

Full Time 71

Chapter 71: Ghost Woman Mutant

"Spread out, find a place to hide, and don't get splashed!" Chen Gu shouted, glancing up to the next level while using the wall for cover.

Rumbling and crashing sounds continuously emanated from this floor. Chen Gu realized a battle was underway.

Four people lay on the ground; judging by their attire, they all appeared to be Professionals!

Another three were currently surrounding a bizarre Mutant. It resembled an enormous fat man, its excess flesh drooping to the ground. Its huge head had no facial features except for ears. However, a grotesque figure of a woman protruded from its stomach. This woman was the size of a malnourished seven- or eight-year-old child, her limbs dangling lifelessly, and her back was fused into the fat man's body. She had a mouth full of sharp teeth, her face perpetually twisted into a painful, eerie grin, and black saliva dripped from her mouth to the floor, hissing and emitting white smoke upon contact.

The Mutant's defensive capabilities were terrifyingly high. Chen Gu saw that among the three Professionals assaulting it, one was a Star Wind Centurion, the same profession as Silver Eagle. However, although the Star Wind Centurion's particle wind could melt steel, it only left a fleeting mark on the Mutant's body, which vanished in an instant.

Another Professional was the strongest of the three. He continuously manipulated some mysterious force capable of severely affecting the Mutant without physical contact. Throughout the brief fight, this Professional had disrupted the Mutant's attempts to kill one of the others several times.

The last Professional seemed to belong to an older class, lacking overwhelming abilities but possessing terrifying strength and speed. He wielded a shield made from an unknown material, the only item that wasn't corroded.

The woman on the Mutant's stomach suddenly opened her mouth, spewing out five globules of black liquid. While attacking the three Professionals, it also managed to 'target' Chen Gu's group!

Two globules of black liquid flew towards them. Even though they had already taken cover, a few were still splashed. Amidst their screams, the team leader decisively amputated their contaminated body parts.

Chen Gu breathed heavily, feeling as if the tension was sapping all his strength.

This is my first encounter with a Mutant capable of long-range attacks,

he thought. And it seems incredibly durable, almost invincible.

Chen Gu quickly channeled Griffin Wester's memories, searching for an opportunity on the battlefield to turn defeat into victory. But upon closer inspection, his heart sank completely.

The strongest of the three battling Professionals yelled out, "Don't come in! This is a Gamma Level Mutant! You'll just be throwing your lives away if you come in! Don't make pointless sacrifices! Get out! Get out!"

The Bureau of Mystic Security classified Mutants using Roman alphabetic order. The lowest level, for newly contaminated Mutants, was Alpha Level. At this level, ordinary human warriors could still cooperate to kill them.

The next level up was Beta Level. Mutants of this level could no longer be handled by ordinary human warriors and conventional weapons; they required heavy weaponry or Professionals.

Gamma Level was the third tier. Even Professionals of the First Energy Level were no match for these Mutants, and the danger level increased drastically.

However, Chen Gu disagreed with the Professional inside. After channeling Griffin Wester's memories, Chen Gu could perceive many deliberately hidden details on the battlefield. He was certain this Mutant was of the even higher Delta Level!

A Fourth-Level Mutant!

Before Chen Gu's group could make a decision, the Ghostly Woman Mutant charged towards them! It seemed to have caught the scent of fresh flesh and was drooling uncontrollably. Its seemingly bulky body moved with incredible agility. It shook off the three Professionals, crashed through the main door with a THUD, and charged into the crowd.

Screams erupted as both the field operatives and the support staff scattered in panic.

The Ghostly Woman Mutant stretched out its fat arm, which elongated indefinitely. It grabbed a member of the support staff, stuffed them into its mouth, and began to devour them greedily!

As it swallowed the living person, its mouth expanded grotesquely, gulping them down in one go.

While eating, the Ghostly Woman Mutant suddenly sniffed the air, as if it had smelled something appetizing, and violently turned towards Chen Gu!

BOOM! BOOM! BOOM! The mountain of flesh began to run, the floorboards shaking beneath it. Salivating, its eyes gleaming, it charged straight for Chen Gu.

Chen Gu had no choice. He raised the Sky-Defying Dragon Fire high. Its twin cannons roared, unleashing a barrage of energy shells powerful enough to penetrate tank armor, which struck the Ghostly Woman Mutant in rapid succession.

The Professionals from the floor above also pursued it closely. The team leader recognized the person in the lead and exclaimed in surprise, "Chief!"

The Branch Chief wasted no time on pleasantries. He extended his palm towards the Ghostly Woman Mutant from afar, and its movements became sluggish. Chen Gu seized the opportunity and unleashed another barrage of shells.

The Ghostly Woman Mutant's body was incredibly resilient. Such attacks merely caused its fatty outer layer to ripple like water, leaving behind patches of scarred, psoriasis-like skin where the shells had impacted.

The Star Wind Centurion bravely stepped forward, summoning all his strength. He opened his mouth, and a viscous torrent of particles, glittering with dazzling starlight like the breath of an ancient dragon, erupted and slammed forcefully against the Mutant's back.

It was intensely hot, incredibly fast, and carried various additional damaging effects!

This all-out attack from the Star Wind Centurion sent the Ghostly Woman Mutant staggering forward, finally inflicting a wound on its back.

But the wound merely broke the skin, failing to penetrate the thick layer of black fat beneath. The Star Wind Centurion's abilities should be well-suited against such highly defensive monsters, Chen Gu thought, shaking his head inwardly. But he's only at the First Energy Level, and apparently not even a particularly strong one, if this is the extent of his full-power attack.

The Ghostly Woman Mutant recovered and lashed out with a backhand, its arm extending at high speed. The Star Wind Centurion, terrified, ejected particles from his feet and shot away like a rocket to evade the attack.

But he was a fraction too slow. Although he dodged a vital strike, the Ghostly Woman Mutant still tore off one of his arms.

He screamed in agony and collapsed against a nearby pillar, temporarily out of action.

The Chief's expression changed. He gritted his teeth and activated another ability.

Suddenly, a slender, double-ended sword materialized in the Ghostly Woman Mutant's chest, piercing through its entire torso.

The weapon appeared so abruptly it was as if it had always been there.

For the first time since the battle began, the Ghostly Woman Mutant suffered a serious injury. It shrieked like a newborn baby, grasped the double-ended sword, and yanked it out forcefully. Then, it

hurled the sword with savage force. The weapon flew towards the Chief at a terrifying speed, almost invisible to the naked eye.

After delivering that incredible strike, the Chief collapsed, drenched in sweat and slumped weakly on the spot.

Chapter 72: Using Oneself as the Lock

The shieldbearer's eyes nearly popped from their sockets as he threw himself recklessly forward, intent on blocking the blow for the Director. But his speed was far too slow compared to the double-headed sword.

At that critical moment, the memory of Griffin Wester within Chen Gu helped him stay calm and collected. With a light twist, he activated 'Heaven-Defying Dragon Fire,' unleashing a series of cannon shots. After several rapid shots, one finally tracked the double-headed sword's trajectory and struck it squarely.

Blown off course and spinning at high velocity, the double-headed sword snapped, severing the Director's thigh. The Director shuddered in pain but wasn't directly hit, saving his life.

The shieldbearer let out a sigh of relief and sincerely said to Chen Gu, "Thank you!"

Chen Gu had no time to respond. The thwarted retaliation had enraged the ghost woman Mutant, who, bellowing furiously, charged towards Chen Gu.

Chen Gu fought while retreating, continuously bombarding his opponent with the firepower of 'Heaven-Defying Dragon Fire' to slow her advance.

The ghost woman Mutant kept spewing a highly corrosive black liquid from her mouth. Chen Gu dodged it deftly every time. The others around him, however, were not so lucky; one after another, they melted into puddles of black water.

The shieldbearer quickly pulled the Director aside, leaving him in the temporary care of the Starwind Legion Commander.

Chen Gu was being pressured into a retreat by the ghost woman Mutant, feeling a pang of regret. The Director's profession should be Quantum Wizard, a very powerful role indeed. The skill he used earlier to remotely control and delay the Mutant's actions must have been 'Entanglement Control.' The sudden appearance of the double-headed sword in the Mutant's chest was likely due to 'Quantum Teleportation.' Unfortunately, to Griffin Wester, the Director's combat style was outdated and inflexible. Moreover, he was only at the Second Energy Level. He was no match for the Mutant, which was a strong contender even among those at the Delta Level.

The energy for 'Heaven-Defying Dragon Fire' was rapidly depleting. Chen Gu clenched 'Wrath of the Azure Sky' in his hands and couldn't help but glance at the shieldbearer beside him.

"We only have one way to defeat this monster!" Chen Gu shouted. Before entering this level, Chen Gu had used Griffin Wester's memories to assess the entire battle situation, and the outcome had been unexpected.

But now, it had come to the point where they had no other choice.

Chen Gu slowly revealed his plan, only to be met with an immediate and decisive response from the shieldbearer, "No problem!"

Without waiting for Chen Gu's reply, the shieldbearer roared as he lifted his shield and charged at the ghost woman Mutant.

To the ghost woman Mutant, this shieldbearer seemed to be the least threatening adversary, so she had been largely ignoring him.

But now, like a humanoid tank, the shieldbearer thunderously charged in. The ghost woman Mutant didn't have time to react before she was hit hard with the shield. Then, the shieldbearer roared again. His body suddenly expanded to three meters in height, and his strength massively increased. He managed to force the ghost woman Mutant back repeatedly until she was crushed against a wall.

"Quick!" the shieldbearer bellowed. Chen Gu dropped 'Heaven-Defying Dragon Fire.' Bearing his blade like a fierce tiger descending a mountain, he charged into the fray.

But because the shieldbearer's body had drastically enlarged, his shield could no longer provide complete protection. The ghost woman Mutant screeched. Her arms suddenly elongated, reaching around from behind the shield to stab fiercely at the shieldbearer's body!

PUK! PUK! PUK!

One gruesome wound after another appeared on the shieldbearer's body. Yet, he gritted his teeth and kept the ghost woman Mutant firmly pinned.

The ghost woman Mutant shrieked, her bulky body swaying, shaking the shieldbearer, who almost couldn't hold on. Blood sprayed from his wounds. He forced his stocky legs down hard, digging two deep footprints into the floor to steady himself.

The ghost woman Mutant's body swayed and shook again, but by that time, Chen Gu had arrived. 'Wrath of the Azure Sky' slashed down in one blow!

With that strike, Chen Gu switched to Griffin Wester's memories. He activated the 'High-Energy Combat Art' of a Star Battle Instructor, complementing the super materials within 'Wrath of the Azure Sky.' He cut through the Mutant's fearsome outer skin, sliced open the black fat beneath, and cleaved the ghost woman from her bloated belly!

SHRIEK—

The ghost woman's severed body on the ground let out a terrible shriek. Chen Gu, without even looking, swung his blade backhand, smashing the ghost woman's head to smithereens!

The shieldbearer could hold on no longer and collapsed backward.

The corpulent Mutant's main body stood motionless. Moments later, with a sickening SQUELCH, it dissolved into a pile of rotten flesh and fat that oozed all over the ground.

"Phew—" Chen Gu let out a long breath and hurriedly checked on the shieldbearer's condition.

From the start, Chen Gu had realized what victory in this battle would require. The shieldbearer would have to sacrifice himself. He was the Hell Titan, the only one with the strength to use his shield to pin down the ghost woman Mutant, creating an opportunity for a decisive blow. But by doing so, the Hell Titan would inevitably be exposed to the ghost woman Mutant's attacks, facing an extremely high chance of death.

The Hell Titan's body rapidly shrank, returning to a normal human size. The wounds the ghost woman Mutant had left on his body now looked even more terrifying; each one had nearly pierced through him.

Chen Gu picked him up, speechless. Yet the Hell Titan managed a bloody grin.

"Worth it... totally worth it!"

A weak call came from the Director. "Hurry... to the generator..."

Chen Gu's heart chilled. Generator? Is that the Mutant's target?

The Director, supported by the Starwind Legion Commander, made his way over. "If the Mutant consumes the super-life remains inside the generator," he said, "it will become exceptionally strong. Perhaps even a Third Energy Level practitioner wouldn't stand a chance!"

The Starwind Legion Commander added from the side, "That other Mutant is already quite fearsome, even stronger than this ghost woman Mutant. If it gets the super-life remains... at least on this planet, I can't think of any creature more powerful!"

Chen Gu glanced at the group of wounded soldiers. The Hell Titan had already roared, "What are you hesitating for? We won't die, go now!"

Chen Gu nodded. Grabbing 'Wrath of the Azure Sky,' he dashed towards the lower levels at high speed.

A combination of a Mutant and a super-life... Just thinking about it makes one's scalp tingle! Is there still time to stop it now?

Chen Gu subconsciously understood that it was probably too late. But at that moment, Chen Gu never again considered breaking a window and escaping on his own.

The Hell Titan's actions had erased any thoughts he had of fleeing alone.

Chen Gu charged forward, his mind racing as he contemplated the crisis. These Mutants must have been preparing for a long time, but why strike now? Did we come to Zhaojieze City just in time, or were the Mutants waiting for us? If it was only for the super-life remains in the generator, why not act in secret and steal them? Such a spectacle has alerted the entire Yinglong Star. Even if they obtain those remains and succeed in evolving, they'll still face a massive military siege. Afterward, even more powerful practitioners from the Bureau of Mystic Security will arrive as reinforcements.

With a hint of doubt in his heart, Chen Gu had already rushed to the seventeenth basement level of the building.

Chapter 73: Once Again Reunited

THUD!

The hatch of the generator endured a heavy blow. However, each generator was incredibly valuable and manufactured with various scenarios in mind. Thus, this powerful strike failed to deform the hatch, causing only a slight tremor.

In front of the generator stood a sinister Mutant, none other than Nagano Takesakura.

Behind her, the lab manager and staff lay dead across the floor. There were also several dozen action team members and three Professionals.

A bloody battle had just taken place here. Nagano Takesakura herself was in rough shape. Six of her tentacles had been severed, one of her four arms was missing, and her giant scorpion tail bore a deep wound.

Her eyes were bloodshot yet held a lively spark, indicating she retained much of her human intelligence. Realizing her claw strike had only made the hatch wobble, her eyes darted around. The tentacles on her back lengthened endlessly, like hair flowing in the wind, enveloping the entire laboratory.

She strained to remember but still couldn't recall which button on the control panel operated the hatch.

Back then, I was so nervous, full of trepidation, focused only on my induction; I have no recollection of other details, she thought.

If I try haphazardly, it could lock the hatch completely or cause the generator to self-destruct.

With a disgusted expression, Nagano Takesakura used a tentacle to roll the lab manager's corpse from the ground. She seemed to steel herself before another tentacle pierced the manager's skull with a PUFF.

She greedily devoured the manager's brain matter, acquiring a flood of memories as jumbled as the substance itself.

Moments later, the manager's head was empty. Nagano Takesakura tossed the corpse aside and made several human-like retching motions, yet nothing came out.

Psychologically, she found the act repulsive, yet biologically, the brain matter was quite delicious to her.

From the chaotic memories, she finally located the correct button. The tentacles dancing around the room stilled. One descended and pressed the button.

HISS—

The hatch opened.

Nagano Takesakura suddenly felt an indescribable emotion rise within her. She had once sacrificed everything for three chances to enter this place.

The last time, she had even been dragged out without a shred of dignity.

Now, the generator lay open before her, available to enter whenever she wished.

It was that simple. Yet, I am no longer who I used to be...

Ultimately, it makes no difference, Nagano Takesakura consoled herself. I still obtained what I wanted.

The lab had a strict management system; Super-Materials were not stored here. They were only allocated when an induction was scheduled, at which point Professionals would be dispatched to deliver them.

Therefore, opening the generator would only yield the remains of a Super-Life Form, but that was sufficient.

Nagano Takesakura's tentacles drifted into the generator, quickly finding a helmet-shaped piece of bone.

Her tentacles behaved as if beyond her control, desperately trying to burrow into this bone to extract something. But the bone was extremely hard, and the tentacles frantically twisted and turned around it, rapidly entangling into a "meat cocoon."

This way is good too, Nagano Takesakura thought, manipulating her tentacles to place the Super-Life Form's bone behind her. She began to 'digest' it slowly, absorbing this part of the remains.

The huge wound on her tail healed rapidly.

Her severed arm and tentacles also regenerated.

The chitinous exoskeleton covering her body grew even more resilient and lustrous!

"KEKEKE..." She let out a burst of exultant laughter. But Chen Gu, who had just arrived at the door, felt a chill crawl down his spine at the sight of the massive, sinister figure and the sound of that eerie laughter. "Nagano Takesakura!"

Chen Gu never imagined that his colleague, who had accompanied him to Yinglong Star, would transform into such a potent Mutant. She appeared to be a critical component of the Mutants' entire strategy—inexplicably powerful despite her recent contamination—tasked with seizing the remains of the Super-Life Form.

Nagano Takesakura turned. Her blood-red eyes stared at Chen Gu for a moment as if recalling something. Then, she spoke with difficulty, "You... are a good human. Your death... will be less... painful!"

Suddenly, several tentacles shot out from the shadows to Chen Gu's side. Without hesitation, Chen Gu fired a series of shells.

His 'Dragon Fire Against Heaven' could penetrate the armor of a battle tank. The tentacles were agile but possessed far less defensive strength than the Ghost Witch Mutant. They were instantly blown to smithereens.

Nagano Takesakura's face registered no pain. Her massive body, light and ferocious as a gale, rushed Chen Gu, exuding a strange, sweet odor. She extended an arm; from several meters away, Chen Gu felt a terrifying attractive force clamp down on the 'Dragon Fire Against Heaven' in his hands!

Nagano Takesakura twisted her wrist. With a CRACK, the two barrels of the 'Dragon Fire Against Heaven' were mangled like rope.

Chen Gu dropped the battle tank cannon, flipped backward, and leaped more than ten meters away.

Entanglement Control? It's somewhat similar to a Quantum Wizard's abilities, Chen Gu mused.

But Nagano Takesakura's expression twisted. She gritted her teeth and spat out three words, seething with resentment, "Not! Fair!"

Why, after trying so desperately, did I fail my induction three times, while this brat, still in high school, succeeded on his first attempt?! she raged internally. It's completely unfair! Why?! Kill him! Kill him! Kill him!

The chaos, frenzy, and paranoia inherent to a Mutant erupted instantly. Nagano Takesakura vanished on the spot. In the next instant, her terrifying scorpion-like body appeared beside Chen Gu. Her long scorpion tail easily pierced the floor, launching a sneak attack from below.

Her remaining tentacles shot towards Chen Gu in a frenzy. Nagano Takesakura also raised her four arms, claws splayed, as if to grasp something, using that peculiar ability to exert control over Chen Gu from afar with all four limbs.

Chen Gu immediately felt the surrounding air thicken. It severely restricted his movements and prevented him from inhaling!

Furthermore, the strength of this controlling power was intensifying.

I can't end up like the 'Dragon Fire Against Heaven,' Chen Gu thought, rapidly switching to the memories of the Nuclear Explosion Nun. As a Professional, he could now access the Second Energy Level strengths of the practitioners detailed in the book 'Histories of Four Hundred.'

His own Radiation Missionary class was highly compatible with the Nuclear Explosion Nun, greatly enhancing the power of this profession.

SIZZLE! POP! POP!—

Intense radiation burst forth, clashing with Nagano Takesakura's controlling power. Electrical sparks continually erupted in the air around them.

Witnessing Chen Gu's formidable resistance, the feeling of 'unfairness' in Nagano Takesakura's mind intensified, making her even more frantic. She had to kill the person before her—he represented that very injustice!

Chapter 74: Eliminate Together

Chen Gu, however, calmed down. "Mind Belief" granted him incredibly sharp intuition. He turned to look at the cocoon of flesh behind Nagano Takesakura. Subconsciously, he felt that the key to defeating Nagano Takesakura was encased within it.

What is wrapped inside there?

The remains of a super life?

Clutching "The Wrath of the Azure Sky," Chen Gu roared and struck out with his sword towards the force that was controlling him.

CRACK!

It seemed as if some force had shattered. Chen Gu instantly felt lighter. He swiftly leaped behind Nagano Takesakura.

Nagano Takesakura was somewhat confused: Why did this fellow let out a delicate shriek? Isn't he a man? Did I remember wrong? But he clearly looks like a man.

The Mutant, already confused, was further bewildered by these thoughts, allowing Chen Gu the chance to escape.

Chen Gu had already discovered that Nagano Takesakura's controlling ability required the use of her hands. As long as her palms didn't envelop him from a distance, he wouldn't be restricted by this power.

"The Wrath of the Azure Sky" rose proudly, like a colossal dragon burrowing out from the depths of the sea, savagely biting towards Nagano Takesakura's scorpion tail.

With a cunning flick of her scorpion tail, she avoided the strike. "The Wrath of the Azure Sky" then thunderously carved a deep gorge in the ground. It pierced through the floorboards, causing both of them to fall through the broken flooring to the level below.

In the midst of the chaos, Chen Gu's radiant power jetted backward, propelling him like a cannonball towards Nagano Takesakura.

BANG! BANG! BANG! Their continuous collisions reverberated. Chen Gu's "The Wrath of the Azure Sky" clashed repeatedly with Nagano Takesakura's scorpion tail. The impacts made his head swim with stars, and he crashed heavily into a pile of broken concrete.

Nagano Takesakura was the first to rise from the chaotic debris. Her tendrils flew through the air like deadly vipers, slithering through every gap from various angles, aiming to deliver a fatal bite to Chen Gu.

Chen Gu's head was buzzing. He felt as if his body had fallen apart, and he was unable to move.

The tendrils had silently closed in, now less than half a meter away from him.

...

Four hours had passed since the collapse of the Zhaojieze City branch office. The ordinary residents in the six city blocks surrounding it had been completely evacuated.

But most of the residents in the farther areas were still in their homes. Despite the Confederation's best efforts, there were just too many people. It would take at least a week to fully evacuate everyone.

Half an hour ago, Aviloya, Director-General of the Bureau of Mystic Security, had arrived in the orbital space of Yinglong star aboard a spaceship.

Here, a third-level fleet of the Confederation had assembled. On the flagship, Aviloya met with the fleet's commander, Vice-Admiral Rogia.

Rogia's face was darkly tanned, his shoulders broad. His military uniform looked even more solemn and imposing on his frame.

He spoke with a stern expression, bluntly accusing Aviloya, "What in the world are your subordinates paid for? The Bureau of Mystic Security, specifically responsible for dealing with Mutants, has been completely infiltrated by Mutants! Someone must take responsibility for this situation!"

More than forty years had passed, yet Aviloya had not aged a bit. She remained coldly majestic. Her Bureau of Mystic Security uniform was tailored to fit perfectly, accentuating her tall, slender figure to near perfection.

Even as Rogia held her accountable, his own composure wavered slightly. This was, after all, the goddess of all men across the stars.

Aviloya spoke indifferently, "My people, I will handle them myself. The Vice-Admiral is here to solve the problem, and accountability, in this case, is not for the military to interfere with."

Rogia's face grew stern. Unable to refute Aviloya, he changed the subject. "I demand that a Close Range Attack Ship be dispatched immediately. As soon as the evacuation area meets the standard, it is to bombard the branch headquarters and melt all those disgusting Mutants into gas!"

Aviloya did not oppose this plan; it was the most straightforward and reliable solution.

She looked towards Qiao Shengyi, Governor of Yinglong star, at her side. "How much longer do we need for the evacuation?"

Qiao Shengyi answered, "At least half a day more. But... there is a generator beneath the branch office. If the bombardment destabilizes the generator... the entire Zhaojieze City will be completely destroyed!"

"Damn it!" Rogia slammed his fist on the table. "I've said it before, all generators should be under unified military control and safekeeping!"

After a moment's thought, Aviloya said, "I have the highest clearance. I can remotely shut down the generator to ensure no such instability occurs during the bombardment."

As a civil official, Qiao Shengyi hesitated before asking, "Are there still our people inside the branch office? If any of them have survived and we bombard the building..."

Rogia interrupted him without hesitation, saying, "This is a necessary sacrifice! What war is fought without casualties? This is a war between us and the Mutants! They brought this upon themselves. They should have no complaints about sacrificing themselves for it!"

"This..." Qiao Shengyi hesitated, and a hint of pity flickered across Aviloya's face. Rogia thought to himself, Predictably soft, like a woman.

He pretended to ponder for a moment, then added, "How about this: before the Close Range Attack Ship commences its bombardment, I will order them to use infrared life detectors to scan the entire building. The readings for Mutants and normal humans are entirely different on such detectors. If no living humans are found, then we'll proceed."

"That would be best..." Qiao Shengyi said repeatedly, and Aviloya tacitly agreed.

Rogia sneered inwardly. When the time comes, whether or not there are any life signs on the infrared life detector will be entirely up to me, the Vice-Admiral, won't it?

"Your Excellency, please shut down the generator remotely first."

...

A tendril paused briefly in front of Chen Gu, then thrust viciously towards his eyes. Chen Gu's body suddenly emitted an incredibly intense light. Although fleeting, it was strong enough to swiftly carbonize the surrounding tendrils, which then shattered with a SNAP.

Chen Gu slowly stood up. The light emanating from his body gradually faded, but a strong radiation signature remained.

This was a skill from his 'Radiation Missionary' path that Chen Gu himself had gradually comprehended. He had temporarily named it 'Radiant Heat Melting'.

But just as he stood up, Chen Gu suddenly found himself unable to move. Under the cover of the chaotic dust, he had been unwittingly captured by Nagano Takesakura's controlling power.

Chen Gu struggled fiercely, twisting his body. His superhuman physique allowed him to resist, but his body emitted strange, creaking sounds under the strain.

Nagano Takesakura, with her massive form, quietly approached Chen Gu. All four of her arms were aimed at him. The tendrils that Chen Gu had burned to char were rapidly regenerating; he saw a mist-like energy flowing out from the cocoon of flesh behind her.

The remains of a super life. Nagano Takesakura is continuously absorbing it, growing stronger every moment, even as she fights me.

Her control ability wasn't this strong before. The last time I was caught by this power, I could still barely move.

Chapter 75: A Small Gift

One tentacle after another sprang forth around Chen Gu's body, arrogantly swinging for a moment before lunging together to entangle him tightly in their grip.

Immediately after, Nagano Takesakura raised her poisonous scorpion tail from behind, the huge, dark-gleaming hook dripping with venom slowly closing in on Chen Gu.

In Nagano Takesakura's blood-red eyes shone a maniacal light. Finally, I will personally shred this injustice!

SCHT—

The massive scorpion tail pierced right through Chen Gu, making his body shudder as blood gushed out profusely.

Yet on his face was a sly smile!

"You can't escape now!" If it were just the tentacles, Chen Gu still worried that Nagano Takesakura might chop them off to save herself at the last moment.

But inside, Chen Gu couldn't help but curse, Such a blunt, stupid profession, damned if it doesn't kill you. No long-range abilities, and to trigger a nuclear explosion, you have to make contact with the target...

A bright glow began to emerge from within Nagano Takesakura's scorpion tail, quickly traveling up to her body. Soon she was twisting in agony, flinging her tail and sending Chen Gu flying tens of meters away with a scream.

And the light inside Nagano Takesakura's body grew brighter and brighter until it erupted in a massive explosion! In an instant, there was a blinding brightness all around...

Chen Gu had only time to roll once before tumbling into a deep pit, right before Nagano Takesakura burst apart with a BOOM.

The entire building seemed to shake; another floor was blasted through, and with a rumble, debris fell to the level below.

Chen Gu's ears were buzzing nonstop. His whole body felt disassembled; even the large through-and-through wound on his stomach had gone numb, no longer feeling any pain.

He fell with the rest into the level below, buried under a pile of building debris.

Everything finally began to settle. The dust cleared, and it took a good three minutes before Chen Gu struggled, throwing off the debris to stand up.

"HUFF, HUFF, HUFF—" He breathed heavily. A strong sense of weakness washed over him, but this was when a professional's fortitude came to light, energy stored in every cell being drawn out for conversion.

His strength rapidly returned, but his injuries were too severe. Chen Gu struggled to use the skill [Atomic Life] from the Nuclear Explosion Nun, a power that repaired and healed at the atomic level.

Normally, after the activation of this skill, the wounds would close quickly. But Chen Gu's wounds were healing at an excruciatingly slow pace.

And after activating the skill this time, Chen Gu suddenly felt a wave of intense dizziness!

Not good! He warned himself silently. The continuous use of a professional's abilities has already pushed me past my limits. One false move, and I'll go mad, falling into mutation, becoming like Nagano Takesakura.

Chen Gu tore up his clothes to bandage his wounds and looked up to see the generator supported by metal columns, suspended in emptiness—it and the entire building fused into one.

In the midst of chaos, Chen Gu searched for his [Fury of the Azure Sky], preparing to meet up with the precinct chief and the others, unsure if there were other powerful Mutants inside the building.

As he searched, flipping over a wall panel, a sense of alertness suddenly surged within him—below the floorboard was a head, crushed.

Nagano Takesakura's head.

At this point, the insane and sinister crimson in her eyes was gone, but the Mutant's powerful life force kept her from dying immediately.

Now, she looked at Chen Gu calmly and sighed faintly, "I really envy you..."

"Such a young professional with a broad future and an exciting life!"

With a bitter smile, she muttered to herself, "Indeed, when one harbors too intense a desire, it becomes an opening for those beings of the Endless Realm to take advantage of!"

"But if it hadn't been for the third failure, I wouldn't have fallen into their trap... It's too late to say anything now. Chen Gu, promise me, be a true professional—because you might never imagine, everything you have is what countless people dream of yet cannot obtain!"

Chen Gu felt a mix of emotions in his heart and nodded seriously, "I will."

Nagano Takesakura showed a relieved smile; all the light faded from her eyes...

Suddenly, something wriggled among the debris nearby; several tentacles dragged a shattered cocoon out.

Then the tentacles too expended their last bit of life force and went limp.

Chen Gu found his [Fury of the Azure Sky], cut open the cocoon, and saw that inside was just a fist-sized piece of bone left.

Is this... the last gift left to me? Chen Gu looked at Nagano Takesakura, who had passed away completely, and heaved another long sigh.

After thinking for a moment, he collected the remains of the superhuman.

Chen Gu climbed up several floors and discovered that the elevator was actually working! Moreover, the elevator was descending.

It seems that the precinct chief and the others have regained control of the building; this crisis should be over now.

With that thought, Chen Gu pressed the elevator button to ascend. The elevator quickly arrived, and upon its doors opening, the precinct chief and the "Star-wind Regiment Commander" stepped out.

They were initially on guard but relaxed upon seeing Chen Gu. Without wasting time on other matters, the precinct chief rushed forward to check the generator.

"Good, this precious thing is unscathed..." Just as the precinct chief said this, he saw the dim light that had never gone out inside the generator suddenly extinguish completely!

He paused for a moment. Remote shutdown?

Then his face turned pale. "We're in trouble! This place is going to be completely destroyed! Let's get out of here fast!"

Chen Gu understood in his heart that since the remains of the superhuman lifeform had been taken from the generator, even if it remained on, no mutations would occur.

But those who remotely shut down the generator didn't know this. By turning it off, they clearly intended to resolve the issue once and for all!

The three of them dashed into the elevator, which ascended rapidly. In the midst of the ascent, Chen Gu suddenly thought of Nagano Takesakura's words:

Indeed, once you have too strong a desire, you open yourself to being exploited by those creatures within the Endless Realm!

What she implied was... Nagano Takesakura had been tempted and corrupted during her third failure at the Zhaojieze City precinct.

That means, despite being powerful, Nagano Takesakura was still a novice to these Mutants.

In any group, a novice doesn't hold a high position.

But why was she the one to obtain the superhuman remains?

If the Mutants' true objective was really the superhuman remains inside the generator, they would never have entrusted them to Nagano Takesakura!

Chen Gu immediately asked the precinct chief, "After these Mutants took action, what did they do?"

The precinct chief answered truthfully, "They destroyed the building's control system and demolished all communication systems—this building has specialized jamming equipment. Once the communication systems were destroyed, we couldn't even make a phone call."

"They initiated the building's highest security protocol. The whole exterior of the building—from the ground to the underground—is covered in a special material. Once the highest security protocol is activated, the external walls will be enshrouded in a supercharged ionization layer. Nothing can get in or out; any forcible entry would result in turning to ash."

Chen Gu inwardly sighed with relief; luckily, he hadn't actually tried to smash a window and jump out...

Chapter 76: Close Range Attack Ship Ready

Judging by the Mutants' actions, they intended to trap everyone inside and keep outsiders ignorant of the situation.

Chen Gu couldn't figure out what the Mutants wanted and asked again, "Besides the generator, what other valuable targets are there in the building?"

The branch director also furrowed his brow. "As far as I know, there shouldn't be any. All the classified documents are strictly encrypted; the Mutants wouldn't be able to decrypt them even if they got their hands on them."

"And we specifically checked before coming down—the records room wasn't attacked."

The elevator reached the ground floor, and the branch director led them straight to the central control room. "We must repair the control system as quickly as possible, at least restore part of it, and lift the highest alert level. I don't think we have much time left!"

Inside the central control room, a dozen desiccated corpses lay on the floor; one was sprawled over the control console. There was no time for niceties. The branch director shoved the corpse aside and hurriedly began repairs.

Chen Gu was helping nearby, but his gaze suddenly fell upon a holographic structural diagram.

"Is this the overall structure of the building?"

"Yes," the branch director answered without looking up.

Chen Gu pointed to a section of the diagram. "What is this?"

「...」

Kloya issued an order, "Release the Antelope No. Close Range Attack Ship!"

From the side of the flagship, a massive mothership opened its lower hatch, deploying a comparatively "petite," sword-shaped, flat warship.

The Antelope No. Close Range Attack Ship activated its engines and began a slow descent toward the planet's surface.

On the flagship, Qiao Shengyi repeatedly emphasized, "General, please ensure there are no survivors in the building before commencing the attack."

"Rest assured," Kloya said, "this is a standard operating procedure."

Qiao Shengyi still felt uneasy. He approached Aviloya, sighed, and asked, "Director-General, do you think... is there any hope for those in the branch?"

Aviloya didn't answer. She didn't know how to respond to such a question.

「...」

The branch director hadn't yet answered Chen Gu's question when [Star Wind Centurion] suddenly rushed to the window, his eyes wide, pointing outside. "The military's Close Range Attack Ship! They—they're going to bombard us with its main cannon!"

The branch director also panicked and rushed to the window. In the distant sky, the enormous, flat warship was slowly approaching.

Close Range Attack Ships could fly at cosmic speeds in the Star Sea, but their massive size actually slowed them considerably upon entering the atmosphere.

Even so, it would appear above Zhaojieze City in a dozen minutes at most!

Compared to the mothership, the Antelope No. seemed quite petite. But as it neared the planet's surface, it revealed its exceptional massiveness, comparable to half a city!

The branch director, panicking, raced back to continue the urgent repairs, cold sweat dripping from his forehead.

The branch director wouldn't mind sacrificing himself to face a powerful enemy or for a noble cause. But to be blown up by friendly fire after struggling with all his might to overcome the crisis—that, nobody could accept!

[Star Wind Centurion] let out a roar and blasted a powerful particle stream at the window. The window instantly vanished, but the super-strong ionization layer outside didn't even ripple as it assimilated the particle stream.

"This..."

Chen Gu, however, still persistently pointed at a part of the structural diagram. "What is this?"

The branch director glanced at it impatiently and said quickly, "That's the underground energy transport channel. The generator requires immense power, so we specifically built a transport channel connected to Zhaojieze City's Energy Field..."

Chen Gu's heart skipped a beat. He shouted, "This is bad! The Mutants' real target is Zhaojieze City's Energy Field!"

Chen Gu was currently drawing upon the memories of the Nuclear Explosion Nun. Within Milna Katerina's recollections was a particularly obscure piece of knowledge about the Mutants.

Humanity had entered the era of antimatter energy. The device that converted antimatter into a stable energy output was called an "Energy Field."

For Mutants, an Energy Field could function similarly to a generator!

However, the success rate was even lower than with a generator!

This was different from the fallen professionals Chen Gu had previously encountered. This was the mass production of Mutant professionals!

On the surface, there seemed to be little difference, but in reality, the latter were many times, even dozens of times, more powerful than the former.

Every Energy Field was heavily guarded by the military. Breaching their defenses was far more difficult than infiltrating a branch office.

Therefore, the Mutants had chosen the branch building. And although the success rate was extremely low, a sufficiently large base number could still yield many successful individuals.

After attacking the branch building and contaminating a large number of personnel, the Mutants certainly had the numbers they needed.

But as soon as Chen Gu shouted his realization, the branch director refuted it. "Impossible! That's an energy conduit, designed solely for energy transmission. It's physically impossible to pass through..."

As he finished speaking, he himself faltered. Mutants were always enigmatic, capable of developing many unimaginable abilities!

The branch director said gravely, "Ji Canghai, take him to check the energy channel."

Ji Canghai was the [Star Wind Centurion]. He hesitated. "I should be assisting you with the repairs."

"I can manage alone!" the branch director said. "Go quickly!"

"Yes!"

The energy channel was at the very bottom of the building. The generator was on the nineteenth sublevel, and the channel access was five levels further down.

They hurried to the eighteenth sublevel via the elevator. The floors below that had been destroyed in the battle between Chen Gu and Nagano Takesakura, so they had to climb down.

The two professionals were agile and quickly reached the twenty-fourth sublevel. It was shrouded in darkness, with only the emergency lights casting a blue-green glow.

Ji Canghai tried to turn on the main power but got no response. "The lines are damaged."

Chen Gu said nothing. He had already spotted the energy transport channel.

The entire level contained no other equipment, only rows of metal pipes. Among them, a conduit as thick as a washbasin was particularly conspicuous—this was a superconductive transmission channel.

Ji Canghai, more familiar with the area, quickly found a section with a damaged casing. "Here!"

Chen Gu went over and found some black mucus around the damaged spot. "Mutants!"

Ji Canghai was puzzled. "Even if such special Mutants exist, there must be very few, perhaps only one or two. What good would it do them to go to the Energy Field? The probability of them becoming Mutant professionals is too low. The most likely outcome is that they'd exhaust their efforts only to die in the Energy Field."

Chen Gu had already explained to Ji Canghai on their way down how the Energy Field affected Mutants.

"Have you forgotten our current situation?" Chen Gu said. "The exterior of the Energy Field is heavily guarded by the military, but the interior is staffed by high-tech personnel..."

Ji Canghai's expression changed. "They're turning all those people into Mutants!"

Chen Gu started climbing back up. "We have to find a way to get this information out!"

Chapter 77: Transmitting Signals

The branch director watched in despair as the Close Range Attack Ship had already appeared above the building. The damage caused by the Mutants was thorough. He was not a technician, so there was no way for him to effect repairs quickly.

The gun chamber of the Close Range Attack Ship had opened, and its triple-barreled cannon was already extending outward.

From the mothership in the Star Sea, Qiao Shengyi watched over his city with a heavy heart. If they fired, even though the residents had been evacuated, the surrounding dozens of blocks would be instantly reduced to rubble—a loss of several hundred billion Starshield!

Aviloya suddenly took a deep breath and asked, "General Kloya, are you certain all my people are dead?"

Kloya, without turning his head, replied, "Completely certain!"

He emphasized again, "Director-General, I hope you haven't forgotten that I am cleaning up the mess your incompetent subordinates created! They brought this chaos upon themselves and deservedly so!"

"My fleet costs about 1.6 billion Starshield to mobilize. The military expects the Bureau of Mystic Security to pick up the tab!"

After that, Kloya paid no further attention to Aviloya and ordered with a steady, ruthless demeanor, "I am Confederation Major General Kloya Antlis, and I authorize the bombardment!"

But at that moment, an item on Aviloya's body moved slightly. Her beautiful eyes narrowed as she suddenly commanded, "Kloya, cease the order!"

Kloya was furious. Were his words just now spoken in vain?

He did not respond, acting as if he hadn't heard. On the planet's surface, the Antelope No. had started charging its main cannon.

Aviloya shouted again, "Major General Kloya, I have evidence that there are still people alive inside the building! Cease the bombardment immediately!"

Qiao Shengyi was overjoyed. "There are people still alive? General, quickly cease the order..."

But Kloya ignored them completely. A cold glint flashed in Aviloya's eyes, and a huge sword appeared out of thin air, pressing against Kloya's neck!

Kloya's guards raised their guns without hesitation. But before they could fire, their metal weapons twisted under some mysterious force field, entangling their hands and turning into handcuffs that trapped them!

The guards yelled, "Aviloya is rebelling..."

Warriors outside the flagship's command room were about to charge in, with dozens of individual Mecha among them.

Aviloya suddenly turned her head. Without receiving any orders, the doors of various compartments were automatically CLANGING shut.

Kloya glared at her. "Aviloya, what are you doing!"

With her sleek chin slightly raised, Aviloya pressed the huge sword closer to Kloya's neck. "Stopping you from massacring our compatriots!"

Kloya spoke through clenched teeth, "That's slander! There are no survivors inside the branch building. I checked with an infrared life detector!"

Aviloya took out an old and mysterious-looking small box. "This is the master control hub for all of the Bureau's generators, which we in the Bureau of Mystic Security call 'The Source of Mystery.' This master hub has a supermaterial connection with each generator, unlike any wireless connection we are familiar with today. I used this to shut down the generators inside the branch building. But just now, someone reactivated them! There are still living people inside the building!"

Kloya's face twisted. "I don't believe you!"

Aviloya didn't explain further. Seeing that the Antelope No. had nearly finished charging its main cannon, she said, "Stop your order immediately, or I will kill you and take over the entire fleet!"

The great sword pressed down again, easily leaving a trail of blood on Kloya's neck.

Kloya gasped for air, his eyes filled with rage and madness. Aviloya, unfazed, met his gaze directly. Her eyes, which had enchanted all men of the Star Sea, held nothing but resolve.

「...」

Ji Canghai's face turned pale as he asked, "Is that enough?"

Chen Gu sat next to the generator and asked back, "Do you have any other methods?"

Ji Canghai racked his brains, but finally, he shook his head dejectedly. "No."

In front of them, an unstable image flickered on a projection screen connected to the shattered console. It was a live feed of the Close Range Attack Ship outside the building.

The Antelope No. had completed charging. The light inside its main cannon grew brighter and brighter.

Ji Canghai sighed heavily and slumped to the ground. "It's over. We're going to die in such a frustrating way!"

「...」

Inside the flagship, under Aviloya's unwavering gaze, Kloya finally softened and said, "Cease fire."

The commander of the Antelope No. quickly asked, "General, did you just order a cease-fire?"

"Yes, cease fire. Deploy ground attack fighters, monitor the entire building. We must not be careless!"

"Yes, sir! Order received!"

Aviloya quietly breathed a sigh of relief and then immediately gave an order, "Qing Ruyan, take the Enforcers and investigate."

"Yes!" a clear response came through the communication.

Aviloya added another instruction, "Be careful. Extremely careful."

She hadn't sent Professionals to attempt entry from outside the building because it was too dangerous. They could easily be ambushed and contaminated by the Mutants, resulting in severe losses.

But now, she decided to take a risk. The people inside the building seemed to want to send some kind of message to the outside world.

「...」

The branch director had closed his eyes, preparing for death. But after a long wait with no sound, he opened them again. He looked up; the Antelope No.'s main cannon had retracted.

Then, a section on the side of the warship opened up like a honeycomb, and a swarm of fighter jets flew out.

The branch director was overjoyed. "HA HA, HA HA HA..."

Underground, Chen Gu kicked Ji Canghai. "It's okay now."

Ji Canghai jerked, then looked at the projection screen and laughed aloud. "They received our signal! HA HA HA! We don't have to die! We don't have to die! This is great!"

He sprang up and hugged Chen Gu forcefully. Chen Gu pushed him away in disgust, but Ji Canghai, undeterred, kept saying, "You're so smart to have thought of this! Otherwise, we'd definitely be dead..."

Chen Gu, however, was not optimistic at all. "The Mutants might have already reached the Energy Field by now. If we can't get the message out quickly, an even greater disaster will occur. The people in the Energy Field won't be as lucky as we are."

The two of them took the elevator and rushed to meet the branch director.

When the three survivors met, there was no time for rejoicing. Chen Gu explained the situation to the branch director, who furrowed his brow. "This is tough. The communication system is in almost as bad shape as the control system. Without a specialist, it would take us days to fix it. What should we do?"

Then Chen Gu suddenly slapped his forehead. "I've got it!"

The branch director and Ji Canghai stared at him wide-eyed. Is he some kind of genius? they thought. First, he came up with using the generator to send a signal, and now, for such a huge problem, he gets an idea just by slapping his forehead? He doesn't even need to sit and ponder deeply?

Chen Gu pointed behind them to the window Ji Canghai had shattered. "Get me a piece of paper and a pen."

When they turned around, they saw a young girl floating outside the window. She was dressed in a stylish school uniform with two large pigtails and regarded them with a cool expression.

Chapter 78: Obsessed with Looks

The super-strong ionosphere outside the branch building was transparent. Qing Ruyan circled the building, finding it all quiet inside. As she was at her wits' end, preparing to report and request equipment support to forcibly breach the building, she happened to see this window. She flew over, took a look inside, and—my, oh my—three bedraggled, ugly brutes scared the living daylights out of her!

Chen Gu never expected that such a difficult problem would be solved so easily!

Qing Ruyan's face was a picture as she relayed the news back to the mothership.

Aviloya acted swiftly, first informing the defense force at the Energy Field and then ordering her subordinates to lead a team of professional operatives to provide reinforcement.

In the communication channel, Qing Ruyan requested, "Director, those three guys are blubbing, begging you to find a way to get them out."

If Chen Gu had heard that, he would have surely cried foul. Only Ji Canghai was wailing! I was trying so hard to maintain my 'battle-hardened tough guy' image in front of the beautiful woman! The wound on my stomach hurt so much it was almost killing me, and I didn't even make a sound!

At that moment, Chen Gu suddenly remembered an issue. "Director," he asked, "have all the other Mutants in the building been cleared out by your people?"

Ever since Chen Gu had killed Nagano Takesakura, he hadn't seen a single Mutant. Not even the lower-leveled ones had appeared, let alone those of higher rank.

The branch director responded, "I haven't organized manpower to clear out the Mutants. The action team members have been arranged to stay in a relatively safe conference room—perhaps you killed so many earlier that they're almost entirely wiped out."

Chen Gu thought about it and felt that was possible.

Outside the window, Qing Ruyan had written a message for Chen Gu and the others to read: "Rescue is on the way."

The three sighed in relief. Qing Ruyan had turned and floated away, and Chen Gu barely stopped himself from blurting out, "Don't leave~ Stick around a bit longer~."

Several ground-attack aircraft descended from the sky and, upon landing, transformed into large Mecha.

Clutching special equipment, they arrived at the main entrance of the building. It took them a full twenty minutes to create a gap in the super-strong ionosphere, just wide enough for a single person to enter.

The supporting troops swiftly entered. Chen Gu and the others, watching from above, breathed a long sigh of relief.

「Good news also arrived from the mothership.」

"Director-General, we were able to control the situation in the Energy Field because we arrived in time, though thirty technicians have been mutated. Thankfully, no Mutants became operatives," reported a messenger.

Aviloya too breathed a secret sigh of relief.

"Although the Zhaojieze City branch made a serious mistake, they can be considered to have redeemed themselves. Afterwards, we'll punish those who deserve punishment and reward those who deserve reward."

"We must not let those who err escape justice, nor let the meritorious lose their zeal."

...

Inside the branch building, with special ops as the spearhead, followed by the action team and the cleaning crew, the forces quickly spread out. From the first floor, they divided into two directions: up and down.

In some corners, a few ordinary Mutants still lurked, but they were soon eliminated.

After finding survivors, they were quickly evacuated. Chen Gu and his two companions were the fourth batch to be rescued.

A medical robot supported Chen Gu. Various injections had already begun, and highly precise robotic arm surgery was underway under the remote direction of the medical AI.

Chen Gu felt the anesthetic slowly taking effect, and he drifted off into a hazy sleep.

...

「By the next afternoon.」

When Chen Gu opened his eyes again, it was already four o'clock.

The girl dressed in a JK uniform, with two long ponytails, was standing facing him. Her hands, hidden behind her back, were delicately twiddling a remote control knob to turn off the injection of the stimulant drug.

It's not my fault, really! The Director-General told me to wait for him to wake up, but this pig sleeps way too much. I just couldn't wait any longer...

Chen Gu blinked. Qing Ruyan was also looking at him. Huh, how did this guy become so good-looking? The first time we met, he and his two companions were in such a sorry state, covered in blood and their faces smeared with gunpowder. Naturally, I categorized them as "ugly men" on my beauty assessment chart. A hidden gem? A promising prospect? If this handsome man had another twist to him, that would be even more perfect!

"COUGH! COUGH! COUGH!" Chen Gu coughed. Why is this girl staring at me so intently?

Qing Ruyan's cheeks bore the smile she had practiced countless times in front of a mirror, one she believed to be exceedingly "charming."

"I am the Director-General's assistant, and there are some questions I still need to ask you. Don't be afraid, I'm not what you'd call a good person..."

Chen Gu was taken aback. Qing Ruyan internally wailed. Idiot! How could I just blurt out what I was thinking?!

"Not a good person?"

Qing Ruyan squinted. "You heard wrong. I said I'm a good person."

Chen Gu didn't really care. I must have misheard, he thought. "Sorry," he said, "how could someone say they're not a good person? Were they kicked in the head by a donkey? HAHAHA."

For some reason, Chen Gu felt his laughter was somewhat awkward.

Qing Ruyan discreetly gave herself a shot of stimulant. Fool, stay alert!

The questioning process was very detailed. Qing Ruyan asked many specifics because most of the surveillance equipment in the building had been destroyed, and these details were needed to verify the truthfulness of everyone's account.

Chen Gu didn't have anything to hide and shared everything. This included his idea to restart the transmitter to send out a signal, as well as his discovery that the Mutants' true goal wasn't the transmitter but the Energy Field, among other things.

As Qing Ruyan listened, stars began to twinkle in her eyes again. So handsome and so talented! I feel like the effect of that last shot is wearing off, and I'm about to lose control and make a fool of myself in front of this handsome guy!

PSSHT!

Qing Ruyan discreetly gave herself another shot.

Finally, I'm a bit more lucid, Qing Ruyan thought with relief. Then, looking at the interview record, she found a detail. "What about the remains of the superhuman life form?"

Chen Gu said, "It's inside my jacket."

Qing Ruyan looked around. Chen Gu's personal belongings had been organized into a sealed bag, placed to one side.

She smiled sweetly, walked over, and tore open the bag. I wonder if there's any of the handsome guy's underwear in here... Ptooeey! Qing Ruyan, you're here to find the important superhuman life form remains! Wake up, you fool! Don't embarrass yourself in front of a handsome man!

She rummaged through it. Her heart leaped with joy. There really is underwear!

PSSHT!

Another shot!

Qing Ruyan reluctantly put down the intimately worn garment and continued to search, her expression changing.

She brought the bag to Chen Gu. "That thing, it's gone!"

Chen Gu was also stunned. "Gone?"

Chapter 79: The Perspective of the Parents

Remains capable of creating a generator were of no small significance. Their value was in no way inferior to that of supermaterial! The Bureau of Mystic Security immediately launched an investigation, and the Clean-up Team thoroughly searched the building inside and out.

Even the least liked Constitutional Affairs Team was mobilized to examine everyone who had come into contact with Chen Gu.

Two days later, Chen Gu's injuries had completely healed, and the investigation by the Constitutional Affairs Team also yielded results.

In the temporary office requisitioned by Zhaojieze City, several key figures from the Bureau of Mystic Security were present to hear the report from the Constitutional Affairs Team.

In this meeting of modest size but high level, bringing up the rear was Chen Gu's adult son, Chen Jixian.

Since Chen Gu was from the Wuzhaoyin City branch, it was natural for Chen Jixian, as the branch head, to be present.

The Constitutional Affairs Team brought along medical experts from the Bureau of Mystic Security, projecting some medical scans. "Please look here."

The medical team circled an area, right at the location of Chen Gu's heart; there was a blurry shadow.

"Over these two days, we've been monitoring various data on Chen Gu, including data related to his Profession.

"All of them have increased significantly, at an almost unbelievable rate.

"We believe this is the effect of the superlative remains..." he pointed to the shadow, "This is very likely the remains themselves, and they have already begun to be absorbed and assimilated."

Before the medical expert could finish, a Deputy Director spoke with a stern face, "Did Chen Gu embezzle the remains?"

The medical expert shook his head. "Remains enhancing a professional's abilities? There has never been any precedent. How could Chen Gu possibly know about it? No research institution is even studying this area.

"Furthermore, every superlative being is different, their remains are not alike. Anyone trying such an experiment would be tantamount to seeking death."

The head of the Constitutional Affairs Team stood up and said, "We questioned Chen Gu thoroughly. He said he put the remains into his pocket after finding them, but at that time his clothes had already been damaged in the fight, and he had even torn some off to dress his wounds.

"We believe that it's very likely that the remains of the superlative being entered his body through his wounds without his own knowledge."

The Deputy Directors were dissatisfied. Remains capable of creating generators were incredibly precious. Had they been squandered on a foolish youngster for nothing?

Yet, from any angle, it was impossible that Chen Gu had done this deliberately. Moreover, the man hadn't died and had instead seen significant enhancement in his abilities!

At this time, Aviloya's mood was even more sullen than all of theirs combined...

She knew that Chen Gu had come to the Zhaojieze City branch and had specifically instructed the branch head to sabotage him, not to let this youngster become a professional.

She had pulled Chen Gu into the Bureau of Mystic Security, of course, to keep this sleazy little thief under her control at all times, to torment him however she desired.

She didn't care about the rules such as "abuse of public resources for private ends," "private vengeance under cover of public authority," or "mixing official duties with private interests." I hold great power, I detest you, and of course, I want to find a way to deal with you.

After Zhao Zhenhuai had leaked the information to Aviloya, the Director-General had planned on it.

With the Mutant crisis emerging, she had cast this minor issue aside, never imagining that the "person of worth" in this crisis would turn out to be this little thief!

At this moment, the Valkyrie was increasingly convinced that the Zhaojieze City branch head was useless. Not only had he caused the downfall of the entire branch, but he couldn't even handle such a

small matter, allowing this petty thief to become a professional and steal the limelight. And now she was forced to share her valuable merits with him!

Infuriating!

However, on the surface, Aviloya still maintained a serious demeanor, as if strictly handling official business, "Chen Jixian, do you have anything to say?"

Chen Jixian had been sitting in the corner the whole time, his eyes half-closed—actually, he wished he could close them completely. The embarrassment was unbearable.

If your dad had starred in someone's art film and you happened to run into the aggrieved party... you'd be embarrassed too.

"I... believe that the Bureau will make a fair decision," Chen Jixian remarked indifferently, before retreating.

Aviloya sneered inwardly, Fair, huh!

After about fifteen minutes, the meeting ended. It wasn't until Chen Jixian walked out that he finally realized the Valkyrie was indeed very beautiful.

A thought suddenly popped into his mind. Dad had good taste!

This thought scared him so much that his eyelids twitched violently.

When Chen Gu learned that he had absorbed that piece of superlative remains, his eyes bulged even wider than his adult son's.

"How could this be..." he exclaimed quietly.

The Bureau's medical expert comforted him, "At least up to now, the effects on you have been beneficial."

"Up to now..." Chen Gu muttered, looking at him with a somber expression.

The expert's face reddened. He coughed awkwardly before saying, "Of course, who can say about the future... My initial recommendation was to install a data monitoring ring on you, to constantly collect data from your body.

"However, it was vetoed. They said that doing so was meaningless and that it would be better for you to go for routine check-ups at the medical room of the Wuzhaoyin City branch instead.

"The initial changes will inevitably be the most significant, so you'll need a check-up every three days. Once we've collected and analyzed the data, and your condition stabilizes, you can reduce it to once a week, or even once a month."

Chen Gu nodded. "Can I be discharged now?"

"Of course, you can."

Chen Jixian had already returned. Due to this incident, Chen Gu was granted a three-day vacation.

There were many famous landmarks on Yinglong Star, but Chen Gu was not in the mood for sightseeing. He bought a bouquet of flowers and arrived outside the branch building.

The area was still cordoned off, and a dozen or so city blocks around it were off-limits. Chen Gu gazed from a distance and silently set down the bouquet.

The incident was very serious. The military fleet continued its intimidating patrols in the sky, while ground attack planes conducted regular sweeps. They coordinated with the Bureau of Mystic Security's Clean-up Teams to meticulously scour every inch of the restricted area.

When he got back to the accommodation the branch had arranged for him, Chen Gu found someone waiting for him at the door. It was the Operations Group Leader with whom he had fought alongside inside the building.

Chen Gu was surprised and delighted. "What brings you here?"

The leader smiled, holding some items in his hand. "Some specialties from Yinglong Star. I brought some for you to take back."

Chen Gu let him in, and the leader sighed, "The Constitutional Affairs Team has almost completed the investigation. There were five Mutants hiding inside the branch; the weakest was Beta Level (2), and the strongest reached Delta Level (4).

"Moreover, it just so happened that their evil ritual succeeded. It attracted the voice of a 'Monstrosity' from the Endless Realm, and that's what led to your companion's corruption."

Morphlings, Monstrosities, Entities of Desire, Evil Gods—these are all demonic beings from the Endless Realm, their levels and powers ranging from low to high. Monstrosities are already the second tier. Nagano Takesakura wasn't a professional and was in a psychologically vulnerable state. At such a time, she probably couldn't even resist the sweet nothings of a womanizer, let alone the voice of a Monstrosity.

Chapter 80: Return Trip

"The sub-bureau suffered heavy losses: four hundred and eighty-seven ordinary staff members were killed in action. The number of those who mutated can no longer be accurately counted, estimated to have exceeded three hundred."

"Thirteen special agents were killed in action. Originally, there were four special agent teams in the sub-bureau, totaling twenty professionals. Now, only seven remain. Moreover, two of them are seriously injured and unlikely to fully recover, rendering them unsuitable for frontline combat in the future."

"A Delta Level (4th level) Mutant used its ability to turn its body into energy. It infiltrated the city's Energy Field through an energy transmission channel, killed four guards, and contaminated thirty technicians. This has made the Energy Field extremely dissatisfied with our Bureau of Mystic Security, and they have been continuously lodging protests for the past few days."

The team leader spoke painfully, "The Director bears an inescapable responsibility this time and will have to shoulder the primary blame!"

Chen Gu remembered how everyone had fought together, besieging the ghost woman Mutant. The Sub-Bureau Chief was not a coward and had sufficient strength, but judging from his combat style, his thinking was somewhat old-fashioned.

Regarding the Sub-Bureau Chief and Nagano Takesakura, Chen Gu's feelings were the same: he felt a certain degree of sympathy for them, but he didn't consider them innocent.

Those who made mistakes had to take responsibility.

Was Nagano Takesakura to be pitied? Thinking about it, she truly was pitiful, but how many killings had she caused?

Was the Sub-Bureau Chief to be pitied? Mutants were cunning and unpredictable. He wasn't directly to blame, but as the Chief, he had enjoyed the privileges of the position and naturally had to bear the corresponding responsibility. Because of his oversight, the entire Zhaojieze City sub-bureau was nearly wiped out.

"The contaminated area is too large. The Director-General brought people, but they weren't enough, and we had to request military assistance." The team leader said with some resentment, "These past few days, those soldiers have been strutting around in front of us."

He seemed to feel that constantly speaking of such depressing matters was inappropriate, so he changed his expression to a smile and clapped Chen Gu forcefully on the shoulder. "You're impressive, kid! 'Radiation Missionary,' tsk tsk. I heard from the cleanup team that in your battle with Nagano Takesakura, you blew the Mutant to smithereens. The radiation damage was extremely severe; when they went in, the Mutant's tissues had already melted."

Chen Gu smiled modestly, then sighed with lingering fear. "This time... it was truly a narrow escape from death."

...

Chen Gu wanted to visit the Sub-Bureau Chief but was refused. He was informed that the Sub-Bureau Chief was being held in strict detention, and no one was allowed to visit.

Regretful, Chen Gu left. Without using up his three days of leave, he applied to return to Empire River Star the next day.

Qing Ruyan processed his application and said, "Leaving in such a hurry...?"

Chen Gu was somewhat bemused. What does she mean? I'm not here visiting relatives. Why is she being so polite? What's going on?

Qing Ruyan cursed inwardly, Idiot, stop being so infatuated! You're embarrassing yourself!

She squeezed out a smile. "Alright, I'll arrange that for you right away. Hmm, let me check... Civilian flights have all been restricted recently, but I can use my authority to help you board a military transport ship to leave Yinglong Star."

After finishing, Qing Ruyan regretted it. Idiot, why are you being so eager to please? If there's no civilian transport, just let him stay a few more days. Such a handsome guy; even if I can't have him, it's nice just to have him around to look at.

Chen Gu flashed a bright smile. "Thank you, sister," he said.

Tsk! He really has a silver tongue. Qing Ruyan silently gave herself another dose of stimulant; otherwise, she really couldn't have endured it.

Qing Ruyan arranged a "special commute" for Chen Gu, allowing him to depart Yinglong Star on a transport ship at three-thirty in the afternoon.

Chen Gu first went to the military camp. He had company when he arrived, but he left alone.

The military port was primarily a cargo port, with numerous transport ships docked. A lieutenant received him; this man was all business. He ushered Chen Gu into a cabin, ordered him not to wander around, and then left. It wasn't until ten o'clock at night that Chen Gu returned to his apartment on Empire River Star.

There wasn't much luggage to deal with. Although this trip to Yinglong Star had yielded great rewards—he had finally become a professional and would obviously soon be credited with a large amount of merit points—Chen Gu wasn't the least bit happy.

Having lived two lifetimes, this was the first time Chen Gu had experienced such a devastating toll of death and injury.

During the fight, the primal fear of death had spurred him on. Now that it was over, he was slowly processing everything and inevitably felt a sense of unease.

Forcing himself to eat dinner, Chen Gu sat despondently for a while, then decided to take a hot shower. He fussed about until midnight before remembering something that required his immediate attention.

Chen Gu logged into "Infinite." Sure enough, Zhao Zhenhuai had sent many messages. Chen Gu opened them. During this cycle, the researchers at the institute had been diligently and honestly conducting their research. The compiled results were quite substantial, and the problems they raised were indeed difficult.

Drawing on Griffin Wester's memories, Chen Gu still took some time to fully answer them.

The trip had taken four days. Without a response from Chen Gu, Zhao Zhenhuai had felt a vague sense of excitement. It would be best if that guy disappeared completely!

He hadn't expected to be woken up by the game's notification tone just as he had fallen asleep this evening. Almost everyone would block game notifications, since a game was, after all, just a game.

But Zhao Zhenhuai couldn't. His work was maintained in-game. He got up grumpily to look. That old codger actually replied! How are you still alive?!

He was tempted to be lazy, pretend he hadn't seen it, and deal with it tomorrow. But his account was now practically a public one; Bai Xianya had his password, and so did several senior experts at the institute.

Moreover, earlier today, the senior experts had already asked several times, "Has the director responded yet?"

If he dealt with these problems tomorrow, those old experts would see the timestamp of the director's messages in the account and would surely give him an earful, pulling rank.

Gritting his teeth, Zhao Zhenhuai made himself a cup of coffee to perk up, then began to categorize and summarize the director's responses to these problems.

These problems weren't too difficult for Chen Gu, but for Zhao Zhenhuai, almost every one was an ultimate challenge! It took him three full hours to complete the work, and he collapsed, exhausted, into his chair.

He tilted his head back, looking at the cold, empty apartment. Thinking of his wife and children still in Wuzhaoyin City, a wave of sorrow suddenly washed over him. I'm past forty, yet I still have to live alone, working away from home in the capital, burning the midnight oil on paperwork... This is truly a miserable life; I could almost cry these old tears!

"What exactly did I do wrong—" Zhao Zhenhuai let out a soul-deep howl.