

## Global CM 221

Chapter 221: Divine Physique! Dungeon Discontinued? (Three in One, 3/5)\_4

The second golden Skill Book was different. It was a Skill Book that increased casting speed, capable of eliminating the pre-cast animation of any Skill, making it instantly cast.

This kind of Skill Book is exceptionally powerful for the Mage profession or any profession with long pre-cast animations.

Indeed, it could even be described as game-changing.

Especially for the Mage profession, many forbidden curses are incredibly powerful, equivalent to a nuclear bomb when unleashed!

However, the casting time for these forbidden curses is generally not short.

If such an instant-cast golden Skill were paired with them, it would be truly terrifying.

If used during a sneak attack on an enemy's main base, it would be utterly devastating.

However, to prevent such incidents, Anti-Forbidden Curse Formations are established within safe zones.

These can forcibly counteract a forbidden curse once detected.

But deploying this type of Array requires an enormous amount of materials, so it cannot be set up just anywhere.

Typically, they are deployed within safe zones to prevent Aliens from launching sneak attacks on bases.

Even though all the Skills Chen Mo currently possessed were instant-cast, he couldn't guarantee that future Skills wouldn't require casting time, so it was necessary to have this particular Skill prepared.

Nevertheless, he wasn't in a rush and decided to look at the third Skill Book first.

[Extreme Calmness·Gold]: All Cooldown times reduce by 90%!

Just a dozen or so simple words, yet they revealed an incredibly powerful effect.

A universal ability is different from a dungeon-exclusive one.

Dungeon-exclusive abilities are usually granted more leeway by the Heavenly Dao because they only take effect within the dungeon.

However, the Heavenly Dao imposes strict restrictions on universal abilities.

Even though the Cooldown reduction hadn't reached 99%, 90% was still incredibly potent.

However, only the single highest active Cooldown reduction effect would apply at any given time.

If Chen Mo acquired this, the Calm Gemstone he had previously obtained would become useless.

After carefully considering the respective benefits of instant-casting and rapid Cooldown for himself, Chen Mo finally chose Extreme Calmness.

"You only have one chance. Once you choose, don't regret it," the Guider reminded him with a smile, seeing Chen Mo was about to take Extreme Calmness.

"You're going to make my indecisiveness flare up," Chen Mo said with a wry smile.

Despite this, he decisively took the Extreme Calmness·Gold Skill Book.

"By the way, when I first entered the trial, a prompt said that only one person could receive the highest reward. Now that I've cleared this trial, what will happen to this trial ground?"

"Since you've taken all the rewards, this trial ground will naturally become void."

"Void? What about the people still participating in the trial?"

"They will all be kicked out directly."

This is getting out of hand!

This is bad, Chen Mo thought. Doesn't this mean nearly one hundred thousand candidates nationwide will be kicked out all at once? Everyone will probably be completely bewildered.

He immediately began to consider how he would explain this later.

「At this moment, inside the instance」

All the candidates received a Hint from the Heavenly Dao.

[The Heavenly Path's Hint: Attention, please pay attention! The current instance has been abolished. All participants will be teleported out in 30 seconds. Please prepare!]

[The Heavenly Path's Hint: Attention, please...]

The Heavenly Path's Hint sounded three times consecutively, leaving everyone inside the instance utterly dumbfounded.

「Meanwhile, the people outside were even more dumbfounded」

Because the floor numbers for all participating personnel had instantly turned to 0.

When Chen Mo was on the fiftieth floor, discussions had already been raging in the outside world.

They were also very curious about what would happen if Chen Mo cleared all fifty floors.

But after seeing Chen Mo reach the fiftieth floor and then a long silence with no further updates, they couldn't help but start to wonder. Is there actually nothing on the fiftieth floor? Did Chen Mo just go down there to mess around? Are we just waiting for the assessment time for the other candidates to end now?

Just as everyone was buzzing with discussion, they suddenly discovered that the floor numbers of all candidates had changed to 0.

"What's going on? What happened?"

"Why did everyone's floor number turn to 0? What on earth happened?"

Chapter 222: Expensive problem! (Two in one, 5/5)\_1

"Is it the same at the other testing sites?"

"I just checked. Yes, the status of all candidates at other test sites has also changed to Floor 0. I'm not sure what went wrong."

"How is this possible? Is the Academy Alliance deliberately keeping us in the dark?"

"Possibly. I heard there was a recent Alien attack on a student during an examination. Maybe this non-disclosure is to protect the students."

"But now nobody knows the scores, right? Could the Academy Alliance have backup records? Even if they do, wouldn't it be easy for the Aliens to get hold of them? Hiding the exam information is utterly

pointless. Besides, they have to announce the results after the exam. Otherwise, how will people apply and get admitted? Isn't that just making things unnecessarily complicated?"

"That makes sense. Indeed, there doesn't seem to be a reason to conceal the information. So, what's happening now? We have an anomalous two-star Skeleton Mage here. Hiding information about him might be understandable, but the other test sites were showing normal scores... and now they've all changed to Floor 0. It's truly baffling."

"I wonder how the candidates inside are doing."

At this moment, the broadcast announcement began.

"Everyone, please remain calm. We are urgently investigating the abnormal data synchronization issue with this instance. We believe answers will be available soon."

This sudden development immediately puzzled the Academy Alliance official in charge of this year's college entrance examination. He dispatched personnel at top speed to investigate the cause.

Simultaneously, the Aliens had also relayed this peculiar situation to their headquarters.

"All candidate information has changed to Floor 0? What are these Earthlings trying to do?"

Rangu was also quite perplexed. As the teachers had discussed earlier, hiding candidate information like this was meaningless. After all, the information would have to be announced soon anyway. What was the point of hiding it? If the results weren't announced, how could their school's admissions be credible? This move to hide information was utterly foolish. Having dealt with Earth for so many years, he didn't believe Earth's higher-ups could be this stupid.

"Could they have done this just to confirm that the two-star Skeleton Mage is truly extraordinary? I heard the highest floor in this instance is fifty, and he's already reached it."

"That's useless. If they really wanted to do that, it's far too late. The two-star Skeleton Mage has been on the fiftieth floor for some time now. He cleared previous floors extremely quickly, yet this time, he

lingered on the fiftieth floor for several minutes. If they truly wanted to confirm his exceptional strength, shouldn't they have changed the displays within a minute of him reaching the fiftieth floor? This whole situation is just baffling now."

"Sir, we've received internal news. Even the administrator of the entrance exam team doesn't know what's happening. He has already ordered a thorough investigation."

"Could they be putting on an act?"

"What's the reaction from the Alliance higher-ups?" Rangu immediately asked the team in contact with their moles within the Alliance leadership.

"The message was just relayed. The Alliance higher-ups seem genuinely surprised, but we don't know if they're just acting."

Just as everyone was feeling bewildered, lights suddenly flashed in the centers of all ten examination venues. Nearly one hundred thousand candidates were teleported out simultaneously.

This development left the teachers and the Academy Alliance's entrance exam staff even more dumbfounded.

"What's going on? Why have all the students been teleported out?"

"Did something go wrong with the instance?"

Someone immediately asked a nearby student, "Why were you all suddenly teleported out?"

"We don't know either. We suddenly received a notification that the instance was abolished, and then we were teleported out."

The questioned student also looked completely baffled.

"The instance was abolished?"

"Yes."

"How could this happen?"

For a moment, everyone who asked the students this question received the same answer.

Soon, this news spread throughout every examination venue.

The entrance exam staff also heard this information.

"The instance abolished itself? Why was it abolished?"

"No one said. The students all received the same message: the instance has been abolished."

"How can this be? I'll contact the higher-ups to check the situation..."

The overall director of this year's college entrance examination was frantic.

「Meanwhile, with the Aliens.」

"All candidates were teleported out en masse? Why?"

Now, Rangu and his subordinates were utterly baffled.

Soon, new information arrived.

"Sir, we have an update. It's said the instance has been abolished."

"The instance was abolished? Do we know the reason?"

"It's unclear. All the students claim they don't know."

"Sir, surely they didn't abolish it themselves, did they?"

"Then what was their reason for abolishing it?"

"Perhaps it was to make that Skeleton Mage a clear target, to entice us to act. Having one specific target is much easier for them to counter than if we were to attack a large group."

"Unlikely. If that were true, we wouldn't act so rashly either."

"Then what could it be? They actually dared to abolish an instance they worked so hard to establish? The cost of creating such an examination instance is considerable on our side; I imagine it's the same for them. They abolished it just like that?"

"The whole affair is undeniably strange."

"So, what do we do now?"

Even I can't decipher the Earth higher-ups' actions anymore, Rangu thought. His mind was filled with questions. He completely failed to understand what game the Earth higher-ups were playing now. Why suddenly abolish the instance?

It wasn't just him; at this moment, even Earth's higher-ups themselves didn't understand what had happened.

Chapter 223: Expensive problem! (Two in one, 5/5)\_2

This instance was discovered by them accidentally, concealed in a hidden part of the Tower of Eternity. Basically, no one knew about it; only a few core members maintained the instance entrance's Teleportation Array.

Upon receiving the abnormal message, the higher-ups personally went to inspect and found that the entrance to this instance had actually vanished into thin air.

"I've heard that there's an abnormal examinee in this round of exams?"

"Yes, Alliance Hierarchy, it's a child who is a Two-star Skeleton Mage."

"Two-star Skeleton Mage?"

The three Academy Alliance Leaders glanced at each other. The one sitting in the middle said, "Have someone call this student over here. Let's ask if he knows the reason."

"Yes, I'll get someone on it right away."

At this point, announcements echoed through each hall, asking everyone to sit or stand quietly, waiting for the Academy Alliance to produce results.

In the examination hall where Chen Mo was, the broadcast announced: "Student Chen Mo, Chen Mo from Seaside Second Middle School, please step forward. The Alliance requires your presence."

Upon hearing the broadcast, Chen Mo immediately squeezed out of the crowd.

「At this moment, on the Alien's side.」

"That strange Two-star Skeleton Mage has stepped out alone. Should we take him out?"

At the Alien headquarters, Rangu received the message from his subordinate and pondered for a moment before saying, "Don't rush. Everyone's attention is on him now. Even if this person is indeed suspicious, you won't gain anything. Besides, many aspects of this matter are still unclear. It's not the time to act hastily. Let's wait."

Since the Aliens weren't preparing to take action, Chen Mo naturally walked over to the Academy Alliance's college entrance exam group.

"Greetings, seniors. I am Chen Mo from Seaside Second Middle School. May I ask why you were looking for me?"

At this point, the main person in charge of the Hall Number Two examination group sized up Chen Mo. The young man looks quite talented, he thought, but unfortunately, he's just a Two-star Skeleton Mage. This matter is probably unrelated to him; it's purely an anomaly within the instance itself.

He said, "The higher-ups want to ask you some questions. Please cooperate."

"Ask me some questions?" Chen Mo feigned confusion.

When he came out this time and found that everyone outside had become Level 0, he had immediately prepared his excuses. No matter what they asked, as long as he claimed to know nothing and stated he had only been active on the first two floors, he figured the matter would be settled.

Soon, Chen Mo was brought before a small Teleportation Array. He and the main person in charge of Examination Group Two stood on it together.

With a flash of light, the two appeared inside the Earth Academy Alliance Headquarters.

So this is the place where Earth's strongest gather, huh?

Chen Mo looked around. The overall architectural style was very simple, without any flashy decorations. Only plain white walls and columns were visible; there was no indication that this was the gathering place for humanity's strongest.

Chen Mo was quickly led to a small room.

Upon entering, Chen Mo saw a brown oval conference table. Three people were sitting at the table, towards the end of the room furthest from the entrance. One was a blonde woman with emerald eyes and snow-white skin, one was a man with a black buzz cut and bronzed skin, and the last was a man with curly hair and skin as dark as charcoal.

These three were the Academy Alliance Leaders, jointly chosen by the three different ethnicities on Earth. The three had equal standing and jointly managed the entire Earth Academy Alliance.

"Greetings, Academy Alliance Leaders." Chen Mo gave a slight bow. The three had managed the Earth Academy Alliance for a long time, pouring their hearts and souls into ensuring Earth's peace. They at least deserved some respect.

"Hello, student. Please sit."

Having just entered and seeing these three legendary Academy Alliance Leaders, Chen Mo felt a little apprehensive. Only after they offered friendly smiles did he relax somewhat, pulling out a chair situated a good distance from them and sitting down.

"You don't need to be nervous. We called you here simply because there are some things we want to ask you. If you know, please answer honestly. If you don't know, that's fine too. We won't make things difficult for you. Just tell the truth."

"Alright." Chen Mo nodded.

"This time the instance was suddenly abolished. Do you know the reason?"

"I don't know." Chen Mo shook his head. A secret is only a secret if no one else knows. Even in front of these three, Chen Mo didn't want to reveal any information.

"We heard you managed to descend to the 50th floor incredibly quickly during the exam. Is that true?"

"Fifty floors? How could that be? I was still wandering around the second floor when I suddenly received The Heavenly Path's Hint," Chen Mo said, feigning a puzzled expression.

"Really? Then did you notice anything unusual inside the instance? You can tell us."

"Apart from suddenly receiving The Heavenly Path's Hint that the instance was abolished, I didn't sense anything else out of the ordinary," Chen Mo said, pretending to recall for a moment. After all, if he immediately claimed nothing was unusual, his reaction would seem too quick and artificial. Chen Mo had still put some thought into his act.

"I see. Alright then, thank you for your trouble. You can leave now. If we think of any further questions, we'll call you back. Here's a fee for answering our questions."

After the black-haired young man finished speaking, he suddenly placed an eternal gold coin on the table and with a SWISH, pushed it in front of Chen Mo!

"An eternal gold coin!? The Alliance Hierarch's questions are truly valuable," Chen Mo said with a smile.

"If you enjoy earning this kind of money, you're welcome to bring us more answers that we don't know in the future." The black-haired young man spoke with hidden meaning.

But Chen Mo didn't rise to the bait. Instead, he stood up and said, "Then, this student will take his leave."

"Alright. We'll quickly prepare a new college entrance exam instance for you. Prepare well when you get back."

"Yes."

"Good, you may leave now."

Chen Mo nodded, pushed the door open, and walked out.

That main person in charge of Group Two led Chen Mo back to the Teleportation Array, and he was promptly teleported back to the Hall Number Two examination site.

「Back in the meeting room,」

The blonde woman and the dark-skinned man both turned to the black-haired young man in the middle and asked, "Well? Did you see anything?"

"I couldn't see anything at all."

"How can that be? With your SSS-level probing ability, as long as he isn't shielded by an SSS-level ability, there shouldn't be anything you can't detect, right?"

"It's indeed very strange. I've never encountered anything like this before. It was as if I had plunged into the Chaos Origin Land; I could only sense a field of chaos around him."

"Is such a thing even possible?"

"This kid definitely has a secret, but since he's unwilling to talk, there's nothing we can do."

"He seemed quite interested in the money just now. Perhaps we could use money to buy information."

"That won't work. This kid might appear to be motivated by money, but deep down, he clearly isn't."

"He's very odd. The Aliens would definitely prefer to kill him by mistake rather than let him go. He's in danger now. Assign more people to keep an eye on him. If he can just survive this period, everything will get better."

"When have our outstanding Earth talents not been in danger? Although we suffered huge losses this time, at least we managed to seal their Teleportation Ground, which should prevent more Aliens from sneaking in for a good while."

"However, if the people from the Yongming Star System currently on Earth learn that their Teleportation Ground has been sealed, they'll probably go into hiding again. We were supposed to wait for them to expose themselves before making a move."

"We had no choice. The opportunity was too good to miss. If we hadn't acted prematurely, we wouldn't have had the chance to seal it; at best, we could have only damaged it to limit its use."

"That's true. Even though several of their powerhouses left for unknown reasons, our losses were still substantial. An opportunity like this truly won't come again!"

"It's a pity. They were openly assassinating people within the Academy Alliance before; I thought they were preparing for an all-out offensive. But now, with this development, they'll surely retreat, making them difficult to eradicate."

"Patience. Three sounds of the great path have appeared in a single day. It's clear that at least one extraordinary talent is rising on our Earth. Give them a little more time, and Earth's tomorrow will be even brighter!"

Chapter 224: Alien Makes a Move! (Two-in-one, 2/5)\_1

As the three Alliance Hierarchs were speaking, Rangu, on the Alien side, suddenly received some very unpleasant news.

Noticing the drastic change in his complexion, the surrounding Aliens immediately asked with curiosity, "What's wrong, Sir? Why do you look so upset?"

"Something happened inside the Tower of Eternity."

"What happened?"

"The Earthlings have completely sealed off the Teleportation Ground. It will take at least one official year to reopen it, and we've been instructed not to act rashly during this time."

"Usually, it wouldn't matter if we were to lay dormant for ten official years. However, now there's someone who continually triggers the sound of the great path who hasn't been found. Letting this person develop for a year could be disastrous."

"Don't you think that's the very reason the Earthlings sealed our Teleportation Ground, despite the great cost and sacrifices?"

"So, what do we do now? If we don't get new recruits and can't carry out large-scale operations, the foundation we've painstakingly built on Earth over many years could easily be destroyed."

"We can only take things one step at a time. Previously, the plan was to assassinate all suspicious four-star and five-star individuals to disrupt their deployment, but that's no longer feasible. We'll need to focus on key targets instead. Let's review the previous priority list from the Academy Alliance."

"Sir, there are currently thirty suspected targets on the Academy Alliance list. What should we do?"

"This year's college entrance examination instance had a strange issue, although it hasn't been fully investigated yet. If we're to initiate a sudden operation now, should we also include this peculiar two-star Skeleton Mage?"

"Adding him won't change much. Let's put him in the third priority sequence."

Rangu looked at the list again and further categorized the names.

It could be seen that the name Yan Yingyue, written in peculiar Alien script, was listed in the first priority sequence.

"How should we handle these thirty-one people?"

"Since we've decided to act, the sooner, the better. Actually, the sudden sealing of the Teleportation Ground isn't entirely a bad thing. At least they'll assume that after receiving this news, we won't act rashly. That's when we can catch them by surprise. The more they expect us to remain inactive, the more we should do the opposite. Prepare to act immediately. Dispatch ninety-one Assassins to eliminate these thirty-one individuals. For the ten targets in the first priority sequence, assign five Assassins to each. For the ten targets in the second priority sequence, assign three Assassins to each. For the eleven targets in the third priority sequence, assign one Assassin to each."

"Sir, Yan Yingyue has already survived one assassination attempt, so her security is exceptionally tight this time. I'm afraid five Assassins might not be enough."

"I strongly suspect that the three instances of the sound of the great path were triggered by the same person. However, Yan Yingyue is a Priest. The second activation of the sound of the great path was reportedly her soloing a team-level BOSS. According to our inside sources, when this five-star Priest was questioned, she explicitly described the situation in the examination. She is a five-star Priest whose abilities provide a massive boost to summoning-type professions. This would explain why she and the two-star Skeleton Mage can achieve such remarkable results together. If she truly possesses such an ability, even as a five-star professional, she must still adhere to fundamental principles; her powers wouldn't be so erratic. Since her ability is to greatly enhance the combat power of others, her own combat prowess would, logically, not be exceptionally high as well. For her to defeat a team-level BOSS single-handedly would be impossible. Therefore, the suspicion on her has decreased significantly. Whether we kill her this time isn't crucial; it's merely an auxiliary objective. Attacking her is primarily to draw the attention of more powerful experts."

Yan Yingyue's professional ability indeed had a significant enhancing effect on everyone. However, it could also be specifically interpreted as being particularly helpful to Summoners. This was because she could improve all their attributes and share her powerful talent, thereby indirectly increasing the ability limit of Summoners. This explanation wasn't entirely false. Before they left the instance, Chen Mo and Yan Yingyue had agreed that she would explain things this way to others as much as possible. Having witnessed Chen Mo's performance in the instance, Yan Yingyue had long suspected that he concealed a significant secret. However, such a secret was clearly not something to be easily revealed to others.

If a two-star Skeleton Mage like you is this powerful, what if your assets were given to a higher-star Summoner? Wouldn't they become even more formidable? Perhaps someone would kill you to seize your treasures, using them to train their own high-star Summoner descendants. Or, a top-tier Summoner might target you, kill you to make the treasures bound to you drop, and then claim them for themselves. So, danger lurks everywhere. Some things are best kept hidden if possible.

With the Teleportation Ground sealed, the best course of action for Rangu and his team would have been to lay low and wait for it to reopen. Otherwise, acting prematurely would expose far more clues. After all, it's impossible for these individuals to operate on Earth without leaving any trace. Following these traces would undoubtedly lead to the exposure of many more operatives. This wouldn't just be limited to the exposure of those dispatched for the mission. If Rangu decided to dispatch ninety people, he had to be prepared for the possibility of exposing several, or even dozens, times that number of their hidden operatives. Such an action would undoubtedly deal a significant blow to the Yongming Star System's clandestine network on Earth.

However, the matter of the sound of the great path being triggered three times in a single day hung like a sword over their heads. Whether it was one person or two, they knew they wouldn't rest easy until the individuals involved were eliminated.

#### Chapter 225: Alien Makes a Move! (Two-in-one, 2/5)\_2

One official year was too long for them. Equivalent to five hundred Earth days, this period offered ample opportunity for these newcomers to develop. For ordinary people, growth within five hundred days might still be limited. However, for someone who had activated the sound of the great path—or perhaps even activated it three times consecutively—five hundred days was enough time to skyrocket. After all, the principle that the strong invariably grow stronger was an immutable truth. This point alone was enough to make them uneasy. They couldn't rest easy, nor could they idly watch their target slowly rise.

This was no time for hesitation or concern about losses. The people of Earth had managed to seal the Teleportation Ground, regardless of the cost. Therefore, they shared the same resolve: to carry out the assassination, no matter the cost! If there was even the slightest chance of eliminating this person, it would all be worthwhile.

"Sir, all personnel have been deployed. These individuals have limited operational history on Earth; even if they are implicated in something, the impact will be minimal."

"Good. Wait for my unified command, and everyone will act together."

"Yes, sir!"

At this moment, in every venue, the teachers and students had been calmed by the Academy Alliance's broadcast, and the clamor had subsided. In every venue, everyone was silently awaiting the results of

the Academy Alliance's investigation. Meanwhile, some of the Alien assassins hidden within the crowds were preparing to strike.

Naturally, more than just a few dozen Aliens had infiltrated the ten venues. However, only a few dozen were selected for the operation. They were all equipped with crucial items, poised to deliver a fatal blow!

At this point, the investigation results had been released. Since the instance dungeon had vanished on its own, the only option was to notify everyone and prepare a new college entrance examination instance dungeon. This time, everyone was to be notified to return first and then make preparations.

"Attention, everyone. Regarding the abnormal situation with the instance dungeon this time, we have ascertained the cause..."

Just as the broadcast reached this point, everyone simultaneously turned towards the speakers, awaiting the announced results. Rangu, receiving intelligence shared by his subordinates, immediately issued the assassination order. He knew that at this precise moment, everyone's attention would be diverted, making it the perfect opportunity for an assassination!

Instantly, all ninety-one hidden individuals moved as one. Although the chances of a successful assassination were low in an environment teeming with experts, they were banking on the momentary lapse in everyone's attention. Almost everyone had been startled by the anomaly with the college entrance examination instance dungeon; the sudden announcement of the investigation's findings would naturally capture their full attention. This was the opportune moment to strike.

Regardless of whether those on Earth had lowered their guard due to the sealing of the Teleportation Ground, this operation had to proceed. If they failed to act now, future opportunities would likely become even scarcer. After all, Earth's forces were no pushovers; it wasn't as if they could only detect suspicious activities when the Aliens made a move. Globally, large numbers of personnel were deployed daily to track and investigate Aliens. Previously, even when their agents remained inactive, Earth's side would often uncover their presence through subtle clues and eliminate these "malignancies" lurking on the planet. Now, they faced a dire situation: five hundred days of attrition with no reinforcements. As time passed, their numbers would only dwindle, making it increasingly difficult to undertake critical operations. Therefore, this move had to be made now!

However, this operation did not encompass all high-priority targets. Some high-priority targets were scions of aristocratic families, and a suitable opportunity to deal with them had not yet arisen. The rules

within the domains of the aristocratic families were stringent, making it difficult for outsiders to infiltrate. If these scions did not venture out, targeting them was exceedingly challenging. The Aliens could only prioritize targets from the academy faction for now.

As the broadcast continued announcing the investigation results... WHOOSH WHOOSH WHOOSH!

In the ten venues, ninety-one figures flashed through the air like ninety-one streaks of shadow, simultaneously launching their assault on thirty-one targets. Ninety-one stealth-type professionals rapidly closed in on their targets and attacked.

Within the first venue, twenty assassins emerged, focusing on four high-priority individuals. Each target was beset by five assassins, and Yan Yingyue was among them. Having survived a previous assassination attempt, she was given special consideration this time, placed under strict protection, and the higher-ups had even provided her with a crucial lifesaving treasure.

The moment the five assassins lunged at her, an Energy shield erupted from her person. This Energy shield unleashed a powerful repulsive shockwave; with a HUM, it sent all five attackers flying with a THUD. This was a crucial lifesaving item bestowed upon Yan Yingyue by the high-ranking officials of the Academy Alliance. The item would automatically activate its Protective Energy Shield to repel all assailants if an untrusted professional, ten or more levels higher than the wearer, came within a twenty-meter radius. This repelling force ignored any control immunity effects the attackers possessed! This item was considered a rather high-end protective treasure.

Yan Yingyue had obtained such a precious item primarily because of the many valuable goods found in the backpack left by the assassin who had previously attempted her life. She had risked her life to draw him out; the higher-ups had confiscated all the spoils but, in return, rewarded her with a top-grade protective item, which was only fair.

Chapter 226: Alien Makes a Move! (Two-in-one, 2/5)\_3

The other three targets, of course, couldn't be acquired without effort.

However, they too were being covertly watched over by several powerful individuals.

When faced with sudden assassination attempts, these powerful figures immediately sprang into action.

But reactions varied in speed!

The attackers had meticulously planned their strike, catching the Earth Alliance off guard and thus a step slower.

Whether the targets could be saved depended entirely on the individual capabilities of their protectors.

Although these protectors had been chosen and invited precisely because they were trusted to possess sufficient protective capabilities, it remained a gamble.

The assassins dispatched by the enemy certainly weren't mere nobodies; they were individuals deemed valuable enough to be deployed for such missions.

Even if Earth's leadership had preemptively assigned protectors, there was no guarantee of the level of assassination the protected individuals might face.

Nor did they possess an abundance of top-tier protective forces.

They could only strive to be as thorough as possible.

However, the dispatched protectors had to, at the very least, be capable of retaliating and annihilating all assailants if an assassination occurred.

Trading one life for several assassins, plus forcing the enemy to expend a significant amount of resources—whether this constituted a net loss or gain was difficult to determine.

For the individual targeted, it was undoubtedly a devastating loss.

After all, their life was forfeit.

From a broader perspective, however, if you weren't someone of extraordinary potential, your single life, traded for the exposure of numerous Aliens, meant your sacrifice held significant value for the overall strategic situation.

Though it sounded cruel, this was the reality.

Witnessing the Aliens dispatch twenty assassins to eliminate four targets, it was clear that this wave of Aliens was destined to suffer losses, regardless of whether their assassination attempts succeeded or failed.

The only exception would be if one of the four successfully assassinated individuals happened to be the one who had triggered the sound of the great path.

In that scenario, Earth would indeed incur a greater loss.

After all, Earth had already gone to great expense, sealing the Teleportation Ground for this specific person. If they still failed to protect them, it would naturally be considered a calamitous defeat.

But while the Aliens were covertly investigating, were Earth's people not doing the same?

On their home turf, the level of detail in the intelligence Earth gathered was absolutely incomparable to what the Aliens could obtain.

Regarding whether the protected individuals were the ones who triggered the sound of the great path, Earth's side had a fairly good idea.

At the very least, they currently believed the person who triggered the sound of the great path was likely among the scions of aristocratic families, rather than within the academy system.

This was because the four-star and five-star professionals within the academy system generally didn't meet the criteria for triggering the sound of the great path three times, unless someone was deliberately concealing crucial information.

However, merely to draw more of the Aliens' fire, Earth's leadership had to pretend that the individual who triggered the sound of the great path was indeed within the academy system.

Although this strategy would expose many elite students to lethal threats, as previously stated, for the sake of the greater good, individual sacrifices were sometimes worthwhile, even necessary.

On this point, more often than not, one's agreement or disagreement was irrelevant.

This was no longer about sacrificing for one's country; it was about sacrificing for the planet, for the Star System.

It was all for the sake of humanity's boundless and bright future.

When the stakes were raised to such a level, one could hardly complain about the decisions made by the higher-ups.

After all, Earth's leadership also consisted of mortals, not God, and thus could not possibly manage everything perfectly or cover every eventuality.

They could only make choices that represented the best trade-offs for the overall interest.

Actions that benefited Earth, even if detrimental to specific regions or individuals, were things they could accept and were prepared to implement.

Currently, with elite students facing assassination attempts, the leadership would naturally do everything in their power to protect them. However, if they failed to save them, the perpetrators must be annihilated!

They could not let the students die in vain!

Chapter 227: Setting sights on the treasure! (Three in one, 5/5)\_1

The Alien assassins struck with extreme speed, five of them ganging up on a single target. A direct hit was fatal.

Moreover, each group included someone carrying the "Absolute Death Stone."

This special item, if activated by its bearer, prevented any being within a ten-meter radius from resurrecting after death, including the bearer.

Carrying such an item was a true double-edged sword; one misstep could doom the user as well.

However, to guarantee a successful assassination, carrying it was deemed necessary.

This was currently the most cost-effective method available for widespread restriction of resurrection abilities.

Of course, 'cost-effective' in this context referred to the acquisition cost when supported by the resources of an entire Star System.

An ordinary individual would need to expend considerable effort to obtain even one.

However, since this item could be reliably found in specific locations, it was far easier to acquire than Chen Mo's Ring of Death, which possessed a similar effect.

In addition to this, some of them also carried the "Stone of Mediocrity."

Similar to the "Absolute Death Stone," once activated, it affected both parties within its limited ten-meter effective range, directly sealing all their passive abilities.

Consequently, any passive abilities triggered by fatal injuries—such as damage reduction, full health resurrection, or damage transfer akin to Chen Mo's Shared Fate—would be instantly nullified.

With these two items, they could essentially guarantee the nullification of all a target's survival abilities.

Furthermore, they had coated their weapons with a special venom. Upon the target's death, this venom would instantly and completely destroy the corpse.

This ensured the target could not be resurrected, even if the "Absolute Death Stone" effect wore off.

After all, all known resurrection abilities required some part of the corpse to remain.

The Heavenly Dao imposed significant restrictions in this regard.

Hair or nails left behind before death were useless; only components of the body remaining after death counted. Complete destruction of the corpse made resurrection impossible.

Unless one could find an Above SSS-level resurrection ability.

Clearly, however, Earth's people had yet to discover such an ability.

Therefore, as long as they delivered a killing blow, the target had no chance of survival.

At The First Pavilion, twenty Assassins launched their attack simultaneously, five of whom charged at Yan Yingyue!

Fortunately, having experienced a previous assassination attempt, Yan Yingyue now possessed a life-saving item that automatically detected and repelled enemies within a twenty-meter radius. Thus, even if her assailants intended to use the "Stone of Mediocrity" to negate her passive abilities, they would first need to get within ten meters of her.

Evidently, twenty meters being greater than ten, Yan Yingyue's protective item would trigger before the "Stone of Mediocrity" could take effect, preventing them from approaching.

The moment they drew near, the energy shield repelled them.

Simultaneously, numerous experts who had already mobilized to protect Yan Yingyue launched ferocious attacks, mercilessly slaughtering the assailants.

After all, assassins, despite their high offensive power, were inherently fragile. Faced with so many experts, their survival skills were rendered useless.

Five corpses exploded instantly, drawing screams from the inexperienced students nearby.

Even if they had killed monsters, few had witnessed the gruesome sight of human-on-human slaughter.

They were naturally terrified, especially since the killings occurred right beside them.

The human experts, however, loathed the Alien Assassins and attacked without mercy.

They wished they could resurrect the Assassins only to slaughter them again!

These five were killed instantaneously.

Meanwhile, the other fifteen Assassins were simultaneously attacking three different key targets in three separate locations within the pavilion.

One group of Assassins moved faster than the hidden guardians. Although the guardians intercepted three of them, two slipped through and successfully assassinated their target.

The targeted girl barely had time to react. She saw a shadow flicker before her, a cold light flashed, and then her vision went black; she saw nothing more.

She hadn't gone blind; rather, her entire body had been instantly corroded by the venom, turning into a pile of ash.

Her death was not in vain, however. The Assassins who had ganged up to kill her were, in turn, immediately wiped out by the Earth experts.

The Earth experts gazed at the pile of ashes on the ground, their expressions impassive.

The girl just killed might have been a rising hope for Earth's younger generation. Yet, her death led to the exposure of five Alien Assassins and the crucial information they carried about their backers. Who could say which loss weighed more heavily against the gain?

The other two groups of Assassins were less fortunate, encountering guarding teams with exceptionally fast experts.

Even when assassins in one of these groups used Instant Flicker to appear beside their target, they had no time to strike before an Earth expert preempted their attack, felling them with a single palm strike.

After all, only those below the fifth-transition could enter through the Teleportation Ground.

Individuals possessing Divine Power could not use such teleporters to reach other planets.

Conversely, Earth faced no such restrictions for its protectors and could dispatch individuals with Divine Power.

However, competition within the Tower of Eternity was also fierce. All fifth-transition experts were vital combatants, making it difficult to recall them for protection duties. Sparingly assigning even a handful for such duties was already the utmost limit.

The recent strong attack on the Teleportation Ground had incurred significant losses; this small contingent would likely need to return to the Tower of Eternity soon to reinforce their ranks.

Chapter 228: Targeting the Treasure! (Three-in-one, 5/5)\_2

But now, they were at least still covertly protecting the younger generation of Earth.

In Conference Room 1, two out of the four people present were guarded by fifth-transition powerhouses. These two individuals had rather impressive backgrounds. Someone like Yan Yingyue, who had no connections, even after surviving one assassination attempt, only had a few more guards assigned to her and received one additional life-saving magic weapon. She could not be assigned a fifth-transition powerhouse for protection. On the other hand, the other two targets both had high-level connections; their protective details included fifth-transition powerhouses.

Even if these ten Assassins were incredibly fast, they could not outrun two fifth-transition powerhouses. They were effortlessly subdued.

Most powerhouses preferred to kill with a single blow. But fifth-transition powerhouses were different. They even managed to capture the assailants alive, planning to thoroughly interrogate them afterward.

Out of the ten Assassins, seven were annihilated, and three were completely controlled. They had no means of escape. Their abilities were completely suppressed and sealed by their captors, who utilized Divine Power and the special abilities gained after their own fifth-transition, leaving the Assassins to submit helplessly.

"Take these three back for a thorough interrogation!" one of the fifth-transition powerhouses commanded, then furiously afflicted the three with a curse of pain.

"AAAH!!!"

Instantly, they felt an unbearable, splitting headache. They couldn't even take their own lives and could only wail in agony.

"Kill... kill... me..."

"Want to die? Hmph, you'll only die after you've spilled all your secrets!"

「In Conference Room 1.」

Of the twenty who had launched the attack, only one group achieved any success, but seventeen of them died and three were captured. It was a significant loss.

Meanwhile, in the other conference rooms, many confrontations had already taken place.

「In Conference Room 3, thirteen attacked.」

There were two primary targets and one secondary target. Out of the thirteen who attacked, two targets were successfully assassinated; the last one managed to survive thanks to a highly reactive expert nearby. The deaths of one five-star and one four-star target came at the cost of thirteen Assassins.

The situation in the subsequent conference rooms was similar; none of them managed to keep everyone alive. The Aliens weren't mere cannon fodder; they were here with the intent to assassinate. If they couldn't even kill a single target, their abilities were too poor for them to have been sent on this operation.

「As for Conference Room 2, they were just unlucky to have encountered Chen Mo.」

Just as these Aliens began their attack, Chen Mo, thanks to his powerful perception ability as a pioneer, instantly detected their killing intent.

There are so many this time!?

Chen Mo was surprised; he hadn't expected sixteen people to charge out at once. The moment they lunged forward, Chen Mo immediately activated the Space-Time Pearl.

If I don't control them, once they rush among the examinees, won't they be like wolves among sheep, slaughtering at will?

Chen Mo didn't want to die, nor did he want to see others die, so he activated the Space-Time Pearl without hesitation. Simultaneously, he ensured all surrounding exam guards were exempt from his time

stop. These guards were professionals. The moment they saw the suspicious behavior of those who charged out, they immediately understood who they were.

At that moment, everyone was attentively listening to the Academy Alliance's investigation report on recent anomalies in the instance. Given how brazenly these individuals charged out, it would have been astounding if they weren't hostile. The guards immediately reacted, preparing to act together to take down all sixteen individuals who had suddenly appeared in Conference Room 2.

Just as the guards prepared to act, Chen Mo unexpectedly sensed that one person was still able to move.

How is that possible? I didn't exempt him from the time stop.

As this person moved, Chen Mo finally recognized a familiar, powerful Energy emanating from them—it was Divine Power!

A fifth-transition powerhouse!

This was the first time Chen Mo had seen a fifth-transition powerhouse with his own eyes.

I never imagined a fifth-transition powerhouse would be so incredible that even my time stop couldn't restrain them!

However, seeing a fifth-transition powerhouse meant he could be confident this person wasn't an Alien. After all, Alien fifth-transition powerhouses couldn't come to Earth. This person was undoubtedly one of their own.

When the fifth-transition powerhouse saw that these Aliens had been immobilized by an unknown force, he acted immediately, striving to seal the abilities of those who had charged out so they could be interrogated later.

It had to be said, a fifth-transition powerhouse was swift and decisive in action. Before the brief three-second time stop even ended, he had completely sealed the abilities of these sixteen individuals and confiscated their space backpacks.

As the time stop ended, all sixteen intruders wore expressions of terror, staring in disbelief. They were all equipped with items to prevent time stop, yet they had still received the time stop notification. Clearly, an SSS-level time stop had been activated. Only when they saw the fifth-transition expert looking down on them from mid-air did they realize they had encountered a formidable opponent.

Witnessing this, the few Aliens still hiding in the crowd frantically messaged their headquarters for instructions: "There's a fifth-transition powerhouse and a top-tier time stop ability in Conference Room 2. Our sixteen members are all neutralized. Should we attempt to eliminate them now? With so many captured, it's difficult to guarantee they won't divulge information under interrogation."

Rangu reviewed the reports from infiltrators in each conference room. The operation's success rate was merely fifty percent. The success rate for assassinating primary targets was only one-third. It could be considered a failed operation.

Chapter 229: Setting sights on the treasure! (Three in one, 5/5)\_3

But he had no choice; the circumstances forced his hand.

Some were still captured alive. Rangu believed they wouldn't talk, but the agony of torture could drive a person mad.

It would be best to understand them.

However, too many of their people were already exposed.

Continue to kill our own? Rangu mused. That won't be easy.

The enemy, intent on capturing them for interrogation, wouldn't allow them to be killed so easily.

Further action would only lead to more losses.

"Alright, let's observe for a while," Rangu decided. "After all, the sound of the great path for the fifteenth level hasn't appeared yet. The person who triggered the sound of the great path three times in a row might have died in the SSS-level trial for the fifteenth level!"

Rangu considered this assassination attempt a success.

Nearly half of the operations succeeded, and a third of the primary targets were assassinated.

That's enough.

The crucial targets now were those within the aristocratic families.

In fact, the one most likely to trigger the sound of the great path is probably someone from an aristocratic family.

They needed to continue planning for the long term.

Initially, they had been prepared to assassinate members of the aristocratic families at any cost; he had already deployed his forces.

Many secret treasures specifically designed to deal with the aristocratic families had also been readied.

But then, at the worst possible moment, they received news that the Teleportation Ground had been sealed.

This forced him to abandon the plan to launch a forceful assault on the aristocratic families.

"Notify everyone to cease all actions and contact during this period. They are to live as Earthlings, completely adopting their behavioral patterns. Wait for my command!"

"Yes, sir!"

At this moment, in nine of the ten venues, Alien corpses exploded, and the stench of blood permeated the air. Only the second venue remained untouched by battle.

Panic spread rapidly through the crowds.

Both sides had acted with extreme speed, leaving no time for words, threats, or any verbal exchange.

One side launched an all-out assault, their targets clearly defined: the elite students.

The other side defended with all their might, launching furious counterattacks.

During the brief clash, little was heard beyond the sounds of combat.

In such a nearly silent, oppressive atmosphere, witnessing the deaths of their peers and smelling the pervasive scent of Alien blood, it was difficult for anyone not to feel their hearts pound with terror.

The examination organizers had already considered this scenario, so they quickly dispatched personnel to reassure the crowds.

「Inside Venue Two」

Here, due to the presence of a fifth-transition powerhouse, there was no need for the examination organizers to intervene.

"Everyone, listen!" the powerhouse announced. "Do not panic because of this Alien assassination attempt. I have good news for you. We have paid a tremendous price to completely seal the Alien Teleportation Ground within the Tower of Eternity! For at least the next five hundred days, we won't have to worry about any more of them teleporting here. Today was merely their final, desperate frenzy before they go into hiding. We will seize this precious, hard-won time to conduct a global sweep and strive to completely eradicate this Alien cancer from our Earth!"

Many people were still reeling from the shock of the sudden Alien attack.

But upon hearing that the Teleportation Ground was completely sealed and that Aliens would be unable to infiltrate Earth for at least five hundred days, they were momentarily stunned, then overcome with a wave of elation!

Cheers erupted in every venue.

This news was relayed to all locations.

The Aliens' fierce assault had terrified many; this announcement was the perfect antidote to their fear.

Chen Mo, too, was delighted by this news.

The Aliens are restricted from entering? Doesn't that mean I'm much safer?

From now on, the number of Aliens will only decrease, not increase. Considering the severe losses they've suffered this time, they probably won't dare to act so recklessly again.

Thinking this, Chen Mo felt a great sense of relief.

However, he knew he couldn't completely let his guard down. After all, the Aliens' foundations on Earth had not yet been entirely eradicated.

They still have the capacity for a desperate, all-out attack.

After high-ranking alliance officials in each venue had spoken to boost morale, the broadcast resumed.

Their words of encouragement were effective for those who hadn't been targeted in the assassination attempt.

However, those who had been singled out as targets were still deeply shaken.

This was especially true for Yan Yingyue, as this was the second time she had faced such an assassination.

A wave of lingering fear washed over her. But as fear gripped her, her thoughts didn't turn to any high-ranking alliance expert protecting her; instead, the image of a particular boy unexpectedly surfaced in her mind.

I wonder how Chen Mo is doing? I hope the Aliens didn't target him, Yan Yingyue thought.

She considered sending him a message to ask, but then hesitated, afraid of worrying him.

But after thinking it over, if the Aliens only know him as a two-star Skeleton Mage, they probably wouldn't bother targeting him.

Meanwhile, in Venue Two, Chen Mo, having just experienced the assassination attempt, also thought of Yan Yingyue.

This attack was very similar to the previous one, instantly reminding him of that incident.

He sent a message: [Yingyue, which venue are you in for the exam? There was an Alien attack in Venue Two just now. Are you okay?]

The moment the message sent successfully, Chen Mo knew Yan Yingyue was fine.

Otherwise, he would have received a notification from the Heavenly Dao informing him of her death.

Chapter 230: Setting sights on the treasure! (Three in one, 5/5)\_4

Upon suddenly receiving a message from Chen Mo, Yan Yingyue immediately felt joy.

[Don't worry, the Academy Alliance gave me a powerful life-saving item. Those Aliens that charged at me were immediately repelled. I'm very safe.]

[That's good.]

[What about you? You weren't targeted, right?]

[I'm just a two-star Skeleton Mage. Even if I am targeted, I won't be considered a major threat. It's not a big deal.]

[That's good.]

Both said, "That's good," and then they tacitly ended the conversation.

However, through those short dialogues, Yan Yingyue felt warmth in her heart, feeling the care of the person who mattered to her. Even just a few simple words were enough.

At this time, the broadcast continued to address the matter of the instance abnormality.

"Regarding this instance abnormality, we will prepare a new college entrance exam instance for all candidates. Please return and rest for a day. We will have the new exam instance prepared for you the day after tomorrow."

"All candidates, please proceed to the central area. We will use reverse Teleportation to send you back to your schools."

As the broadcast concluded, all the teachers in the stands also moved to the central area.

After a reverse Teleportation, tens of thousands of people in the central area of each venue vanished in an instant.

「In Venue No. 2 at this moment...」

The person in charge of the college entrance exam turned to the fifth-transition expert and asked, "Senior Liao, when did you master such a powerful time-stop ability? These Aliens had even brought means to immunize themselves against time-stops, yet you still controlled them completely."

Liao Xuebing said thoughtfully, "It wasn't my ability. It was someone in the venue. That person clearly doesn't want to reveal themselves, so they didn't act at all."

Upon saying this, Liao Xuebing suddenly remembered something.

"Did something similar happen during the Jiangnan Province examination?"

"Yes, now that you mention it, I remember. There was a girl named Yan Yingyue who performed brilliantly and broke the survival-day record in that examination's history. She was targeted for assassination by the Aliens, who planned to use a time-stop in advance! Yue Yang was presiding at that time. According to him, after he was caught in the time-stop, a mysterious individual reversed the enemy's time-stop and even released him from it prematurely. That ability is very similar to what happened this time. This time, everyone was also time-stopped, yet we, the guards for the college entrance exam, were all able to move freely."

"It seems it was someone who was present on that day. Go back immediately and investigate which individuals present here today were also present on that day. This person's time-stop ability Level is extremely high! Even with my Divine Power shielding my body, I was paused for an instant. That's definitely not something an ordinary time-stop can achieve. If we can recruit them for public service, it will be a tremendous help in our fight against the Aliens in the Tower of Eternity."

"Recruiting them might be difficult, though," the person in charge of the No. 2 exam venue said with a wry smile.

Anyone would realize that no one would willingly surrender such a precious item.

"Naturally, we wouldn't expect to take it for free. If this item of theirs is an SSS-level treasure, we would be willing to exchange two, or even three, of our SSS-level items for their one. Although the grade is the same, the strategic value of this particular item is clearly higher than some other SSS-level treasures with different uses. For someone below the fifth-transition, possessing such a treasure is indeed somewhat of an overkill."

"If that's the case, it might actually be worth a try."

An exchange of one SSS-level item for three others of the same level—surely many people would be willing to make that trade, right? It's a deal where one definitely profits.

「At this moment, Chen Mo, who had returned to Seaside Second Middle School...」

...was still unaware that the higher-ups in the Alliance had set their sights on his precious treasure.

If it were just an ordinary SSS-level treasure, and if others truly coveted it and wanted to trade, offering a deal of three for one, Chen Mo would naturally be willing to make the exchange. But was his treasure an ordinary SSS-level treasure? This was a divine artifact component! Even if ten SSS-level items were offered, Chen Mo might not be willing to exchange it. One shouldn't underestimate the difference; although it was just a single tier between SSS-level and Above SSS-level, the utility could be worlds apart. Take Chen Mo's Chaos Tester ability, for example. Without this ability, upon entering the Chaos Origin Land, his SSS-level Pioneer perception ability would be useless. He wouldn't be able to perceive anything; it would be completely nullified. But with the Chaos Perception provided by the Chaos Tester, he could naturally utilize his perception ability in the Chaos Origin Land. The difference was huge. After all, the Chaos Origin Land contained terrifyingly abnormal entities like the Grand Terror. The Grand Terror Chen Mo had encountered in this trial was merely the most inferior type, created by the God Race through special means. Those in the Chaos Origin Land were the genuine article, truly formidable. Without probing capabilities, even Gods would face an immense risk of death upon entering!

Upon returning to school, Chen Mo planned to go straight home and sort out his harvest from this recent instance.

But he was unexpectedly stopped by the Principal.