

## Full Time 91

### Chapter 91: Poison of the Gods

Chen Gu was, of course, familiar with this notorious place. Crime ran rampant here, and morality was in ruins. Its inhabitants were the dregs of society, and the city government, unwilling to intervene, let them fend for themselves as long as they didn't cause trouble in other districts.

Chen Gu looked at a door at the mouth of a small alley. Inside lived their mission target, a woman named Mona.

Chen Gu had joined the mission at the last minute, so only now did he have time to open the mission dossier Marcus had sent.

"It's actually related to True Knowledge Sin!" Chen Gu exclaimed in surprise. He was a man who had once been cellmates with the Prophet of True Knowledge Sin.

According to the dossier, the activities of True Knowledge Sin on Empire River Star, particularly in Wuzhaoyin City, were on the rise. Analysts from the internal affairs strategy team judged that they must have a specific target.

This woman named Mona had recently moved to Wuzhaoyin City. Though she had adopted an almost flawless false identity, the Bureau of Mystic Security still uncovered that three years ago, she was a follower of True Knowledge Sin. Following the "True God's Embrace" incident, an event that shocked the entire Confederation, she had left True Knowledge Sin. She seemed to have started anew, keeping a low profile until now.

The "True God's Embrace" incident had occurred in Hexiao Phoenix City on Tianmo Star, and Mona had been there at the time.

At the time, over nine thousand True Knowledge Sin followers, attempting to use an illicitly manufactured superweapon, planned to obliterate the entire Hexiao Phoenix City to achieve the "embrace of the true god."

After their plot was thwarted by the Bureau of Mystic Security, the over nine thousand True Knowledge Sin followers frantically attacked every living creature in sight before committing mass suicide.

This horrifying atrocity led nations like Star State and other major star nations to launch severe attacks on the Confederation.

On the surface, it seemed that Mona had a change of heart because of that tragedy and left True Knowledge Sin. However, various subtle clues suggested that this Mona was not so simple.

The latter part of the dossier detailed Mona's life in Wuzhaoyin City. She had a sixteen-year-old daughter who wasn't attending school and worked at a pizza shop in Gods' Poison. Mona herself worked at a convenience store in the bustling 54th District.

At nine o'clock, Mona returned home exhausted. She prepared a simple meal and then waited until midnight. Then, she put on a bulletproof vest, shouldered an old rifle, and left the house.

After walking through three streets, she arrived at the pizza shop to pick up her daughter from work.

Upon meeting, the first thing Mona did was take off her bulletproof vest and put it on her daughter.

Chen Gu and Joseph had been watching from their car all night. By five o'clock in the morning, Mona had already left for work. Her daughter was still sound asleep, with the breakfast Mona had made for her left on the table.

There was a small incident at two in the morning when a group of gang members discovered Chen Gu's car. They came over, laughing and jeering, preparing to rob them. Joseph acted swiftly, cleanly dispatching everyone without alerting any of the neighbors.

Both were professionals who remained alert despite being awake all night. When Mona left for work, Chen Gu contacted Marcus. "What should we do now? Should we split up and keep surveillance on the mother and daughter separately?"

Marcus vetoed the idea. "Stay where you are. Other team members are watching Mona's workplace."

The two continued their watch until eleven in the morning, when the daughter finally woke up. At four in the afternoon, the daughter left for work.

Chen Gu and Joseph received orders from Marcus to withdraw. Melincha and Charles took over for them.

Charles had a sour look on his face. When Chen Gu greeted him, Charles responded indifferently, leaving Chen Gu to wonder, What on earth did I do to offend this guy?

Surveillance missions are actually a tough, lengthy, and dull task. If there's some payoff in the end, one can be allocated a substantial amount of merit points.

But if it all comes to nothing after expending a great deal of time, there might only be a consolation prize of ten merit points.

The entire weekend passed in such monotonous duty. By Monday, Chen Gu silently cheered; he could finally leave this grueling task behind.

Joining in the cheering was the little demoness Selena.

During the first break in the morning, Darkray hurried over. "Bro Chen, Mao Yisheng got set up! He's locked up in the detention center now..."

Chen Gu was surprised. "What? What happened exactly?"

"It was those bastards from Zhaolin High School!"

Darkray spoke at breakneck speed, but the class bell rang halfway through his explanation. Chen Gu, very worried, was somewhat preoccupied during the following class. As soon as it was over, he rushed out but was stopped by Teacher Dai at the door. "Don't hurry; Teacher Ouyang has already gone to deal with it."

Zhaolin High School was an ordinary high school, just a few kilometers from Lubei. Of course, it was suppressed at every turn by Lubei, one of the "Big Six."

However, Zhaolin High School's military students were outstanding and had always been able to stand up against Lubei's.

The military students were very united. When a group of physically strong young people got together, they were naturally prone to impulsiveness. The military students from Lubei and Zhaolin had always been at odds, overtly and covertly competing.

Over the weekend, Darkray, Mao Yisheng, and their group made plans to go singing. Mao Yisheng boasted that he had just mastered Man Suling's new hit single, "Wild Release," and wanted to show his friends.

At the KTV, while they were singing, a few girls from Zhaolin High School came in. They repeatedly praised Mao Yisheng's singing, and Darkray's group of rough-and-tumble guys immediately hit it off with them.

Half an hour later, law enforcement officers raided the KTV. In Mao Yisheng's backpack, tucked into his textbooks, they found several "Flying Leaves."

This was a type of hallucinogenic drug, strictly prohibited by Confederation law!

After listening to Darkray's account, Chen Gu glared angrily at the military students. "Are you all breeding pigs? Casually mingling with people of unknown origin like that?"

"Do you really think you're Man Suling? That a single song could make girls swoon over you?"

The military students felt ashamed and were very deferential towards Chen Gu. After being scolded, they could only hang their heads and listen. If anyone else had berated them like that, they would have definitely jumped up, ready to fight.

Chen Gu pointed at Darkray. "How are you so sure it was Zhaolin High School's people?"

Darkray gritted his teeth. "This morning, on my way to school, I ran into Bai Mao Liu from Zhaolin High School at the school gate. He hinted that if I give up my spot as a publicly selected student, someone among those girls will come forward and admit they framed Mao Yisheng."

Publicly selected students are directly admitted to a decent university. Of course, it's not comparable to the Tiangong Military Division or even a top-tier university, but for many military students, this is already the best possible outcome.

Their academic grades are too poor for them to get into good schools.

## Chapter 92: White-haired Liu

Every major district in Wuzhaoyin City has two publicly-selected student slots. The competition for these slots in the 31st District, where Lubei Middle School is located, takes place between Lubei and Zhaolin Middle Schools.

With what happened to Mao Yisheng, even if he's later proven innocent, it would be very difficult for him to become a publicly-selected student. If Darkray gave up his spot to save him, then both publicly-selected student spots this year would fall into the hands of Zhaolin Middle School.

Chen Gu was secretly furious. The tactics Zhaolin was using were despicable.

Darkray hit his own head hard. "It's all my fault! If I hadn't suggested going out to sing, Mao wouldn't have encountered such trouble!"

He took a deep breath. "If there's really no way out, I'll agree to White-Haired Liu's demands. I can't let them ruin Mao's life."

"If I can't go to college, I'll just enlist in the military. It's not like there's no way out. My combat skills scores aren't bad, and who knows, maybe I'd do even better in the military than in college."

Chen Gu looked at his rash, impetuous behavior and couldn't help but feel amused yet also touched. He was so much like his own 17-year-old self.

Once that age passes, life gets instilled with varying degrees of a "sense of gain and loss," "utilitarianism," and a "competitive spirit"...

It's usually described as "getting savvy," no longer being so pure.

"Bullshit!" Chen Gu cursed. Darkray, his blood boiling, let out a roar and glared, ready to butt heads with Chen Gu, before Chen Gu effortlessly pinned him down by the neck.

Darkray, like a defeated mutt, all the fight gone out of him, whimpered on the desk, "Then do you have any good ideas, Brother Chen?"

"Idiot!" Chen Gu cursed again. "If they can scheme against us, can't we scheme against them?"

"As long as we get some serious dirt on White-Haired Liu and his crew, won't they have to comply?"

Darkray and the others brightened up at this, but then their spirits deflated again. "When it comes to fighting, we're not afraid of anyone, but when it comes to being cunning and tricky, we're really not up to it..."

Chen Gu waved his hand dismissively. "Set your minds at ease. Leave this to me."

He sent Darkray and the others away, then made a phone call to Steve White, a sub-group leader of the Action Team. "Brother White, do me a favor... investigate someone. Is it too much hassle? Alright, alright. I owe you one, Brother White."

For something like this, the Action Team was very accommodating to the Special Agents. Of course, the rumors within the department about Chen Gu "having significant backing" also played a role, so Steve agreed without hesitation.

Chen Gu hung up the phone and suddenly felt a bit bewildered. Just yesterday, I was dealing with Mutants and the "True Knowledge Sin" incident, matters concerning public safety and political stability, and today I have to worry about the petty squabbles of some kids?

In the afternoon, during combat fitness training, Teacher Ouyang rushed back. Darkray and the others, already distracted, immediately gathered around him.

Teacher Ouyang glared. "Focus on your training!"

Chen Gu sighed. "Teacher, if you don't say something, how can they possibly concentrate? If they're distracted and someone gets hurt, that'll be a much bigger problem."

After giving it some thought, Teacher Ouyang reluctantly said, "The evidence is conclusive, and it doesn't look good for Mao Yisheng."

Darkray and the others immediately became disheartened, but Teacher Ouyang added, "I have an old army buddy who transferred to the bureau. I've asked him to keep an eye on the kid."

"At the very least... he won't suffer inside."

That was all Teacher Ouyang could really do.

He tried to reassure everyone, "Don't worry too much. Mao Yisheng's family is well-off; they're surely working on something too."

Darkray, grinding his teeth, vowed, "That bastard White-Haired Liu! I'll get you for this if it's the last thing I do!"

After training ended, Chen Gu received a phone call from Steve, efficient as ever. "I've sent you the information."

"Thank you, Brother White. I owe you one."

Chen Gu opened it and saw that Steve's investigation was very detailed. It included the basic information of Liu Zhekang and his group of combat sports students, their daily activities, hobbies, and some shady things, like unsavory hobbies.

Obviously, Steve had done more than just use the internal network for a quick search. He had also assigned people to directly track and investigate them.

But that was as much as Chen Gu could expect from his relationship with Steve. Their friendship only extended far enough for the Action Team to take these measures.

If Chen Gu wanted to do something next that involved some gray areas, Steve wouldn't be involved, and Chen Gu would have to find someone else.

Chen Gu looked at the material, pondering, and slowly a plan took shape in his mind. He made a call to Zhao Ji. "Lend me a few men. Those bodyguards from last time were pretty good."

Zhao Ji was concerned. "Is someone bothering you again? Tell me, and I'll take care of it for you! Let me tell you, sometimes you can't be too tender-hearted, or people will always think you're weak and bully you. When it's time to show your fangs, you must demonstrate your ferocity!"

Chen Gu smiled. "It's not what you think." After summarizing the situation for him, and upon hearing it was a group of youngsters' clumsy schemes, Zhao Ji immediately lost interest. "Fine, I'll send the guys over to you. You handle it."

After all, he, Zhao Ji, the great son-in-law, was a high-ranking freeloader! It was beneath his dignity to bare his fangs at a bunch of kids!

Before long, the same group of bodyguards from last time arrived. "Young Master Chen, what do you need us to do?"

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White-Haired Liu's real name was Liu Zhekang. His parents were ordinary office workers.

In this era, many jobs didn't actually require human labor, as AI and robotics could perform tasks better than humans.

But to ensure employment rates, every department and company had to guarantee a certain number of job positions based on their annual profits.

The salary for such positions naturally wasn't high, often barely reaching the average standard.

Therefore, the income of ordinary employees wasn't high, and White-Haired Liu's family situation was only so-so. He got the nickname because of his dyed white hair, and his combat skills were top-notch at Zhaolin, but he wasn't originally the leader of Zhaolin's combat sports students.

That role belonged to another guy whose family owned a small business.

There was no helping it. Without money, you couldn't win people over.

But in the past ten-plus days, White-Haired Liu suddenly became generous, quickly displacing the original core figure and becoming the leader of Zhaolin's combat sports students.

After school that day, White-Haired Liu called out and led everyone to a high-end hotel outside the school to eat.

Chen Gu sat in a room in the opposing building, watching their every move clearly through the projection from a high-definition telescope.

"Brother Liu, you're incredible! We can finally hold our heads high!"

"I've couldn't stand those bastards from Lubei for ages! What good is their school if their combat skills aren't necessarily better than ours! They're all so arrogant. Just looking at them makes me want to beat them up."

"Brother Liu, do you think Darkray will comply?"

White-Haired Liu's face showed a proud and cunning smile. "Doesn't matter. If he doesn't comply this time, we'll just set up another trap and frame him next time. Those Lubei guys are very stupid; it's easy to wrap them around our little finger."

"That's because you, Brother Liu, are wise and resourceful!"

"HAHAHA..."

### Chapter 93: Unexpected Gains

After the meal, White-haired Liu promptly paid the bill, and the military students expressed their thanks once more. Just then, a notification sounded on Chen Gu's secret Bureau of Mystic Security account.

Chen Gu opened it and saw that a sum of money, three thousand Starshields, had been transferred into Liu Zhekan's personal account.

For a high school student, this is a huge amount, Chen Gu thought, immediately beginning to use his prototype's hacking skills to trace it.

Steve had previously helped Chen Gu check White-haired Liu's account. It had frequently been receiving deposits lately, each amounting to several thousand Starshields.

However, the remittances had been routed through some clandestine payment accounts on the interstellar network, making it impossible to identify the sender.

So, Chen Gu used his special operative authority to monitor Liu Zhekan's account. As soon as the money was transferred, Chen Gu made his move.

The other party's methods weren't sophisticated. It seemed they had merely purchased some simple hacking software online and didn't possess high-level hacking skills themselves. Consequently, Chen Gu found the remitter without much effort.

After a few more simple operations, Chen Gu pulled up all the remitter's information. When he saw the photo, he was momentarily stunned. He had seen this person before.

It was the maintenance worker from the Xingxing Corporation's new building!

Chen Gu's mind raced with questions. Why would he keep sending money to an ordinary high school student?

The man's name was Park Sanyi; he had a long, horse-like face and small eyes. Comparing his account with Liu Zhekang's, it was clear that most of the funds Liu Zhekang had recently received were transferred from Park Sanyi.

A long-lost illegitimate son?

A bold idea suddenly sprang into Chen Gu's mind. But after looking at Liu Zhekang's eyes and face shape, he was sure that even if Liu Zhekang's father was being cuckolded (wearing the proverbial 'green hat'), Park Sanyi definitely wasn't the one responsible.

Chen Gu compared the two accounts again and found two more remittances from another account.

He attempted to trace them and discovered they used the same hacking software as Park Sanyi's account. Chen Gu tracked them easily.

After pulling up the account information, Chen Gu thought, Just as I suspected.

The account owner was Julie Green—Mona's daughter!

The reason Chen Gu had tracked Park Sanyi at the building earlier was that when Park pushed open a door, his exposed wrist revealed faint marks on the inner skin. Although treated, Chen Gu's superior senses allowed him to see clearly that the mark had originally been something like a tattoo, its pattern very likely a "radiant bow and arrow."

Chen Gu remembered this as the mark of True Knowledge Sin.

Now, all the clues had unexpectedly connected, linking two suspected True Knowledge Sin followers with an ordinary high school student.

While Chen Gu was still pondering, the military students from Zhaolin Middle School had already exited the hotel. One of them suggested, "Brother Liu, shall we go play some games?"

White-haired Liu, however, shook his head. "You guys go ahead. It's on my tab. I'm going back to school to practice a bit more."

The others chimed in with praises like, "Brother Liu is so hardworking, our role model!" and then went off to play games, their consciences clear.

Chen Gu, with his bodyguards, discreetly followed Liu Zhekang. To their surprise, the young man actually returned to the school.

Chen Gu and his team couldn't enter. The bodyguards looked for a place to climb over the wall but, after circling the premises, found that Zhaolin Middle School's security measures were surprisingly robust. Ultra-high-voltage plasma nets were installed around the entire school perimeter.

They were set to their lowest power level—even so, anyone colliding with them would be charred black.

Chen Gu pulled up Zhaolin Middle School's records. One of the school's board members owned a large-scale security equipment manufacturing plant.

No wonder, Chen Gu thought. They're just advertising their own products.

Chen Gu considered for a moment, then decided to report the matter. This was no longer a personal issue; it involved a Bureau of Mystic Security mission.

Marcus received Chen Gu's call and, after hearing everything, exclaimed excitedly, "You've done well, kid! Discovering such a crucial clue... you're truly the lucky star of our team!"

"Stay put and don't act rashly. Remember: safety first!"

Chen Gu rolled his eyes.

"I'll report to the Director right away," Marcus added.

Upon learning of the situation, Director Mei immediately requested satellite surveillance over Zhaolin Middle School. The satellite images were promptly accessed, and Marcus shared them with Chen Gu.

Chen Gu saw Liu Zhekang, now in a tracksuit, jogging around the school grounds—presumably warming up.

Soon, Chen Gu was pulled into a high-level video conference. Participants included Chen Jixian (an elder son of a prominent lineage), Director Marcel of the First Division, Director Mei of the Fifth Division, and Marcus.

Director Mei asked, "Chen Gu, what is your assessment?"

Chen Gu had some vague ideas, but they were mostly speculation unsupported by evidence. He didn't voice them rashly, saying, "I can't quite make it out; this whole thing is very strange."

Marcel said, "For now, it seems True Knowledge Sin may be planning to attack Zhaolin Middle School, just like the 'Embrace of the True God' tragedy three years ago."

Chen Gu couldn't resist asking, "What was the real purpose of the 'Embrace of the True God' back then? Why did True Knowledge Sin orchestrate such a tragedy?"

Marcel shrugged. "Who knows? The subsequent investigation didn't lead to any definitive conclusion. It could have been to attract attention, or perhaps because they're simply a bunch of lunatics."

Chen Gu recalled Wei Jiangqi's expression—that pitying look reserved for 'ignorant fools.' True Knowledge Sin can't be that simple, he mused. However, knowing his own words carried little weight, he didn't dare question the First Division Director's assessment based on such subjective judgments.

Director Mei said, "I also agree that True Knowledge Sin is very likely targeting Zhaolin Middle School this time."

As she spoke, she pulled up some files. "This is likely True Knowledge Sin's retaliation against Wuzhaoyin City."

"The last time they attacked the Second Prison, attempting to rescue the Prophet Wei Jiangqi, they were ultimately repelled, losing thirty-one fanatics. However, the Angel Envoy leading that operation, Shentu Tuo, escaped, though severely injured."

"The security contractor for the Second Prison is one of Zhaolin Middle School's board members."

"True Knowledge Sin has ample reason to choose Zhaolin Middle School for their revenge."

Chen Jixian had remained silent throughout. Only after his subordinates had all stated their views did he finally speak, slowly and deliberately, "Maintain close surveillance."

"This operation... will be Director Mei's responsibility."

"Yes!" Director Mei accepted the assignment with delight. Marcel was visibly displeased, but since Director Mei's team had discovered the clue, he couldn't argue.

Chen Gu remained on standby. Within twenty minutes, a large contingent from the operations team arrived. Steve came over to meet Chen Gu, a hint of admiration in his eyes as he thumped Chen Gu's chest. "You're quite something, kid, stumbling upon such a big fish!"

Chen Gu grinned. "That's also thanks to Brother Bai."

Steve also grinned. "I was worried you were too young, might not handle things with the right discretion, and stir up trouble—heh. If you ever need anything in the future, just come to me."

"Alright, I won't hesitate to ask then."

#### Chapter 94: Everyone Has Difficulty Making Choices

The matter was handed over to the operations team, and Chen Gu left on his own. He didn't go home. Instead, he called Marcus en route. "I want to go to that building and take another look," he said.

Marcus replied, "Okay, I'll have Melincha meet up with you there."

Then he added, "Take Joseph with you, too. The guy needs some merit points."

The team leader always looked after the newbies.

By the time Chen Gu arrived at the base of the building, Joseph, the newest member, had already gotten there. After a short wait, Melincha arrived as well.

Chen Gu led the two of them through the security passage to the floor where they had last encountered Park Sanyi.

Chen Gu activated "Mind Belief"—a whole day had passed, and Chen Gu had barely recovered.

Under the influence of this skill, Chen Gu's perception greatly increased, revealing every detail of his surroundings in his mind.

He walked floor by floor, checking each level where Park Sanyi had been last time, but still found nothing. Joseph asked from his side, "What are you looking for?"

Chen Gu shook his head slightly. "I don't know either."

But Chen Gu continued to the next level. Three floors down, he suddenly stopped, turned to face a direction, and observed for a while before walking over.

Melincha and Joseph were puzzled. They couldn't see anything suspicious. Chen Gu walked over and gently tapped a spot.

It was hollow inside. Chen Gu carefully removed the cover plate. Melincha glanced inside, finding a series of pipes.

"This is the water supply system for the building."

Chen Gu stared at one of the valves. It was just an inspection port, one of many placed at intervals. If there was an issue with the pipes, these valves were used to isolate and check different segments.

The valve was a bit loose, slightly leaking water.

After thinking for a moment, Chen Gu did nothing and refitted the cover plate.

He then meticulously checked every level of the security passage again but found nothing else suspicious.

"Let's go," Chen Gu said. Melincha and Joseph were completely baffled. Had they come all this way just to help the building with maintenance?

Back in the car, Chen Gu contacted the office staff. "I need the data on all the companies in the building."

Within thirty seconds, all the data was transmitted.

Melincha pursed her lips, smiling at Chen Gu. "Before you, the office staff had never been so efficient."

Chen Gu shrugged and opened the documents.

Melincha leaned in to look too. "Do you suspect that the target of True Knowledge Sin is inside this building? But the bureau has preliminarily determined that their target is Zhaolin Middle School."

Chen Gu responded absently while reading, "I just have some doubts. It's always good to investigate more, just in case."

Soon, Chen Gu had marked several companies that could potentially be targets.

On the 12th floor, there was a weapons company's research department, which, according to the description, focused on "weapon-grade lethal agents."

The 77th floor housed a jewelry company with stringent security measures. It was rumored that their vault regularly contained high-value jewelry worth hundreds of millions of Starshields.

The 216th floor featured a private club frequented by many distinguished individuals.

In a corner on the 300th floor, there was a special workshop engaged in weapon customization. This inconspicuous shop was well-known in certain circles and was said to rank in the top twenty for Mecha customization within the Confederation.

Then there was the top-tier luxury restaurant, "Gentleman's Kitchen," on the highest floor, a favorite dining spot for many celebrities.

The three of them started analyzing in the car. Joseph's first reaction was, "It's definitely the weapons research institute—they could get a bunch of bioweapons, and those lunatics love that kind of weapon!"

Melincha shook her head. "The institute merely conducts research. In this era, no one would prepare large quantities of biological weapons within a research facility. The doses kept in the research institute are likely so small they could only kill a mouse. Attacking here isn't a good choice."

Chen Gu stroked his chin. "What if their target is these researchers and equipment? Kidnap them all, set up a weapons factory somewhere, and it won't be long before they have terrifying weapons!"

Joseph and Melincha both nodded thoughtfully.

Then, the three rookies analyzed one by one, and in the end... they didn't come up with any results!

It seemed like every place was highly likely to be targeted by True Knowledge Sin, but it was impossible to determine which one was most probable.

"Forget it. Let's leave these brain-racking issues to the team leader and the rest," Melincha said, passing the buck.

Chen Gu and Joseph nodded in total agreement.

The three of them compiled their seemingly comprehensive but actually unfocused analysis into a "report" and submitted it to Marcus.

After reading it, Marcus was completely flustered.

"This... well, it makes a lot of sense."

"The reasoning behind this one... is also very sufficient."

"Look, look, the likelihood of this target being attacked is indeed quite high."

"This section of the analysis has convinced me. Indeed, this company is very dangerous!"

As a security-first veteran agent, Marcus was immediately trapped in the predicament of wanting to ensure "absolutely no mistakes" yet finding it difficult to decide.

He was unaware of his three subordinates' ulterior motives and reluctantly passed the report up to Director Mei.

Director Mei locked himself in his office, consulting the case AI for analysis for over three hours. He then emerged with dark circles under his eyes, stood at his office door, and roared, "Which bastard submitted this report? It's impossible to make a choice!"

As a result, for several consecutive days, both Marcus and Director Mei were in a foul mood, and the entire Fifth Division was enveloped in a dreadful low pressure.

The Internal Affairs, Operations, and Special Services teams all trod carefully, fearing they might accidentally provoke a roar from a boss.

This incident was later referred to as "the Fifth Division's Indecision Incident," and the three instigators were each given a hard time.

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The next day at school, Darkray and the others were eager to ask Chen Gu about the situation. Chen Gu reassured them, "I have already made arrangements."

Darkray was still somewhat worried. "But Mao Yisheng is still locked up."

Chen Gu pacified him with comforting words and sent him on his way.

In the afternoon, Teacher Ouyang solemnly called Chen Gu to his office alone. "Don't meddle rashly in Mao Yisheng's matter!" he warned.

"You have a bright future ahead of you, and you weren't present when Mao Yisheng got into trouble. I will try my best to help him, but you must not act impulsively and do something foolish!

"I know you have some background, but you shouldn't ruin your entire life out of a moment of loyalty."

Chen Gu suddenly had an idea.

True Knowledge Sin's case now involved a large number of personnel from the whole division. They needed to keep a close eye on Mona and her daughter, keep Park Sanyi under strict control, deploy around Zhaolin Middle School, and on top of that... Chen Gu's endearing report had mentioned five potential targets.

Director Mei eventually made the mature adult decision: Choose one out of five? Impossible. I want them all!

This decision inevitably led to oversights in other areas of the division. If it went on like this, it was very likely that a hidden Mutant would find an opportunity to exploit.

But Teacher Ouyang's reminder inspired Chen Gu.

After school, Chen Gu immediately submitted another report. As soon as Marcus saw Chen Gu's name on it, he forwarded it to Director Mei without even looking.

Director Mei stared at the report with clenched teeth for a full three minutes. During that time, he mustered the courage to open it several times, only to give up dejectedly each time.

The title of this report was "Three Concepts for Advancing the True Knowledge Sin Case."

Chapter 95: Playing the School Bully

Three options! Do I have to choose one?

I feel like you're making things difficult for me again.

Director Mei eventually gave a flick of her small hand and tossed the report to Chen Jixian.

The Director opened it, chose the most reckless of the three plans, and threw it back to Director Mei. "Execute the plan."

Director Mei and Marcus let out a long sigh of relief.

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Darkray walked home from school in a sullen mood. Suddenly, a maglev car WHOOSHED to a stop in front of him. Chen Gu rolled down the window. "I'm going to deal with that White-Haired Liu. You in?"

Darkray perked up instantly, rushing into the car without a moment's hesitation. "In, definitely in!"

Chen Gu started the car, asking, "The two of us might not be enough. Who else do you think would dare to go?"

Darkray quickly listed a few names. Soon, Chen Gu had gathered everyone in the car and was discussing his plan. "If White-Haired Liu can frame Mao Yisheng, then we can frame him too."

Darkray howled in approval. "Right! Let's knock him out, stuff a big bag of DP on him, and then dump him at the police station's doorstep!"

Several military students cheered in agreement. "Make sure it's a lot of DP, a few kilograms, so that bastard never gets out!"

"Exactly! Let's bury him!"

Darkray was quite pleased with his brilliant idea. "Bro Chen, what do you think?"

Chen Gu nodded slowly. "Not bad, a good scheme. Now, we have one problem, Darkray. Do you have a few kilograms of DP?"

"Of course not. How would I have that stuff?"

Chen Gu asked again, "Then, may I ask, O resourceful Darkray, what shall we use to frame White-Haired Liu?"

Darkray: "..."

The group of military students: "..."

Chen Gu shook his head. Darkray's eyes lit up as another idea quickly struck him. "Then let's knock him out, find a few prostitutes, strip them and him, and take pictures of them together! If White-Haired Liu refuses to clear Mao Yisheng's name, we'll spread the photos online!"

"That's a good plan," Chen Gu praised. "But what if he simply won't back down, even if you release the photos? Can you get the prostitutes to testify that White-Haired Liu solicited them? If not, he'll just seem promiscuous to the outside world. That guy might even brag about handling multiple partners, claiming it shows his extraordinary prowess."

Darkray was stumped again. Prostitution was illegal in the Confederation; prostitutes couldn't possibly testify.

Pressed by Chen Gu's questions, Darkray grew agitated. "Why don't you ask me if I can find prostitutes? Are you already convinced I can? On what grounds do you so subjectively judge my character? Bro Chen, I never thought you saw me this way!"

"My fragile soul is deeply hurt, truly!"

Chen Gu, exasperated by his antics, rolled his eyes and scolded, "Idiot! Just do as I say!"

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Liu Zhekang followed his usual routine of extra practice at school that day. After finishing, he showered, changed, and headed home. Just as he reached a narrow alley outside the school, he saw someone blocking the path ahead. When he glanced back, several others had cut off his retreat.

Chen Gu stood nonchalantly at the alley entrance, hands in his pockets. If I just had a cigarette dangling from my lips, my portrayal of a school-gate punk would be perfect, he thought. He couldn't help but muse, Why does every school have an alley like this nearby, seemingly designed for troublemakers to ambush people?

White-Haired Liu had already spotted Darkray. With a smirk that didn't reach his eyes, he said, "What, want to fight me? Go on then, Darkray. I really underestimated you. I thought that little thing in your pants had been chopped off long ago, but it turns out you still have some guts."

Darkray, seething with rage, was about to erupt but was restrained by a look from Chen Gu.

Chen Gu walked over, his superb acting perfectly capturing the demeanor of a school bully. "Mao Yisheng is my brother. I have to take care of his affairs."

"You want their publicly-selected student spot? Easy."

Chen Gu snapped his fingers, and an electronic check flew out. Liu Zhekang glanced at it, and his breath caught in his throat—it was for a full three million Starshields! Even though he had recently come into some money, the total sum he had acquired didn't exceed thirty thousand Starshields.

"This money is enough for you to live very comfortably, even if you don't go to university," Chen Gu continued. "Think about it. What can you really do with a publicly-selected student spot? Slave away for four years, then graduate and find a job paying five thousand Starshields a month? How many years would it take you to earn this much?"

"I'll make a bet with you. If you win, all this money is yours, and I'll stay out of Mao Yisheng's business."

"If you lose, you'll obediently have those little bitches go testify and get Mao Yisheng cleared for me!"

Chen Gu took a step forward, cornering Liu Zhekang. "Well? Do you dare?"

Liu Zhekang glanced at the check, his breathing growing heavy.

"Who are you? You're not a military student. I haven't seen you before," he asked.

"My name is Chen Gu. If you follow news about Lubei regularly, you should know me."

Liu Zhekang understood. "So, it's you."

Chen Gu smirked. "What, scared?"

Liu Zhekang chuckled dryly. "Alright, I'll take your bet!"

"Very good!" Chen Gu clapped, throwing Liu Zhekang's earlier taunt back at him. "I really underestimated you. I thought that little thing in your pants had been chopped off long ago, but it turns out you still have some guts."

Darkray was visibly elated. Bro Chen is incredible! So skilled with his hands, and his verbal sparring is just as sharp!

Liu Zhekang pointed ahead. "To the dojo."

Liu Zhekang frequented this Anfield Martial Arts Dojo. Once inside, he quickly spoke with the owner and arranged for a training space.

Liu Zhekang and Chen Gu entered the ring. Chen Gu still wore an arrogant expression, standing casually. Liu Zhekang, however, was serious. He warmed up thoroughly and then adopted a professional fighting stance. "Come on!"

Liu Zhekang was confident in taking the bet because he knew of Chen Gu's victories against Zhao Junzhi and Liu Shichan.

But so what? Zhao Junzhi dominated Lubei thanks to his father's influence. As for Liu Shichan, being a girl, no one ever truly fought her seriously.

Liu Zhekang was different. He came from an ordinary family and had average grades. He had realized early on that his future lay in a military academy. Thus, ever since starting school, he had diligently practiced various combat arts. He had even won three youth combat championships.

In his mind, the probability of defeating Chen Gu was over ninety percent. However, a skilled fighter never underestimates an opponent in the ring. Therefore, facing Chen Gu, Liu Zhekang was prepared to use his full strength, just as one would even when hunting a rabbit.

Of course, there was another reason: the three million Starshields. Liu Zhekang had to ensure victory. He had recently experienced the power of money and found the check for three million utterly enticing. He had to secure it, no matter what.

Chen Gu disdainfully beckoned him forward with a hooked finger.

Liu Zhekang shouted, crossing his hands to feign an attack and confuse his opponent. He threw probing hook punches to his left and right, but his real move was a twist of his waist and hips, launching a fierce Spartan kick straight ahead!

However, his waist only twisted halfway before it locked up.

Both of his wrists were caught in Chen Gu's hands, gripped like iron pincers! Then, right before his eyes, Chen Gu flashed a "horrific smile" and delivered a vicious headbutt squarely to the bridge of Liu Zhekang's nose!

Chapter 96: Startling the Snake in the Grass

CRACK!

The military students clearly heard the sound of a nose bridge breaking, followed by a burst of fresh blood spraying from Liu Zhekang's face.

The thugs from Darkray jumped and cheered like cheerleaders!

If it weren't for their lack of training, Darkray's crew even thought of doing a sedan toss or building a human pyramid!

But Chen Gu didn't let Liu Zhekang off that easily. He hooked his foot around his opponent's and pulled him down, then kicked him in the stomach, sending White-Haired Liu flying like a ball for more than ten meters. He rolled right out of the venue!

The staff from the martial arts hall rushed over. "That's enough, it's over..."

Chen Gu glared. "Scram!"

The martial arts hall staff refused to back down. However, Chen Gu had brought his bodyguards this time; several top security personnel stepped forward, subtly displaying various advanced weapons in their arsenal.

Seeing this, and then looking at Liu Zhekang, who was just a regular visitor, the staff decided it wasn't worth endangering themselves and silently retreated.

Chen Gu grabbed Liu Zhekang by the collar, became Lu Tixia, and with fists as big as vinegar bowls, he let loose a punch that seemed to burst an oil and soy sauce shop, with all the salty, sour, and spicy flavors rolling out in one hit.

The second punch... Well, let's skip the details. No need to pad the word count, after all. The public Chapters are free anyway.

After three consecutive punches, Liu Zhekang was already limp like a dead dog. Chen Gu threw him aside, glanced left and right, grabbed the confused person in charge of the martial arts hall, and wiped the fresh blood from his hands onto his white uniform.

The person in charge had his face flushed with anger, but he dared not react.

Chen Gu's acting skills skyrocketed, performing way beyond standards!

He looked at Liu Zhekang on the ground with a sneer. "Dare to plot against my brother? Who gave you the guts?" He raised his hand, and a bodyguard immediately handed over several photographs.

Chen Gu tossed the photos onto Liu Zhekang's face. "I've looked into your family, your secret lover, everything. Tomorrow morning, have those little bitches go to the police station and turn themselves in, or you know what the consequences will be!"

"Idiot, just so you know, there are some people in this world you just can't afford to offend!"

Having said that, Chen Gu waved his hand. "Let's go!"

Darkray's group, oozing with sycophantic vigor, strutted out triumphantly behind Chen Gu.

Once outside the martial arts hall, Chen Gu chuckled and asked, "How was that?"

Darkray gave a thumbs-up. "Wickedly brilliant!"

"Hahaha!" Chen Gu laughed heartily, having thoroughly enjoyed playing the villain—he'd long wanted to give those classic villainous lines a 'soulful' portrayal, and at last, his wish had been fulfilled.

Darkray was still a bit worried. "Bro Chen, do you think that bastard will really listen?"

Chen Gu smirked. "Don't worry, he wouldn't dare disobey."

After Chen Gu left, nearby the martial arts hall, the head of the action team gave orders through the communications channel. "From now on, keep a tight watch on the target's every move."

"Everyone must be cautious and not expose ourselves."

Chen Gu's strategy, in a nutshell, was called "startle the snake in the grass."

The people from True Knowledge Sin had not yet made a move, and the Bureau of Mystic Security didn't know their real target. Monitoring on such a large scale for a long time created a lot of pressure and was prone to errors. The plan was to give them a push and make True Knowledge Sin act early.

Liu Zhekang underwent rudimentary treatment at the martial arts hall, then was rushed to the hospital.

Having only just regained consciousness, Liu Zhekang hastily posted a message on a desolate forum on the Interstellar Quantum Web, after which he waited anxiously.

At half-past midnight, the curtain of the hospital room where Liu Zhekang lay fluttered, and a silhouette slipped in through the window.

"How did you end up like this?" The figure frowned disapprovingly upon seeing Liu Zhekang's condition.

Liu Zhekang stammered. The shadow snorted coldly. "You should understand, we gave you an opportunity, but we can take it back at any time!"

Not daring to withhold anything, Liu Zhekang came clean.

The figure pondered, assessing whether Liu Zhekang had blown his cover.

"Was it you who provoked Lubei Middle School first?"

Liu Zhekang snorted in what amounted to an admission. The shadow then asked, "Think carefully. Before you decided to take action against Lubei Middle School, did anyone or anything suggest it to you, making you come up with that idea?"

Liu Zhekang's mind raced, mistaking the query for a hint. "If there was..."

The shadow rolled his eyes in the dark, thinking, This idiot.

"Just answer my question truthfully."

"I've long disliked those from Lubei Middle School; I just lacked the ability before."

The shadow understood that it was a random incident—not entirely random, but rather Liu Zhekang's own foolishness.

"Do as he said!" Having said this and noticing Liu Zhekang's evident resentment, the figure reassured, "We will protect you and your family, but don't worry, you'll soon have the chance for revenge yourself!"

The team leader and others were monitoring covertly. Soon, this statement was relayed to Director Mei. The assertive woman smiled with satisfaction. "It seems they're about to make their move." With that, the objective of the operation was achieved.

Marcus straightened his attire and declared with ease, "This kid Chen Gu is not bad. His ability to grow so quickly... as his team leader, I played a crucial role in guiding and educating him."

Director Mei gave him a look, and Marcus's old face turned red. His blatant attempt to slice off a piece of the credit cake was rather undignified. But there was no helping it. Team leaders were poor, and scraping together any merit one could was still something.

The next morning, Mao Yisheng was released and returned to school for afternoon classes.

In the military training area, there was a joyous uproar around Mao Yisheng. Having heard about what happened from Darkray, Mao Yisheng sincerely said to Chen Gu, "Big Brother Chen, great kindness doesn't warrant thanks. If you'll have me as a brother, then you'll always be my big brother!"

As Chen Gu was about to respond modestly, he saw Coach Ouyang approach with a stern face, whistle fiercely, and bellow, "You all seem very idle, don't you? Today's training load will increase by 50%!"

A chorus of groans ensued among the military students. Coach Ouyang glared fiercely at Darkray and Mao Yisheng. "Can you get any more foolish? Still daring to complain? With your pig brains, if you don't train hard, what future can you have?"

Darkray and Mao Yisheng accepted the scolding and obediently went off to train.

Coach Ouyang pulled Chen Gu aside, hesitating as if he wanted to say something, but finally just sighed. "You...should I criticize you or praise you?"

Chen Gu said nothing, knowing well in his heart that he was not like Darkray, driven by hot-blooded impetuosity. In fact, facing Coach Ouyang, he felt somewhat guilty.

"Forget it, go train," Coach Ouyang waved him off.

To Chen Gu's surprise, after Mao Yisheng's return, his image in the students' minds seemed to have grown.

During breaks, unfamiliar classmates would offer him smiles, and some even gave him thumbs-ups.

After school that afternoon, Chen Gu saw Liu Shichan and her circle of close girlfriends at the school gate. They were a group of youthful and attractive girls, and their presence caused the male students to dawdle at the gate, reluctant to leave. For a time, a large crowd gathered at the entrance.

Chapter 97: Is There a Borrow, Is There a Return?

Chen Gu was trying to sneak away with his head down when Liu Shichan, who had been eyeing him already, swiftly made her way through the dense crowd and, WHOOSH, appeared in front of him.

Caught off guard, Chen Gu was met with Liu Shichan's sly smile. He had a bad feeling about this. Suddenly, she extended her hand, offering him a cup of milk tea.

"I'm treating you to milk..." Before Liu Shichan could finish, her voice was cut off by a loud roar. Darkray charged over like a mini tank, shoving several classmates out of the way. His thick, hairy legs firmly wedged themselves between Chen Gu and Liu Shichan!

"Don't you dare make things difficult for my Brother Chen! If you've got a problem, take it up with me!"

Then, this blockhead twitched his nose, a look of delight spreading across his face as he lowered his head to admire the cup in Liu Shichan's hand. "Caramel flavor, my favorite..."

Liu Shichan glared at him fiercely. "If you like it so much, go buy your own!"

"You're not allowed to hassle my Brother Chen..." Darkray blurted out. Liu Shichan's right foot moved slightly, the tip of her shoe pressing down hard, and several clear cracks formed on a floor tile!

Darkray drifted away, his leg hair fluttering in the wind. "Brother Chen, I won't disturb your chat with Sister Liu anymore."

Chen Gu cursed under his breath at this coward!

After Liu Shichan drove Darkray away, she again offered the milk tea to Chen Gu. "You, despite being lecherous, sleazy, despicable, and cunning, are at least loyal!"

Chen Gu was about to retort on the spot when he noticed many of the surrounding classmates nodding in agreement, apparently quite accepting of Liu Shichan's "evaluation" of him!

"You guys..."

Chen Gu felt weary.

Liu Shichan added, "We in the underworld live by loyalty, and I respect you for being a man of your word!"

Chen Gu snatched the milk tea, intending to leave, but Liu Shichan quickly withdrew her hand. "However, there's something I still need to clear up."

She blinked her large eyes and asked in a hushed, mysterious voice, "Is there something more than friendship between you, Mao Yisheng, and Darkray?"

"You know, is it... that sort of thing?"

"Because if you're standing up for true love, then it's not about loyalty... Please don't get me wrong, I have ample respect and interest in people like you. Also, I have some questions about certain... practices, and I'd like to learn a thing or two from you..."

Chen Gu noticed that her eyes were sparkling as she said this. He raised a finger, signaling her to pause.

Liu Shichan eagerly awaited his answer.

Chen Gu seemed hesitant, then said, "I need you to copy a gesture I make."

"No problem." Liu Shichan was very cooperative at this moment.

Chen Gu tilted his head to the left and then used his left hand to pick his left ear. Liu Shichan immediately did the same and then asked, "What's this for?"

Chen Gu replied, "Helping you drain the water from your brain!"

Liu Shichan: "???"

Chen Gu turned to leave, but after a couple of steps, he suddenly turned around, snatched the milk tea, and took a large gulp.

Liu Shichan caught up to him. "So you're saying, you guys aren't really..."

"Of course not!"

Liu Shichan, disappointed, watched the little stars in her eyes extinguish one by one. "What a pity. You're all so young and strong, full of vigor and radiating energy. You train diligently every day, bodies glistening with sweat, supporting each other... and yet you don't push forward boldly, seize every opening, or connect from end to end... It's truly such a waste."

Chen Gu was stunned. He felt that exchanging even one more word with this woman would contaminate him. He turned and fled.

Chen Gu found his car. Just as he started it, he received a call from Marcus: "Return to the team immediately!"

The call didn't reveal much, but Chen Gu subconsciously guessed: True Knowledge Sin is about to make a move.

「Twenty minutes later,」

Chen Gu arrived at the branch building, parked the car in record time, rushed upstairs, and pushed open the office door. "Boss, what's the situation?"

However, only Marcus and Director Mei were in the office. Upon seeing Chen Gu, Marcus looked like he'd found his savior. "Thank goodness you're finally here! Come and help us brainstorm."

A wave of joy surged in Chen Gu's heart. Both leaders were present, but the other team members weren't. They must value my abilities and have specifically called me over to provide input for the upcoming major operation!

As a newcomer, he had effortlessly surpassed the three veterans in the team to receive such recognition. The leaders indeed have a keen eye for talent!

"My skills are just average, really..." Great Actor Chen said with false humility, already darting over.

A holographic projection page was open in front of Marcus and Director Mei. However, it wasn't displaying operational plans, but a shopping page!

"Hmm?"

Marcus said, "Today is the Bureau's biannual exchange discount day. You can exchange merit points for equipment at half price. Do you think this 'Kunlun Thunder' is suitable for me?"

This was a revolver with a caliber comparable to a grenade launcher. It was so large that its cylinder only had five chambers. The entire frame of the gun was engraved with arcane patterns, and the muzzle was reinforced with a mystical metal. Its appearance alone left no doubt about its power.

Below was a description stating the gun came with three types of ammunition: "Armor-Piercing," "Airburst," and "Lightning Strike," ten rounds of each.

There was also the even more terrifying "Nuclear Ammunition," but those had to be purchased separately, at one hundred merit points each.

The special equipment from the Bureau of Mystic Security all included remnants of super life forms, and some integrated super materials directly.

For example, this "Kunlun Thunder" incorporated the remains of a super life form with electrical abilities. It was not only incredibly robust, allowing it to fire high-powered ammunition, but each shot also delivered an additional impact equivalent to a high-explosive grenade.

The original price of this gun was 1,200 merit points, but now it was only six hundred.

Although Chen Gu was somewhat puzzled about why they had urgently called him over to ask his opinion, he still analyzed, "Boss, you're an 'Alchemist.' Your skills have a certain activation delay, so having such a direct-attack weapon would be an excellent complement. This 'Kunlun Thunder' is very suitable for you."

Marcus excitedly slapped his shoulder. "Great minds think alike! Since you agree, you'll definitely help me out, right?"

Chen Gu suddenly realized something. He clutched his pockets. "Boss..."

"Chen Gu, I'm the team leader, responsible for the safety and survival of the entire Fifth Team! I want this equipment not just for myself, but also for your safety!"

"The stronger I am, the safer you will be."

"Safety, do you understand? Safety first!"

Chen Gu's face fell. "Can I even refuse?"

"I have 156 merit points. You just need to lend me 444," Marcus said.

Chen Gu inwardly cursed his luck; even the numbers were unlucky. He ruefully transferred 444 merit points to Marcus, who cheered and quickly placed the order. The order confirmation showed it would be delivered the next morning.

Chen Gu's heart stirred. Half-price sale, huh? Maybe I could also...

Director Mei said, "Don't rush. You can take your time looking later. For now, come and give me some advice too!"

Chen Gu: "..."

## Chapter 98: Reunion Again

Director Mei had her eye on a set of throwing knives, three in total, named "Blazing Banners." They were forged from the remains of a superhuman life form with some kind of fire-based special ability, mixed with dozens of precious metals, and smelted using high-tech methods.

This weapon could effortlessly kill a Gamma Level (3rd Level) Mutant, and it also dealt considerable damage to Delta Level (4th Level) Mutants.

The "Blazing Banners" were priced at 1,600 merit points, with a half-price courtesy discount of 800.

Chen Gu had a mournful look on his face. "Director, you don't have to charge into the fray; such equipment is useless for you. Why not give it to someone who really needs it, like the special service team members?"

Director Mei smiled inscrutably. "Marcus, let us have a word in private."

Marcus agreed and left.

Director Mei leaned back in her chair, sizing Chen Gu up with a strange look that made him somewhat uneasy. "Director..."

Director Mei suddenly asked, "Chen Gu, do you know my name?"

Chen Gu was bewildered. Huh? What does she mean? Does she want us to get acquainted?

"My name is Mei Lixue."

Chen Gu was still confused and looked at her questioningly. Director Mei scoffed coldly, "It seems you really don't remember. HEH. No wonder. In the eyes of someone like you, what do I even count for?"

"Wait a minute!" The more Chen Gu heard, the more something seemed off. How come it sounds like I once toyed with her affections and then abandoned her?

Mei Lixue let out another cold laugh. "When we first wanted to recruit you into the Bureau of Mystic Security, Marcel fiercely opposed it. But I single-handedly pushed back against him to bring you in, specifically into my division. Do you know why?"

Chen Gu honestly didn't know.

"It was precisely so I could get my revenge on you!" Director Mei gritted her teeth as she spoke.

Chen Gu shivered. "What... what on earth did I do to you?"

"HEH." Director Mei gave a cold laugh. "Of course you don't remember, my old classmate!"

Classmate?! Chen Gu suddenly remembered, pointing at Director Mei in disbelief. "You, you, you, you were the chubby girl in the second-to-last row..."

"See, now you remember, 'chubby girl'... HMPH! HMPH! HMPH!"

Chen Gu scratched his head, finding it very hard to reconcile the elite aura of the middle-aged beauty before him with the image of the dejected and comical chubby girl from high school.

"You, Ossosa, Zhao Ji, and Gao Mengjiu, how did you bully me back then?"

"Pretending to be the class heartthrob and writing me love letters, making me foolishly wait behind the school for three hours!"

"Secretly sticking pictures of walruses on my back during morning exercises!"

"Yelling for me to go roll in the sandpit during Sports Day!"

"Putting fake snakes in my drawer—and even purposely choosing the fattest fake snake!"

"Smearing red ink on my chair and mocking me for getting my first period?"

Chen Gu weakly raised his hand. "Uh... the thing with the red ink, that really wasn't us..."

Director Mei slammed the table in a rage. "Does it make a difference?"

Chen Gu slowly retracted his hand, shrinking his neck back.

Director Mei took a deep breath. "Because of all of you, the first thing I did after graduating college and getting my first month's salary was get stomach surgery! I tried everything, put in all my effort, and finally, I slimmed down!"

"Now do you understand? You've fallen into my hands. The Bureau of Mystic Security is a special department; you can't just resign. I can torment you however I want, and you've got nowhere to run!"

"Do you know what you should do now?"

Chen Gu nodded like a pecking chick and obediently transferred 800 merit points to Mei Lixue. The Fifth Division's wealthiest individual, once possessing 1,300 merit points, was instantly reduced to a mere 56.

Chen Gu wasn't in the mood to look for any big sales anymore and walked away dejectedly.

After leaving the sub-bureau building and sitting in his car, Chen Gu still couldn't believe it. The little chubby girl—Director Mei!

This can't be happening!

Are you kidding me, God?

My big boss is an old nemesis, always ready to make things difficult for me. What should I do? Waiting online, urgently!

Turns out, my ultimate boss is like an ungrateful child I've raised—not only refusing to protect me but even helping my tormentors. What to do? Forget it, no point waiting for online advice; you all probably don't have a solution anyway...

Chen Gu furiously called Ossosa. "Do you remember that little chubby girl from the second-to-last row in our high school?"

Ossosa shuddered. "You, you've met her too?"

"Yeah," Chen Gu responded. Before he could continue, Ossosa quickly said, "Don't worry! I'll take you to pay respects to her tomorrow. She's actually quite magnanimous. I go to pay respects every year, and she's never come to bother me again."

Hm? Chen Gu thought. Interesting! He realized that if anything could immediately cheer up a poor sod who had just suffered misfortune, it was discovering another poor sod who was even worse off.

Chen Gu solemnly said, "Okay, I'll call you tomorrow. By the way, where are we going to pay respects?"

"By the Moshui River in the southern part of the city. She... she told me herself. She drowned herself there. When she came to me, she was all wet, hair clinging to her face..."

Chen Gu offered a couple of perfunctory responses and quickly hung up, afraid he'd burst out snorting with laughter.

Mei Lixue is a Practitioner. She has the ability to scare Ossosa by pretending to be a ghost. And Ossosa, having encountered Practitioners and knowing about the existence of the Endless Realm, would naturally think a ghost appearing isn't impossible. HA HA HA!

But after laughing twice, thinking about his loss of a full 800 merit points, he just couldn't bring himself to laugh anymore.

Mei Lixue tricked Ossosa. But what about Gorilla and Zhao Ji? Chen Gu eagerly started making calls.

"Mei Lixue? That little vixen is too scheming. She lost weight, became beautiful, pretended to have a reunion with an old classmate, then got me drunk, stripped me naked, and took photos with me—she blackmailed me ruthlessly using them." As soon as he heard Mei Lixue's name, Zhao Ji began to pour out his sorrows to Chen Gu.

Chen Gu asked, "What did she blackmail you for? Money?"

Zhao Ji hesitated. "It wasn't anything important..."

"What exactly was it?"

"Really, it's nothing... HEY, HEY, HEY, my wife is calling! I have to attend to her. Goodbye!"

BEEP.

Chen Gu was certain Zhao Ji had been thoroughly messed with!

Upon making the third call, to Gorilla, as soon as Gorilla heard the name, he said softly, "Hold on."

Chen Gu could tell he must have moved from a crowded place to his office and closed the door before continuing, "You've encountered her too? Let me tell you: be extremely careful. That woman is a black widow!"

"She almost destroyed everything for me!"

Chen Gu immediately became interested. Such a tragic tale! Hurry up and recall it so I can have a good laugh.

Gorilla growled seriously, "You bastard! I'm not kidding. That woman is incredibly venomous. You absolutely must be careful!"

#### Chapter 99: The Poisonous Dragon Emerges from Its Cave

"Back then, I had just transitioned to being a producer and started my own studio. I hired an accountant—Mei Lixue. She had lost so much weight I didn't even recognize her. While helping me with my taxes, she taught me many 'little tricks.' I didn't know anything at the time. She collected all this evidence to firmly manipulate me, forcing me, forcing me..."

Gorilla couldn't continue. Chen Gu asked, "Forcing you to do what?"

"Forced me to write a song, sing it myself, praising her as the most beautiful girl in our entire school! It said we were blind not to see her beauty, that we didn't even deserve to be her lapdogs!"

"She specifically pressed a record and left contentedly, but she still held onto my evidence. For the next three or four years, I would occasionally get a call from her around three or four in the morning. She'd say there was no other reason, just that she felt lonely, couldn't sleep, and wanted to hear me sing!"

Gorilla shouted, "Is this something a human does? Waking me up in the middle of the night with such sentimental words, just to make me sing such a humiliating song!"

Chen Gu let out another piggy snort of laughter.

Gorilla, furious, hung up on him.

The little plump girl really holds a grudge, Chen Gu thought, growing truly vigilant. And I've just fallen into her hands. I really need to be extra careful from now on.

「The next day was Friday.」

Right after the first class in the morning, Chen Gu received an urgent call from Marcus: "Something happened at Zhaolun Middle School!"

Chen Gu immediately asked for leave and rushed to the precinct.

The plan to flush them out had worked. True Knowledge Sin had no suspicions but was also worried that if they delayed further, something unexpected might happen.

"This morning, after the students and teachers of Zhaolun Middle School started their classes, the school's security system was suddenly hacked and control was seized. Then, a group of armed thugs stormed the school!"

"Now, the entire school is completely surrounded by ionized plasma walls. The armed thugs have taken about a thousand students and around two hundred faculty members hostage. They are demanding to negotiate with the city government to meet their demands, threatening to kill all the hostages otherwise!"

True Knowledge Sin chose Zhaolun Middle School because its security system, once activated, created ionized plasma walls that were easy to defend but hard to attack. Previously, Liu with white hair had jogged in the school equipped with filming gear, and True Knowledge Sin had used him to conduct a detailed survey of the terrain.

Marcus briefed Chen Gu on the situation. Chen Gu asked, "What about Park Sanyi and Mona? Have they shown up?"

"Mona has appeared. She and her daughter are the armed thug representatives responsible for negotiations. However, Park Sanyi hasn't made an appearance; it's unknown if he's inside the school."

A particularly large pistol was holstered on Marcus's uniform belt; the "Kunlun Thunder" had been delivered just in time for this operation!

Of course, it was Mei Lixue's idea for him to shamelessly borrow money from his subordinates. But Marcus still had some pride, so whenever he saw Chen Gu, he felt a bit embarrassed and dared not look his subordinate in the eyes.

Chen Gu also had a black long bag slung over his shoulder, which contained the "Sky Fury." Zhaojieze City Precinct hadn't requested this equipment back, so Chen Gu had secretly brought it along.

Marcus said to Chen Gu, "The Bureau is splitting its forces into two groups now. Most are headed to Zhaolun Middle School. This is a major public safety incident, with the media broadcasting live, so the Bureau has to pay close attention."

"The rest are headed to Park Sanyi's building. Our group has been assigned there because of you, Chen Gu. We also have the Second Special Operations Squad in support."

Chen Gu frowned. "Boss, the other three groups all went to Zhaolun Middle School?"

"Yes."

Chen Gu grabbed the hurried Marcus. "Boss, listen to me for once! Suggest to the Director to request support from other branches immediately! Our people are tied up by these two places. If True Knowledge Sin's target is any other location within the city, we'll be completely helpless!"

Chen Gu's concern stemmed from the lessons learned in Zhaojieze City.

In Zhaojieze City, the Mutant's attack on a branch office had distracted the Bureau of Mystic Security. While their attention was focused there, the Mutant attempted to seize the antimatter energy field. Finally, taking advantage of the military's relaxed vigilance, it hijacked a mothership.

The most valuable experience Chen Gu gained from the last incident was not to let the enemy lead him by the nose.

Marcus thought for a moment, then nodded immediately. "That makes sense. Safety first."

The team leader went to find Mei Lixue. Meanwhile, Chen Gu arrived at the Fifth Group's office, where everyone was already fully armed. Joseph seemed a bit tense, Charles was aloof and cold, Melincha meticulously checked her equipment, and only the impish Selena looked utterly unconcerned.

After Chen Gu entered, he nodded to everyone and sat down to review the real-time surveillance footage of the building's vicinity.

Everything was normal inside and outside the building. People working there were coming and going, as busy as on any other workday.

Suddenly, Chen Gu remembered something and immediately called over the communication channel, "Action Group?"

The leader of the team monitoring the building immediately responded, "Present. What's the matter?"

"Send someone, disguised, to enter the building's security corridor, then listen to my instructions. Find someone sharp, and make sure not to alarm anyone!"

The team leader hesitated. "Such an action... requires at least a Director's authorization."

Fat chance that little fatty will authorize me! Chen Gu thought. He immediately called Chen Jixian. At that moment, Chen Jixian was naturally very busy and only answered after several rings. Chen Gu quickly stated his request. Chen Jixian hesitated, not answering immediately.

Chen Gu became anxious and said in a lowered, firm voice, "Think about Zhaojieze City! Listen to me!"

That odd sensation of "someone else's father" returned to Chen Jixian, and he subconsciously agreed, "Authorized!"

The Action Group leader never expected that just by asking for a Director's authorization, he would get the Branch Chief's!

He didn't dare delay for a moment and immediately chose his best operative, who disguised themselves as maintenance personnel and entered the building.

Chen Gu watched through the surveillance footage, directing the operative to a specific floor. There, the operative removed a cover plate and turned off the leaking valve.

Marcus came in just then and asked puzzledly, "What's the use of that?"

Chen Gu shook his head slightly. "I don't know either. It's just an intuition that this detail is highly significant to True Knowledge Sin's scheme."

Marcus didn't ask further. Instead, he said, "The Chief and the Director have reported the situation here to Headquarters and requested support."

Chen Gu let out a sigh of relief, but a sense of unease stemming from Mind Belief persisted. It's making me restless, he thought, pacing back and forth in the office with his hands behind his back. I feel like I've overlooked something.

Marcus patted the "Kunlun Thunder" on his waist and said, "Is everyone ready? Let's head out!"

Chapter 100: [Angel Envoy]

Team Five had a specialized mag-lev vehicle that looked ordinary on the outside but was equipped with various expensive devices on the inside, capable of performing full-body nanocleaning on team members to eliminate any risk of contamination.

The driver, Old Li, was a retired field operative who had lost half of his skull and his left hand in a battle seven years ago. The bureau treated him well, outfitting him with mainstream-level cybernetic prosthetics. His left middle finger was actually a miniature high-explosive missile.

Besides driving, Old Li also served as remote firepower support for Team Five.

After boarding the vehicle, Marcus handed Chen Gu a flat box. "This is from the Chief. He said it's a loan for now, and you absolutely must return it."

Puzzled, Chen Gu opened the box and found three throwing knives neatly arranged inside.

"Fire Banner?" Chen Gu recognized them at a glance, a flicker of puzzlement in his heart.

Marcus smiled but offered no explanation. With a major battle imminent, Chen Gu didn't have time to dwell on it and clipped the knives to the exterior of his combat suit.

The vehicle arrived on a street outside the building when suddenly, a massive explosion erupted. A huge plume of black smoke billowed from the structure.

"Something's happened!"

"Get out, move!"

The vehicle door slid open with a CLATTER, and the special service team agents leaped out, their landings creating six large craters in the ground with heavy THUDS. Then, their powerful physical enhancements kicking in, they charged towards the building.

After they launched themselves out, the six craters deepened.

Old Li executed a sharp drift with the vehicle, bringing it to a hover at the side. He quickly retrieved an iron box from beneath the driver's seat. Integrating it with the vehicle, a large cannon barrel extended from the chassis, transforming it into a floating remote firepower support platform. Its targeting and locking system then rapidly scanned the building's vicinity, quickly identifying several targets.

Around the building, debris from the explosion was scattered everywhere. People screamed and fled in all directions. Some, injured in the blast, lay on the ground crying out in pain as fresh blood gushed from their wounds.

A large hole had been blasted into one side of the building's wall. Three illegally modified humans shattered the remaining glass and leaped down from over ten stories up.

KLANG! KLANG! KLANG! Their powerful cybernetic components shifted, weapons arming.

The three fanned out, covering each other. One of them, towering three meters tall, had his entire body below the neck replaced with bulky metal components, leaving only his original head. The contrast was jarring.

He was clad in ancient scale armor, with four metal banners protruding from his back like an opera performer's flags, their sharp tips and edges glinting coldly!

Welded to his left arm was a six-barrel rotary cannon, while his right arm sported a massive five-clawed chain blade.

Each claw could be electromagnetically launched and flexibly controlled.

The second was an arachnoid cyborg, even larger than the armored one. Each of its spider-like legs stretched five meters, resembling terrifying lances, and a small cannon was mounted on either side of its torso!

The third was a chemically-augmented human, injected with some illicit Gene-modifying Drug. He roared, transforming into a creature over two meters tall—half-man, half-bear—covered in thick black fur, with razor-sharp claws and immense strength.

The action team monitoring the building's vicinity responded first. One after another, bulletproof mag-lev vehicles sped to the scene. Team members disembarked, took up positions, and unleashed a barrage of advanced weaponry at the three, filling the air with a cacophony of gunfire.

The mutant roared, forcefully slamming his fists on the ground, and cracks spiderwebbed out from his feet. Physical bullets struck him but couldn't penetrate his hide and muscle; they merely ricocheted off with PINGS! and PANGS!, bouncing onto the pavement.

Even the energy bullets did nothing more than scorch his fur, failing to inflict any real damage.

The armored cyborg, however, laughed maniacally, utterly fearless of the incoming fire. His scale armor possessed astonishing defensive power. He abruptly swiveled his rotary cannon, its barrels spinning with a WHIRR. A hailstorm of BANG! BANG! BANG! small-caliber shells hammered the action team, instantly engulfing their position in a sea of fire and inflicting heavy casualties.

The arachnoid cyborg's speed was unbelievable. In what seemed like a mere blur, it crossed a hundred meters and landed among the action team. A swift sweep of its long, deadly legs impaled several team members, their bodies left dangling!

The action team was routed almost as soon as the engagement began.

Amidst the mutant's roars, the armored cyborg's mad laughter, the arachnoid cyborg's eerie chittering, the civilians' terrified screams, and the agonized cries of the wounded action team members—suddenly, a grand and sonorous symphony erupted from within the building!

These sounds mingled, creating a bizarre and terrifying atmosphere that instilled profound fear in everyone present.

From the gaping, smoke-filled hole in the building, a figure emerged. He moved with light, graceful steps, perfectly in time with the symphony's rhythm, seemingly lost in the music.

Chen Gu and his team had already arrived. They recognized him at a glance. "Park Sanyi!"

Park Sanyi's demeanor at that moment was completely unlike his usual self. He was no longer the inconspicuous building maintenance worker. He wore an expensive tailcoat, his beard was cleanly shaven, and his hair was slicked back with glossy pomade.

He exuded the air of an upper-class gentleman.

His dance steps were flamboyant as he lost himself in the music. He danced until the piece concluded, then came to a poised stop and bowed to all sides.

"Thank you all for coming. I am Isaiah, the Angel Envoy of True Knowledge Sin. Welcome to my theater. What you've just seen was merely the warm-up act; now, please enjoy our... grand performance!"

Park Sanyi was just an alias. He was, in fact, an Angel Envoy!

With a jubilant cry, he spread his arms wide. Behind him, from the 300th floor of the skyscraper upwards, a series of explosions erupted one after another. Loud KABOOMS! echoed as shattering glass rained down, scattering across the sky.

The cries of terror around grew louder.

Isaiah looked very pleased. His gaze fell upon the six special service team members rushing towards him. A satisfied smile spread across his clean-shaven face. "Finally, my co-stars have arrived. Excellent."

Marcus, silent and already in motion, drew his Kunlun Thunder and fired three rapid shots at Isaiah.

Isaiah's black tailcoat tore apart with a SCHRRRIP! His skin cracked and peeled away, revealing the gleaming silver metallic structure beneath.

Unlike his subordinates, his cybernetic body was a perfect work of art—flawlessly proportioned, each component polished as smooth as porcelain.

Simultaneously, a luminous circle the size of a ping-pong ball lit up beneath the skin of his forehead. This miniature nuclear reactor continuously pumped powerful energy throughout his body.

Such a high-end cybernetic body was naturally extraordinary. He suddenly lunged forward, and Marcus's three shots all missed their mark. Isaiah blurred, appearing before Marcus in an instant, and landed a precise punch on his chest. Marcus coughed up a mouthful of blood. Immediately after, Isaiah, moving like lightning, delivered four more punches in quick succession, each one solidly connecting with Marcus's body.

It was only after Isaiah had finished his flurry of blows that the force of the first punch sent Marcus flying backward!