

Full Time 621

Chapter 621 Wu Lusi_2

With this base as a support, further development of the Capital Star was completed.

However, the base was gradually abandoned thereafter. It was only due to its historical value that it was not demolished and later turned into a "new recruits training base."

But that was only in name. The Confederation had plenty of places to train new recruits. This outdated and isolated base, however, had not been assigned new recruits for training in over a hundred years.

Yet within this base, there was always one "instructor."

Dressed in a tattered Bureau of Mystic Security uniform, he looked aged but still maintained an upright figure. Ding Zhou gave him a smile. "Wu Lusi, are you doing well here?"

Wu Lusi responded indifferently, "We're barely acquaintances, so let's skip the pleasantries. What do you want from me?"

Ding Zhou raised his eyebrows. "Help me kill someone, and I'll find a way to release Lilith."

"Who?"

"A guy named Chen Gu."

"Deal."

Two hours later, Qing Ruyan suddenly noticed a process appear within the internal system of the Bureau of Mystic Security, initiated by Ding Zhou.

She paused for a second, then promptly reported to Aviloya, "Deputy Director Ding Zhou has brought Wu Lusi back."

Aviloya was silent for a moment, then ordered, "Keep him under close surveillance."

Carrying an old canvas bag, Wu Lusi disembarked from the transport spaceship. Outside lay the Capital Star he had not seen for decades, bustling and thriving with life.

He took a deep breath and swiped his hand to open the map, which marked the location of the Huai Shan Branch School. He rented a car outside the spaceport and headed straight for his destination.

Qing Ruyan immediately obtained the intelligence and reported to Aviloya again, "His target is Chen Gu!"

Aviloya replied calmly, "Send Wu Lusi's file to Chen Gu."

"Yes."

Chen Gu received the news from Qing Ruyan, and he sighed over the plight of this once "top talent of the Bureau of Mystic Security."

Born into poverty, his potential as a Professional was only discovered after he graduated from college. Upon entering the Bureau of Mystic Security, he made rapid progress.

In just five years, he had broken through to the Fifth Energy Level. Then, just when he was on the verge of advancing to the Sixth Energy Level, his childhood sweetheart, Lilith, was found to be a certain "high official's" mistress!

Of course, Wu Lusi refused to believe it; in his eyes, that so-called high official was nothing more than a municipal employee with a bit of minor authority.

However, an investigation later revealed that the affair had occurred during their college years when the couple was struggling and Lilith's father had just passed away. At that time, a man whom a Fifth Energy Level special agent of the Bureau of Mystic Security might view as just an ordinary municipal employee was, to Lilith, indeed a "high official."

Lilith had been trying to break free from him ever since but never succeeded.

But the sudden exposure of this affair at that particular time seemed rather "calculated." The "high official" was jailed for bribery, and Lilith was implicated.

Wu Lusi was devastated. As expected, his advancement ceremony to the Sixth Energy Level failed, and within the Bureau of Mystic Security, many kicked him while he was down.

Yet Wu Lusi, with his formidable strength, defeated a Sixth Energy Level warrior. Half a year later, he successfully broke through to the Sixth Energy Level again in one go!

Then... he attempted a prison break.

After his failure, his old superior in the Bureau of Mystic Security protected him. This old superior had some military connections and dispatched him to that base to become a "new recruits instructor," essentially a form of soft imprisonment.

The person who had promoted Ding Zhou was, coincidentally, that same old superior.

"He was already at the Sixth Energy Level back then, and although he has not advanced in years, his talent is not to be underestimated," Qing Ruyan told Chen Gu. "He is already on his way to the school to find you. Be extremely careful!"

Chen Gu thought for a moment, then decided to leave the school and wait at the entrance.

If I hide inside the school, even Wu Lusi won't be able to get in.

Ding Zhou also received the news. Moreover, he had just acquired some exotic material from a mysterious merchant, a resource essential for his attempt to break through to the Ninth Power Level, making it a doubly joyous occasion. Deputy Director Ding Zhou was brimming with self-satisfaction.

"Do we have a satellite nearby? Swing the camera over there, I want to see a live broadcast of this great battle." Ding Zhou was feeling quite pleased with himself and even unabashedly wanted to use the Bureau of Mystic Security's satellite signal!

He personally pushed the process to get Wu Lusi back, and now he was using a distant satellite to watch the battle—this was all brazen and provocative, akin to a show of force.

Qing Ruyan ground her teeth in anger, but Aviloya was indifferent, even somewhat interested in the "live broadcast." "Oh? Then I also want to see. Share Deputy Director Ding's signal with me too."

Qing Ruyan was full of admiration and gave the Director-General a thumbs up.

Ding Zhou was putting on a 'show of force,' but the Director-General was even more adept, essentially telling Ding Zhou: Go on, flail about all you like, I've got my eyes on you!

Qing Ruyan received the signal, then expressed her concern, "Chen Gu and Wu Lusi... it's going to be a close call."

Wu Lusi had left behind too many legends and "records" within the Bureau of Mystic Security; most people would feel a sense of fear upon hearing his name.

Aviloya paid no attention to her assistant. Instead, she glanced at Rainbow next to her and said, "I'll bet you, twenty minutes."

Rainbow thought for a moment and slyly said, "Deal, I'll take Chen Gu!"

"That won't do. I'm also betting on Chen Gu, so this bet won't work."

Qing Ruyan was bewildered. What did those two mean by this?

Twenty minutes later—specifically, sixteen minutes and thirty-four seconds after Chen Gu and Wu Lusi's encounter—at the gates of the Huai Shan Branch School, Wu Lusi knelt heavily on the ground, his always upright posture now bent like a bow.

"I lost—" he hung his head, utterly disheartened, as the pride that was central to his character had been shattered by Chen Gu.

Qing Ruyan looked utterly incredulous, Aviloya had an "I-told-you-so" expression, and Rainbow playfully stuck out her tongue.

"Chen Gu actually defeated Wu Lusi so easily?"

Aviloya said, "Wu Lusi has been out of touch with the times for decades. We have always been rapidly advancing, exchanging ideas with many parties. The combat techniques and Professional philosophies of his era were long outdated.

Wu Lusi was like someone who had been working in isolation for decades, without sparring partners, without continuous exposure to advanced concepts. Even if he were a once-in-a-millennium genius, he would be outdated. He couldn't possibly be a match for Chen Gu."

"Professionals are warriors; only in constant battle can they maintain their sharp edge."

Aviloya raised her eyebrows. "That's why I'm not worried about Ding Zhou at all. He's no longer a warrior. After so many years of luxury and comfort, when he challenges the Ninth Power Level, he is bound to fail."

With a CRACK, the wine glass in Ding Zhou's hand shattered as he crushed it.

The more brazen and arrogant his actions had been—facilitating the process to bring Wu Lusi back, using the Bureau of Mystic Security's satellite to watch the broadcast—the more embarrassing and awkward they seemed now!

And at this moment, Ding Zhou was utterly puzzled. Was Chen Gu really that powerful? Could it be that even Wu Lusi was no match for him, defeated so utterly in just over ten minutes?

He did not know that his confusion at this moment was precisely validating Aviloya's viewpoint.

Outside the gates of the Huai Shan Branch School, Wu Lusi knelt despondently on the ground, still finding it hard to accept his defeat.

Inside the school, students and teachers occasionally passed by without even glancing in his direction.

It was a common sight: someone defeated by one of the school's students—perfectly normal. Our classmates and students are all geniuses, after all. Still, it took courage to come to the Huai Shan Branch School and issue a challenge.

Chen Gu helped Wu Lusi to his feet. "Let me buy you a drink."

He actually felt a deep sympathy for Wu Lusi. No man, no matter how strong, can completely prevent being cuckolded. That sort of thing... it's as if it falls from the sky; you never know whose head it might land on.

Outside the Huai Shan Branch School was a primeval forest. Chen Gu drove the disheartened Wu Lusi for several tens of minutes before they found a bar.

Wu Lusi stared at the rising foam in his beer mug, lost in thought.

It had been a long time since he'd had a drink. The base supplies had never included alcohol. He grabbed the mug and guzzled it down. He downed six one-liter mugs of beer consecutively before he finally stopped and slowly belched. "What do you want to ask me?"

Chapter 622 Ba Wuqi

Chen Gu twirled a wine glass in his hand. He indeed had some questions. "Over these years, have you figured out who set you up?"

Wu Lusi's face twitched slightly. After a moment of silence, he said, "It was Delongtiya."

Chen Gu nodded. "That shows you're not entirely foolish."

Delongtiya was his former superior, the one who had "rescued" him at a critical moment, pulling him out of prison and sending him to the base as a recruit instructor. He was also the one who later single-handedly mentored Ding Zhou. Delongtiya had retired forty years ago and passed away thirteen years ago.

After Aviloya took office, she had specifically investigated everything concerning Wu Lusi.

Wu Lusi's meteoric rise back then had threatened Delongtiya's position, as Delongtiya was striving to become Director-General. With Wu Lusi consistently achieving remarkable feats, Delongtiya found he could no longer suppress him. If Wu Lusi surpassed Delongtiya in rank, Delongtiya would never catch up, and the Director-General position would be forever out of his reach.

So, Delongtiya orchestrated the incident, likely with the initial goal of merely striking Wu Lusi and causing him to fail his advancement to the Sixth Energy Level. Many geniuses would have crumbled

under such a double blow, but not Wu Lusi. After lying low for six months, he actually succeeded in his second attempt to reach the Sixth Energy Level!

Left with no other options, Delongtiya proceeded with his subsequent plans, which led to the incident where Wu Lusi supposedly attempted a "jailbreak." As Wu Lusi's direct superior, it wasn't difficult for Delongtiya to arrange tasks that made some of Wu Lusi's actions resemble preparations for a jailbreak, ensuring he appeared at specific places at specific times. Then, he personally had Wu Lusi placed under house arrest in that nearly abandoned base.

However, Delongtiya ultimately only rose to the position of Deputy Director. Neither the rank and file of the Bureau of Mystic Security nor the higher echelons of leadership were fools. Although there was no concrete evidence of Delongtiya's actions, everyone secretly understood what had transpired. Thus, they would never entrust the Bureau of Mystic Security to such a person. Delongtiya later vigorously promoted Ding Zhou to ensure a layer of "protection" for himself after retirement, to avoid future repercussions.

Chen Gu then asked, "What did Ding Zhou offer you in exchange for trying to kill me?"

Wu Lusi hesitated again and didn't answer directly. "Why are you asking all this?"

Chen Gu raised an eyebrow. "Perhaps I could fulfill the conditions Ding Zhou promised you."

Wu Lusi frowned, clearly skeptical. But with no bargaining chips left, he ultimately chose to confess, "He promised to release Lilith."

Without betraying any emotion, Chen Gu asked, "You don't hate her?"

Wu Lusi shook his head. "Looking back, at that time... her mother was gravely ill, and we were still students. What else could a girl like her do?"

"When you really think about it, I was the one who dragged her into this. If they hadn't been targeting me, her past would never have been dug up, and she wouldn't have been implicated and imprisoned."

Chen Gu nodded. "At least you're reasonable and have a conscience."

He sent his address to Wu Lusi. "Go and rest for now. I'll arrange everything and then come find you."

Chen Gu stood up to leave, but Wu Lusi called out to him, then said somewhat sheepishly, "I... I'm penniless."

Chen Gu laughed heartily and settled the bill for the drinks.

Chen Gu headed straight for the Bureau of Mystic Security headquarters, not to settle scores with Ding Zhou, but to Aviloya's office. Qing Ruyan was about to intercept him, but the office door had already opened, and Aviloya beckoned Chen Gu inside.

After Chen Gu entered, Aviloya made a few subtle adjustments, and the entire office was physically sealed.

Chen Gu asked, "Can we speak freely? No need to worry about network leaks?"

Aviloya nodded. "Agent No. 21 cannot infiltrate this place. I've severed all network connections."

Chen Gu nodded. "The plan we discussed earlier needs a key figure. We hadn't found one until now, but I think Wu Lusi is very suitable."

Aviloya seemed to have anticipated this. "Let's go over the details."

「...」

The next day, Wu Lusi was assigned an ordinary job on Capital Star, seemingly destined to live out the remainder of his days in obscurity.

However, three days later, he abruptly left Capital Star. He reappeared on a remote planet under development by the Confederation and broke his ex-girlfriend, Lilith, out of a low-security labor reform prison.

Thus, Wu Lusi once again became a wanted fugitive of the Confederation and was intensely pursued by the authorities.

「...」

Both Aviloya and Chen Gu knew the plan was risky, but there's no such thing as a perfect plan in this world. Having chosen Wu Lusi, they could only continue to trust him.

Moreover, since that day, to maintain secrecy, neither of them ever mentioned the plan again in any setting.

On this particular day, while Chen Gu was sleeping, he suddenly entered a dream. In his mind, the ancient, weighty tome, "The Past of Four Hundred People," began to turn its pages. Golden light flashed, and it seemed more than one page was being turned.

The next morning, Chen Gu awoke. His thoughts delved into his consciousness, and "The Past of Four Hundred People" materialized before him. He flipped through the pages one by one, quickly reaching what had been the final page: Meng Moshi.

Then, that page also turned, and a new page appeared before Chen Gu's eyes.

On this page, the portrait depicted a figure completely enveloped in heavy armor. Chen Gu recognized it at a glance: this was the Heavy Nuclear Armor.

Unlike the previous Milna Katerina, this person could be described as "armed to the teeth."

He carried a greatsword as wide as a door panel on his back. From this angle, only the hilt was clearly visible, engraved with a series of nuclear formulas. Strands of crimson nuclear energy, like ribbons, continuously drifted from the sword's blade.

His right arm was fitted with over a dozen special components that seemed capable of combining into some kind of weapon. His left forearm was wrapped with a special coil that extended to his left shoulder, connecting to a short cannon in his hand. Various grenade launchers, missile launch units, and more were mounted on other parts of his body.

The entire person resembled a mobile weapons platform.

From head to toe, only two bright, piercing eyes were visible.

In the blank spaces on either side of the portrait, the left side read:

Name: Ba Wuqi

Profession: Nuclear Explosion Nun

Origin: Atomic Holy Church

Abilities: Biological Nuclear Explosion

Mind Belief

Radiation Scouring

Atomic Life

Heavy Nuclear Armor

Perpetual Nuclear Reactor

...

To the right:

She was unnaturally strong for a girl even in childhood. Born in the underworld, she learned early on to use her fists to protect her interests.

At the age of twelve, she realized the "power of fists" was severely lacking, so she personally fashioned a hand cannon.

By fourteen, she could skillfully disassemble and reassemble nine models of vehicle-mounted missiles. At that age, she was already stronger than the vast majority of adult men. Man-portable missiles felt "as light as a little girl's toy" to her, so she chose to shoulder vehicle-mounted missiles instead!

At sixteen, war reached her homeland. Her "brothers" under her command fell like wheat in a hurricane before the overwhelming firepower of the regular army.

At that moment, the "Fear of Insufficient Firepower" and "Delusion of Inadequate Ammunition" deeply embedded in her genes finally erupted.

She was taken in by the Atomic Holy Church after the war and, by chance, eventually found the cure for her two conditions: becoming a Nuclear Explosion Holy Woman!

She was the most radical and brutal warrior in the history of the Atomic Holy Church. If not for her relentless emphasis on "great firepower" and "long endurance," she would not have stopped at the Eighth Energy Level.

Even so, she was recognized as the number one combat maniac of the Eighth Energy Level in her era!

It turns out to be a woman!

Chen Gu couldn't help but look at the portrait again. He quickly recognized the various weapons Ba Wuqi had attached to the exterior of the Heavy Nuclear Armor.

What surprised him most were the dozens of special components fitted to her right arm. This was a nuclear anti-matériel sniper rifle used by a heavy mecha from the Atomic Holy Church, the Sun Chaser III type.

Simply put, it used the energy supplied by the heavy mecha's nuclear reactor to target Close Range Attack Ships or the armaments of war machines.

Due to Ba Wuqi's near-obsessive fixation on firepower, she used her own biological nuclear energy as a power source, relying on her superior physical conditioning to counteract the recoil, and wielded this heavy mecha weapon—a weapon that even standard armored vehicles might struggle to use stably.

When Chen Gu saw the anti-matériel nuclear rifle—cleverly divided into over a dozen components that could be quickly assembled into a super-sized gun in critical moments—he unexpectedly felt a sense of empathy, as if great minds think alike!

Good grief, "The Past of Four Hundred People" has already given me enough "quirks," Chen Gu thought, suddenly vigilant. I absolutely cannot afford to pick up "Fear of Insufficient Firepower" or "Delusion of Inadequate Ammunition" too!

However, Chen Gu was still very satisfied to have unlocked Ba Wuqi's page. His most fundamental abilities came from the Radiation Missionary, and Milna Katerina was no longer suitable. Now that he had an Eighth Energy Level Nuclear Explosion Nun, when possessed by her memories, he could exert the strength of a Sixth Energy Level Radiation Missionary! This was a significant improvement.

Especially since my old iron-headed, reckless tactics are making a comeback!

But why, amidst his excitement, did Great Actor Chen still feel somewhat jittery?

Chen Gu himself just smiled wryly and then tried to turn the page with his thoughts.

In the dream, he vaguely remembered seeing a vast expanse of golden light, as if "The Past of Four Hundred People" had turned more than one page.

But I don't have high expectations; after all, it was just a dream. Getting Ba Wuqi is already great.

Yet, unexpectedly, this time there was indeed a surprise: the page after Ba Wuqi actually flipped to another one.

And the "character" on this page stunned him.

Despite wearing military gear that was clearly of human style, Chen Gu instantly recognized it as one of the Subterraneans, a former target from their practical course for newcomers!

Chapter 623 Ye (Happy New Year)

Compared to the Subterraneans they exterminated in practical class, the one in the painting seemed to be a bit more "amiable."

In those blood-red eyes, there was no longer ferocity, but rather, a sense of compassion.

His military uniform was of an ancient style, made of army-green woolen material, with symbols of three small airplanes on each shoulder and cuff. A yellow lightning bolt was embroidered on his chest.

However, this simply-dressed Subterranean in his military uniform had a somewhat extravagant rhinestone belt cinched around his waist!

The belt was inlaid with small diamonds forming some special patterns, or possibly some kind of writing.

Attached to the belt was a holster carrying a bizarre pistol. The body of the gun was quite normal, except for the muzzle, which suddenly turned into a clutched dragon's claw.

On both sides of the portrait, the blank sections each contained a description.

To the left was:

Name: Ye

Occupation: Quantum Wizard

Background: Yu Clan Colonization Group

Abilities: Entanglement Control

Quantum Teleportation

Quantum Divination

Matter-Energy Conversion

Dark Void Imprisonment

Entropy Lake Fishing

...

To the right was:

In the primitive and barbaric society of the Subterraneans, only nobles had surnames, and only commoners had names.

And he was a slave with neither surname nor name. "Ye" was the name he gave himself after being rescued by the Yu Clan Colonization Group.

Within the Yu Clan Colonization Group, Ye, having gained his freedom, soon demonstrated terrifying talent. In just over a decade, he rose to the Sixth Energy Level, becoming one of the most important forces in the group.

With his official advancement to the Eighth Energy Level, the overall strength of the Yu Clan Colonization Group swelled to its limits. It became one of the most powerful colonization groups roaming the Star Sea at the time, discovering one colonizable planet after another.

However, because of his tragic early years as a slave, he was unwilling to stain his hands with blood. Almost all of his enemies were thrown into the Dark Void Imprisonment. According to later calculations, at least 160 professionals were imprisoned in his special "jail."

He was gentle and modest, never aggressive. Everyone who worked with him praised him as "a good person."

But no one knew that when he was a slave, he was responsible for cleaning duties, which gave him a peculiar obsession with cleanliness, almost to the point of compulsion.

With the end of humanity's era of grand expansion, the once mighty colonization groups gradually dispersed into nothingness, one by one. The Yu Clan Colonization Group was no exception. He subsequently faded into obscurity, focusing on breaking through to the Ninth Power Level.

He was deeply pained by the conflict between humans and his own kind, ultimately choosing seclusion, supporting neither side.

Ye... Chen Gu repeated the name, astonished by the appearance of this character. Aliens are still considered a 'secret,' kept hidden from the general populace.

So how did Ye participate so widely in the Yu Clan Colonization Group's missions while keeping it 'classified,' and why would someone as powerful as Ye agree to such concealment?

Chen Gu casually pulled up the interstellar quantum net and searched for the Yu Clan Colonization Group.

It was a piece of ancient history, and the publicly available information was all superficial. Some articles claimed to "reveal some hidden history," but they were just full of mystique—clickbait pieces. Chen Gu could tell at a glance that many were simply made up.

In these records, it was true that the Yu Clan Colonization Group was one of the strongest groups of its time, but there was no mention of them ever having a powerful alien Quantum Wizard.

Chen Gu had once thought that "Past Lives of Four Hundred People" and the "Four Hundred Brave Souls" might be related. However, after uncovering Meng Moshi, Ba Wuqi, and now Ye, he still could not find any connection between them and the "Four Hundred Brave Souls."

Nevertheless, the appearance of Ye allowed Chen Gu to continue practicing the Quantum Wizard profession, leveraging Fifth Energy Level strength to exert Sixth Energy Level combat power.

At least this is good news.

Chen Gu tried to flip to the next page, but this time there were no more surprises.

Flipping two pages at once, that's already very impressive, Chen Gu was content. It was only during his first awakening of "Past Lives of Four Hundred People" that he had managed to turn two pages; this was the second time.

Chen Gu silently contemplated the new professional skills he had gained, deepening his understanding to avoid being caught unprepared in battle.

Then, in the evening, he received a call from Gao Mengjiu. "The movie is almost done," she said.

At first, Chen Gu was elated, but his expression soon became solemn. This was a signal: if the Digital Group still wanted to "save face," they were facing their last chance.

The movie plan was initially just Ding Zhou's way to mitigate the negative impacts of that "live broadcast." With Chen Gu's involvement, it transformed into a strategy of killing two birds with one stone—luring the snake out of its hole!

And it was a successful tactic, weakening the Digital Group's power. However, the Digital Group was still formidable, like a venomous snake lurking in the shadows.

As long as this film project had not come to a complete end, they might pounce at any moment and take a fierce bite.

For instance, the upcoming... premiere ceremony.

Gao Mengjiu and Chen Gu joined Chen Jixian, Gong Shuxu, and Rainbow for a meeting. Everyone pooled their thoughts and made various arrangements to prevent any terrorist activities the Digital Group might attempt.

At this meeting, Rainbow acted with Aviloya's full authority.

Only after this did Chen Gu and Gao Mengjiu go to discuss the premiere activities with Director Yu Mozi. Yu Mozi came up with many fantastic and imaginative ideas—undoubtedly, they would produce excellent effects, and the promotional impact of the premiere would be explosive.

But they were not conducive to security. Although Chen Gu and Gao Mengjiu recognized these were brilliant ideas, they still had to rack their brains and come up with all sorts of reasons to reject Yu Mozi's suggestions.

Finally, when everything was ready and the day of the premiere was approaching, Wu Yihuo came to Chen Gu with a troubled face. "Coach," he said, "I'm in a bit of trouble. My wife wants me to accompany her to the premiere, but I have a task to perform at the event."

Chen Gu was surprised, not because he had overlooked this detail, but because, as he recalled, "Weren't you saying that your spouse never forces you to show up in public?"

Being a celebrity herself, Bai Hongyue had married someone outside the industry, and there was already much "speculation" in the media. To protect her husband, Bai Hongyue usually kept her family "hidden."

She never asked Wu Yihuo to accompany her to events in the spotlight.

With a pained expression, Wu Yihuo said, "I don't know what got into her this time. She insists that I go with her and even picked out my suit."

Chen Gu was caught off guard as well. Every member of the special operations team had their own roles. Replacing Wu Yihuo with other security agents on short notice was possible, but team coordination would definitely suffer.

"Forget it," Chen Gu compromised. "Since your wife wants you with her, just go. I'll ask headquarters to assign another agent to fill your spot. After what happened last time, she might have some lingering fear and doesn't feel safe, so she wants you by her side."

Wu Yihuo nodded; there was no other choice.

「A few days later, at eight o'clock in the evening,」

The premiere ceremony was grandly held at Capital Star's famous Star Shadow Grand Theater. Thanks to Gao Mengjiu's connections, many celebrities came to support the event, making the red carpet dazzlingly star-studded.

However, the agents of the Bureau of Mystic Security were extremely tense behind the scenes. Everyone's eyes were wide open. Those with sensory skills, in particular, had their abilities cranked up to the maximum throughout the event.

Yet from start to finish, the event was peaceful. The Digital Group did not make an appearance!

As the premiere drew to a close, Chen Gu grew increasingly nervous. After seeing off the last star and the ceremony was completely over, he even felt a sense of "emptiness." Really, they didn't come?

Did the Digital Group really chicken out?

The agents of the Bureau of Mystic Security had been on high alert all evening, and everyone was exhausted.

"It's always better to have no trouble than trouble," Gong Shuxu comforted everyone. "All right, you can all rest now."

Chen Gu went home as well, but a persistent unease lingered in his heart. If the Digital Group's target wasn't the premiere, then where would it be?

They weren't the kind of people who knew when to stop. They had a "grand dream," and for the sake of that dream, they wouldn't hesitate to sacrifice themselves.

Just as Chen Gu's car reached his doorstep, before he had even parked in the garage, a call suddenly came in. Qing Ruyan said through clenched teeth, "Those maniacs have made their move!"

Chen Gu's eyes flashed with intensity. "Where? I'm on my way now!"

Qing Ruyan fell silent for a moment before saying, "We can't get there in an instant."

「Empire River Star, Songtao Lang City.」

Adjacent to the ocean and four thousand kilometers from Chen Gu's hometown, Wuzhaoyin City, this was a newly built city. It had developed due to a recently discovered excellent fishing ground nearby, and most of its population worked in related industries.

The city had a population of seven million, a large part of whom were fans of the Behemoth Alliance.

Tonight at eight o'clock, coinciding with the Capital Star premiere, the film was also screened here.

One of the cinemas had been fully booked by Chen Gu's fan club, the Songtao Lang City branch, which had organized the event.

These fans had grown to like Chen Gu through the behemoth battle games and had particularly enjoyed his "promotional video" of a fight circulating on the internet. Initially, someone casually posted on a fan forum suggesting a get-together to watch the premiere. As more and more people replied, it eventually turned into a full cinema booking.

Chen Gu rushed to headquarters as fast as he could. During the drive, Qing Ruyan kept him updated, briefing him on the situation. "The attacked cinema is called Angel Cinema," she said. "It has nine screening rooms. The fan club contacted the cinema in advance and booked all nine rooms for the eight o'clock screening to show your film simultaneously."

"The attack happened at 8:30 PM. The entire cinema was taken over by armed militants. The cinema's security staff were all killed, and the workers were taken hostage."

"Nineteen minutes later, Songtao Lang City's police system received an alarm, but at first, they only thought it was an ordinary assault. Our intelligence system was therefore several hours late in learning about this attack."

The first thing Chen Gu said when he arrived at headquarters was, "Get a spaceship ready. I'm heading back!"

Seated behind his desk, Chen Jixian spoke tersely, barely lifting his eyes, "No!"

"We have our branches on Empire River Star; they've already dispatched personnel to handle the situation. You have to trust our colleagues!"

Chen Gu strode over, his hands pressed onto the desk as he fiercely glared at him. Chen Jixian remained outwardly unmoved, though inwardly he was somewhat nervous, fearing Chen Gu would once again pull rank by playing the "father card."

After a standoff, Chen Jixian slowly began, "This is obviously targeted at you. How do you know it's not a trap to lure you there?"

"Or perhaps it's a feint? While our attention is fixed on Songtao Lang City, they suddenly strike Capital Star?"

Ten minutes later, the core members of the special operations team, including Chen Gu, rushed out of the Bureau's building. Soon after, a Bureau of Mystic Security spaceship took off, heading straight for Empire River Star.

Chapter 624 Heartclinging Worm

"Empire River Star is your hometown, and it's your fans who are in trouble—this is obviously a trap to lure you there!" Before the group set out, Chen Jixian delivered a rare, lengthy speech, its recipient none other than Chen Gu—who, unbeknownst to many, was his father.

Chen Gu's face remained somber; he seemed unable to think of a rebuttal.

"But in reality, even though it's our hometown, we have to admit that it's a backwater. If I were the Digital Group and planning an attack, I wouldn't choose there either; the attention it gets is too low."

"Therefore, I suspect this is very likely the prelude to a feint, with their goal being to draw us away from Capital Star."

Chen Jixian suddenly lifted his eyelids. "So, we might as well turn the tables! We'll pretend we're rushing to Empire River Star, then secretly stay hidden and find their true target!"

Chen Gu looked tempted. He glanced at Gong Shuxu, who, after careful consideration, also nodded. And so, the group was soon seen hurriedly exiting the Bureau building and boarding a spacecraft bound for Empire River Star.

Within the network of the Bureau building, a special "bug" had always been lurking. However, the encryption level of the Bureau building's network was extremely high, and all data entering and leaving was "processed" multiple times. This data processing was akin to that of an old-city sewage treatment plant; after repeated cycles, the "outgoing" data became "clean water."

Even if this "bug" were a nine-lived cat, it had lost eight and a half of them. Number 21 expended considerable effort to reactivate it. He then employed various techniques—unfathomable to humans but common for data lifeforms—to restore the information it held.

Then, he revealed a digital smile on the interstellar quantum network and sent a message to a dedicated "user."

"They think it's a trap. Activate Plan C."

They treated this operation as a "battle," formulating a complete plan from the outset, with contingencies for every possible scenario. In the entire battle plan, Number 21 was paramount; he was responsible for gathering intelligence and determining the opponent's intentions.

Two hours later, Number 21 found a segment of surveillance footage: Chen Gu and his group, after boarding the spacecraft, had quietly left through an emergency hatch. Although they all wore hats, visual comparison confirmed their identities—it was indeed them. It seemed only Marcus and Silver Eagle Charles were actually heading to Empire River Star.

「On the spaceship.」

Inside a cargo hold, a group of "ordinary-looking" people lay in several life-support pods.

Chen Gu used his Brain Domain Hacker abilities to communicate with everyone on a mental level, chatting as if using telepathy.

"How long can this disguise last?"

"The Professional with us can continuously reinforce the disguise. As long as he lives, it can be maintained indefinitely."

"The ones left on Capital Star won't blow our cover, will they?"

"No. Number 21 is indeed powerful, but that's also his weakness: he relies solely on electronic devices for judgment. As long as we maintain optical camouflage, his equipment won't be able to distinguish us."

"Upon arrival at Empire River Star, Marcus and Charles will be the visible leaders. The rest of us will act as ordinary members of the operations team."

Finally, someone raised a question, "What if... Number 21 never actually infiltrated the Bureau's network? Would all our efforts be in vain?"

Chen Gu answered, "Always assume our opponent is one step ahead."

In fact, when Chen Gu first heard about the attack, he was furious. He particularly detested the Digital Group's practice of readily dragging innocent ordinary people into their conflicts. However, on the way to the Bureau building, he had calmed down: the Digital Group's actions were too conspicuous. They had specifically targeted his hometown and chosen his fan club.

The conversation Chen Jixian had with him inside the Bureau building was also pre-arranged, a mental discussion between father and adult son conducted using Chen Gu's Brain Domain Hacker abilities. Getting Chen Jixian to deliver such a long speech in one go was indeed asking a lot of him, rather like asking a terrible actor to memorize a lengthy script.

Currently, the Bureau of Mystic Security didn't actually know if the Digital Group had taken the bait. They landed in Songtao Lang City at the scheduled time. Marcus led the way, followed by Silver Eagle Charles and a group of "operations team" members, to meet with the local sub-bureau's special operatives.

"Brief us on the situation!" Marcus had no time for pleasantries and got straight to the point.

The chief of Songtao Lang's Masked Sub-bureau, a Fourth Energy Level Regenerating Warrior named Ankara, immediately spoke, her face grave. "Approximately 3,200 people are trapped in the cinema. We've attempted to access the internal surveillance footage using technical means, but all attempts failed. Consequently, we have no information about the situation inside."

"We don't know by what means the criminals are controlling so many people. It's completely quiet inside the cinema."

Marcus asked, "Have you organized a rescue operation?"

"We attempted one," Ankara said, her expression sorrowful. "Two special operatives, along with our most elite operations team, tried to enter through the cinema's ventilation shafts. However, as soon as they breached the cinema perimeter, we lost contact with them. We haven't heard anything since!"

Chapter 625 Heartclinging Worm_2

"What's bizarre is, we didn't hear any sounds of battle, and they just vanished into thin air."

In the "spiritual power chat group" established by Chen Gu using his Brain Domain Hacker abilities, everyone was discussing in hushed tones:

"It's not the moss virus."

"Could be some sort of gas that knocks people out."

"That's unlikely too; the cinema isn't sealed off. If it were a gas, there would be a leak, and the local division should have detected it."

"A certain professional's abilities? Oriented towards spiritual power?"

A thought struck Chen Gu. Past operations had revealed that the Digital Group could mass-produce individuals with psychic abilities.

"The Digital Group has been lurking for many years. The strength they've concealed under the surface might be vast beyond our imagination. Don't let preconceived notions affect our judgment during the operation," Gong Shuxu said, speaking with a voice of experience.

"Regardless, we need to send someone in to take a look."

After thinking, Chen Gu said to Marcus, "Get me the architectural plans of the cinema."

Marcus procured the blueprints, and everyone huddled around to inspect them. Chen Gu planned in his mind and instructed Marcus, "First, try hailing them and communicating. If there's no response, organize a feint at the front to draw their attention, while I'll use Quantum Teleportation to check the situation inside."

"No!" Marcus objected vehemently. "That's too risky. We don't know anything about the situation inside."

Chen Gu insisted, "We don't have time to be cautious anymore. It's been over a dozen hours since the incident began. If we don't rescue them soon, the consequences will be unthinkable!"

Marcus couldn't win the argument and reluctantly went ahead with the plan.

He stepped forward to call out to those inside the cinema, but there was no response. Then, with a wave of his hand, Charles, who was already prepared with a team, began to rapidly approach the main entrance of the cinema, ready to launch an assault.

Meanwhile, Chen Gu, an "inconspicuous" member of the operation team, used the pretext of a bathroom break to find a corner without electronic surveillance. He began constructing the entire building's three-dimensional structure in his mind, calculating the distance between himself and one of the projection rooms. Taking a deep breath, a faint blue energy ripple fluctuated around him. The next moment, the energy ripple sharply contracted inward, and Chen Gu vanished.

Under these circumstances, employing Quantum Teleportation was extremely dangerous. If Chen Gu made any error in his calculations, he could become stuck in some "uncertain" space.

Behind a massive speaker in Projection Hall No. 3, a faint blue energy ripple fluctuated, and Chen Gu materialized.

He immediately ducked down, alert, and activated his Radiation Field. Within a 150-meter radius, everything became clear to him.

He felt relieved he had taken the risk to choose this spot. The entire projection hall was pitch-black; if not for the large speaker blocking the view, the blue light from his Quantum Teleportation would have been extremely conspicuous.

Yet, what his Radiation Field revealed left him puzzled: throughout the entire projection hall, everyone was sitting in their seats, eyes wide open, breathing evenly. They were neither unconscious nor asleep, nor did they seem to have sustained any injuries!

The hall was shrouded in darkness, yet these people behaved as if they were engrossed in watching a captivating movie.

What's going on? Chen Gu wondered.

The more bizarre the situation, the more cautious Chen Gu became. His body slowly turned transparent as he used his Multistate Special Agent ability to vaporize himself. Drifting through the entire projection hall, he made a circuit without finding anything suspicious, then left to search elsewhere.

He quickly found several cinema employees whose behavior was even stranger. In the dark, they were operating equipment that was clearly switched off—as if they were going about their regular job of projecting a movie!

In the pitch darkness, their actions were chilling.

Chen Gu scoured several projection halls; the situation was the same in all of them.

Just then, he heard sounds of fighting from the cinema's main entrance, but inside the cinema itself, all remained silent.

Audience members and staff alike remained oblivious to the gunshots and explosions.

Chen Gu was bewildered. The Digital Group held many hostages. Their best course of action would have been to drag some out, threatening the Bureau of Mystic Security to cease their assault or risk the hostages being killed.

Yet, the Digital Group preferred to resist the Bureau's assault rather than "harm" these hostages!

Chen Gu drifted towards the cinema's office area. Hundreds of meters away, he suddenly stopped. A combat instinct made him realize something: he couldn't move any further forward, or he would definitely be exposed.

Chen Gu turned and headed back towards the fighting at the cinema's main entrance.

Charles was launching a fierce attack, but the Digital Group's resistance was just as strong, including at least four professionals.

Chen Gu, hidden in the shadows, used the Brain Domain Hacker abilities stored in his Secret Nest to inform Charles that they could retreat.

Charles feigned a fierce attack for a while but couldn't make any progress. Considering the hostages' safety, he had no choice but to pull back.

The Digital Group left some members guarding the main entrance, then two of the four professionals withdrew back into the cinema.

Chapter 626 Heartclinging Worm_3

Chen Gu set his sights on one of the "Electric Charge Controllers," a Third Energy Level individual. His mental tentacles spread out and silently wrapped around the man's head.

The Sixth Energy Level "Brain Domain Hacker" faced off against the Third Energy Level "Electric Charge Controller." The latter emitted a series of electric sparks, catching the attention of another professional up ahead. He turned back and asked, "What's wrong?"

He was a "Kinetic Courier," also a Third Energy Level.

In a place like Empire River Star, a Third Energy Level professional was already considered quite the "big shot." The Digital Group had really gone all out this time; even their underlings were Third Energy Level.

The "Electric Charge Controller" twisted his body unnaturally and said, "Just some aftereffects of using my abilities. Nothing serious now."

He shook his hands, and the electric light at his fingertips slowly extinguished.

The professional ahead shrugged, not thinking much of it, and the two returned to the general manager's office.

This was the only lit place in the entire movie theater. Even so, only a single desk lamp was on, its dim light casting the enormous silhouettes of the few people standing in the vast, empty space onto the walls.

When the two professionals who had been outside came in, a tall, shadowy figure next to the lamp was looking at some information in his hands. Sensing their return, he asked without lifting his head, "How are things out front?"

The "Kinetic Courier" replied with a smile, "Nothing to worry about. Although they came on strong, I think it was just a feint to test our strength and resolve."

The "Electric Charge Controller" remained silent.

The leader casually put away the information, looked at everyone, and said, "The incubation process needs another two hours."

"The higher-ups have sent word. The Special Action Squad only sent two small fry; the real force must still be on Capital Star."

"So, congratulations to us! This operation has made us the main force!"

A look of great joy appeared on everyone's faces. The "Electric Charge Controller" also hurriedly adopted the same expression, but his control was still not very smooth, making it appear somewhat stiff.

In the surrounding darkness, this small flaw went unnoticed.

One member couldn't help asking, "When this is all over and rewards are distributed, is there a chance we'll be granted a 'Digital'?"

It wasn't just him; all the members looked expectantly at the leader. This time, the "Electric Charge Controller" managed his expression much more smoothly; it looked more genuine than a real person's.

The leader said indifferently, "Don't forget our oath. Carry out the mission earnestly, and what is meant to be will naturally come to pass."

The leader hadn't outright denied it, and the members felt even more enthusiastic.

The "Kinetic Courier" took the initiative and said, "I'll check the perimeter. Don't let those dogs sneak in."

The "Electric Charge Controller" also spoke up, "I'll check the screening halls and make sure there are no accidents."

The leader was pleased with everyone's proactive attitude and nodded. "Good. Off you go, and be careful."

In a corner of this large office lay a group of people, headed by two special agents, with the rest being members of the action team—people from the local branch.

Unlike the audience members, they were in a deep coma.

From beginning to end, the "Electric Charge Controller" never once looked at them.

After leaving the office, the "Electric Charge Controller" loyally patrolled the screening halls, while Chen Gu, hidden in the shadows, continuously sent out messages.

"Currently, we know of seven professionals. The leader is at least Sixth Energy Level, possibly Seventh Energy Level; his profession is unknown."

"Our plan has successfully deceived the Digital Group. This place has become their main operational target."

"Their operation this time is likely not just for revenge; they have ulterior motives."

"They're 'incubating' something; only the leader knows what. The 'Electric Charge Controller' (whose mind I'm in) participated in the whole plan. These people are just followers of Number 11. They've injected something into the audience members' bodies, using them as human incubators!"

During the 'Electric Charge Controller's' patrol, Chen Gu used a "Radiation Field" stored within his "Secret Nest" to thoroughly investigate the condition inside the audience members' bodies.

When Chen Gu first entered the theater, he had used the "Radiation Field" to investigate the general surroundings and hadn't deeply examined the people's bodies.

Now that he "inspected" them more closely, a surge of fury rose from his heart to his head, nearly causing his breathing to become erratic and expose his presence!

Inside each audience member's body, a parasitic egg was hidden!

The eggs clung near the heart, drawing nutrients from the bloodstream with each heartbeat.

The incubation stage of the eggs varied; those in stronger individuals were developing more quickly.

The larvae resembled spiders dragging long tails, with two mantis-like scythes for forelimbs extending from their heads.

The larvae's bodies were covered in countless slender, whip-like cilia that had burrowed into the host's internal organs to absorb nutrients.

Chen Gu had never seen such peculiar insects before. They weren't even listed in the secret military archives and were likely a covert creation of the Digital Group.

This indicated that the Digital Group was indeed utterly ruthless and unscrupulous in pursuing its goals.

Don't they worry that such experiments could spiral out of control and doom all of humanity?

Chen Gu quickly forced himself to calm down. It seemed the larvae had not yet reached full maturity. Although the audience members were unknowingly weakened from being "drained" of their vitality, prompt surgery to remove the larvae could still save their lives.

What should I do? Chen Gu quickly pondered. A large-scale raid might provoke the Digital Group to activate some hidden mechanism that could accelerate the larvae's growth or cause them to burst out directly from their hosts.

The key is a decisive strike—to eliminate all the culprits as quickly as possible, leaving them no opportunity to execute any potential hidden contingency plans.

But... are these all the culprits there are? The ones I've seen?

According to the "Electric Charge Controller's" memories, these were indeed the only individuals involved. However, Chen Gu dared not take the risk. Given the Digital Group's cunning, they would hardly let a low-level follower like this "Electric Charge Controller" know the full extent of their operation.

I still need to find a way to confirm things. At the very least, I must figure out the leader's actual Profession. Also, when the two professionals from the local branch charged in, who was it that subdued them so silently?

Chapter 627 A Question of the Soul

Number 11: "How are things moving on the Bureau of Mystic Security's side?"

In front of him, a holographic projection screen came to life. After he asked the question, the screen didn't show a speaker, only a line of response, "They're tight on the inside, ready for anything, swapping all kinds of data very frequently and quickly."

Number 11 flashed a smile. "They really think they've seen through our ruse."

The screen displayed another line, "When it comes to tactical scheming, the Bureau of Mystic Security is still far behind."

Number 11 nodded. He knew the other party could see this gesture. In fact, they were engaging in a "face-to-face" conversation.

"How's your diversionary operation going?"

"We've set up four operations, all on important planets, but we're deliberately not choosing Capital Star, keeping them guessing and indecisive!"

"HAHAHA!" Number 11 laughed out loud. "This time, we must show them our true strength!"

The screen responded, "Make sure your people do a good job; don't waste all our effort!"

Number 11 said arrogantly, "Rest assured, the operation on Empire River Star is foolproof!"

「...」

Charles stood pressed against the exterior wall of the building, in a surveillance blind spot—the hostage-takers inside the cinema had taken control of all surrounding monitoring equipment. With Number 21 backing them, it was no surprise they could achieve this.

He spread his hands, palms down, as two streams of particles flowed smoothly out, propelling him into the air. His back remained flush against the building's exterior wall, like a gecko, as he ascended to the vicinity of the thirty-seventh floor.

The cinema was in this building. Charles flipped his hands, switching to another kind of particle stream, which he sprayed onto the external wall.

The high-polymer material of the building's exterior wall melted quickly, like cheese under a blowtorch, creating a hole large enough for a person to crawl through. Charles ducked and slipped inside.

He moved deftly through the corridors, avoiding the inspections by "Potential Postmen." He was secretly congratulating himself. Suddenly, his vision blurred. He found himself facing a bright light, revealing the valiant silhouette of the Valkyrie Aviloya. She turned around with a pleasant smile, then unexpectedly drew her sword and stabbed towards him!

Charles's vision blurred, and he collapsed limply to the ground...

In the darkness, a grain of sand struck the major artery in Charles's neck. It carried a potent sedative that instantly knocked him unconscious.

Afterward, where Charles fell, grains of sand gathered from the surrounding crevices and corners, slowly forming a human shape. It dragged Charles by the legs through the corridor, turning a corner where the leader was waiting alone.

"Another one come to die," the leader said disdainfully, while the Sand Sea Ancient Fiend painfully massaged its divine body, complaining hoarsely, "That guy used the Stellar Wind particle stream to burn through the exterior wall, melting part of me."

The leader was in high spirits and joked, "Which part? As long as it's not the most critical part, it's all good. HEH HEH HEH."

The Sand Sea Ancient Fiend replied angrily, "Of course not! You dirty old man!"

The leader took Charles. "I'll take care of this one. You stay hidden and monitor any external intrusions."

"Okay."

They quickly went their separate ways. The Sand Sea Ancient Fiend's body once again dissipated into countless grains of fine sand, blending into every inconspicuous corner of the building.

However, its abilities were limited; it couldn't cover every corner of the cinema. Therefore, it focused on monitoring external intrusions, leaving the inside to others.

It was Number 11's secret pawn, its existence unknown even to his other followers.

Where the two had just conversed, a cloud of faintly colored gas lingered and swirled. Chen Gu nodded to himself. Indeed, someone else was still hidden.

The attack by Charles was, of course, arranged by him—a thankless task that was almost guaranteed to be a "walk into the trap."

Charles grumbled, but within the mental chat group established by Chen Gu, Joseph and Melincha kept praising him, "This mission suits you best; you're the only one who could complete it flawlessly!"

Charles considered all his colleagues. It seemed the only one he could pass the buck to was Joseph, but the plan given by Chen Gu was impossible for Joseph—the Glacier Spirit—to carry out with his abilities. The others... Melincha and Selena were out of the question; they were old partners, and Charles couldn't bear to send them on such a suicidal mission. As for the newcomers Chu Zheng and Wu Yihuo, one was a promising player in dual professions, the other a genius—both highly valued and cultivated by the Bureau. Sending them was inconceivable... Neither Gong Shuxu nor Chen Jixian would agree to it. The non-staff member Shang Qingye wasn't present this time.

Charles had a feeling that Chen Gu deliberately set up such a mission plan just to trap him...

And as for the Special Operations division of the local branch in Songtao Wave City? Setting aside the trust issues, they had just lost two agents inside. To send more people there to "throw their lives away"—wouldn't that be inhuman?

Chen Gu recalled the process of Charles being taken down and began to analyze. That grain of sand had a drug on it that could quickly knock out a Professional—that's no ordinary drug. The Digital Group has indeed accumulated a strong foundation over the years. And Charles's sudden stupor was definitely not due to the Sand Sea Ancient Fiend's ability. Considering the audience's behavior inside the cinema, the leader might very well be an "Electric Flash Telephone Operator"!

Chapter 628 A Question of the Soul_2

This profession made a deep impression on Chen Gu.

But to cause thousands of casualties at once, it would take an 'Electric Light Operator' of at least the Eighth Energy Level! If he really were at the Eighth Energy Level, then we wouldn't need to plan any rescue operation. No matter how hard we 'little fry' tried, it would be in vain—and if he were truly at the

Eighth Energy Level, he should have discovered me by now. A Sixth or Seventh Energy Level 'Electric Light Operator' must have used some powerful item to amplify his abilities.

Chen Gu already had a plan forming in his mind. Don't worry, Charles, he silently told him. Your sacrifice will be worth it.

The "Potential Energy Mailman" checked every screening hall; everything was normal, with no abnormalities. He quietly breathed a sigh of relief as he came out of the last one, Screening Hall Nine, and ran into the "Charge Dominator." They greeted each other when, suddenly, an old man appeared beside them. The old man raised his hand and gently chopped at their necks. They both blacked out and collapsed.

It's the 'Psychological Invisibility' of a high-level Psychological Spy! the "Potential Energy Mailman" realized just before losing consciousness. He must have come in much earlier, following us all along, just waiting for this chance.

The old man dragged the two of them toward the general manager's office. The thugs they encountered along the way seemed oblivious to his presence.

He reached the office. The leader sharply turned his head to look at the doorway as the old man entered, dragging several of his companions!

The leader sneered. "Psychological Spy?"

Gong Shuxu replied calmly, "You're the only one left. Surrender. You can't win. Our Eighth Energy Level operative is about to arrive. You won't even be able to escape."

The leader, however, showed no panic. He gently twisted a metal bracelet on his wrist. This bracelet, previously concealed by his 'Electric Light Operator' ability and invisible to everyone, suddenly appeared. It had a dial on it.

He looked at Gong Shuxu and said with a confident smile, "To achieve Purification, sacrifices must be made."

"We were all prepared for sacrifice before this operation. For us, sacrifice isn't the end; on the contrary, it's a brand new beginning! And you absolutely cannot win!" As he spoke, he forcefully turned the dial. A sound wave, inaudible to ordinary people, emanated from the bracelet and spread throughout the cinema.

The audience members, supposedly "engrossed in watching the movie," began screaming in agony. Blood quickly poured from their seven orifices. Then, with a series of POP POP POP sounds, their chests were torn open from the inside. From the bloody mess, undeveloped parasitic limbs emerged!

"Hahaha!" The leader laughed maniacally. "Wait for the cleansing!"

The hideous insects, upon crawling out of the bodies they had parasitized, immediately turned to devour their hosts. Most of the hosts were still alive, their agonizing screams turning the entire cinema into a hell on earth.

The leader's laughter grew even more frenzied. "Even an Eighth Energy Level operative would be useless now! You've lost! You've completely lost..."

But suddenly, the scene before him vanished. The leader realized his arm was tightly gripped by a young man, and the crucial metal bracelet had already been stripped away!

Chen Gu snatched the metal bracelet and immediately tossed it into his Dimensional Prison Ring, warning Combat Rooster, Don't eat it!

The leader's eyes instantly turned blood-red. He was furious and ashamed. He, an 'Electric Light Operator' who relied on his professional abilities to invert sight and confuse enemies, had never expected to be deceived by a similar technique!

Everything that had just happened was an illusion. Outside, it was quiet. Those strange insects were still silently developing inside the hosts' bodies, and his men were still safely stationed throughout the cinema.

There was no Psychological Spy named Gong Shuxu. There was only...

"Brain Domain Hacker!" The leader ground his teeth. "A Sixth Energy Level Brain Domain Hacker!"

He too was at the Sixth Energy Level. Had he not been caught completely off guard, Chen Gu would not have so easily manipulated his thoughts.

"You... must die!"

He ripped off the jacket of his combat uniform, revealing an antique metal breastplate underneath. A small mirror was set in its center. The mirror reflected the light, appearing exceptionally mystical.

Chen Gu suddenly felt the world spin; everything around him was constantly shifting, various images merging chaotically.

A Coded Item! he realized. So that's the object he used to amplify his abilities and control thousands of spectators.

Chen Gu closed his eyes and activated his Radiation Field.

Senior Rainbow, hurry! he mentally urged.

THUD!

A huge hammer slammed down, completely shattering the chaotic array of images. Chen Jixian, wielding the hammer, charged in but soon also found himself lost in a dizzying, chaotic swirl of light and shadow.

"Come on! All of you, come! I'll bury you together!" the leader roared.

Chen Gu held his ground, refusing to act rashly, but he gradually felt his strength waning.

At higher Energy Levels, an 'Electric Light Operator's' abilities were no longer limited to simply "transplanting" vision and images, as they were at lower levels. The "electric" aspect of their power became integrated, continuously making the space vibrate. This created a powerful disruptive effect, interfering with sensory abilities like the Radiation Field.

Chapter 629 A Question of the Soul_3

Chen Gu suddenly sensed immense danger and, without hesitation, activated "Heavy Core Armor." Then, THUD! He took a solid hit from a hammer!

He saw stars, his whole body shuddering, and he nearly spat out a mouthful of blood.

Abyssal Blacksmith! Chen Gu immediately recognized the attacker. He almost burst into curses. You unfilial son, daring to strike your own father! Just you wait! I'll have my granddaughter and daughter-in-law deal with you later!

He rapidly shifted his position. Before the "Lightning Operator" could launch another attack, he suddenly switched to Meng Moshi's memories and transformed into a drifting gas.

In this state, attacks were hardly effective against him, but he also faced an awkward predicament: the "Lightning Operator's" abilities still strongly influenced him, and it was difficult for him to mount an effective offense.

The Abyssal Blacksmith's hammer swung and smashed. THUD! THUD! THUD! It was as if the entire space was vibrating.

Chen Gu struggled desperately, pleading, "Senior Rainbow! Auntie Rainbow! Grandma Rainbow! Please, come quickly!"

Chen Gu took a risk, using his "Brain Domain Hacker" power to control the "Lightning Operator." His goal was to find the metal wristguard.

He speculated that these parasitic bugs might have a "switch" that could control them to break out of their host prematurely.

His judgment was correct, preventing a tragedy, but it also landed him in this predicament.

Suddenly, he heard Chen Jixian's cries of agony, one after another. Afterward, the strikes from the hammer seemed to lose their weight and force.

Chen Gu's heart clenched. I can endure with "Heavy Core Armor" and hide using "Multistate Special Agent," but Chen Jixian can't. His situation must be terrible! Attacked by the "Lightning Operator," and other bandits might even join in—they're all Professionals, ganging up on my adult son!

Anxiousness filled Chen Gu's heart; concern was throwing him into disarray. Should I risk making a move? This could very well be a trap! Chen Jixian is the bait!

Cry after cry came. By the third, Chen Gu couldn't hold back any longer. He cursed under his breath and switched memories from Meng Moshi to Ye.

In that instant, he unleashed a vocational skill he had never used before:

"Dimensional Prison"!

Suddenly, everything around them quieted. They were in a mysterious space, maintaining a "seemingly existent yet non-existent," "both present and absent" connection with all other spaces.

This space both existed and didn't. Or rather, it was in a state fluctuating between existence and non-existence.

It was a mysterious prison Ye used to confine his enemies.

At the Eighth Energy Level, Ye handled it with ease, but it was a significant strain on Chen Gu's Sixth Energy Level.

And unlike Ye, who had a clear target when he opened this prison, Chen Gu didn't even know where his enemy was. He had simply opened this cage to break free from his current quandary, expanding its range to the maximum with all his might.

But within the span of two breaths, Chen Gu couldn't hold on any longer. He had just withstood a hammer blow from Chen Jixian, and his internal organs had suffered a massive shock. Now, he finally succumbed, spitting out a mouthful of blood.

"Dimensional Prison" shattered!

SHINK—

A sharp blade pierced through Chen Gu's back, stabbing into his chest!

Chen Gu wasn't alarmed; instead, he was relieved. This was my actual intention! I knew I couldn't control "Dimensional Prison" properly, and I didn't even know where the target was. So, "Dimensional Prison" was a vulnerability I intentionally exposed!

As soon as the blade penetrated his skin, he immediately activated "Entanglement Control," firmly locking onto the blade's owner through the weapon itself. Then, the Father-Son Sword flew out from the Dimensional Prison Ring, launching a fierce assault on his opponent.

SWISH— SWISH— SWISH—

Sword light flashed. After a succession of nine strikes, a corpse, severed in two, fell to the ground. But Chen Gu felt no excitement. He swiftly switched memories and once again turned into a cloud of gas.

The one who had ambushed him from behind was another bandit, not the "Lightning Operator."

"Cunning!" he muttered. My injuries are severe. One misstep before Rainbow arrives, and I'm done for here.

Chen Jixian's screams rang out again. Chen Gu bit his lip. Hold back!

Suddenly, all the surrounding chaos vanished. The "Lightning Operator's" power disappeared, and Chen Gu could see everything around him clearly. The bandits who were still alive stood there dumbfounded, completely stiff, unable to even move their eyeballs.

A stunning figure slowly approached, a smile on her face, gripping the "Lightning Operator" by the neck.

Chen Gu let out a breath of relief. Rainbow has finally arrived.

"You've had a hard time," Rainbow said. "Go see how Chen Jixian is doing."

Chen Gu reverted from his gaseous state to his normal form. Chen Jixian lay on the ground nearby, several wounds on his body gushing blood, his life hanging by a thread.

He rushed over to his adult son's side, only to thrust his sword into his body!

The surrounding scenery shattered. Rainbow disappeared. The "Lightning Operator" cackled menacingly as everything plunged back into chaos. "You actually saw through it!"

He had lost another subordinate. The bandit who had pretended to be Chen Jixian, lying on the ground to ambush Chen Gu, had been killed by Chen Gu's single sword thrust.

Chen Gu sneered internally. Based on my understanding of my adult son, even if he were dead, he'd still be defiant. He would never lie on the ground like a dead dog. Since I already know what your abilities are, how could I not be prepared for this trick?

But his situation was still dire. Chaos still reigned, and Chen Gu's "Radiation Field" was severely disrupted. How much longer can I hold out?

Then, just as suddenly, the surrounding chaos shattered once more, and everything returned to an orderly state. Chen Gu heard a voice say, "I'm here. You did well, holding out for so long."

Rainbow, carrying the "Lightning Operator" like a limp dog, moved in front of Chen Gu.

Chen Gu remained on guard, but Rainbow gestured with her hand. "This time, it's real."

Chen Gu asked, "Who is the person you like the most?"

Rainbow seemed a bit uncomfortable but still said softly, "Aviloya."

Chen Gu breathed a sigh of relief. This time, it's real.

Chapter 630: Independent Action Brigade

The entire medical system of Songtao Lang City was operating at full capacity, a scene of frenetic activity.

Rainbow, accompanied by Chen Gu, reached the top of the building. She sat on the building's edge, leaning comfortably against a low wall with one long leg dangling over the side. In her hand, she held a bottle of her favorite brand of milk, taking small sips, her eyes squinting with enjoyment.

The wind on the rooftop was crisp, and they watched the rescue operations unfold below, tense yet orderly.

The perpetrators had been dealt with. The Bureau of Mystic Security's action team, which rushed in subsequently, administered heavy doses of sedatives to the parasitized audience members, causing both them and the larvae inside their bodies to fall into a coma.

A plethora of medical robots were requisitioned, working at top speed to extract these larvae from their bodies.

Charles and his team were also rescued. It wasn't that Chen Gu had intentionally tried to undermine him; this time, Charles had completed the mission by taking great risks. Upon his return, he was certain to be rewarded and promoted. Although Charles liked to show off, he didn't have any major flaws, and he and Chen Gu went way back. It was only right to give him a boost when the opportunity arose.

The atmosphere between Rainbow and Chen Gu was a bit awkward. The only sound was the whooshing of the wind in their ears. Thankfully, a ringing phone broke the uncomfortable silence.

"Those larvae, keep them for me! I want them alive!" Dr. Meng Ji spoke rapidly, his words like bullets.

Chen Gu smiled and said, "I knew you'd ask for that. Don't worry, I've prepared one hundred live samples for you!"

"HAHAHA!" Dr. Meng Ji was delighted. "Thanks a lot!"

Rainbow finally finished her bottle of milk, leaving some milky white traces around her mouth. She wiped her mouth contentedly, stretched lazily, and said, "Alright, let's head back."

They tacitly avoided bringing up Aviloya again.

Chen Gu now understood why Aunt Rainbow treated him so well: it was because he had rescued Aviloya last time. The charm of a Valkyrie truly is immense—not just men, but women were drawn to them too.

"All of you, get on!"

The members of the Digital Group, regardless of what they were doing, simultaneously had this dialogue box pop up before them. Just three simple words, yet they clearly conveyed the fury of Number 21, lurking within the network.

"The Songtao Lang City operation has failed completely!"

Number 11 was the first to exclaim in disbelief, "What? I'll contact them immediately..."

"No need. I've already confirmed it!" Recalling the conversation he'd had with Number 11 not long ago, Number 21 felt a surge of shame and irritation! Our tactics and strategies were completely crushed by the enemy. They successfully predicted our moves and turned them against us, smoothly sabotaging the Songtao Lang City operation and inflicting heavy losses upon us.

Number 11 was speechless, a stark contrast to his previous confident and assertive demeanor.

"What about the other operations? Can we convert these feints into real attacks?" another Number asked.

"It's too late," Number 21 said. "Besides, the failure in Songtao Lang City has cost us dearly. Those thousands of 'Demon Infant Insect' eggs were cultivated at the cost of billions of Starshields."

At this, all the Numbers felt the sting of the loss.

Finally, Number 21 said, "Just wait. I'm sure the Bureau of Mystic Security has made thorough preparations this time. We'll soon hear news of those feint operations failing!"

Then, the furious and frustrated Number 21 delivered a final sentence before disappearing, "Someone must be held accountable for this failure!"

The Numbers silently closed the dialogue box. Accountable? Who would be held accountable? It could only be Number 11.

Several reports landed on Aviloya's desk one after another. The first, naturally, was about Songtao Lang City, followed by others detailing minor attacks. It was clear at a glance that these actions were merely cover for the Songtao Lang City operation.

Having read the report on the Songtao Lang City operation, Aviloya also breathed a long sigh of relief. Even she couldn't help but think to herself at this moment, Thank goodness Chen Gu was there. You have to admit, that kid is really useful. So useful it's almost addictive; you immediately think of him whenever there's a need.

However, Aviloya soon became as exasperated as Number 21. Why? Because an itemized list of expenses for the aftermath was attached to the report.

The mobilization of medical resources—for which the attacked audience members obviously couldn't be expected to pay—combined with the cost of repairing the damaged cinema, created a significant bill. The Bureau of Mystic Security had to bear a portion of it. Even though it wasn't the full amount, it was enough to make Aviloya furious enough to curse.

"The entire Digital Group deserves to be executed!"

After a moment's thought, she called Dr. Meng Ji, "How is the research on those live samples progressing?"

"I've just completed the first phase of testing," Dr. Meng Ji, ever efficient, replied swiftly. "You absolutely must give a major commendation to the Special Operations Division!"

"My preliminary assessment is that these insects are extremely dangerous. If they were to hatch, it would be a catastrophe. Their mature forms are terrifying because their primary instinct is reproduction.

"They will continuously attack humans, laying their eggs inside bodies and then using human nutrients to nurture their larvae. They will expand their population at an alarming rate.

"They can't even be considered part of the Alien Insect Race anymore. They're practically... demonic insects!"

"The Digital Group are truly a bunch of lunatics to have created something like this."