

Ice Age 531

Chapter 531: The Assault on the Followers of the Snow God

Snow blanketed the land, and the Followers of the Snow God's camp lay in ruins.

Once a bustling settlement akin to a small town, it had been home to over ten thousand devotees, all united in resisting the apocalyptic cold. But after a massive zombie horde swept through, more than ninety percent of them had perished, devoured by the undead.

The only survivors were a handful of superhumans and their families.

In the distant sky, a figure flew toward the camp at great speed.

Zheng Yixian's face was deathly pale—paler even than the snow-covered land around him.

But his blood was bright red. A massive wound had bloomed on his chest like a crimson flower, and blood dripped from the corners of his mouth.

Zhang Yi's blade had not struck his heart, but it had pierced clean through his torso.

Had he received immediate treatment, he might have survived.

But he knew that if he stayed, their secrets would undoubtedly be exposed.

He had to return—to warn Yuan Kongye. Only by doing so could Yuan Kongye prepare for what was coming.

He could die, but Yuan Kongye must not.

Zheng Yixian landed in front of the cathedral. Several superhumans stationed at the camp saw his injuries and gasped in shock.

"High Priest, you—"

Zheng Yixian ignored them and staggered past, heading straight for the cathedral doors.

His time was running out. He had to see Yuan Kongye—immediately!

The superhumans instinctively reached out to support him, but a sharp glare from Zheng Yixian stopped them in their tracks.

Creak!

He pushed open the cathedral doors.

Yuan Kongye sensed something and snapped her head around.

She saw Zheng Yixian, gravely wounded.

Her pupils shrank sharply, and she rushed to his side.

Seeing the woman he loved, the last of Zheng Yixian's strength gave out, and he collapsed.

If not for sheer willpower, he would have died on the way back.

Yuan Kongye caught him in her arms.

"Zheng Yixian, what happened to you?"

For the first time, unease flickered in her usually cold voice.

She reached out to heal him, but Zheng Yixian grabbed her wrist.

"Don't... waste your energy on me. My injuries are too severe. Saving me... would drain you too much."

"Danger... is coming. Our secret has been exposed. They will kill you. You... must survive."

Yuan Kongye's hand froze mid-air.

Zheng Yixian, however, smiled weakly.

Looking into her cold gaze, he saw something unexpected—reluctance.

He chuckled.

In the end, he finally understood—Yuan Kongye did care for him, after all.

"You must live on... for our dream."

He breathed his last in her arms, eyes slowly closing.

To die in the embrace of the one he loved—this was not a regret, but a form of happiness.

Before long, Zhang Yi and his group arrived at the Followers of the Snow God's camp.

The remaining followers, unaware of Zheng Yixian's battle with Zhang Yi, eyed them warily.

"Our High Priest—what happened to him?"

Zhang Yi ignored them. His gaze locked onto the slightly open doors of St. John's Cathedral.

Zheng Yixian must have gone to see Yuan Kongye.

Now that she was alert, ambushing her would be difficult.

Not that Zhang Yi had planned to.

Because at this moment, no one knew just how many superhuman abilities Yuan Kongye possessed—or how powerful she truly was.

Attacking recklessly would be suicidal.

Baili Changqing and his group arrived soon after.

Instead of heading to the cathedral, they made their way toward a nearby abandoned building.

The zombie crisis needed an answer.

Had the Followers of the Snow God caused it?

A simple look would reveal the truth.

Zhang Yi led them. "Follow me. I'll show you proof."

They reached the abandoned building.

A lone superhuman stood guard outside and immediately stepped forward.

"Gentlemen, this is a restricted area of the Followers of the Snow God. You must not—"

Before he could finish, Kong Sheng appeared like a ghost before him, seized his throat, and slammed him against the wall.

"Shut up."

The guard's eyes rolled back, and he passed out instantly.

Zhang Yi and the others entered the abandoned building.

Inside, the eerie red glow of the blood vines remained.

Their tendrils and leaves spread across every corner, suffocating the space.

This time, they had arrived in daylight.

The sight before them was even clearer—more overwhelming.

Corpses hung from the ceiling and walls, even more than before.

After all, nearly ten thousand had died in the last battle. Their bodies had become the blood vines' perfect nourishment.

The chilling, almost ritualistic atmosphere made even seasoned warriors uneasy.

Even those who had been here before felt their scalps tingle, sweat breaking out on their backs.

It wasn't the dead that frightened them.

It was this grotesque, sacrificial scene.

Xiao Honglian couldn't help but ask, "Where's the evidence you mentioned?"

They had already taken samples from the bodies and vines.

They were nothing more than shriveled corpses, drained of all nutrients.

None of them contained the zombie virus.

Zhang Yi walked forward and said calmly, "At first, I had my doubts, too."

"We studied these corpses, analyzed the blood vines—and found no traces of the zombie virus."

His gaze swept over them. "But then I realized—it was exactly what they wanted us to believe."

"After all, you've all sneaked in here before, haven't you?"

"If there were a major secret, would they leave it so unguarded?"

The group exchanged glances but said nothing.

They had all, at some point, infiltrated this place under the guise of cooperation, secretly taking samples for research.

They now stood before the blood vines' main body.

A massive, crimson plant—like a twisted World Tree—pierced through the building's roof, its roots burrowing deep underground, its branches sprawling to cover every inch of space.

Zhang Yi spoke coldly.

"Zombies thrive in dark, damp underground environments. Their bodies play host to a parasitic virus that prefers such conditions."

"So, the virus must have been cultivated somewhere similar. And in all of Tianhai City, every facility that fit that description has long been destroyed."

"That leaves only one possibility."

He pointed at the blood vines' roots, his gaze turning sharp.

"This place."

His theory wasn't just a wild guess.

After piecing together scattered clues, it was the only logical conclusion.

And today, he was here to prove it.

Chapter 532: Killing Intent Boiling Over!

Hearing Zhang Yi's words, everyone turned their gaze toward the roots of the blood vine.

Baili Changqing frowned and stepped forward, then slammed his fist into the ground.

With a dull boom, the ground shattered instantly. Large chunks of concrete and soil flew in all directions, swept away by the force of his punch.

Zhang Yi and the others instinctively stepped back, using various methods to shield themselves from the flying debris.

As the dust settled, the group quickly gathered, eager to see if Zhang Yi's so-called evidence had emerged.

The next moment, every single person's eyes widened in shock.

A mixture of astonishment and deep-seated fear flickered within their pupils.

The blood vine's roots stretched far and wide, a dense network covering an unfathomably large area.

And at the ends of these roots, like grotesque fruits, hung countless corpses.

Humanoid bodies covered in white fur.

Giant corpses with bronze-colored skin.

Some had already completed their transformation. Others were still in the process, their forms caught between human and zombie.

They all recognized them instantly.

These were the Zombie Kings and Armored Zombies they had fought before.

And they had all grown from a single tree!

No—more accurately, they had been cultivated!

Some of them still retained human features, caught mid-transformation into the undead.

"So this is the root of the disaster! Followers of the Snow God, you damn bastards!"

Realizing the truth, Xiao Honglian clenched her fists and roared in fury.

She wasn't alone.

Everyone present was consumed by rage!

If this had been a natural disaster, they might have accepted it.

But this was man-made!

A deliberate, vile scheme!

Since the apocalypse began, the Followers of the Snow God had suffered the most casualties.

Yuan Kongye and Zheng Yixian had used the deaths of ordinary people to gain sympathy and trust from other factions.

Now, everyone understood—they had been played for fools.

If Zhang Yi hadn't exposed the cult's scheme in time, what would have happened next?

Just the thought of it sent shivers down their spines.

Had the investigation team left Tianhai City, Yuan Kongye and Zheng Yixian would have dropped their facade and wiped out the remaining factions in one fell swoop.

The feeling of being prey to a lurking viper was unbearable.

"Despicable scum! I can't believe someone could be this ruthless—even to their own people!"

Xing Tian growled, his fists trembling with fury.

For a brief moment, fear flashed in his eyes.

The investigation team remained silent, but their faces darkened.

Bian Junwu's death had already been a huge blow to them.

And now, they discovered that the ones responsible had been right beside them all along.

The humiliation of being manipulated was intolerable!

Baili Changqing slowly lifted his head, eyes narrowing as a sinister smile spread across his face.

He suddenly bared his teeth in a grin.

"Heh! These bastards really set up one hell of a scheme!"

"But we're not the type to let people treat us like fools."

"Let's kill them all."

A murderous aura spread through the air.

Now that they knew the truth, every single person here was eager to slaughter the Followers of the Snow God.

Some sought vengeance for fallen comrades.

Some for the safety of their families and friends.

Some simply wanted payback for the losses suffered by their factions.

But they all shared one goal—

To kill the mastermind who had deceived them all!

Zhang Yi remained silent, watching the bloodthirsty crowd.

A sharp glint flickered in his eyes.

He had deeper plans.

No one knew how powerful Yuan Kongye had become after absorbing so many superhuman abilities.

Zhang Yi knew she was strong.

But not strong enough to ignore the existence of other superhumans.

If she were truly invincible, she wouldn't need to play politics with Jiangnan District.

However—

Now that she had Bian Junwu's abilities...

How much more of a threat had she become?

"Let's wait and see."

Zhang Yi muttered to himself.

Baili Changqing hoisted his massive knight's lance onto his shoulder and turned toward the exit.

As he passed demolition expert Ye Jikang, he shot him a meaningful look.

"Old Ye, destroy that thing. We can't let this scourge remain."

Ye Jikang nodded. "Got it. Leave it to me."

The blood vine was the true mother of the undead.

Only by destroying it could they finally end the zombie horde in Tianhai City.

Baili Changqing strode confidently out of the abandoned building, followed closely by the investigation team.

The other factions hesitated for only a moment before following.

No words were needed.

They all knew what had to be done.

The mastermind behind the near-destruction of Tianhai City had to die!

Zhang Yi followed silently.

Before leaving, he glanced back at Ye Jikang.

Ye Jikang stood before the blood vine and placed his hand on it.

A flash of black light.

A strange, octopus-like black device appeared, latching onto the vine.

"An Emission-Type ability user... Looks like he can condense his superpowers into time-detonated explosives."

Zhang Yi didn't linger.

Staring too long at someone else's ability could be seen as provocation.

He simply made a mental note of Ye Jikang's power before following Baili Changqing and the others out.

Moments later, an earth-shattering explosion erupted from the building.

The entire abandoned structure collapsed in on itself.

Ye Jikang emerged from the smoke, unfazed.

The remaining members of the Followers of the Snow God, alarmed by the explosion, rushed outside.

They stared in horror as the building crumbled to the ground, then turned to the approaching figures radiating murderous intent.

Fear gripped them.

They dared not step forward.

Baili Changqing didn't even glance at them.

Lance in hand, he marched straight toward St. John's Cathedral.

Some cultists gathered their courage and stepped forward to block his path.

"If you wish to see the Holy Master, you must—"

A massive black shadow flickered through the air.

Their bodies were instantly reduced to mere blurs.

A moment later—

A blood mist exploded in the sky.

Baili Changqing had struck so fast that even Zhang Yi hadn't clearly seen his movements.

Then, from a building several hundred meters away—

The sound of something shattering.

Looking over, Zhang Yi saw two massive bloodstains smeared across the wall—

Like mosquitoes swatted against a surface.

Only Liang Yue remained calm, staring at Baili Changqing's back.

He turned to Zhang Yi and warned,

"This guy is insanely strong. At least three times stronger than Ling Feng—maybe even more."

Until now, Ling Feng had been the benchmark for a perfect warrior in their eyes.

His speed, strength, and agility were maxed out.

But today, for the first time—

They had seen someone in the Enhancement-Type category who completely outclassed him.

Chapter 533: The Flawless One

With the truth laid bare, war was inevitable.

Both sides had suffered immense losses—loved ones, vital resources.

For some, like Zhang Yi, the fight was for nothing more than a chance at peaceful survival.

Separated only by a single door, the air was so tense it felt ready to snap at the slightest touch.

The remaining members of the Followers of the Snow God gathered in the vicinity, but only a few battle-ready fighters and the most devoted believers remained.

The rest—those without the strength to fight—huddled inside their homes, trembling, afraid to even look outside.

Inside one of these houses, Li Jian clutched his wife tightly, watching the unfolding scene from a window.

A manic gleam flashed through his eyes.

"Son, do you see this? Dad has avenged you! Today, that lunatic Yuan Kongye is dead for sure!"

Leading the charge, Baili Changqing and Xiao Honglian stood at the front alongside over thirty superhumans from various factions.

They all stared at the massive white door adorned with sacred engravings, but no one dared to rush in recklessly.

Wu Di stepped forward.

A massive orb of light formed around him, sharp as a blade.

With a flick of his will, his floating cannons fired straight at the church doors.

Boom!

In an instant, the doors were reduced to rubble.

Zhang Yi's eyes remained locked on the interior.

As the doors shattered, he caught sight of the scene within.

Yuan Kongye sat at the altar steps, cradling the lifeless body of Zheng Yixian.

As Wu Di's floating cannons neared her, an invisible force blocked them.

Seeing Yuan Kongye, Wu Di's eyes burned with hatred.

To him, Bian Junwu had been like a father.

And his death—Wu Di blamed it entirely on the leader of the Followers of the Snow God.

"Die!"

Wu Di roared, stepping forward.

Hundreds of floating light orbs materialized around him, illuminating him like a divine figure.

Then, like a torrential storm, they rained down toward Yuan Kongye with terrifying destructive force.

At that moment, Yuan Kongye finally lifted her gaze.

Cold as an eternal glacier, her eyes now burned with a deep, venomous hatred.

The last person she had trusted in this world was gone.

"Zheng Yixian... welcome back."

She whispered.

"I've always wanted your telekinesis, after all."

Gently, Yuan Kongye laid Zheng Yixian's corpse on the ground and slowly stood up.

A ten-meter-wide invisible barrier formed around her.

The powerful bombardment from Wu Di's floating cannons nearly demolished the entire church—yet it couldn't breach her psychic shield.

Zhang Yi issued a warning.

"She possesses at least dozens of superpowers. Stay sharp!"

Xiao Honglian's eyes filled with killing intent.

"I don't care how strong she is. There's no way she can withstand the combined force of every superhuman in Tianhai City!"

She was already engulfed in searing crimson flames, magma-like veins pulsing beneath her skin.

With a swift movement, she positioned herself at an angle and unleashed a massive fire dragon at Yuan Kongye.

No orders were needed.

The superhumans who had survived this long were the elite of the elite—they knew how to fight and coordinate.

They attacked from three directions, bombarding Yuan Kongye with ranged abilities.

Meanwhile, close-combat warriors—Enhancement-Type and Beast-Type superhumans—waited for an opening to strike a decisive blow.

A storm of supernatural attacks surged toward Yuan Kongye like a downpour.

Yet, she remained expressionless.

A translucent, spherical field surrounded her, deflecting every attack effortlessly.

Zhang Yi's eyes flashed with white light.

He wondered if his Divine Power could break through her psychic barrier.

But that was his trump card.

He couldn't waste it—not until the perfect moment.

Then—

Yuan Kongye began to rise.

Slowly, she ascended into the air, floating above them like a celestial deity.

The cultists of the Followers of the Snow God saw this and immediately fell to their knees.

"Snow God! Snow God!" They chanted in reverence.

"Zheng Yixian's ability," Zhang Yi muttered.

At that moment, Han Chang and two other superhumans arrived.

They had been rushing in, fearing that Yuan Kongye would be overwhelmed by Baili Changqing and Zhang Yi's forces.

But upon witnessing the scene before them, their expressions twisted in shock.

Priestess Ye Chunhua clasped her hands together in awe.

"This is the Snow God's blessing! The Holy Master truly is the Snow God's vessel!"

But Han Chang felt his throat dry up.

The burning passion in his heart had begun to cool.

"But... isn't that the High Priest's ability?"

Zheng Yixian's telekinesis was well-known.

Its most envied trait was the ability to freely control his body, defying gravity for high-speed flight.

And yet, that same ability was now being displayed by Yuan Kongye.

Could it be that... everything Zhang Yi had said was true?

Was the so-called Ice Soul nothing more than a massive scheme to harvest their abilities?

Had Yuan Kongye's past kindness—her supposed "blessing" of granting them superpowers—all been a lie?

Han Chang didn't dare think further.

The more he thought about it, the more terrified he became.

His faith was beginning to crumble.

Floating above them, Yuan Kongye gazed down at the battlefield like a goddess overseeing mere mortals.

The attacks continued, yet she remained untouched.

Wu Di could hardly believe his eyes.

His floating cannons—stronger than sniper rifles, rivaling even rocket launchers—

Yet none of them could touch her.

Something was very wrong.

Zhang Yi silently stepped back, blending into the crowd.

Yuan Kongye's cold voice echoed through the ruins.

"Foolish, insignificant creatures... You have no idea who you're fighting against."

"I am the divine envoy of the gods, the executor of divine will! Any who blaspheme against the divine shall be annihilated!"

She spread her arms wide.

"Let me cleanse this world of unbelievers!"

The moment she raised her hands—

The ground trembled violently.

Zhang Yi and the others staggered, nearly losing their footing.

Cracks tore through the earth as if an earthquake had struck.

Then, to Zhang Yi's shock—

The land began to rise!

He activated his Eightfold Speed, retreating like a ghostly blur.

The others also realized something was wrong and hurried to distance themselves from Yuan Kongye.

But the buildings were collapsing.

The ground was shattering.

Massive chunks of earth and stone levitated into the air, forming a floating storm of debris—

Like a meteor shower suspended in midair.

Baili Changqing's pupils shrank in disbelief.

They had known Yuan Kongye was powerful.

But this—this was beyond anything they had imagined.

This level of destruction...

They had seen it once before.

Just an hour ago.

And now, they were witnessing it again.

Level 5.

Epsilon-Class Superhuman Power.

With the abilities of Bian Junwu and Zheng Yixian absorbed, Yuan Kongye had finally ascended to that rank.

She gazed at them with icy disdain.

Then—

She clenched her delicate white hand and slammed it downward.

The floating boulders, massive as meteors, rained down upon them with apocalyptic force!

Chapter 534: Invincible

Countless massive boulders shot into the sky, then plummeted toward the ground like a meteor shower under everyone's terrified gaze!

But this wasn't a beautiful sight—it was pure destruction and terror.

With no time to dodge, everyone used their abilities in a desperate struggle to resist.

Baili Changqing burst into hearty laughter, spinning his massive knight's lance like a windmill. He swung it with incredible force, knocking away the falling boulders one by one!

These weren't ordinary rocks—they weighed several tons, even dozens of tons each! A truck would be flattened into scrap metal if struck, yet Baili Changqing used his sheer strength and expert technique to deflect them off course.

He stood firmly in front of everyone, refusing to take even a single step back. Now that Bian Junwu was dead, he was the new leader of the investigation team.

He had to shield his team.

Compared to the others, Zhang Yi handled the attack with ease.

His Dimensional Gate opened wide—no matter how large the boulders were, the moment they fell in, they vanished soundlessly into another dimension.

Unlike them, the others were struggling.

Xiao Honglian's flames had little effect on the boulders. She had to rely on the body-strengthening abilities of her Infernal Furnace, weaving through the meteor shower to avoid getting crushed.

But the falling rocks were relentless, bombarding from every direction, forcing her into an increasingly difficult position.

Some superhumans weren't so lucky—unable to escape in time, they were crushed instantly, turned into nothing but pools of blood and flesh!

"Get over here!"

Zhang Yi shouted to everyone.

To take down Yuan Kongye, they needed to pool their strength. If everyone else was eliminated, Zhang Yi alone wouldn't be able to stop her. He had to protect as many people as possible.

Seeing how easily Zhang Yi blocked the stone rain with his Dimensional Gate, the others immediately rushed toward him.

Once, they had gritted their teeth in hatred for Zhang Yi's spatial abilities when they were enemies.

But now that they were allies, his power gave them an incredible sense of security.

Everyone quickly gathered behind him.

Zhang Yi spread open his massive Dimensional Gate above them like an umbrella, ensuring not a single "raindrop"—or rather, the crushing boulders—could reach them.

Unfortunately, not everyone had a way to escape.

The ordinary members and superhumans of the Followers of the Snow God had nowhere to run.

At first, when they saw Yuan Kongye's divine power, they had all knelt in worship, their hearts filled with joy.

But her attack didn't discriminate—it included them too.

Defenseless, they were wiped out in an instant!

"You may return as well," Yuan Kongye said flatly.

The remaining superhumans of the Followers of the Snow God no longer served any purpose.

It was better to let them "return" to the divine kingdom, where their power would merge with Yuan Kongye herself.

Zheng Yixian was dead. Yuan Kongye had to win this battle.

Only then could they create a world free of filth.

Han Chang and his two companions had already sensed something was wrong and had kept their distance.

But now, witnessing Yuan Kongye slaughter all her own followers, their faith completely shattered!

“How could this be?! Why would the Holy Leader kill her devout followers?!”

Ye Chunhua cried out in despair.

Han Chang gritted his teeth, grabbed his two companions, and quickly retreated to avoid the falling boulders.

“So Zhang Yi was right all along... She’s no savior—she’s a demon, a lunatic!”

Yuan Kongye noticed them, but her gaze was as frigid as the coldest snow.

Fortunately, she was focused on Zhang Yi and the others, making no move to eliminate Han Chang’s group.

Otherwise, with her current power, she could have killed them with a mere flick of her finger.

Yuan Kongye looked down at Zhang Yi and murmured, “I really want your spatial power.”

Like a deity, she slowly raised her hand and pointed at them.

On the ground, the boulders that had already fallen began to tremble violently, then shot back into the air, swirling into a massive storm of flying rocks around Zhang Yi’s group!

They were now completely surrounded.

Zhang Yi's eyes narrowed. His Dimensional Gate could only open in two locations at a time—there was no way he could defend against attacks from all directions.

Yuan Kongye's telekinetic control was far beyond Zheng Yixian's—on an entirely different level.

But the others didn't just stand there.

Xing Tian activated his ability—Xing Tian Legion.

This power boosted everyone's combat capabilities.

These were already the strongest remaining superhumans in Tianhai City. With the enhancement, their strength skyrocketed.

“Flame Dragon’s Breath!”

“Blizzard Storm!”

Xiao Honglian and Wei Dinghai attacked at the same time, fire and ice colliding against the swirling boulders, trying to break the encirclement.

Meanwhile, Qi Guangming of the investigation team raised his black sniper rifle and locked onto Yuan Kongye.

“Take out the leader, and the battle ends.”

Fighting the storm of rocks was pointless—only killing Yuan Kongye would bring this to an end.

A streak of black light shot from his rifle.

Yuan Kongye's cold eyes showed no concern.

But a moment later, her brow furrowed slightly.

The bullet actually pierced through her telekinetic barrier!

However, before it could hit her, it stopped less than a meter away.

Qi Guangming frowned even deeper. "She has too many abilities—it's impossible to counter them all."

Zhang Yi glanced at him with curiosity. "What kind of bullet are you using? How did it break through her telekinetic shield?"

He clearly remembered that Wu Di's countless floating cannons hadn't even scratched the barrier.

Qi Guangming gave him a look. "Origin Bullets. Specially designed to deal with mutated beings."

Mutated beings—including superhumans.

Zhang Yi sighed inwardly. Jiangnan District truly lived up to its reputation.

The apocalypse had barely lasted six months, yet they had already developed bullets specifically for countering superhumans.

But thinking it over, it made sense—this type of ammunition wouldn't affect him.

His Dimensional Gate wasn't technically a defensive ability—it was a portal to another dimension.

The Origin Bullet was likely designed to counter superhumans who relied on energy-based defenses, such as Enhancement Types, Beast Types, or those with psychic barriers like Yuan Kongye.

Before Zhang Yi could think further, Baili Changqing's voice snapped him back to reality.

"We can't keep letting her control the pace. From now on, everyone follows my command!"

He fixed his gaze on Yuan Kongye, his expression sharper than ever.

"No matter how strong her abilities are, she's still just a young girl. Her combat experience is lacking."

"That means... she'll eventually reveal a weakness!"

Chapter 535: The Final Battle (Part 1)

Baili Changqing swiftly formulated a battle plan.

He had discovered Yuan Kongye's weakness—she couldn't multitask.

When Qi Guangming had attacked her with the Origin Bullet, her telekinetic control had noticeably weakened. Even the swirling storm of boulders had slowed down.

"You guys keep attacking from a distance. Qi Guangming, use the Origin Bullets to disrupt her movements!"

"I'll take the lead in the assault."

"As for the finishing blow—"

Baili Changqing glanced at Zhang Yi.

From the beginning, Zhang Yi hadn't attacked even once.

But Baili Changqing knew he was holding back a powerful trump card—Divine Power!

Though it didn't have a large attack radius, in terms of sheer force, it was no less devastating than Bian Junwu's Annihilation.

“We'll create an opening for you to land a fatal strike on Yuan Kongye!”

Baili Changqing grinned. “I'll keep her occupied. If necessary, you can kill me along with her!”

Zhang Yi, Xiao Honglian, and the others stiffened at his words.

Baili Changqing was willing to sacrifice himself just to take down Yuan Kongye.

Yet, the rest of the investigation team remained unfazed.

They had long accepted the reality of risking their lives for a mission.

It wasn't that they didn't fear death, but sometimes, a necessary sacrifice was the only way to prevent even greater losses.

Like today—if they couldn't kill Yuan Kongye, none of them would make it out alive.

Zhang Yi nodded. “Alright.”

Baili Changqing had chosen to bear the greatest risk alone.

After all, in terms of close combat, no one present could match his level.

“Alright, let’s begin!”

With a loud command, Baili Changqing kicked off the attack.

Xiao Honglian and the others unleashed a barrage of powerful abilities at Yuan Kongye.

Qi Guangming raised his gun and fired another Origin Bullet.

Yuan Kongye knew she couldn’t underestimate that black bullet.

Her brows furrowed slightly as she raised her hand, summoning a massive wall of ice in front of her!

While Origin Bullets were highly effective against superhumans, their physical attack power wasn’t particularly strong.

The ice wall stopped the bullet in its tracks.

With a flick of her right hand, Yuan Kongye extinguished all incoming attacks as if dousing flames with a flood of water.

At that exact moment, Baili Changqing sprang into action!

Like a black lightning bolt, he shot up from the ground, launching a silent yet thunderous assault on Yuan Kongye’s back.

His knight’s lance carried immense force as it thrust forward!

Yuan Kongye’s eyes narrowed.

She didn't turn around, but she felt Baili Changqing's attack approaching.

"Buzz!"

A telekinetic barrier rippled into existence behind her.

Yet, Baili Changqing's knight's lance forcefully pierced half a meter through the shield, stopping just 30 centimeters from her back!

He gritted his teeth, gripping his lance tightly.

But in mid-air, he couldn't exert more force—his one chance had failed.

At that instant, Zhang Yi struck!

The momentary distraction created by the others was the perfect opening for his Divine Power!

A dazzling white light flickered in his pupils, locking onto Yuan Kongye in the air—and Baili Changqing, who was right behind her!

In high-level combat, life and death were decided in mere instants.

That brief moment of distraction was all Zhang Yi needed to activate his ability.

A terrifying force distorted the very fabric of space between them, and for the first time, a look of shock appeared in Yuan Kongye's eyes!

Between Zhang Yi and Yuan Kongye, the air twisted and warped unnaturally—like a wet cloth being wrung from both ends.

Then, in the next moment, Yuan Kongye's pupils flashed with brilliant white light.

A radiant sphere of light enveloped the battlefield, warping even the rays of light passing through it.

Moments later, the dazzling glow faded.

Everything fell silent.

Below the suspended light sphere, the ground had transformed—a perfectly smooth, bowl-shaped crater marred the landscape, as if molten metal had been seared away.

"BOOM!!"

A figure plummeted from the sky like a shooting star.

Baili Changqing, clad in black combat gear, slammed into the earth with immense force.

Even his steel-like body couldn't endure it—blood trickled from the corner of his mouth.

"Cough... The Captain's Annihilation... she mastered it this quickly?"

Baili Changqing muttered, his expression dark with disbelief.

That power... he knew it too well.

It was none other than Bian Junwu's pupil technique—Annihilation!

"She even absorbed Bian Junwu's ability?!"

Xiao Honglian was stunned.

They had witnessed Bian Junwu's terrifying strength firsthand.

With that power alone, he had obliterated hundreds of thousands of zombies single-handedly.

Now, Yuan Kongye had inherited his ability.

How the hell were they supposed to fight her now?

Baili Changqing struggled to his feet, his voice resolute.

"No! She's not the Captain! She only just acquired this power—she hasn't mastered it yet. We can still beat her!"

He was certain.

If Bian Junwu had used Annihilation, Baili Changqing wouldn't be standing right now.

But Yuan Kongye's gaze never left Zhang Yi.

The appearance of Divine Power made her feel... pressure.

That power could actually threaten her.

Zhang Yi, however, casually pulled out a meat bun and stuffed it into his mouth.

Divine Power consumed too much energy—he had to replenish his strength immediately.

Fortunately, as a spatial-type ability user, he excelled at drawn-out battles.

Yet no one noticed—Yuan Kongye's eyes had turned murderous.

At first, she hadn't taken them seriously.

With her overwhelming power, she had considered herself close to a god, and these weak mortals couldn't possibly touch her.

But Zhang Yi's Divine Power had made her feel fear—however small, it was real.

And that fear enraged her.

She no longer wanted to toy with them.

She wanted to kill them all immediately.

A colossal storm began whirling around her!

A black tornado roared to life, sweeping up debris, ice, and everything around it, twisting into a towering cyclone!

Then, the massive tornado hurtled toward them!

“RUN!”

The raging winds threatened to pull them in, the ground beneath them growing unstable.

They stumbled backward, desperately trying to escape the storm's core.

Because once inside, there would be no way out—only death.

But just when they thought they had retreated to safety—

A violent snowstorm surged from the ground, swallowing them whole!

Wind, ice, boulders—all of Yuan Kongye's terrifying abilities fused into one.

For a moment, they were completely powerless.

Their superhuman abilities were strong—but against a force of this magnitude?

It was an entirely different level.

Once a superhuman reached LV5 Epsilon, the highest known power tier for humans, they transcended lower-level superhumans.

Across all of China, only one legendary Epsilon-level superhuman existed.

Counting Bian Junwu, who had briefly burned his life force to reach that level—

Yuan Kongye was now the third!

And unlike the others—she was an Epsilon without any weaknesses.

Chapter 536: The Final Battle (Part 2)

Against Yuan Kongye's overwhelming power, everyone struggled desperately to hold their ground.

Even Zhang Yi's Dimensional Gate couldn't shield everyone.

However, this near-invincible ability, capable of blocking all physical attacks, at least ensured the safety of himself, Hua Hua, Liang Yue, and a few others.

"How the hell are we supposed to fight this?! She has too many abilities—we can't even find a weakness!"

"Boss, let's run!" Fatty Xu suggested.

"Run? Run where?"

Zhang Yi coldly stared at Yuan Kongye at the center of the storm.

"You think we can still escape at this point?"

If he were alone, escaping wouldn't be an issue.

But with others to protect? Impossible.

He could react quickly enough for spatial teleportation, but they couldn't.

Even the slightest delay would slow them down, and Yuan Kongye would catch them in an instant.

"There's only one option—fight! If we win, Tianhai City will finally know peace!"

“If we lose... well, we’ll worry about that then!”

Zhang Yi locked his gaze on Yuan Kongye, his Divine Power gathering in his right eye.

Sensing the energy, Yuan Kongye’s figure suddenly became illusory, as if countless afterimages overlapped, making it impossible for Zhang Yi to lock onto her position.

But numbers were their advantage.

As Baili Changqing had pointed out, Yuan Kongye lacked combat experience.

Even with her overwhelming power, she had gaps.

Now that Zhang Yi’s Divine Power forced her to stay cautious, she couldn’t fully focus on the others—leaving her open to side attacks.

Xing Tian amplified his ability to its maximum, boosting everyone’s power.

Qi Guangming raised his sniper rifle, his Origin Bullet aimed at Yuan Kongye’s head, forcing her to feel a sliver of pressure.

She wasn’t afraid of Qi Guangming, but taking a hit from the Origin Bullet was something she preferred to avoid.

Baili Changqing, gripping his knight’s lance, searched carefully for a killing strike opportunity.

Despite his monstrous defense, if he took another direct hit from Annihilation, he might not survive.

“You dare to resist me? You think you even have a chance?”

Yuan Kongye's cold voice echoed from above.

With a wave of her hands, an even more terrifying storm surged outward, aimed directly at Zhang Yi and Qi Guangming!

Zhang Yi sensed it immediately and activated his Dimensional Gate, teleporting everyone away just in time.

The instant they vanished, their previous position was obliterated by a hailstorm of debris!

But Qi Guangming wasn't as lucky.

Unlike Zhang Yi, he had no way to teleport away.

Yuan Kongye's power engulfed him from every direction.

Above him, a towering black cyclone over a hundred meters high loomed, sealing off all escape routes!

He was trapped.

Like a god toying with a mortal, Yuan Kongye played with his life at will.

“BREAK!”

Just as Qi Guangming felt utterly helpless, a familiar voice roared from beside him.

A massive knight's lance tore through the storm, ripping open a gap!

Baili Changqing, clad in black combat gear, charged into the storm.

He grabbed Qi Guangming, tucked him under one arm, and sprinted through the chaos!

“Oh? Impressive defense.”

Yuan Kongye smirked.

She recognized him—the vice-captain of the investigation team, a top-tier enhancement-type superhuman.

“But how long can you withstand my attacks?”

Within a three-kilometer radius, everything was under her control.

Her energy felt limitless, her attacks relentless.

“Divine Power!”

Zhang Yi struck again!

Yuan Kongye, entirely focused on him, immediately countered with Annihilation.

He was the greatest threat—the only one with an ability capable of instantly killing her!

Two blinding forces clashed in midair, erupting into a surge of energy before canceling each other out.

Zhang Yi took a deep breath and spoke rapidly to Liang Yue and the others.

“Get out of here! This fight is already beyond your level!”

Against a superhuman of Yuan Kongye's caliber, sheer numbers meant nothing.

At this stage, only a few of them could truly affect the battle.

The rest were just easy targets, liabilities that distracted the team.

Zhang Yi ordered Hua Hua to evacuate the others immediately.

Even Liang Yue—one of the best close-combatants—wouldn't be able to contribute much at this point.

“But—”

Liang Yue tried to argue, but the look in Zhang Yi's eyes made her stop.

There was no time for debate.

His expression was cold, terrifyingly serious—there was no room for negotiation.

Liang Yue felt a chill from his stare.

But she quickly understood.

Her presence wouldn't help Zhang Yi—it might even interfere with his spatial movement.

“...Alright, we're leaving!”

She jumped onto Hua Hua's back.

Uncle You and Fatty Xu glanced at Zhang Yi.

“Be careful!”

Then, the three of them, along with Hua Hua, fled into the distance.

The Final Team Remains

At the center of the battlefield, only Xiao Honglian, Wei Dinghai, Xing Tian, and a few elite members of the investigation team remained.

Yuan Kongye, suspended in midair, looked down upon them all.

With her telekinetic abilities, she controlled the battlefield from above, making direct combat nearly impossible.

Because of this, all enhancement-types—except Baili Changqing—moved to the backlines, providing support and protection for the attackers.

Meanwhile, support-type superhumans like Meng Siyu and Ye Jikang completely retreated from the battlefield.

Wu Di’s eyes burned with hatred.

Surrounded by his floating cannons, he unleashed a barrage of energy blasts, hammering toward Yuan Kongye like a violent thunderstorm!

At the same time, Xing Tian’s buff-enhancing abilities empowered the entire team.

Wei Dinghai’s Blizzard Storm and Xiao Honglian’s Flaming Dragon Strike poured down destruction, trying to divide Yuan Kongye’s attention.

But everyone knew the truth.

To defeat Yuan Kongye, Zhang Yi was the key.

Because only his ability could truly threaten her.

Even Wu Di, who always looked down on Zhang Yi, put aside his personal feelings.

Like a true investigation team elite, he gave his all to create the perfect attack opportunity for Zhang Yi.

Yuan Kongye's Growing Frustration

Despite facing over a dozen superhumans, Yuan Kongye felt irritated.

Their attacks were meaningless to her.

But she had to constantly guard against Zhang Yi.

Even the slightest gap in her defenses, even a single moment of carelessness, could allow his Divine Power to fatally wound her.

Chapter 537: The Final Battle (Part 3)

"You're all doomed to die anyway, so why keep struggling?"

"Enough. I've lost my patience with this little game of yours!"

Yuan Kongye's cold voice echoed from above. She despised anything that fell outside her control.

A piercing white light burst forth from her pupils, radiating with overwhelming brilliance. Suspended in the sky like a sun, she unleashed a wave of holy light in all directions.

The power of annihilation surged to its peak—so devastating that it reminded everyone of the legendary moment when Bian Junwu single-handedly slaughtered hundreds of thousands of zombies.

Baili Changqing and the others turned pale.

Because they could feel it—this attack was already on Bian Junwu's level!

"Run! Get as far away as possible!"

Baili Changqing grabbed Qi Guangming with one hand and Wu Di with the other, turning into a blur as he dashed toward Zhang Yi. The others followed suit, knowing their only hope was to rely on Zhang Yi's Dimensional Gate to withstand the attack.

Zhang Yi spread his right hand wide, expanding the Dimensional Gate to its maximum size. A massive gateway, towering like the Heavenly South Gate, materialized before them.

Meanwhile, Wei Dinghai activated his Frost Armor to its fullest extent, covering himself in a thick, towering layer of ice like a walking fortress.

But when the Light of Annihilation swept across the battlefield, his armor crumbled like paper.

Instinctively, Wei Dinghai raised his right arm in defense, only to watch in horror as it disintegrated on impact.

In the final moment, he dove into the Dimensional Gate's protective range, barely escaping with his life.

The blinding white light faded.

Zhang Yi exhaled deeply—his Dimensional Gate had successfully blocked Yuan Kongye's attack. Since this kind of wide-area destruction couldn't be concentrated into a singular point like his Divine Power, it wasn't enough to breach his defense.

However, that single attack had nearly wiped out all the remaining Superhumans.

Only a handful of faction leaders and a few members of the Investigation Team had survived.

But there was no time for grief—none of them knew if they could even make it out alive.

Despair began to take hold.

They had given it their all, yet they hadn't even managed to scratch Yuan Kongye. Instead, their own ranks had been decimated.

How were they supposed to fight now?

Just wait for death?

Was an Epsilon-level Superhuman truly invincible?

Wei Dinghai sealed his wound with ice. Fortunately, he wasn't a melee fighter, so even losing an arm didn't render him useless in battle.

Yuan Kongye hovered above them, bathed in a sacred, radiant glow.

"Zhang Yi, your power is impressive."

"But I've absorbed the abilities of thirty-six people—including Bian Junwu. Tell me, how do you plan to fight me now?"

She smiled, extending a finger toward Zhang Yi.

"I'd love to have your power as well."

Zhang Yi's eyes darkened with caution.

He took a deep breath and spoke firmly, "This is it, everyone. Give it everything you've got! If you have any trump cards left, use them now—or we're all dead!"

Wu Di gritted his teeth and shouted, "You think we don't already know that?!"

There was something else he didn't say.

Even if they went all out... could they actually win?

As a member of the Investigation Team, he didn't want to voice such demoralizing thoughts—but deep down, he couldn't help thinking them.

"Fighting gives us a slim chance. Giving up means certain death!" Zhang Yi declared.

Yuan Kongye wasn't about to let them finish their conversation.

A new wave of attacks came crashing down.

This time, the assault came from beneath them.

The ground beneath their feet exploded, and hundreds of frost-covered thorned vines shot up, aiming straight at them.

This was the power of Priestess Dai Mei from the Followers of the Snow God.

In life, she had only been a minor Control-type Superhuman, capable of growing thorned vines from her body as a weapon.

In death, she hadn't even left behind a corpse—devoured completely in the earlier zombie battle.

But now, in Yuan Kongye's hands, her power had become something truly terrifying.

The ambush caught them off guard. Zhang Yi immediately activated Spatial Shift, teleporting away.

The others scrambled to defend themselves, desperately blocking the steel-hard, razor-sharp vines, even as they stumbled and fell amidst the shattered terrain.

Maybe it was Zhang Yi's words that reignited their fighting spirit.

Maybe it was the desperation of warriors with their backs against the wall.

But at last, these once-dominant Superhumans finally began fighting for their lives.

Wu Di clenched his jaw. Suddenly, an overwhelming surge of Mental Energy erupted from him, so powerful it sent his hair shooting skyward.

In an instant, his black hair turned pure white, and his body became enveloped in an intense psychic aura, lifting him into the air.

Baili Changqing, Qi Guangming, and the members of the Investigation Team, hiding behind a building, watched with pained expressions.

Wu Di's Floating Cannon consumed Mental Energy.

Overusing this power would burn away his lifespan.

And right now, he was throwing caution to the wind—burning through his very life force.

For a brief moment, he had stepped into the realm of an Epsilon-level Superhuman.

His transformation drew Yuan Kongye's attention.

She frowned—another nuisance.

"Hahahahahaha!!!"

Wu Di let out a crazed laugh.

He knew exactly what he was doing. But there was no other choice.

Bian Junwu had sacrificed himself for the team.

So could he.

"Die, you wretched b***h!"

Countless orbs of light formed around Wu Di, and with a sweep of his right hand, they shot toward Yuan Kongye like a tidal wave.

This attack was on a completely different level from before—several times stronger!

Raising both hands, Wu Di conjured a massive sphere of Mental Energy, nearly a meter in diameter, and hurled it straight at Yuan Kongye.

The others didn't stand idly by. They attacked from every direction, coordinating their assault.

Zhang Yi even slipped behind Yuan Kongye, activating Divine Power and locking onto her.

Yuan Kongye's expression finally changed.

For the first time, she sensed true danger.

"Annihilation!"

Once again, the terrifying Light of Annihilation erupted from her body, engulfing the battlefield.

Zhang Yi and Wu Di unleashed their most powerful attacks in response.

The sheer force of their clash sent multicolored ripples through the air, and everything in the vicinity began to disintegrate into nothingness.

When the exchange ended, Yuan Kongye finally showed a hint of exhaustion.

She had countless abilities—but her energy wasn't infinite.

Facing simultaneous attacks from two top-tier Superhumans, even she couldn't remain completely unscathed.

But the cost was devastating.

Wu Di's body deteriorated rapidly—his face aging before their eyes, his gaze dimming.

A moment later, like a fallen aircraft, he plummeted toward the ground.

Baili Changqing rushed forward and caught him just in time.

Meanwhile, Zhang Yi stuffed Superhuman Energy Food into his mouth as he fought.

He wasn't afraid of a battle of attrition.

Even after unleashing Divine Power multiple times, his energy could still be replenished.

Chapter 538: The Final Battle (Part 4)

Zhang Yi and Wu Di's combined attack had finally forced Yuan Kongye to show a trace of fatigue.

But the situation was far from optimistic.

Aside from Zhang Yi, everyone else had suffered injuries of varying severity.

Wu Di was completely spent, unable to fight any longer.

Xiao Honglian coughed up a mouthful of blood—despite wearing battle armor forged in the Infernal Furnace, she still couldn't withstand the residual force of Annihilation.

Wei Dinghai had lost an arm and was barely holding on.

The only ones still standing were Zhang Yi and Baili Changqing.

But how could the two of them possibly defeat the near-invincible Yuan Kongye?

Despair. Absolute despair.

A High-Level Superhuman could crush lower-ranked ones with ease.

If not for Bian Junwu's death, Baili Changqing would have even considered recruiting her into the Jiangnan District.

But he couldn't.

Because that would be a betrayal of his fallen brother.

"Why do you still struggle? All you're doing is prolonging your suffering."

"Wouldn't it be better to let me end this quickly and grant you release?"

Yuan Kongye's voice echoed like that of a deity.

She could see that none of them posed a threat to her anymore.

Even Zhang Yi—despite his strange abilities—couldn't break through her Annihilation.

She was reveling in this overwhelming power.

The power to control everything.

The power to destroy everything.

Outside the battlefield, some of the Investigation Team members couldn't bear to watch any longer.

Their abilities weren't suited for fighting Yuan Kongye, but they couldn't just stand by and watch their comrades die.

Only Liang Yue and a few others remained hidden behind a boulder, watching Zhang Yi with unwavering trust.

Liang Yue muttered, "Zhang Yi, the guy most afraid of dying, wouldn't play hero unless he had a plan. He has to have something up his sleeve."

And sure enough—at that moment, Zhang Yi finally spoke.

He sighed lightly and said to Baili Changqing and the others, "Alright, looks like this is as far as you guys can go."

"You've accomplished a little less than I expected, but it should be enough."

His words left everyone stunned.

Yes, they acknowledged that Zhang Yi's Divine Power had been effective against Yuan Kongye.

But in their minds, Zhang Yi's greatest strength was his defense, not his offense.

If this had been a one-on-one fight, he wouldn't have lasted five seconds.

So why the sudden shift in attitude?

Zhang Yi waved his hand dismissively, his gaze never leaving Yuan Kongye for even a second.

"Leave. From this moment on, this battlefield belongs to me."

Everything had unfolded exactly as Zhang Yi had planned from the start.

The others were never meant to defeat Yuan Kongye.

Their role had always been to wear her down.

Baili Changqing stared at Zhang Yi in shock. "Zhang Yi... you're not joking, right?"

"Do I look like I'm joking?" Zhang Yi replied calmly.

Of course not.

No one would joke about something like this.

And Zhang Yi wasn't the type to nobly sacrifice himself for others.

If he said he could handle this, they had no choice but to believe him.

"Then we'll leave it to you!"

Xiao Honglian and Wei Dinghai, despite their heavy injuries, didn't hesitate. They turned and ran without looking back.

Xing Tian hesitated, then gritted his teeth. "Zhang Yi, we're putting all our hope in you!"

He poured the last of his Superhuman Energy into Zhang Yi, strengthening his body, sharpening his reflexes, and heightening all his senses.

Yuan Kongye didn't stop them from leaving.

If she wanted to, no one in Tianhai City could escape her grasp.

She was simply curious—what was Zhang Yi planning?

Baili Changqing carried the near-lifeless Wu Di to safety but then returned to the battlefield.

He was wounded, but still able to fight—so he wouldn't run.

Zhang Yi saw this and didn't stop him.

If Baili Changqing wanted to fight, he was free to do so.

Not that Zhang Yi expected him to make much of a difference.

Baili Changqing suddenly tossed something to Zhang Yi.

A sleek, black handgun.

Zhang Yi recognized it immediately—it was their fallen captain Bian Junwu's pistol.

He frowned. "A gun?"

Baili Changqing nodded. "There are about twenty Origin Rounds left inside."

Zhang Yi's eyes flickered with interest.

Origin Rounds—bullets specifically designed to kill Superhumans.

Even Yuan Kongye wouldn't be completely immune to them.

"Alright. I'll take it."

Zhang Yi looked up at Yuan Kongye, eyes narrowing.

"This needs to end, don't you think?"

Yuan Kongye's lips curled into a smirk as she floated in the air, bathed in radiant light.

"And what gives you that confidence?"

"Zhang Yi, you know nothing about true power. I haven't even gone all out yet."

She spread her arms wide, and an overwhelming storm of Superhuman Energy erupted around her.

"I'm finally adapting to all the abilities I've absorbed!"

"Don't worry, once I kill you, I'll take your power too!"

A terrifying energy storm surged outward from Yuan Kongye's body.

The ground beneath Zhang Yi and Baili Changqing shattered, with massive chunks of debris rising into the air.

Baili Changqing leapt between the floating stones, using his agility to close in on Yuan Kongye.

But her gaze turned sharp.

With a flick of her left hand, an invisible force blasted Baili Changqing away like a ragdoll.

Even the strongest Enhancement-Type Superhuman was helpless mid-air.

Zhang Yi ignored the battle behind him.

As the battlefield trembled, he teleported, instantly appearing directly in front of Yuan Kongye.

His Dimensional Gate wasn't affected by external forces.

As long as he controlled its vector, he could teleport anywhere within 300 meters—even float mid-air.

Yuan Kongye swept her right hand forward, summoning a massive black tornado, stretching thousands of meters like a sword of Damocles, plunging straight toward Zhang Yi.

But Zhang Yi didn't dodge.

Standing atop a ruined building, he simply raised his right hand.

The black tornado vanished into his Dimensional Gate.

A moment later, a second Dimensional Gate opened to Yuan Kongye's right—sending her own attack right back at her!

With just a glance, she shattered the tornado into nothingness.

"So, Dimensional Gate, huh? Let's see if you can handle this!"

With a cold smile, Yuan Kongye raised her hands.

Hundreds of hurricane lances, formed from condensed storm energy, appeared around Zhang Yi from every direction.

In the next instant, they all shot toward him at once!

Chapter 539: The Final Battle (Part 5)

"BOOM!!!"

Hurricanes raged across the battlefield, tearing the already shattered ground apart.

Yet, in the very next moment, Zhang Yi reappeared somewhere else—completely unharmed. His expression remained as calm as ever.

From afar, Baili Changqing, Xiao Honglian, and the others watched in shock.

Xiao Honglian muttered in disbelief, "So all this time... he never actually showed us his real strength."

Only Liang Yue and a few others truly understood just how terrifying Zhang Yi's survival abilities were.

His Dimensional Gate was already absurdly powerful, but now, with the addition of Spatial Shift, he had become virtually immune to all physical attacks.

Yuan Kongye's eyes flashed with surprise upon seeing Zhang Yi unscathed.

But soon, her lips curled into a cold, mocking smile.

"Is running all you can do?"

She despised Zhang Yi's abilities but wasn't afraid of him.

They had gathered intelligence on every Superhuman in Tianhai City—including Zhang Yi.

Their conclusion?

Unbreakable defense. Insufficient attack power.

Even with Divine Power, Zhang Yi's only real offensive ability, the energy consumption was enormous, and its activation had a clear delay.

Unless he could land a perfect sneak attack, he had no chance of harming her in a direct confrontation.

Yuan Kongye believed she was unbeatable.

And Zhang Yi... believed the exact same thing about himself.

The sharpest spear versus the strongest shield—which would prevail?

From the sidelines, the spectators were filled with anxiety, but all they could do was pray for Zhang Yi.

"If you've got the guts, come and kill me!"

Zhang Yi sneered and made a taunting gesture.

What followed, naturally, was an even more ferocious assault!

His figure flickered through the air, spatial shifting endlessly. His evasion capabilities were unmatched.

Yuan Kongye couldn't lock onto him, and her physical attacks were swallowed by his Dimensional Gate.

Left with no choice, she expanded her attack range, attempting to trap him within her domain.

But she hadn't expected Zhang Yi to reveal yet another ability.

The Dimensional Gate was massive and incredibly strong, but its weakness was its stationary nature and one-directional defense.

So Zhang Yi had modified it.

He had developed a more flexible defense—Dimensional Shield!

By compressing two Dimensional Gates into the size of a shield, he could now wield them with his hands.

Although the area covered was smaller, it allowed for omnidirectional protection, making his defense far more adaptable.

And since he didn't need his hands to attack, it was the perfect complement to his Divine Power.

The battlefield stretched all the way to the ruined outskirts of the Followers of the Snow God's territory. Even the roads had been obliterated.

With virtually no blind spots in his defense, Zhang Yi absorbed and reflected every one of Yuan Kongye's attacks.

But he wasn't just taking hits.

The moment he spotted an opening, he counterattacked with Divine Power!

Yuan Kongye dreaded the force of Divine Power, forcing her to respond with Annihilation every time Zhang Yi launched an attack.

Their battle consumed everything within a ten-kilometer radius.

Spherical energy distortions floated in midair—anything caught within them was completely erased from existence.

Logically, Zhang Yi's combat strength should've been far inferior to Yuan Kongye's.

But thanks to the power enhancement from Xing Tian's Legion, combined with his stockpile of Superhuman Energy Food, he could sustain himself.

While fighting, he ate continuously, replenishing his stamina and energy.

Without this strategy, he wouldn't have lasted more than five uses of Divine Power before collapsing from exhaustion.

Yet even with all that, Zhang Yi wasn't the terrifying one here.

Yuan Kongye was.

Even after such a prolonged battle, her energy remained as boundless as an ocean.

Zhang Yi had finally experienced what Level 5 power truly felt like.

And this was with Yuan Kongye lacking combat experience.

As for the others, they could do nothing but watch—and occasionally cheer in awe.

Even Baili Changqing eventually gave up trying to join the fight.

To him, this battle was on an entirely different level. If he stepped in, he'd be nothing more than a burden.

And so, everyone's perception of Zhang Yi shifted.

At first, they thought he had no chance.

Now, they were completely stunned.

"That defense is insane!"

"Good thing we never fought Zhang Yi for real... or we'd be the ones getting wiped out right now."

Both Xiao Honglian and Wei Dinghai had the same thought.

"But... he can't just keep stalling forever!"

Meng Siyu's expression was grim.

"The energy reserves of different Superhuman levels are vastly different."

"Especially once someone reaches Level 5—they become an entirely different entity."

"Zhang Yi's attacks aren't hurting her. He's just buying time. But he can't win."

"If Yuan Kongye gets tired of this, she can just ignore him and kill the rest of us first."

Everyone's hearts sank.

Meng Siyu was right.

Zhang Yi's defense was strong enough to keep Yuan Kongye from killing him instantly.

But if she decided to leave, he couldn't stop her.

With Telekinesis, she could fly almost as fast as he could teleport.

If she abandoned this fight to slaughter the others, Zhang Yi wouldn't be able to protect them all.

"Our only option is to trust Zhang Yi."

Baili Changqing crossed his arms and spoke in a deep voice.

"If Yuan Kongye really wants to kill us, there's no way we can escape from an Epsilon-level Superhuman."

They had even heard rumors about China's first Epsilon, a mysterious powerhouse from the Shengjing District.

It was said that he could kill people from thousands of kilometers away.

Against power of that magnitude, there was no running.

Unless Zhang Yi could defeat Yuan Kongye, or at least drain her enough that she couldn't pursue them, their survival was meaningless.

And so, the battle raged on.

Zhang Yi and Yuan Kongye had been fighting for over ten minutes now.

For the first time, Yuan Kongye's expression showed impatience.

She had used dozens of techniques against Zhang Yi.

But his Dimensional Shield and Spatial Shift were utterly broken.

She couldn't hit him.

She couldn't grab him.

For someone who considered herself a god, this was infuriating.

Her attacks became more ruthless.

"Annihilation!"

"Divine Power!"

Another clash of ultimate abilities!

The collision of energies painted the sky in kaleidoscopic hues.

A nearby skyscraper was caught in the blast—its entire midsection melted into a perfect sphere before the building collapsed in ruin.

Chapter 540: The Final Battle (Part 6)

Yuan Kongye had been attacking Zhang Yi for a long time without success, and frustration was starting to creep in.

At this moment, she couldn't help but miss Zheng Yixian's presence. Back then, all she had to do was act as the symbol of the Followers of the Snow God, spending her days in worship.

"Zheng Yixian, if you were still here, you'd definitely know how to deal with this mess, right?"

She sighed inwardly.

Then, a sudden flash of insight struck her.

In her impatience, she had allowed herself to be entangled by Zhang Yi. But what would Zheng Yixian do in this situation?

Enlightened, Yuan Kongye abruptly abandoned her attack on Zhang Yi and flew off toward Uncle You and the others.

Force him to protect them!

That was the way to make Zhang Yi reveal an opening!

"You're finally learning?" Zhang Yi's eyes glinted, but the corner of his mouth curled into a mocking smirk.

Yuan Kongye soon realized that Uncle You and his group were nowhere to be found.

This was all part of Zhang Yi's plan.

Uncle You and the others had fled long ago, and since she had been preoccupied fighting Zhang Yi, she hadn't noticed.

Only Xiao Honglian and a few others were still nearby. Seeing Yuan Kongye charging at them, their faces turned pale with fear.

Yuan Kongye shot Zhang Yi a furious glare.

Zhang Yi, on the other hand, looked completely indifferent.

There was no way he would risk his life to save them. If Yuan Kongye wanted to kill them, she was welcome to try.

But if she chose to attack Baili Changqing, Xiao Honglian, and the others, she'd expose her back to Zhang Yi.

And that would be the perfect opportunity for him to strike!

"Damn it!"

The composure vanished from Yuan Kongye's face.

Even though she possessed overwhelming strength, she was powerless against his ridiculous level of defense.

Zhang Yi was like a seasoned Black Tortoise—his entire body shielded by an impenetrable shell. No matter how hard she hit, she couldn't break through.

And if she ever showed a weakness, the snake hiding within that shell would strike viciously.

Yuan Kongye forced herself to calm down.

She lacked combat experience, but through this battle, she was learning quickly.

She had figured out the limitations of Zhang Yi's defenses.

First, his range was restricted.

His spatial movement was limited to a 300-meter radius.

His Dimensional Shield only covered the space immediately around him.

So, to defeat him, she needed a large-scale attack with immense power!

She had tried this before, but without much success.

But then, a new idea struck her.

Her eyes glowed red, her hair lifted in an unseen wind, and waves of fire erupted from her body, transforming into hundreds of blazing dragons that surged toward Zhang Yi.

Heat couldn't be dodged!

But Zhang Yi was wearing combat gear.

His specially made suit could withstand extreme temperatures of over a thousand degrees for a short time.

He used his Dimensional Shield to block the attack in front of him.

But the next moment, the massive fire dragons veered past him and slammed into the ground!

"Hmm?"

Zhang Yi frowned.

If the attack wasn't aimed directly at him, what was her goal?

As the fire dragons crashed into the frozen ground, thick white steam erupted, filling the battlefield.

The ice and snow around them melted into dense water vapor, completely obscuring Zhang Yi's vision.

"Trying to ambush me?"

Zhang Yi immediately went on high alert. Within moments, he felt like he had been transported into a mist-filled valley—his sight was completely blocked.

The temperature was rising rapidly.

Zhang Yi attempted to leave the area, but the surrounding space had been affected by the extreme heat, and the white fog was everywhere.

He couldn't even determine his direction.

"Splash—"

The sound of rushing water reached Zhang Yi's ears.

A massive lake had formed beneath him.

Then, a strange sight unfolded before his eyes.

Countless water droplets rose into the air, surrounding him and filling the space around him.

"This is bad!"

Zhang Yi immediately realized the danger.

Even if he used spatial movement, he wouldn't be able to escape the range of these floating water droplets.

The droplets multiplied rapidly, forming a vast airborne river.

Up in the sky, Yuan Kongye exhaled a deep breath.

A white mist escaped her lips and instantly transformed into a violent blizzard.

The river of water froze in an instant, solidifying within two seconds!

The sudden drop in temperature caused the mist to condense into icy particles, which rained down.

And as the fog cleared, the battlefield revealed a breathtaking sight.

A colossal cube of ice stood in the center, spanning thousands of meters in length.

Yuan Kongye's expression showed exhaustion.

Even with her immense power, using an ability on such a massive scale had drained her significantly.

But her lips curled into a triumphant smile.

"No matter how good you are at dodging, you can't escape an attack this large!"

However—

Just as she finished speaking, a door suddenly appeared atop the massive ice block.

Zhang Yi stepped out of it, exhaling lightly before looking up at her with a grin.

"That was a clever combo move. Too bad it won't work on me!"

The Dimensional Space wasn't a livable environment. It was a vast, empty void—devoid of air or any conditions for survival.

But for short periods, entering it wouldn't kill him.

Which made it the perfect temporary shelter from attacks.

That was how Zhang Yi had avoided Yuan Kongye's ability.

Yuan Kongye was stunned.

Her expression flickered with a storm of emotions.

She had worked so hard to come up with this tactic, yet it still wasn't enough to take him down.

Her mind was starting to crack.

"Zhang Yi!! I refuse to believe I can't kill you!!"

The once serene and lofty leader of the Followers of the Snow God—the devout priestess of ice—now looked like an enraged young woman throwing a tantrum.

She was about to attack again when—

A sudden wave of dizziness hit her.

Her vision blurred.

Frowning, she rubbed her forehead, dismissing the sensation as nothing.

But Zhang Yi noticed the change instantly.

A grin spread across his face as he arrogantly curled his finger, beckoning her forward.

"Come on, if you've got the guts, kill me!"

"Oh, and by the way, that wound on Zheng Yixian's chest? That was me."

At those words, Yuan Kongye's face twisted with rage.

"Fine! Then I'll send you to hell to keep him company!"

Zhang Yi smirked, casually munching on some food as he spoke.

Superhuman energy burned through nutrients too fast—he had to keep eating to replenish it.

"Let's see how this plays out!"