

Ice Age 241

Chapter 241 Infiltrators

Because the earth has already been covered with snow, and the surrounding area of Yunque Manor is relatively open, Xie Liu and his wife think that it is easy to be discovered by Zhang Yi rashly.

Therefore, Xie Huanhuan and Liu Ziyang did not rush forward, but first explored the environment of Yunque Manor with binoculars.

Through the words of Xu Dongtang and others, Xie Huanhuan and Liu Ziyang were somewhat wary of Zhang Yi, knowing that this person was not so easy to deal with and might be a powerful alien.

Until late at night, two people went to explore.

From Xu Dong Village, they have learned that this villa No.101 is where Zhang Yi lives, and there are many traps around it.

So when they came over in the evening, they were fully prepared.

Liu Ziyang took out a military tactical eyepiece.

Looking at the snow in front of us, the traps buried under the snowdrift are presented at a glance.

"Fortunately, I got the news in advance, otherwise, I might get hurt if I rushed past."

Liu Ziyang said in a heavy voice.

Xie Huanhuan looked up at the luxurious villa in front of him, but he couldn't help but sigh with emotion: "I can live in such a luxurious villa in the last days and enjoy a comfortable life. Even I can't help but be jealous!"

Liu Ziyang said: "There is nothing to envy! It is freezing outside, and such a big house consumes a lot of energy just for heating."

"Where did he get so much fuel to keep warm? Not to mention daily food and clothing."

Xie Huanhuan glanced at him without explaining much.

Liu Ziyang didn't know about the warehouse in South China.

After all, he is just a soldier, and he doesn't need to know the content of the task, just needs to obey Xie Huanhuan's orders.

"Send me there!"

Xie Huanhuan said to Liu Ziyang.

Liu Ziyang crouched down his burly body, and Xie Huanhuan dexterously jumped on his shoulder.

Liu Ziyang carried Xie Huanhuan, stepped on a rockery exposed on the snow surface, and quickly jumped on the right wall, jumping up more than five meters high!

He clung to the eaves with his right hand, and then swung like a swing towards the corner of the shelter.

A rabbit rises and falls, and a man has fallen on the snow.

The weight of two people fell into the snow, and half of their bodies sank in.

But didn't let a piece of snow meet Xie Huanhuan.

It is very easy for them to dismantle those simple traps in the snow.

Only two people don't want to startle, decided to sneak in quietly.

Xie Huanhuan stepped down from Liu Ziyang's shoulder and observed the black villa in front of him.

A heavy and strong feeling suddenly impregnated her heart.

"It is worthy of being the residence of the richest man. Although it is fancy, its defense is comparable to a bunker!"

Xie Huanhuan's mouth showed a smile. "Unfortunately, for me, there is no unbreakable fortress in this world."

Liu Ziyang sank behind him and said, "Do you really not consider negotiating with each other? Your ability is not combat, and it may be dangerous to sneak in rashly."

Xie Huanhuan frowned and said coldly: "Liu Ziyang, don't forget, even if there is no power, I Xie Huanhuan is also a member of the special team!"

Liu Ziyang suddenly did not dare to continue arguing about this matter.

"Then I'll wait for you outside. If there is a situation, shoot immediately, and I will find a way to break in!"

Xie Huanhuan smiled disapprovingly.

"Don't worry, that Zhang Yi can't imagine that there is such an invasion method in the world!"

After she finished speaking, she stepped to the corner.

The thick wall made of special alloy, which can withstand direct fire, suddenly turned into air.

Or it can be said that Xie Huanhuan himself turned into air and went in lightly.

The next moment, she came to Zhang Yi's shelter.

This position is the living room.

Xie Huanhuan didn't know the structure inside the shelter, but it was already late at night, and she didn't enter it until she confirmed that the room lights went out early.

As soon as she entered the shelter, she was completely wrapped in the warm feeling.

Xie Huanhuan was very surprised: It was warmer than Xishan Base!

The luxurious interior layout and furniture around her make her envy and hate.

Although these things are worthless in the last days, they are everywhere outside.

But it is almost impossible to bring them back to Xishan base.

After all, the underground base has such a large space, and even her special warfare team members only have a small room of more than ten square meters.

"I can now be sure that he must have a lot of materials in his hand."

"He will not lack food or energy. Otherwise, it is impossible to enjoy such a comfortable life!"

Xie Huanhuan raised a smile at the corners of his mouth.

Just as she was about to continue probing the room, she suddenly heard a cat barking.

Xie Huanhuan suddenly surprised his heart.

Thinking that she didn't know the details of Zhang Yi's side, she didn't dare to continue taking risks.

The importance of this shelter is much higher than that thought by the high-level officials of Xishan Base!

However, Xie Huanhuan is not willing to leave like this.

She decided to leave something for Zhang Yi to shock his heart.

Then, maybe you can win this place without bloodshed!

Xie Huanhuan pulled out a saber from his thigh and put it on the living room table.

After doing this, she turned and entered the shadow of the room, and disappeared as ghostly as before.

Xie Huanhuan came out of the wall, and Liu Ziyang was still waiting outside to meet her.

Seeing her coming out so quickly, she hurriedly asked, "Have you found anything?"

Xie Huanhuan's eyes are full of excitement. "Great harvest! Let's go back first, and I will talk to you slowly on the way!"

Liu Ziyang was surprised.

"Go back first?"

He and Xie Huanhuan have joined hands, and they have not encountered any unsolvable problems for so long.

Even if they met some gang forces in Tianhai City, they could easily get it done.

But this time, Xie Huanhuan chose to go back. Is this going to ask the base for assistance?

"Have you met a very powerful opponent?"

Xie Huanhuan said quickly: "Although it is not clear, according to the current situation, the man named Zhang Yi is definitely not simple."

"I'm not good at fighting and there's no need to stay here and take risks."

"It is safest to go back and report the intelligence here to the top and send large troops!"

Xie Huanhuan's ability is very suitable for external search.

Because she can be perfectly integrated into the environment, so the cold of ice and snow can't hurt her, and no matter how strong the fortress is, she can break through.

But her ability is not suitable for direct combat.

This is why she needs to follow Liu Ziyang.

Liu Ziyang obeyed, let Xie Huanhuan sit on his shoulder, and then quickly left Yunque Manor.

But at this time, Zhang Yi was awakened in his sleep.

Chapter 242 Chasing

Huahua's cry woke Zhang Yi up.

Since Huahua came home, she likes to climb to Zhang Yi's room to sleep every night, and nest on his bedside.

Zhang Yi also likes to decompress the cat, so he didn't drive it away.

This voice almost took Zhang Yi away directly, because it was too ugly.

Zhang Yi opened his eyes and saw Huahua staring at the door with a cautious appearance, and his hair stood up.

As a stray cat, Huahua is particularly alert and doesn't show this appearance at ordinary times.

Zhang Yi suddenly realized that something had happened at home!

He instinctively rolled over and got out of bed, taking out the gun in his right hand.

"Huahua, what's going on?"

Zhang Yi asked.

Huahua's IQ is very high, not much worse than that of human beings.

It can understand everything Zhang Yi said to it.

But the problem is-it can't talk!

Huahua just stared outside and shouted.

But after barking a few times, it suddenly stopped barking, but its eyes showed incomprehension and looked around curiously.

"What happened?"

Zhang Yi felt puzzled.

Maybe it had nightmares at night?

I've never heard of cats having nightmares.

Zhang Yi didn't feel at ease, so he picked up his mobile phone to check the monitoring of the whole shelter.

As a result, no abnormal pictures were found in the shelter.

Instead, Huahua went to the door and put his paws on the door to signal that he wanted to go out.

"Please wait for me!"

Zhang Yi quickly put on his clothes, and then opened the door with a gun.

Huahua quickly jumped to the stairs.

Zhang Yi carefully looked around, and then light footsteps, quickly followed the past.

Huahua came to the first floor, sniffed here and there, and kept making that strange song in her mouth.

Then, it jumped onto the table in the living room.

Zhang Yi followed it step by step.

Soon he found the black saber lying on the table.

Zhang Yi's pupils shrink fiercely, and there is a layer of white sweat on his back!

This saber is definitely not his, and it is even more impossible for several other people in the shelter to have such a thing.

Then who put it here?

What is even more terrible is who can bypass the invincible defense of the shelter and quietly come to the living room and put it here!

The other party can sneak into his house quietly, does it mean that one day he can sneak in and take his life?

Zhang Yi swallowed a mouthful of spittle, but soon came to his senses.

There is monitoring everywhere in the home, so just check to know who has come in.

He immediately came to the TV and said to the intelligent system at home: "Play back the surveillance video in the living room, tune it to 10 minutes ago, and then fast forward to someone showing up!"

Soon, the monitoring ten minutes ago appeared on the big screen.

With the fast forward of the video, Zhang Yi finally saw the strange figure.

He slowed down the video, afraid to blink, for fear of missing some details.

Then he saw clearly that from the shadow in the corner of the room, a woman in white tights came out slowly.

"Zoom in!"

Zhang Yi magnified the influence and observed it carefully, only to see the clue.

The woman didn't appear out of thin air, but walked slowly through the wall.

The solid wall, like air, did not stop her.

However, Zhang Yi understood what was going on.

"There is such a power!"

Since the emergence of variants in this world, more and more incredible things have become less bizarre.

Zhang Yi continued to view the video. After observing in the room for a while, the woman was about to walk to the stairs.

At that time, the cry of Huahua began to scare off the woman in white tights.

She put down a dagger on the table and went out in the direction of the wall again.

After watching this video, Zhang Yi felt a haze above his head.

The existence of such a different person is a great threat to him!

No matter how strong the shelter is, it will not work.

What is even more terrible is that when she left, she put a saber on the table!

Zhang Yi is also a man who plays with knives, so he understands that this kind of knife is not something ordinary people can own, even the standard weapons in the army.

How much threat will such a person pose to him in the future if he lets her go?

In the eyes of Zhang Yi, a strong murderous crazy emerged.

That woman, must die, must not let her live!

"Huahua, come out with me and kill the intruder!"

Zhang Yi said to the flowers squatting on the table.

"Meow--"

Huahua let out a cry with her big mouth open, and her eyes shone like bulbs with deep blue light.

Zhang Yi didn't go out in a hurry, but first armed himself all over the living room.

I didn't hear the sound of the engine nearby, so the other party couldn't have driven over. So she can't run far!

While wearing clothes, he called up the surveillance outside the shelter to check the other party's departure.

Through the infrared camera, he captured two departing figures.

"Two people? It doesn't matter, first kill the woman who can sneak into the shelter!"

Is the other side first ran to declare war, Zhang Yi will not have the slightest mercy.

He added Huahua, so that it is enough to deal with any opponent.

If it weren't for the urgency of time, he would like to shake Uncle You and Fatty Xu.

But time waits for no man. If you chase them late, you will be afraid that they will run away.

Zhang Yi put on his equipment, carried a big sniper in his hand, and then went out with flowers.

"Huahua, can you smell them?"

Zhang Yi looked at the flowers.

"Meow--"

Huahua howled confidently, which is not of course?

At the next moment, its body expanded rapidly and became a monster with a length of more than ten meters.

Huahua lay prone in front of Zhang Yi and motioned for him to sit up.

In the snow, its speed is faster than snowmobiles!

Zhang Yi looked at the hair on his back that was sharper than steel nails, and said with some worries: "I am afraid of pricking my ass."

Huahua reacted, and the hair on her back soon became soft.

Zhang Yi just sat up with confidence.

"Don't be too excited and suddenly prick my ass!"

Zhang Yi reminded Huahuadao.

Flowers rolled a supercilious look, some unhappy "meow-" a voice, expressed dissatisfaction with Zhang Yi's distrust.

After he sat firmly, Huahua's soft big feet pushed hard on the snow and jumped out more than ten meters away!

Zhang Yi holding the big sniper, through the tactical eyepiece staring at the front.

Tonight, no matter what, he can't let that woman leave alive!

One person and one cat went fast and quickly disappeared in Yunque Manor, chasing the past in the northwest direction.

At this time, Xie Huanhuan and Liu Ziyang rode a sled and prepared to go back with joy.

This search, their results can only be described as a bumper harvest!

In addition to finding a village with a strong population and abundant materials, I also discovered the secret of Zhang Yi.

As long as you go back and report to the top, it is definitely a great achievement!

Chapter 243 Close to the Truth

After leaving Yunque Manor, Xie Huanhuan and Liu Ziyang kept trying to get back to Xishan Base.

Xie Huanhuan's face is an unstoppable smile, even the cold snow and ice at midnight can't weaken a few minutes.

Liu Ziyang's heart was greatly surprised.

Xie Huanhuan is his superior. He performs the tasks assigned by the senior management and directly connects with Xie Huanhuan.

So along the way, Liu Ziyang didn't know the specific content of many things.

But today, Xie Huanhuan's appearance is obviously a little excited.

This inevitably aroused Liu Ziyang's interest.

Two people are also old partners, and their relationship is quite good.

Liu Ziyang asked: "Huanhuan, what did you see in Zhang Yi's villa that made you so happy?"

At this time, they have left Yunque Manor far away.

Xie Huanhuan is in a good mood, just waiting to go back and report the news, and then he can reward his merits.

So she told Liu Ziyang about it.

"Lao Liu, in principle, you are just an ordinary soldier of our A team. There are some things that you don't know enough."

"But today my sister is in a good mood, so it doesn't hurt to tell you about it!"

Zhang Yi itself is a trivial matter for the leaders of Xishan Base, so it is not required to keep it strictly confidential.

Coupled with today's special circumstances, some rules have gradually become less binding.

Xie Huanhuan told him the secret.

"That Zhang Yi, there have been rumors before, he was related to the theft of Wal-Mart South China warehouse. Have you heard of that case?"

Liu Ziyang frowned slightly. "It seems to be a little impressed."

At that time, he was still in the army, and he was not very clear about the outside news.

"You've heard of Wal-Mart, haven't you?"

"Oh, I do know that. That supermarket seems to be quite large. It is famous all over the world!"

"Yes, not only is it famous all over the world, but it is also the largest supermarket chain in the world."

"They have more than 800 large chain stores in China."

"The South China warehouse in Tianhai City stores more than one third of their materials in China. The value of its goods is said to have reached tens of billions!"

Liu Ziyang was also startled: "Tens of billions of materials! Is it so horrible?"

After so many years of preparation and mobilization before the snowstorm, all the stored materials can't reach this level.

"You mean that Zhang Yi knows where those materials are going?"

Liu Ziyang reacted keenly.

Xie Huanhuan smiled. "At the beginning, the top leaders of the base thought so. They just regard Zhang Wei as an insider of the matter, let's come and investigate."

"However, after going to Xujia Town and personally entering their home for investigation, I found that things are definitely not that simple!"

Xie Huanhuan's tone became serious, with the joy of discovering great secrets.

Liu Ziyang frowned. "I... don't quite understand."

Xie Huanhuan gave him a white look. This silly man, his brain is turning a little slowly.

"If Zhang Wei is just an ordinary warehouse keeper, then the lost tens of billions of materials have absolutely little to do with him."

"Even if you find him to ask, the information you get has no effect. After all, now that we have found the black hand behind the scenes, we may not be able to recover the materials."

"But what if he is a man who is hidden and actually has great energy?"

Xie Huanhuan thought of what the villagers in Xu Dong Village said to her and gently spit out a mouthful of white smoke.

"Can an ordinary person survive for so long in the last days and still have powerful firepower?"

"Can an ordinary person beat back the siege of hundreds of villagers and kill more than 100 people by himself?"

"It can be judged from this that Zhang Wei is by no means ordinary!"

When they talked, the dog who pulled the sled began to get restless, but his mouth was trapped by the chewing son and he couldn't make a sound. He could only whine and hum, and then run forward desperately.

Neither of the two people who were chatting vigorously noticed this problem.

After all, the weather is too cold, and it is common for dogs to get upset.

Xie Huanhuan said: "I only doubted this before. But after entering their home to find out, I was even more convinced of this."

"The living conditions of their family are so good that they are even more extravagant than the life of our Xishan base leader."

"Without enough materials, who dares to enjoy such a luxurious life at such a time?"

When Liu Ziyang heard this, he slowly recovered.

"I see! You mean that Zhang Wei must have a very large amount of materials in his hands!"

"It is very likely that it is part of the lost materials in Wal-Mart South China warehouse?"

Xie Huanhuan blinked and said in a heavy voice, "Maybe it's not just a part! It is also possible that it is all!"

"What???"

Liu Ziyang almost shook off his chin.

"Huanhuan, you can make a big joke. With so many materials, where can he store them?"

Xie Huanhuan said: "The case itself is confusing. At the beginning, no one could explain why the South China warehouse, known as the world's largest big warehouse, was carried out in just a few hours."

"But now, the emergence of mutants has made many impossible things possible."

Liu Ziyang frowned slightly. "You mean he has some ability to hide materials?"

Xie Huanhuan said: "I am only guessing, but I am not sure. However, even if there is only such a possibility, it is worth letting us shoot!"

Xie Huanhuan's eyes are full of excitement.

"After going back, we will report the news immediately, and then let the leader send a large army!"

"As long as the whole A team sends a quarter of its strength, it is enough to destroy any recalcitrant enemy."

"Even if his house is very strong, it will become vulnerable with me."

Although Xie Huanhuan's ability is biased towards auxiliary functions, it plays a great role when it comes to fighting a tough battle.

She couldn't bring anything very large in, but dropping some bombs and poisonous gas into it was fine.

No matter how strong the fortress is, it is easy to break through from the inside.

Liu Ziyang looked at the confident Xie Huanhuan, and his eyes flashed with envy.

"How nice! You are born aliens, and you have the ability to create infinite possibilities."

Xie Huanhuan saw a lonely look in Liu Ziyang's eyes.

As an elite soldier, it is a great pity that he can't have that kind of talent like Xie Huanhuan.

Xie Huanhuan suddenly patted his old partner on the shoulder.

"Old Liu, don't be too depressed! When this mission goes back, you will also get a big reward."

"My sister will become the top of the base in the future and will not mistreat you, hahaha!"

Liu Ziyang looked at the high-spirited Xie Huanhuan and couldn't help but smile.

"That's it, I will rely on you to help me in the future!"

Both of them returned to Xishan Base talking and laughing, and they were both happy for the great harvest of this trip.

Just then, in Liu Ziyang's sight, Xie Huanhuan's head suddenly tilted to the side.

A string of blood spattered from her temples, and her smile remained on her face, but her eyes quickly lost their luster.

"Bang!"

Xie Huanhuan's body fell from the sled without warning.

Chapter 244: No Possibility Left Behind

Xie Huanhuan's body fell onto the snow, the scene so abrupt that it seemed unreal. Just moments earlier, she and Liu Ziyang had been joyfully discussing their bright futures. Now, she was a cold corpse. In this dangerous world, there was never a moment of absolute safety. A Superhuman's head wasn't necessarily tougher than an ordinary person's and was certainly no match for a 5.8mm sniper rifle, especially one enhanced by supernatural abilities.

Liu Ziyang watched in stunned horror as his longtime partner died before his eyes. Though it took less than a second, it felt like an eternity for him. His instincts took over as he quickly drew his gun and aimed it behind him. In the distance, under the dark sky, he saw a massive shadow—a giant black cat, Huahua. On its back sat Zhang Yi, holding a sniper rifle. From 2,000 meters away, Zhang Yi had shot the wall-passing woman dead with precise accuracy.

In Liu Ziyang's line of sight, Zhang Yi and Huahua were mere specks far beyond the range of his weapon. Yet before he could react further, Zhang Yi had already reloaded and fired another shot. With the silencer attached, the sound was minimal, and from such a distance, the only way to determine Zhang Yi's position was by tracking the bullet's path.

Zhang Yi had hoped this shot would take out the large man, but to his surprise, the man's body suddenly blurred, leaving behind afterimages as he narrowly dodged the bullet. "Damn it, just how many Superhumans are there?" Zhang Yi felt a chill run down his spine. He had anticipated such an encounter, but facing two Superhumans simultaneously was still shocking. Regardless of who they were, he had to kill them both to prevent any information about him from reaching their superiors.

But when Zhang Yi hesitated, Liu Ziyang grabbed Xie Huanhuan's body and took cover in a snow pit. As he stared at Xie Huanhuan's lifeless form, Liu Ziyang's heart twisted with pain. Despite their long working relationship and the feelings, he had never dared to express due to their professional roles, seeing her die right in front of him was a devastating blow.

"I swear, I'll kill you!" Liu Ziyang's eyes were filled with fury, but as a disciplined soldier, he didn't lose his composure. The opponent was an extremely skilled sniper, capable of killing Xie Huanhuan with a headshot from such a distance—something Liu Ziyang couldn't have managed even during his time in the military. He suspected the sniper's accuracy was enhanced by supernatural ability.

Knowing he had no advantage in a long-range fight and would only become a target if he attempted to flee, Liu Ziyang calculated his best move. "Wait, I can't rush. The one who should be anxious is him! If I'm right, he's the owner of that villa, Zhang Yi. After spotting us, he's desperate to kill us to keep us silent."

"So, my best move is to stay put and call for backup!"

It would take about two and a half hours for reinforcements from West Hill Base to arrive by snowmobile or five hours by sled. Liu Ziyang quickly retrieved his equipment and sent a distress signal to the base. As Liu Ziyang had predicted, Zhang Yi was eager to eliminate him. But after missing his shot, Liu Ziyang had gone into hiding, leaving Zhang Yi without a clear target for a second shot.

Judging by Liu Ziyang's quick reflexes, Zhang Yi could tell he was up against a highly skilled close-quarters combatant. In a hand-to-hand fight, Zhang Yi wasn't confident he could win. "If this drags on, he might send out my intel or even call for backup," Zhang Yi thought, weighing his options. "Should I call Fatty Xu over? But he doesn't have transportation, and it'll be daylight by the time he gets here."

Looking at Huahua beneath him, Zhang Yi suddenly got an idea. "Huahua, go flush him out, and I'll cover you with sniper fire!" he ordered.

Jumping off Huahua's back, Zhang Yi took cover in the snow and gave his instructions. Huahua understood what he wanted but responded with a dissatisfied "Meow," as if protesting the danger.

Zhang Yi reassured the cat, "Don't worry, you're tough, and he won't be able to hurt you. Make him show himself, and I promise I'll take him down with one shot!"

He added a tempting offer, "If you do this, I'll give you a hundred fish treats when we get back!"

Huahua licked its big paw, then nodded in agreement. Huahua had a strong sense of territoriality as a cat, and it already despised the two intruders. With the added promise of a reward, it was fully motivated to act.

At first, Huahua charged across the snow, but soon, it curled into a massive black spiked ball, rolling towards Liu Ziyang's position with a rumble. Liu Ziyang planned to dig in and wait for reinforcements, but the roaring sound alarmed him. He cautiously used his phone as a mirror to peek out, and what he saw made his pupils contract in shock.

"What the hell is that!" he thought, seeing the enormous black ball barreling towards him, something beyond his wildest imagination.

Reacting quickly, Liu Ziyang rolled to the side just in time. "Boom!" Huahua's spiked form tore through the spot where he had just been, leaving a deep trench in the snow. Liu Ziyang barely had time to catch his breath before the massive black ball suddenly stopped and transformed into a giant black beast not far from him.

"Meow!" Huahua roared, its fur standing on end like steel needles as it charged at Liu Ziyang in a zigzag pattern. Liu Ziyang hastily raised his gun and fired, but the ordinary bullets barely affected Huahua, sparking off its steel-like fur. Though Huahua felt the sting, it wasn't seriously hurt, and it screeched even more ferociously as it lunged at him.

Liu Ziyang dodged with his ghostly agility, moving through the snow with a speed that matched the cat's, an eerie display of skill. However, while he could evade Huahua's attacks, he couldn't conceal his movements from Zhang Yi, who was waiting in the distance, sniper rifle at the ready.

The moment Liu Ziyang showed himself, Zhang Yi pulled the trigger.

Zhang Yi's bullet didn't immediately kill Liu Ziyang. Liu Ziyang's supernatural ability, which enhanced his speed and agility, allowed him to narrowly evade the shot. Despite the close call, he was not out of danger yet. Zhang Yi quickly reloaded, determined to see how long Liu Ziyang could keep dodging. Facing Zhang Yi's sniper fire and Huahua's relentless attacks, Liu Ziyang struggled under the combined pressure.

This time, Zhang Yi fired another shot with even greater precision and power. The bullet, charged with his supernatural ability, was strong enough to pierce through body armor. Liu Ziyang dodged again, but not without cost—blood trickled from his mouth as he pushed his ability to its limits. In midair, his figure blurred, leaving behind ghostly afterimages as he narrowly escaped death once more.

But just as Liu Ziyang felt a fleeting sense of relief, a massive shadow loomed over him. "Roar!" Huahua pounced, its jaws clamping down on half of Liu Ziyang's body with a sickening crunch. The sound of breaking bones echoed through the air, accompanied by Liu Ziyang's blood-curdling scream. In a desperate attempt to take Huahua down with him, Liu Ziyang raised his gun to shoot the cat in the eye. However, Zhang Yi was quicker, finishing him off with a precise shot to the head.

With Liu Ziyang and Xie Huanhuan dead, Zhang Yi finally allowed himself a moment of relief. He drove his snowmobile to the site where Huahua had defeated Liu Ziyang. When Zhang Yi arrived, Huahua had already returned to its normal size and was sitting beside Xie Huanhuan's body, looking expectantly at Zhang Yi.

"Meow!" Huahua uttered a loud cry, clearly tired from the energy it had expended during the battle.

Zhang Yi smiled and rewarded Huahua with several cans of tuna, which the cat eagerly tore open with its claws and began to eat.

Zhang Yi then examined the bodies of the two intruders. The tall man, fully armed in thick white armor, had a crescent-shaped wound on his body from Huahua's bite. The armor made of an unusual material likely used by special forces, was only partially damaged. Zhang Yi decided to take the armor back for further study.

As he turned to Xie Huanhuan's body, Huahua meowed insistently, drawing Zhang Yi's attention. He recognized the woman as the one who had infiltrated his shelter earlier, a feat that had driven him to kill her without hesitation. The shelter was his haven—any threat had to be eliminated.

Xie Huanhuan's body was frozen stiff, but her thin, white bodysuit was made of a material designed to protect against the elements. Zhang Yi reached out to search her body, but as soon as he touched her, an indescribable sensation surged through him as if a primal instinct had been awakened in his brain.

Huahua blinked slowly, meowing softly as if encouraging him. Zhang Yi swallowed hard, realizing what Huahua was trying to tell him: he could absorb this woman's power.

He placed his hand on her forehead, and a powerful energy began flowing into his body through his arm. The sensation was exhilarating, nearly overwhelming, as he absorbed Xie Huanhuan's supernatural ability. It was the first time Zhang Yi had ever absorbed another Superhuman's power, and he could feel himself growing stronger with each passing second as if a starving man had just eaten his fill.

"So, Superhumans can devour each other's powers?" Zhang Yi mused, staring in disbelief at his hand. By the time he had finished absorbing her ability, Xie Huanhuan's body had become nothing more than an empty shell.

Huahua, sensing the change, meowed again. Animals often have keener instincts than humans, and Huahua sensed the potential to devour Xie Huanhuan's power. But instead of doing so itself, the cat had left the opportunity for Zhang Yi, an act that touched him deeply.

Moved, Zhang Yi couldn't resist picking up Huahua and giving the cat a couple of affectionate kisses. "Thank you, Huahua! You're such a good cat!" Huahua nuzzled against him briefly before jumping down to continue eating its tuna, clearly satisfied with its reward.

Still puzzled, Zhang Yi turned his attention back to Liu Ziyang's body. "He was a Superhuman, too, so why didn't I feel the same urge when I touched him?" he wondered. "This world and its mutated beings are filled with mysteries that defy understanding."

Zhang Yi decided to store both bodies in his dimensional space and carefully cleaned up the scene, though the footprints leading to the area were too long to erase. "I can't do anything about that," he sighed. "They already know where my shelter is, so if they come looking for trouble, I'll be ready."

"But now that the woman who could walk through walls is dead let's see who else dares to invade my shelter!"

Zhang Yi steeled himself for the challenges ahead, knowing that these two were not lone operatives—they were part of a larger, powerful organization. Their uniforms and equipment made that clear. It was likely that more warriors, perhaps even entire squads, would be sent after him.

Returning to the shelter, Zhang Yi couldn't help but feel a growing sense of urgency. He needed to bolster his defenses even further, for he knew that life in this apocalyptic world left no room for complacency.

Chapter 246: West Hill Shelter

When Zhang Yi and Huahua returned home, the living room lights were still on. The commotion caused by Huahua's earlier cries had woken up Zhou Ke'er and the others. When they realized Zhang Yi was not in his room, they waited for him in the living room, as Zhang Yi was the backbone of their shelter.

Upon seeing everyone awake, Zhang Yi said, "It's good you're up. I have some tasks I need you all to take care of."

Curious, the women asked, "What do you need us to do?"

Zhang Yi briefly recounted the night's events, explaining how he had dealt with the two intruders. The mention of someone being able to pass through the shelter's solid walls made them all anxious. But they were relieved when Zhang Yi assured them that the intruders had been taken care of.

Zhou Ke'er, hugging herself, frowned in thought, "But the fact that two Superhumans appeared together suggests they must be part of an organized group. Taking them out might lead to retaliation."

Zhang Yi responded confidently, "You don't need to worry about that. This shelter is incredibly sturdy—it could withstand artillery fire during wartime. Besides, with all the snow outside, large weapons are unusable. I made sure to eliminate that woman who could pass through walls to prevent any chance of our shelter being compromised."

Hearing this, the women sighed in relief. None of them could fight, and their peaceful, happy life depended entirely on Zhang Yi's protection. They were all deeply reliant on him, especially in times of crisis.

"Now, I'm going to assign you some tasks," Zhang Yi continued. "We might be facing a powerful and unknown force, and we don't know how strong they are. So, we need to be as prepared as possible."

He turned first to Lu Keran, the mechanical genius. "Keran, I need you to create a large number of explosive devices and set them up around the house. Let me know what materials you need, and I'll go out and find them."

Being a native of Tianhai City, Zhang Yi knew the locations of the city's major chemical factories and laboratories, so sourcing the necessary materials wouldn't be a problem.

Lu Keran nodded firmly, "Don't worry, big brother. Leave the weapons to me!"

Zhang Yi then took out the bodies of Xie Huanhuan and Liu Ziyang, removing all their electronic devices, including phones and other communication tools, and handed them to Yang Xinxin. "Xinxin, I need you to gather as much information as possible about these two and their organization."

Yang Xinxin responded calmly, "Understood."

Next, Zhang Yi turned to Zhou Ke'er. "Ke'er, I want you to do a full autopsy on these bodies. It's rare to get our hands on Superhuman corpses, so let's see if we can uncover any secrets."

Zhou Ke'er nodded, "Alright, Zhang Yi."

After assigning tasks to everyone, only Yang Siya remained without a job. Feeling left out, she approached Zhang Yi and asked, "What about me? I want to help, too."

Everyone else in the group was a talented genius in their field, but Yang Siya, with her relatively ordinary skills, felt she needed to prove her worth. Zhang Yi thought momentarily and said, "You can assist Ke'er and take care of the household chores."

Though the idea of dissecting bodies made Yang Siya uncomfortable, she steeled herself and agreed, determined to contribute.

After delegating the tasks, Zhang Yi, feeling exhausted, went to his room and slept deeply. The next morning, around nine o'clock, he instinctively checked the shelter's surveillance system, ensuring everything was normal. Only then did he feel at ease.

Though he had killed Xie Huanhuan and Liu Ziyang, he knew their deaths would alert their organization. However, he also understood that if this organization was well-structured, they wouldn't act rashly. This would give him time to prepare.

Zhang Yi dressed and went downstairs, finding Zhou Ke'er and Yang Xinxin waiting for him in the living room. Both women looked tired, but there was a gleam of excitement in their eyes.

"Brother, Xinxin discovered some important information!" Zhou Ke'er exclaimed.

"And the autopsy results are quite unusual," Yang Xinxin added.

Zhang Yi approached them, curious about their findings. Yang Xinxin, holding a laptop, was the first to share her discoveries.

"From analyzing the devices found on those two, I traced their origin to an organization called the West Hill Shelter," she began. "It's a massive facility with thousands of survivors."

"The West Hill organization is highly structured, with a few hundred armed personnel, including a powerful unit known as the ACE Special Forces, made up of elite soldiers and Superhumans."

As Zhang Yi reviewed the information, he was struck by the scale of the operation. The West Hill Shelter was likely one of several large government shelters established in Tianhai City. Such shelters were designed to protect key government figures during emergencies and had evolved into powerful entities.

What reassured Zhang Yi was that the shelter's armed forces numbered only about 500, which made sense given that Tianhai City lacked a major military presence, with only one regiment stationed there.

Even accounting for police and security personnel, their numbers would only reach a few thousand, and not all were concentrated in the West Hill organization.

Although the West Hill Shelter was formidable, Zhang Yi felt less intimidated now that he understood its strength. "Ordinary soldiers, even well-trained ones with standard weapons, won't pose much of a threat to the shelter," he reasoned. "As for the ACE Special Forces, unless they have another wall-passing Superhuman, they won't be able to breach our defenses."

Superhumans, after all, had their limitations. Unlike Zhang Yi, who had the bug-like ability of the Dimensional Gate that didn't consume energy, others couldn't use their powers indefinitely. For example, despite his combat prowess, Fatty Xu could be silently killed by a well-trained special forces operative.

"Looks like we can handle this," Zhang Yi thought, finally allowing himself a relieved smile. For too long, he had imagined the unknown threats out there to be more powerful than they were. "Intelligence is critical—knowing your enemy is key to victory."

Zhang Yi now fully appreciated the importance of Yang Xinxin, the genius hacker, to his team.

Chapter 247: Researching the Superhuman Bodies

After receiving intelligence about the West Hill organization from Yang Xinxin, Zhang Yi felt more at ease. The greatest fear comes from the unknown, and now that he had a clearer understanding of his opponent's strength, he could better plan his response. He praised Yang Xinxin, who responded with confidence, saying, "This was just a small matter for me, brother! Just wait—I'll hack into the entire West Hill Base network soon!"

Zhang Yi laughed and nodded, "I'm looking forward to it!"

After their conversation, Zhang Yi turned to Zhou Ke'er, who was eager to share the results of her all-night research.

"Ke'er, what did you find?" Zhang Yi asked with a smile.

Zhou Ke'er excitedly grabbed his hand and led him to her lab. Yang Xinxin, uninterested in the dissected bodies, chose not to follow. Zhang Yi and Zhou Ke'er entered the lab, which Zhang Yi had specifically set up for her. Although it was called a lab, it was essentially a surgical room equipped with all the medical tools Zhang Yi had gathered, though he kept the most important medicines to himself.

The lab was well-stocked with equipment, making it capable of performing surgeries. Even if they were missing something, Lu Keran could easily craft it. As soon as Zhang Yi entered the lab, he saw the two dissected bodies lying on the table. Their bodies had been thoroughly examined, with many parts sliced for analysis.

Zhang Yi used to seeing corpses, didn't find the scene disturbing. Zhou Ke'er enthusiastically led him to the workstation, pointing at the slides under the microscope.

"Through researching these two bodies, I discovered that their cells have undergone mutations. Their cellular activity is dozens of times that of an ordinary person!" Zhou Ke'er explained. "Moreover, the energy produced from glycogen metabolism is released unusually."

She picked up two brain tissue slides and continued, "The most significant changes are in their brain cells. This could indicate that the source of their abilities is primarily the brain!"

Zhang Yi couldn't help but recall that it was through her brain when he absorbed Xie Huanhuan's ability. He nodded, finding the discovery interesting, but it didn't concern him the most. He wasn't particularly interested in scientific research; he focused on what he could gain from it.

Zhou Ke'er noticed his lack of enthusiasm and pouted, "You don't understand how important this discovery is!"

"How important?" Zhang Yi asked, humoring her.

Zhou Ke'er seriously explained, "So far, human mutations have all been influenced by gamma rays, resulting in natural mutations. However, this group is limited, and the mutations are not always beneficial. Even if someone gains abilities, they might not be useful."

"However, if someone could fully understand the principles behind these mutations or apply cell transplantation techniques, they might be able to artificially create Superhumans!"

This piqued Zhang Yi's interest. "According to you, could the entire world be filled with Superhumans in the future?"

Zhou Ke'er playfully stuck out her tongue, "There's indeed such a possibility. But the likelihood is only about 0.0000001%."

She added seriously, "With current medical and biological technology, it's far from possible to perfectly replicate natural Superhumans. After all, humanity hasn't even perfected cloning!"

Zhang Yi shrugged, "So, it's not quite there yet."

Zhou Ke'er continued, "But if more aggressive methods are used, some... strange results could occur."

She looked at Liu Ziyang's body on the operating table and said, "For example, this man's cellular mutation is very strange."

Zhang Yi raised an eyebrow, "How so?"

Zhou Ke'er explained, "The woman's cells underwent a natural and complete mutation, but the man's mutation is only partial, with many cells showing malignant mutations leading to necrosis, which could even harm his body."

"Moreover, the damage worsens each time he uses his ability."

"I suspect he might have been an artificially created Superhuman, but currently, he's just a flawed prototype."

This intrigued Zhang Yi even more. "An artificial Superhuman? That's possible?"

Zhou Ke'er's findings answered several questions Zhang Yi had been pondering, such as why he couldn't absorb the man's abilities. If Liu Ziyang was indeed an artificial Superhuman, it made sense that his abilities wouldn't be as easily transferable as those of a natural Superhuman. It also explained why his abilities were so underwhelming—his speed and agility enhancements were nothing compared to the natural abilities of other Superhumans Zhang Yi had encountered, like Uncle You or Liang Yue.

"So he's an artificial creation, just slightly stronger than a normal person, but with a capped potential," Zhang Yi concluded, feeling a sense of relief.

"This means that the so-called ACE Special Forces of the West Hill organization, which is said to have many Superhumans, are likely composed mostly of these creations," he speculated. "Their powers come at the cost of their health, which makes them far weaker than natural Superhumans. The only advantage is that they can be mass-produced, but at the end of the day, they're just expendable resources in the eyes of West Hill's leaders."

With this new understanding of West Hill Base's strength, Zhang Yi felt even more confident about defending against their attacks.

Chapter 248: Warning Fatty Xu

Zhang Yi called Fatty Xu, who quickly came over and treated Zhang Yi like an elder brother. Fatty Xu was always eager to help because Zhang Yi rewarded him generously each time, whether with plush toys, collectibles, or snacks. All Fatty Xu had to do was help clear snow, which was an easy task for him, especially since Zhang Yi's cautious nature ensured that Fatty Xu never had to worry about safety.

Zhang Yi drove to the riverbank, and soon, huffing and puffing, Fatty Xu climbed into the passenger seat.

"Whew, it's warm in here!" Fatty Xu unzipped his coat, enjoying the blast of warm air from the car's heater. "Boss, where are we headed this time?"

Zhang Yi glanced at him and replied, "We're going to a chemical plant to pick up some supplies."

"Sure thing, just tell me what to do!" Fatty Xu lost interest after hearing "chemical plant," but he was still willing to help. As they drove through the snowy landscape, Zhang Yi began discussing the West Hill organization members he had encountered nearby.

"That area's been targeted by a big organization. You'd better be careful with Xu's Town—it's an obvious target and could easily be wiped out," Zhang Yi warned.

Fatty Xu scratched his head, confused. "Big organization? I haven't noticed anything unusual around Xu's Town."

When Xie Huanhuan and Liu Ziyang visited Xu's Town, Fatty Xu had been napping, and the villagers had kept his presence hidden, so he was completely unaware of what had happened.

"Hopefully, it stays that way," Zhang Yi said, shaking his head at Fatty Xu's carelessness.

"Boss, you're too cautious! Xu's Town is just a bunch of farmers and fishermen. Who would bother with us?" Fatty Xu said with a goofy smile.

Zhang Yi looked at him seriously. "But you do have a stockpile of food, don't you? Are you that naive, or do you not understand how valuable food is in the apocalypse?"

Fatty Xu's smile faded a bit. "Yeah, we do have a tradition of stockpiling food. But there are over a thousand people in Xu's Town—anyone who tries to take our food would have to face all of us."

Zhang Yi continued driving, calmly explaining, "I've already said that ordinary civilians are not a threat to us Superhumans. But what if it's a well-armed organization?"

Fatty Xu hesitated. "Weapons are tightly controlled in our country. Only a few people have access to them. And any well-armed force would likely be part of the government—they wouldn't target ordinary people like us."

Zhang Yi's expression darkened as he tried to explain the situation more clearly. "But with the collapse of law and order, every group is fighting for survival. There's no one to represent the government anymore. Think of them as private armies, doing whatever it takes to survive."

"When they run out of food, Xu's Town is like a giant pantry they can raid—'requisitioning' would be the polite term."

After hearing Zhang Yi's explanation, Fatty Xu began to grasp the seriousness of the situation. His hands fidgeted nervously as he asked, "Boss, what should I do if that happens?"

Zhang Yi looked at him and suggested, "If you're terrified, you could move to Cloud Manor. There's an empty house beside mine, and I can arrange a place for you. I'll also ensure you have enough food and heating, so you won't have to worry about anything."

Fatty Xu was valuable, and Zhang Yi didn't want to lose him. However, Fatty Xu hesitated. "But what about the people in my village? What will happen to them if I leave?"

Despite the potential danger, Fatty Xu couldn't abandon his village, where everyone was family or close friends. He lacked the courage to leave the safety of the group.

Zhang Yi smiled slightly. "It's up to you. I'm just giving you an option. Things might not get that bad."

Zhang Yi wouldn't force him to move. While having Fatty Xu on his side would be helpful, Zhang Yi was confident he could handle any threats independently if necessary.

After collecting the materials from the chemical plant, Zhang Yi dropped Fatty Xu back at Xu's Town, giving him some food and his favorite collectible figures as a parting gift.

"Stay alert, Fatty. I might not contact you for a while, but if you need anything, call me. And be careful," Zhang Yi said, offering a final caution before they parted.

Fatty Xu, grinning as he carried his haul, cheerfully agreed. But just as he was about to leave, Zhang Yi added, "One more thing, Fatty. If the West Hill organization or any other group comes to attack me, you and the villagers can choose to stay neutral. But if I find out you've helped them against me... Well, you can guess what I'll do."

Zhang Yi's smile remained, but Fatty Xu shivered with fear. "Boss, I would never betray you!"

Zhang Yi patted his shoulder, laughing. "I'm just joking—don't take it so seriously. I know you wouldn't betray me."

With that, Zhang Yi got into his car and drove away.

Chapter 249: The Foolish Ones

On his way back to Xu's Town, Fatty Xu couldn't stop thinking about the warnings Zhang Yi had given him. The more he thought about it, the heavier his heart grew. Zhang Yi was his only confidant—no one else was willing to listen to him ramble on, though he didn't realize that Zhang Yi often used AI to chat with him. Zhang Yi had always treated him well, and Fatty Xu didn't want to do anything that would betray him. However, the villagers of Xu's Town harbored a deep hatred for Zhang Yi.

"If another organization showed up, the villagers would probably wish for nothing more than to see Zhang Yi wiped out," Fatty Xu thought, scratching his head in frustration. The situation was too complicated, even for someone like him, a so-called "chosen one," who usually didn't worry about such things.

Upon returning to the village, Fatty Xu found his friend, Xu Ping, who he trusted.

"Xu Ping, have any outsiders come to the village recently?" Fatty Xu asked, trying to sound casual.

Xu Ping laughed. "You really should get out more, Spring Thunder! How could you not know about such a big event?"

Fatty Xu felt a chill run down his spine. "What big event?"

Xu Ping explained, “Yesterday, two high-ranking officials visited our village. They were big shots, supposedly from the military. We don’t know much about them, but Sixth Uncle was incredibly hospitable, ensuring every household brought out their best to entertain them.”

Fatty Xu’s eyes widened, and a cold sweat broke out on his back. These two must be the people Zhang Yi warned him about—enemies scouting for information.

“What did Sixth Uncle tell them?” Fatty Xu asked nervously.

Xu Ping shrugged. “How would I know? I’m not important enough to ask. But I did hear that Sixth Uncle has been in a great mood since then, even saying he’s now the mayor of Xu’s Town.”

Fatty Xu felt panic rising as Zhang Yi’s words echoed in his mind. “If they run out of food, Xu’s Town is just a giant grain warehouse, ripe for the taking—though they’ll call it ‘requisitioning.’ When that time comes, what can you do?”

“I need to talk to Sixth Uncle!” Fatty Xu decided, ignoring Xu Ping’s calls as he ran to Xu Dongtang’s house.

At that moment, Xu Dongtang was basking in the glory of his new title. He had just announced to the other village leaders of Xu’s Town that the higher-ups had appointed him as the town’s mayor. Although it was just a verbal promise from Xie Huanhuan, Xu Dongtang took it as a serious promotion. The other village leaders, wary of Xu’s Town’s strength—especially Fatty Xu’s Superhuman abilities—didn’t dare to object. Xu’s Town was already the dominant force in Xu’s Town, so it made sense for Xu Dongtang to assume the title of mayor.

As the leaders began addressing Xu Dongtang as “Mayor,” he felt immense pride, believing he had brought honor to his family and would be remembered in the family records. Just then, Fatty Xu barged in, looking panicked.

“Sixth Uncle, did you meet with two outsiders? What did you tell them?” Fatty Xu asked, his voice filled with urgency.

Xu Dongtang’s face darkened at Fatty Xu’s lack of respect. “Xu Chunlei, is that any way to speak to your elders? Where are your manners?”

Fatty Xu, still somewhat intimidated by his elders, quickly apologized. "I'm sorry, Sixth Uncle, but this is important. Please, just tell me what happened."

Xu Dongtang, who held little regard for Fatty Xu despite his abilities, looked at him with disdain. "Yes, it's true. Two high-ranking leaders visited us to inspect Xu's Town. They were very pleased with our situation."

Puffing his chest with pride, he added, "And they appointed me as the mayor of Xu's Town!"

Fatty Xu, however, was not concerned with titles. "Did you tell them about our food supplies?" he asked anxiously.

Thanks to Zhang Yi's warning, Fatty Xu realized how crucial it was to keep their food stores a secret.

But Xu Dongtang just laughed. "Why would we hide our achievements from our superiors? Our food reserves are a testament to our village's success!"

Fatty Xu's heart sank—Zhang Yi had been right. Clenching his teeth, he asked, "Did you mention anything about Zhang Yi?"

At the mention of Zhang Yi's name, Xu Dongtang's expression twisted with anger. "That demon! He killed 128 people from our village—he deserves to die a thousand times over! We can't take him down, but some people can. I've already reported everything about him to the higher-ups. They promised to deal with him severely!"

Fatty Xu's legs suddenly gave out, and he collapsed onto the ground. "It's over. We're doomed!" he muttered, his face ashen.

He knew Zhang Yi did not tolerate betrayal, and Xu Dongtang's actions would surely provoke his wrath. Zhang Yi had already massacred over a hundred people in Xu's Town; he wouldn't hesitate to do it again.

Seeing Fatty Xu's pitiful state, Xu Dongtang snorted in disgust. "What are you so afraid of? Zhang Yi is nothing against a trained army! Once the troops arrive, he'll be wiped out in no time. Then, the deaths of those 128 people will be avenged!"

Fatty Xu's face grew even paler. He realized there was no point in arguing—Xu Dongtang's arrogance might lead the entire village to disaster. Xu Dongtang didn't understand how powerful Zhang Yi was nor understood what a Superhuman truly meant to ordinary people. Xu's Town still existed only because Zhang Yi found Fatty Xu useful and the villagers posed no threat to him. However, if Zhang Yi decided to kill them, none would survive.

"Stop with the nonsense and go home. Forget everything you've said to me today," Xu Dongtang ordered coldly, glaring at Fatty Xu. "Just do as you're told and follow my orders. You don't need to have your own opinions!"

Fatty Xu could only nod weakly, knowing he was trapped between his loyalty to Zhang Yi and his ties to Xu's Town.

Chapter 250: Power Boost

After returning to the shelter, Zhang Yi's first stop was Lu Keran's workshop. He had previously given her the armor from Xie Huanhuan and Liu Ziyang to study, hoping she could either replicate it or repair Liu Ziyang's damaged armor, as it was much more advanced than his bulletproof vest.

When Zhang Yi arrived, Lu Keran was deeply engrossed in examining the white armor. He entered and placed the chemical materials he had collected from a large factory warehouse in Tianhai City into her workspace. The sheer volume of materials he had brought left Lu Keran stunned.

"Big Brother, where did you find all this?" she asked, eyes wide with amazement.

Zhang Yi simply smiled and patted his hands. "Don't worry about that. I told you before I'll handle the materials. You just need to turn them into bombs for me!"

Lu Keran, filled with confidence, pounded her chest. “Don’t worry, Big Brother! Making advanced weapons might be challenging, but explosives? That’s child’s play!”

Zhang Yi’s gaze shifted to the two sets of armor. “What about these? Can you replicate them?”

Lu Keran grinned. “Of course! But remember, mass-produced items are made with cost in mind, not peak performance. If I were to create armor specifically for you, it would be far superior to these!”

Her words excited Zhang Yi. “Then go ahead, make the best armor possible. Don’t worry about the cost—use whatever materials you need. I’m not concerned with value for money; I want the highest performance.”

Lu Keran was thrilled by Zhang Yi’s request. As a mechanical genius, she longed for a patron who would support her wild ideas without constraint. “I’ll make you the best armor in the world!” she promised, her face flushing with excitement.

Zhang Yi encouraged her before leaving the workshop, making sure not to take up any more of her work time. Afterward, he took a quick shower, changed into workout clothes, and headed to the third-floor gym. The shelter’s residents often used this space for exercise, but when Zhang Yi practiced his abilities, the area was off-limits to everyone else. As a result, none of the others knew the specifics of his powers.

Zhang Yi closed the gym door and removed a compound bow from his dimensional space. Since absorbing Xie Huanhuan’s powers, he had felt a noticeable increase in his physical energy and cellular activity, as if a vibrant new force was bubbling up from within him. He was eager to see just how much his abilities had improved.

He nocked an arrow and drew the bow, his right eye flashing with a white light. An invisible, colorless energy wrapped around the arrow, a force Zhang Yi could somehow perceive. Everything felt faster, sharper, stronger.

He aimed at a target 500 meters away—a distance he had never attempted. The bowstring pulled taut, and with a soft “whoosh,” the arrow shot out. In the blink of an eye, the target exploded into splinters. Zhang Yi heard the target shattering only after it had already been destroyed. His arrow had traveled faster than the speed of sound.

Even Zhang Yi was startled by the power of his enhanced abilities. He looked at his hands, amazed at how much stronger he had become from absorbing the stolen power. His arrows now packed more punch than a typical firearm.

Curious about his newfound limits, Zhang Yi shifted his focus. He retrieved the Loong Roar Sword, a treasure he had taken from Liang Yue, and decided to test his speed. "Double speed!" he commanded, feeling his movements quicken immediately. But he sensed there was more power waiting to be tapped into.

"Triple speed!"

"Quadruple speed!"

As he pushed his abilities further, Zhang Yi finally felt a strain at quadruple speed, but his movements were so fast they left afterimages in the air. He continued to practice, cutting through wooden training dummies with the Loong Roar Sword, the blade slicing cleanly through the thick wood with a mirror-smooth finish.

After twenty minutes of intense practice, Zhang Yi began to feel fatigued and quickly stopped, replenishing his energy with some power bars. Reflecting on his enhanced combat prowess, he realized he was much stronger. Even against highly skilled warriors, he felt confident in his chances.

However, Zhang Yi also recognized his greatest advantage was his long-range sniping abilities. If he could avoid close combat, he would. But if forced into a fight, he would surely surprise any opponent with his true strength.

Zhang Yi sighed, wishing he could learn a few advanced combat techniques to become a more well-rounded fighter. Despite his newfound power, he remained cautious, never underestimating any opponent. He knew that even a lion uses all its strength to hunt a rabbit.

What Zhang Yi didn't realize was how much fear he had already instilled in the leaders of West Hill Base.