

Genius 811

Chapter 811 - Black Night Pursuit

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"Xiao Qin, it's already late, and it's quite a hassle to return to the city now. Besides, you've had quite a lot to drink and can't drive. Why don't you stay over at my place tonight..."

The drinks were finished, but a lot of time had been delayed; it was already past nine in the evening. For an old man with a regular life like Elder Chu, it indeed was quite late.

For young people, however, the night might have just begun.

It was more than an hour's drive back to Jingcheng District from here. If he headed back now, he could only arrive by at least eleven o'clock, and no one was comfortable with Qin Fang driving after he had drunk so much.

"Grandpa Chu, this... I still have something important tomorrow, better to go back... I can't drive myself; I'll just have Brother Cheng drive me back!"

Qin Fang was scared of this old man; he was just too fierce, first forcefully making a matchmaking arrangement, then having so many people make him drink, and who knew what even more ruthless plans there might be if he stayed.

Tang Cheng had slipped away not long after the drinking began, taking advantage of the noisy crowd, and hadn't drunk much either, making him a perfect shield.

"Brother Cheng? Forget about him. That lad probably had his fair share of drinks outside too..."

Despite his age, Elder Chu had a mind clear as a mirror; he knew everything. Tang Cheng's sneaky escape was noticed, not only by Qin Fang but naturally by Elder Chu as well.

However, Elder Chu knew Tang Cheng's habits well. It was too restrictive for him to be inside with the elders. Going out to drink with relatives and brothers, he probably drank not much less. Most likely, he wouldn't be reliable to drive either.

"How about this, let Qianqian take you back. She didn't drink at all, so it's much safer for her to drive... and you young people should spend more time together... What's that phrase? Right, it's called 'a world for two'..."

Unexpectedly, Elder Chu, despite his advanced age, was highly educated and so up-to-date with modern expressions.

"Grandpa..."

Before Qin Fang could react, Chu Qianqian voiced her disapproval first, "It's so late already, and you're just fine with sending a young girl to drive at night? Aren't you worried about me encountering prowlers halfway?"

"Isn't Xiao Qin with you?"

Elder Chu immediately showed his displeasure, thinking, "My dear granddaughter, Grandpa is creating opportunities for you..."

"I'm afraid he is the prowler..."

Chu Qianqian was utterly unreserved and pointed straight at Qin Fang with a huff. The small incident under the table earlier had left her quite upset; it felt as if she had been flirted with by Qin Fang, and yet she couldn't openly complain, which was extremely frustrating...

"Nonsense!"

Elder Chu's face became stern, and his eyes widened, "Stop talking nonsense. This task is given to you. You are responsible for taking Xiao Qin back to the city, and if it gets too late, stay at Xiao Qin's place..."

"Grandpa..."

Although she knew that once Elder Chu took such a tone, there was absolutely no room for negotiation, Chu Qianqian still couldn't help but blanch upon hearing that she should stay at Qin Fang's place.

Clearly, Chu Qianqian's opposition was ineffective; Elder Chu was the ultimate authority in the Chu Family, and once he made a decision, it was impossible to change.

Chu Qianqian begrudgingly accepted the task of escorting...

The drive naturally was in Qin Fang's car, while Chu Qianqian left her own vehicle at Elder Chu's place. Since the Chu Family had many people, anyone could help drive her car back to the city, so there was no need to worry.

Thus, under the watchful eye of Elder Chu, Chu Qianqian drove Qin Fang into the pitch-black night, heading towards Jingcheng District.

"Miss Chu, actually, I'm not drunk. I can drive myself. Why don't you secretly go back? I'll make my own way back to the city..."

They had just left the village when Qin Fang, observing the pouting and alluring Chu Qianqian, couldn't help but shudder internally, yet still said.

Though he had drunk a lot, he wasn't drunk; he could completely drive himself. The driving used Skill, and as long as he had even a little consciousness left, he could still drive on his own.

"Hmph, pretending to be nice... I promised Grandpa I'd take you to the destination, and I will definitely do so... But don't you dare have any bad ideas about me, or else I..."

Chu Qianqian cursed bitterly, still pouting her lips, obviously dissatisfied with Elder Chu's arrangement and also quite wary of Qin Fang.

"Whatever you say..."

Qin Fang was at a loss too: being guarded against like a thief, he no longer had the heart to insist, and might as well just lie down and rest.

So, the two of them lost any desire for conversation, and the inside of the car quieted down...

The night outside the car window was silent and late. Although Capital City's traffic was notoriously criticized for severe congestion, even the odd-even rule didn't solve the problem much. However, the road from the suburbs to the city, relatively desolate, had not much traffic...

Chu Qianqian was quietly driving, while Qin Fang had lain down in the back seat, closed his eyes, and dozed off...

This continued for a while, about ten minutes or so, when Qin Fang, who was resting with his eyes closed, suddenly woke up. His body, agile as a monkey, swiftly twisted and he sat straight up in the passenger seat.

"Wow..."

Chu Qianqian was driving seriously when she suddenly noticed someone now occupied the previously empty passenger seat. She almost subconsciously screamed, swerved the steering wheel, and the car veered to the side.

"Damn..."

Qin Fang hadn't expected Chu Qianqian's reaction to be so intense, and seeing an accident imminent, he quickly reached out, grabbed the steering wheel, and turned it several times, barely managing to get the car back on the road...

However, it was no longer the highway they had been on before, but seemed to have turned into a small side road... and it was one barely lit by a few street lamps.

"Damn it! What are you doing, trying to kill us..."

Chu Qianqian had finally recognized that the person in the passenger seat was Qin Fang and immediately couldn't help but curse. It was really scary to be frightened by someone in the middle of the night.

"Stop talking!"

Qin Fang had no time for this and merely warned Chu Qianqian, then immediately stopped the car and turned off the ignition... Suddenly, darkness enveloped them, and the inside of the car went dark as well.

"What... what are you trying to do?"

Chu Qianqian was initially stunned, then her complexion changed drastically, and she couldn't help but tighten her collar and hugged her chest, looking quite frightened.

A scenario flashed through her mind—

In the silent night, on a dimly lit small road, a car stopped, a burly, strong man grabbed a soft woman and reached out a sinister hand to her...

At that moment, Chu Qianqian felt she was that vulnerable woman, and the strong man was...

"Ah... Help!"

Driven by innate fear and psychological impact, Chu Qianqian thought Qin Fang was going to assault her, and she instinctively called for help, and thus... she let out a piercing scream, which could spread very far even in such a night...

"Damn it! You trying to get us killed..."

In the darkness, Qin Fang's voice was immediately heard, frantic and irate.

He then stopped thinking too much, acted swiftly, opening the car door with one hand and with the other grabbed the fearful Chu Qianqian. With a slight exertion of strength, she suddenly felt as though she had become a little bird capable of flight, her body soaring through the air.

But it wasn't long before she fell to the ground; she could even smell the earth...

Just as she worried whether her fragile body would be injured upon impact, a solid cushion landed first, and her body crashed onto it. She, of course, knew the cushion was Qin Fang.

Not just that, Qin Fang not only had taken her out of the car but also swiftly wrapped her completely in his arms, rolling several times on the ground...

Bang~~

Chu Qianqian hadn't yet grasped what was happening, or whether Qin Fang intended to execute her in the wild, or even if she should scream again, when from not far away... a thunderous explosion sounded.

Boom~~~

Flames shot into the sky... Chu Qianqian barely made out what had happened. The car she had been driving was now entirely engulfed in a fireball.

And the earlier sound was unmistakably another car ramming forcefully into the back of theirs... Precisely, it was a deliberate collision.

"What... what on earth is going on?"

This was something Chu Qianqian had never encountered before, primarily because her life circumstances never involved such incidents, but she was a very smart girl. Drawing on Qin Fang's earlier reaction, she quickly realized—everything happening in front of her eyes was not some casual traffic accident, it was premeditated...

This was murder!

Indeed, this was definitely a deliberate murder!

But who were these people after?

Were they trying to kill me, or kill Qin Fang... This was the problem troubling Chu Qianqian's mind.

"They are numerous; we must leave immediately, keep quiet..."

While her mind was flooded with countless thoughts, Qin Fang whispered these words into her ear, the warm breath tickling her earlobe, instantly making her body tingle uncomfortably...

Chapter 812 - Escape from Life and Death

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But under such circumstances, Chu Qianqian really dared not make a sound, even though her sensitive body was reacting in very strange ways.

"Hold on to me..."

Chu Qianqian had a slender figure and was quite tall, but wearing high heels made running on this rural path utterly impractical. Qin Fang, helplessly furrowing his brow, had no choice but to say this.

"Hmm?"

Chu Qianqian was slightly stunned, yet upon seeing the increasing number of figures illuminated by the distant firelight, she also became quite panicked.

Her face blushed slightly, but still, she reached out her delicate hands and wrapped them around Qin Fang's neck...

Qin Fang, however, didn't have time to ponder those romantic niceties. He wrapped his arms around Chu Qianqian's slender waist, slightly exerted strength, lifted her up, and after scanning the surroundings, crouched slightly and quickly dashed deeper into the darkness.

His steps were light, his movements very agile. In such a night, he was not only unbothered but seemed almost like a fish in water...

The surroundings were very dark, the stars above scarce. Although Chu Qianqian gradually adapted to the darkness, she could only make out very faded views of the ground, enough to recognize some clear areas like ditches, ponds, and roads... the rest was murky.

In such an environment, walking for Chu Qianqian could only be done by feeling her way step by step, but now Qin Fang moved as if on level ground, utterly unconcerned with the path beneath his feet...his stride as light as if it were day.

And since she was not using her hands, the one who was injured was...

"Are... Are you hurt?"

Chu Qianqian was not foolish. Despite being overwhelmed by fear, the blood splattered on her face had clued her into what had happened.

"Don't speak; I'm fine..."

However, Qin Fang still appeared relatively calm, whispering to Chu Qianqian, then crouched even lower...

Now, Qin Fang became even more cautious. He didn't rush anymore but carefully surveyed the environment to find better escape routes.

"Damn, I was too confident..."

While scanning his surroundings, Qin Fang also secretly rebuked himself.

He had detected the sudden appearance of these enemies in advance but had underestimated them. Not only were there many of them, but they were also armed with guns...

The black night had given Qin Fang a considerable advantage, making his escape somewhat easier, but the opponents had guns and equipment, which Qin Fang hadn't anticipated, and his previous overconfidence had indeed cost him—he was shot in the right shoulder!

"Thank goodness it's not critical, or it would have been too wrongful..."

Simultaneously, Qin Fang was also very relieved. The place he was shot, fortunately, was the relatively less severe shoulder area. Although it almost instantly rendered his right arm uncontrollable and his life points had plummeted by more than half, it hadn't cost Qin Fang his life...

"Over there... over there..."

"Quick, quick, quick..."

"Split up and encircle him; we must not let him get away..."

The silhouettes in the distance moved rapidly and with great caution. Although they were few in number, they were well-armed, causing Qin Fang's brow to furrow tightly!

The surroundings were quite open. Besides some farmland nearby, there were hardly any homes in sight. A small hill not far away stood out somewhat majestically in the black night.

The current view was extremely broad, almost entirely visible at a glance, making it difficult to find any substantial cover, which complicated Qin Fang's escape significantly.

If it were just him alone, the dark night would have been Qin Fang's best cover, paired with his Stealth Skill. Although he might not have been able to turn defeat into victory, at least his escape was assured.

But now he was not alone; he had Chu Qianqian, a burden following him, making his escape very difficult...

These people were clearly targeting him, Qin Fang, which Chu Qianqian did not know, but Qin Fang did, as the system had sent him a warning beforehand; otherwise, he wouldn't have escaped in advance.

Yet Qin Fang couldn't be sure whether these pursuers would spare the irrelevant Chu Qianqian. He didn't dare to gamble... nor did he want to, so he had to escape with Chu Qianqian.

"Qin... Qin Fang, put me down...Escape on your own!"

Just as Qin Fang was agonizing over how to break out of the encirclement, Chu Qianqian, who also realized this, fearfully and anxiously whispered to him.

"Shut up!"

Under normal circumstances, Qin Fang might have bickered with Chu Qianqian, but now, in a life-or-death situation, their hiding place was not secure, such noise could easily draw enemy fire.

As for leaving Chu Qianqian behind and escaping alone, that was something Qin Fang could never envisage doing... even if Chu Qianqian herself suggested it, he would not agree.

Apart from the Qin and Chu families being friends for many years, with Elder Chu particularly fond of Qin Fang, Qin Fang could not allow Chu Qianqian to be captured or even... killed by the opponents.

Not to mention, Chu Qianqian was a woman, a vulnerable one, and Qin Fang was a man of integrity, not the type to cower or be cowardly; he couldn't just abandon a woman like that.

What Qin Fang needed now was to remain exceptionally calm. The more dangerous the situation, the more serene his mindset needed to be, enabling his mind to function at its best and find a way to escape out of danger.

Not wanting to hear the woman in his arms nagging in his ear, he spoke in a severe tone, immediately making Chu Qianqian behave more submissively, looking pitifully at Qin Fang as if she hadn't expected this man to suddenly become so fierce...

Chapter 813 - Epiphany of Life and Death

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"No, we can't just sit here and wait for death..."

The surroundings were highly unfavorable for Qin Fang and his companion, vast and empty, making hiding difficult, while the opponents were numerous and seemingly well-trained, moving in an orderly and tightly organized manner, reminiscent of a military unit. If he were to run around blindly, he would become an easy target for them.

But staying still was even worse, essentially a dead end, especially since he was alone against possibly ten to twenty people.

Qin Fang wasn't without weapons, as his Props Box contained two guns and over a hundred bullets. If it really came to a confrontation with these adversaries, with Qin Fang's gunmanship, no matter how many of them there were, it would be in vain.

However, judging from the organization and movement of these people, Qin Fang was almost certain he had no chance of taking them down in this environment... not to mention the burden he was carrying.

"Hold on to me tight, we must break through..."

Qin Fang gritted his teeth, sitting idly by wasn't his style, breaking through might afford them a glimmer of hope... He glanced at the small mountain in the distance; although the area of the mountain seemed limited, if they could make it through, Qin Fang was confident they could use the terrain to escape successfully.

"But... you're injured!"

"But..."

Chu Qianqian wanted to argue, but she realized that Qin Fang wasn't even looking at her, forcing her to swallow the words she had at the tip of her tongue.

She understood that Qin Fang was doing all this for the sake of their escape.

Despite her worries, she wrapped her arms around Qin Fang's neck just as before, allowing him to hold her tightly in his arms...

Qin Fang didn't have the time to ponder further; the opponents were closing in, encircling him, and if they managed to form a complete circle around him, then Qin Fang would find it hard to escape even with wings.

He whispered to Chu Qianqian, who was clinging to him, that he had originally planned to knock her out, but carrying her would drastically increase the chance of getting shot. He had no choice but to keep holding her; at least he could shield her with his body...

Of course, Qin Fang had other reasons for doing so—for one, he didn't want Qianqian to witness things she shouldn't see...

"Mhm!"

Chu Qianqian didn't argue this time. She was in the same boat as Qin Fang; if he couldn't escape, she stood even less of a chance.

So, rather than hoping she could be of help, it was already a huge relief as long as she didn't cause more trouble.

Looking at Qianqian, who closed her eyes and buried her head in his clothes, Qin Fang inhaled the light fragrance of her hair. The only free hand he had now held a gun...

"Let's wish ourselves luck..."

He murmured softly, and then suddenly his feet exploded with force. His body transformed into a shadowy figure, leaping into the air, and then quickly landing, covering a distance of five to six meters in an instant...

Such terrifying explosive strength might be the envy of world-class athletes, yet for Qin Fang, it was easy...

Pop, pop, pop~~

As expected, bullets came shooting toward Qin Fang almost the moment he leapt up... not just one or two, but based on Qin Fang's hearing, he quickly discerned at least six people shooting at him, with two of them firing three and two shots each in that moment...

This was within Qin Fang's expectations, so almost the moment he jumped, he immediately employed the Thousand Catty Drop skill, forcibly dragging his body down from the rising inertia and directly into a rapid descent...

The marksmanship of these gunmen who were after Qin Fang was extremely sharp, and their shooting was very accurate, but it was precisely because of their precision that such a sudden change actually helped Qin Fang escape this calamity...

"There's a master!"

But at the same time, it also sent a chill through Qin Fang's heart, for he was shocked to discover that among the six people shooting, there were actually two who were extremely formidable masters... Especially the one who fired three shots in an instant was a master among masters, an existence that could almost contend with Qin Fang himself.

Qin Fang actually had the opportunity to shoot and kill several opponents just now, but in the moment he raised his gun, he forcibly held back.

With a considerable number of enemies, including a few masters, Qin Fang was at an absolute disadvantage. The gun in his hand was unquestionably his trump card, and without absolute certainty, Qin Fang did not want to reveal it.

Shooting now could certainly take down three to four people, but in comparison to a dozen or twenty enemies, that was merely a small part and would not hurt them severely. on the contrary, it would expose his trump card, which really wouldn't be worth it.

Firing four shots in an instant was Qin Fang's current limit, but only three shots' accuracy could be guaranteed, the fourth was uncertain...

Therefore, Qin Fang's shooting proficiency was just slightly better than that of the other master's, but not overwhelmingly superior. Against ordinary gunmen it was still fine, but against such skilled gunmen, Qin Fang must ensure a one-shot kill, otherwise he would inevitably suffer...

No matter what, Qin Fang's plan was relatively successful, at least he made it through that most difficult moment, successfully breaking through the enemies' encirclement and avoiding being completely surrounded...

However, this was merely just the beginning, for rushing out from behind that sole cover also meant exposing himself completely to the enemies' line of sight, allowing their gunmen to shoot at Qin Fang without any hesitation...

Pu pu pu~~

Qin Fang fully unleashed his strength and speed, sprinting across the barren wilderness like a cheetah, with bullets constantly hitting the ground, stirring and splashing mud around his feet and body...

Qin Fang's running path was almost entirely unpredictable. Being a formidable gunman himself, a highly outstanding sniper, he understood gunmen well, knowing which paths could be easily anticipated, so he had to break these patterns...

At this moment, Qin Fang's mind was completely integrated with his body, and his brain was operating at high speed, as if every cell in his body had been fully activated.

The bullets seemed to scrape past Qin Fang's body, with several even grazing him, causing bursts of stinging pain.

Yet Qin Fang's heart remained perfectly calm, even giving him a very peculiar sensation, as if he could vaguely sense the trajectory of every bullet coming his way... Even if the bullets were shot from behind, Qin Fang never turned back!

This was a complete sublimation of the mind, a change in mental state, it was on that edge of life and death that Qin Fang suddenly felt an indescribable, ineffable change in his heart...

This change was beyond words; Qin Fang felt he understood, yet he could not articulate any reason for it, only feeling that after such a transformation, he was quite different from before.

As for exactly what the difference was...

Sorry!

Qin Fang's answer was—I don't know!

Qin Fang truly did not know, for there was not the slightest hint in his mind, and his skill section showed no sudden spike in proficiency, everything was as it had been before...

The duration of this state was not very long, even very short, so brief it was like a mere fraction of a second...

But when Qin Fang came to, he was already mere meters away from that hill!

Chapter 814 - Resurrection After Death

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The strange state Qin Fang had just experienced was actually what every martial artist in the Martial World yearned for most: an epiphany... It's an indescribable condition that cannot be conveyed in words.

An epiphany is something all martial artists immensely look forward to, but unfortunately, most of them can go their entire lives without experiencing it, even if they have been stuck at Level 5 Peak for decades.

Without such an epiphany, don't even hope to make the leap from Level 5 Peak into the Level 6 Grandmaster realm... Therefore, an epiphany is also known as a Grandmaster's stepping stone!

Indeed, a stepping stone!

Just one such epiphany could basically mean that one is halfway into the Grandmaster Level, as long as there is enough cumulative strength, then they could make that much-desired jump into the Grandmaster realm.

If there is no epiphany, however, don't expect to advance in this lifetime... it's impossible...

And the emergence of such an epiphany often comes with huge crises, especially when walking on the edge of life and death like Qin Fang just did, there's a great chance for such an epiphany to occur...

This is why when martial artists reach Level 5 Peak, they don't continue to practice in seclusion but go out to challenge experts and their own limits, seeking the opportunity for an epiphany... to take that most difficult step!

Of course, this is relative to those martial artists who have reached Level 5 Peak without an epiphany. There are some gifted individuals whose moments of enlightenment come much earlier...

Some immediately have an epiphany upon entering Level 5. Song Qingshan, for example, known as "The First Among Young Experts" and the leader of the "Tian Nan Four Shows" in the Southern Martial Arts World, was such an individual.

And some have their epiphanies shortly after reaching Level 5, like several young experts in the Northern Martial Arts World, ranked above Lei Peng in strength...

But one thing is certain: the chance to have an epiphany is most likely to occur at Level 5 because at that moment the martial artist's cumulative strength has already reached the critical point for an epiphany!

But Qin Fang...

This was definitely a huge surprise, or to put it another way, he was simply a freak of nature, actually having the much-desired epiphany at Level 4.

If the people of the Martial World were to know about this, they might even capture Qin Fang for dissection to study...

Of course, if we delve deeper, Qin Fang's case wasn't really that outlandish. Although his level was restricted to Level 4, the energy contained within him was comparable to a Level 5 Peak expert... With such a foundation, it's not impossible for Qin Fang to achieve an epiphany on the brink of death.

So, amidst the hail of bullets and gunfire, Qin Fang broke through the biggest obstacle before reaching Level 6 Grandmaster, essentially having one foot in the realm of Level 6 Grandmaster.

With Qin Fang's current foundation and strength, having made such a breakthrough, he possessed cultivation akin to a Quasi Grandmaster Level expert despite being at Level 4...

If previously Qin Fang, facing Shangguan Tianling, a Grandmaster-level expert, without using firearms, had no fighting power at all, now he already had the strength to engage in combat...

Of course, an epiphany represents a sublime change in state, and it virtually makes no direct change to strength; before the epiphany, the power of someone at Level 5 Peak wouldn't grow much further; perhaps some individuals could become more robust with more cultivation, but it wouldn't be greatly significant.

However, after the epiphany, it is different; the level might remain temporarily at Level 5 Peak, but the accumulation of strength would continue to grow. It's the build-up of one's foundation, and the more powerful this foundation is, the stronger one will be after entering the Grandmaster Level.

Even some prodigious figures just entering the Grandmaster Level could possess a cultivation comparable to many seasoned Grandmaster-level experts, simply because they had built up a very strong foundation at Level 5.

Just like the Iron Claw Divine Eagle Song Qingshan, who had an epiphany upon reaching Level 5, almost regarded as the foremost among young experts in the entire Dragon Country Martial World, his strength

had already reached Level 5 Peak and could have broken through that barrier to enter Level 6 Grandmaster, but he didn't. He chose to accumulate enough foundation and then break through in one fell swoop.

Many Grandmaster-level experts have said that if Song Qingshan could elevate his Thirteen Taibao Horizontal Training Golden Bell Cover and Great Strength Eagle Claw Technique to Level 6 before entering the Grandmaster Level, his strength would be comparable to top Grandmaster-level experts like Cai Pingyuan...

Qin Fang seemed even freakier by comparison. Everyone else started accumulating at Level 5, with no exceptions even for geniuses like Song Qingshan, yet he began accumulating from Level 4.

This almost guaranteed that Qin Fang's future position would surpass all the young experts of the day, including Song Qingshan, who was held in high esteem. Perhaps by the time Qin Fang broke through to the Grandmaster Level, he could become invincible below the rank of a Grandmaster...

Of course, that's provided Qin Fang can escape from the catastrophe before him!

Otherwise, all is in vain!

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The epiphany was indeed powerful; though Qin Fang felt the process lasted only a fraction of a second, in that fraction of a second, he covered nearly fifty meters, almost making his escape to safety.

"I did it!"

Seeing that he was only a few meters away from diving into the bushes beneath the hill, even Qin Fang, whose state of mind had undergone significant changes, couldn't help but feel a surge of excitement at such a moment.

But as the saying goes, what goes up must come down...

Almost at the same time that Qin Fang got excited, a muffled bang sounded, and Qin Fang immediately let out a groan before tumbling forward, holding Chu Qianqian in a tight embrace.

Unfortunately, Qin Fang had been shot again...

This time, the bullet had not struck his shoulder, but his back... just a very short distance from his heart—for Qin Fang, who had barely scraped together 40 Life Points, such an injury was fatal, even certain death.

Qin Fang's Life Points were wiped out in an instant...

40 Life Points might seem like a lot, and even with knife and axe wounds aplenty, Qin Fang wouldn't die as long as his head, heart, and similar vital parts were not hit, no matter how severe the injury.

The problem was that the assassins pursuing Qin Fang were all gunmen using guns!

The killing power of bullets far exceeded that of knives; the damage of ordinary bullets was at least above 20, and if they hit slightly more critical parts, their power could surge to over 50...

The gunshot wound Qin Fang suffered this time was of that sort. Even though the exact amount of damage was unknown, it was clear that Qin Fang's 40 Life Points were insufficient to cover the loss... therefore, his Life Points were emptied in one go.

An emptiness of Life Points is a more poetic way of putting it. To put it plainly—Qin Fang had died!

Almost at the instant that Qin Fang's Life Points dropped to zero, his body instantly stiffened, and his body temperature also completely dissipated in an instant...

Holding tightly to Qin Fang and pressing her small face against his burning chest, Chu Qianqian suddenly felt that what she was touching was not the warmth of this man's chest but a block of cold stone...

Even though she knew she should not move at this moment, for the bullets were still raining down behind them, such a sudden change still shocked Chu Qianqian beyond acceptance.

Not only the chest her small face was touching, but the neck she held with her hands also turned icy all of a sudden, and she even felt Qin Fang's hand that had preserved her delicate waist become cold and completely rigid...

"What's happening?"

A huge question mark appeared in Chu Qianqian's mind...

But before she could fully process this question, she immediately felt Qin Fang's body warmth return to normal...

This sequence happened in less than a second, creating a bizarre "illusion" in her mind!

Chu Qianqian gently shook her head, dismissing this "illusion" from her mind because it was something impossible, Qin Fang had not changed and was still the Qin Fang from before...

But what was the reality?

"Damn, that was close!"

Qin Fang inwardly breathed a sigh of relief. Chu Qianqian's feeling had not been an illusion. It had actually happened because at that moment—Qin Fang truly died!

However, the Mysterious System residing in Qin Fang's mind used a setting similar to online games, where not only skills and attributes worked that way, but Qin Fang was astonished to discover that even some advanced micromanagement techniques commonly seen in online games also applied...

When the bullet was fired, Qin Fang felt an intense crisis. Although his reaction speed clearly couldn't keep up with the speed of the bullet, making it impossible for him to dodge...

But as he was hit, Qin Fang continuously consumed at least ten Superior Soup Dumplings...

The gunshot and the consumption of Baozi to replenish health finished at the same time, and it was just like the time-lag healing method often used by priests in online games, albeit with a slight variation for Qin Fang.

Qin Fang got shot and instantly lost more blood than his limit of Life Points, so he died instantly... but by chance employing the time-lag healing method, he instantly regained Life Points. His zero Life Points instantaneously increased by the +3 Life Points from the Superior Soup Dumplings...

According to the System's settings, as long as Qin Fang's Life Points weren't zero, he would not be considered dead...

Therefore, Qin Fang resurrected in a rather weird way!

In just a split fraction of a second, Qin Fang had gone from life to death, and back to life again...

This was an experience no one had before, yet Qin Fang had the fortune to try it today, a miracle that cannot be denied...

Chapter 815 - Counterattack... Begins!

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"Damn, this feeling really sucks. I never want to go through it again..."

Although it turned out to be a false alarm, Qin Fang definitely did not want to experience it a second time, because he had come so close to actually dying.

He ate ten baozi, and only one had an effect. Qin Fang didn't know if it was the last baozi that worked, but the fact that he nearly didn't make it was indisputable.

Pu pu pu~~

The enemy clearly hadn't given up on the chase just because Qin Fang was shot and fell to the ground; bullets continually landed near him. If it hadn't been for a depression near the mountain area, Qin Fang would have been shot again when his Life Points were already at their limit...

At that moment, even a bullet grazing his skin could have been lethal for Qin Fang!

"Let's focus on escaping..."

While quickly swallowing more than ten Superior Soup Dumplings, Qin Fang didn't have time to think. He suddenly rolled over, forcefully dragging himself and Chu Qianqian across the uneven, weed-covered ground. They successfully broke through the enemy's blockade and dashed into the bushes at the edge of the forest. They sped deeper into it and temporarily vanished from the enemy's sight.

Pu pu pu pu~~

Bursts of gunfire echoed from the bushes, but alas, there was still no response; Qin Fang had completely disappeared like a dragon returning to the sea or a tiger entering the forest.

The hill wasn't very large, and the forest wasn't very dense. Moreover, it was winter, and the trees had long shed their leaves, leaving only bare trunks which offered limited cover.

If it hadn't been a pitch-black night but rather broad daylight, Qin Fang and Chu Qianqian wouldn't have been able to hide even if they had dived into the forest...

"Did we... make it out?"

The rolling and the scratches from the thicket left multiple scrapes on Chu Qianqian's back and arms, with some still showing traces of blood. Her clothes were torn in several places... Fortunately, it was winter, and she wore relatively more layers, even if Chu Qianqian's attire was meek in places, revealing just a bit of her fair skin.

But Chu Qianqian clearly wasn't paying attention to the pain. She asked with an incredulous look... The barrage of bullets, although she hadn't faced it directly, the recurring pu pu sound by her ears was hard to ignore.

"It's too early to say that... Stay here and don't move; I'm going to check the situation!"

Qin Fang was clearly not as optimistic as Chu Qianqian. By hiding in the forest, they had only temporarily escaped danger, far from being safe.

After quickly settling Chu Qianqian, Qin Fang moved like a nimble monkey, swiftly climbing up a nearby tree to gain a bird's eye view of the enemy's movements below. However, he was surprised to find that instead of giving up because Qin Fang had fled into the mountains, a small group of three to five people had formed a team and started to continue the pursuit within the mountain.

"Damn it, they just won't disappear..."

Upon seeing this, even Qin Fang couldn't help but curse, but soon his eyes narrowed slightly, and an intense sense of danger rapidly overwhelmed him.

Bang~~

In the gloom, a muffled gunshot suddenly startled a few birds in the woods, fluttering their wings as they fled.

At the same time as the gunshot, Qin Fang's hands that were gripping the tree trunk suddenly loosened, and he quickly fell toward the ground as if in free fall.

Almost as soon as Qin Fang began to fall, a loud impact was heard above him. A bullet had hit the trunk of the tree he had just been climbing, and the force of the impact knocked a chunk of the wood away...

The very spot he had just been peering from!

If Qin Fang hadn't sensed the danger in advance, he would have been shot in the head just then...

"Damn it! That was close..."

Qin Fang was relieved once again. Today's chase had indeed been too perilous, repeatedly bringing him to the brink of death, grazing past the Reaper time and again.

But Qin Fang's gains were also quite remarkable: a purification of the mind, a transcending of his realm, and an epiphany in the Martial Way had significantly enhanced his senses, making his premonition of danger even more precise...

It was like the sniper shot that had just occurred; Qin Fang, relying on a martial artist's instincts, noticed it before the System's crisis alert even appeared, which is why he managed to dodge in time. If he had been even a slightly bit slower, Qin Fang definitely could not have escaped...

The power of a sniper rifle is much more formidable than ordinary firearms; even a graze could be too much for Qin Fang's 40 Life Points...

"They've even resorted to using a sniper rifle? Who exactly wants to kill me?"

However, Qin Fang was also increasingly perplexed; he had many enemies—Ninghai had Li Rui, Capital City had Xu Ling, Lei Peng, Shangguan Tianling... and several others who hated Qin Fang to the bone, wishing nothing more than to eliminate him quickly.

Yet among these people, Qin Fang couldn't guess who could possibly mobilize such a formidable force against him...

After all, Dragon Country has very strict firearms control. To have so many gunmen and firearms appear at once, even bringing out heavy weapons like sniper rifles... was truly incredible.

It seemed in Dragon Country, aside from the official military, it was unlikely for civilians to possess such formidable armaments, not even underworld figures like Li Rui had the capability.

Li Rui was obviously Qin Fang's biggest suspect, but Qin Fang felt it was unlikely to be him...

Neither Lei Peng nor Shangguan Tianling were likely candidates; these two despised Qin Fang enough to want him dead, but they'd probably resort to brute force. Lei Peng might not be a match for Qin Fang, but Grandmaster Level Shangguan Tianling could definitely kill him... and they also lacked the capabilities to find such a powerful armed force.

"Could it be a foreign Mercenary Corps?"

Qin Fang suddenly thought of this possibility; his elder brother Ling Feng was a mercenary in the Mercenary Corps—a very formidable armed force that appeared in any country with ongoing wars, engaging in all sorts of assassination, raid, protection... and other mercenary contracts.

Though this force wasn't regular military, their combat prowess was even stronger than ordinary special forces because every mercenary had grown up from a pile of corpses, boasting not only extraordinary team capabilities but also terrifying individual prowess...

The team hunting Qin Fang seemed to meet these criteria, with coordinated organization, offensive setup, weapon equipment, etc., all clearly preplanned and arranged...

If Qin Fang's luck hadn't been relatively good, they would have succeeded already!

Taking all this into account, Qin Fang was pretty sure this small team was a Mercenary Corps, but this team probably wasn't particularly formidable, or else Qin Fang wouldn't have possibly escaped.

"Damn it, Mercenary Corps or not? Want to kill me... Humph, let them taste the power of the future King of Assassins!"

Who exactly hired this Mercenary Corps to assassinate him was something Qin Fang clearly couldn't guess, but for now, he had temporarily escaped danger, and yet these people still relentlessly pursued. Qin Fang was not someone to be trifled with...

Let's not forget that aside from his other identities, Qin Fang was also an assassin in the Assassin's Alliance, an assassin who must ascend to the throne of the King of Assassins!

The King of Assassins is the king of the assassin world, just as the King of Mercenaries is the king among mercenaries; both are immortal beings in the dark world, an entity whose name alone makes everyone tremble...

Since the path to his coronation was destined to be built on piles of corpses, Qin Fang didn't mind letting his path of slaughter begin from here, showcasing the sharp fangs of the future King of Assassins!

When the sniper rifle had sounded earlier, that small team had already started moving towards Qin Fang's location. Qin Fang certainly couldn't stay here any longer.

So, Qin Fang once again picked up Chu Qianqian and quickly continued deeper into the dense woods; he must find a safe and concealed place to settle Chu Qianqian before he could focus on dealing with these mercenaries.

Clearly, Qin Fang's luck was very good; as he infiltrated deeper into the woods, he finally found a very secluded and small cave in a remote corner, barely large enough for two people to nestle inside, probably a nesting place for some large animal long ago.

However, Qin Fang checked and rechecked, ensuring the cave was quite safe—it had been vacant for a very long time—before he reassuredly settled Chu Qianqian inside.

"Stay here, don't make any noise, and don't move..."

After settling Chu Qianqian and camouflaging the small cave, Qin Fang solemnly instructed before leaving... Qin Fang acting alone was certainly most efficient, but Chu Qianqian was currently his biggest vulnerability. If she were captured by the enemy, Qin Fang would be very passive.

Despite being very scared of staying there alone, Chu Qianqian understood that she could not become a burden to Qin Fang, and she solemnly nodded her head.

"Take this, protect yourself!"

Qin Fang hesitated for a moment, then took another loaded and cocked gun from the Props Box, providing Chu Qianqian with another layer of protection.

After taking care of these things, Qin Fang resolutely disappeared into the darkness, his strong and resolute silhouette vanishing from Chu Qianqian's sight!

The counterattack starts now...

Chapter 816 - The King of Assassins' Fangs (1)

...

In the quiet night, within the dark forest.

A figure, nearly invisible, darted between the trees of the mountain forest with incredible speed, as if there was nothing but open ground before him.

The figure, clothed in black, appeared and disappeared intermittently, giving off an eerie vibe...

This figure was naturally Qin Fang, who had settled Chu Qianqian and then rushed out alone to counterattack.

His keen perception, superior vision, extreme speed, and powerful stealth skill made the forest not a hindrance to his escape but an excellent support for his counterattack.

While he weaved through the trees, groups of three to five people at various locations at the base of the mountain began to advance into the interior of the small mountain, each carrying weapons.

"All groups, maintain contact..."

A man with a robust build stood at the foot of the small mountain, shouldering a heavy sniper rifle. The combined weight of the rifle's parts was forty or fifty pounds, yet he carried it with ease, seemingly exerting no effort at all...

Furthermore, this man appeared to be the team leader, not entering the mountain himself but maintaining contact with all the teams, even... issuing orders.

"Group C, all clear, target not found..."

"Group A, all clear, target not found..."

"Group E, all clear, target not found..."

Reports quickly came back, indicating smooth progress as they advanced rapidly into the interior of the small mountain. However, although the mountain was not large, the presence of twenty-some people seemed to make little difference.

"He's a worthy opponent..."

The man, looking at the dark forest in the night, a slight, indifferent smile on his rough face, seemed to hint at something as he spoke.

He was indeed the leader of the team and the commander of this mission, as well as a sniper of considerable strength...

When Qin Fang climbed the tree to scout the enemy, it was he who first spotted him, almost immediately taking aim with his sniper rifle to shoot!

But what he hadn't anticipated was that his target had fallen from the tree in the brief instant before he shot, thereby escaping his deadly strike.

Yes, it was indeed a preemptive evasion, not a fall due to being hit...

As an expert sniper who had honed his proficiency through countless shots, he had the judgment to know this, and he was certain that his target had not been hit!

Thinking back on every shot he had taken since becoming a sniper, he had almost forgotten what it was like to fail because every enemy he had aimed at had fallen to his gun, without exception!

But this time... he had missed!

A miss was not frightening, but what was terrifying was that his opponent could anticipate the approach of danger—a lethal threat to any sniper...

Yet at the same time, for a sniper, this also represented a very strong challenge!

"Hope you don't disappoint me too much..."

A sniper is human, too; he doesn't fear failure or an opponent, he is even eager to try because only such an opponent can truly push him to surpass his limits...

Looking into the dark forest, he muttered these words, then quickly picked up his heavy sniper rifle and plunged into the woods... Despite the long range of a sniper rifle, it was impractical to search for a target inside the mountain from outside; only by finding the optimum position within could he best confront his opponent!

Qin Fang knew very well that there was a sniper among them, and apart from this sniper, some of the gunmen were also highly skilled. The level of this mercenary group was quite formidable, almost comparable to some of the elite special forces...

If it were during the day, Qin Fang really wouldn't dare to confront them head-on because these people were not comparable to those street hooligans—each of them had the capability to kill him...

But on such a dim night, in the eerie forest with trees aplenty, it instead provided the best cover for Qin Fang... Hence, he did not choose to flee with Chu Qianqian from behind the mountain but decided to strike back directly!

The silence was profound in the mountain forest. On such a winter night, there were no calls of insects or birds; everything was so serene, but within this calm lurked boundless killing intent.

Qin Fang did not dare to climb the trees for reconnaissance anymore. Since the trees lacked many branches and leaves, only bare trunks stood there, visible from outside the mountain. Qin Fang had no wish to be targeted yet again by a sniper...

The fact that he had survived the previous encounter was not only due to Qin Fang's sharp sense of crisis but also to luck. In such a perilous situation, luck was clearly insufficient as a reliance for Qin Fang to beat back his foes!

He moved swiftly and stealthily through the forest, searching for his target... What he faced was a mercenary force that operated as a tight unit, better equipped than regular soldiers, nearly every one of them a cold-blooded executioner.

Moreover, from their previous actions, their goal was evidently to kill Qin Fang, with no intention of taking prisoners...

Against these men, Qin Fang of course wouldn't show any mercy, but he also held considerable wariness because he had to be careful, careful, and then careful again... He must be absolutely certain before he made a move, otherwise he risked facing not just a small team of three to five people but potentially being surrounded by several mercenary teams.

Thanks to the stealth skill he acquired from the Japanese ninja last time, Qin Fang felt even more at ease in this dim environment...

His stealth skill was quite powerful. Even though Qin Fang hadn't used it many times and his proficiency wasn't high, its effectiveness was almost better than that of the ninja he had eliminated.

"They're coming..."

While weaving through the forest, Qin Fang suddenly halted and slightly tilted his head to listen, instantly picking up a very faint noise.

In such a forest, on such a night, aside from Qin Fang himself, the only others present were the mercenaries out to kill him. It was clear that the sound must be from a mercenary squad he had encountered.

Qin Fang reacted swiftly, his body moved slightly, and like a swift monkey, he turned into a faint shadow, rapidly scaling about three meters up the trunk of a tree.

This height wasn't very high, and one could even say it was well within the range of being easily spotted, making it quite dangerous. Yet, this height was also low enough to prevent detection by the sniper outside the mountain, which comparatively made it safer...

Qin Fang didn't have the luxury to ponder much. His entire being held his breath, his body pressed against the trunk of the tree, waiting for the appearance of the squad...

Qin Fang's hearing was exceptionally sharp. Having detected the noise in advance, he knew the enemy was approaching!

Indeed, not even half a minute had passed when three shadows emerged swiftly from behind a clump of bushes and quickly scattered, forming a triangular pattern with each corner providing mutual support...

Each person carried a gun, all armed with the same MP5 submachine guns, firepower so fierce that it took Qin Fang completely by surprise...

The MP5 submachine gun, manufactured by the German HK Company, has a high rate of fire, low recoil, and high shooting accuracy, offsetting its slightly lesser power. This compactly designed weapon is selected by assault forces around the world.

This gun can also be modified for silencers and 2- or 3-round burst modes, and the ones in these men's hands were all equipped with silencers. Otherwise, the dense gunfire earlier, even in such a remote wilderness, would have alarmed many passers-by.

Its immense firepower can defeat resilient opponents in a very short time. The high accuracy and rapid reloading ease could empty the magazine with quick successions of fire... Not only are many country's special forces fond of this weapon, but mercenaries also prefer it.

The squadron in front had three men, three MP5s, and Qin Fang was also aware that each person definitely carried other weapons, such as daggers, military spikes, pistols, and the like... These are necessity for every mercenary, intended to kill the opponent by any possible means.

Three people made up a comparatively small squad among the enemy's various teams... Qin Fang had seen teams of five before.

The same sized squads, some with three people, some with five—the disparity in numbers was significant. However, Qin Fang knew that the smaller teams were tougher to deal with because not only were they highly coordinated, but their individual combat capabilities were also formidable!

If Qin Fang also had his own team to confront the enemy, he would certainly target the larger teams first because weaker strength meant easier division and defeat...

But the problem was that he was alone, so a three-person team seemed much easier to handle!

The three men were very cautious, maintaining a certain distance during their progress yet positioned at angles to support each other. Should they spot the enemy, they could react in an instant—while if the enemy discovered them first and fired, at most one of them would be shot, but the other two could counterattack with the fastest speed, thus achieving the maximum benefit for the minimal loss.

Qin Fang didn't make a move, holding his breath, almost entering the legendary Turtle Breathing State, his heartbeat extremely slow. Even on such a quiet night in the forest, he seemed absolutely non-existent.

The three mercenaries edged closer to the tree Qin Fang occupied, exhibiting extreme caution, yet they didn't realize they had already stepped one foot into the Gates of Hell...

Chapter 817 - The King of Assassins' Fangs (2)

...

Five meters...

Three meters...

One meter...

At this moment, the three mercenaries were almost right beneath Qin Fang's feet. All he needed to do was let go, and he could quickly drop to the ground and easily take out the enemy closest to him.

But... he didn't move!

These three mercenaries, indeed veterans on the edge of life and death, suddenly increased their distance from each other when they neared the tree Qin Fang was in, almost as though they had sensed his presence.

Although this was only Qin Fang's speculation, he didn't take the risk, since the sudden increase in distance might give Qin Fang time to strike, but leave him unable to dodge a bullet barrage.

Of course, Qin Fang had a gun and could easily fire three shots to kill the three mercenaries. After all, at such a close range and with his gunmanship, it was certain these three couldn't escape.

But that was not his plan, as he did not wish to startle the enemy too soon...

"Hiss hiss~~ Team C, all clear, no target sighted!"

Just then, a faint noise, like that of a walkie-talkie, came from one of the mercenaries.

Upon hearing the noise, that mercenary immediately whispered the response... and then turned off the walkie-talkie!

"Now is the time..."

Just at that moment, Qin Fang's mind raced, knowing his opportunity had arrived.

With a slight relaxation of his arm, his body instantly detached from the tree and rapidly fell to the ground at the speed of free fall...

About three meters high, to be honest, that was almost right above the heads of these three men, as one of the mercenaries was probably two meters tall, putting Qin Fang almost within arm's reach.

At such a close distance and height, especially when they showed a moment of slackness, Qin Fang finally made his move...

In the darkness, a faint glimmer of light flashed by, so slight it was nearly invisible to the naked eye...

Pff~~ Pff~

The moment Qin Fang's feet touched the ground, the almost inaudible sound of a silver needle piercing flesh not only gave him immense confidence.

There were two mercenaries under the tree Qin Fang was in, keeping a distance of about one and a half meters from each other. Logically, Qin Fang shouldn't have been able to attack both at the same time, but somehow he managed...

Two silver needles, swift as lightning, pierced the exposed necks of the two unfortunate fools, the only body parts Qin Fang could see...

He couldn't take the risk; Qin Fang didn't know if they were wearing bulletproof vests, and his silver needles, though powerful, were incapable of piercing Kevlar vests or the ballistic helmets on their heads... The neck was the only exposed part, so Qin Fang chose to strike there.

The neck is also one of the vital parts of the human body. Those foreigners perhaps didn't pay much attention to protecting it, not understanding the ancient acupoints of Dragon Country, nor realizing that sometimes being hit in such acupoints is even more lethal than being shot by bullets...

Just like the two needles that Qin Fang suddenly deployed, both targeting a very lethal acupoint on the neck of the two unfortunate fools, and instantly unleashing a powerful burst of Inner Breath... In an instant, the two were dead with their Qi and blood rushing inversely, straight to the depths of the brain!

Human acupoints are the foundation of acupuncture. There are 720 acupoints in the human body, of which 108 are vital. Of these, 72 are generally non-fatal when hit, while the remaining 36 acupoints are lethal, also known as the "death acupoints."

Death acupoints are divided into four categories: numbing, dizziness, light, and heavy, with nine acupoints each, totaling 36 lethal acupoints. In a fight for life or death, they can be used as an "assassin's" tool.

This is the theory based on acupoint study, but in reality, it is not very comprehensive, because martial artists also belong to either the External School or the Inner Sect. External School experts understand the effects of these acupoints and use their strength to strike, achieving the effect of killing or defeating the enemy...

However, if an Inner Sect Expert were to attack these death acupoints, and their Inner Breath reached a certain intensity, every one of these 36 lethal acupoints could be deadly!

If an Inner Sect Expert is also a deeply knowledgeable medical expert in acupoints, then not only the 36 lethal acupoints but at least ten of the other 72 vital acupoints could become death acupoints capable of killing people...

Unfortunately, Qin Fang cultivated Inner Breath, and his strength was invincible below the Grandmaster Level. He also counted as an Inner Sect Expert, and although not a medical expert, his knowledge of acupoints through the Acupuncture Secret Technique was no less than those medical experts...

Adding these two aspects together, his lethality instantly became terrifying, as seen by his experiences in recent days, and these two unfortunate souls became the first to fall victim to his deadly acupuncture—his very first kills using the technique!

Scrape~~

A very low sound came, resembling the noise of a foot stepping on the wild grass on the ground. It was actually the sound of Qin Fang landing from the tree.

Chapter 818 - The King of Assassins' Fangs (2)_2

The two unfortunate souls were instantly killed by Qin Fang, not even having a chance to make a sound before they died silently.

Once a person is dead, naturally, they can no longer stand. So, they immediately fell to the ground... Qin Fang managed to stabilize one of the bodies in time, but could not prevent the other, over a meter away, from falling.

"Hmm?"

Of the three, two had now departed, leaving only one, who had been using the walkie-talkie earlier. It all happened too quickly, and his mind had relaxed for a moment. His vigilance had dropped somewhat, and he had not sensed Qin Fang's presence immediately.

It wasn't until Qin Fang subtly killed his two companions that he faintly sensed something was amiss... and his gaze shifted.

"What are you doing?"

As he turned around, his face immediately took on a different color, and he shouted angrily.

He spoke in a quite authentic English, much more fluently than Qin Fang did, obviously not a Dragon Country Person, "We're on a mission, no slacking off... Hos, get back to your position! If the commander finds out, none of us would have an easy time..."

Clearly, these three were very synchronized teammates with a great relationship. The only one left was likely the leader, having the authority, thus reacting this way.

The reason he was scolding was mainly because his two team members were standing together, shoulder to shoulder, as if they were not taking the mission seriously at all.

Although the Mercenary Corps is not an army, its rules are even stricter than those of the army, and could even be described as brutal and cruel, especially the commander of the Mercenary Corps who holds supreme power over his subordinates, capable of killing disobedient ones without hesitation...

During a mission, any type of basic error was unacceptable, and the scene before him was beyond a basic error, it was a complete disregard for the organization's plan, arrangements, and orders...

However...

The response he received was not his two close comrades quickly separating and returning to their combat positions to continue the mission cautiously. Instead, the teammate opposite him, "Hos", suddenly flicked his hand, and a faint silver light flashed...

It was almost out of a dangerous instinct, honed between life and death, that the mercenary reflexively tried to raise his gun and shoot...

But, although his movement was fast, it was still not as fast as the flashing silver light!

Puff~~

A sharp military dagger pierced through his brow and straight into his brain... he died instantly!

Another one-hit kill!

With a clack, the MP5 submachine gun he held had not even been properly aimed at Qin Fang before he had prematurely gone to meet King Yama, and the gun, with the bullet chambered, could only weakly fall to the ground, making such a light noise.

Until the moment of his death, the mercenary had not understood why his close comrade would suddenly turn on him like that...

Moreover, he never knew that "Hos" had such superb skills in throwing knives!

The man who made the move was naturally Qin Fang!

"Damn, good thing I reacted quickly..."

Having eliminated this opponent, Qin Fang felt somewhat fortunate; the guy almost fired his gun.

It's not that Qin Fang was afraid of the enemy's gun. He could have easily shot him before his opponent had the chance to fire, but once gunshots rang out, the mercenaries would immediately converge on his location, instead of being scattered around the mountains hunting him as they were now.

Qin Fang was alone, swift and agile; he had to use this to his advantage, employing the essence of guerilla warfare tactics he had learned from his predecessors to counterattack the Mercenary Corps.

The enemy was strong. Qin Fang wasn't worried about a small team; with his skills, he could easily wipe out such a three-person squad. However, once they regrouped, he would be forced to flee for his life.

If the MP5's formidable firepower was fully unleashed, it could instantly turn Qin Fang into a sieve, as had almost happened earlier at the foot of the mountain. Had it not been for his epiphany at that critical moment, which seemingly possessed him like a deity, he would have been riddled with bullets...

Even so, Qin Fang had still taken two bullets, one of which had nearly claimed his life!

Hos had been dead for a while; in fact, as his body was about to hit the ground, Qin Fang quickly stored it in the Props Box, then swiftly returned to another Cohen's side, catching his body before it too could fall...

It was deep into the night, and the mountain woods were incredibly dark. Although the few people maintained a distance of two to three meters from each other, they couldn't see each other's faces clearly, only a rough shadow.

Qin Fang's build and height were similar to Hos's. Coupled with being close to Cohen, their silhouettes partially overlapped, making it even harder to see clearly, which prevented others from realizing that a switch had occurred.

Then, taking advantage of their relaxed vigilance, Qin Fang struck, killing the last unlucky soul... achieving a good start with a three-to-one kill ratio!

Qin Fang didn't have time to waste. Knowing the team maintained communication with each other, he needed to stabilize the situation quickly. He dashed over to the body of this small leader, stored it in the Props Box, and then shook it out, stripping the guy bare in an instant...

This was a special effect of the Props Box that Qin Fang had recently discovered—automatic item sorting.

The equipment and the corpse were two completely different categories, so Qin Fang could easily strip everything down, separating the communication devices from the gear and quickly changing into the outfit, even changing his face to resemble the small leader.

"Cough, cough, cough... Group C, all clear, no target found!"

Qin Fang tried to change his voice, repeating the phrase the guy had reported to the team. Although it wasn't an exact match, it was roughly seventy to eighty percent similar, which should be enough to fool them.

Three MP5s—Qin Fang, without hesitation, confiscated them all. Although he was armed himself, facing so many firepower-heavy mercenaries, he felt somewhat under-equipped. Continuous sneak attacks and assassinations might barely suffice, but as the enemy numbers dwindled, Qin Fang would inevitably face direct confrontations, and these weapons would then come in handy.

He even considered setting a trap to lure them all into it and annihilate them with heavy firepower.

However, that would certainly be quite tricky.

Not to mention that the mercenaries themselves formed a formidable team not easily fooled, Qin Fang was also not familiar enough with the terrain of this small mountain, nor were the conditions fully favorable.

Military daggers, night vision goggles, three Beretta pistols, and some basic individual combat gear—Qin Fang stripped it all down without any hesitation.

Not just from this small leader, but also from Hos and Cohen, whom he had killed earlier. He spared nothing except for the worthless underwear, stripping them clean like an enemy raid.

Having settled everything and left behind three bare bodies, Qin Fang then casually strolled into the mountain woods... Now, he was masquerading as the small leader he had killed, dressed exactly like the mercenaries.

Chapter 819 - The King of Assassins' Fangs (3)

...

With such a disguise, the safety was naturally a bit higher than before, but the heavy burden also slightly affected Qin Fang's speed.

Fortunately, the woods were quiet, and with the dark night, it still offered him quite a bit of protection...

Dressing as the enemy was just a protective measure for Qin Fang; he didn't actually plan to infiltrate the enemy ranks using this method.

Qin Fang had noticed earlier that many of these mercenaries were not from the Dragon Country; many were from around the world, including Caucasians, and African Americans...

Blending into such a crowd, even though he looked exactly like this minor leader, couldn't guarantee his safety, especially knowing the vigilance of these mercenaries was not ordinary.

These mercenaries were the kind who wouldn't blink an eye at murder, the slightest oddity could prompt them to suddenly shoot you in the back...

Qin Fang indeed had a large number of baozi to replenish his health, but having died once before, he definitely did not want to put himself in such danger again.

In the gloomy forest, Qin Fang moved swiftly, reaching a predetermined location—a relatively hidden pit exit.

After killing the three-man squad earlier, Qin Fang coincidentally encountered another three-man team and carefully observed their route—it was a very risky move, but Qin Fang, equipped with strong stealth skills, did it silently.

This was also a three-man squad, whose equipment was similar to the previous team's. Qin Fang marked this small team as his target for this time.

Qin Fang had three MP5 submachine guns with silencers. If he took a favorable position, he could easily eliminate such a three-man squad as soon as they showed themselves.

For these mercenaries, Qin Fang had no sympathy at all; these people were ruthless killers. When they were chasing him earlier, they did not hesitate at all; the bullets flew as if pumped with vigor, which is why Qin Fang hadn't fallen...

If he had truly been hit and fallen, the outcome would be unspeakable! He would have simply died, but if he was half-dead, he would definitely have been riddled with bullets...

Towards these ruthless enemies bent on killing him, Qin Fang also responded with the same mindset... Although he was alone and the enemies numbered around twenty, the numbers did not impact Qin Fang too much.

After shadowing the small team for a while, he broadly figured out their route and after careful observation, chose his current hiding spot.

The coordination of the mercenary team was quite seamless. Even under such conditions, they were very cautious and careful, always covering each other and generally not giving their opponents a chance to kill them all in one strike.

But Qin Fang, with premeditation against an unguarded opponent was different. He had watched the formation change among the three as they moved, the reason he didn't act right then was that he couldn't guarantee he'd kill all three in one blow... and if anyone survived, Qin Fang's own trouble would increase.

To kill all three, a certain terrain was necessary, and now, Qin Fang's hiding spot, due to a boulder blocking the path, required the three-men squad to change formation... Once the formation changed,

the three mercenaries would appear at three different spots, all visible to Qin Fang without any obstructions.

Such visibility, unobstructed and at a suitable distance, combined with the MP5's decent power, made killing all three opponents in one go almost trivially easy.

While Qin Fang was waiting in his position, not far in the woods, a three-man squad was approaching his location...

"Oh, shit, damn this place... I hate this country!"

One of the mercenaries, who was quite stocky and heavy, stepped on a slightly sharp stone and slipped, nearly falling, which would have been quite embarrassing. He immediately cursed angrily.

"Shut up, Koma..."

Another mercenary who seemed to be the leader immediately scolded him.

"Heh heh..."

The robust man named Koma immediately laughed awkwardly, his voice much lower, "Boss, who did that kid offend really, to have us, the Remnant Wolf Mercenary Corps, come here to hunt him down just for him?"

"Koma, shut up... Is that something you should know?"

The leader furrowed his brows again, scolding softly, though not as harshly as before.

"Boss, actually... I'm quite curious too! Though we, the Remnant Wolves, aren't ranked high in the mercenary world, we are still a mercenary group. To mobilize like this just to kill one person is a bit..."

Even the other mercenary who had been quiet couldn't help but join in out of curiosity.

"This... actually, I'm not very clear either, I only heard that this is a command from our mysterious bosses! And as you just saw, that kid is no ordinary... even our deputy commander personally came over to oversee the operation!"

The three of them had been through life and death together many times, and their relationship with each other was exceptionally strong. They usually spoke their minds directly. Seeing how curious his two companions were, the little leader simply briefed them on what he knew.

"A command from the mysterious bosses?"

Upon hearing such an answer, the two men were slightly taken aback and couldn't help but gasp simultaneously.

In the world of mercenaries, there are countless mercenary groups globally, just like there are numerous assassins under the Assassin's Alliance. However, most mercenary groups remain obscure, perhaps being annihilated just a few days after being formed.

But those who manage to establish a firm foothold in such a brutal world are invariably very powerful, supported by some very capable mysterious bosses behind the scenes.

These mysterious bosses might be a wealthy tycoon, a rich politician, or most likely a certain financial consortium... There are even some mercenary groups that are affiliated with national governments or military forces, just not officially included in the government or military's public organization charts.

The mercenary group hunting down Qin Fang was called the Remnant Wolf Mercenary Corps, which at most had a small reputation in the mercenary world, the group's strength ranking outside the top thousand in the world...

The number 1000 seems quite significant; after all, the very existence of mercenary groups has been stringently restricted, and the number could not be very high. According to incomplete statistics, there are about three thousand or so more formal mercenary groups worldwide.

Being ranked among the top one thousand seems like a middle-tier status for the Remnant Wolf Mercenary Corps... However, out of these three thousand plus mercenary groups, only about a thousand are actually supported by powerful backers. The rest are mostly temporary groups formed by ex-military personnel from various countries, involved in activities like security services, resembling more a private security company, more aptly described as bodyguards.

In this light, the Remnant Wolf Mercenary Corps actually ranks rather low among mercenary groups...

Dragon Country has very strict arms control, coupled with a very stable political climate and a strong military, making it almost an unfamiliar territory for mercenary groups...

However, in recent years, with frequent incidents where certain people's interests were undermined, options unfit for direct involvement have led to the hiring of assassins and mercenaries to handle matters...

After all, these people either have very concealed identities or are internationally wanted criminals, and even if they commit crimes, catching them is nearly impossible. This has gradually led to a rampant increase in mercenary groups willing to scavenge in Dragon Country.

This time, it's the Remnant Wolf Mercenary Corps...

As for why it would be a command from the mysterious bosses, that remains unknown!

However, Qin Fang had not expected that he would be hunted by an entire mercenary group this time... Their power far exceeds that of the assassins.

Especially a mercenary group with a mysterious boss behind them is even more fierce... The order to kill Qin Fang was issued by the mysterious boss himself, which is extremely rare indeed.

Of course, if Qin Fang knew about this situation, perhaps he could guess which of his enemies had such power...

"Alright, as long as you know, don't blab, or we're all done for!"

Seeing his two companions shocked, the small leader immediately warned them... and at that moment, they just happened to reach the location of that huge rock.

"Understood, boss..."

The two subordinates immediately responded in unison, then regained their composure, and the three of them went around the huge rock, still very vigilant.

Bang~~

Almost the moment the three men bypassed the rock, Qin Fang, hiding not far away, revealed a cold sneer on his face and immediately pulled the trigger of the MP5 in his hand.

A faint sound rang out, and bullets shot out like lightning, targeting the slightly rear-positioned small leader...

Spurt!!

A blossom of blood exploded between the eyebrows of the small leader, the man barely managing to utter a surprised "ugh" before losing consciousness instantly.

Yet, this gunshot was enough to catch the attention of the other two companions, who were stationed slightly more forward. To see what had happened, they had to turn around and look...

Only...

Spurt~~ Spurt~~

Almost simultaneously, two blossoms of blood exploded between the eyebrows of the two men... As they fell to the ground, surprise filled their eyes...

Chapter 820 - The King of Assassins' Fangs (4)

...

Taking advantage of the terrain and his first-rate marksmanship, Qin Fang once again stealthily eliminated another three-person mercenary squad...

Meanwhile, Qin Fang himself had no losses at all; in fact, he gained quite a bit in terms of loot...

Just like a sweeping operation, he stripped all the useful equipment from two bodies, then left the three bare corpses right there and once again quickly disappeared into the dark forest.

It must be said that the mercenaries who were killed were particularly tragic, dying inexplicably without even seeing a shadow, not to mention they couldn't make a sound to alert their companions.

After eliminating the three-person squad, the remaining ones were not so easy to deal with, being composed of at least four, and even some having five members...

"Seems like it's time to storm the stronghold!"

Without a doubt, Qin Fang could silently annihilate a three-person squad, but four or five-member squads were out of the question, not to mention the remaining teams had some very formidable gunmen and the sniper who almost killed Qin Fang.

That sniper was undoubtedly the one Qin Fang feared the most, yet he still hadn't appeared before Qin Fang. The reason Qin Fang stripped the dead mercenaries of their equipment was to check if the sniper was among them...

Clearly, he was not; none of those men were carrying sniper rifles. The sniper was certainly protected by several men, so Qin Fang leaned towards the belief that this person was hiding in one of the five-person teams, or he might not even have entered the forest.

Regardless, Qin Fang had to take out these men or else he would face their pursuit later...

Mercenary groups are different from assassin organizations, which typically give up on a target after three failed attempts. Mercenary groups, on the other hand, are much more vengeful... Losing one

person weakens their collective strength and heavy losses could even lead to their disbandment; for their own sakes and the group's reputation, they would certainly seek revenge... Otherwise, if it becomes known that a mercenary group was taken down by just one person, they wouldn't be able to show their faces anymore...

Even so, Qin Fang's feud with the mercenary group had reached a point of no return, so he might as well be ruthless and leave all these men here, causing the group to suffer heavy losses and severe damage to their reputation, which could lead to being eliminated by other mercenary groups without Qin having to lift a finger.

Approximately five or six squads entered the mountain, totaling more than twenty men. Qin Fang had eliminated two squads, six men, leaving three or four squads, more than ten enemies—his pressure was still quite considerable...

But pressure is motivation, and Qin Fang felt more confident than before.

"Tsk tsk, poor kids, wash your necks and wait for me to slaughter you..."

Looking at the quiet forest, Qin Fang inwardly exhaled in amazement, then like a shadow, he merged into the trees, seeking his next target.

With all the remaining squads having four or more members, it was impossible for Qin Fang to annihilate them entirely, so naturally, he had to change his strategy and resort to guerrilla tactics.

Between four and five-person squads, Qin Fang naturally chose a four-man team as his target. He found a good position and began lying in wait.

After eliminating the squad in two directions, Qin Fang had a good idea of their movement pattern, which allowed him to set up an ambush. The first to enter his sight was a four-person squad.

All Qin Fang needed was to observe for a while before he raised his gun, aimed gently at one of the four, and resolutely fired!

Bang~~

A faint gun report sounded as the bullet rapidly traversed the air, covering a few dozen meters, and hit an unlucky mercenary straight in the forehead.

The mercenary almost fell dead on the spot... dying a senseless death without any suspense.

"Enemy attack... ah!"

Bang~~

Unlike the previous two sneak attacks, a four-man team didn't form a triangular defense but rather a diamond-shaped formation where all four covered each other, making any attack from Qin Fang quickly noticed.

However... as soon as a mercenary discovered his comrade had been hit, Qin Fang's second bullet had already been on its way, blooming yet another garish blood flower on his head, which unfortunately wasn't very noticeable on such a night.

The reaction of the mercenaries was understandably swift. After Qin Fang fired two shots and killed two men, achieving a decent success, the remaining two immediately ducked behind nearby trees and bushes.

Thump thump thump~~~

As mercenaries constantly operating on battlefields and slaughterfields, their instincts were quite sharp. Almost as soon as they hid, they fiercely retaliated towards the direction the bullets came from.

This method of locating the origin of gunfire came from their countless battles. Even though the suppressed MP5's gunshots weren't loud, they were not totally silent. In the stillness of the forest, the sound of the gun became only more distinct.

The two swiftly counterattacked, with their MP5s spitting fire and churning up the soil and debris in that area, but... no further sound came.

"Idiot!"

And about a hundred meters away from that clump of grass, Qin Fang stood to the side of a large tree, cursing inwardly.

Knowing full well these people were mercenaries who killed without blinking, how could he possibly take them lightly? Almost as soon as he fired, he had already swiftly left that position and disappeared at top speed...

The two mercenaries didn't dare to move a muscle, nor make the slightest sound, for Qin Fang's gunmanship had instilled considerable fear in them.

Their cover wasn't very reliable—a mere tree and a clump of grass—that the dim environment sheltered them, but any noise would have easily made them targets.

With just a slight delay, Qin Fang had already encountered another small squad of five...

Bang bang bang~~

This time, Qin Fang was even more ruthless, employing guerrilla tactics of shooting and changing positions, wildly spraying bullets at the enemy with his MP5... and two unlucky souls fell to the ground immediately!

The MP5's recoil was small, its firing rate considerably fast, and its accuracy much higher than that of an average rifle. In almost no time at all, Qin Fang had emptied a whole magazine!

Rat-a-tat-tat-tat~~~~

The enemy's counterattack was equally swift. They quickly scattered, each finding suitable cover to hide behind while launching an even more ferocious counteroffensive than Qin Fang. For a moment, bullets flew chaotically through the woods, the poor trees taking the brunt of the fire, their bark and splinters flying everywhere.

With such strong firepower support, they soon reached the position where Qin Fang had hidden just moments before.

But...

They still hadn't managed to hit Qin Fang, and they lost his trail once again. That place was empty, or rather, apart from the spent cartridge cases, there was nothing to prove that Qin Fang had ever been there.

"Fuck..."

Facing such a situation, the leader of the squad couldn't help but let out an angry curse.

Bang~~

But... with a faint thud, a bullet whistled swiftly towards them, and the squad leader's gaze instantly narrowed. Instinctively wanting to dodge, it was too late as a bullet blasted his head open, and he fell backward to the ground...

The five-man squad, two dead, one injured—half their combat power gone!

Only two remained unharmed, along with one wounded, but without their teammates' support, the squad's strength had diminished by far more than half!

All this happened within just a few minutes, with heavy losses, and Qin Fang had vanished again.

"Vice-Captain, the situation doesn't look good..."

Just like that, half of the two squads was easily wiped out, sustaining serious casualties, which was quite unexpected for the mercenaries, especially since they discovered that the enemy actually had guns. This change was indeed significant.

"The enemy has guns, and we've suffered heavy losses..."

Soon, the news about Qin Fang reached the hands of the commanders in the rear, and they also reported their own situation. However, what they hadn't expected was that Qin Fang had, unnoticed, annihilated two entire squads and wiped out half of two others...

"Report the enemy's position, quickly encircle them..."

The Vice-Captain's face was calm, as if he didn't care about the many deaths of his subordinates, and he calmly ordered. Then he too quickly rushed into the forest, leaving behind only a robust figure carrying a heavy sniper rifle.

Somewhere in the mountains.

Qin Fang clutched his still-bleeding leg, wincing, despite having escaped quickly just before; the enemy's firepower had been too strong, and he had been hit.

Fortunately, it was only a leg wound and not a vital spot, so the bleeding stopped quickly, and his Life Points rapidly returned to full. However, the pain in his leg was somewhat affecting his movement.

"Looks like my luck isn't always that great..."

Qin Fang said with a self-deprecating smile.

Guerrilla tactics were obviously the right choice, but he was just one person, which made execution relatively difficult, and the enemy's firepower was too strong; he was somewhat at a loss.

"Damn, looks like I have to pull out the big guns..."

He was injured, his movement was impaired, but the enemy still needed to be eliminated; Qin Fang was getting desperate.