

Revival 1431

Chapter 1431 - The Dangerous Dock

Xiangjiang.

Cao Yang, Lin Bei, and Li Leping arrived here carrying the head of the Manor Lord. Their mission tonight wasn't easy; they had to trade with people from the King Organization to exchange this head for their captain Zhang Jun's corpse.

However, during the previous captain's meeting, Yang Jian had said that even if the trade failed and they had to abandon Zhang Jun's corpse, the Manor Lord's head absolutely must not fall into the hands of the King Organization.

In other words, the three of them weren't here to complete the trade but to snatch back Zhang Jun's corpse.

"Here we are, this is the trading place."

A chilling cold wind blew, and the three of them arrived at a dock.

The dock was empty, not even a single boat moored.

Because orders had been received before their arrival, sealing off the entire dock and evacuating everyone from the area to avoid affecting the upcoming operation.

"It seems like the Xiangjiang person in charge isn't here, is he afraid to come over, or did he meet an unfortunate fate on our way here?" Cao Yang glanced around and spoke.

Lin Bei patted his bald head: "Being in charge of Xiangjiang is tough. I've seen the files; the area frequently experiences haunted events, making the position very dangerous. Almost every three months, someone is replaced until headquarters decisively transferred Su Fan, who was eligible to be nominated as a captain, over here. Only then did the situation improve slightly. I saw him at the last captain meeting, but we didn't interact much."

"That's right."

Cao Yang nodded: "Su Fan is the last person transferred to Xiangjiang. All previous leaders died, and only he has survived until now. Originally, headquarters considered transferring Feng Quan here, but dismissed the idea considering Yang Jian's side."

"It's fine if Su Fan doesn't come; perhaps he sensed the danger and hid early. I heard his supernatural power lets him anticipate death, so he always survives haunted events well. This ability is somewhat like that Spirit Child who predicts the future." Lin Bei smiled: "It seems our mission isn't optimistic."

"Five minutes until the trade begins, be prepared." Li Leping, who had been silent for a while, spoke.

The two looked at him, slightly surprised, as if they just remembered he was there.

"Who are you? Could you be Li Leping?" Lin Bei asked.

Li Leping: "..."

Lin Bei laughed: "Sorry, sorry, I can't remember your face. Every time I see you, it's like seeing a stranger. Someone might even mistake you for a ghost wandering nearby, startling me. Although I know Yang Jian brought you to use that trait for something, sometimes it does cause inconveniences."

"If an enemy claims to be Li Leping in front of us, we wouldn't recognize them immediately, unsure whether to attack or pause. A moment of hesitation in combat can be fatal. Don't get me wrong, I'm not targeting you, just stating the facts."

Li Leping said expressionlessly: "If that situation arises, act immediately. If the enemy dies, it means they're fake."

"Confident indeed, as expected of an experienced captain." Lin Bei gave a thumbs up.

Cao Yang said: "Alright, now isn't the time for chatting. The time is almost up. The others should be arriving."

Lin Bei and Li Leping knew the importance of the trade, so they stopped talking and became cautious.

The trade time quickly arrived.

At that moment, a light suddenly shone on the dark sea surface not far from the dock, and a small fishing boat wobbled its way over.

As soon as the small boat appeared, the three of them focused their gaze on it.

Quickly.

The small boat docked, and a forty-five-year-old man emerged from the cabin. This man wasn't a ghost handler, but an ordinary person.

"You all, stop standing around like idiots and come help!" the middle-aged captain shouted loudly.

Cao Yang's face instantly darkened, not because the captain called him an idiot, but because this boat only had an ordinary person, none from the King Organization, and they might have been duped.

"Let's go have a look." Lin Bei patted his bald head, feeling helpless.

The three walked over and had to lend a hand in stabilizing the boat.

"A foreigner gave me a piece of cargo to bring here and trade with you. The goods are on the boat, very heavy; I can't move it alone. The foreigner said you'd help unload it." the captain said.

"I'll go." Lin Bei jumped onto the boat and went to the cabin, and indeed saw a large box.

The box was heavy, made of gold, impossible for an average person to move.

But for Lin Bei, it wasn't an issue. He lifted the heavy box with one hand and jumped onto the dock.

"To move such a large box, what strength!" The captain marveled, thinking Lin Bei was a martial artist monk, observing him thoroughly.

Lin Bei ignored the captain's words, instead staring at the box: "Will Zhang Jun's corpse be inside? If it truly is, then the King Organization is oddly honest, voluntarily returning the body."

"Let's open it and find out." Li Leping walked over and directly opened the heavy box.

Immediately.

A stench of decay assaulted them, making them nearly gag.

The box indeed contained a corpse, but it was severely decomposed, shriveled, and the internal organs, bones seemed to be hollowed out, leaving only a tattered human skin. Yet from some remaining features, it could still be identified as Zhang Jun.

"Damn." Cao Yang couldn't help but curse.

The King Organization had evidently stripped Zhang Jun's body of all supernatural parts, leaving only irrelevant remnants.

"Take it back, cremate it, and find a place to bury it. Regardless, Zhang Jun was a headquarters captain, returning his remains is at least somewhat good news." Lin Bei said.

Cao Yang nodded.

The captain then said: "Hey, you've checked the goods, where's yours? I still need to take it back. The other party is waiting for it."

"Where is the party waiting for the goods?" Cao Yang directly asked.

The captain didn't hide it, pointing towards the sea: "There's a cargo ship over there, and the foreigner is on board waiting for me to return with the goods."

"Should we follow?"

Lin Bei smiled: "It could be a trap; leaving the dock means entering their territory, and we'll be passive, just like the other party avoided coming here to trade, worried we might ambush them. I advise you to dismiss this idea."

"What's the point of this trade then? Simply returning Zhang Jun's corpse, they know we wouldn't easily send back the Manor Lord's head," Cao Yang said.

"Maybe it's just to deceive us, making us expend a lot of energy to deal with this transaction. The previous analysis by Lu Zhiwen and Yang Jian was correct, which is why only the three of us came instead of all the captains. I guess something must have happened over in Dadong City at this moment," Lin Bei said.

Cao Yang nodded, feeling that this must be the case. It seemed like the Manor Lord had been abandoned by the other party.

"Looks like we came for nothing," Li Leping said.

Cao Yang stopped speaking, simply tossing the prepared box onto the boat and then said, "This is the item for the transaction. Take it back to that person."

The boatman didn't care what was in the box and immediately set sail, leaving the dock.

"What's inside?" Lin Bei, not knowing what was inside, asked curiously.

"It certainly can't be the Manor Lord's head," Cao Yang didn't reveal the specific contents.

Seeing this, Lin Bei did not ask further.

"Let's head back; we can't waste more time here," Li Leping said.

Cao Yang and Lin Bei agreed; they didn't linger long and immediately turned to leave the dock.

Having been deceived, there was nothing more they could do; after all, this trip could not be avoided.

However, just as they turned to leave, suddenly, Cao Yang's phone rang.

A text message had been received.

"Be careful, you're in danger." The sender's name was Su Fan, currently the person in charge in Xiangjiang.

"Hmm?"

Cao Yang frowned. Su Fan's warning of danger seemed a little untimely. This transaction was clearly a scam; there wasn't a person in sight at the dock, and the other party had no intention of showing up. The three of them had just made a fruitless trip.

"Su Fan warned us of danger and told us to be careful. It's very strange." He put down his phone but still shared the content of the message.

Lin Bei pondered, "It is indeed strange. We haven't detected any danger; everything seems normal here. But since someone warned us, there must be a reason. It's never wrong to listen. After all, Su Fan wouldn't harm us."

"You're right. Let's go now."

Cao Yang hesitated no longer, using the Ghost Domain to immediately lead the two back to Dadong City.

The cold wind blew, and the three of them disappeared at once.

Yet soon, they reappeared at the dock once more.

"Something's wrong; it seems we're trapped. A supernatural power is affecting the area; we can't leave," Cao Yang's expression changed drastically, realizing now what he hadn't noticed before.

"Indeed, there's an issue. The position of the distant lights hasn't changed much, and the clouds in the sky remain unmoved. Besides the boatman, there's not a single living soul in sight here," Lin Bei also sensed something off.

"Moreover, I'm certain it wasn't like this at the start. This change must have happened just now and without us noticing. It seems like the other party has the supernatural power to alter reality, transferring us to a paranormal place from the real world in an instant. This is very similar to my Mirror World," he continued solemnly.

"No need to panic. If they can replace us here, I can replace us back. I'll take you to the Mirror World, then back to reality through it. But I need some time," Cao Yang reassured.

"It seems they won't give us that time," Li Leping said calmly.

At this moment.

On the stacks of containers around the dock, cold figures began suddenly to appear. They were like intruders from another world, without any warning signs.

"Indeed, caught three big fish, worth my personal intervention. If I can eliminate you here, you'll have no power to resist," a low voice echoed.

In the middle of the dock, another figure emerged, holding an old book, dressed like a preacher. His voice was eerie, giving off an extremely dangerous vibe.

Cao Yang's gaze sharpened. Although he didn't recognize the person, it was undoubted that this was a very powerful adversary, surely a King from the King Organization.

However, with the way the adversary hides, it's impossible they'd only send one person.

Lin Bei suddenly noticed something and turned around quickly.

Behind the three of them, darkness had unknowingly spread. At the end of that darkness stood a terrifying old woman in a western dress, and as time passed, she was quickly closing in.

Just a glance at that horrifying old woman induced a suffocating feeling in their hearts.

Clearly, she was also a formidable ghost controller, likely another King.

"If they're going to act, it wouldn't stop at only two people," Cao Yang tensed up all over, looking again towards one of the dock's containers.

As if confirming his suspicions, a light appeared from an unknown source, shining onto the container to reveal a blurry image, like an old black-and-white film being shown.

Yet in that black-and-white film image, a figure gradually emerged and became clearer.

"The person projected out is probably also a King," Cao Yang thought, even though he only glanced, his mind already forming a guess.

The preacher spoke again, "Originally, we didn't plan to act on this deal. Unfortunately, your captains appeared elsewhere. I doubt they'll come to support. For us, this transaction presents an opportunity. Although your sudden counterattack tonight cost us some important members, eliminating the three captains like you is worth it."

"I see, two-pronged plan," Cao Yang quickly understood the opponent's strategy.

These people are definitely executing another plan. If the other plan goes smoothly, it indicates that headquarters highly values this transaction, sending most of the captains over. Thus, the opponent wouldn't show up during the deal to avoid conflicts, seeking gains elsewhere.

But it seems the King Organization's plan elsewhere was obstructed, redirected by other captains, causing significant losses, hence their need to achieve victory in this transaction.

If they kill Cao Yang, Lin Bei, and Li Leping, other losses elsewhere wouldn't matter much, still yielding a profit.

"Quite cunning, hedging your bets with gains either way. But if you dare to split actions like this, it means the number of Kings among your ghost controllers this time can't exceed seven. Can this number handle three of us captains?" Lin Bei said, rubbing his bald head.

"Every plan has risks. I've assessed your strengths; it should be fine. Meanwhile, I've instructed them to retreat from over there. As long as they don't get tied down by your captains, it's fine," the preacher seriously replied. His Chinese was impeccable, indistinguishable from a native speaker.

Chapter 1432 - Captain Zhang's Reinforcements

"Although we've taken out quite a few members of the King Organization, those were just insignificant little characters. We've scouted all the way here without encountering a single king-level ghost handler, which clearly seems abnormal. If the opposition is truly acting tonight, then it wouldn't be just this noisy."

"Or have we already alerted them, leading them to notice something amiss and therefore timely withdraw to stop losses and leave here?"

Yang Jian appeared at this moment on a high lake road in the outskirts, looking up at the brightly lit metropolis not far away.

Moving further ahead is Dahai City.

There, it's the territory of Ye Zhen from the supernatural forum.

Given his understanding of Ye Zhen, since Ye Zhen has already agreed to join forces with him, Dahai City surely wouldn't have any problems. He doesn't even need to go there and take a look.

Just as Yang Jian was thinking this.

Suddenly.

He looked up in a direction, as if sensing something.

It was the Ghost Lake's supernatural presence.

A part of Ghost Lake's supernatural presence had been released, and this release of the supernatural represents a signal, a call for help.

"It's Cao Yang who went to Xiangjiang to trade with the King Organization, he's released a part of the lake water I left him, how could this happen? Logically, today's trade shouldn't have any issues; the people of the King Organization are already hunting the person in charge here, the trade should just be a ruse, Cao Yang is unlikely to face danger," Yang Jian's expression slightly changed.

"Never mind, let's go and have a look first."

He didn't hesitate for a moment, immediately wielding the scarlet long spear, directly diving into the puddle beneath his feet to connect to Cao Yang's side through the supernatural link of Ghost Lake, providing support at the fastest speed.

Simultaneously.

At a dock in Xiangjiang.

Here, it was silent with no one around, however, in the corresponding Parallel World, a fierce confrontation was underway.

The King Organization, to eliminate three captains, dispatched five king-level ghost handlers and three squads, aiming to kill the opposition unfailingly and then retreat swiftly.

They didn't want to drag it on, otherwise, if reinforcements arrived, today's action would be meaningless, as the King Organization people weren't ready for an all-out war.

And for five kings, three squads to take down three captains in the shortest time, the difficulty could be described as very high, so once engaged, they must give it their all, otherwise, no one could say what might occur.

Cao Yang, Lin Bei, and Li Leping also understood, thus they would not hold back anything.

Dense smoke spread, accompanied by an unstoppable cold gale.

The superposition of supernatural forces disrupted this dock, causing the Ghost Domain of others to be strongly disturbed, unable to be easily activated, even those skilled in Ghost Domain could only stare helplessly now.

However, neither Cao Yang nor Li Leping could use their Ghost Domain at this moment because the gale occasionally halted, and the smoke suddenly dissipated.

The people from the King Organization didn't want to give up control of the dock, deploying other supernatural forces to interfere with the Ghost Domain of the two individuals.

This kind of confrontation only produced one outcome: everyone's Ghost Domain couldn't be used.

Without the Ghost Domain, it implied the conflict couldn't be concluded in a very short time, the kings of the King Organization were anxious inside.

"According to the plan before, concentrate efforts to eliminate one of them first, at this moment if we launch dispersed assaults, perhaps not a single one will be killed, and once their reinforcement arrives, our situation will be very bad."

The missionary's expression was indifferent, then his gaze locked onto Cao Yang.

Because, in the assessment, Cao Yang was the easiest captain to be eliminated, and in previous actions, there had been instances of Cao Yang being injured.

A captain wounded implies that death is not far off.

Cao Yang sensed danger, he roared: "Don't mind me, eliminate as many of them as possible."

He didn't want to defend, nor wanted Lin Bei and Li Leping to help him fend off supernatural attacks; instead, he wanted to utilize the other side's opportunity to encircle him, for Li Leping and Lin Bei to strike and bring down their kings.

Li Leping moved first, his aura turned cold and eerie, wandering with no expression on the dock, even though Ghost Smoke's supernatural force was disturbed and blocked without Ghost Domain, he still possessed the terrifying Fatal Curse.

Just by approaching, the body of one ghost handler from the King Organization softened and directly fell from the container, instantly losing life and dying on the spot.

Then, Li Leping continued forward, like a specter in the Black Night, wherever he passed, key members of the King Organization dropped dead. Although these individuals sensed danger and intentionally dispersed, it was merely to delay some time.

As long as Li Leping arrived, it would certainly result in someone's death.

The most horrific thing was when Li Leping approached they didn't even notice, as if subconsciously forgotten him, only when the Fatal Curse arrived they suddenly woke up.

"Don't get too arrogant, trying to wipe out our three King Squads with just one person? Just because you are a captain, it can't be done. As long as we entangle you, then you're bound to lose."

At this moment, a man dressed in black, with his face covered, locked onto Li Leping; this person seemed unaffected by the Forgetful Ghost, very peculiar, and seized the opportunity to directly reach out and grab Li Leping, aiming to restrain him in place.

Li Leping looked at him expressionlessly.

It was merely a few seconds of eye contact.

The next moment, something beneath this man's black clothing started to fall continuously, upon closer inspection, it turned out to be chunks of flesh crawling with maggots.

The man cried out in pain, his body disintegrating, merely touching Li Leping meant enduring enormous pain.

Li Leping hadn't deliberately attacked this person, but was in a sleepwalking state now, with supernatural forces from the Find Ghost and Sleepwalking Ghost overlapping, capable of killing any living being approaching him, if a ghost handler wasn't strong enough, they would quickly perish too, and the closer one got, the more dangerous it became.

Grabbing Li Leping for three seconds equaled suffering this uninterrupted attack for three seconds.

If not an anomaly, those three seconds were enough for a ghost handler to die from ghost revival.

The supernatural power this man wielded wasn't weak, he had two ghosts in him, balancing supernatural forces, yet it was naïve to think he could combat a captain.

Li Leping ignored him, casually broke free from the man's grip, and continued forward.

This man collapsed on the ground, body disintegrating, wailing incessantly, blocking Li Leping for less than five seconds before his own ghost revival commenced.

Li Leping's goal was simple, to kill the three King Squads as quickly as possible, leaving only five kings on this dock, otherwise, during the engagement of captains and kings, interference would always be present beside, making it impossible to concentrate on battling the kings. If the King Squad contained formidable characters, they could indeed influence the victory of the battle.

Only by eliminating this hidden threat would they have the chance to withstand this attack.

However, while Li Leping attacked the three King Squads, the pressure on Cao Yang and Lin Bei was enormous.

Because the two of them faced assaults from five kings.

Lin Bei moved swiftly, targeting the eerie old man in a Western skirt, full of wrinkles, and deathly quiet, who ignored Lin Bei and rapidly approached Cao Yang.

Evidently, the terrifying foreign old man wanted to coordinate the action to kill Cao Yang in one strike.

"Don't ignore me, damn it, I'm also a captain, obediently lie on the ground."

Yet, Lin Bei stopped her, reached out and grabbed the terrifying old man's neck, then pressed her into the ground.

The supernatural influence the terrifying old woman possessed appeared to have no effect on him.

Moreover, with this press, the entire dock trembled and swayed, the ground nearby fracturing, even this eerie world was torn with hideous cracks as if about to collapse.

A simple press, yet it signifies Lin Bei's all-out attack.

The terrifying elder's emaciated body was instantly crushed to the ground by an unseen force, causing the surface to sink and even form a human-shaped outline. Her body was flattened, as if only a thin layer of human skin remained.

The internal organs and bones were all crushed, even her supernatural power temporarily halted at this moment.

The terrifying elder's bizarre eyes revealed a trace of human-like fear.

In her view, the weight pressing her down wasn't Lin Bei's palm but a vast, desolate world, the Mirror World corresponding to reality, boundless and endless.

The entire world was pressing down, rendering any ghost not willing unable to move.

The Mirror World represents not just weight, but also the power of the Supernatural World.

However, even Lin Bei now cannot completely control the Mirror World. Although his world seems boundless, it has limits. As he masters more supernatural power, the Mirror World becomes more complete, possibly becoming a full-fledged world.

"This guy still isn't dead." Lin Bei's eyelids twitched at this moment.

He saw that the foreign elder who had been flattened still showed signs of movement and wasn't immediately dead. If Lin Bei let go, given some time, she might even recover.

To achieve this, she might no longer be human, more like a downright ghost.

Only a ghost cannot be killed.

In this situation, Lin Bei couldn't think much; despite his victory in supernatural confrontation, he hadn't completely eliminated the opponent, causing Cao Yang to face a life-threatening situation.

He was under the supernatural attack of four Kings simultaneously.

In such a scenario, few people in the supernatural circle can survive unharmed.

Cao Yang used every means possible, even lighting the Ghost Candle in an instant, but the red candle burned out immediately. He also used a substitute doll, which was shattered into pieces by an invisible force before it could bounce.

But it wasn't enough, as the opponent's supernatural attack contained a fatal killing instinct, very terrifying, even targeting consciousness.

Cao Yang dared not use his own supernatural powers in confrontation, knowing there was only one chance, failing leads to death.

He used his final trump card, triggered a certain curse on himself, handing over his life to the curse-bearing ghost pursuing him for a long time.

Life has a master, a transaction at noon.

Until then, others could hardly kill him with supernatural powers, simply waiting for the ghost to appear at the appointed time to take his life. If killed by someone else, the ghost would seek the culprit and take their life.

All means were combined.

The supernatural attack by the four Kings was resisted by Cao Yang, he was still alive, not dead yet.

"Didn't die? I can't believe it."

A black-and-white projection enveloped Cao Yang, akin to an old movie screening.

Cao Yang was in disbelief; his body was disappearing, leaving only his figure projected on the ground.

At his weakest moment, a King launched one more attack.

Cao Yang tried to resist but was too late; he vanished, pulled into the black-and-white movie, where a foreign man's face glared at him menacingly.

"The curse didn't protect because there was no life-threatening harm?" Cao Yang now understood why he was pulled in.

But before he could think further, the foreign man in the black-and-white scene suddenly brandished a chainsaw towards Cao Yang.

The scene showed him retreating, but then several twisted, ghostly figures surfaced, appearing as malevolent ghosts, grabbing Cao Yang, binding him, preventing escape.

The chainsaw fell, the projection splattering black ink-like blood stains.

"Ah!"

The scream echoed through the black-and-white scenes; it was Cao Yang's voice.

"Cao Yang."

Lin Bei was both shocked and angry, wanting to rescue him, abandoning the subdued foreign elder.

But he was stopped by two people.

One was a strangely elderly man, bare-chested, skinny, raising a hand over his head; the other a man whose body was pitch-black, covered in ink.

Despite their bizarre appearance.

Lin Bei knew these were two legitimate Kings.

Especially the ink-covered man, who just with a glance, had his image imprinted in Lin Bei's mind. Then, his mind seemed to be tainted by ink, with his consciousness biting into the darkness, as if he was about to fall into eternal obscurity.

"Is this a consciousness attack?" Lin Bei shuddered, feeling disoriented, with darkness clouding his vision, laden eyelids.

Perhaps with the next blink, he would plunge into an endless dark void without awakening.

Cao Yang's screams still echoed at the docks; his shadow, entangled by ghostly apparitions, couldn't break free. The chainsaw still ran, dismembering his body.

If this continues, he won't last.

Li Leping also wanted to assist, having wiped out two King's Squads, but the scenario rendered his plans ineffective.

The person stopping him was none other than the previous preacher.

"We've won; once Cao Yang dies, it'll be the bald captain's turn, then you... Li Leping." The preacher spoke calmly, as all was pre-planned.

Li Leping stayed silent; the preacher had some means to evade the Forgetful Ghost's supernatural power, remembering him.

This meant he couldn't disregard the preacher's blockade.

However, at this moment.

Behind the preacher and the two Kings, a sound of stagnant water rolling arose, filling them with acute crisis awareness.

The strange sound caused everyone to tremble.

"No way, reinforcements coming so quickly?" A chilling thought emerged in their minds.

The preacher turned to look sharply.

On the dock's ground, a familiar silhouette was emerging from an inconspicuous puddle, and just by appearing, everything seemed ignited. Pale green Ghost Flames were burning increasingly wildly, even turning the nearby sea into their hue.

"Ghost Eye, Yang Jian?" The preacher's face turned very solemn.

The least expected person showed up.

Even invading the world within the painting; indeed, during the Terror Manor event, stagnant water seeping from the painting was foreboding.

Chapter 1433 - A King Exits

The missionary of the King Organization originally intended to gather five Kings and three squads to kill Cao Yang, Li Leping, and Lin Bei before the opponent's reinforcements arrived, just as Yang Jian previously led He Yuelian to attack the Manor Lord. Who would have thought, now even though none of the three captains have died, the opponent's support has already arrived.

And it happened to be the person they least wanted to see.

Yang Jian merely surfaced from the standing water, and the surroundings were already ignited by the Ghost Flame. The eerie Ghost Flame reflected on everyone's bodies, bringing a burning pain even ghost handlers could feel, and the scorching sensation was intensifying. If one stayed here too long, one might really be set on fire.

"So that's how it is, no wonder I circled around in Dadong City without finding a single King-level ghost handler, turns out they are all here. Truly unexpected, I initially thought it was a false deal, yet your King

Organization is seriously acting, wanting to eliminate our three captains in one go, quite ambitious. Unfortunately, your capability is somewhat lacking, the plan didn't succeed."

No one stopped Yang Jian's appearance because no one wanted to be the first to stand out.

After his successful hunt of the Manor Lord, everyone in the King Organization was extremely wary of him.

Thus, Yang Jian's appearance signified the complete failure of the missionary's action. Not only was the comprehensive hunt for the person in charge unsuccessful, but even here they were encountering setbacks.

The atmosphere became a bit heavy at this moment, everyone temporarily ceased fighting.

"This is troublesome now, a dangerous guy showed up, five Kings against four captains, this situation is not advantageous at all. If we really fight to the end, it's uncertain who would win or lose. The best method now is to abandon the action and retreat immediately, otherwise, we all risk being left behind."

A member of the King's Squad had already developed the intention to retreat, and other members exchanged glances, also with the idea of withdrawal.

Not only did the squad members think this way, but even these Kings understood the situation was grim.

However, it's a difficult situation to escape from now, not something that can be retreated from at will.

Cao Yang was barely trapped, Lin Bei was being attacked, and Li Leping was intercepted by the missionary. Just one more minute, and this battle could at least cost the opponents two captains.

"Yang Jian, your coming alone doesn't change anything. In terms of numbers, we still have the advantage," the missionary thought calmly and said slowly.

This sentence expressed his attitude.

It was not to retreat, but to continue the action. It must not be abandoned now, otherwise, by tomorrow morning, the King Organization would become a joke in the supernatural circle, losing their advantage completely, unable to dominate everything.

But if they won today and just eliminated two of the opponent's captains, then after tonight, the King Organization would still rule imperiously over the supernatural circle.

"Fighting isn't about numbers or more people, perhaps you can take down one of us, but you will have to sacrifice at least two in return. Are you ready for which two of you are dying here?"

Yang Jian's ghost eyes turned, glanced at the shadows projected on the ground, noticed Cao Yang's dire situation, and realized Lin Bei was under attack by supernatural powers, in a dangerously precarious state.

Seeing Yang Jian assessing the situation, the missionary immediately changed the subject: "Yang Jian, I know your ability. How about this, I'll give you some face today. If you agree to complete the previous transaction and hand over the Manor Lord's head, I can stop all actions today and withdraw from Xiangjiang, even letting Cao Yang go."

"We are the ones suffering losses today, you've already gained the upper hand. This deal isn't a loss to you, we will have more opportunities to clash in the future, what do you say?"

"Don't try to stall for time, do you really think I don't know you're eroding Lin Bei's consciousness?" Yang Jian said coldly.

Earlier, he didn't rush to take action because he was observing the situation, not hesitating.

Now that the situation is pretty much understood, it's time to act.

His ghost eyes turned, glancing at the nearby members of the King's Squad, his thinking aligned with Li Leping, those people needed to be eliminated first, to prevent interference in the confrontation between the King and the captains.

Just with a glance.

The Ghost Flame instantly surged, swiftly engulfing the remaining squad members.

In the flames, those people tried to resist, but soon they uttered painful screams, their bodies igniting from within, crackling and popping as they burned.

"Damn it, take action, kill that Lin Bei!" the missionary shouted in urgency and anger.

But Yang Jian's assault wasn't just limited to this. As he used the Ghost Flame to engulf the few members of the King's Squad, an Evil Hound emerged from the water beneath him, snarling and rushing toward the bizarre, ink-painted man clad in black.

The Evil Hound's identity was the fierce ghost codenamed Ghost Dream, and it had devoured the ghost codenamed Nightmare, occupying an old European-style castle, and had also acquired Zhang Xiangguang's Ghost Classroom supernatural power, its horror level far exceeding before.

Drawing a King into a dream might not be a difficult task.

Yet at this moment, the gaunt old man with a twisted arm raised above his head intercepted the Evil Hound. This odd elder opened his mouth as if chanting something unclear, not in any known language, sounding more like a voice of cursing.

This cursing voice twisted and blurred everything nearby, and various eerie supernatural phenomena emerged around this old man, including distorted ghostly figures, strange sounds, and even could see lifeless, incomplete limbs.

The charging Evil Hound was stopped, unable to approach, and even the encroaching Ghost Flame couldn't penetrate that area.

"You can stop my Evil Hound, but can you stop me?" Yang Jian moved at this moment, holding a red spear instantly attacking.

The missionary wanted to disrupt Yang Jian, buying time for others to kill Lin Bei. As long as Cao Yang and Lin Bei died, a retreat would still be a great victory.

"Did you forget I was still here?" Li Leping's voice came, wandering ghost-like, bringing a curse that surely brings death.

"Damn it."

The missionary was jolted awake, realizing Li Leping was still beside him.

What a troublesome guy, not a moment can be spared, or this dangerous captain would be forgotten right away.

"Then I'll kill you first." The missionary changed his target, focusing on Li Leping, and at this moment, the old book in his hand opened.

It was a yellowish, dim blank page, but at this moment, the outline of a person gradually emerged on this page, and as time passed, the outline became increasingly clearer, finally forming a perfect resemblance to Li Leping's figure.

However, just as the figure on the paper became visible, something bizarre happened. The face of Li Leping on the paper was blank, with no distinct facial features able to be portrayed.

As the preacher confronted Li Leping.

Yang Jian's attack had already commenced.

The long red spear, imbued with the supernatural power of the Wishing Ghost, whispered a wish: "This strike of mine will definitely hit the person in front of me."

The Firewood Knife fell, and the blurry figure of the emaciated old man appeared before him.

The medium appeared out of thin air, then was instantly severed.

After this strike, the eerie sounds echoing around stopped immediately, and the supernatural phenomenon that shielded the area from the Evil Hound's attack was forcibly torn open. These supernatural phenomena were quickly dissipating, and the strange old man suffered a severe blow, his body tearing apart as he staggered back several steps, finally collapsing to the ground.

But even so, the old man held one withered arm high in the air, refusing to lower it, his intentions unclear.

Yet Yang Jian wouldn't give the other party a chance to catch his breath. Without supernatural interference, the Evil Hound struck instantly, lunging towards the other bizarre man, whose body was entirely black and covered in ink.

The Evil Hound vanished instantly, invading the consciousness of that bizarre man.

The bizarre man appeared dazed, then clutched his head with a pained, low growl, struggling and shaking incessantly, attempting to expel the Evil Hound from his mind.

However, he couldn't manage it, because the Evil Hound possessed the ability to restart, allowing it to continuously fight within his consciousness.

Yet, in the short term, it seemed neither could overpower the other.

Nevertheless, the Evil Hound's attack was not to kill this man but to help Lin Bei escape from danger, because Yang Jian had noticed earlier that Lin Bei was relatively weak in defending against attacks on his consciousness, which might be his shortcoming.

Without the influence of that bizarre man, Lin Bei's dazed consciousness quickly recovered. He touched his bald head, his expression fierce, staring dead ahead at his enemy, seizing the chance to eliminate him.

"Leave these two to me, watch your back, don't be careless." Yang Jian entered the scene, attacked two people with the Evil Hound, and simultaneously warned Lin Bei of the danger behind him.

Lin Bei whipped around suddenly, only to see the terrifying old woman he had previously pinned to the ground had stood back in her original spot, her body recovered, and quickly closing in on him, while a black shadow rapidly crossed his vision, spreading to cover his feet.

The surrounding scenery faded quickly, as if the whole world was left with only this shadowy road, where only Lin Bei and the terrifying old woman remained.

"Trying to take me on one-on-one?? Do you think I'm scared of you?" Lin Bei shouted through gritted teeth, rubbing his bald head.

Now with Yang Jian's involvement outside, he could rest easy. If he could defeat this terrifying old woman one-on-one here, it would be a major victory.

"Cao Yang, can you still hold on? If you can, bear with it a bit longer, I'll be there to help after I take them down."

Yang Jian asked while opening his ghost eyes and activating the six-layer Ghost Domain, directly locking onto the bizarre man slathered in ink before him.

Scarlet light enveloped.

He paused everything around him, including the old man with the raised bony arm.

The pause within the Ghost Domain was insufficient to affect the King for long; it could only intervene slightly.

Nevertheless, even a second of intervention in this confrontation could determine many things.

"I'll take you out first." Yang Jian set his eyes on the bizarre man in black, taking advantage of his weakened state while he battled with the Evil Hound in his consciousness, determined to settle him.

He attacked once more.

This moment, he directly employed the Coffin Nail.

The red long spear was thrown, carried the supernatural power of the Wishing Ghost, collaborating with the six-layer Ghost Domain and the Evil Hound's attack, a rare opportunity to eliminate a King-class ghost handler.

Yet the emaciated old man was unwilling to concede, lowering the arm he had kept raised all along, and instantly breaking free of the six-layer Ghost Domain's restraint, regaining his movement.

"This guy saw through my intentions, now he wants to fight desperately, but... it's too late."

Yang Jian sensed danger but ignored it, he must eliminate a King, or he couldn't change the outcome of the battle.

"Bang!"

The six-layer Ghost Domain ceased, the red long spear piercing through the head of the bizarre man covered in ink, pinning him firmly to the ground, ending his confrontation with the Evil Hound in his consciousness ahead of time.

Perhaps this bizarre man wasn't dead yet, still alive, just immobilized by the Coffin Nail.

But undoubtedly, a King had exited the scene.

The battle situation was instantly reversed.

Now it was four Kings versus four captains, the numbers disadvantage was neutralized.

In fact, it was now Yang Jian's advantage in numbers because he still had a dog.

Chapter 1434 - Defeat and Retreat

Yang Jian's attack was too ferocious. The bizarre man, covered in black ink, was now pinned to the ground by a red spear piercing through his head, unable to move or act.

Perhaps this bizarre man's strength was truly terrifying, or perhaps he nearly managed to take down Lin Bei with a consciousness attack, but now none of it mattered.

The Coffin Nail defies all logic. Even a captain, when pinned, would be suppressed and immobilized.

Moreover, Yang Jian's attack wasn't merely a Coffin Nail assault. It combined various supernatural powers, blocking all of the opponent's actions; otherwise, it wouldn't have been so easy to make the opponent exit the scene.

"This person's level is much lower than the Manor Lord's. Indeed, the strength among the Kings varies greatly."

After succeeding, Yang Jian had this thought, but at this moment, he couldn't afford to linger on it, as an intense sense of crisis enveloped him entirely.

The elderly man holding a withered arm had now set his sights on Yang Jian, seizing this opportunity to unleash the most terrifying supernatural attack.

He watched as the elderly man slowly lowered that withered arm.

Initially, Yang Jian did not understand the significance of this action, but now he realized that the reason the elderly man kept raising that withered arm was not out of choice. It was because at some point, an

old coffin had been placed on his raised arm. The coffin was shabby, as if it could fall apart at any moment, with its black varnish peeling away.

The black varnished coffin was not large, and its appearance was vague. However, as the elderly man slowly lowered his arm, the coffin became increasingly clear, as if invading reality from some unknown supernatural domain.

"A black coffin, resembling a Ghost Envoy..." Yang Jian's ghostly eyes shifted slightly, and he immediately wanted to resist.

However, at this moment, he was shocked to find that he seemed unable to move, as if his body was nailed in place, devoid of sensation—even unable to blink. Yet, his consciousness remained alert, with the ghostly eyes being the only parts seemingly less affected.

The ghostly eyes could still move, clearly perceiving the surroundings, although their movement was sluggish and greatly impacted.

It felt as though he had been paused by the six-layer Ghost Domain.

"No, it's just me being impacted, while the others around are unaffected."

Yang Jian's ghostly eyes saw that no one else exhibited any abnormalities; he was the only one in such a situation.

"Is it because of that black coffin?"

Yang Jian stared at the coffin held on the elderly man's withered arm. Through the coffin's cracks, he saw strange eyes peering at him, their numbers continually increasing.

The elderly man continued to lower his arm, but in Yang Jian's vision, each descent of the raised black coffin intensified the danger.

The old, black coffin began to tremble and shake. The coffin lid opened a slit, and a bruised arm slowly emerged, as if an incredibly terrifying ghost was about to be unleashed.

Yang Jian remained unable to move. Meanwhile, the supernatural influence blurred and twisted his surroundings. He couldn't see Lin Bei, Li Leping, or Cao Yang's situations, nor the other Kings' movements. All he could see was the coffin before him, and even the elderly man's figure holding the coffin became a blur.

"What kind of ghost is confined in this old, black coffin? Its mere presence locks all my actions, and just an arm emerging alters the nearby region, twisting and blurring the vision." Yang Jian felt a chill in his heart.

Although knowing this black coffin was the King's trump card, its danger seemed unfathomable.

And this elderly man constantly raised his arm to lift the coffin; given the twisted, desiccated appearance of his arm, who knows for how many years he's been doing this.

Soon, many black strands of hair emerged from the black coffin. These dense black strands resembled Huang Ziya's ghost hair, but the strands released from the coffin were more abundant, spreading in all directions, as if consuming everything nearby.

The most baffling aspect was the emergence of strange eyes beneath the black hair, with silhouettes of human heads twitching and writhing beneath.

"Coming towards me." At this moment, Yang Jian felt a tightness in his chest.

In the view of the ghostly eyes, part of the ghost within the black coffin had been released, and the bruised arm was extending toward him.

The arm was long, growing larger the closer it came, until eventually, the hand was larger than Yang Jian himself, making him seem like a tiny figure before it.

"Still can't move?"

Yang Jian attempted to use the ghostly eyes for supernatural abilities, like restarting the seven-layer Ghost Domain to escape this supernatural attack.

But it was futile. He could only watch helplessly as events unfolded before him.

This wasn't normal supernatural confrontation, as Yang Jian seemed to be an outsider, unable to interfere with the supernatural attack or stop it, as if he had entered a movie and had to wait for the scene to end. What would happen, no one could predict.

This supernatural attack was virtually unsolvable, ignoring personal supernatural powers and pulling the opponent into a specific environment to endure the most terrifying supernatural assault.

One's survival depended solely on luck or personal resistance to the supernatural.

"Yang Jian?"

Lin Bei shouted, pressing down on the terrifying old woman in Western attire with one hand, then turning to see Yang Jian standing immobile. Meanwhile, the other King engaging him remained motionless, the raised withered arm slowly lowering.

He wasn't foolish and realized this was the opponent's supernatural attack.

But he couldn't comprehend the nature of the attack; without any apparent action, Yang Jian had lost his ability to move.

However, the next moment.

An unexpected incident occurred.

The elderly man holding the withered arm suddenly staggered, his chest twisting and breaking. A gory wound ripped open, spraying blackened blood; his entire body contorted into a grotesque position and collapsed on the ground.

As the elder fell, Yang Jian immediately regained his ability to move.

His body trembled slightly, and he couldn't help but gasp, cold sweat dripping from his forehead, as if he had just endured an incredibly perilous moment.

The attack is over?

Yang Jian's eyes flickered slightly, and he seemed to have returned to reality. However, when he saw the old man's condition in front of him, he couldn't help but show a cold smile: "I see, you were dismembered by me earlier. Although your body has recovered, your own supernatural power has been injured. You forcefully tried to lower that coffin earlier and desperately tried to kill me, but unfortunately, you couldn't hold on any longer and had to stop the supernatural attack."

"Every supernatural event comes at a cost, and you can no longer afford the price to kill me."

The old man's body was broken, but his withered arm was still raised. He was in great pain, his body twisted and unable to recover, clearly suffering from some kind of supernatural backlash.

"Damn it."

This scene was also captured by the priest, and he couldn't help but curse inwardly.

He originally thought he could take down Yang Jian or at least stall for a while, but unexpectedly, it failed at a crucial moment.

"Retreat."

Without any hesitation, the priest immediately shouted.

There was no chance of winning now. If they didn't leave, they would lose three Kings today.

As he finished speaking, the color of the sky began to change, transforming from night to day in an instant. Meanwhile, the surroundings swiftly changed, turning the nearby ocean into a city, as if the scene was shifting.

However, upon close inspection, one would find that the scenes were not real, like fakes, akin to painted oil paintings.

Seeing this, Yang Jian didn't hesitate for a moment and immediately retrieved the red spear. He then picked up the strange man covered in black ink and stomped on the old man with the withered arm, covering him with ghost fire, completely devouring him to prevent any chance of rescue.

"Stay with me."

Lin Bei also realized the other side's intent to retreat. He saw the scene around him changing, and grabbed the neck of that terrifying old woman.

The priest's figure was disappearing, and he now appeared in a city. However, Li Leping was still on the dock, only a few meters away, but as if separated by worlds.

This boundary couldn't be easily crossed or broken, because if it were broken, everything before them would vanish.

Clearly, this was a fallback left by the opponent.

"Yang Jian, Cao Yang is still in their hands," Li Leping reminded at this moment.

Yang Jian's gaze hardened as he saw Cao Yang's figure emerge from the black-and-white projection. He had been dismembered, his body a bloody mess, with only half of his body and head remaining intact.

At this moment, the foreign man in the picture held Cao Yang's incomplete body in his hand.

"Release Cao Yang, and I can give you back one King," Yang Jian said coldly.

The opponent wanted to retreat, and he could no longer prevent it, as he had to guard two Kings. Otherwise, if they seized the opportunity to rescue them, today's efforts would be in vain.

The priest's expression changed, his eyes flickering. He quickly said, "Exchange the two people in your hand for Cao Yang."

"We have three people; you can only choose one, or the deal is off," Yang Jian decisively replied, prepared to abandon Cao Yang if necessary.

The priest glanced at the man in the black-and-white picture.

The man within the picture nodded, seemingly agreeing to the exchange.

"Okay, I agree. Give Cao Yang back to you, and I want the one at your feet," the priest quickly decided.

In the next moment.

In the black-and-white projection on the ground, Cao Yang's bloodied, incomplete body appeared.

Yang Jian, although reluctant to let go of a King, couldn't abandon Cao Yang. Therefore, he had to disperse the burning ghost fire, revealing the broken old man.

Then the scene around the old man changed, and he was rapidly disappearing from the dock.

Yang Jian quickly covered Cao Yang's incomplete body with ghost fire, preventing any further supernatural attacks.

The deal was done.

Their supernatural powers no longer interfered with each other.

The opponent successfully took away the old man with the withered arm, and Yang Jian exchanged Cao Yang back.

Then the opponent quickly vanished from the dock, retreating at maximum speed.

After they left, the dock also began to disappear.

In the blink of an eye, Yang Jian and the others returned to the real world, leaving the supernatural area behind.

Once they were out, Yang Jian extinguished the ghost fire to avoid setting Cao Yang alight.

"Yang Jian, you should have refused to trade with them. I won't last the night this way. Trading a few hours of my life for a King's life is worthwhile, especially since the old man we let go is terrifying, or else they wouldn't value him so much," Cao Yang said, enduring the pain.

"That makes sense, but sometimes the calculations don't work that way. We've already won this time; we can win a little less but can't lose the captain. Your situation is complex, but as long as you're okay, there's a chance to recover, isn't there?" Yang Jian said calmly.

"Indeed, we've already taken down two Kings this time. Losing one doesn't matter. Besides, if you hadn't blocked just now, it would have been me who died. I also support Yang Jian exchanging a King to get you back," Lin Bei agreed.

Moreover, a one-for-one exchange didn't seem like a loss to him; rather, he'd rather the enemy have one more than see a teammate be one less.

Chapter 1435 - Cao Yang's Departure

The confrontation at Xiangjiang Wharf had ended. The King Organization's attack on Cao Yang, Lin Bei, and Li Leping failed, with heavy losses on their side. Two kings were left behind, and three teams were lost. Moreover, their assassination attempt on the person in charge failed, costing them many members.

Although there were slight losses at headquarters, this was considered a great victory in this situation.

"Yang Jian, you came just in time. If you'd been a bit later, both Cao Yang and I would be dead. Then even Li Leping would have been in danger," Lin Bei finally sighed with relief as he sat on the terrifying old woman in a western dress.

Though this merely pinned her under him, using his supernatural power was akin to pressing a Parallel World onto this horrifying old woman.

She wasn't dead, but she was unable to move.

"They didn't know we had already held a captains' meeting. Attacking today was a clear attempt to catch us off guard. They were smart, using a transaction to lure our captains. Seeing only three of you at the deal, they probably thought they could take you all out."

"Unfortunately, they overestimated themselves and couldn't eliminate you in the shortest time, giving me a chance to support you."

Yang Jian analyzed afterwards, realizing the enemy's ruthlessness, and how they almost succeeded in the end.

As Lin Bei said, if he had been a little late, the situation would have been different.

"The opponent suffered a significant loss, leaving two kings behind. Their advantage isn't as great as it was. In terms of numbers, we're not at a disadvantage now," Lin Bei said, rubbing his bald head with a smile.

Li Leping walked over at this point: "Just like it was said in the meeting before, if the opponent doesn't act recklessly, we have no way to deal with them. Only when they take action do they expose a flaw. If we catch that flaw, we can turn defeat into victory. But it was risky this time. If they had won, we would have no way to stop their Ark plan."

"They're greedy. Despite having a significant advantage, they didn't want to risk everything in a decisive battle. They wanted to chip away at our forces this way. But now doesn't seem the time to discuss results. Cao Yang is in trouble; if we don't think of something, he won't survive the night,"

Yang Jian said calmly, finally glancing at Cao Yang's maimed body.

"I know my condition well. It's not just these injuries. Earlier, to withstand the King's attack, I voluntarily took on a curse. After midnight, that ghost will come to take my life," Cao Yang said, looking at Yang Jian. "You've seen that ghost; it's terrifying. Even you can't withstand it."

Yang Jian pondered, "Do you have any good ideas?"

Cao Yang thought for a moment: "I could try hiding, making it so the ghost can't find me, like hiding in a safe house or a place imbued with supernatural energy. It's the best method, with the lowest risk. But I probably won't be able to show my face again, so I'm telling you now, so you don't think I'm slacking off."

"It doesn't matter, just stay alive. I'll help you recover first," Yang Jian said, pulling out the Deceiving Ghost's necklace.

Utilizing the Deceiving Ghost's power can influence reality, including helping Cao Yang recover physically.

But it can only restore an ordinary human body.

Quickly.

Cao Yang's maimed body was fully restored. He stood up again, the bloodstains all gone, looking much better than before.

But appearances are deceiving; his condition was worse than it seemed.

"How do we handle this?" Lin Bei pointed to the old woman beneath him.

"Kill her, then lock her in a box in headquarters' storage, never let it see the light of day again," Yang Jian said calmly.

Lin Bei replied, "I can't kill her. This old woman is hard to kill; she's probably an anomaly. Maybe targeting the consciousness is easier."

"No need, I'll just set her on fire." Yang Jian walked over, extending the charred Ghost Hand to touch the old woman's body.

The Ghost Flame quickly engulfed the cold body of this old woman.

After a while, the Ghost Flame ignited her body.

"Ah!"

A sharp, grating wail rang out as the old woman struggled in agony in the flames.

It was futile, Lin Bei stepped back at Yang Jian's signal, and Yang Jian brought down the Firewood Knife, chopping off the old woman's head.

Even without a head, her body still stood, writhing in the Ghost Flame.

"She's indeed hard to kill. Lucky you stopped her; it would have been problematic if she had entangled me,"

Not trusting it, Yang Jian dismembered her a few more times, then placed her pieces in several boxes, thus thoroughly handling the horrific old woman.

As for the bizarre man pinned by the Coffin Nail, he met a similar fate—set on fire, then dismembered, finally divided into five parts. Even if someone opened those boxes later, they would only release a piece of a ghost puzzle, not allowing him to resurrect.

"If they can survive this, I'd truly admire them," Lin Bei said, touching the heavy boxes with a wide grin.

He was thrilled today, having personally captured a King, a significant accomplishment.

Once the scene was handled, Cao Yang immediately said, "I need to go, to leave for a while. I hope there's a chance for us to meet again."

"Okay, contact us anytime if you have problems," Yang Jian said with a slight shift in expression.

"If you need help, just say it." Lin Bei added.

Li Leping nodded in acknowledgment.

Cao Yang left hastily without staying longer or saying much, quickly leaving the wharf, Xiangjiang, disappearing from the city.

He didn't want to stay longer because he felt the ghost approaching.

If he stayed, Cao Yang feared dragging his other teammates into it. At this critical moment, facing such a terrifying ghost was unwise.

He'd handle it himself.

With a bitter smile, Cao Yang chose not to seek refuge or help from other captains. Instead, he found a rock by the coast and sat down.

"Cough, cough." He coughed twice, spitting out blood.

Soon the blood decayed, emitting a stench.

The supernatural had completely unbalanced, eroding his body. His equilibrium long disrupted since injury, restoration was impossible. And activating the curse was a real blow. Even resolving the ghost's resurrection, he was powerless against the curse.

"It's pointless to hold on. This ends here. I'm tired."

Cao Yang sighed, sitting on the rock, gazing at the distant sea, embracing the cool sea breeze, prepared for death.

Hiding in a safe house, or a supernatural spot, was just an excuse to avoid worrying others.

He'd just sat down when a hunched figure appeared on the nearby beach, carrying two boxes, shuffling towards him.

"You're quick to arrive,"

he chuckled, unfazed, dialing a number on his phone.

"Hello, Uncle?," Cao Yang called out to a relative.

"Didn't I say not to reveal identities during work hours? Anyway, how's the deal with the King Organization? Is it okay now?" came Cao Yanhua's voice on the phone.

Cao Yang smiled and said, "The deal failed. We fought with the King Organization. Luckily, Yang Jian supported us, and we won, taking down two Kings and three teams."

"Really? That's great." Cao Yanhua's voice held excitement.

Yet, Cao Yang's smile faded, his voice calm, "Uncle, I'm dying. This time I can't hold on. Tell my parents I'm sorry. Don't inform others of my death; just say I'm missing. It helps maintain stability. It won't let foreign entities know we've lost a captain."

The phone went silent as Cao Yanhua fell into silence on the other end.

"Cao, Cao Yang, you..." after several seconds, Cao Yanhua's voice trembled.

"No need to say more. I was prepared when I became a ghost handler. I'm just bidding farewell. Okay, it's here, and soon the signal will..." Cao Yang didn't finish as the ghost's approach interfered with the signal,

and the call ended.

In the headquarters' office, Cao Yanhua held the phone in silence, listening to the beep, feeling a heartache, tears rolling down his cheeks.

Meanwhile, on the coastal rock,

Cao Yang's figure had vanished. The ghost carrying goods also disappeared, leaving only a signal-less phone where he sat, proving someone once occupied this spot.

Thus, Cao Yang, one of the captains, exited the Supernatural World.

Chapter 1436 - Belated Arrival

The disappearance of Cao Yang is known only to Cao Yanhua; to others, it's eternally a mystery whether he's alive or dead.

And that's exactly what Cao Yang hoped for.

"Let's go, the matter here is already settled. The people from the King Organization are quite clever, taking away all the corpses of the ghost tamers they eliminated. The ghosts within those bodies haven't resurrected yet, so they are important resources for them. Perhaps they can artificially create a batch of ghost tamers in a short time."

"But given the situation at that time, there wasn't much that could be done, after all, the King-level ghost tamers are what's important."

Yang Jian, seeing that everything was over and confirming there were no abnormalities around, tidied up a bit and planned to leave Xiangjiang.

"By the way, Yang Jian, the King you released earlier is quite special. They'd rather send Cao Yang back in exchange for him, probably because he's very valuable. Did you leave anything behind as leverage on that person? You saw how badly Cao Yang was tortured before; I think letting him off so easily is too cheap."

Lin Bei at this moment recalled the past and felt unfair about Cao Yang's predicament.

Yang Jian said, "You could ask this question because you must have seen something. Indeed, I did leave some supernatural hazards on that person before; just unsure whether they will be effective. But since

the person is already gone, there's no point in dwelling on it. I don't believe some minor tricks can take him down in the future."

Actually, he left a curse of the Eight-Tone Music Box on the old man with the skeletal arm.

Since he planned to release the person, he figured he wouldn't encounter him in the coming days, so why not try using the Eight-Tone Music Box's curse to see if it can kill him.

"True enough." Lin Bei nodded in agreement.

Soon.

The group left the dock without wasting more time; because the night's events were not over yet, help might be needed elsewhere. Only after safely passing tonight could everyone breathe a sigh of relief.

Shortly after they left.

The person in charge of Xiangjiang, Su Fan, arrived at the dock in his car, and upon getting out, he inspected the surroundings.

"Yang Jian is efficient and leaves no loose ends. Otherwise, as the person in charge here, I'd be in trouble. This time it seems the other side suffered significant losses; otherwise, they wouldn't retreat so hastily. Looks like the confrontation with the King Organization has started well."

Su Fan took a lap, lit a cigarette, and smoked while frowning.

He had been watching the situation here closely, and after predicting things might go terribly, he immediately warned Cao Yang to retreat.

If Yang Jian hadn't shown up on time, today's battle at the dock would have surely ended in a disastrous defeat for headquarters.

Because at that moment, even though he's somewhat capable, as a person in charge, he wouldn't have been able to change anything, only standing by watching it unfold.

Fortunately, things are heading in a good direction.

After finishing the cigarette, Su Fan's tense feelings eased considerably, and he drove away from the dock to continue fulfilling his duties as a person in charge.

Meanwhile, when Yang Jian and Lin Bei returned to Dadong City with Li Leping, they found Wang Chaling, Lu Zhiwen, and He Yuelian had already returned.

Yet this situation was also within Yang Jian's expectations.

Their focus on the trade suggests other attacks probably were a feint, thereby allowing other captains to proceed smoothly without significant issues.

"Earlier Wang Guoqiang informed us that you encountered danger and clashed with members of the King Organization there, but fortunately, the outcome was favorable, taking down two kings. If it hadn't been necessary to exchange for Cao Yang, the other side would have lost three kings. This battle seems to be a win for us," Lu Zhiwen said hoarsely.

"It's barely turning the tide back. The other side has fifteen kings; we hunted one before, plus two today, which only reduces them by three, leaving twelve kings remaining. While we lost Zhang Jun, with Cao Yang needing to pull out temporarily, plus Wei Jing unable to appear, the gap in numbers hasn't widened markedly."

Yang Jian, with a calm gaze, said, "So future confrontations will remain arduous. Today, they were countered by us; next time, we might not be so lucky."

Lu Zhiwen said, "The war has just started; we've already won a battle, which is better than before."

"Tell me about your situation," Yang Jian asked again.

Adjusting his glasses, Wang Chaling said, "Took down several disrupting ghost tamers and rescued two persons in charge. The result wasn't great, but at least it inflicted considerable losses on them."

"My situation is similar," He Yuelian said. "Just cleared out some ordinary ghost tamers without encountering particularly dangerous individuals. I made a quick trip to Da'ao City to see some familiar faces, which delayed me a bit."

"Looks like your actions went smoothly. Although you didn't catch a king, it cost the other side considerable amounts of ghost tamers. If today's news spreads, the Supernatural Circle will be shaken," Yang Jian nodded and said.

Lu Zhiwen said, "The number of ghost tamers is inherently limited. Today, they aimed big, deploying many members of the King Organization. Getting hit by us this time surely hurt them greatly, but no news yet from He Yiner and Zhou Deng, nor from Li Jun, Leuk San, and Ah Hong. Not sure how things are on their side."

"Can we reach them?" Yang Jian glanced at Wang Guoqiang who was not far away.

Wang Guoqiang was somewhat drowsy but endured sleeplessly. Upon seeing Yang Jian's look, he alertly stood up and said, "He Yiner and Zhou Deng are en route back, but Li Jun's news has cut off. We unsuccessfully tried to contact, and the phone's location hasn't changed for quite some time."

After speaking, he showed Yang Jian and other captains the last location point.

"Signal stationary in one place unusually long is abnormal. General Li and Leuk San should have stayed in Dafu City, but this place isn't in Dafu City..." Yang Jian pondered.

"I think something is off; we should go check," He Yuelian said. "It's not that far, a round trip won't take long."

Yang Jian said, "I'll go take a look; you stay here and rest. If there's any trouble, be ready to support."

He felt he should investigate personally, without involving others, because tonight's events weren't over, and Dadong City also needed a captain to watch over.

Right away.

He utilized the Ghost Domain to vanish from the top floor of Ning'an Building.

The signal location isn't far, within a small coastal county several hundred kilometers away.

The travel time was short.

Very soon.

Yang Jian was walking on the streets of this small county town.

The streets at night were desolate and unnaturally quiet. Although there weren't many residents in the county, it shouldn't be this deserted.

The ghost eye scanned the area, and he quickly discovered some traces.

Large patches of already congealed and dried bloodstains remained on the streets. These weren't ordinary bloodstains; they emanated a supernatural aura. Additionally, there were extensive signs of destruction nearby, all of which didn't seem man-made but looked like the work of ghost tamers.

"A ghost tamer has fought here, but there are no traces of Li Jun, Leuk San, or Ah Hong in the entire county."

Yang Jian's Ghost Domain easily covered the county, yet he still found nothing.

"It looks like everything that happened here has already concluded. Most of the supernatural traces have been deliberately cleaned. The whole county seems deserted, but in reality, there's no danger. The enemy wouldn't clean up intentionally; it should be Li Jun who did it."

He speculated that Li Jun encountered an enemy here, took them down, then cleaned up and left.

But this implies that Li Jun should still be alive, so why can't he be contacted?

With this thought, Yang Jian could only continue to investigate nearby.

Finally, he found a familiar person on a coastal road.

It was Leuk San.

But it was just a paper representation of Leuk San, and this paper representation was severely damaged, as if it had taken heavy hits, with most of its body gone, leaving only a head and half a chest.

The paper representation of Leuk San was blown to the side of the road by the wind, motionless, having completely lost its ability to move.

Yang Jian immediately appeared and picked up this tattered paper representation of Leuk San.

As soon as he picked it up, Leuk San's eyes on the paper representation moved slightly and immediately looked over.

"Still not dead? This paper representation of yours is quite resilient." The revival of the paper representation was such a bizarre scene, yet by now, it didn't surprise Yang Jian.

Leuk San looked at Yang Jian, and his first words were: "Yang Jian, you're late."

"What happened?" Yang Jian sensed something wrong and immediately asked.

The damaged paper representation of Leuk San spoke: "Li Jun, Ah Hong, and I encountered a squad led by the King in a small county town and fought them. Since I was just a paper representation, I couldn't be of much help..."

He briefly recounted what had happened before.

The more Yang Jian listened, the more serious he became: "Did Li Jun win in the end?"

"He won, but also lost. Ah Hong couldn't hold on; her face melted, turning into the Faceless Person, but before that, she nearly wiped out a squad of theirs, with only one escaping. Li Jun fought against that ghost tamer named Simon to the end, and though in the end, Li Jun survived, he was in terrible condition and had to deal with the nearby uncontrolled ghosts."

"If those ghosts couldn't be dealt with, the whole county would be doomed. But in his state, with Ah Hong gone, there was nothing more Li Jun could do."

Leuk San paused here for a moment.

By this point, Yang Jian could already imagine the situation at that time. Li Jun fought off a King, but afterward, the opposing spirits revived, and Ah Hong had killed so many ghost tamers that the corpses alone were a massive problem. In such circumstances, there was likely no strength left for a clean-up.

Yet the county he just checked was clearly handled very cleanly.

"Could it be..." He suddenly realized something and looked into the distance.

That was the direction of the sea.

The paper representation of Leuk San spoke heavily: "That's right, you guessed it. When Li Jun saw that the spirits were about to lose control, he unhesitatingly used his supernatural power again. After that time, the remaining half of his face completely melted, but the supernatural of the Ghost Shepherd also took effect. Faceless, Li Jun guided a group of uncontrolled spirits into the depths of the sea."

"Whether the supernatural wasn't controlled well, or if Ah Hong still had some remaining consciousness and didn't want Li Jun to journey alone, she mingled among the spirits and left with him."

As he spoke, Leuk San opened his mouth and spat out a red makeup box.

"Ah Hong only left this behind, and I kept it."

Yang Jian fell silent again upon seeing this.

Then he checked the time.

By now, the moment to restart had passed, and there was nothing he could do.

Leuk San said: "If we use this makeup box to recreate the faces of Li Jun and Ah Hong, we might be able to save them. After all, there was a successful instance last time."

"Save them?"

Yang Jian shook his head: "The real Li Jun is already dead, and only Ah Hong can paint Li Jun's face; no one else can recreate the original Li Jun. And Ah Hong is dead too... unless we recreate Ah Hong's face, but one face can't encompass all of Ah Hong as her body is already gone."

"But I can try; I just don't know if it will succeed."

Saying this, he took the red makeup box.

He could use the Deceiving Ghost to create a body and then paint Ah Hong's face.

But the Ah Hong created this way wouldn't be the real Ah Hong, just a fake representation created by supernatural means... yet not trying would leave him unsatisfied.

Chapter 1437 - Reinforcements

Yang Jian looked at the old red makeup box in his hand. Although he planned to attempt the resurrection of Ah Hong, he was very clear in his heart that Ah Hong was already dead, and Li Jun was

unlikely to be drawn again. The two of them had exerted their utmost effort to take down an opponent's King and a small team.

"Actually, I bear a lot of responsibility for this outcome. If I weren't a paper person, Li Jun and Ah Hong wouldn't have died. Although I tried to persuade them midway, Li Jun's character was just like that, and I couldn't stop him." At this moment, Leuk San's paper person spoke with a hint of guilt.

"There's no point in saying this now." Yang Jian was now looking at the vast sea in the black night.

His ghost eye peered, extending for dozens of kilometers, yet he found no trace of any supernatural remnants.

Quite some time had passed; the supernatural power of Ghost Shepherd Chen Qiaoyang was terrifying, able to drive the fierce ghost away, and the movements of fierce ghosts were extremely strange. No one could easily capture the movement of the supernatural.

"Perhaps for them, this was the best outcome. Moreover, there is no time to lament the departure of Li Jun and Ah Hong now. The battle is still ongoing, and the confrontation between the King Organization and Headquarters has just begun. We have already lost a lot, which makes it even more crucial not to lose further."

Yang Jian no longer lingered; he put away the makeup box and turned to leave.

Leuk San's incomplete paper person watched Yang Jian leave, feeling a sense of resolution in his heart, so he no longer maintained the damaged state of the paper person and directly destroyed it.

Without the maintenance of a certain supernatural power, the paper person instantly disintegrated, turning into a pile of old yellow paper, and then the paper vanished without leaving a trace.

Yang Jian, carrying this heavy news, returned to Dadong City's Ning'an Building.

At this time, He Yiner and Zhou Deng also returned. The two captains walked together without any unexpected incidents and smoothly completed today's task, taking down several members of the King Organization and rescuing several city officials. Unfortunately, they did not encounter the King.

Evidently, when the opposition decided to attack the dock, where Cao Yang, Li Leping, and Lin Bei were responsible for the transaction, they had already planned to retreat from this side. Only Li Jun acted a step ahead, and with the Ghost Shepherd's sensing, they managed to intercept a King.

"Did something happen to Li Jun?" Lu Zhiwen sensed something was amiss when he saw Yang Jian return alone, not seeing Li Jun or Ah Hong appear.

Yang Jian did not hide anything and merely glanced at everyone: "Li Jun managed to take down a King named Simon, but he reached his limit as well. In the end, to deal with the resurrecting fierce ghost, he had to use himself as the Guide, leading all the ghosts into the depths of the terrifying sea. Ah Hong also fought until the fierce ghost revived, and was ultimately affected by Li Jun's supernatural power, following him to his end. Their corpses can no longer be found."

"If nothing unexpected happens, Li Jun and Ah Hong should be dead."

"What?"

Hearing these words, all the captains present were stunned.

Li Jun and Ah Hong are dead?

To know, even during the last encounter with Zhang Xiangguang, Li Jun didn't die. He eventually relied on the Ghost Skin and Ah Hong's ghost makeup to revive. Unexpectedly, yet again with the King Organization, he perished once more. Although Li Jun took down an opponent's King, he paid with his life, which was utterly unacceptable to them.

"Why did this happen? He clearly won, yet sacrificed his life to handle the resurrecting ghost." He Yiner spoke with deep sorrow.

"It's not hard to understand; for Li Jun, the safety of a town outweighed his life." Lu Zhiwen said after a moment of silence.

Wang Chaling sighed: "Such a pity; he was someone very trustworthy."

"Is there no way to bring him back? Li Jun was made using ghost makeup; if we find a new vessel, we can totally resurrect him. And Ah Hong was painted too, right? As long as we retrieve that makeup box, isn't there a chance for everything?" Lin Bei pondered, stroking his chin.

Others upon hearing this turned their eyes to Yang Jian.

Yang Jian at this moment took out the old makeup box from his pocket: "Leuk San's leftover paper person was also at the scene; he managed to save this makeup box, perhaps there's a chance for resurrection. But I can't be sure. However, I'll give it a try, and if it succeeds, I'll let you know."

"As long as there's hope, anything can happen in the supernatural circle." Seeing what Yang Jian said, everyone felt a bit relieved.

Though Li Jun's personality was blunt and reckless, as a teammate, everyone felt particularly at ease with him because Li Jun could always be trusted.

Yang Jian said, "Now is not the time for sorrow. We have more important things to do. Confronting the King Organization tonight wasn't easy. Although we took down three Kings and many troublemaking ghost masters, we suffered significant losses. Cao Yang and Li Jun are out, Ah Hong is dead, so coming and going, the gap between us and the King Organization hasn't widened."

"Therefore, we still have tough battles ahead."

"The other side has four fewer Kings, leaving us with eleven. It's also possible they might supplement their Kings, and with Zhang Jun dead and Wei Jing, Cao Yang, and Li Jun out, we only have nine captains left: Yang Jian, Lin Bei, Li Leping, Wang Chaling, He Yiner, Zhou Deng, Leuk San, He Yuelian, and myself." Lu Zhiwen spoke with a hoarse voice.

"If it weren't for He Yuelian replacing a captain position, our disadvantage in numbers would be greater. If we continue to fight on, the rest of us will definitely continue to sustain losses. Therefore, while the opponent's actions have failed and they retreat, we need to supplement our numbers quickly."

Lu Zhiwen proposed an opinion here: "I suggest that during these special times, we take special measures and summon all previous captain candidates. Perhaps their individual abilities are insufficient, but if two or three candidates work together, they might fully assume the role of a captain."

"That's a good idea. Becoming a captain candidate means their strength surpasses ordinary officials. Having more help would indeed increase our chance of winning." Wang Chaling nodded, agreeing with the suggestion.

"There's not much that can be mobilized among the nominated captain candidates." Yang Jian frowned.

Lu Zhiwen said, "Then have Headquarters reevaluate all city officials once to select new captain candidates. This is the time to fight for our lives; there should be no reservations."

"That's true. Wang Guoqiang, you handle this matter." Yang Jian didn't refuse but agreed with this proposal.

Electing a few captain candidates to form a team is a good idea, but this would likely lead to loss of control over supernatural incidents in some cities.

However, this was something that couldn't be helped.

"No problem, leave this to me." Wang Guoqiang nodded solemnly.

Yang Jian said, "Speaking of adding more people, I have someone to recommend."

"Ye Zhen from Dahai City?" Wang Chaling glanced at Yang Jian with a strange expression and immediately guessed whom he wanted to recommend.

Yang Jian continued, "Ye Zhen's strength definitely counts as a top-notch captain. Bringing him onboard would significantly boost our overall power. Besides, I've reached an understanding with him to jointly oppose the King Organization. I'm sure he won't refuse. If none of you object, let's settle on this matter."

"I have no objections; Ye Zhen is indeed an excellent choice." Lu Zhiwen immediately agreed.

After all, even a candidate captain was brought out, Ye Zhen from the supernatural forum is not unacceptable.

"Can Ye Zhen be trusted?"

He Yiner worried about the unreliability of outside help. After all, once Ye Zhen joins, there will be a lot of crucial information leaked. If he can't be trusted, it would lead to very serious consequences.

Yang Jian thought for a moment and said, "I'll be the guarantor. If there's a problem with him, I'll be responsible."

"Yang Jian, if you say so, then I have no objections either. Let Ye Zhen come." He Yiner immediately stopped objecting.

"I don't mind either." Wang Chaling replied calmly.

Lin Bei, stroking his bald head, said, "At the point of inviting outside help, can we still worry about trust? In the coming days, the Ghost Ship might land, and if we worry over trifles, we'll all be doomed. But Ye Zhen alone isn't enough. If anyone else knows any formidable characters with the right stance, feel free to recommend them. As for the rest, we'll deal with it once we get through this ordeal."

"Makes sense." Zhou Deng nodded, agreeing with Lin Bei's suggestion.

The others said nothing but considered if they knew anyone suitable to bring in for assistance.

In handling supernatural events, they had, in fact, encountered some powerful individuals. But some of them are already dead, and some have positions that make them afraid to bring them over. There really aren't many who are truly suitable.

After all, Captain Level characters are already scarce, and finding those who align ideologically is even scarcer.

He Yiner's expression flickered as she thought of the Faceless Person in Taiping Ancient Town. But after Taiping Ancient Town got submerged by Ghost Lake, the Faceless Person and Boss Liu are the last of the old generation. Involving the last one or two from Taiping Ancient Town, if they were to die in this war, she would regret it for life.

Ultimately, He Yiner did not recommend the Faceless Person.

She felt that her effort for the headquarters was enough; Taiping Ancient Town couldn't be without people.

Seeing these captains in silent contemplation, Yang Jian slowly spoke again, "I have another person to recommend, though I'm afraid everyone might not accept."

"Another person? Who?" Lin Bei was quite surprised.

The others also looked at Yang Jian.

Yang Jian immediately mentioned a name: "Zhang Xiangguang."

Zhang Xiangguang?

The mastermind behind the Ghost Painting incident?

"No, absolutely not. He killed Gao Ming, the person in charge, and even Li Jun, and Wei Jing was almost killed by him. If he hadn't finally won, Leuk San, Li Leping, and even you, Yang Jian, would've been wiped out by him. This is an extremely dangerous individual and cannot be let loose." He Yiner immediately jumped in opposition.

Li Leping also slightly furrowed his brows. Although he did not speak, he still couldn't accept Zhang Xiangguang.

The paper figure left by Leuk San in the room also shook its head and said, "I understand your thoughts, Yang Jian. Zhang Xiangguang is strong enough to match several captains alone. Having him join would significantly boost our strength, but this person is too dangerous, and with He Yuelian still around, no one can predict what might happen if Zhang Xiangguang comes into contact with He Yuelian. There's a chance he might attempt the Taoyuan Plan again."

"We already have an external threat and cannot afford internal troubles."

Even as the Enforcement Captain, Yang Jian's proposal to recruit Zhang Xiangguang as outside help was firmly opposed by other captains.

But this was only natural.

Who would dare release such a dangerously terrifying enemy?

"Yang Jian, you must have some reason for recommending Zhang Xiangguang at this time. Can you share your thoughts?" Lu Zhiwen did not oppose but wanted to hear Yang Jian's reasoning.

"It's simple; Zhang Xiangguang's Taoyuan Plan conflicts with the King Organization's Ark Plan. If Zhang Xiangguang wants to stick to his ideology, he must take down the King Organization; otherwise, his Taoyuan Plan can never be realized," Yang Jian said calmly.

Lu Zhiwen commented, "Indeed, his Taoyuan Plan is to have everyone live in the Ghost Domain of the Ghost Painting. But now, with the Ghost Ship landing and supernatural outbreaks threatening all our lives, Zhang Xiangguang surely cannot accept this. However, it doesn't rule out the possibility that he might execute his Taoyuan Plan first."

"Every action carries risk. If he can help us win this war, I think it's worth a try," Yang Jian said, "The King Organization consists of a group of madmen, while Zhang Xiangguang is a single madman. Which do you think is easier to handle?"

Others listening seemed, for a moment, to find some logic in what was being said.

Chapter 1438 - Reemergence

In order to better deal with the King Organization, Yang Jian and the other team leaders realized the importance of increasing manpower at this moment. After all, with the departure of Cao Yang, Li Jun, Zhang Jun, and Wei Jing, the remaining team leaders were somewhat overwhelmed. If they didn't find reinforcements, even a victory would come at a significant cost.

Currently, in the discussion among the team leaders, two proposals have been approved.

First, mobilize candidate team leaders.

Second, invite Ye Zhen from the supernatural forum.

As for Yang Jian's proposal to release Zhang Xiangguang, most people still held opposing views.

However, some team leaders suggested giving it a try.

"It's not necessary to make Zhang Xiangguang appear immediately, we can try to contact him first. If things truly reach a point of no return, then releasing Zhang Xiangguang is not impossible. Yang Jian, that's my opinion," Leuk San's paper avatar thought for a while and expressed his view.

"That's right. Compared to losing this war, releasing Zhang Xiangguang is nothing," Wang Chaling put on his glasses, speaking calmly.

Lu Zhiwen also said, "If we really need someone, I also agree with Zhang Xiangguang's appearance, but the premise is that Yang Jian, you can persuade him."

"I'll handle this matter. Let's discuss something else now. Today's battle is over, and everyone knows the losses and gains. After this setback, the King Organization will definitely behave more cautiously, but it also means the upcoming collisions will be more intense."

Yang Jian sat on the chair and slowly spoke, "And it's been two days since the Ghost Ship plan was implemented, which means that in about three days, the Ghost Ship will land, and the next attack from the other side will occur at that time as well. Because, like us, the King Organization will also need to

increase manpower to prepare for battle in the next few days. Therefore, I don't believe there will be any excessive actions from them before the Ghost Ship lands."

"I agree with this viewpoint as well. The other side has suffered a great loss this time, and they already know that all our team leaders have gathered, so they are unlikely to act rashly again. If they still want to win, they can only engage in a frontal confrontation, where the contest of strength will be crucial," Lu Zhiwen nodded in agreement.

"So, in the next two or three days, the only thing we need to do is to maximize our side's strength."

While they were discussing in their meeting.

On the other side.

The King Organization also held a meeting, discussing today's events.

In front of a large conference table, the preacher looked very displeased. His gaze was dark, and his mood was terrible because this operation was his plan. He originally thought to deal a heavy blow to the other side before the opponent's team leaders could assemble, making them lose the war before the Ghost Ship landed.

Unexpectedly, such a perfect plan completely failed.

Not only did they fail to successfully hunt down most of the leaders, but they also lost several kings. The loss of Ghost Master squads was countless, though most dead Ghost Masters were peripheral members, many were important members of the King's Squad.

"This operation was a total failure. Obviously, the other side had secretly prepared long ago. When we moved, the opponent counterattacked, making hunting the leaders seem like a joke. Your only correct decision was to order a retreat early; otherwise, our losses would have been even greater."

A foreign man in a suit and gentleman's hat unceremoniously criticized the preacher.

The preacher's gaze was dark, and he didn't speak.

The man wearing the gentleman's hat continued, "You bear full responsibility for today's events. You mistakenly estimated the opponent's strength and the support speed. Even with five kings and three squads working together, you couldn't eliminate three of the opponent's team leaders. Should I call you foolish or arrogant?"

"You're wrong. That team leader named Cao Yang on the other side is doomed. I am sure he has been hit by a terrible curse. This is why I agreed to the deal at the last moment," a black-and-white figure appeared, ghostly and illusory.

The man in the gentleman's hat snorted coldly, "Even if you took down one team leader, don't forget, we lost two kings, and that annoying cowboy also lost contact. I'm worried he has also met his end."

"Simon is dead too? This is truly bad news. Such a powerful cowboy was taken out by the other side. I'm starting to regret initiating this war. If we continue like this, we're not sure we can win," the dejected painter sighed helplessly.

"The Ghost Ship will land soon in a few days, but the opponent's Great Flood plan is also underway. I can feel that many of our country's waters are shrouded in a sinister aura, and the scope is very large. If anything goes wrong, there's no way we can handle it. So, the most likely result is that both sides end up in a mess."

The preacher spoke at this time, "We won't lose. I admit we underestimated them this time, but you've also preserved your strength, haven't you? Our alliance is not as reliable as imagined, but now you can't afford to slack off. We must gather all our strength to ensure the Ghost Ship's landing and completely destroy them in the final battle."

The man in the gentleman's hat smirked mockingly, "But you've already lost once. Are you planning to lose a second time? I was dissatisfied with your plan today in the first place. Clearly, we could have won by doing nothing, yet you insisted on executing this foolish plan. The other side is not full of idiots, especially not that Yang Jian. You should know how fast his counterattacks are; the Manor Lord's failure is the best example, and you haven't learned any lessons, remaining blindly arrogant."

"Now, with the death of four kings, our chances in a final battle are not as good as before. Moreover, after winning tonight's victory, the other side has gained confidence, knowing that our King Organization is not invincible."

"When God is injured, he is no longer God. Do you understand?"

"Then what do you mean? Do you think we can't win and want to surrender to the other side?" The preacher stared at him and asked.

The man in the gentleman's hat shook his head, "No, no, no, I just think we should have a more capable decision-maker to help everyone, not someone who continues to fail. I believe I can do better. You should cooperate with my actions honestly instead of making foolish decisions here."

Apparently, this man in the gentleman's hat wants to seize power.

It seems that the internal members of the King Organization are not united, especially after a failed operation, some conflicts are infinitely intensified.

But Yang Jian doesn't care about any of this.

Because it's already very late.

He needs to find a place to sleep.

And in fact, that's what Yang Jian did. He left Ning'an Building and found a safe place in Dadong City to sleep.

As soon as he fell asleep, he entered into a nightmare.

No, it's no longer a nightmare now, but a beautiful dream, because in the dream, Yang Jian can act recklessly and do as he pleases.

However, Yang Jian doesn't have the habit of toying with dreams; instead, he walks through a quiet village and along a path to a private school just outside the village.

He pushes open the door.

On the podium in the classroom, a man who looks to be in his thirties, mature and carrying an air of vicissitudes, is giving a lecture.

Below the podium, a girl who looks about fifteen or sixteen is sitting up straight, listening attentively to the class.

Yang Jian's arrival interrupts the class.

Zhang Xiangguang slightly furrows his brows and looks at Yang Jian: "I told you last time, you should knock."

"I don't have the habit of knocking, I never did, and I never will," Yang Jian said.

"There's a temporary matter, today's class stops here for now, Xiao Ya, you are free to go," Zhang Xiangguang said.

"Okay, teacher," Zhao Xiaoya nodded in response, quite politely.

It's evident that Zhang Xiangguang has put in a lot of effort to teach Zhao Xiaoya recently.

At this moment, Zhang Xiangguang strides towards Yang Jian, his gaze cold and his face stern, making people feel wary.

Yang Jian, however, remains indifferent and unconcerned.

Finally, Zhang Xiangguang stops his steps, standing at the door and not stepping out of the somewhat small classroom.

"Speak, what do you want from me?" he asked directly.

Yang Jian didn't hide anything and said directly, "You probably don't know much about the situation outside while being here, and before discussing some things, I think it's necessary to tell you about the current outside events."

He then briefly narrated the events concerning the King Organization and Project Ark to Zhang Xiangguang, also telling him about their confrontation with the King Organization.

"In about three days, the Ghost Ship is very likely to land, we've lost several captains, and are now short on manpower, so I hope you can help us fight against the King Organization," he said.

Zhang Xiangguang laughed: "Yang Jian, you truly have boldness, daring to consider me as external reinforcement in such a situation. It seems you are prepared to release me from here, but you should be well aware of what consequences releasing me could lead to."

"The worst outcome can't possibly be worse than the Ghost Ship landing. If the supernatural spirals out of control, many people will die. We must win this time, and with absolute advantage. Moreover, your plan is getting harder to implement, and I think I have the ability to stop you," Yang Jian said earnestly.

"You must understand, once I leave here, it won't be possible for you to find an opportunity to lock me up again," Zhang Xiangguang said.

Yang Jian said, "That is something to worry about after this war is over."

Zhang Xiangguang laughed: "Aren't you afraid I might immediately regret it after going out?"

"A gamble must be taken, and your strength is worth taking a chance on," Yang Jian said straightforwardly.

Zhang Xiangguang said, "I can help you win this war, but I have one condition."

"What condition?" Yang Jian asked.

"I need my sword back," Zhang Xiangguang said. "One should at least be handed a proper weapon when going to battle, right?"

"Okay, I'll return it to you," Yang Jian said. "Rest assured, if I dare to release you, I won't impose restrictions on you."

Chapter 1439 - Invitation

In a dream, Yang Jian and Zhang Xiangguang reached an agreement.

He was willing to release Zhang Xiangguang, but in return, Zhang Xiangguang also had to help them win this war.

As for when to release him, Yang Jian didn't say, and Zhang Xiangguang didn't ask. They both just knew that this moment would soon arrive.

After dealing with this matter, Yang Jian didn't choose to linger in the dream world but immediately woke up and started acting again.

He headed straight for Dahai City.

Because Yang Jian still needed to find Ye Zhen as an external ally, just ensuring Zhang Xiangguang wasn't enough.

Using the Ghost Domain, Dahai City arrived quickly.

This is a bustling city, its lights dazzling, and even at night, it remains lively.

Because there has never been an out-of-control supernatural incident here, although Ye Zhen is not the captain of the headquarters, he manages the city well as a forum administrator, keeping it safe. Because of these reasons, his presence is tolerated by the headquarters.

If Ye Zhen were reckless and destructive, the headquarters would have dealt with him long ago. After all, a supernatural forum is not something that couldn't be eliminated.

At this moment, Yang Jian stood on the top floor of a building in Dahai City. His ghost eyes moved as the Ghost Domain spread out to directly search for Ye Zhen's location.

Ordinary people cannot detect the Ghost Domain of the ghost eyes at all, but for some top-tier ghost wielders, the activation of the Ghost Domain is tantamount to announcing their presence.

As the Ghost Domain quickly covered Dahai City.

For a moment, some skilled ghost wielders of the Dahai City supernatural forum immediately sensed something was wrong.

They looked up at the sky, which was not pitch black, but seemed to be enveloped by a layer of golden sunlight, making everywhere exceptionally bright, with shadows not existing even in the hidden corners.

"This is... the Ghost Domain? Someone has come to Dahai City, and it's an extremely dangerous person. Their Ghost Domain is vast, almost covering an entire city. This is bad, we need to notify the boss immediately." In a building, Ah Wu of the supernatural forum sensed the change and his face changed drastically, then immediately informed Ye Zhen.

"It might be someone from the King Organization coming over. After all, we previously publicly announced that we would join forces with the headquarters to deal with the King Organization. Now it's very possible they've suddenly come to Dahai City." Some people from the supernatural forum speculated about the culprit of this incident.

No one linked it to Yang Jian's Ghost Domain because many people in the circle knew Yang Jian's Ghost Domain was crimson, not like this.

However, in a suburban manor in Dahai City.

A silhouette suddenly appeared on the rooftop, looking towards the direction of the city center, sensing the anomaly enveloping the city.

"This Ghost Domain is unusual. I've never seen it before, and it's so dazzling, as if it was tailored just for me. Good, very good. Defeat this enemy and this Ghost Domain will be mine."

The next moment.

The silhouette disappeared from the rooftop.

Soon after, a rift was torn open in the sky above Dahai City, revealing the original dark and gloomy color of the sky.

Ye Zhen, with a disdainful look, forcefully invaded the Ghost Domain. He didn't like making an entrance in such a manner, draped in darkness, like an Evil Ghost descending.

"Who in the supernatural world doesn't know Dahai City is my territory, Ye Zhen's? You dare to use a Ghost Domain in my territory; you must want to lure me here, right? Now I'm here, come out, stop hiding." He shouted in a low voice, his voice echoing in the Ghost Domain.

At this moment.

The Ghost Domain enveloping Dahai City was eerily quiet, with only Ye Zhen present.

"You're shouting so loudly so late at night, you're quite energetic, Ye Zhen." Yang Jian's voice appeared, accompanied by a sudden eruption of Ghost Flame, and his figure emerged from the distorted firelight.

"Yang Jian?" Ye Zhen's eyes widened, somewhat in disbelief: "Impossible, how could it be you? Your Ghost Domain doesn't look like this."

Yang Jian said, "Something happened. I mastered a new supernatural power, and the state of my Ghost Domain has changed. Your information is outdated."

"Damn it." Ye Zhen instantly became envious and jealous.

The glory he had been painstakingly pursuing was easily obtained by Yang Jian, such a brilliant Ghost Domain should rightfully be his.

At this moment, he wished Yang Jian was a stranger, so he could seize this supernatural power without hesitation.

"Alright, Ye Zhen, to be brief, I came today to talk to you about cooperation." Yang Jian got straight to the point.

Ye Zhen said, "Cooperating is fine; this matter doesn't require you to come in person, does it?"

"Today, people from the King Organization have already clashed with the captains of the headquarters. There are casualties on both sides, but the King Organization has a strong base and many people. If this drags on, even if the headquarters wins in the end, the losses will be heavy. Plus, the Ghost Ship is about to dock. At this point, I need to increase the personnel on this side as much as possible."

"Ordinary ghost wielders are not qualified to participate in this battle, so I need to invite some experts as external reinforcements. Therefore, I hope you can temporarily join the headquarters and act together with us, rather than acting alone in Dahai City."

Yang Jian explained his purpose for coming.

Ye Zhen listened and laughed heartily, "Now you understand, the ones who truly lead this world are top-tier figures like us, not those irrelevant small fries. You inviting me is the right decision; I previously promised you that I could join forces with you, but I refuse to join the headquarters. I, Ye, am a boss in Dahai City, and I'm a boss elsewhere too. I've never wanted to be someone else's subordinate, not even if you're Yang Wudi."

He refused Yang Jian's proposal, the reason being simple, he didn't want to be a subordinate.

Yet, Ye Zhen then said, "But since you specially came to invite me today, I can't refuse your request. How about this, I can cooperate with the headquarters as the forum administrator. Once this matter ends, our cooperation ends. Don't forget, I intend to surpass you and reclaim the position as the strongest, can't stay under someone's shadow for long."

"..." Yang Jian was momentarily at a loss for words.

What's the difference between cooperating and temporarily joining the headquarters?

"I can accept your proposal and go with what you said." Yang Jian replied.

"Very well, it seems you still respect me, knowing to give me some face." Ye Zhen nodded satisfactorily.

Yang Jian said, "Since it's cooperation, you need to attend the headquarters meeting as well. Tomorrow's captain meeting; I hope to see you there."

"No problem, just give me a time and address, and I will attend on time." Ye Zhen responded.

"Nine in the morning, Ning'an Building, top floor, in Dadong City." Yang Jian said, "This is the gathering place for the captains. It's confidential and shouldn't be leaked out; the King Organization is always watching us."

"Anyone who leaks will see their whole family dead, rest assured. I'm known for being tight-lipped." Ye Zhen said seriously.

Yang Jian smiled, "If that's settled, I've got other things to do, I need to leave. If there's anything, we'll discuss it tomorrow."

"No need to see you off." Ye Zhen nodded.

Seeing the matter settled, Yang Jian didn't linger, leaving Dahai City immediately. And with his departure, the Ghost Domain covering Dahai City also vanished.

But in Ye Zhen's eyes, the magnificent golden light followed Yang Jian, and the sky returned to darkness, dim and somber. No neon lights could compare to the light just now.

"Damn it."

Ye Zhen was inwardly filled with envy, almost to the point of madness, wishing Yang Jian's Ghost Domain was his own.

Chapter 1440 - Makeup and Face

After inviting Ye Zhen, Yang Jian immediately left Dahai City. He did not return to Dadong City but went back to his designated city, Dachang City.

The battle tonight was over, and there will be a safe period following it. Both the headquarters and the King Organization should remain inactive for a while, so he had to take care of some personal matters.

Soon enough.

He appeared inside Shangtong Tower in Dachang City.

Inside the office.

Li Yang, Huang Ziya, Tong Qian, Wang Yong, and Xiong Wenwen had not left. They were staying overnight here to ensure no incidents occurred in Dachang City during this time.

The only unfortunate thing was that Feng Quan was trapped inside that old grave in the Ghost Post Office and couldn't get out, or they would have had another strength on their side.

The arrival of Yang Jian surprised everyone in the office because, logically, he shouldn't be in Dachang City at this point.

"Captain," Li Yang immediately stood up and asked, "How did it go? What was the result of the captain meeting?"

"Not too bad, but not too good either. The captains gathered smoothly, but we fought the King Organization tonight. They wanted to hunt city leaders, but we successfully blocked them, killing many members of the King Organization. However, it came at a cost. Several leaders died, and Li Jun and Ah Hong were also lost. Cao Yang fought to the end but couldn't bear the horrific curse and had to step back to find a way to survive."

Yang Jian briefly mentioned the details, but the small talk conveyed the brutal reality of the struggles within the supernatural realm.

Everyone's faces changed when they heard this.

"Things really are serious," Huang Ziya murmured, "If the captains can't handle it, ordinary ghost wielders don't stand a chance."

The supernatural realm in the entire country had only selected twelve captains. Just clashing with the King Organization led to the loss of two, indicating how perilous the situation was this time.

To prevent disheartening the group, Yang Jian added, "But their side also suffered. They lost three kings. Li Jun killed one in a life-or-death struggle, and I, along with Li Leping, Cao Yang, and Lin Bei, managed to take down two more. Including the previously hunted Manor Lord, their losses were considerable."

"Fortunately, there's a personnel replenishment this time. Appointing He Yuelian as a captain was timely, but it's not enough to change the situation entirely. We need more manpower."

"Captain, let me join. I believe I have the ability to handle certain tasks," Li Yang immediately said.

Tong Qian also stepped forward and said, "I don't want to stay in Dachang City either. I'm willing to go with Li Yang to provide support."

"Ordinary ghost wielders facing off against the King and captain-level supernatural forces will perish in an instant. If you're not capable, going is just a way to die and worsen the situation."

Yang Jian seriously said, "However, the headquarters plans to mobilize all captain candidates to form teams and join the fight."

"Feng Quan and Li Yang are likely included in the mobilization, but since Feng Quan isn't here, Li Yang, you have to go."

Li Yang showed a slight smile, "I couldn't ask for more. Agreeing to this fight will bring glory to my family."

He saw things clearly. Ghost wielders were destined to die someday. Dying with purpose and meaning wouldn't be a wasted life.

"What about me? Since Feng Quan can't go, I can take his place. You know I've managed the ghost I'm wielding, and I can endure prolonged supernatural confrontations," Tong Qian also chimed in.

Yang Jian said, "I don't doubt your potential is high, but it takes time to unleash your power, which is why you haven't been able to become a captain candidate yet."

Tong Qian continued, "I also have a ghost following me. If I could control it, perhaps..."

Last time at the Caesar Hotel, she was cursed by a ghost, leaving an invisible ghost trailing her.

This ghost would only appear in her sight whenever Tong Qian looked back. It always followed behind her. Initially, it made her uneasy, but over time she realized that as long as she didn't carelessly look back, the ghost wouldn't cause any harm to her. She gradually began to disregard it.

"That's still not enough. Captain candidates must possess a sufficiently strong supernatural power. Feng Quan became a captain candidate because he had strong survival abilities, making him hard to kill, plus he managed three ghosts, which allowed him to handle various tasks comfortably," Yang Jian said.

"Tong Qian, maybe you should stay out of it. Just staying safely in Dachang City isn't an option?"

Huang Ziya laughed as she spoke persuasively, "You know we have tasks here, too. Once the captain leaves, the safety of Dachang City and nearby cities falls on us. Our responsibilities aren't light either."

"Everyone has their tasks to handle. Overextending beyond your capability will only burden others."

Wang Yong also nodded, "That's true. My abilities are limited, and I can't help much, but I can still handle being a small city's leader."

Tong Qian responded earnestly, "I can't just stay out of it. My duty won't allow me to hide behind others. Even Li Jun fought hard; how could I just watch from here?"

"I understand. Your status was unique even before you became a leader," Huang Ziya said.

Yang Jian waved his hand at this moment, signaling everyone to quiet down.

Everyone immediately fell silent.

"Tong Qian, I understand how you feel, but if you participate in your current state, it's a death wish. I won't agree to it unless you can master a new supernatural power," Yang Jian said.

"Which ghost should I control? I can try," Tong Qian immediately replied.

Li Yang looked over and said, "Captain, do you have any thoughts?"

"Ah Hong is dead. Before she died, she left behind a supernatural item, a red makeup box. I understand what Ah Hong meant; she wants to find someone to inherit this supernatural item. I was considering giving it to Huang Ziya because she's a woman and understands makeup. But now, it seems Tong Qian, you are more suitable," Yang Jian said while staring at him.

Tong Qian was puzzled for a moment, "Why is that?"

Yang Jian continued, "Because you have three faces, two of which are ghost faces. This means your ghost makeup can instantly paint three faces, enabling you to possess 60% of the supernatural power of three top-notch ghost handlers in an instant, making you a top figure among captains."

"Is that even possible?" The others widened their eyes as they listened.

If Tong Qian really managed to do that, she would indeed become an incredible and terrifying entity.

"Xiao Yang, it's unfair. This is preferential treatment for Tong Qian," Xiong Wenwen also said jealously.

Yang Jian continued, "But ghost makeup has its flaws. While applying it, your original face will decay. However, your two ghost faces aren't affected by this as they can't be corroded, meaning you can regularly use the two ghost faces, resorting to three only in desperate situations. This is your innate advantage that others can't possess."

"The ghost makeup and ghost face, a perfect combination."

Li Yang's eyes lit up too, finding the plan perfect and highly feasible.

"Tong Qian, if you really intend to inherit Ah Hong's makeup box, you must be prepared to risk your life. You will no longer face ordinary ghost handlers but the most terrifying group of people in this world. If you wish to change your mind now, you still can. Once you join, there's no backing out, and I won't tolerate any deserters in the team."

Yang Jian said as he took out the old makeup box.

"I've been prepared for this long ago. Even if I die, I won't blame anyone. This is my choice."

At that moment, Tong Qian didn't hesitate at all and took the old makeup box from Yang Jian's hand.

"Good, since you've made the choice, then do it. Time is short, and you must learn how to apply makeup in the shortest time, then draw the two most familiar faces. I suggest you practice drawing Wei Jing's

face as his codename is Ghost Envoy. The supernatural power is a suppressive force, very suitable for a beginner. As for the other face... I have no suggestions, you choose."

"Drawing two faces in the shortest time?" Tong Qian nodded, "I understand, I'll go get in touch now."

"Practicing alone is too slow. I'll find you a teacher," Yang Jian said. As he finished, his gaze shifted, and a phantom shadow in the office space gradually solidified into a real person.

It was a living body created by the Deceiving Ghost.

However, it had no consciousness as the body of a living person cannot awaken.

While Yang Jian's ghost shadow invaded and new memories were infused, the dormant corpse quickly opened its eyes and awakened.

"You can call him Teacher Tony. He's proficient in various makeup techniques and will train you," Yang Jian said.

This Teacher Tony wasn't a real person but a composite of various memories patched together.

"Hello, President Yang, hello Tong Qian. I'm called Tony, and you can call me Teacher Tony. I will train you well, and I hope we work hard together in the next twenty-four hours. Good luck."

Teacher Tony waved his hand, greeting them in a feminine voice, sounding like a woman.

Then he walked over, looked at Tong Qian, and said, "Your hair quality is terrible; it's all split ends. I'll teach you how to take care of your hair later, but your butt is quite firm and perky. You wouldn't mind if I touched it, right?"

With that feminine tone, many people felt goosebumps rising.

"..."

Everyone looked at Yang Jian with strange expressions, and Tong Qian couldn't help but step back a few paces, distancing herself from Teacher Tony.

"Don't look at me like that. There's no time to be choosy, just make do. However, he is the most professional. If you all want beauty or hairstyling later, you can go to him for free," Yang Jian said expressionlessly.

He had to modify and splice memories to form an independent personality. Sorting out character and temperament was too troublesome, so he directly integrated them, only infusing Teacher Tony's consciousness with loyalty, dedication, and kindness.

As long as there aren't major issues, a few oddities are acceptable.

