

Revival 286

Chapter 286 The Great Bluff

The conference began with Deputy Minister Cao Yanhua singing praises of Yang Jian. It seemed this meeting had become a stage for Yang Jian's personal showcase, set to let him shine in front of others, with every word hinting at laudation for Yang Jian.

However, Yang Jian regarded this adulation as nothing but hot air.

He wasn't some naive youngster who would become emotionally touched by a few compliments and then loyally commit wholeheartedly.

Yang Jian had his own way of living.

"To tell the truth, the outbreak of S-level supernatural incidents globally is no longer an anomaly. Similar severe events occur abroad, but those are either resolved or suppressed. If our country fails to manage the Hungry Ghost incident, it will have a considerable impact internationally and might even shake our nation's future standing on the world stage."

"So we absolutely cannot allow such a precedent to occur, at least not within our country," Cao Yanhua said with solemnity.

Upon hearing this, Yang Jian began to understand a bit.

It was somewhat akin to a global military competition—not based on the economy or weapons anymore but rather on the ability to handle supernatural incidents.

If a country can't deal with an S-level supernatural incident, it means the country's future prospects are worrisome. Naturally, it won't be viewed favorably internationally.

"Alright, I've said my piece. Now, I welcome Yang Jian to the stage to present a summary of the actions taken in this incident," said Cao Yanhua after talking for about fifteen minutes before handing over the podium to Yang Jian.

Having heard so much praise from Minister Cao Yanhua, Yang Jian faintly sensed that this meeting was not as simple as he had imagined. The supposed action report he hadn't even prepared for—was he really unafraid of speaking carelessly and revealing everything?

Or was the meeting just a front, looking to draw out some of his secrets?

He glanced at Zhao Jianguo.

The man sat upright with a serious demeanor, not indulging in idle chatter, apparently listening attentively to the meeting.

Then there was Wang Xiaoming, the internationally renowned Professor Bruce Pi, who also seemed to manifest some expectation and interest in the meeting.

"These old foxes," Yang Jian cursed silently in his heart.

But after the incident, handing over the Hungry Ghost and valuable items like the Coffin Nail and shroud felt like a fair trade to the Ghost Manipulators' headquarters. Yet compared to this, the headquarters was definitely more interested in what had happened during those seven days he went missing since it concerned the resolution of an S-level supernatural event at its core.

Only Wang Xiaoming knew some of the details, yet not all.

But that guy Wang Xiaoming would certainly say nothing. It was just his character to not announce uncertain things to avoid misleading others.

As a prestigious professor, he knew all too well the impact even a slight hint could have on the country, or even globally. Thus, he had cultivated the skill of speaking cautiously.

But could the secret of resurrection be disclosed?

It involved the Ghost Mirror, and that was bad enough, but most important was its link to the existence of human skin paper—an eerie and horrific object that was his own cornerstone. Without it, he would have already died in the Ghost Coffin incident.

"Honestly, there's not much to say about this operation. It all relied on Professor Wang's planning; I was merely an assistant. He is the true hero of the incident. I was just someone who took action, just more fortunate that I was the only Ghost Manipulator who made it to the end."

Yang Jian stepped forward and immediately began, "If it weren't for Professor Wang's research discoveries about the behavior of the Fourth-stage Ghost Infant, as well as his ability to neutralize the final Ghost Infant, I would have likely died in this incident."

"Therefore, I really can't speak on experience, and as for that, there are many here who are more senior than me and I believe possess even more experience in handling supernatural events. I'm just a small fry who recently made the switch from temporary worker to permanent; how can I teach you anything?"

He behaved with utmost humility, concealing all his sharpness.

When it was time to shrink back, Yang Jian did so without the slightest hesitation.

Cao Yanhua's mouth twitched viciously upon hearing Yang Jian's words. This kid turned so amiable all of a sudden, but he hadn't been like this during the phone conference earlier, daring to confront even the top brass, threatening the ghost manipulators' headquarters not once but many times. Now that he had resolved an S-grade paranormal event, why had he suddenly turned into a coward?

He glanced over at Zhao Jianguo.

Zhao Jianguo slightly shook his head, evidently thinking trying to pry information out of Yang Jian with this method would not succeed, he had already become cautious.

Someone who could survive on the brink of life and death wasn't so simple.

"Yang Jian, I heard you're controlling two ghosts. Coincidentally, I'm also a manipulator who controls two ghosts, and I'd like to know if an operator of our level could face a Hungry Ghost of the S-grade directly." Suddenly, Cao Yang asked smilingly, "After all, I've never encountered such an event before and would like to understand my own capability to get a clear sense of where I stand."

"Of course, controlling two ghosts qualifies you to confront a Hungry Ghost. If you're lucky, you can even manage to imprison it directly. You just need to discern the murderous patterns of the fierce ghost and possess some special abilities."

Yang Jian nodded, looking serious and sincere.

"Damn, this kid is trying to set me up," Cao Yang cursed in his mind. If he really believed what this guy said, he wouldn't even know how he died.

He had seen the profile of a ghost manipulator from Dachang City named Ye Feng, who also controlled two ghosts. The result was that he died on the first day of his operation, showing that controlling two ghosts did not qualify one to confront a Hungry Ghost directly.

Although Cao Yang didn't believe it, other ghost manipulators did. Some had never faced a paranormal event of this level, so they thought an S-grade event was nothing much.

"Yang Jian is right. As long as we know the pattern and have the ability, it shouldn't be difficult for us to contain this Hungry Ghost. It was only because the ghostly thing sealed off the entire city, preventing our support from getting in, that such a large disaster brewed," a manipulator commented, nodding.

"Bullshit, you actually believed his nonsense. You must be looking to die quicker," another retorted.

Cao Yang glanced at the person and thought to himself, "This is an inflated fool. Better stay away from him in the future. As long as he doesn't drag me into his troubles, that's fine."

However, Yang Jian was smiling as he said, "That's right. With Professor Wang's help in planning, any ghost manipulator could resolve this event with relative ease. Actually, I think defining the Hungry Ghost event as S-grade is a bit of an overstatement. I believe it's at most an A-grade paranormal event. Of course, there is also a misleading element in naming.

I think 'Ghost Child Event' would be more apt."

Comparing the Hungry Ghost event with the Ghost Child event, the latter sounds much less harmful, even somewhat petulant, making it hard to sense the severity of the situation.

"I also feel that the headquarters overreacted this time. If it were truly an S-grade event, how could it have been resolved by a single person in the end? It must have been an initial lapse in reaction, giving the entity a chance to escalate the danger. After engaging with it, we found the actual ghost to be not as terrifying," another ghost manipulator joined in the discussion.

Yang Jian added, "You're right, the Ghost Infant originally emerged from Zhou Zheng's body. Zhou Zheng, who had controlled one ghost, even if it were a resurrected fierce ghost, could only cause limited harm."

"You're really lucky, stumbling upon what was actually an A-grade event and treating it as an S-grade situation. Furthermore, with Professor Wang's advice and strategies, you fortuitously earned

tremendous credit. But dealing with paranormal incidents can't rely on luck; you managed to resolve it this time, but next time you might not be so fortunate."

Some shook their heads with laughter, considering Yang Jian to be nothing more than a lucky guy.

Yang Jian sighed, "Yes, that's why if I encounter an S-grade event in the future, I need to stay as far away as possible. I absolutely can't rush in hot-headed; otherwise, I won't even know how I died. Do you all know why I've been hiding and not showing my face lately? I was frightened, too scared to leave my house..."

Upon hearing this, Cao Yang wondered if it was really as Yang Jian said, just a misjudgment of the event's level, along with Professor Wang's help, that allowed him to inadvertently achieve such great success?

Wang Xiaoming remained silent, neither agreeing with Yang Jian's words nor revealing the truth.

He generally didn't care about such trivial matters, knowing that Yang Jian didn't want to divulge his secrets.

Based on his understanding of Yang Jian, he knew that whatever Yang Jian didn't want to reveal would remain unknown. Yang Jian was very adept at keeping his cards hidden; he already had a profound experience during the event, where everyone thought they were doomed, yet Yang Jian still had the capability to turn the tables without ever showing his hand.

Chapter 287 Let's Make Friends

Facing Yang Jian's cowardly statement, like someone who had made up his mind to act like a turtle shrinking its head, Zhao Jianguo, Li Jun, Wang Xiaoming, and even Deputy Minister Cao Yanhua were speechless inside.

This guy is arrogant and conceited, which isn't scary given that Yang Jian now has the strength and capital. Yet instead of acting like a tiger out of its cage, he chooses to lie low like a little puppy. What's the meaning of this?

The other ghost masters didn't understand the true contents of this incident, thinking Yang Jian just got lucky. But they knew the truth.

Professor Wang didn't play a big role in it; locking up the Hungry Ghost was all down to Yang Jian's own efforts.

And they couldn't expose Yang Jian's act of feigned weakness, as after this incident, he had risen to become a potential top warrior at the ghost masters' headquarters. No matter what actions were taken or decisions made, they had to consider his feelings and position.

"Why don't you keep being arrogant? I had even allowed you to suppress the other ghost masters forcefully, to secure your own status. So, what's the point of backing down now?"

Zhao Jianguo felt somewhat stifled inside.

Zhao's plan was to have Yang Jian show his strength at the meeting, to deter the top ghost masters, and afterwards, to groom him as a high-end force for the ghost masters' headquarters. The other

overinflated ghost masters, now deterred, would definitely respect him, which also benefited the future captain's plan.

But Yang Jian's show of cowardice meant he didn't want to be excessively noticed.

It also looked like, from now on, he planned to just live his life in Dachang City, his little corner of the world.

Actually, it wasn't just them who saw through the true nature of the meeting; Cao Yang, Tong Qian, and earlier, Xiong Wenwen also started to realize Yang Jian's thoughts.

"He feels he's gained too much credit, which will bring him future troubles, so he wants to use this meeting to downplay his achievements as much as possible, to lessen his influence within the circle."

Tong Qian understood his thoughts while looking at Yang Jian's behavior.

As one of the few ghost masters who had cooperated with Yang Jian, Tong Qian knew very well his abilities and his character.

Cautious to the point of almost paranoid.

However, it was precisely because of this character trait that his chances of survival were far greater than others.

"This is tough. Yang Jian doesn't seem to want to stand out. From his assessment report, we can see he's this type of person. If the Hungry Ghost incident hadn't happened in Dachang City, I guess he wouldn't have even asked about it," Zhao Jianguo felt a headache coming on again.

Other ghost masters only need to figure out how to control fierce ghosts, whereas he has to consider how to deal with these ghost masters.

"Under indirect probing, Yang Jian chooses to hide information, even refusing to discuss the events of those days," thought Cao Yanhua, the minister, who had a different perspective from Zhao Jianguo.

He was trying to get some important intelligence out of Yang Jian during the meeting when Yang made his report.

After all, Yang Jian now had a different status and identity. He couldn't use forceful methods to extract intelligence in the name of headquarters, lest Yang Jian feels uncomfortable and decides to resign outright.

If he resigns, Cao Yanhua thought his position as a deputy minister would also be over, time for retirement.

He could only use gentler methods, even ones that were imperceptible, to make Yang Jian speak willingly.

But the results were terrible.

As for Wang Xiaoming, he just sat there as a spectator, as if nothing concerned him. Even when Yang Jian did his best to deflect all the credit onto him, he didn't make a sound.

But it was this tacit approval that made the other ghost masters think the resolution of the Hungry Ghost incident had little to do with Yang Jian.

Yang Jian just lent a hand; the real hidden hero was Professor Wang.

If I were in his place, I would manage too!

Many people harbored this thought, feeling a bitter resentment as if the worthy were away, and the unworthy were gaining fame.

After all, Yang Jian had joined the ghost masters not long ago, and he was still a high school senior. How could he compare to the others in terms of experience, age, or fame? How could he resolve an S-level supernatural event?

"So there's not much for me to say about this operation report. If there's anyone who knows better, it's Professor Wang. He's the one who made the confinement plan. I just followed the plan. There are some questions I really can't answer. As for why it was successful in the end, I don't know either.

I just followed the plan step by step, and in the end, the Hungry Ghost was locked up,"

Yang Jian spread his hands, looking somewhat bewildered as he spoke.

In front of his cowardly statements, praising Wang Xiaoming, even those who were dissatisfied with Yang Jian could hardly make a scene.

He had, after all, achieved something and was being so modest; there was no reason to nitpick.

"No matter how Yang Jian tries to downplay his achievements, this Hungry Ghost incident is definitely not simple. I couldn't even enter Dachang City, and how could the ghost's Terror Level be low? The minister had to go abroad for help, and Yang Jian's file has been re-encrypted and sealed. Many secrets we don't know are hidden within,"

"We must keep an eye on this 'Ghost-Eye' Yang Jian. If he doesn't die from the resurgence of fierce ghosts, he will definitely be among the top ghost masters in Asia."

But not all ghost masters believe Yang Jian was just lucky—some speculate that Yang Jian deliberately put on this act to continue being low-key, hiding himself to avoid being targeted.

A mission debriefing ended amidst Yang Jian's blather.

Yang Jian left the podium and returned to his seat, continuing to be a spectator munching on melon seeds.

"You're really lucky, earning such credit. Whether it's promotion, status at headquarters, or resource allocation, you'll have a great advantage. In a few days, the headquarters might even award you a Ghost Candle," said an international ghost master next to him with a sneer.

The "Ghost Candle" he referred to was the red one that could withstand attacks from malevolent spirits, not those mass-produced white Ghost Candles.

Yang Jian wasn't angry, just chuckled, "Surviving is already good enough, any reward isn't that important."

He felt like he was talking nonsense, if Wang Xiaoming didn't give him two Ghost Candles this time, it really wouldn't be fair for all the effort he had put in.

"That's true, but are you interested in making a deal with me? I'm quite concerned about the Ghost Candle; how about you sell it to me after you get your award from the headquarters? I won't let you suffer any loss," the ghost master proposed, "How about ten billion, plus my annual Gold quota?"

"Besides, I'd also like to make friends with you. If any spiritually abnormal events happen in Dachang City, which you are in charge of, you can ask for my help. Here's my business card."

He then handed over a business card.

The card bore a name: Lin Long.

And beside it, a private mobile number.

"I also need that item and am not interested in selling it for now, I'm really sorry, Lin Long, the ghost master," Yang Jian said.

The Ghost Candle was a Strategic Level resource; when facing spiritually abnormal events, with the Ghost Candle, one could be bold with the wind and turn the tide against it. Anyone selling it would be a fool.

"Sometimes making a friend is better than having another enemy, don't you think? Yang Jian," Lin Long said, placing a hand on his shoulder and suddenly squeezing tightly.

It was as though he wanted to crush his entire arm, his tone full of threat.

Sure enough.

Even after becoming an international ghost master, the madness inherent in these ghost masters still couldn't be concealed. Even here in the conference room, in front of so many people, he did not show any respect for Yang Jian, the meritorious ghost master.

The others, seeing this scene, looked on with interest, silent.

A collision between the new and the old generations of ghost masters.

Lin Long was considered a senior in this line of work, while Yang Jian was just a novice who had barely started, though he had the merit of solving a Terror Level spiritually abnormal event, whether he truly had the skills was yet to be seen.

So, it was good to see the outcome of this contest between the two.

"Anyway, I'm someone who has tamed two ghosts; could you give me some face?" Yang Jian said.

"If you agree to my request, we're still friends, and we can have fun together in the future," Lin Long said with a sly smile.

Yang Jian replied, "Then I don't want to be your friend."

"Won't you reconsider? If we can't be friends, we might become enemies," Lin Long said.

Yang Jian thought for a moment.

At that moment, Wang Xiaoming said, "Calm down a bit, take the big picture into account. He's also a meritorious ghost master, and right now, with the frequent spiritually abnormal events, infighting is a very irrational act. Stop this kind of conflict immediately."

"Professor Wang, don't worry, I know what I'm doing, and I'm just discussing business with Yang Jian privately; that shouldn't be the headquarters' concern, right?" Lin Long said with a smile.

"Sorry, I wasn't talking to you," Wang Xiaoming said.

"What?" Lin Long's smile froze on his face.

At that moment, Yang Jian said, "I thought about it for a moment and really don't think I can be friends with you. If we can't be friends and will become enemies, then I might as well deal with you right here and now, to avoid future troubles from you tripping me up. Tell me, how deep do you want to be buried?"

The moment his words ended, the skin on his forehead was torn open by something, and a bizarre crimson eye fixed its gaze on Lin Long.

Lin Long was stunned and hadn't yet reacted when Yang Jian's arm twitched slightly.

"Crack~!"

The arm that had been resting on his shoulder had snapped off completely.

Not feeling any pain, or even noticing anything strange, Lin Long's body was like a block in a puzzle, a piece arbitrarily removed.

"What?"

Looking at the arm that had fallen to the ground, Lin Long was shocked.

This Yang Jian wasn't he known as Yang Jian of the Ghost Eye? Shouldn't his eyes be the primary concern, how could it be like this...

"The ability of the second ghost."

Lin Long immediately understood, his face contorted with ferocity, and instinctively wanted to retaliate.

He wanted to see if Yang Jian genuinely had the ability to solve a Terror Level spiritual event.

Chapter 288 Collision in the Conference Room

Yang Jian could be humble in speech, but he never let humility compromise his character. Speaking modestly was simply a way to avoid offending others and prevent sticking his neck out. But to be timid as a person would make it too easy to suffer losses and be bullied.

This Lin Long obviously mistook Yang Jian's humility for timidity, misjudging the situation due to his arrogant nature and failing to restrain himself. He took it upon himself to forcefully attempt a takeover of Yang Jian's Ghost Candle, even going so far as to openly threaten him.

After some thought.

When Lin Long's arm fell off his body, he realized something was terribly wrong.

Almost immediately, he tried to fight back using the ghost within him.

Without any concern, he didn't care if Yang Jian accidentally got killed in the process. Daring to remove his own arm was like seeking his own death.

Lin Long's body rapidly began to emanate a foul stench, the smell of decomposing flesh, yet it was strong and overpowering.

"There's always a gap between people, do you think there's no difference between ghost controllers?" Yang Jian coldly stared at him.

The next moment.

A tall Headless Ghost Shadow appeared behind him.

"What?"

Feeling a chilling presence behind him, it was as if a fierce ghost had appeared and was closing in on him.

Lin Long turned his head to look and his pupils suddenly contracted.

The Headless Ghost Shadow loomed behind him like a bizarre corpse, silent and breathless, emitting an eerie aura all over.

Before he could do anything, the Headless Ghost Shadow swooped onto him like a shadow and vanished... the Ghost Shadow had invaded his body.

Lin Long was instantly frozen in place, unable to move, and the strong smell of decay also came to a halt.

The ghost inside his body fell silent.

For ghosts of insufficient rank, encountering the Headless Ghost Shadow was like meeting their bane. Besides that time when Ye Feng's burial shroud withstood it, few ghost controllers could withstand it.

Though his body couldn't move, his consciousness remained.

In that moment of engagement, even though it had taken him by surprise, the gap between them became immediately apparent.

Lin Long was completely suppressed, no match for Yang Jian at all.

"Yang Jian, calm down."

Zhao Jianguo had allowed Yang Jian to suppress other ghost controllers, but he hadn't wanted him to kill the others. Although gathering ghost controllers together was not favorable, seeing this scene, he still couldn't help but try to intervene.

However, he was not a ghost controller himself and could only attempt to intervene by yelling.

The other ghost controllers had no intention of stopping the fight either, simply watching the scene unfold with cold expressions.

Someone testing Yang Jian was ideal, to see if the renown of 'Ghost Eye' Yang Jian was justified. After all, there were too many mysteries surrounding Yang Jian, and if Lin Long could force him to reveal even a little, it would greatly assist them in gauging where Yang Jian stood.

Hence, the indifferent attitude of the ghost controllers was starkly evident.

"I'll send you a coffin, and from today forward, you will disappear from my sight forever," Yang Jian glowed with a red light.

The Ghost Domain opened in an instant, engulfing the entire conference room, and then, the red light spread out of the conference room. In just three seconds, it had covered the entire gymnasium.

He spotted something and directly retrieved it with the Ghost Domain.

A golden box.

It was one of the supplies brought for the operation in Dachang City, anticipating that more than one ghost might be present. Besides the special box crafted for the Hungry Ghost, there were other containers designed to imprison fierce ghosts.

Lin Long, no longer in control of his body, began to move toward the coffin as if intending to seal himself inside.

"Ghost Domain?"

Zhao Jianguo's heart felt half chilled at this moment, because he knew that once the Ghost Domain was opened, everything in front of him might be false. Despite Yang Jian seemingly still being here dealing with Lin Long, there's no telling if his real body had already left this place.

"Yang Jian, can we stop here? At the next meeting, I will have headquarters severely punish Lin Long and transfer him away from his post so that you'll never see each other again. And as compensation, I'm willing to transfer all of Lin Long's subsidies to you."

He attempted to negotiate terms to protect Lin Long.

After all, Lin Long was a rather skilled ghost master, and it would be a huge loss if he were to fall at the hands of Yang Jian.

However, based on his understanding of Yang Jian, Zhao Jianguo also knew that Yang Jian's actions weren't simply to teach Lin Long a lesson, but also to use his life to establish his own status among these people, to avoid being suppressed for no reason.

But Yang Jian didn't reply to him at all.

Lin Long still entered the golden box as if controlled, like a puppet being directed by strings.

Once sealed inside, he would be imprisoned like a ferocious ghost.

The uncontrolled Lin Long showed fear in his eyes as he walked into the box, a kind of fear that wasn't present when facing fierce ghosts. Against fierce ghosts, he could resist, or even flee, but facing Yang Jian, he seemed like an ordinary person.

Without the power brought by the fierce ghosts, his sense of superiority and confidence were lost in an instant.

An esteemed ghost master was now having his fate controlled by someone else.

The sudden drop from his high position, coupled with the threat of death, how could it not bring about despair and fear?

"Li Jun, please help, save Lin Long," Zhao Jianguo pleaded to Li Jun to rescue Lin Long after failing to persuade Yang Jian.

As long as this fight was quelled, what remained were mere trivialities, compensation, comforting words; in any case, it was far better than losing someone in confusion.

Special Forces Captain Li Jun stood up. In this scenario, the only possibility of rescuing someone from inside Yang Jian's Ghost Domain was him.

Using his Ghost Domain as well.

A sinister cyan-green glow emanated from his body, casting upon his resolute face, making him appear as terrifying as a fierce ghost.

This eerie light invaded Yang Jian's red-tinged world, as if to extinguish the glow.

"Li Jun, this is my business. Don't interfere," Yang Jian felt the anomaly in his Ghost Domain and turned to glance back, placing a hand over his forehead.

The two Ghost Eyes overlapped.

Within the Ghost Domain, a second layer of Ghost Domain opened.

In an instant.

Li Jun's Ghost Domain was directly suppressed, and this place remained a world enveloped in red light.

"What? Li Jun has been suppressed," the others widened their eyes at the sight, becoming restless.

Special Forces Captain Li Jun was a top ghost master, famously known in the circle, and he possessed an invincible Ghost Domain.

Yet, even he couldn't stop Yang Jian.

"This is the collision of Ghost Domains, and Li Jun has lost. Yang Jian's Ghost Domain is even more terrifying," Ghost Master Cao Yang narrowed his eyes, feeling uneasy.

This brief clash and swift defeat further highlighted the gap that had emerged between Yang Jian and Li Jun.

Even a top ghost master like Li Jun had a gap with Yang Jian, which meant something clear to everyone.

This Ghost Eye Yang Jian... might no longer be on the same level as everyone else.

His strength was absolutely not as simple as just controlling two ghosts.

Chapter 289 Familiar Operation

A meeting that was originally intended to heavily praise Yang Jian and celebrate his achievements, also providing him an opportunity to make an appearance among other international ghost manipulators, to be groomed as a key figure for the future.

Yet these ghost manipulators turned out to be more difficult to deal with than imagined.

Not only were they untamed and unruly, but they also had an air of arrogance to the point where they looked down on everyone.

Although ghost manipulators hold a special status and have formidable, eerie abilities that surpass those of ordinary people, maintaining such an attitude in the face of Yang Jian was incredibly foolish.

Set aside the fact that Yang Jian was a newcomer; he himself was someone who had tamed two ghosts.

Among the ghost manipulators present, he was far from the weakest, Lin Long might look down on Yang Jian's status as a newcomer, but he absolutely couldn't afford to underestimate someone who had tamed two ghosts.

"Can't stop him?" Li Jun's face was grave at this moment.

His Ghost Domain was actually being suppressed by Yang Jian's, and it was a complete suppression from all directions.

This meant that Yang Jian's Ghost Domain was far superior to his.

It had not been long since the incident with the Ghost Coffin in Huanggang Village, no more than three months; Yang Jian had already grown to this extent, which was truly remarkable.

"Unable to invade his Ghost Domain, we can't bring Lin Long out from it; without the ability to suppress Yang Jian's Ghost Domain, any action we take will fail." Li Jun's gaze flickered, and he contemplated using the abilities of his second ghost.

However, Wang Xiaoming on one side stopped him, "It's already too late. With Yang Jian's capacity for action, the matter might have already concluded by now. What we're seeing is probably just an illusion. Besides, there's no guarantee you could lock onto Yang Jian, and we cannot afford to drag you down because of Lin Long."

Based on his understanding of Yang Jian, Wang Xiaoming knew that this guy had a volatile temper; once he made a move, he was ruthless and would go all out in a confrontation, lacking the maturity and restraint of an adult to stop when he should.

However, it was precisely this sharpness, which had not been dulled by society, that made him stand out from the rest.

Following Li Jun's retreat,

and the others' choice to not intervene, opting instead to wait and see,

the minor scuffle in the meeting room quickly came to an end.

The crowd saw Lin Long within the Ghost Domain, his body eerily controlled by the Headless Ghost Shadow, unable to move freely, and in the end, he walked into the box and locked himself in.

When Lin Long, looking utterly desperate, had locked himself in,

the box, along with the person inside, disappeared.

Yes, it vanished right in front of everyone's eyes, no longer within the meeting room, nor inside this gymnasium.

"Yang Jian, where did you take him? I have no objections to you teaching him a lesson, but you can't just make a person disappear like that. It would be very difficult for me to explain this to headquarters," Zhao Jianguo exclaimed in shock and anger.

Yang Jian glanced at him, then said, "I think that this Lin Long will definitely try to retaliate against me in the future; this guy is petty. So, I've sent him to a very safe and secretive place. Don't worry. I haven't killed him. I'm not that narrow-minded. Just because someone cursed me a couple of times, threatened me a few times, how could I possibly kill them?"

You still have the nerve to say others are petty, aren't you the petty one?!

Thought the others watching internally.

But thoughts aside, everyone was profoundly shocked by the conflict between Yang Jian and Lin Long.

There was no epic battle of three hundred rounds between the two; it was a direct collision of ghosts against ghosts. Lin Long, being of insufficient Terror Level, was simply overpowered without any pretext.

If Yang Jian were a ghost, he'd be dead by now.

"Since you haven't killed him, what do you plan to do?" Hearing that Lin Long was unharmed, Zhao Jianguo finally let out a slight breath of relief.

Yang Jian replied, "I just want him to stay out of my sight for as long as possible. The box is just a precaution, in case his ghost escapes and poses a threat to me one day. So you see, I had to be thorough. Don't worry, Lin Long is nearby, hmm, probably about ten thousand meters away."

Ten kilometers away?

Upon hearing this distance, the eyelids of everyone present twitched involuntarily.

While ten kilometers might not seem far, the extent of Yang Jian's Ghost Domain reaching such a range was utterly astonishing.

A ghost with influence over such a large area would, upon awakening, certainly cause an A-grade paranormal event, or even an S-grade.

"Quickly dispatch someone to retrieve Lin Long."

At this moment, Vice Minister Cao Yanhua, who was shivering in the corner and not daring to join in the conflict between ghost manipulators, urgently suggested.

Yang Jian replied, "No need. When I said ten thousand meters, I didn't mean on the surface, but rather..."

After saying this, he looked down at the ground.

Underground?

The crowd was taken aback momentarily, only to nearly burst out of their skin the next second.

Sent to a depth of ten thousand meters underground, how could that be done?

Cao Yanhua also froze in place.

If the person were ten kilometers away, they could still be retrieved, but how could one search underground?

With an excavator? Please, that was utterly impractical. Although humanity's technological level could achieve it, who would go to such lengths?

"If you can rescue him from down there, I'll consider today's incident as it never happened. I won't hold it against you, as you all saw, he started it, and I was just defending myself. Even if we go to court, I have a strong case." Yang Jian said.

"He's a tough one."

A smirk tugged at the corner of the Necromancer Cao Yang's mouth.

Something about ten thousand meters underground was clearly a display of power, confident that no one here but he could save Lin Long.

"Li Jun, can you do it?"

Although Zhao Jianguo's face was unpleasant, he couldn't blame Yang Jian for being wrong but instead turned to look at Li Jun.

"I can't reach ten thousand meters, at most eight thousand," Li Jun said candidly.

Yang Jian smiled without saying a word. He had previously assessed Li Jun's limit in the Ghost Domain. His own single layer of Ghost Domain could not withstand Li Jun, but two layers could crush him. And he had used two layers to send something to the extreme distance he could reach. Li Jun couldn't possibly do it, or he wouldn't have been forced to retreat just now.

Zhao Jianguo became even more at a loss upon hearing this.

The distance of two thousand meters, how could they possibly retrieve someone?

"Yang Jian, won't you reconsider and let the person go as a favor to me?" Zhao Jianguo had to continue negotiating with Yang Jian, hoping to resolve the issue through discussion.

Yang Jian said, "Of course, I'm not unreasonable. How about this, for one Ghost Candle, I'll release him. That's a fair price, right?"

He agreed so readily.

Why does this move feel so familiar?

Zhao Jianguo thought for a moment and realized that Yang Jian had used a similar method to sell the first international Necromancer of Dachang City, Feng Quan, outside Huanggang Village before, for several hundred million.

This guy must be addicted to selling out his teammates.

"I don't have the authority over that item; it requires an application, and without a sufficient reason, it won't be approved. How about we change the terms? I can increase your gold quota, the normal quota for a Necromancer is one hundred kilograms, I'll increase yours to five hundred kilograms," Zhao Jianguo said.

Talking about increasing the gold quota was essentially buying a person's freedom with money.

The additional four hundred kilograms of gold was the price for the person's release, and this was not a one-time deal but a long-term one.

Yang Jian said, "That does sound quite good, but it's still lacking something."

After the construction of the safe house, he didn't have a significant demand for gold, and with a forty percent share in the Guanjiang Residential Complex, he could afford not to worry about money for a while.

"Professor Wang, could you think of something?" Having no other options, Zhao Jianguo turned to Wang Xiaoming for help.

Now that Yang Jian had established his authority and taught someone a lesson, only the final act was left.

He believed that as long as they gave the right price, Yang Jian would choose to release the person. But if they missed this opportunity and couldn't produce the chips, then Lin Long would truly be done for.

Wang Xiaoming thought for a moment and said, "I've already made too many promises during the Hungry Ghost incident, and I don't have anything valuable at hand right now. As for the Ghost Candle, I've promised to give one away before. If I have to use another one to ransom someone, it would have to be on credit, would you agree to that, Yang Jian?"

On credit?

He actually had the audacity to say that.

"I have no idea when you'll make good on that credit; maybe you'll wait until I'm dead and use the Ghost Candle to decorate my grave," Yang Jian said.

"Two months," Wang Xiaoming said.

Yang Jian replied, "In that case, let Lin Long hop around outside for two months."

His implication was clear: if Wang Xiaoming defaulted after two months, Lin Long would still need to be buried.

"However, I don't want to see that guy ever again. Make sure he stays far away from Dachang City in the future. If he dares to step one foot in, or if I happen to see him, I'll deal with him before any supernatural incident."

"Zhao Jianguo, you vouch for him."

There was no discussion, only a forceful arrangement.

"Fine," Zhao Jianguo agreed, his face grim.

If something happened to Lin Long in the future, he, the guarantor, would also have to deal with Yang Jian's retribution.

Yang Jian then said, "But I'm curious, is Lin Long's worth that high? Is he worth your protection? I wonder if the headquarters would rescue me the same way if I were in trouble."

"No, you're mistaken; I'm not trying to protect Lin Long."

Wang Xiaoming said, "His worth isn't equivalent to a Ghost Candle. The only reason I agreed to this condition is because the trade partner is you. With your abilities, adding a Ghost Candle, you should be able to solve most Class-A and below supernatural events on your own. Even if you don't trade, future requests for Ghost Candle allocations would still be approved."

"The value of Ghost Candle is immense, but it also depends on whose hands it's in. It's a waste to use it just for self-preservation. Ghost Candle only realizes its true value when dealing with supernatural incidents."

"And as for your question, if something happens to you later, as long as you're not dead, the headquarters will dispatch everyone to rescue you, even if it means sacrificing some people, it's worth it."

Hearing this from Wang Xiaoming, everyone else looked at Yang Jian with surprise and suspicion.

Was his value already this high? In case of danger, they would sacrifice others to save Yang Jian, and he was also qualified to apply for Ghost Candle allocations, with his gold quota easily increased, all in front of a deputy minister.

Moreover, while handling the situation with Lin Long, Li Jun only dared to rescue people and avoid direct confrontation with Yang Jian, in order not to escalate the situation.

All signs indicated that regardless of how Yang Jian's action reports might exaggerate, his status at headquarters was likely second only to Wang Xiaoming.

Chapter 290 The Kid Who Traps His Mom

Lin Long was very unlucky.

He was scolded in confusion and locked up in that dark and oppressive environment for over half an hour. If he wasn't a bit special as a ghost master, he would have suffocated to death by now.

But in that half hour, he truly despaired. The feeling of being buried alive and getting no response could drive a person insane even in a minute.

Moreover, unbeknownst to him, Yang Jian had sold him out.

The price was very nice.

If Lin Long had known his own worth, he probably would have wanted to sell himself.

As for his ending, it wasn't very pleasant.

Yang Jian dug him out from underground, and without even opening the box or letting him out, he was carried out of the conference room, straight onto a transport plane, without knowing where he was being sent to, giving him a desolate feeling as if he was about to be abandoned in the wilderness.

"That's the consequence of courting death. One definitely should not learn from Lin Long," everyone thought to themselves.

Over two hours later, the meeting was also coming to an end.

Yang Jian finished his action report, and Wang Xiaoming also made a summary of the incident. He did not ramble like Yang Jian but rationally outlined the horror of the S-class supernatural event, urging the others to be extremely cautious, as this was not an event that one person could handle.

Of course, if anyone still chose to believe Yang Jian, then they deserved the pitfall over death.

The headquarters of the ghost masters did not accommodate fools.

After this meeting, all the ghost masters began to reassess Yang Jian.

Not to mention his achievements, no matter how great they were, but the fact that he easily solved the ghost master Lin Long, directly repelled the special forces captain Li Jun, and extended the Ghost Domain by ten thousand meters, these significant data points were evident.

This young man was extremely formidable.

Not to say the strongest, but he was certainly among the top tier of ghost masters globally, and if there were a ranking of ghost masters, Ghost Eye Yang Jian would definitely be on the list.

"After this meeting, I will be returning to J city. You will not see me, this annoying face, for a long time, and I will not have to see you. Before that, do you have anything to add?" Wang Xiaoming looked at Yang Jian at this moment.

His face showed no emotion, only calmness.

After all, Yang Jian had personally killed his only blood brother, Wang Xiaoqiang.

Though he knew his brother had made serious mistakes, Wang Xiaoming still did not wish to see such an outcome.

But since it had happened, Wang Xiaoming could only suppress his feelings and silently go back to hold a funeral for his own brother.

"I have nothing to say, just remember, within two months, I want to see the two Ghost Candles in front of me. Also, you owe me a chance to control a fierce ghost. Although I don't need it right now, I will need it later... Come to think of it, you owe me too much. When I need it, I will come to collect my debt. Here is some information, deal with it yourself." Yang Jian tossed over a prepared document.

Wang Xiaoming opened it and found several photos inside.

The pictures, taken with a mobile phone, were not very clear and somewhat dim, but one could still make out in this shadowy environment a White Bone Tree taking root eerily, with a three-meter tall black human silhouette, head facing down, nailed to the trunk by a nail.

Though he had never seen that nail before, Wang Xiaoming immediately guessed that it was the Coffin Nail that Yang Jian always mentioned.

It was the real object that restricted the Hungry Ghost, a very mysterious item.

From the pictures, the White Bone Tree, as well as the tall human silhouette, are more likely high-level fierce ghosts, and the Coffin Nail is an important tool for detaining these entities.

"No wonder someone like you would consider whether to detain the Hungry Ghost and release these ghostly entities. Where did you get these things from? Is there such a place in Dachang City?" Wang Xiaoming lifted his head, emotionlessly pocketed the photos.

Yang Jian said, "Where it used to be no longer matters, everything in this photo has already vanished, not at the original location."

"I'll make a risk assessment and then report it up, this is not just your issue, but a matter for the entire Ghost Hunter Headquarters." Wang Xiaoming said.

"Professor Wang, what is it?" Zhao Jianguo leaned in, wanting to ask.

Wang Xiaoming said, "Some potential dangers that are of great concern, you'll find out later, it's confidential for now."

Zhao Jianguo stopped asking.

Vice Minister Cao Yanhua concluded this meeting, smiling he said, "The Dachang City incident was resolved thanks to Yang Jian, as well as Professor Wang's substantial assistance. Everyone's support in the follow-up was also arduous. In the future, we hope our Ghost Hunters will put more effort into the safety of Asia. I would like to express my heartfelt thanks on behalf of the headquarters..."

Yang Jian had no intention of listening to the subsequent niceties, having done everything he needed to do at the meeting.

He had made his appearance among other ghost hunters and had reported the Coffin Nail issue as well.

What remained was nothing more than taking a trip to J city one day to accept the recognition and receive the award; but none of that mattered much, he would treat it as a leisurely tour to relax when the time came.

"Now that everything's settled, I'm going back to sleep." After the meeting ended, Yang Jian stood up, ready to leave.

Others looked at Yang Jian, and just as someone was about to suggest a group dinner to bond, they saw Yang Jian heading straight for the exit and held back their words.

Speaking up would surely be met with rejection, as Yang Jian was not the sociable type.

"Yang Jian, wait a second."

However, the young troublemaker, Xiong Wenwen, who had been silent for a long time, suddenly piped up.

"Hmm? Could it be this brat has a problem with Yang Jian and wants to pick a quarrel?" Others became curious at this development.

The spoiled brat respected no one, having outright cursed everyone at the meeting, calling them trash and useless. If it weren't for him being a child, they wouldn't have let him off so easily.

Yang Jian looked back and said, "Kid, what is it?"

"I want to ask you, do you have a girlfriend right now?" Xiong Wenwen asked, eyes spinning.

"That's my personal business, best not to ask so many questions, kid." Yang Jian replied.

Xiong Wenwen said, "If you don't have a girlfriend, I can introduce you to my mom, and just so you know, my mom is a real beauty, a true knockout."

"You mean... you want me to be your stepdad?" Yang Jian asked thoughtfully.

"Pfft~!"

Upon hearing this, a ghost hunter who was drinking water sprayed it out immediately.

Xiong Wenwen's face turned red, and for a moment, he didn't know how to retort.

Yang Jian said, "I don't have a problem with it, just not sure if your dad would agree."

He had seen those who betrayed their fathers, and those who betrayed their sons, but never one who would betray their mother.

"His dad died in a paranormal event, and now he's from a single-parent family."

Zhao Jianguo, holding back his laughter, came over and said, "A mother in her early thirties is still young, remarrying is quite normal. You could indeed give it some thought since you're an excellent catch. Even abroad, bagging some royal princess wouldn't be a problem for you."

"So that's the situation." Yang Jian seemed to understand.