swept out, rendering Kang Kasi's meticulous "defense net" utterly useless against spiritual power!

Caught off guard, Kang Kasi felt as if his brain had been struck by a two-ton hammer.

THUMP!

HUM...

Kang Kasi staggered, his consciousness in disarray.

A strange thought popped into Chen Gu's mind: Those steel needles... they must be hard to swallow!

Chen Gu was astounded—this was the first time, while under the influence of Isabella Wu's memories, that he'd felt something was hard to swallow...

The window of opportunity was fleeting. Chen Gu quickly exited Isabella Wu's memories and switched to Meng Moshi.

Sixth Energy Level Multistate Special Agent!

From the beginning, I knew that to defeat Kang Kasi, it had to be with the skills of Isabella Wu and Meng Moshi. Only a Sixth Energy Level can defeat a Sixth Energy Level.

Those dazzling Fifth Energy Level job skills could confuse Kang Kasi and make him overwhelmed, but that was all they could achieve.

Kang Kasi finally recovered from the Brain Domain Hacker's damage, only to hear his teammate shout from behind, "Captain, be careful..."

This was actually against the rules, but Kang Kasi couldn't care less. He immediately went on full alert. By this point, having experienced the powerful combination of multi-class abilities, he had lost all the slight contempt he'd felt in the elevator.

But to his surprise, even as he remained vigilant, Chen Gu was nowhere to be found!

Invisibility? What kind of job is that? he thought. Alas, his first guess was far from the truth.

While he was still trying to discern what kind of "invisibility" it was and how to counter it, he suddenly felt pressure surging from every corner!

Kang Kasi immediately realized. Not good, it *is* the Multistate Special Agent...

But it was too late. Chen Gu stood before him, one hand raised. Two of his fingers morphed into a sort of "liquid metal," extending like ropes and drilling into Kang Kasi's ears. Using the "State Transformation" skill, Chen Gu immobilized him from the inside out!

Just a moment ago, these chains were "gaseous"; now they had transformed to "solid." If Kang Kasi made any sudden move, Chen Gu could turn his brain into mush.

Kang Kasi dared not move. Chen Gu said indifferently, "You lost."

"Now, get off my turf and never again entertain the thought of targeting Wu Yihuo; otherwise, next time it won't end so easily."

Chapter 620 Wu Lusi

Kang Kasi left the Special Operations Squadron with his team members in disarray. At that moment, Ding Zhou, in an office on a higher floor of the Bureau of Mystic Security building, had already been informed of the situation.

He frowned. The disadvantageous start to his challenge against the Director-General was very unfavorable to him.

Aviloya had been making decisions in the Bureau of Mystic Security unchallenged for many years, and there weren't many who dared to defy her to begin with. This time, due to the opportunity presented by the contamination incident, the ambitions of all sub-directors had been laid bare—they had no way out. Once they were on board, they could only keep charging forward with him.

But relying solely on these sub-directors, they could not possibly pull Aviloya down from her position as Director-General; they needed the support of those below.

Yet he had dispatched his Sixth Energy Level lieutenant, who was easily defeated by one of Aviloya's Fifth Energy Level subordinates. For those waiting to see which way the wind would blow, this undoubtedly made them even more pessimistic about their chances, making it impossible to sway them to his side.

Ding Zhou remained composed on the surface, but the pressure inside was tremendous.

Kang Kasi himself didn't grasp, as clearly as Ding Zhou did, the serious impact this failure would have on the overall situation.

In that case, I have no choice but to break through to the Ninth Power Level! Ding Zhou was clear-headed. He knew this was the only path left for him; only by doing so could he reinvigorate his faction's confidence and continue the struggle against Aviloya. Likewise, he had no way out.

But before that, I still need to find a way to suppress Chen Gu's limelight! I need to at least win back one round.

Ding Zhou also had a headache. If Kang Kasi couldn't do it, who else among my subordinates can defeat Chen Gu? I can't really dispatch a Seventh Energy Level operative. A Seventh against a Fifth... even a win wouldn't be honorable.

Right, there's still \*him\*. Chen Gu is outstanding, but for now at least, he's bound to lose if he goes up against \*that person\*. Ding Zhou suddenly remembered someone, and a slight smile finally touched his lips.

「...」

At the Special Operations Squadron floor, there was a chorus of cheers. Wu Yihuo felt relieved, and Chu Zheng's eyes sparkled as she cozied up to the instructor, looking as innocent as a little bunny.

The siren Selena clapped her hands, "Celebration! We must go out and celebrate tonight! Chen Gu, you're paying, and we'll all come to cheer you on!"

Chen Gu rolled his eyes at her. "Clearly, you're the one who wants to go have fun, and yet you want me to foot the bill."

Selena casually pulled up Man Suling's contact. "How about I inform the little diva? I'm sure she'd be delighted to throw a party for you to celebrate."

The little she-wolf had become Chen Gu's Achilles' heel; he immediately surrendered. "Fine, fine, fine, I'll pay—but don't splurge too much; even the landlord's granary isn't endless. I've been quite poor recently, myself."

Everyone chatted and laughed, with some of the playful ones already joining Selena to discuss which nightclub to hit up that evening.

Chen Gu truly didn't mind—his weakness was Man Suling, but Selena's weakness was Qiao Shuangyi.

Last time, the she-devil had treated him like a sucker, but the pudgy guy hadn't cared. Money meant different things to different people. For Qiao Shuangyi, it was merely a string of numbers that automatically increased by a large chunk at the beginning of each month.

So with one phone call from Chen Gu, Qiao Shuangyi came running eagerly.

Shang Qingye was now also an "external special agent" of the Special Operations Squadron. When she saw Qiao Shuangyi, her face was full of contempt.

But when the evening came to a close, the pudgy guy approached Shang Qingye expectantly. "Did you snitch to Shangguan Yuqing yet?"

Shang Qingye said disdainfully, "Why would I? What kind of relationship do you two even have?"

The pudgy guy became anxious. "I spent so much money just trying to see if she would get jealous..."

Shang Qingye looked at him speechlessly. "The way you think is truly peculiar. Do you really believe that Shangguan Yuqing would have any feelings for you?"

The pudgy guy wore a pleading look. "Sis, do me a solid, go snitch."

For the first time in her life, Shang Qingye received such a request. Rolling her eyes, she made a call to Shangguan Yuqing. After hearing the situation, Shangguan Yuqing merely responded indifferently, "What's that got to do with me?"

Shang Qingye spread her hands at the pudgy guy. Qiao Shuangyi sighed dejectedly and walked away silently.

Chen Gu found the guy quite pitiable, but with matters of the heart, he couldn't really intervene.

In the following period, the plan discussed between Chen Gu, Aviloya, and Rainbow seemed as if it essentially didn't exist. Chen Gu devoted himself to film shooting on set, truly delivering an award-winning actor's performance.

He also wrapped up his filming smoothly.

Within the Bureau of Mystic Security, ever since Kang Kasi was defeated by Chen Gu, there had been an eerie calm. But then rumors began to circulate that Ding Zhou had reached his "limit" and had started preparations for the breakthrough to the Ninth Power Level!

All sides were watching and waiting.

However, on this day, Ding Zhou, who was supposed to be adjusting his mindset and gathering resources for promotion, suddenly appeared at a desolate base on satellite number four of Capital Star.

Many military bases had been constructed on the satellites surrounding Capital Star, serving as a defensive ring for it. These satellites, however, were not suitable for colonization, and troops could only live within the base, needing to wear highly protective Mecha for excursions outside.

Apart from these bases, the rest of the places were completely desolate.

And while these bases often had immense scale and comprehensive facilities, this particular base appeared isolated, with outdated equipment and a modest size.

In fact, this base had a glorious history. It was the first forward base built when humans first discovered Capital Star.