

Menu 1481

Chapter 1481: Like a Shadow (part 2)

‘Old man’ said directly.

"Go to Area 30."

Jason said this.

It's not that Jason didn't trust the 'old man'. From his understanding of the 'old man', the safe house he mentioned was indeed extremely safe, but that was before.

Now?

Sensing the approaching, malicious people, Jason casually tossed aside the head of the Doberman, one of the 'Six Evil Dogs'.

The other party was not acting alone.

They were leading a group.

Like 'hounds' chasing their prey.

Both tracking and driving the prey.

When a pack of hounds races through the forest and fields, whether it's a fox or a rabbit, they will panic and flee without direction, running back to the place they thought safe, and then, completely expose themselves.

Getting completely caught.

"You and the 'old man' go to Area 30 first."

"Open the door in half an hour."

After speaking, Jason stepped back and blended into the shadows.

The 'old man', witnessing this for the first time, was shocked.

He had guessed that Jason had mastered 'extraordinary power', but seeing it was still startling.

After all, what one guesses and what is real are always different.

Lauren Delder noticed the 'old man's expression.

As he had suspected, the 'old man' was kept in the dark all along.

He was the first to know that Jason possessed 'extraordinary power'.

Thinking of this, Lauren Delder felt an inexplicable sense of superiority rising from his heart.

"Jason is a very strong person who knows how to live better in 'Nightless City'."

"He conceals himself, hiding in safe places, leading his own life."

"If it weren't for that bastard 'Jing', he surely wouldn't have exposed himself."

After opening the 'door' to Area 30, Lauren Delder led the old man straight across. As the 'door' vanished, he began to speak proactively.

Sitting idle for half an hour would be too dull.

Chatting is a good choice.

It allows mutual understanding and strengthens connections.

The 'old man' thought the same.

So, as soon as Lauren Delder finished speaking, the 'old man' immediately responded.

"Jason is very cautious in his daily life, never exposing himself at all."

The 'old man' echoed.

But in his heart, the 'old man' sighed.

He finally understood why his alarm never went off when facing Jason.

Because Jason could never have ill intentions towards him.

Jason chose to hide under his 'wings'.

Remembering the naive look when he first met Jason, and the way he seemed eager to learn, continuously practicing daily.

The 'old man' couldn't help but shake his head with a bitter smile.

"Do you know? Jason, to be a good 'postman', simulated scenarios every day on how to counterattack when attacked in the car, and for the combat classes, shooting classes too, I arranged for people to teach him. He... looked like a beginner."

"Of course he did."

"That's Jason, after all."

Lauren Delder said matter-of-factly.

In Lauren Delder's view, this was the normal state for Jason.

It's this seemingly ordinary, behind-the-scenes style that makes the current Jason.

"Jason is very strong."

"Stronger than anyone I've ever seen."

"Moreover..."

"He should have unique insights into 'extraordinary power'."

Lauren Delder suddenly lowered his voice.

The 'old man' paused.

As one of the bosses in Area 16, he knew far more than ordinary residents of 'Nightless City'.

For example, where to look for 'extraordinary power' within 'Nightless City'.

The 1-15 Districts of 'Nightless City'.

Also known as Uptown.

Only there can one find complete teachings on 'extraordinary power' and 'mysterious knowledge'.

Could it be...

A thought appeared in the 'old man's mind.

He involuntarily raised his arm, extended his forefinger, and pointed upwards.

Lauren Delder blinked.

Had a sudden realization.

No wonder Jason was so calm and strong.

He was from Uptown.

Only this could explain everything he had seen.

"Wow, Jason is actually from Uptown?"

Lauren Delder murmured to herself.

"There's a big chance."

'Old man' said.

"But why would Uptown people come to Lower City District?"

Lauren Delder couldn't help but question.

Then, when these words were spoken, the former collaborator of the 'big shot' felt embarrassed.

Especially when the old man showed an expression that said 'you're hopeless'.

"Cough, cough."

"Is Uptown in 'Nightless City' also chaotic?"

Lauren Delder asked.

"Do you really think Uptown in 'Nightless City' is the paradise as advertised?"

"While there might be no open gunfights, covert killings still exist."

"There's an organization called the 'Enforcement Team' in Uptown; they serve the 'big shots', secretly collecting the words of Uptown residents, while eliminating those who don't obey."

'Old man' spoke of some intelligence he had gathered about Uptown in 'Nightless City'.

Upon hearing this description, Lauren Delder frowned.

"Isn't this even less free than Lower City District?"

The former collaborator of the 'big shot' couldn't help but say.

"Then it depends on how you choose?"

"Relative safety?"

"Or relative freedom?"

'Old man' shrugged, then looked towards the closed 'door' and slowly said: "But I know how Jason chose."

"Indeed."

Lauren Delder nodded.

Afterwards, the two continued to chat idly.

However, as time passed, the two became increasingly distracted.

Lauren Delder silently counted time based on heartbeat and pulse.

'Old man' found it much simpler.

He had a watch.

A fully automatic mechanical watch, produced in District 1-15.

It's rumored to be hand-polished and also fetches a high price in District 1-15.

'Old man' paid a hefty price to get his hands on it.

He always carefully maintained it.

While escaping, he naturally wore it.

After all, compared to heavy gold bars, the watch is not only easier to carry but also quicker to trade at certain times.

But...

That subtle alarm sound started to ring continuously like tinnitus.

Very faint.

Not intense.

It's the kind that doesn't threaten one's life at the moment.

Initially, 'old man' thought it was danger originated within District 30 itself — regarding dangers of District 30, he heard from others, and even for curiosity, sent people to investigate.

Of course, it was not an in-depth investigation.

Just went to purchase some information.

But upon seeing those messages, the alarm in his heart emerged, and he completely gave up further investigation.

However, everything related to District 30 was etched in his memory.

To sum it up in one sentence: a post-war mutated area.

Here, countless Undead of fallen soldiers wander the battlefield.

Even...

Not just humans.

In such an environment, any kind of danger is not absurd.

So much so that the old man regarded the faint alarm.

But, as time went on, the 'old man' gradually detected something amiss.

Because, when he heard the alarm ringing in his heart, and glanced around, it would disappear.

But when he lowered his head to look at the time on the watch, the faint alarm sounded again.

The 'old man' whose not a fool suddenly his face changed.

Without any hesitation, the 'old man' took off the watch, picked up a nearby stone, and smashed it against the arm.

Crash!

With a crisp sound, the luxury item from District 1-15 shattered.

Gears and springs flew out.

The hands were bent as the dial was pounded first.

However, everything below the dial became clear.

A tiny, black thing appeared.

Lauren Delder's face changed greatly upon seeing the object smaller than a fingernail.

He gasped and said —

"A bug!"

Chapter 1482: Not Bad Luck!

After the agreed half hour, Lauren Delder opened the 'door' of Area 30.

Outside the door, Jason stood.

His aura was menacing, and the scent of blood was strong. Just standing there was enough to instill fear.

How many people did he kill?

No less than 20.

Before becoming an 'important figure' collaborator, Lauren Delder had been living off the streets, so naturally, he wasn't naive. Just a glance, and he had a rough idea.

However, Lauren Delder was not afraid.

As Jason's ally, Lauren Delder couldn't wish for Jason to be stronger.

Then, Lauren Delder stepped aside to make way.

Jason stepped in.

The recent battle was even simpler than Jason had imagined.

The team led by Doberman, one of 'Jing's six evil dogs,' was elite enough.

Facing the various forces in the Ring City of Nightless City's Lower City District, they wouldn't be at a disadvantage.

Especially since the 25 people were divided into five squads, well-trained and superbly equipped, each squad had someone with a submachine gun and grenades.

However, for someone like Jason now, these five squads really didn't pose a challenge anymore.

No special tactics.

Just purely stealth up close, then launch an assault.

In less than 5 minutes, the battle was over.

Afterwards, Jason thoroughly cleaned the battlefield.

The firearms and ammunition were all hidden in a ruin.

The food and medicine those people carried were kept on him.

"Unexpected surprise."

Jason tossed a canvas bag to the 'old man' and said with a smile.

"Yes, yes indeed."

The 'old man' nodded, with a bit of unease and embarrassment on his face.

Such an obvious expression naturally couldn't escape Jason's eyes.

"What's wrong?"

Jason asked.

The 'old man's' face immediately became even more embarrassed.

However, the 'old man' did not hide anything.

As one of the former leaders of Area 16, the 'old man' knew the consequences of hiding something at this moment.

Not only would the three of them face devastating blows.

It might even create a rift in his relationship with Jason.

The former, the 'old man' could accept.

The latter?

The 'old man' could not accept it at all.

So, the 'old man' confessed honestly.

"There is a bug in my watch — This watch, I bought it at a high price, using some connections, it's an Uptown luxury item, but I never thought there would be a bug in it."

"I never expected it to be 'Jing's' doing."

"At that time, many bosses purchased it, unwittingly stepping into the trap set by 'Jing'. Probably when organizing the meeting initially, 'Jing' purposefully brought a gold watch, precisely for this moment."

"No wonder he could lock onto me so quickly."

Saying this, the 'old man' sighed and looked up at Jason.

At this time, Jason still had no expression on his face.

This made the 'old man's' heart even more uneasy.

All the fault was his.

Any punishment, he must accept.

As for blaming 'Jing's' cunning?

The 'old man' couldn't do something like 'it's the enemy being too strong that I failed, it's not my fault.'

A failure is a failure.

Being calculated was being calculated.

No need for excuses.

"What did you talk about?"

To the 'old man's' surprise, Jason asked very calmly.

The 'old man' immediately recounted the conversation.

"Mm."

Jason nodded, turned, and left.

The 'old man' was stunned.

No punishment at all, not even a scolding?

In fact, the old man was already prepared to pay the price.

This was the awareness he had as one of the former leaders of Area 16.

But what lay before him was completely different from what he had imagined.

"Jason?"

The 'old man' couldn't help but call out.

"Let's go, find the 'safe house' Lauren mentioned as soon as possible, we need to recuperate."

Jason said without even turning his head.

The 'old man' was stunned.

Lauren Delder was also stunned.

This was not the scenario they had imagined.

They had long been accustomed to the ways of 'Nightless City.'

At this time, even if Jason had chopped off one of the 'old man's' arms, it would be justified. Even more extreme, if he demanded a life, others wouldn't say anything.

But such a nonchalant way of handling it...

"Th-thank you."

The 'old man' stammered his gratitude.

He simply believed that Jason was thanking him for taking care of him over the past year.

Gratitude in 'Nightless City' is indeed rare.

So rare, it's exceptional.

And because it's exceptional, it's even more shocking.

It's even more heart-touching.

The old man subtly wiped the corner of his eyes and quickly followed.

Lauren Delder only just came to his senses.

He immediately picked up his pace, walked ahead, and said in an unprecedentedly relaxed tone.

"I'll lead the way."

At this moment, Lauren Delder let go of the last bit of worry in his heart.

As Jason's ally, Lauren Delder worried most that Jason would be a brutal guy.

There were just too many of those guys in 'Nightless City.'

The pleasure of sadism always ensnared a bunch of bastards.

Very naturally, it also affected those around.

Just like certain white powders.

Once tried.

There's no turning back.

The best way to refuse temptation is to stay away from temptation.

Not to face temptation and then reject it through testing yourself.

Chapter 1483: Not Bad Luck! (part 2)

Believe me, a temptation that can be refused isn't really a temptation.

Such tests often become the prelude to failure.

They can destroy everything about you.

Including your life.

About these things, Lauren Delder is unaware.

He only knows Jason can forgive even the 'old man' who made a mistake.

And he's never made a mistake, so naturally, he has nothing to worry about.

Although the 'old man' and Jason's relationship is unique, as long as he tries hard, he can also become as close as they are.

Thus, Lauren Delder has become more proactive than ever.

And Jason?

Naturally guessed the reason why.

Has his 'information' been eavesdropped on by 'Jing'?

Since it's fake anyway, let them eavesdrop.

It's best if the other side jumps to some wrong conclusions.

As for the 'old man' and Lauren Delder's assumptions?

He's just someone who hasn't even fully walked around the Ring City in the Lower City District of 'Nightless City', how could he be from the Uptown?

Sure enough!

Meeting the 'Cat Hole' special agent, my luck can't be too bad.

Jason thought, with a slight smile on his lips.

Then, he thought of that 'powerful figure'.

What will you do?

'Jing' sat on the sofa, with a bottle of white wine placed in an ice bucket on the coffee table beside him.

Compared to red wine,

'Jing' prefers white wine because he doesn't like the tannic taste but can accept the slightly sour taste. Of course, more so because white wine pairs better with shrimp.

'Jing' loves eating shrimp.

Whether it's traditional shrimp or crawfish,

He likes them both.

Especially spicy and thirteen-spice.

This was a preparation method recorded in a diary he collected unintentionally.

The contents were quite absurd, but some of the cooking methods are really good.

Unfortunately, the scarcity of supplies in the Ring City of the Lower City District of 'Nightless City' is too severe.

Many foods are impossible to taste.

To get those foods, one can only go to the Uptown of 'Nightless City'.

But even he, cannot easily reach the Uptown of 'Nightless City'.

Especially recently.

"The shadow of war' looms once again."

'Jing' sighed while holding his wine glass.

Then, he couldn't help but recall that 'war' from long ago.

Was it ten years ago?

Fifteen years ago?

Or twenty years ago?

'Jing' rubbed his temples. Although he had been trying hard to maintain himself, the relentless passage of time still made him feel the decline of his physical functions and memory, especially the latter.

Three years ago, or was it four?

He could still clearly remember a small incident from fifty years ago.

And now?

Everything has become blurry.

As he recalled the past, 'Jing' couldn't help but yawn.

He planned to get some more sleep before dawn.

Another downside of aging is the lack of sleep; he can't fall asleep easily.

Also, frequent trips to the bathroom at night.

But often feeling drowsy.

The feeling of being very tired yet unable to sleep is truly tormenting.

But just when 'Jing' lay down, the door sounded again.

'Jing' frowned.

Finally, he sighed with resignation.

"Come in."

Immediately, the door opened.

The tall figure of Newpolitan appeared in 'Jing's view, and seeing his boss's slightly displeased face, Newpolitan felt a nervous chill through his body.

'Jing' is not someone with a good temper.

Or rather, quite brutal.

Especially in recent years, increasingly moody.

Luckily, as one of 'Jing's 'Six Evil Dogs', still as his bodyguard, Newpolitan knows how to soothe his boss's anger.

He promptly spoke quickly and accurately.

"There's new progress with the 'old man' over there."

Newpolitan said, taking out a palm-sized player and pressing the play button.

Listening to the conversation between the 'old man' and Lauren Delder from the device,

'Jing's drowsiness vanished instantly.

Jason is from the Uptown?

'Jing' squinted his eyes.

In his mind, various speculations began to form.

As far as he knows, since that war, people from Uptown rarely enter the Lower City District.

In the past three years, not a single one has.<az42e0> novelfirenet</az42e0>

'Smuggler'?

Jing thought to himself, an inexplicable unease began to arise.

Because this 'big shot' knew very well, if Jason was really from Uptown of Nightless City, then that would be real trouble.

Some of his strategies would have to change.

However, Jing didn't show it.

"Have those people been dealt with?"

Jing asked casually.

"It's done."

"Now only you and I know the content of the recording."

Tel grinned maliciously.

"Good."

Jing nodded.

As he got older and his energy dwindled, Jing had long ceased to personally handle everything; he was adept at using his subordinates to solve certain issues.

Of course, key positions had to be filled with his own people.

Unfortunately, there were too few of his own people.

Aside from Tel, he couldn't truly trust the remaining 'Six Devil Dogs'.

Therefore, he had to use 'disposable' Tool Persons.

Seeing his boss back to normal without any sign of trouble, Tel continued.

"Doberman is dead."

"All the hounds assisting him are dead too."

"It should have been Jason's doing."

One must admit, Tel understood Jing.

If he had reported this news immediately, Jing would certainly have exploded in rage.

And now, Jing just waved it off lightly.

"After it's over, we'll screen again."

The tone was no different from looking for a new Tool Person.

In fact, it was just so.

There were too many Tool Persons in Nightless City, and more people wanted to attach themselves to them.

As long as he waved his hand, a group of people would appear.

Among them were some with a little fame.

Tel nodded, turned around, and walked out.

Not with the usual strutting, but cautiously, closing the door gently.

Jing sat on the bed, raised his hand, and tapped the bedside table.

Silently, a screen descended from the ceiling.

On it was the view outside the corridor.

Tel's departing figure.

Only after watching Tel leave, Jing stood up from the bed.

Why did he trust Tel?

Not because of any verbal loyalty.

But because of actual actions.

A result of countless tests.

And the tests would continue after this.

As long as there was one failure, he would replace Tel.

Just like Tel's predecessor.

The title 'Six Devil Dogs' could be inherited.

No matter what he was called before, once he became one of the 'Six Devil Dogs', he automatically inherits one of the six titles.

Of course, with the corresponding strength.

Light glimmered at Jing's fingertips as he lightly tapped several times in the air following the rhythm in his memory.

Immediately, static appeared on the screen.

After two seconds, a figure appeared on the screen.

The figure seemed to be in a dim room, shadowed entirely, except for the hands on the desk, confirming the presence of a person.

Those hands' skin lacked luster and wasn't pale.

Wrinkled, clearly an old person.

"Jing, you'd better hope what you report is important enough; otherwise, next month's supplies will be cut by thirty percent as compensation for disturbing my good dreams."

"You know, at my age, sleeping soundly is such a rare blessing."

The figure appeared stern but was actually joking.

"Believe me, I'm the same as you."

Jing laughed.

Since becoming the agent of Uptown in Nightless City, the person on the screen had been his contact, also his superior, and their relationship over the years had become extraordinary.

"Alright, quickly, what is it?"

The person on the screen laughed and waved his hand, the voice turning serious.

Jing did the same.

This big player from the Lower City District began to relay the information received.

The person on the screen was silent for a full three seconds.

"I'll notify the 'Enforcement Team' to handle this."

"You don't need to worry about it anymore."

The counterpart said, and Jing nodded, not surprised by this outcome.

Uptown had its rules.

The 'Enforcement Team' was the best guarantee of such rules.

After pausing for a while, the person on the screen continued to ask.

"How's District 30?"

Chapter 1484: What Jason Really Means by a Post-Meal Stroll Is...

The question from the person on the screen made 'Jing' sigh.

"The situation is terrible!"

"Compared to before, 'they' are advancing once again."

"And..."

"They're getting faster!"

The 'big man's' face showed an unprecedented gravity and... anxiety.

That's right!

Anxiety!

If there were people in the room at that moment, they would have been stunned.

No matter how 'Jing' is reviewed by others.

Whether called brutal.

Or called sinister.

But, no matter how people describe 'Jing', they all agree that 'Jing' possesses an unimaginable calmness, even if Mount Tai were to collapse in front of him, he wouldn't change color.

But at this moment.

'Jing' was anxious.

This anxiety clearly made the person on the screen uneasy.

His slightly aged hands, which were exposed, started to interlace, and his two thumbs touched each other, turning in circles.

This time, the silence was longer than ever before.

About 10 seconds passed without either side speaking.

Phew!

Finally, the person on the screen sighed.

"I will report truthfully to the lords."

"The lords will handle it well."

"We don't need to worry."

The last sentence was obviously meant to be comforting.

But 'Jing' shook his head.

"I'm in the Lower City District, and I'm very aware of what's happening in District 30—those guys have regrouped and recovered, they could strike back at any moment, and this time they'll be more cautious, ruthless, they definitely won't fall for a ploy like last time."

As 'Jing' spoke, he unbuttoned his pajamas, fully exposing his chest, and as it rose and fell, this 'big man' grabbed a bunch of white grapes at hand, and started gulping them down.

Gulp, gulp.

The distinctive sound of the wine going down his throat made the liaison on the screen frown slightly.

He gently tapped the table.

"Kande, things haven't gotten so bad that you need to drown your sorrows in alcohol."

"What you need is calmness."

"You are now the only agent of Uptown to the Lower City District, if even you lose your calm, the Lower City District is truly doomed—and don't forget the lords are still here."

The liaison on the screen reminded 'Jing'.

"I know the lords are still here, but they still haven't recovered from the last war's injuries... It's all my fault. If only the information I received at the time was more complete."

"If we could have grasped their real plan back then, we wouldn't be facing the current situation."

'Jing' looked full of self-blame.

He said this, and then slumped on the sofa in dejection.

The liaison on the screen immediately waved his hand.

"Kande, this has nothing to do with you."

"Not only are you not at fault, on the contrary, you are a hero of the last war."

"If it weren't for your willingness to risk engaging in a counter-espionage plan, we couldn't have possibly ended the war so quickly, the entire 'Nightless City' would have been dragged into the quagmire of war."

"Such a protracted war is not what we want."

"As for the lords' injuries?"

"To end that war, it was a bearable cost."

"Moreover..."

"The lords' recent condition is much better than expected."

The liaison on the screen hesitated before informing 'Jing' of classified internal information that even in 'Nightless City's' Uptown was considered top secret.

Because, the 'Jing' in front of him was trustworthy.

In fact, in this liaison's view, 'Jing' was a selfless guy.

With the merits he achieved in the last war, he could have secured a rather advantageous position in Uptown.

But what did he do?

He chose to return to the Lower City District.

Because he believed he had made an unforgivable mistake in this war.

Even though most people considered such a mistake forgivable.

After all, the battlefield is ever-changing.

Accurately conveying most of the information is already challenging.

To miss one or two pieces of information?

That's very normal.

Moreover, it wasn't 'Jing's' fault.

Who knew one of their patrol units would abruptly change its route due to 'preying', encountering the runners conveying messages?

Those runners did their best.

Yet, some of the letters containing the information were still destroyed.

Together with the bodies of those runners, they were shattered.

The remaining runners took down that patrol unit and brought back most of the information.

But because of the missing pieces, the lords of 'Nightless City's' Uptown made some erroneous judgments.

Although they still achieved the ultimate victory.

They didn't do so in one decisive action.

Leaving a lasting concern.

At that time, when 'Jing' returned to 'Nightless City' and heard the news, he found it difficult to accept, and finally chose to abandon the name 'Kande' and took on the pseudonym 'Jing'.

He started to make up for his mistakes.

Many people thought that 'Jing' was seeking greater glory.

Or waiting for a better offer.

But as year after year passed.

'Jing' never suggested returning to 'Nightless City's' Uptown, and only then did everyone truly confirm.

'Jing' was genuinely 'atoning' for his mistakes.

This was considered unbelievable by everyone.

Likewise, it had won him everyone's favor.

In recent years, more than once, some have suggested having 'Jing' return to Uptown and join the council.

However,

'Jing' is still atoning.

Until those guys are wiped out, he cannot rest peacefully.

Hence, he must stay on the front line.

Chapter 1485: What Jason Really Means by a Post-Meal Stroll Is... (part 2)

This is what Jing said personally after he extended the invitation.

This is also what made him admire Jing immensely.

Therefore, he trusts Jing.

Even if there are some irregularities, he still wants to inform Jing about some news.

Surely Jing wouldn't leak this information, right?

Upon hearing the words of the contact person on the screen, Jing suddenly stood up.

He asked excitedly.

"Really?"

"Really!"

The contact person on the screen reiterated.

"That's great!"

"If that's the case..."

"The plan I had in mind before now has a chance to be implemented."

Jing cheered, walked two circles around the room, then looked up at the contact person on the screen.

"What plan?"

The contact person on the screen immediately took interest.

He knows Jing is a reliable person who wouldn't shoot aimlessly.

In fact, that's exactly the case.

The next moment, Jing revealed his plan.

"The most troublesome thing about them is their lower-level beings, not only numerous but also acting purely on instinct, knowing no fear, causing us considerable losses in each battle."

"Therefore, I've always been thinking about how to reduce losses."

"Then, I thought of something."

Jing said, revealing a smile.

"What is it?"

The contact person on the screen asked.

"In terms of numbers, the people from the Lower City District definitely won't be fewer than their lower-level beings."

"Moreover, compared to their fearlessness, the people from the Lower City District are even braver as long as they are offered sufficient rewards!"

Jing said.

"You mean..."

The contact person's eyes flashed within the shadow on the screen.

"Just as you guessed."

"Use the people from the Lower City District to wear them down, then we'll concentrate our superior forces to assault their stronghold. As long as the adults can join the battle, victory will still be ours."

"Moreover, this time, it will be a complete victory for us."

"Because..."

Jing said, lowering his voice, almost mouthing silently.

The breathing of the contact person on the screen started to quicken.

Because, if it really goes as Jing said, they could achieve victory in this war with minimal losses.

As for the people of Nightless City's Ring City Lower City District?

Are those people even considered human?

The contact person on the screen habitually ignored them.

"I need to report to the adults."

"Wait for my news, Kande."

The contact person on the screen said this.

"Alright."

Jing nodded.

The video disconnected automatically, then Jing returned to the sofa, quietly waiting.

He's not anxious.

Because he knows that the Uptown adults of Nightless City will definitely adopt his plan.

After all, it won't cost them anything, will avoid a big hassle, and could...

It's practically killing three birds with one stone.

As long as those adults aren't brain damaged, they'll know what to do.

Of course.

Jing benefits the most.

As Jing thought this, he turned his head to look at the corner of the room ceiling.

There, a camera was still hidden.

His conversation with the contact person on the screen, even his every move, had been transmitted there.

There would be a new decision there.

'I should properly thank Lauren Delder and that "courier".'

'Seems like his name is Jason?'

'If I catch you, I'll make it quick for you.'

'For the convenience you provided me.'

'Of course, there's also the "old man".'

‘Without you, how could I encounter such a good ‘courier’ like Jason.’

As Jing thought, his lips curled, then he picked up the white wine beside him and started gulping again.

After a whole bottle down, Jing’s face immediately became ruddy.

At the same time, his stomach felt bouts of emptiness.

Without hesitation, Jing pressed the button on the bedside.

About ten minutes later, Newpoliton came in pushing a cart.

On it were simply two bowls.

One bowl of crawfish, the other also crawfish.

The former was spicy, the latter was flavored with thirteen spices.

"Your midnight snack, boss."

Newpoliton said.

Even though it's almost dawn, crawfish as a meal shouldn't be called breakfast, it wouldn't have soul.

This is, of course, not Newpoliton's thought.

But what his boss told him.

Similarly, this phrase came from that notebook.

After seeing it, Jing found it very reasonable and wrote it down, making it his life motto.

Waving to let Newpoliton leave, Jing took out another bottle of wine, eating shrimp while drinking, occasionally licking his fingers; the taste was really wonderful.

How did he manage all these years?

The obsession in his heart is one aspect.

Another aspect is the crawfish in front of him.

Especially late at night.

The deeper the night.

The tastier the food.

Not only does Jing think this way, Jason also agrees.

District 30, within a 1-kilometer range.

In a cave excavated by Lauren Delder, a bonfire was lit.

The wood was previously stored by Lauren Delder.

After all, the nights in District 30 are far colder than other districts.

Especially when the wind blows, it's truly chilling.

Therefore, a bonfire is essential.

Lauren Delder had also excavated the cave into a Zigzag shape.

Not only does it prevent wind, but it also provides effective defense.

At this moment, Jason, “the old man” and Lauren Delder all sat in the last segment of the cave.

Chapter 1486: What Jason Meant by an After-Meal Walk Is... (3)

The three of them sat around the campfire.

On the flames, three cans of meat were bubbling and steaming.

The rich aroma of meat wafted through the cave.

And slightly closer to the flames were several pieces of bread being toasted.

The mix of meat aroma and the wheat scent of the bread made ‘Old Man’, Lauren Delder keep swallowing his saliva.

"If only we had carrots and potatoes."

"And best with a big iron pot."

'Old Man' couldn't help but say.

"Please! "

"We are on the run!"

"Finding these cans is already a great stroke of luck."

Lauren Delder couldn't help but roll his eyes.

Know that the canned meat before them was not made in the canning factories of District 16.

It was genuine Uptown premium quality.

Real meat.

For Lauren Delder, after becoming a subordinate of 'Jing', he could only eat such cans for about two or three days a month, relying mostly on bread for sustenance the rest of the time.

The bread was either moldy.

Or hard enough to be used as bricks.

And after becoming a collaborator with 'Jing', Lauren Delder hadn't had a chance to enjoy before reality hit him.

So, at this moment, Lauren Delder truly craved the canned meat.

Thus, when Jason was the first to pick up a can, Lauren Delder couldn't bother with getting burned and directly grabbed the second one, first scooping a piece of meat into his mouth, chewing it vigorously.

Then, not forgetting to stuff toasted bread into his mouth.

Devouring it ravenously.

At the end, Lauren Delder even used the bread in his hand to wipe the meat soup and grease clean from the can.

Then, Lauren Delder looked to the side.

In a corner of the cave, neatly arranged were hundreds of cans.

Mainly meat, with some vegetables.

All carefully selected by Jason.

At this point, these cans were quite attractive to Lauren Delder.

However, Lauren Delder ultimately gritted his teeth, giving up on the idea of grabbing another can.

Each of the three of them had an allotted quota.

To last longer.

They had to practice restraint.

‘Bitterness weed’ and similar foods needed to be collected.

Thinking of the bitterness weed's taste, Lauren Delder's face twisted, involuntarily recalling the deliciousness of the canned meat.

He quickly shook his head.

Preparing to divert his attention.

After looking at the 'Old Man', who, like him, was also eating a bit ravenously.

Lauren Delder's gaze was drawn to Jason.

Not only was he eating slowly and thoughtfully.

There was an air of elegance.

As if there was a dining table in front of him, sitting in a high-backed chair.

And instead of canned food, it was steak.

As expected, someone from Uptown.

Lauren Delder admired.

Then, Lauren Delder felt even hungrier.

Without satisfying his stomach, never watch someone else eat.

It will just make you hungrier the more you watch.

It's purely a form of torment.

For this reason, Lauren Delder had to shift his focus once more.

He began to stoke the campfire, roasting the walls around, hoping it would be dry and warm when they slept later.

At this time, Jason finished the last bite of bread and stood up, heading outside.

"Jason?"

Lauren Delder asked.

"An after-dinner walk."

Jason replied, continuing to walk out without stopping.

Whether it was an illusion or not, Lauren Delder seemed to hear a series of hungry stomach growls.

Instinctively, Lauren Delder clutched his stomach, leaning against the heated wall.

He assumed it was himself.

Without giving it more thought.

As for Jason?

Impossible.

Jason was full.

Otherwise, why go for a walk?

Chapter 1487: Emergence!

After leaving a considerable number of [Kaya Seals] around the cave, enveloping the surroundings, Jason walked leisurely towards the depths of Section 30.

According to the previous description by Lauren Delder, he soon saw what seemed like a boundary marker in the form of a road sign.

Towering as tall as a person, the front looked like a door panel, while from the side, its thickness gave an impression of sturdiness.

It was inscribed with “1KM” using luminous dye.

In the dim visibility, the faint glow was remarkably conspicuous.

"More sturdy than I imagined."

After inspecting the sign, Jason noticed numerous fine scratches on it.

Some were small, others were large.

Clearly, more than one 'monster' had taken a shot at the road sign.

Yet none of the 'monsters' had managed to render the sign useless.

"Not only was the road sign set up, but it was made so robust..."

The speculation in Jason's mind became increasingly clear.

Section 30.

Or rather the 'post-war' Section 30.

Had already become a buffer zone.

A buffer zone meant to 'check' the invasion speed of those 'monsters' at any time.

Thinking of this, Jason continued to step forward.

This time, he had only walked about fifty meters.

Whoosh!

A faint whistling sound rang from behind Jason's head.

Jason tilted his head slightly, and a barbed, mucus-coated tongue shot past.

Then that barbed, mucus-covered tongue was about to coil around Jason's neck.

However, Jason was faster.

He grabbed the tongue.

Whoosh!

As flames rose, Jason gave a strong tug.

A monster the size of a millstone was yanked out from the ground.

The monster before his eyes made even the monster-familiar Jason frown.

Because...

It was too ugly!

Its body was like a toad's, with a head pieced together from a goat and a spider, sharp horns on its head, and boar-like steel bristles on its back.

However, for Jason, beauty or ugliness wasn't the issue.

What he cared about was whether it was tasty.

Judging by the smell he detected.

It should be not bad.

Whoosh!

The flames in his hand hadn't dissipated yet when another hand sprayed a conical wave of flames.

The monster was instantly roasted.

A master-level [Charles Burning Technique] had tactical-grade power.

Moreover, it needed no preparation, and could be unleashed at will.

It was really convenient for dealing with this level of foodstuffs.

With a broad-bladed, short-handled knife, Jason gutted the food, removed its head, and performed another 'high-temperature disinfection'.

A rich aroma of meat emerged.

The finest ingredients often need only the simplest cooking method!

To Jason, whose culinary skills were zero, this was a wise saying.

He genuinely wanted to learn cooking.

He truly wished to learn.

He even fantasized more than once about achieving mastery in cooking, preparing each dish to be so appetizing that it was mouth-watering at first sight.

But,

He had no time.

Whether in the instance world or in the 'Nightless City'.

Increasing his strength was the most pressing issue to resolve.

Perhaps only once the real crisis was over would he have the time to delve into the culinary arts?

Thinking this, Jason took out some coarse salt, cumin, and chili powder, sprinkling them on the roasted meat.

Then, opening his mouth.

The millstone-sized roasted meat was swallowed by Jason.

[Devoured a low-level minion monster]

[Physical strength, energy, and injuries moderately recovered!]

[Satiation +3]

[Satiation: 27714]

...

Noticing the text appearing before him, Jason's eyes lit up.

3 points of satiety wasn't much for Jason at the moment.

However, the monster's name truly intrigued Jason.

Low-level, minion.

These words were full of disdain, as if worthless, but from another perspective, it was full of a sense of enormous quantities.

Only what's worthless is most abundant.

And accumulating bit by bit, Jason didn't mind at all.

Especially when this quantity exceeded imagination but wouldn't crush him.

The grease on his hands, already clean from licking.

Jason walked on, sniffing the air.

Hundreds and thousands of 'foods' were approaching.

He couldn't help but grin, from ear to ear, revealing sharp, pointed teeth.

"Indeed, when taking a stroll, it's best to choose the 'outdoors'!"

"After all, during an outing, 'food' is most plentiful!"

Jason said softly, as his stomach let out a series of roars.

Hungry!

Hungry! Hungry!

The roaring sound was getting louder and louder.

In the end, it was like thunder.

In Jason's eyes, substantial beams of light shot forth.

In the next moment!

He disappeared from where he stood!

Those 'monsters' hastily driven by the firelight froze, as though encountering a natural enemy, but their low intelligence prevented them from discerning this.

They were merely driven by instinct to chase prey.

Just like usual.

After all, compared to feeding on each other.

Prey has always been tastier.

It's not just about the taste.

It can also make them stronger.

Thus, the strange feeling rising from deep within was quickly dismissed by them.

They began to swarm towards the place where the flames appeared.

On this wilderness, those monsters were like surging tides.

And then...

They fell into a mouth.

The mouth was connected to a bottomless stomach.

Like the tide, the approaching monsters were unable to raise even a ripple.

Every time the flames flickered.

Chapter 1488: Emergence! (2)

Several monsters have entered the belly.

Every swing of the blade.

Marks the beginning of 'food' preparation.

Two hours!

When the daylight became bright, the 'food' in this wilderness rapidly decreased.

At first, the 'food' surged like a vast ocean of stars.

Later, it was Jason who actively hunted, making it like a drop in the bucket.

People.

Easy to go from frugality to extravagance.

Hard to go from extravagance to frugality.

Looking at his satiation level that soared to 30,011 points, Jason couldn't help but sigh.

How many low-level minions did he just eat?

Hundreds?

Or thousands?

A bit hard to keep track.

However, there is one thing Jason can confirm.

The 'food' called 'low-level minion monsters' should be distributed in clusters, just like the ones he just ate were probably from several clusters occupying a one-kilometer radius.

These 'low-level minion monsters' were distributed all around.

When prey appeared, they swarmed in.

Moreover, they didn't cooperate.

They competed.

They even fought.

More than once, Jason's perception confirmed that these 'low-level minion monsters' were killing each other to compete for him.

"Just nearby there is such abundant food."

"What about further away?"

Anticipation appeared in Jason's eyes.

However, he did not act immediately.

Instead, he turned to look at the cave they temporarily used as a base.

One of his [Kaya Seal] at the perimeter had been touched.

...

Inside the cave, Lauren Delder, who was snoring softly, suddenly opened his eyes.

The snoring did not stop.

It still maintained the same rhythm.

There wasn't even a tiny fluctuation.

But in Lauren Delder's eyes, there was a chill.

On the way to the 'sanctuary', he had arranged many little gadgets around.

These little gadgets had no lethality.

But they were absolutely vigilant.

When an unfamiliar scent approached, they could alert him at once.

And just now, the mother of those gadgets gently pricked him.

Pain.

And made him instantly alert.

Lauren Delder turned his head to look.

The 'old man' was still snoring, yet his eyes were wide open.

It seemed...

He woke up even earlier than Lauren Delder.

Lauren Delder wasn't surprised by this.

Being able to find Jason despite layers of pursuit after his own faction was wiped out by 'Jing', how could he be an ordinary person?

Lauren Delder raised his hand lightly, making a gesture.

The 'old man' nodded slightly.

In the next moment, Lauren Delder dove underground.

As if the ground was made of water, he silently entered it.

Merging into the earth, Lauren Delder's speed suddenly became swift, like a leopard pouncing out of the bushes, heading straight for the 'intruder' who had appeared at the cave entrance.

Lauren Delder did not know where this 'intruder' came from.

A resident from 'Nightless City'?

A subordinate of 'Jing'?

Or someone hiding in Zone 30?

All of these were possible.

However, it was unimportant.

What mattered was that this guy was overflowing with murderous intent.

Even inside the cave, he could feel the cold killing intent pricking his scalp.

As for how the opponent found this place?

The owner of the secret passage, Kulin, made a hole in the wall blocking Zone 30.

Since Kulin could do it.

Others naturally could too.

Lauren Delder was swift, but there was no sound as he emerged from the ground, and he skillfully chose a blind spot in the 'intruder's' line of sight.

This strike, Lauren Delder was sure of it.

Yet, this seemingly certain strike.

Missed.

The 'intruder's' body instantly folded like a piece of paper.

Swaying with the gust from Lauren Delder's force.

Nimbly dodging Lauren Delder's claw strikes in an inconceivable manner.

While counterattacking.

Two slender, origami-like long swords suddenly appeared in the opponent's hands.

One long sword deflected Lauren Delder's claw.

The other long sword thrust straight at Lauren Delder's chest.

Clang!

When Lauren Delder's hand met the opponent's sword, it made a sound like metal clashing.

Then, a tremendous suction appeared on the opponent's sword, firmly sticking to Lauren Delder's hands, while the other sword continued to thrust at his chest.

Lauren Delder's face twisted.

Writhing and struggling incessantly.

But it was useless.

The paper sword got closer and closer.

Just as it was about to pierce Lauren Delder's chest, the former associate of this 'big figure', the panic in his eyes vanished instantly, leaving behind only—

Swish! Swish! Swish!

Thread-like transparent filaments had somehow already sneaked to the 'intruder's' feet.

At this moment, those threads jumped up, stabbing towards the 'intruder'.

The transparent threads were faster than the 'intruder's' paper sword.

Undoubtedly, they could kill the 'intruder' before he pierced Lauren Delder's chest.

That's what Lauren Delder thought.

But just as the threads were about to pierce through the opponent, a repelling force suddenly appeared on the opponent's sword.

Not only were the threads blown away.

Even Lauren Delder himself lost his balance, retreating repeatedly.

While Lauren Delder was struggling to stabilize himself, the repelling force became suction again.

Chapter 1489: Emergence! (3)

In an instant, Lauren Delder, who had just tried to steady himself, completely lost his footing.

He staggered several steps.

And just like that, crashed onto the paper sword the opponent had already raised.

Although it looked like a paper sword,

It was exceptionally sharp.

Shh!

With a light sound, Lauren Delder was pierced through the chest, hanging on the paper sword.

The 'invader' let out a disdainful chuckle.

The whole person reverted to his original form once again.

He was a young man, with an incredibly youthful face, appearing at most seventeen or eighteen years old, dressed in a white suit and black leather shoes.

But unlike the young people mingling on the streets of the Lower City District of the 'Nightless City' at seventeen or eighteen, this young man was not only cleanly dressed, but his face was also healthily flushed.

"You..."

Looking at the person before him, completely different from the young man in his memory, Lauren Delder opened his mouth wide.

But before Lauren Delder could finish speaking, the young man swung his sword again.

Puff!

This time, unlike the first strike,

The sword thoroughly pierced through both sides of Lauren Delder's chest.

After confirming that even if Lauren Delder's heart had shifted, he couldn't possibly survive, the young man let down his guard completely.

"Indeed, those from the Lower City District are so ignorant."

"They simply don't know..."

Puff puff puff!

The young man's words were not yet finished when hundreds of transparent threads suddenly shot out from Lauren Delder's wound. The young man wanted to dodge, but it was too late, and he was pierced through.

Then came the absorption.

These threads, like tentacles, devoured the young man's blood and flesh ravenously.

"Ignorant people from the Lower City District?"

"Then the people from Uptown must be fools, right?"

Lauren Delder laughed gruesomely.

He raised his hand and pulled out the two long swords from his body.

As the swords left his body, the wounds on Lauren Delder's body healed at a speed visible to the naked eye.

Almost just as Lauren Delder's voice fell, the wounds were good as new.

Moreover, his strength had increased slightly again.

"The flesh and blood of people from Uptown are indeed different!"

Lauren Delder exclaimed.

However, before he could finish his words, he saw 'Old Man' running out from the cave.

"Get down!"

'Old Man' shouted.

Without a second thought, Lauren Delder rolled on the spot.

This 'big shot's' former collaborator was trusted by Jason.

Therefore, he also chose to trust 'Old Man.'

It was exactly this trust that saved Lauren Delder's life.

Bang!

An arrow landed where Lauren Delder had been standing.

Seeing this arrow, obviously twice as thick as an ordinary arrow, Lauren Delder scrambled away, crawling on all fours, while 'Old Man' flipped back around to the first turn of the cave.

The next moment—

Boom!

The arrow exploded.

It was as if several grenades had exploded simultaneously.

The young man was blown to smithereens.

Lauren Delder was also blown away by the blast.

Amid the dust and smoke, Lauren Delder shook his head and tried to stand up.

But as he looked up, he saw a pair of leather shoes.

Clean and polished to the point of being reflective.

Not just one pair, but ten pairs.

Ten people, dressed in the same white suits as the previous young man, appeared around Lauren Delder. One of them, a man holding a longbow, stood there, looked at the shattered young man, shook his head, and sighed—

"Failing the internship task naturally means there's no need to stay alive."

"After all..."

"Our 'enforcers' don't need garbage."

After speaking, the man with the longbow looked at Lauren Delder.

"Don't you agree?"

Faced with such a question, Lauren Delder certainly did not respond. He instinctively tried to sink into the ground, but in an instant, he felt the ground, which was as familiar as his body, become as hard as steel.

Then, an immense pressure pinned him down, unable to move.

Meanwhile, 'Old Man' was bound by an invisible force and brought beside him.

The two of them, like puppets, were posed to kneel.

The man holding a longbow stood in front of them, looking down as he questioned.

"Where's the other?"

"The one called Jason?"

"According to the intelligence, it seems he's also from Uptown."

"I really want to meet him!"

Chapter 1490: It's Begun!

With a tone that seemed like a sigh, the man holding a longbow suddenly revealed a strong malice on his face.

"Of course, I want to see him!"

"After all..."

"An idiot like this, it's the first time I've seen one!"

The man's once decent face twisted with the malice in his heart, making him look extremely ugly, and when those venomous words came out, his ugliness was fully displayed.

Just like a clown entering a hall.

'Old man' glared angrily at the other.

Lauren Delder tried to open his mouth, but not a word could come out.

They were not only physically restrained, but their voices were silenced as well.

"Oh dear, I forgot, you can't speak now."

The man with the longbow feigned surprise, then raised his hand and snapped his fingers.

Snap!

Huff, huff.

'Old man', Lauren Delder gasped for air as if recovering from drowning, especially 'Old man', who was breathing so hard that snot and tears streamed down his face.

Despite maintaining regular exercise, 'Old man's age meant he couldn't keep up with the young, and the 'Extraordinary Power' he encountered was more inclined towards prophecy and warnings, offering little physical aid.

So, at this moment, he was quite in dire straits.

Upon seeing 'Old man's condition, the man holding the longbow laughed.

"Realize your mistake, and now wallowing in tears?"

"Or is it for your impending fate?"

"Cry and wail, it's what you deserve."

The man with the longbow stretched his tone.

'Old man' held back his tears, glaring at his opponent again.

He knew it was intentional from the other side.

The 'Law Enforcers' of Uptown in 'Nightless City', he'd heard about them.

A group of ruthless and cruel beings who love to toy with their prey.

But hearing and experiencing are worlds apart.

Seeing is believing.

Only by truly experiencing can one understand that such 'Law Enforcers' are far worse than imagined.

And...

Just like 'Jing'!

Suddenly, 'Old man' realized.

When he first saw these 'Law Enforcers', he felt a sense of familiarity.

But he couldn't place it.

Now, he finally realized.

It's 'Jing'!

These Law Enforcers are very much like 'Jing'!

But not as good as 'Jing'.

In terms of tactics or rhetoric, they're somewhat contrived.

Would the 'Law Enforcers' of Uptown be worse than a 'Lower City District' agent?

'Old man' felt absurdity.

Maybe...

It's because these people are the lowest of the 'Law Enforcers'?

Or perhaps not even entering the ranks?

Only then could it explain why they pale in comparison to 'Jing'.

And explain why they seemed so shallow.

As he thought more, 'Old man's gaze changed.

"Your gaze is really annoying!"

"Always reminds me of some unpleasant things."

The man holding the longbow's eyes turned cold.

His killing intent was undisguised.

'Old man' smiled.

If he was only guessing before, now he confirmed that they were indeed the lowest among 'Law Enforcers'.

Otherwise, how could they be so easily read?

Even less than a street boss in District 16.

At least the street boss of District 16 knew not to let the opponent see his true intentions.

Of course, what made 'Old man' relax the most was that the warning in his heart began to fade.

It disappeared silently.

One must know that every time a warning fades, it is a gradual process.

This time, however, it vanished abruptly.

So sudden.

Though unsure why it disappeared so suddenly,

‘Old man’ knew he was safe.

His ability had never deceived him.

That was enough.

"Flustered and exasperated?"

"A bunch of weaklings in a superior guise."

"Merely dressed in ‘Law Enforcer’ skin."

Lauren Delder was more direct than ‘Old man’, speaking out with sarcasm.

‘Old man’ guessed, and so did Lauren Delder.

In some ways, Lauren Delder thought even more.

Because Lauren Delder used to be under 'Jing's command.

He knew more than 'Old man'.

Therefore, the feelings were deeper.

The 'Law Enforcers' in front of him were indeed not as good as the troublesome 'Jing'.

As for danger being averted?

Lauren Delder didn't think that far.

This once collaborator of a big shot was now completely thrown to the wind.

Simply put, he had disrupted 'Jing's plan.

Moreover, 'Jing' had issued a 'warrant' in front of everyone in Ring City, Lower City District of 'Nightless City'.

With such a premise, once caught...

It was a dead end.

No chance of staying alive.

And now, he was caught.

Rather than begging for mercy and enduring humiliation before dying,

Why not opt for a straightforward death.

In other words, Lauren Delder chose a straightforward manner of dying.

Those words naturally angered the man with the bow and arrow.

‘Old man’ merely used his eyes without speaking it out loud.

But Lauren Delder bluntly put it into words.

This Law Enforcer with the bow and arrow knew clearly this would make his already vulnerable reputation plummet further.

Just look at the eyes of those surrounding teammates.

This Law Enforcer with the bow and arrow could already imagine what he'd face upon returning to Uptown.

Damn it!

Cursing inwardly, this 'Law Enforcer' grew ever more resentful.