

Menu 1531

Chapter 1531: Jason: As a Human, My Strongest Weapon Is...

Mocking.

At this moment, from 'Jing's eyes, and expression on his face, this emotion was conveyed.

It was a complete schadenfreude.

It seemed like he was waiting for this moment.

'Uptown'?

The barrier that envelops 'Lower City District' within the 'Ring City' of 'Nightless City' is in 'Uptown'?!

Jason thought briefly and guessed the truth.

Because only this could explain 'Jing's purpose.

All this effort was not to get caught himself.

It was merely to be taken back to 'Uptown'!

In a legitimate manner!

Blowing up the 'Gold Tower'.

It was enough to attract the attention of 'Uptown'.

He would naturally expose himself.

Bringing the 'Six Hellhounds' was just a faade, making it seem like he was certain of victory.

Jason could even imagine that even if he couldn't find 'Jing', the other party would certainly reveal himself.

As for letting him completely take out the 'Six Hellhounds'?

It's just to make the act more believable.

To make the people of 'Uptown' trust her more.

Undoubtedly, 'Jing' has set up a fallback in 'Uptown'.

Although Jason didn't know what it was, he knew for sure.

He must not let 'Jing' succeed.

Even if the approaching 'Uptown' folks were unfriendly.

He just heard the execution order.

Is it truly the order of the 'Uptown Council'?

Or is that 'contact' taking matters into his own hands?

Or could it be...

Both?

The former just has the intent, while the latter is adding fuel to the fire.

And why?

The word 'defection' just uttered by the other party explained everything.

He seemingly 'touched' some taboo.

Although he didn't, the other party thinks he did.

That was enough.

Looking at the three people filled with killing intent around him, Jason's gaze once again shifted to 'Jing'.

Compared to these three, Jason was more concerned with 'Jing'.

At this moment, the other party's mockery remained unchanged.

"I told you, trying to stop me is useless, because I am too..."

Smack!

Even at this moment, 'Jing' was still acting, but before he could finish speaking, he was struck hard.

A sheathed long sword smashed into the back of 'Jing's head.

'Jing' twitched as he fell to the ground.

Yet the mockery on his face did not diminish in the slightest.

"Gently, don't kill him."

The leading member of the 'Enforcers' casually said to the subordinate who made the move.

But there was no sternness in the words, rather, they were quite casual.

It seemed like they didn't care about 'Jing's life or death at all.

Then, they straightforwardly cuffed 'Jing's hands.

After that, they looked at Jason.

The gaze naturally became even more casual.

"Kill him."

This leading 'Enforcers' member raised his right hand and waved forward slightly.

Instantly, the three 'Enforcers' members surrounding Jason made their move.

In fact, as soon as the three surrounded Jason, an invisible force field had already sealed off Jason's surroundings.

Not only restricting Jason's movements but also letting waves of cold breath penetrate Jason's skin.

However, it didn't penetrate Jason's muscles.

But the ensuing numbness, Jason could still feel it.

"Force field, Cold Breath, Poison Gas."

Jason sighed inwardly.

The enforcers' members in front of him were quite formidable, and they cooperated very closely.

Adding this systemic learning, 'Lower City District's transcendents couldn't compare at all.

Not to mention coordination.

I'm afraid even their understanding of their own 'Extraordinary Power' is shallow.

Whoosh!

Whoosh!

Amid the sound of metal slicing through the air, two long swords thrust from the left and right, one pointing at Jason's heart, the other at Jason's waist.

The leader had already given the execution order.

There was no way the two 'Enforcers' members would hold back.

The remaining unmoving 'Enforcers' member secretly formed hand seals.

The invisible force field, Cold Breath, and Poison Gas didn't appear out of nowhere.

"Die!"

The 'Enforcers' member controlling the force field sneered.

He had no doubt about Jason's imminent gruesome death.

How could a mere ordinary resident of 'Uptown' be their opponent, these elites?

Even though Jason had some systematic exposure to 'mysterious knowledge', the foundations and advancements were entirely different.

"Go to hell and repent for your betrayal!"

This force-field-controlling 'Enforcers' member said coldly as he saw the two comrades plunge their swords into Jason's clothes.

Against traitors.

'Uptown' has always been notoriously harsh.

This moment was no exception.

Others also sneered at this scene.

And then—

Clang, clang!

Amid two clear metallic clashing sounds, the sneering 'Enforcers' members' smiles froze.

Sparks flew.

After the long swords pierced Jason's clothes, they couldn't go any further.

"How is this possible?!"

The two sword-wielding 'Enforcers' members exclaimed.

Instinctively, they wanted to withdraw their swords and retreat.

But it was too late.

Official source s novlfire.net

Jason twisted like a snake, slipped through the invisible force field's constraints, raised his hands, and grabbed the faces of the two sword-wielding 'Enforcers' members. With a forceful grip of his fingers and a lift of his arms, he lifted them.

Crunch.

The five fingers of Jason's left and right hands deeply embedded into the faces of the two sword-wielding 'Enforcers' members, making the bones in their skulls creak.

The two sword-wielding 'Enforcers' members howled continuously.

But the most terrified one was the force-field-controlling 'Enforcers' member.

His force-field restrictions had never been broken before.

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Some used brute force.

Some used spiritual power.

Each was of the impressive variety.

But someone like Jason, acting so effortlessly, was something he saw for the first time.

Startled deep down, the hand seal of this 'enforcement team' member instantly changed.

Buzz!

A faint ripple appeared in the air.

Frost and venom materialized from the invisible.

"Die!"

The 'enforcement team' member roared lowly.

Jason's strength was beyond his expectations.

But he didn't believe he couldn't be a match for his opponent.

After all, he had just begun using his reserves...

Bang!

Crunch!

With a muffled sound, the 'enforcement team' member on Jason's left hand viciously smashed into the member in front, the opponent's body emitted a crisp sound of bones cracking, abruptly interrupting their unfinished thoughts.

The two bodies rolled backward.

Directly rolling to the feet of the leading 'enforcement team' member.

The opponent's expression changed.

The raised hand had not yet truly been lowered.

"Go!"

The opponent said this.

The two subordinates glanced at each other and rushed towards Jason.

Still wielding long swords.

This time, Jason wasn't empty-handed.

The short-handled broad blade cleaver remained unsheathed, but he grabbed the 'enforcement team' member and wielded him as a weapon.

Immediately, the two approaching 'enforcement team' members became constrained in their movements.

The long swords they thrust were blocked by the human weapon.

They had to keep dodging.

Seeing this, the leading 'enforcement team' member frowned.

"Don't hesitate."

"Let go of your inhibitions."

The opponent said this.

The two 'enforcement team' members immediately changed their attack strategy.

Faced with the 'human weapon' being swung at them again, they slashed with their sharp swords.

Slash!

The 'human weapon' was chopped into pieces, blood splattered, dyeing the view of both red. .

Thud, thud!

The chopped corpse fell to the ground.

Driven solely by instinct, the two sword-wielding 'enforcement team' members thrust their swords forward.

In their perception, this was where Jason stood.

However, the thrusts missed.

No one was where the swords struck.

Opposite, behind them—

Crunch!

The familiar sound of bones cracking echoed once more.

The two sword-wielding 'enforcement team' members instinctively turned back.

Immediately, they witnessed the most unbelievable scene of their lives.

Their captain.

The one they saw as powerful.

Was just like that, with his neck broken.

Like a chick, he was held by Jason and swung towards them.

In a daze, the two did not even dodge the attack.

Bang, bang!

With two muffled sounds, the two became tumbling gourds.

Then, a cone of flame came rushing towards them.

"Ahhhhhh!"

In the midst of the miserable screams, two human torches appeared.

Thereafter, the sound gradually diminished.

An easy victory.

Yet there was not a trace of ease or joy on Jason's face.

On the contrary, he frowned deeply.

When facing the other 'enforcement team' members earlier, Jason hadn't taken them to heart at all.

Based on the aura, these people, though strong, were only strong for others.

To him?

They were only relatively strong.

The only thing that concerned Jason was the captain of the 'enforcement team'.

The opponent's aura was stronger than the remaining five.

And by a considerable margin.

However, it posed no threat to him.

But, according to 'Jing's' plan, the person before him should have been capable of killing him— 'Jing' had seen him in action, and despite concealing much of his cards, even what he showed should not have been something someone like this could handle.

Therefore, Jason speculated that this 'enforcement team' captain ought to have some special measures.

Hence, he cautiously battled with the other 'enforcement team' members.

Looking for flaws.

Looking for opportunities.

Then, delivering a fatal blow.

In fact, he found it.

And easier than anticipated.

Taking advantage of the dispersing blood, through transcendent-level stealth, he sneaked behind the opponent and snapped the neck in one swift move.

Throughout the process, Jason was intensely focused like never before.

He was prepared for the worst.

And had made corresponding plans.

But unexpectedly, he just snapped the opponent's neck so easily.

The opponent offered no resistance.

Or to be precise, not the slightest chance of resistance.

Jason, who had engaged in various psychological constructions, showed a moment of daze.

When he realized his guesses were wrong, and these people were not the ones 'Jing' was waiting for, Jason quickly ended the fight.

Jason's gaze fell on the fallen 'Jing'.

Was he really unconscious?

Or pretending to be?

At this point, it no longer mattered.

Jason raised his head, that aircraft which resembled a bomber had already increased its altitude at the instant he snapped the neck of the 'enforcement team's' captain, and now, it had flown far away.

"Going to fetch reinforcements?"

"Are these the people you were waiting for this time?"

Jason asked.

‘Jing’, lying there, remained motionless.

Whoosh!

Jason’s palm ignited a flickering flame.

Immediately, ‘Jing’ sprang up.

"Is this really necessary?"

"In a sense, we’re of the same camp."

‘Jing’ stood up, smiling broadly.

As he spoke, he shrugged his shoulders.

As if to say what he was speaking was the truth.

And Jason?

Raised his hand and cast the flame.

The flames roared fiercely.

The scorching heat distorted the air.

The ground quickly turned black and cracked.

However, 'Jing' remained unharmed.

He stood there, a protective force field surrounding him.

'Jing' stood there, smiled.

Then, raised his hand.

The handcuffs began to emit a faint glow.

"These were made by the 'Council', with significant resources dedicated, it's one of the best tools in 'Uptown' Restraint Device."

"It can not only restrain criminals but also activate a defense mechanism upon encountering external forces."

"Including but not limited to this force field."

"Guess what else?"

'Jing' smirked again.

Flooded with malice.

"Alert, notification?"

Jason asked.

"Hmm."

"Very clever."

"I enjoy talking with smart people, although Jason you've repeatedly disrupted my plans, it's because of you that my plans don't easily arouse suspicion from that group in 'Uptown'."

"Speaking of which, I should thank you."

'Jing' said this.

He even genuinely bowed to Jason.

As if genuinely grateful.

Jason just stood there, looking coldly at 'Jing'.

He knew 'Jing' was trying to provoke him.

Just to buy time.

To make him attack the force field brought by the 'Restraint Device' in anger.

Jason did not believe the 'Restraint Device' only had defense and alert functions.

There must be other functions.

And these functions were enough to withstand his attack.

Furthermore, they could cause some trouble.

Next?

Of course, 'Jing' was waiting for the people to come and successfully take him down.

That's what 'Jing' wanted.

Not sure if it was an already planned move.

Or just thought up.

Jason's eyes slightly squinted.

Once again elevating the threat level of 'Jing' in front of him.

And 'Jing', seeing Jason's indifferent expression, gradually restrained his smile.

He knew his provocation plan had failed.

Jason didn't fall for it.

His brows furrowed again.

"An enemy like you is the last I want to encounter, but, aren't you going to run now?"

"Soon it'll be too late!"

After sighing, 'Jing' once again revealed a smile full of malice.

And Jason strode toward him.

'Jing' was taken aback.

Then, pleasantly surprised.

Next, he was stunned again.

Because Jason grabbed his hand, pulled his hands up, placed them in front.

Jason's physique was beyond ordinary.

And 'Jing'?

Just an average build, rather frail.

Moreover, restrained.

At this moment, being pulled up, he seemed like a sausage, being held up in front of Jason.

'Jing' looked at the nearby Jason, watched as Jason opened his mouth.

Purely out of instinct, 'Jing' began to struggle.

But the restraint was too strong!

So strong that he couldn't move at all!

The next moment!

Under 'Jing's gaze, Jason opened his mouth and bit the 'Restraint Device', then——

Crack!

The Restraint Device shattered.

Chapter 1533: Yao!

'Jing' was taken aback.

'Jing' stood there completely stunned, staring blankly at the scene before him.

'Shackles'...

Broken.

The 'Shackles', one of the classic symbols of 'Uptown', were broken.

He had struggled so many times, yet the 'Shackles' he couldn't break were just shattered like that.

That crisp sound.

It was like a mocking laugh.

It kept echoing in 'Jing's ears.

He stared blankly as Jason's mouth, still open, extended his tongue, licking and rolling, and swallowed all the fragments of the 'Shackles'.

Unconsciously, the corners of 'Jing's mouth began to turn upwards.

Then—

"Heh heh ha ha ha!"

'Jing' burst into laughter.

Laughed so hard that tears came out.

If not for being held by Jason, he would definitely have laughed until he was bent over.

Jason didn't pay more attention to the laughing 'Jing'.

He swallowed the 'Shackles' that tasted like chocolate, glancing at the words appearing in front of him—

[Devour Shackles]

[Physical strength, energy, and injuries recovered beyond limits!]

[Satiety +300]

[Satiety: 30314]

[Excitement of Feast +1]

[Excitement of Feast: 593]

...

Then, flames rose.

Wasn't Jason curious?

Curious.

He also wanted to know why 'Jing' was laughing.

But he knew even more that the other was an enemy.

When it's possible to eliminate an enemy more smoothly, don't invite more complications.

With such a simple mindset, Jason effectively restrained his curiosity.

Under the [Charles Burning Technique], 'Jing' turned into a torch.

Scorching.

Burning.

But even so, 'Jing' kept laughing wildly in the flames.

He even raised his hand, covering his eyes.

"We met too late!"

"Too late!"

"Too late, do you know?"

The alley echoed with 'Jing's voice, as his body was consumed by the fire.

Death?

Perhaps.

Jason looked at the charred corpse standing there, his brows furrowing.

With a thought, a silver slash followed.

[Evil-Slaying Slash]!

The habit of finishing the job is one of the best habits Jason knows of.

On par with going to bed early and getting up early.

Puff!

The charred corpse was split in two, and then fell to the ground.

Jason's frown deepened.

He instinctively felt that 'Jing' was not dead.

And as someone from the 'Mystical Side', Jason had an extraordinary trust in his intuition.

Jason was about to walk towards 'Jing'.

But just as he lifted his foot, he stopped, turning his head slightly to one side.

Behind Jason, a figure stood there.

No white suit.

But the clean, decent clothes and equally clean, decent face were enough to indicate where he came from.

‘Uptown’.

His face bore grooves, youth long gone, but his eyes were extremely bright.

And sharp.

Bright as a light bulb.

Sharp as a blade.

The moment Jason was gazed at by him, he felt his skin being pricked by needles.

Very awkward.

Very uncomfortable.

Even more awkward was the way he appeared.

Jason had no idea when he showed up.

After consuming [Key of Karl], his perception had reached a level of 18.2.

But even with a perception over 18 times that of an ordinary person, he couldn't detect his appearance.

If not for the fact that he consciously released part of his aura, Jason wouldn't have even realized he was standing there.

Immediately, Jason's vigilance reached its peak.

Since leaving Ter Street, Jason knew he would encounter situations beyond his control.

So he had always been extremely careful.

He hoped this moment would be delayed a little longer.

To give him more time to prepare.

But unexpectedly, even with him being cautious enough, it was only three days.

Looking at Jason's wary demeanor, the middle-aged man in front of him smiled.

"You probably don't know who I am."

"But I think I should introduce myself."

"After all, I don't like using force."

"If you choose to cooperate after hearing my introduction, I think it would be a very appropriate solution."

He said politely.

But his words were filled with an omnipresent pride.

And...

A tinge of charity.

As if some bigshot saw a stray dog on the street and couldn't help but throw a bun he didn't want to eat.

No sense of charity.

Just happened to be where the dog was.

He happened to have a bun he didn't want.

And then, threw it to the dog.

"I am Yao."

"One of the twelve councilors of 'Uptown'."

"Newly appointed."

The middle-aged man said.

Jason squinted, staring at him.

He had never heard of this name.

But he knew of the councilors from 'Uptown'.

'Bigshots'!

If 'Jing' was a 'bigshot' in the Lower City District, then this 'Yao' was a 'bigshot' in 'Uptown'.

The councilors are the decision-makers of 'Uptown'.

"Uptown" and the entire operation of "Nightless City" are closely tied to their decisions.

The "old man" once gave a rough introduction.

It's not that he didn't want to introduce it in detail.

But rather, the "old man" himself didn't know the specifics.

He didn't even know how many councilors there were in "Uptown".

Are there as many as twelve of such power?

Jason's eyes were almost squinting to a line.

A cold glint flickered in his eyes.

The "Yao" in front of him had already made Jason raise his vigilance to the highest level.

But there were more than twelve such people.

Jason had always had some guesses about “Uptown”.

However, those “law enforcement teams” had caused some deviations in Jason’s guesses.

Until the appearance of “Yao”, Jason suddenly realized.

"Uptown" was even stronger than he imagined.

And...

Are the councilors the strongest?

Is there no stronger existence above the councilors?

Jason didn't know.

At this moment, Jason didn't think too much.

Because “Yao” before him had already retracted his smile.

"Tsk, really can't, huh?"

"Whether in 'Uptown' or in 'Lower City District', one must show force?"

"Truly troublesome."

"I originally hoped you could recognize the situation, so I could save some trouble, now..."

"Still have to do it."

"Yao" frowned slightly.

The next moment, the councilor disappeared from where he was.

When he appeared again, he was already standing in front of Jason, raising his hand to strike at Jason's lower abdomen.

He didn't aim at the neck or the like.

Because Jason was a head taller than him.

If they were the same height, Jason could imagine, this councilor would aim for his neck.

A clean and decisive move to end the fight.

And now?

Naturally, he would first strike his abdomen, causing him to bend over from the pain, then expose his neck.

Jason wasn't familiar with any mind-reading techniques.

But the opponent's gaze was too obvious.

As if telling Jason that's exactly what he was going to do.

In fact, the opponent then said—

"I will strike your abdomen, and then, knock you out."

Bam!

With these words, the opponent landed a punch on Jason's lower abdomen.

A dull sound rang straight out.

Jason frowned slightly and retreated two steps.

The councilor named "Yao" showed surprise in his eyes for the first time.

Then, as if in admiration, he nodded slightly.

"Very strong defense."

"To be able to take my punch."

"You could probably come out unscathed in an explosion."

"I've changed my mind."

The opponent seemed to have thought of something suddenly.

"A person like you being publicly executed is really a waste, I offer you a chance, join me—I will have someone replace you, once your substitute is dead, you will reappear beside me with a new identity, how about it?"

Faced with such a proposal, Jason said nothing.

He stared intently at the opponent.

He hadn't reacted at all to that punch just now.

Neither perception nor body.

It was only when the pain came from his lower abdomen that he realized he had been hit.

Speed?

Technique?

Jason adjusted his breathing, calming himself quickly.

For a long time, the enemies Jason faced were mostly large monsters.

Against such powerful, huge, but not agile monsters, Jason relied on his "talent" and unique combat style, which could be said to have held the advantage.

But when facing enemies of the same size, with speeds beyond his reaction.

Especially those with special techniques, he fell into trouble.

Jason knew this clearly.

Hence, he had simulated similar battles in his mind more than once.

But...

Those fighting methods were not suitable for the “Yao” in front of him.

Because the opponent’s speed was simply too fast.

Bam bam bam!

In a series of dull sounds, Jason had already retreated from one side of the alley to the other.

The pain spread.

Jason gritted his teeth to stop himself from shouting out.

He had long surpassed the “war machine level” defense, resisting “Yao’s” fists.

But this resistance was not entirely mitigating.

Jason still felt the pain.

Moreover, this pain had far exceeded that of a regular strike.

Every punch felt as if it would shatter him to pieces.

No!

It was more painful than being shattered.

Because Jason had experienced the pain of being shattered.

But the pain before him was the kind that drilled into his bones, drilled into his organs.

Even,

He saw a flicker of illusion before his eyes.

Not the illusion from physical pressure to the limit.

But a tug on his spirit.

His whole being felt as if it were being pulled into something.

Illusion!

Jason stood there unmoved, his eyes losing their brilliance.

"Yao" shook his head, ignoring Jason further.

Under his illusion, Jason couldn't possibly resist.

Although his physical defense was excellent, his spiritual resistance?

Lacked by more than a notch.

With this judgment, he turned around to the charred corpse on the ground.

After closely inspecting it, he raised his hand.

A bright green light shone down.

Immediately, the charred corpse on the ground was restored.

"Jing" came back to life.

Or more accurately, woke from a false death.

Upon opening his eyes and seeing "Yao", he raised his hand to strike his own head.

And then...

His hand broke.

Chapter 1534: Holle Viktoria's Wrath!

The entire arm splits into two from the elbow.

The upper arm remains attached to the body, while the forearm falls away.

However, before it hits the ground, 'Yao' catches it.

It's not just the arm.

There's also blood.

Clinging to the arm just like that.

'Yao' looks at 'Jing' with amusement.

"Suicide is the act of a coward."

'Yao' says.

'Jing' silently raises his other arm, aiming for the head again, faster and fiercer than before.

But,

The result doesn't change.

It breaks again.

Just like the previous arm, split into two at the elbow, the forearm is held at the fingers by the same hand of 'Yao', like holding a dead fish.

'Yao's other hand grips 'Jing's jaw.

Crack!

A crisp sound.

'Jing's jaw is dislocated.

"Death is not your choice."

"At least not now."

"When the judgment comes..."

"That will be your execution time."

After 'Yao' finishes speaking, he releases his hand, but 'Jing' doesn't fall to the ground. Instead, he's suspended in mid-air, glaring at 'Yao', even as he notices Jason's fingers twitch slightly not far away, there is no change.

Anger.

Resentment.

It's a look of a failed attempt.

'Yao' appreciates this expression.

Until the distant flying craft descends.

"Lift him up."

'Yao' points to 'Jing', then turns to look at Jason.

Seeing Jason dazed there, 'Yao' smiles.

"Take him too."

"When transporting, be gentle."

"Don't wake him."

As 'Yao' speaks, he enters the flying craft.

Even though he could return to 'Uptown' directly using the 'passage', opening the 'passage' consumes quite a lot of resources.

Those resources can be put to better use.

For instance...

Transforming 'Jason'.

An individual with such strong defensive capabilities like Jason, in 'Yao's eyes, is an excellent 'shield'.

No need for nurturing.

No need for investment.

Simply erase with 'illusions', confuse his mind and it's done.

He's done this more than once.

Although it's a prolonged endeavor, the rewards are quite substantial.

He needs a shield.

In every sense of the word.

He was troubled by where to start before, but unexpectedly during the capture of 'Jing', he found a pleasant surprise.

Just...

Would someone like Jason remain unknown in 'Uptown'?

Quickly, 'Yao' realizes this.

However, immediately, 'Yao' smiles.

Who is Jason?

Does it matter?

Not really.

In the end, he'll be his.

His desired shield.

Knowing that is enough for him.

The rest?

Who cares.

The propellers spin swiftly, and the flying craft shoots into the clouds.

Less than a kilometer away.

The seemingly insurmountable clouds are soon breached.

The flying craft enters a massive 'hole'.

In this 'hole', scaffolds densely cover the scene, with square platforms marked with numbers in between.

Entirely metallic structures.

All pitch-black.

Appearing even colder in the presence of various holographic images.

Hundreds of people in clean uniforms shuttle back and forth on platforms.

Squads of armed guards diligently perform their duties.

Occasionally, someone looks downwards.

Unlike the obscured view when looking up from below.

When looking downwards from above, everything is clear.

A complete circular 'ground' appears in everyone's view.

Layer upon layer.

A total of fifteen layers.

That is, Ring City.

The Lower City District of 'Nightless City'.

And at the edge of Ring City, further away.

Mist covers the area.

Even standing here, it's not visible.

First-time viewers will certainly be surprised, but for 'Uptown' residents who live and work here, they are already tired of seeing it.

Their gaze shifts more towards the incoming flying craft.

"'Hawk Falcon No.11', please proceed to Platform 21."

The mechanical guidance voice comes from the speaker.

The flying craft escorting Jason and 'Jing' follows the directive and enters Platform 21.

The hatch opens.

'Yao' steps down first.

"Welcome back victorious, Councilor."

The soldiers on the platform salute simultaneously.

‘Yao’ nods in response and turns his gaze toward a distant figure on the platform.

Feeling ‘Yao’s gaze, Holle Viktoria breaks into a cold sweat.

Since knowing ‘Yao’ went to the ‘Lower City District’, this former contact person for ‘Jing’ has been anxious, especially upon hearing that ‘Yao’ is returning with ‘Jing’ in custody and Jason captured, his heart completely sank.

To cover up his negligence, he’s done quite a number of shady acts. .

If discovered, it means execution on the spot.

He doesn’t want to die yet.

Thus, he appeared at the ‘port’ immediately.

He hopes to exchange his ‘sincerity’ for his life.

So, when he noticed ‘Yao’ looking at him, Holle Viktoria hurriedly trotted over to ‘Yao’.

"Sir ‘Yao’, welcome back."

Holle Viktoria speaks while bowing in salute.

During this process, he discreetly places a ring into ‘Yao’s hand.

It’s his accumulation of nearly thirty years.

Certainly not the meager 'salary'.

Chapter 1535: Holle Viktoria's Wrath!

It was the 'wealth' he painstakingly scraped together.

As he touched the ring, Jason's lips curled into a smirk.

"Viktor, you're the person with the most contact with Jing. I need your cooperation in the investigation—as one of Jing's interrogators."

Jason spoke as he walked forward.

Towards someone like Holle Viktoria, who only held a position for the title, Jason had no ill will.

Because he was obedient.

When choosing between a tiger that devours people and an obedient, docile dog, what's the choice?

Need it even be said?

The latter, without a doubt.

Is ability important?

Not really.

The key is, obedience.

Moreover...

Being able to eat shit.

That's enough.

With these two points, regardless of what Holle Viktoria did, he didn't care.

Of course, he also knew Holle Viktoria would handle everything cleanly.

And, secure greater benefits for him.

As a matter of fact, that's exactly how it was.

"I will do my utmost to serve you."

Holle Viktoria said so.

Hearing these words as if they were an oath, Jason smiled.

That's what he wanted.

A person who made mistakes but could still be forgiven and reused.

Especially when that person's abilities weren't all that great.

On hearing this news, those wavering people should make a choice, right?

'Reputation'!

That's what Jason wanted.

Otherwise, just based on Holle Viktoria's wealth?

It's hardly enough to look at.

Standing there respectfully, Holle Viktoria watched Jason leave.

Once Jason's figure disappeared, Holle Viktoria then straightened his posture and let out a long sigh.

His life was spared!

Though he once again became penniless.

But, as long as he was alive.

He could acquire more wealth.

Besides, there was a chance right in front of him.

Holle Viktoria turned around, looking at Jing, with both arms severed, jaw dislocated, and the whole body bound, he immediately showed a smile that was more like a sneer.

"Jing, who would've thought we'd meet so soon?"

"Don't worry, I'll treat you well!"

"I'll make sure your life is a living hell!"

Holle Viktoria said fiercely.

What he got in return was Jing's indifference.

With both arms severed, jaw dislocated, and the whole body bound, Jing seemed resigned, hanging his head without a word.

This look made Holle Viktoria want to punch Jing.

But he didn't.

Because Jing was a person designated by the 'Council' to be dealt with.

Although meant for execution.

Before the actual execution, no one would touch him.

But the anger from being ignored made Holle Viktoria uncomfortable, stifled.

Instinctively, Holle Viktoria glanced at the carried-off Jason.

Hit by an illusion?

By Lord Jason?

Relying on the 'mystical knowledge' not entirely forgotten, Holle Viktoria made a judgment.

Then, he guessed what Lord Jason wanted to do.

It's no secret.

The power of the twelve councilors in Uptown is well known in Uptown.

Even, the abilities of these twelve councilors are being spread around.

Not all of them.

Just parts.

But that was enough.

At least, Holle Viktoria understood Jason wasn't someone he could meddle with.

Immediately, Holle Viktoria felt even more frustrated.

At this moment, the soldiers and staff on the platform glanced over.

Instantly, Holle Viktoria felt like he had been offended.

"What are you looking at?"

"Are you slacking off?"

"I'll report you!"

Holle Viktoria shouted loudly.

As if finding a channel to vent his frustration.

From that moment on, until he completely left the 'port,' Holle Viktoria's mouth never stopped.

He strongly, solemnly declared his stance.

Reprimanding the nearby platform staff for not working hard enough.

Why were there fewer soldiers?

Because, when a few soldiers showed fierce expressions and put their hands on their triggers, Holle Viktoria thought he should be magnanimous, shouldn't cling to others' minor mistakes.

However, it was different with those staff members.

In the face of his rightful persuasion, they actually remained silent?

Not the slightest remorse!

How can they endure this?

Therefore, Holle Viktoria's voice grew louder and louder.

Until just before getting into the car.

Feeling a bit uncomfortable in the throat, Holle Viktoria finally closed his mouth with satisfaction.

He sat in the latter half of the carriage.

With Jason, and 'Jing' together.

After drinking a bottle of water in big gulps, Holle Viktoria let out a satisfied breath.

Then, he looked at 'Jing'.

First glanced at the front.

After confirming the carriage was sealed, and 'Jing' was completely restrained, Holle Viktoria then spoke in a very low voice.

"Do you know you almost ruined me?"

"Do you know you made me lose everything?"

"Do you know you made me start over?"

Interrogation.

Holle Viktoria questioned sharply.

As he asked, Holle Viktoria grabbed 'Jing' by the collar.

Of course, Holle Viktoria wouldn't do anything more excessive.

Nor dare to do it.

At this moment, it was just taking advantage of no one around to vent a little.

"He tui!"

Holle Viktoria prepared to complete the above action, but just as he gathered the saliva, 'Jing' raised his head.

Suddenly, their eyes met.

Looking at 'Jing's gaze full of cold indifference, Holle Viktoria inexplicably shivered from the bottom of his heart.

Not fear.

Definitely not fear.

But...

Pity.

Yes, it was pity.

More than ten years of colleague camaraderie made him feel pity for this person about to be executed.

The saliva swallowed back.

The hand let go.

And, he smoothed the collar.

Despite 'Jing's clothes having already become tattered and unsightly, for his own pity, Holle Viktoria thought he should still do his best; this was to express his sentiment.

Squeak.

Unfortunately, Holle Viktoria was too nervous, using too much strength at once.

‘Jing’s collar was just torn open like that.

"Sorry."

"Apologies."

"I didn't mean to."

Holle Viktoria immediately apologized.

This was just an instinctive apology.

Holle Viktoria naturally did not expect ‘Jing’ to respond.

But—

"It's okay."

‘Jing’s voice sounded.

"That's good, that's goo..."

Holle Viktoria instinctively said, only realizing something was wrong when the words repeated the second time.

He looked up, staring in shock at 'Jing'.

Only to see 'Jing' looking at him with a gentle expression.

That appearance was exactly the same as the 'Jing' in his memory.

Yet Holle Viktoria was chilled to the bone.

"Impossible!"

"How could you break through Master 'Yao's' restraints?!" .

"I must be dreaming!"

"No, wrong!"

"It's an illusion!"

"It must be an illusion!"

Holle Viktoria could not accept the reality at all.

And 'Jing' just smiled lightly.

"Without such strength, how would I dare to execute the plan?"

Seemingly sighing, more like reminiscing, 'Jing' took a breath and ignored Holle Viktoria who was already curled up in the corner, he directly looked at Jason sitting opposite him, seemingly still in the Illusion Realm.

Such a gaze lasted for 10 seconds.

Finally, 'Jing' laughed.

"Still want to continue the disguise?"

"Don't worry."

"This is a prison van, no surveillance, no one would spy—those guys are more arrogant than you think."

'Jing' said.

Curled up in the corner, Holle Viktoria looked towards Jason.

No way?

Impossible?

This guy is also pretending?

This...

Holle Viktoria was full of suspicion, then shock filled his eyes.

Under Holle Viktoria's horrified gaze, Jason's eyes regained clarity.

Jason leaned against the prison van, looking at 'Jing' opposite him.

'Jing's hands naturally crossed on his legs.

Both were staring at each other.

Neither spoke first.

About three seconds later, they opened their mouths at the same time without any order—

"Shall we talk?"

Chapter 1536: A Promise Worth a Thousand Jing in Nightless City

Jason, 'Jing' was startled.

Then, they both spoke simultaneously again—

"Let's talk."

This made Holle Viktoria's hair stand on end.

This 'Jing', a former contact of his, knew that the first time was a question, and the second time was to give the other a definite answer.

And this was not in the Lower City District of 'Nightless City'.

It was in 'Uptown'!

One of them even had power comparable to a 'Councilor'.

As for whether 'Jing' would deceive him?

Holle Viktoria believed he wouldn't.

Because, being able to break free from 'Yao's' constraints was proof of everything.

'Mystery' must be opposed by 'mystery'.

Similarly, only 'mysteries' of the same level can confront each other.

Moreover, 'Jing' appeared so at ease.

Especially not afraid of being discovered by 'Yao'.

This made Holle Viktoria even more speculative.

The opponent was deliberate!

Deliberately captured by 'Yao'!

Deliberately came to 'Uptown'!

What the opponent is here for, Holle Viktoria temporarily didn't know.

But there was one thing Holle Viktoria could be sure of.

The opponent had malicious intent.

The more he thought, the more Holle Viktoria felt scared.

The more he thought, the more Holle Viktoria broke out in a cold sweat.

Simultaneously, he tried to curl up his body, hoping 'Jing' wouldn't notice him.

Treat him like a fart and let him go.

Unfortunately, even if a fart is silent.

It still has a smell.

The next second, 'Jing' turned his head to look at Holle Viktoria.

With a slight smile.

Holle Viktoria didn't flinch.

Pfft.

He just knelt down there.

"Happy to serve you."

Holle Viktoria said straightforwardly.

Having reached this point, Holle Viktoria was well aware that he no longer had any choice.

He knew full well what kind of person 'Jing' was.

If he didn't want to die, it was best to obey.

Or rather, the reason he was still alive up to now was that he was still useful.

And this was his opportunity.

‘Jing’s’ smile became even brighter.

"I always thought Viktoria, you were underutilized."

‘Jing’ praised.

Then, he opened his mouth and spat out a scroll.

"Open it, sign your name, and press your bloody fingerprint on it."

‘Jing’ said.

Holle Viktoria didn’t hesitate at all, completely ignoring the saliva on it, and obediently did as ‘Jing’ instructed.

He bit his fingertip, wrote his name with blood, and pressed his fingerprint.

When he sensed an inexplicable force emerging from the depths of his heart, Holle Viktoria let out a sigh of relief.

He knew his soul was bound.

From then on, his spirit could never find peace.

However, he survived.

That was enough.

What could be more important than being alive?

Freedom? Dignity?

No!

They didn't matter.

Only living was the most important thing.

Because only by living could one have freedom and dignity.

Dead?

Then, you've truly got nothing.

"A clear choice."

'Jing' said, as he tucked the scroll back into his mouth.

Throughout the whole process, Jason remained silent, even when 'Jing' had already looked at him.

"I don't know why you left 'Uptown', but 'Uptown' is very strong."

"Much stronger than I anticipated."

"I can deal with 'Yao', but there are eleven more like him."

"And even above them, there are three more."

"So, I think we can form an alliance."

'Jing' said calmly.

As expected, there were even stronger ones above 'Yao', these Councilors!

Confirming his speculations, Jason nodded slightly without showing it.

"How to form an alliance?"

Jason asked.

"With our strength, we can't possibly handle it, so we need to seek help from outsiders."

'Jing' hinted.

"Those monsters?"

Jason retorted.

"Monsters?"

"They're not monsters."

"Just with rather strange appearances."

"Moreover, they're communicable."

'Jing' shook his head.

"So?"

Jason continued to ask.

"So, we break the barrier..."

"What will I get out of it?"

'Jing's' words were interrupted by Jason.

'Jing' was taken aback, then smiled.

"You've adapted to 'Lower City District' life, huh."

'Jing' said this.

"What makes 'Uptown' any different?"

Jason said vaguely.

'Jing' nodded, not refuting.

"Yes, there's no difference."

"What do you want?"

"Wealth? Power? Or strength?"

'Jing' asked.

"Strength!"

Jason answered straightforwardly.

This was the most fitting answer for his character at the moment.

Jason hadn't forgotten the persona that Lauren Delder 'perfected' for him: someone who was disillusioned with 'Uptown', willing to idle away in 'Lower City District'.

Such a person generally wouldn't care about wealth or power.

Otherwise, he wouldn't have escaped 'Uptown', choosing to be a courier under the 'Old Man'.

However, he still had a need for 'strength'.

At least, Jason showed strength.

Also, he didn't mind using strength.

"Very simple."

"Help me break the barrier, and you'll gain unimaginable strength—and I promise the safety of those under the 'Old Man'.

‘Jing’ showed great understanding.

Jason didn’t believe these words at all.

Once the barrier is broken.

Underneath a collapsing nest, no egg is left intact.

Jason understood this principle.

But he was still negotiating with ‘Jing’.

Not only to understand ‘Jing’s’ plan.

But also because...

Chapter 1537: A Promise Worth a Thousand Jing in Nightless City (part 2)

There are benefits!

"What about the deposit?"

Jason, leaning against the inside of the prison cart, lifted his head, gazing at ‘Jing’.

"Is that how ‘Lower City District’ sharpens people?"

"You’ve become just like those guys."

‘Jing’ sighed heavily.

Then, with a mouthful, another scroll emerged.

Looking at the scroll, Jason frowned.

It's not that there's a problem with the scroll.

But it's covered in saliva.

Someone else's saliva.

This made Jason feel a bit disgusted. .

The next moment, Jason's gaze turned to Holle Viktoria.

Holle Viktoria immediately understood Jason's intention, quickly bent down to pick up the soggy scroll, then wiped it clean meticulously and handed it to Jason with a big smile.

"Your scroll."

Holle Viktoria's voice was gentle, like the spring breeze.

That flattering smile was filled with enthusiasm.

One could barely see any trace of Holle Viktoria's cursing and arrogance at the port.

‘Jing’ did not mind Holle Viktoria's actions.

He pointed at the scroll and said.

"This is a secret technique concerning the body."

"Upon completion, it can make your body become more solid and powerful."

"And gain a higher level of defense."

‘Jing’ wasn’t deceiving Jason.

This secret technique indeed had such effect.

There wasn’t even the slightest exaggeration.

However, there were indeed drawbacks.

But when negotiating terms...

Of course, the drawbacks must be hidden.

But Jason wasn’t going to let that slide.

"What are the drawbacks?"

Jason asked directly.

"You would endure bone-crushing pain."

"And..."

"It’s extremely time-consuming."

‘Jing’ spread his hands and paused for a moment, then continued: “But trust me, once you master it, you will feel it is worth every bit.”

Jason nodded.

That was as if acknowledging ‘Jing’'s statement.

Then—

"Not enough!"

Jason said this.

"I need a secret technique that's less difficult, preferably one that can be quickly mastered and has no side effects."

Jason once again stated his demand.

"Do you think there are such secret techniques?"

"You're not new to the Mystical Side, why are you still harboring such fantasies?"

"Which technique with minimal difficulty and quick mastery doesn't come with huge side effects?"

"Unless you don't require power."

"Believe me, it's the best there is."

‘Jing’ had a look of wanting what’s best for Jason.

However, Jason completely ignored him.

Just stared at ‘Jing’.

After about two to three seconds, ‘Jing’ compromised.

No choice, at this time, Jason held the advantage.

He had to compromise.

But later, when the plan started?

That would be his home ground.

Thinking of this, ‘Jing’ suddenly had no worries anymore.

"Alright, alright."

"I have a kind of secret technique here, of moderate difficulty, also relatively quick to master, with decent power and moderate side effects—this counts as knowledge recognized as a secret technique even within the Council."

"And, it complements you well."

"Your flames... lack power."

"It’s just right with it."

‘Jing’ seemed well-prepared, only slightly pausing before speaking directly.

After finishing, another scroll came out.

This time, without needing Jason’s gaze signal, Holle Viktoria diligently wiped the scroll clean and handed it over.

Jason took the scroll.

"Now let me talk about my plan..."

Bam!

‘Jing’'s words were interrupted once again.

Sitting opposite ‘Jing’, Jason lifted a foot and kicked open the back door of the prison cart.

The sturdiness of the prison cart was unquestionable.

Including the doors of the prison cart.

But the door latch was too slender for Jason.

Even though it was made of the same material as the door and the prison cart itself.

It was still bent by Jason’s kick.

The door of the prison cart opened.

With more leftover force, it collided.

Clang!

Such a sound naturally attracted the driver's attention.

Screech!

During the emergency brake, Jason raised his hand and threw Holle Viktoria out of the car, and yelled loudly—

“ ‘Jing’ has escaped!”

The voice was loud enough for the whole street to hear.

As he completed all this, Jason just disappeared in front of ‘Jing’.

Talks, surely must go on.

But agreeing to talk doesn't mean consent.

Jason never considered such agreements with the tiger.

Jason is certain that if he follows Jing's so-called plan, he will die without a trace.

This is not what he wants.

Everything happened too suddenly.

Even Jing was momentarily taken aback.

When he came to his senses, he wasn't angry, just smiled.

Jason's reaction was more intense than he had imagined.

However, it was not beyond his expectations.

The only surprise was that Jason had already acted.

"Alas."

Jing jumped out of the car.

Then, without even glancing at Holle Viktoria, he ran in a direction.

He believed Holle Viktoria would take care of herself.

And him?

He needed to execute the most critical part of the plan.

He named the entire plan—

"Hide and Seek."

However, just before leaving, Holle Viktoria raised her hand and waved behind her.

Bang!

An explosion sent the prison van flying into the air.

The two escorts who had just gotten out of the car were blown to pieces by the shockwave before they could react.

Holle Viktoria was also thrown a dozen meters away, falling into unconsciousness.

Unable to spot Jason's figure.

"Did he run far away?"

"Alas."

Jing sighed.

Then, he walked away without looking back.

When Jing's figure completely disappeared from sight.

Jason's figure flickered and vanished in the flames on the side.

Explosion.

Flames.

Immediately, the alarms in Uptown sounded.

Having just returned to the heavily guarded, barrier-protected council, Yao casually submitted his task.

Then, the councilor received news of Jing's escape the first time.

He was initially taken aback.

His eyes full of surprise.

In Yao's understanding, there was no chance for Jing to resist.

The initial behavior confirmed this.

Wait!

The beginning?

As if realizing something, Yao's face changed.

He instinctively raised his hand, prepared to radiate light.

But, it was too late!

A part of a little finger slipped from his coat pocket.

It was a part of Jing's little finger.

Not the fingertip.

The position of the second joint.

An inconspicuous place on the entire arm.

Yao knew it was placed in his pocket when he grabbed Jing's arm.

Not knowing what method was used, he never noticed.

And it was lethal!

Yao tried his best to retreat, isolating this power.

But the outcome would not change.

Bang!

The section of the little finger exploded.

A small mist of blood appeared.

The blood mist spread.

Yao's hand shimmered with light.

The blood mist was instantly dispelled.

However, Yao's face was somber.

In his perception, a peculiar power emerged here.

Not strong.

Yet tenacious.

And, clear.

That's right!

Clear!

Yao could even feel the ripples it released.

Like waves, heading toward the Lower City District.

Skipping zones 16, 17, 18, and so on.

Until...

Deep in Zone 30.

There, a long-standing altar rose slowly from the ground.

Twelve Black Knights lined up, watching the slowly ascending altar.

Then, they drew the long swords from their waists.

Charge!

Roar!

Silent command received countless responses.

On the wilderness, hundreds of thousands of monsters swarmed the altar.

They've been waiting long for the "path."

Finally, found it.

Now is their time to fulfill their mission!

A crimson gate appeared on the altar.

No physical presence.

It was merely created by ethereal light.

But when those monsters charged through this gate, it was as if they passed through a real door.

They appeared in Uptown.

Precisely the true core of Uptown: the council!

Chapter 1538: Truth and Lies of the Past!

The roars of monsters.

The intense sound of gunfire.

Suddenly, it filled the Uptown of 'Nightless City.'

The tranquility was shattered in that instant.

The residents of Uptown looked unbelievably towards the direction of the gunshots and monster roars.

‘The Council’?!

How is this possible!

Every resident of Uptown in ‘Nightless City’ was dumbfounded.

But, facts are facts.

They don’t change because of anyone’s disbelief.

Beep, beep!

The piercing sound of alarms echoed.

The street broadcasts sounded—

"All residents, please return home!"

"All residents, please return home!"

"All residents, please return home!"

A tone devoid of any warmth.

It was a mechanical announcement.

With a commanding tone.

Yet, none of the surrounding residents felt angry.

On the contrary, their unease disappeared.

Each of them breathed a sigh of relief, heading back to their homes.

In their hearts, they believed the 'Council' would be fine.

Uptown would be fine too.

And them?

Naturally, they would be fine too.

The evacuation of residents was extremely swift.

Military units began to appear on the streets.

"How is it?"

The leading general asked his messenger.

"General, we cannot contact the inside of the 'Council.'"

The messenger replied.

"Try again!"

"Use all means!"

The general said with a somber expression.

"Yes, General."

The messenger quickly ran to the side, repeatedly using radios and communication formations.

The general kept his gaze fixed on the 'Council.'

This was something he had never encountered in his tenure.

Though there were drills, when it truly happened, everything was different.

Unease.

Like a shadow looming over his heart.

However, thankfully for the usual drills, the general knew what to do.

"Construct defensive works around the 'Council.'

"Quickly!"

"Maximize the depth!"

The general shouted to another messenger.

Then, turned and headed towards a military jeep nearby.

There was a radio on it.

A radio that could contact other 'Councilors.'

And just as the general began contacting other 'Councilors,' the 'Council,' wrapped in layers of Barriers, broke open from the inside like a fortress breached from within.

'Yao' slaughtered wave after wave of monsters.

But the monsters seemed endless.

Like a tide, surging continuously.

Relying on 'Yao's strength.

Hundreds of Uptown soldiers formed a simple defensive line.

Their guns poured bullets.

Combined with endless secret techniques, this seemingly simple defensive line stood firm like a rock in the tide.

'Yao' knew clearly that as long as he held on for a while, more soldiers would come from the four barracks within Uptown.

At the same time, his colleagues would also return to Uptown.

By then, everything would reverse.

Although he would be implicated by this incident. .

It would definitely not hurt his foundation.

He still had the capital to rise again.

At worst, take on the role of a 'Guardian.'

'Yao' thought of the worst outcome.

Just as he saw twelve Black Knights appearing in the 'gate' at the end of his sight, 'Yao's face changed.

Then, he retreated.

Swiftly retreated.

"Shadowy Knights!"

Soldiers forming the first line of defense exclaimed.

As the guardians of the 'Council.'

Their authority far exceeded ordinary soldiers.

They knew things that ordinary soldiers did not know at all.

At this moment, seeing the Black Knights filled their faces with despair.

Clatter!

The sound of hooves was crisp.

The twelve Black Knights lined up in a row.

Their black warhorses seemed to trot slowly.

But in an instant, they reached the scarlet gate outside.

Boom!

The twelve Black Knights crashed into the makeshift fortifications.

Shattered!

Whether it was the fortifications or the people inside!

All shattered!

Along with the remaining Barrier.

And this was like the last gate holding back a fierce tiger being broken.

The surging monsters roared ferociously.

The 'Uptown' residents, completely ignorant of what was happening, looked in horror towards the direction of the sounds.

Then, they were engulfed by monsters.

Together swallowed was the defensive works that the general hadn't finished.

Even the general himself.

When the twelve shadows burst out, he had just connected to other 'Councilors' with the 'last resort,' but before he could finish speaking, the general was torn apart.

Bam, bam, bam!

Bodies were shattered.

Blood mist began to spread.

Watching all this, 'Yao's face was already ashen.

He realized when he saw the severed finger that things were bad.

But he didn't expect 'Jing' to be so ruthless.

At first, he thought Jing just used his 'severed finger' as bait, sending out a signal.

Much like a signal tower.

Helping the monsters below locate Uptown.

But now, it was clear that wasn't the case.

Sending out a signal was definite.

Yet being able to quickly establish a path for 'Shadowy Knights' to pass wasn't simple, not even with the monsters in Sector 30 preparing for a long time.

This required a mutual process.

One side's effort alone was not enough.

Simply put, it seemed like just a severed finger, but in fact, it was a 'medium.'

A 'medium' using its own vitality as 'fuel.'

Chapter 1539: Truth and Lies of the Past! (part 2)

To quickly open the passage, 'Jing' used his life as the price!

At this time, 'Jing' was probably not just growing old.

His strength was less than a tenth.

He was completely disregarding his life.

"Using his life as the price... I underestimated you!"

'Yao' muttered harshly to himself.

This 'Councilor' from 'Uptown' still didn't understand why 'Jing' did this.

He couldn't figure it out.

However, he understood.

He must stop the twelve Shadowy Knights.

Otherwise...

The entire 'Uptown' would be doomed.

Once 'Uptown' fell, he would fall too.

This was an unbreakable fact.

Thinking of this, 'Yao' took a deep breath.

In the next moment, his entire figure, layered with illusions, blocked the path of the twelve black charging figures.

In his hands bloomed a dazzling brilliance.

That brilliance seemed white.

Yet carried threads of golden hues.

Characters made up of Dufol Language revolved around the light, spiraling upward, finally converging at the peak.

The radiance was dazzling.

A pair of gauntlets completely made of light appeared in ‘Yao’s hands.

What followed was—

Weight.

Sharpness.

Heavy as a hammer, like a mountain range.

Sharp as a sword, like a meteor.

Tones that were initially distinct manifested on those gauntlets.

Whoosh!

‘Yao’ took a deep breath.

"Lan. Yue!"

With a loud shout, the radiance moved.

‘Yao’s figure vanished from where he stood.

Only the continuously swinging double fists remained.

The shadows of fists filled the sky.

Like a torrential downpour.

Dense.

Layer upon layer.

Transforming into...

A mountain range!

A peak appeared out of nowhere, so heavy it felt oppressive.

As if people were looking up at a towering mountain top.

Breeze!

The mountain wind blew past.

The substantial peak moved.

It blocked the path of the twelve black figures charging forward.

Bang bang bang!

The sounds of impact rang out.

Endlessly.

Once, twice, thrice...

A total of twelve times!

After twelve sounds, the twelve black figures stopped, revealing the true faces of the Shadowy Knights.

Meanwhile, that mighty peak became shattered.

Bits of stone still occasionally fell.

Panting heavily, gasping.

‘Yao’ was already pale, breathing hard.

But, immediately, he swung his fists again.

Because—

The twelve Shadowy Knights launched another charge.

...

Near the ‘Council’, the ground shook and the mountains trembled. .

‘Uptown’ became tense and anxious.

However, ‘Jing’ was leisurely walking.

Even though...

He became old and feeble.

Occasionally, he'd cough.

At this moment, 'Jing' was already with grayed hair and a wrinkled face, completely different from the previously gentle middle-aged man, with whom someone would believe is seventy or eighty years old.

But, 'Jing's condition was very good.

One could even say it was unprecedentedly good.

It was a state of untying a heart's knot.

The fulfillment of a long-awaited wish.

So much so that 'Jing' hummed a tune as he walked.

His destination was clear.

Thus, even though he walked and stopped along the way, he soon arrived at a corner of 'Uptown'.

Here was...

A cemetery.

Not a public one.

A private burial ground.

A place he purchased under another identity.

A small cabin stood at the entrance of the cemetery, inside lived a Tomb Guardian.

Upon seeing 'Jing', he silently opened the cemetery.

The entire process was dazed, wooden.

As if soulless.

In fact, it was true.

When 'Jing' returned to 'Uptown', certain means had already been triggered, making seemingly regular people and things become irregular.

Just like the Tomb Guardian before him.

The counterpart, like Holle Viktoria, had signed a contract.

However, unlike coercing Holle Viktoria.

Back then, the counterpart volunteered.

He gave the counterpart a choice.

Then, collected the corresponding compensation.

It was reasonably fair.

But to Holle Viktoria?

There wasn't much fairness.

"People always change."

'Jing' murmured softly.

Then, instead of walking directly into the cemetery, he headed towards the Tomb Guardian's room. Half a minute later, he came out,

Holding a bouquet of fresh flowers and...

A pot of wine.

The flowers were white gardenias.

The wine was a famous strong liquor.

Holding these, 'Jing' walked into the cemetery.

He first bowed towards the tombstones around.

Even if the people in these graves were not the ones he wanted to pay respects to, their existence protected the one he did want to honor.

He felt he needed to bow.

"Thank you."

Saying this, 'Jing' passed through the gravestones that served as a cover and reached the depths of the cemetery.

Four graves without tombstones appeared there, overgrown with weeds.

This was intentional.

'Jing' placed down the flowers and wine and began to pull out the weeds.

Then, he fetched a bucket of water and started cleaning the worn-out stones in front of the graves.

Only then did he place the flowers in front of the four graves.

"Old friends, I've come to see you."

'Jing' said quietly.

Then he pointed in the direction of the 'Council'.

"Did you hear that sound?"

"They are your best offering."

"Traitors..."

"Deserve to die without a complete body."

As 'Jing' spoke, he uncorked the bottle and began to pour the strong liquor evenly before the four graves.

This simple act made his breathing become rapid.

Especially when he straightened up, his joints creaked noisily.

So much so that 'Jing' had to support his waist to stand up straight.

"Alas."

"I originally planned to see you in a better state."

"Ended up meeting a bastard."

"Had no choice but to become like this."

"If you want to laugh, just laugh."

"I'm used to it anyway."

As 'Jing' spoke, his gaze turned to the first grave on the right.

"Captain, you said I was the weakest and youngest and should survive."

"I didn't agree with you."

His gaze moved left.

"Te, you told me not to seek revenge, to find a place to live incognito for the rest of my life."

"I didn't agree with you."

His gaze continued to move left.

"El, you told me not to hate anyone, to learn to forgive."

"I didn't agree with you."

His eyes moved left again.

When he stopped at the last grave, 'Jing's eyes were already bloodshot.

"Lin, you told me to find a better woman, to live, to have a bunch of kids."

"I didn't agree with you."

"After losing you, how could I possibly love someone else."

As 'Jing' spoke, tears streamed down his face.

"After losing you all."

"I lost everything."

"I will make sure all of them feel this pain—"

"Feel the pain!"

He roared.

Using all his strength.

Then, his body leaned weakly against the side of the grave.

Just like back in the day before they undertook their last mission together.

He stood last in line.

Now, it was the same.

His wish had been half fulfilled.

The rest?

Was to fulfill another promise to someone else.

“ ‘Paradise’ ...”

"Is there really a 'paradise' in this world?"

‘Jing’ asked himself.

He didn't know.

He hoped it existed.

But reason told him it was impossible.

But whether possible or not, he would do it.

Not because of a promise.

To him, a promise was nonsense.

Was it because the other person gave him 'Strength'?

That was nonsense too.

None of that was important.

What was important was the promise to resurrect the Captain, Te, El, and Lin.

That was the most important.

As for the rest?

What did it matter to him!

After my death, let the floodwaters run wild!

All I want is for my friends, my loved ones to be alive.

You killed my friends, my loved ones.

I will make you accompany them in death.

I will destroy your world.

Obsessive, irrational, once again made 'Jing' sit up.

"Wait for me!"

"It won't be long!"

Saying farewell to his friends and loved ones, 'Jing' retraced his steps. The Tomb Guardian stood dazed at the door, watching 'Jing' disappear.

Only when 'Jing's figure disappeared did he look around blankly.

"What happened?"

The Tomb Guardian muttered to himself.

He would never know what happened.

But Jason knew.

Standing in the shadows, Jason frowned.

His eyes were full of doubt.

Chapter 1540: Jason, My Choice—Return...!

Jason suspected that 'Jing' was putting on an act.

That's right, putting on an act.

As for whether it was for him to see?

Jason wasn't sure.

Or rather, he couldn't be certain.

'Jing' was too cunning, and up until now, not until the last minute, Jason couldn't determine what this guy really wanted to do.

So, that seemingly 'heartfelt' moment just now, why could it be considered genuine?

What if it was another trap?

However, it's probably not him.

Hidden in the shadows, Jason thoughtfully looked around.

Unlike the war-torn core area of 'Uptown', the suburban areas around 'Uptown' were still very quiet; you couldn't even see a dog.

There were just gazes hidden on the side, like his.

But what did that have to do with him?

He still couldn't get involved now.

Against ordinary people, his strength was enough.

But against 'Yao'?

With conventional means, he was clearly lacking.

If it were just 'Yao' alone, Jason wouldn't mind using his trump card for a brawl.

But for beings like 'Yao', there were twelve in 'Uptown'.

Above these twelve, there were three more.

Jason knew clearly that even if he used all his trump cards, he wouldn't be a match for the twelve 'Councilors'.

Let alone those above the 'Councilor' level.

Aside from the forces in 'Uptown', 'Jing' himself could not be underestimated.

Despite trying to overestimate the adversary each time.

But when it came down to it, his overestimate still proved to be an underestimate.

Especially 'Jing', who was unlike any other enemy he'd encountered before.

The kind that didn't rely on brute strength.

But preferred using 'brains'.

Such an enemy was particularly troublesome to Jason.

Enemies aren't scary.

What's scary is an enemy who uses their brain.

Moreover, don't forget about those 'foods'.

There must also be extremely powerful existences among these 'foods'.

To be able to contend with 'Uptown'.

At least to be evenly matched.

"Twelve 'Councilor' level 'foods', three 'Speaker' level foods... slurp."

Jason couldn't help wiping away the drool.

The hunger started to spread once again.

Echoing endlessly in his mind—

Hungry!

Luckily, now he was no longer the person who would be affected by 'hunger' to lose his rationality.

Now he could withstand 'hunger'.

Naturally, it's impossible to sweep away the hunger.

But this was enough.

It wouldn't make him mindlessly rush up to feast, becoming a fool waiting to be slaughtered.

It gave him enough time to think.

To think about what he should do next.

Unconsciously, Jason's hand reached into his bosom.

His fingertips touched the black notebook.

When leaving Ter Street, Jason had already made up his mind that unless necessary, he wouldn't use this black notebook for the time being—only, plans never kept up with changes.

Three days later, he had no choice but to use this black notebook again.

Quickly distanced himself from the graveyard.

When he arrived at a park where no one was watching, Jason observed his surroundings.

This should be a park where nearby residents exercised.

Exercise facilities could be seen in the distance.

Not to mention other things, the basic infrastructures in 'Uptown' were really countless times better than those in the Lower City District.

Not only was the environment beautiful, but the living standard also significantly improved.

At least, in the Lower City District, Jason had never seen vending machines.

Let alone facilities like fountains.

In the Lower City District, getting clean water wasn't an easy task.

A cup of clear water and a piece of black bread could get you a young man working for a day in the Lower City District.

Stepping into the bushes.

Jason leaped onto the street park's large tree.

The whole body hidden in the tree crown, confirmed that he couldn't be seen from outside, he took out the two scrolls obtained from 'Jing' from his bosom.

[Discovered inheritance item 'Titanium Body', spend 300 points of satiety to learn?]

[Discovered inheritance item 'Dragon Flame Technique', spend 400 points of satiety to learn?]

...

"Learn."

When Jason took the two scrolls from 'Jing's' hand, such prompts had already appeared.

Because of these two prompts, he could confirm 'Jing' hadn't played tricks on the two secret techniques.

Of course, it was just that no tricks were played in the two secret techniques.

As for the rest?

Jason checked.

He didn't find any problems.

However, he remained cautious.

Before his eyes, an illusion appeared!

Click!

Click, click!

In the turning of mechanical gears, potions began injecting into his body.

Jason could feel the fierce power within these potions.

In fact, as soon as they entered his body.

His heart was torn apart by this force.

However, Jason had long been accustomed to it.

Didn't care at all.

Once.

Ten times.

A hundred times.

After a hundred times, this force became steady, starting to adapt to Jason's body.

Immediately, Jason's body became more robust, powerful.

Even with a faint special metallic sheen.

[Titanium Body: Once a very mysterious inherited 'Secret Martial Arts', but it's not complete; currently, you've only obtained its incomplete first layer, the path ahead requires self-exploration; Effect: Your entire body gains explosive-level defense (uniform total body defense, no weak points, if there are other defenses, this effect will stack).]

...

[Titanium Body] appeared under [Barehanded Combat (Master)]'s additional mastery.