

The Beauty 971

Chapter 971 A Clean Sweep

Soon, several men arrived outside a bedroom. One of them listened closely for a moment, then gestured to his companions. The others immediately understood and took a few steps back.

Then, one of the men suddenly rushed forward, slamming his shoulder against the door. With a loud 'bang', the bedroom door broke open. Taking advantage of this moment, the men filed in quickly and rushed inside.

However, the bedroom was pitch black, with not a soul in sight, only a neatly made bed and a few tables and chairs.

Seeing this, the men exchanged confused glances. They had clearly heard sounds coming from this direction earlier, so why was there no one here? Could they have heard wrong?

"Search carefully," one man insisted, unwilling to give up. If only one of them had misheard, it might be understandable, but they had all heard it. Something was definitely wrong in this bedroom.

Immediately, the men lifted the bed in the room and saw the empty space beneath it. They opened the wardrobe doors, meticulously inspecting everything. But after searching the entire bedroom, they found nothing.

At this point, one man's gaze was suddenly drawn to something under the tables and chairs.

"What's that?"

Curious, the men gathered around, examining it carefully.

"Is this... a speaker?"

"Seems like it."

Upon realizing there was a speaker under the tables and chairs, the men's expressions changed slightly, quickly piecing it together. It was the speaker that had been making noise earlier. But why would someone place a speaker here?

"Be careful! It's a trap!"

With a flash of insight, one man reacted swiftly, shouting, "Retreat!"

At their comrade's warning, the men didn't hesitate at all, immediately turning to rush out of the bedroom. But before they could get through the door, there was a deafening 'bang'.

The speaker under the tables and chairs exploded instantly. Several men who were facing away stumbled forward, falling heavily to the floor, their backs bloody and torn, covered in sharp blades and screws.

"What's going on?"

At that moment, other men who had been searching nearby hurried over. As soon as they entered, they saw their comrades lying in a pool of blood, their fates uncertain.

"Who's there? Come out!"

But besides the few of them, there was no one else in the bedroom.

"Boss, what do we do now?"

The leading man thought for a moment and then decisively ordered, "Retreat! We don't have time to waste here."

After hearing the leader's command, everyone immediately headed towards the bedroom door without a second thought. However, just as the leader was stepping out, a strong wind swept in. Before he could react, a dark figure swiftly appeared in his line of sight.

Bang!

With a dull thud, the leader's head snapped back, and he fell to the ground. His comrades looked carefully and saw that his forehead was swollen with a bump, surrounded by bruises. At the doorway, there was an iron ball as big as a fist.

"Who's there?"

Seeing their comrade knocked unconscious by the iron ball, everyone immediately became alert, watching the bedroom door for any sign of the enemy.

But outside the bedroom was pitch black, with no lights, nothing visible. Seeing this, the leader said, "You, and you two, go check it out."

The three men selected dared not be careless, cautiously moving toward the outside. Soon, their silhouettes disappeared into the pitch-black darkness.

In no time, two minutes had passed, and the others stayed in the bedroom, waiting patiently. But so much time had passed, and still no response from their comrades.

"Boss, do you think something's happened to them?" one man asked worriedly.

"Let's go check together," the leader replied. He also sensed something was amiss. He knew his team well, and if they hadn't reported back after two minutes, something was definitely wrong.

With that, led by the leader, the group headed outside the bedroom. Soon, they reached the top of the stairs on the second floor.

"Hurry, downstairs!"

Following their leader, everyone quickly descended the stairs, heading toward the living room. But just as the crowd stepped onto the staircase, there came a shrill 'creak' from below.

"What's that?" They exchanged looks of confusion.

Creak!

The bottom of the staircase emitted another piercing sound.

"Not good!" At this point, someone finally realized, urgently shouting, "Get down quickly."

Unfortunately, the warning came a moment too late. Just as his words fell, and before anyone could react, the floor vanished beneath them as the entire staircase collapsed.

In an instant, over ten men fell in a heap, surrounded by the debris of the stairs.

At the same time, the lights in the living room flashed on, and a group of men in full gear rushed in from all sides, wielding long iron rods and striking ruthlessly at the group.

No matter how skilled those men were, they couldn't withstand the barrage of sticks. In no time, the crowd was full of cries of pain and pleas for mercy.

"Stop!"

At this moment, a voice rang out, and the people around immediately withdrew their rods, stepping aside. Then, a man stepped forward, holding a metal bucket, and poured the liquid inside over the group. Instantly, a strong stench filled the room.

"Tie them all up," a Caucasian man in the crowd ordered.

"Who dares!" At this point, despite the pain, the leader stood up swiftly, glaring at the Caucasian man, "Brothers, let's break out together."

"Still trying to escape?" the Caucasian man sneered, "I see you have a death wish." With that, he took out a lighter from his pocket and said to the man, "Go ahead, take a step forward and see what happens. Do you believe I'll turn you into a human barbecue?"

It was only then that the man realized the strong smell of gasoline emanating from him.

"You..." The man gritted his teeth, faced with the Caucasian man's provocation. He hesitated for a moment but ultimately chose to submit. At this point, resisting any longer would only be detrimental to himself. While he was following orders for someone else, there was no need to sacrifice his own life so lightly.

Seeing the group become subdued, the Caucasian man nodded in satisfaction and waved, "Tie them all up and wait for the boss to deal with them."

"Yes."

The group of suited men responded and immediately proceeded to tie up everyone present, binding them tightly.

Chapter 972 Rescuing Tang Guolun (1)

After more than ten minutes, Ling Chen finally arrived at the Wealthy Manor.

As soon as he entered the Nanrong Family home, he saw Nanrong Wanqing, Nanrong Hao, Yang Qingling, and Yang Yan all greet him.

"Ling Chen."

"Wanqing, are you all alright?" Ling Chen asked with concern.

"We're fine, thanks to Mr. Beison and his team, everyone is safe."

As they spoke, a Caucasian man walked over from behind and greeted politely, "Hello, Mr. Ling."

"Mr. Beison." Seeing him, Ling Chen smiled slightly, patted his shoulder, and said, "It's thanks to you this time, thank you!"

Last time returning from abroad, Ling Chen greatly admired Beison's abilities and hired Beison's team. Not long after Ling Chen returned to China, Beison, having dealt with affairs abroad, immediately rushed to East Sea City with his team to meet Ling Chen. Coincidentally, at that time the research base was destroyed and everyone was captured, leaving Beison and his team with nowhere to settle.

After some thought, Ling Chen simply arranged for Beison and his team to stay at the Nanrong Family home, firstly to temporarily accommodate them, and secondly to protect Nanrong Wanqing and Yang Qingling's safety.

Beison had a working relationship with Yang Qingling, and they were relatively familiar with each other, making Beison undoubtedly the most suitable person to be responsible for Yang Qingling's safety.

"Mr. Ling, you're being polite, you paid us, this is what we're supposed to do." After a pause, Beison pointed to the yard behind and said, "Mr. Ling, the people have been captured, when do you plan to interrogate them?"

Ling Chen waved his hand and said, "No need to interrogate, just call the police and let them handle it."

These people were Lin Guodong's subordinates, of no use, and no matter how they were interrogated, nothing would come out. Rather than wasting effort, it was better to just hand them over to the police.

Beison nodded; as a hiree, he never questioned the boss's decisions, only obeyed orders.

In less than half an hour, Xia Mutong arrived at the Nanrong Family home with more than twenty police officers. Seeing so many intruders at the Nanrong Family home, Xia Mutong inevitably had some questions. However, Nanrong Wanqing, having received Ling Chen's instructions earlier, did not mention anything about Ling Chen or the God Organization, only saying that those people were intruders who trespassed the residence.

Xia Mutong knew there was something more to it but had no choice; she couldn't force Nanrong Wanqing to reveal the truth.

Reluctantly, Xia Mutong could only take the more than ten prisoners back to the police station.

At this moment, outside the Nanrong Family home, a pair of cold eyes watched the departing police cars, snorted coldly, and turned their gaze back to the gate of the Nanrong Family home.

"Mom." In the living room, Ling Chen sat on the sofa, looked at Yang Qingling, and said, "I ran into my dad today."

"Your dad?" Yang Qingling was slightly surprised and asked eagerly, "Then where is he, why didn't you bring him back?"

Ling Chen rubbed his nose and said embarrassedly, "Mom, well... I forgot to mention you to dad. Dad said he had important matters to attend to and had to leave East Sea City for a few days, but he would come back after a while. Mom, don't worry too much, next time dad comes back, I'll definitely bring him to see you."

"Alright." Yang Qingling sighed lightly, "It's been so many years since I've seen your father, I don't know if he'll blame me."

Seeing Yang Qingling's worried look, Ling Chen quickly sat next to her and said, "Mom, don't think too much. Back then, you were forced not to tell dad the truth, I'm sure dad will understand you. Besides, you've suffered a lot over the years, with dad's personality, he won't bear to blame you, he'll probably feel very sorry. Okay! Mom, don't overthink, get some early rest tonight."

Just then, Ling Chen heard a phone ringing from his pocket.

Taking out his phone, he looked at the caller ID on the screen and immediately picked up the call, asking, "Porridge girl?"

"It's me! Where are you?"

"At the Nanrong Family home, and you?"

"Meet me at the construction site on Beitong Street in the South District in half an hour." As soon as she finished speaking, without waiting for Ling Chen to ask anything, the porridge girl hung up.

During the day, Ling Kun had already told Ling Chen that the porridge girl was searching for Tang Guolun and their whereabouts. Once she had any findings, she would contact him immediately.

"Mom, I have urgent matters, can't talk much." With that, Ling Chen immediately rushed outside.

Because Nanrong Hao's Audi had been wrecked, Ling Chen had to switch to another car. Fortunately, the Nanrong Family wasn't short of cars, and they were all luxury cars.

Driving a Range Rover, Ling Chen left the Wealthy Manor and headed straight to Beitong Street in the South District.

The time set by the porridge girl was half an hour. To save time, Ling Chen drove quickly, maintaining a speed of about 100 mph throughout. In less than twenty minutes, Ling Chen drove to the side of the construction site.

After parking the car, Ling Chen approached the construction site alone, looking around. Since it was nighttime, the construction site had stopped work and was completely dark, with no trace of anyone in sight.

Where is everyone?

Ling Chen looked around but seen no one. He then took out his phone from his pocket, preparing to call the porridge girl.

However, before Ling Chen could dial the number, a light suddenly flashed in the construction site, blinking like a signal light. Seeing this, Ling Chen immediately pocketed his phone and hurried toward the light.

Upon getting closer, Ling Chen finally saw clearly the person beside the light, it was indeed the porridge girl.

After not seeing the porridge girl for a long time, Ling Chen noticed she seemed to have lost a lot of weight, and couldn't help feeling a bit heartbroken.

"Porridge girl." Ling Chen called softly.

The porridge girl gestured 'hush', indicating Ling Chen didn't need to make a sound.

"Follow me." The porridge girl whispered. After speaking, she turned around and walked straight to the back of the construction site.

Ling Chen, without doubting her, followed closely behind the porridge girl step by step. After walking more than forty meters into the construction site, the porridge girl raised her hand, signaling Ling Chen to stop walking. Then, the porridge girl whispered to Ling Chen, pointing to a building not far away, "The people you need to rescue are all there."

Hearing this, Ling Chen asked curiously, "Isn't that all a construction site, why would Lin Guodong keep them in a place like this?"

"It looks like a construction site from the outside, but it's not that simple inside." The porridge girl explained, "According to my investigation, this construction site is part of the Ling Family's assets, but the Ling Family invested through multiple shell companies without using the Ling Family's name."

So that's how it is!

Ling Chen nodded, finally understanding the reason.

"There are many motion sensors installed in this area; any large movements will trigger the surrounding alarms, you'd better be careful."

"Okay, I got it." After a pause, Ling Chen turned to look at the porridge girl and said, "You wait here, I'll go in and check the situation."

"I'll go with you."

Chapter 973 - 980: Rescuing Tang Guolun (Part 2)

"This..." Ling Chen hesitated for a moment, unsure if he should agree to the porridge girl's suggestion.

Seeing Ling Chen's delay in responding, the porridge girl couldn't help but say, "What, are you afraid I'll hold you back? Don't forget, my skills are much stronger than yours."

Hearing this, Ling Chen couldn't help but smile. She was right—porridge girl was already a master on the Earthly List, far more formidable than him. Having her along would make the operation much more manageable.

"Let's go." Ling Chen looked around, then carefully proceeded forward. Before long, the two of them arrived at the base of a building.

The building had just completed its main structure. The outer walls were up but had not been painted, with surrounding areas littered with random stones. Under the porridge girl's guidance, Ling Chen spotted a wooden door leading to the basement.

The wooden door was very rudimentary, looking as if it might collapse at a touch. Ling Chen walked over, gently touched the door panel with his hand, and found that it was incredibly sturdy, unlike an ordinary wooden door. If he guessed correctly, there was definitely a steel plate inside the wooden door.

After examining it for a while, Ling Chen couldn't find a way to open it. Thinking it over, he turned to the porridge girl and said, "Looks like we'll have to force our way in."

"Wait!" The porridge girl gestured to stop Ling Chen and said, "You stay here, I'll go lure them out first." With that, she quickly headed back.

Seeing the porridge girl's actions, Ling Chen immediately understood her intentions.

The porridge girl intended to use the motion sensors placed around the construction site to attract the attention of the God Organization.

In the darkness, the porridge girl's speed was incredibly fast, like a fleeting shadow darting among the stones. Minutes later, standing by the wooden door, Ling Chen heard a 'click' as a crevice appeared in the door's edge.

Upon seeing this, Ling Chen hurriedly stepped aside. Just after hiding himself, he saw the door open from the inside, and five men stream out, heading quickly toward the construction site.

Seizing the moment they hadn't spotted him, Ling Chen swiftly changed positions and darted to the door. Before it could close, he slipped inside.

Once through the door, Ling Chen focused his eyes. Ahead lay a two-meter wide passage leading straight to the bottom, stretching about twenty meters.

Following the passage downward, Ling Chen soon picked up on faint sounds reaching his ears.

Locking onto the source of the sound, Ling Chen quickened his pace, advancing over ten meters, and his surroundings suddenly brightened.

Tsk tsk!

Seeing the large open space ahead, Ling Chen couldn't help but express his amazement.

This indeed was the work of the wealthy Ling Family, constructing an underground base here. Moreover, the base seemed freshly built, with a strong odor still lingering.

At the moment, over twenty staff members were busy at computers in the underground base. Besides them, more than ten suited security personnel were on duty, responsible for the base's protection and safety.

Ling Chen stood at the entrance looking inside but saw no sign of Tang Guolun and the others. However, there was another door at the base's far end. Crossing through it meant passing by the workplace, which would undoubtedly alert the security staff.

With Tang Guolun and the others still in the enemy's hands, it was best not to act rashly, lest they use Tang Guolun's safety to threaten him, which would make things troublesome.

While pondering this, footsteps were heard behind him. No doubt, it was the men who had gone out to check the motion sensors.

This passage was a single route with no other hiding spots; if they came over, they would undoubtedly run into him.

Thinking of this, Ling Chen pressed against the wall, steeled fists clenched, preparing to deal with them when they appeared to avoid having his position exposed.

As the footsteps drew nearer, Ling Chen took a deep breath, body tensing, ready to make his move.

The moment they appeared, he would strike without hesitation, neutralizing them before they could raise the alarm.

Watching their shadows approach on the ground, Ling Chen's brow furrowed, and he leaped forward like a gust of wind, aiming his steel拳 at the man's face.

But just then, another figure suddenly emerged from behind the man.

Spotting this, Ling Chen hesitated momentarily, quickly withdrawing his fist.

"Did you find your friend?"

"No." Ling Chen looked at the porridge girl and said, "I was preparing to deal with them to avoid exposing myself."

"Don't worry, I've already got them under control." As she spoke, the porridge girl patted one man's shoulder and said, "Take off your clothes."

Upon hearing the porridge girl's command, the man immediately started taking off his suit without a word.

Seeing the man's action, Ling Chen immediately understood the porridge girl's intention and quickly changed into the suit.

"Later on, you guys escort me inside and say you caught me outside."

"I know what to do."

So, Ling Chen mingled with the four suited men, using one hand to escort the porridge girl inside. Upon entering the base, a few security personnel immediately approached, pointing at the porridge girl and asking, "Who is she?"

Ling Chen kept his head down, avoiding eye contact, fearing recognition. Meanwhile, the suited man beside Ling Chen answered, "We found her running around the construction site when we were checking outside, so we brought her down."

"Do you know who she is?"

"Not clear for now, we're taking her for interrogation."

The security personnel took a couple of glances at the porridge girl and nodded, "Alright, if she's no threat, just kill her, don't waste a cell bed."

"Understood."

The suited man responded, escorting the porridge girl onward.

They passed through the blast door, and the four suited men led Ling Chen and the porridge girl swiftly toward the prison. Soon, they arrived outside a door guarded by two security men.

"They're inside?" Ling Chen asked the suited man next to him.

"All of them, over thirty people."

Upon hearing this, Ling Chen signaled the porridge girl with a look, and she instantly understood, swiftly taking out the two guards.

They pushed open the door, and scanning the area, Ling Chen saw that both sides of the passage were lined with cells holding more than ten people each, including Tang Guolun and the technical staff, all accounted for.

"Ling Chen?"

Seeing Ling Chen outside the cell, Tang Guolun's eyes lit up, and he stood up from the bed, quickly moving to the cell door.

"You finally came, I thought you'd forgotten us."

Ling Chen grinned and said, "Boss Tang, how could I dare forget you? Step aside, I'll get the door open for you."

Before long, Tang Guolun and the others were all freed from their cells by Ling Chen.

Chapter 974 - 981: Occupying the Base (Part 1)

The people were rescued, and Ling Chen wasted no time, immediately preparing to retreat with Tang Guolun and the others.

"Ling Chen, wait." Tang Guolun called out to Ling Chen, who was about to walk out, and asked, "How do we get out?"

"Do we still need to ask? Of course, we'll just fight our way out and destroy this base on the way," Ling Chen replied. With Tang Guolun and the others already rescued and not under any threat, there was no need for him to hide. Acting directly would be more efficient. Besides, he saw earlier that, apart from a group of security personnel, there were no other experts in this base.

"No, no, no!" Tang Guolun immediately stopped Ling Chen's action and said, "I don't care about the people from the God Organization, but this base must not be destroyed."

Ling Chen asked puzzledly, "Why?"

"This is a newly built base by the God Organization, very large and well-equipped. Building such a base would require at least billions in investment. Since it's a new base, not many people from the God Organization have moved in yet. If we can take over this base and claim it as our own, not only will we save on rebuilding costs, but more importantly, we'll save time."

Upon hearing this, Ling Chen immediately recalled what Ling Kun had told him. Ling Kun mentioned that the God Organization planned to move its power to East Sea City, making East Sea City its main base. It seems this base is the new main base built by the God Organization. If that's the case, it might be wise to accept Tang Guolun's suggestion and keep this base intact.

Thinking of this, a question suddenly popped into Ling Chen's mind. "Boss Tang, why did the God Organization imprison you and your group here specifically?"

"They want to exploit our talents. My brothers here are computer experts, adept in various skills. Besides, didn't I mention to you before? The God Organization once tried to recruit me to work for them, but I refused. This time, they wanted to persuade me again to work for them."

"I see." Ling Chen nodded and said, "Alright, let's do as you said, deal with the God Organization people first, and preserve this base." With that, Ling Chen took out his phone from his pocket and dialed a number.

Two minutes passed, and Ling Chen figured it was about time. He then led the porridge girl, Tang Guolun, and the others toward the outside.

Soon, the group heard a piercing alarm sound within the base. Hearing the alarm, Ling Chen smirked and said with a smile, "Our reinforcements have arrived."

As he spoke, the group arrived at the base's control center. At this moment, apart from more than twenty staff members, no security personnel was in sight in the large control center.

"Boss Tang, it's up to you now."

"No problem, just wait." With those words, Tang Guolun immediately led the others to drive the group of staff away from the computers.

In less than three minutes, the entire base was under Ling Chen's control. Simultaneously, Ling Chen received a phone call. After listening, he smiled slightly and turned to the porridge girl, saying, "The security personnel outside have been dealt with."

"Who handled it?"

"My second brother and the others. When you called me, I took the opportunity to notify them. Just as we came in to rescue people, they were waiting outside." Ling Chen said. It was just now that Xu Ming acted outside, drawing the base's security personnel. But they never imagined that the enemy wasn't just outside; there were also people inside.

"Boss Tang, please open the door, my second brother and the others are still waiting outside."

"Got it!"

Not long after, Xu Ming, Yuan Yun, and Zhang Zhongfeng walked in from outside the base. Seeing everyone was safe and sound, Yuan Yun patted Ling Chen on the shoulder and said with a smile, "Finally, everyone is rescued."

"The greatest gain this time wasn't just rescuing people but also seizing a new base from the God Organization." Ling Chen gestured around and asked, "Third Brother, what do you think, satisfied with my new home?"

"You're quite something!" Yuan Yun laughed heartily, "You even claimed their lair as your own. Not bad, this place is good. They destroyed your base, and you took one back from them, so it's fair."

"Thanks to the porridge girl for her help. If it weren't for her providing the intel and telling me Boss Tang's whereabouts, I wouldn't have achieved such a huge gain."

"Alright." Xu Ming interjected, "Since everyone is rescued, let's head back to the hospital. Our Fifth Sister called just now, saying Big Brother has woken up."

"Really?" Ling Chen's eyes brightened, and he finally felt relief.

"How about this, Second Brother, you all go visit Big Brother at the hospital first. I'll come find you after wrapping things up here."

"No rush." Zhang Zhongfeng said, "We'll keep Big Brother company, don't worry too much. Finish up your business here. Since you just seized the base from the God Organization, I reckon they won't let it go easily. I fear they'll seize the chance to counterattack, so you must be careful."

"Fourth Brother, rest assured, I'll be well-prepared, ensuring the God Organization has no opportunity to act."

After seeing off Xu Ming and the others, Ling Chen returned to the base's control center. At that moment, Tang Guolun was changing the base's security system with a group of subordinates, altering all the access passwords for all the blast doors.

After chatting with Tang Guolun for a bit, Ling Chen went to the porridge girl's side and asked, "Are you staying here tonight or...?"

"I'll stay here tonight, so the God Organization doesn't come looking for trouble." Pausing for a moment, the porridge girl changed the subject and said, "You'd better be cautious of Ji Gang. According to my intel, Ji Gang has already arrived in East Sea City. Once Lin Guodong learns the base has been seized, he'll surely send skilled operatives. So, it's possible Ji Gang might make a move."

"Ji Gang, huh?" Ling Chen touched his nose, frowning slightly. They were short on personnel now, and if Ji Gang made a move, he genuinely didn't have the strength to counter him. Moreover, he had to consider Chen Quan. From the current situation, Zhu Hong had already collaborated with the God Organization. If Lin Guodong enlisted Chen Quan and Ji Gang to act together, the trouble would be substantial.

After thinking it over, Ling Chen turned and walked to Tang Guolun, asking, "Boss Tang, how's the defense of this base?"

"You can rest assured about that." Tang Guolun replied with a smile. "The God Organization planned to use this base as their main base, so they ensured the base's defense mechanism was reinforced. I checked the base's data earlier. The outer walls of the base are made of one meter of concrete and twenty centimeters of steel plates, extremely solid, making it impossible to easily destroy even with bombs. Besides that, the base's defense system is also very formidable."

Chapter 975 - 982: Occupying the Base (Part 2)

"If a high-ranking fighter from the Heavenly List comes knocking, can we stop them?"

Hearing Ling Chen's concern, Tang Guolun couldn't help but laugh and said, "You really don't need to worry about that. This base is far more advanced than you think. With many advanced technologies in place, not only can it hold off a high-ranking fighter from the Heavenly List, but it could also withstand an assault from an entire small battalion for two days and nights."

"Really?" Ling Chen was skeptical of Tang Guolun's words. If the base was truly that impressive, how did he and the porridge girl manage to get in so easily?

Tang Guolun seemed to see through Ling Chen's thoughts and explained, "You were able to get in not because of the base's weak defenses, but because the staff here are so incompetent. They've just taken over this base and haven't fully mastered its functions. Otherwise, do you think you could have gotten in so easily?"

"Alright, I trust you if you say it's no problem."

In the blink of an eye, it was already late at night.

Seeing the porridge girl looking exhausted, Ling Chen couldn't help but urge, "You don't have to stay up with me. You look so tired; you probably haven't had a good rest these past few days. Come on, let me take you to your room so you can get a good night's sleep. If anything comes up, I'll let you know."

The porridge girl hesitated, then nodded gently, "Alright then."

This new base built by the God Organization was incredibly large, with a total of two levels. The top level was the control center, and the lower level was slightly smaller, consisting of living quarters for staff, a cafeteria, and a gym.

Ling Chen took the porridge girl to the second level of the base, choosing a relatively clean room.

"You rest now; I'm heading back up." After escorting the porridge girl to the room, Ling Chen turned and was about to leave.

"Wait!" The porridge girl hurriedly called out to Ling Chen.

"What's the matter?"

"I... I have something I want to say to you." The porridge girl stammered. Feeling Ling Chen's gaze, she unconsciously lowered her head, not daring to meet his eyes directly.

"Then I'll come in and sit with you for a while."

Inside the room, Ling Chen sat on a single sofa, looking at the porridge girl by the bed. He asked, "What do you want to tell me?"

"I... I'm sorry!"

"Sorry?" Ling Chen was slightly taken aback and asked in confusion, "Why are you apologizing to me out of the blue?"

"I know Master came to see you. No matter what Master said to you, I hope you don't take it to heart. I... I've never expected anything and won't make any demands on you, so you don't need to worry. Don't let it disrupt everyone's harmony on my account."

Ling Chen was even more puzzled by the porridge girl's words, not understanding what she meant. When his father had come to see him, he indeed said a lot, but most of it was about the God Organization and nothing else. So he was baffled as to why the porridge girl was saying this.

Seeing Ling Chen's bewildered expression, the porridge girl hesitated for a moment and asked, "Didn't Master say anything to you?"

"Say what?" Ling Chen snapped back to attention and asked curiously.

"Nothing." Seeing Ling Chen's question, the porridge girl immediately closed her mouth, rose, and started pushing Ling Chen out, "You should get back to work; I'm going to rest now." With that, before Ling Chen could say anything more, the porridge girl had already pushed him out of the room and closed the door.

Standing outside the door, Ling Chen rubbed his forehead with a wry smile. However, from the porridge girl's reaction, his father must have left out something, something that undoubtedly concerned the porridge girl.

Forget it!

Since the porridge girl was unwilling to talk, Ling Chen didn't bother asking. He then returned directly to the control center.

As soon as Ling Chen stepped through the door, he heard Tang Guolun standing in front of a large screen, waving and saying, "Ling Chen, come quickly; there's something happening outside."

"What's the situation?" Ling Chen quickly walked over to Tang Guolun's side, watching the large screen in front of him. At that moment, a team of thirty people was rapidly approaching the base outside. A few people stood at the back of the team, including Chen Quan and Ji Gang. Besides them, Zhu Hong, Chu Huaiyang, and Song Mingzhe were also there.

Tsk tsk!

It looks like I guessed right. Lin Guodong actually managed to get Chen Quan and Ji Gang involved. This clearly shows how much Lin Guodong values this new base.

At this moment, the group outside the base wasn't hiding their movements at all, heading straight for the front entrance of the base. By the looks of them, it was clear they intended to force an entry.

"The enemy is approaching. Everyone, get ready. Whatever happens, don't let them in," Tang Guolun ordered. "On my command, activate the defense mechanism immediately, sealing all entrances to the base."

Upon hearing Tang Guolun's command, several tech personnel immediately began typing on their keyboards, activating the base's defense system. Instantly, all the red warning lights throughout the base lit up.

At the same time, on the monitoring screens, a twenty-centimeter-thick iron door slowly descended at the entrances, reinforcing the defenses. With two iron doors in place, unless the God Organization used large-scale destructive weapons, they wouldn't easily break through the main gate's defense.

In no time, the team of over thirty had reached the main entrance of the base. They set down their backpacks, taking out a few items from within and sticking them around the wooden door. Once everything was in place, they immediately retreated to the side.

Suddenly, there was a loud 'boom,' as the wooden door was engulfed by the explosive blast.

Even in the control center, Ling Chen could feel a slight vibration.

"How's it looking at the main entrance?" Ling Chen asked with trepidation. Despite Tang Guolun's assurance, Ling Chen was still worried. After all, there were two high-ranking fighters from the Heavenly List outside. If they managed to get into the base, it wouldn't end well for any of them.

After a moment, the smoke around the wooden door began to dissipate. Ling Chen leaned closer to the large screen, observing closely. The wooden door appeared intact, unaffected by the blast.

Seeing this, Ling Chen finally breathed a sigh of relief.

Thank goodness! As long as the first door wasn't destroyed, Ling Chen had confidence in the base's defenses. Even if the God Organization breached the first door, there was still a blast-proof door behind it. Moreover, the thickness of that blast-proof door was twice that of the first. And if the God Organization used too much explosive, it would make excessive noise and alert the police.

As he pondered this, the group outside the base began trying other methods to break through the door.

Several men took two cutting machines from their backpacks, starting to slice along the edges of the wooden door. Watching the sparks fly across the screen, Tang Guolun smiled coldly and said, "They're too naive. Prepare to counteract."

"Understood." A tech personnel nodded, gently tapping the enter key with his right hand.

Instantly, several small holes appeared on the surface of the wooden door. Subsequent streams of liquid sprayed from these holes, instantly splashing onto the men.

Chapter 976 - 983: Occupying the Base (Part 3)

As the liquid splashed onto the men, their clothes instantly began to smoke. Simultaneously, the men screamed loudly, rolling back and forth on the ground in agony.

Seeing their state, Ling Chen exclaimed in surprise, "Acid?"

Tang Guolun nodded and said, "The door was laced with diluted acid, not very concentrated, non-lethal, but certainly uncomfortable."

At this moment, Ji Gang, who was observing the situation from behind, coldly said, "A bunch of useless fools, so many of them can't even open a door." Saying this, Ji Gang strode over directly.

Seeing Ji Gang approaching, the crowd immediately retreated to both sides. At the doorway, Ji Gang eyed the wooden door, snorted coldly, raised a single palm, and struck directly at the door panel.

Under Ji Gang's full-force strike, the wooden door remained unmoved and left not a trace. Witnessing this, Ji Gang's expression involuntarily sank. Moments ago, he had berated that group of subordinates as useless fools for their inability to open the door. But now, even he couldn't open it, wasn't he just as useless?

"Ji, let me help you." These words came as Chen Quan walked forward from behind.

"Ji, I mean no disrespect, but this door is exceptionally sturdy; individual strength is insufficient to break through. In my opinion, it's better to work together."

Upon hearing Chen Quan's suggestion, Ji Gang nodded, not rejecting Chen Quan's goodwill.

Immediately, the two stood, one on each side, at the front door, placing their fists and palms on the door panel, channeling their power.

"Open!"

A soft shout, as Chen Quan and Ji Gang exerted force simultaneously. The strength of the two Heavenly List masters converged on the wooden door. In an instant, the door's surface indented, forming two pits.

However, even so, the two Heavenly List masters only managed to leave marks on the door, without fully destroying it. Nonetheless, seeing Ji Gang and Chen Quan leave marks on the door through physical strength still shocked everyone present, and even Ling Chen in front of the big screen couldn't help but be astonished.

Such a thick steel plate, yet marks were left on it, the power of Heavenly List masters is truly terrifying.

"How about it?" Tang Guolun asked Ling Chen triumphantly, "I told you, even if Heavenly List masters came, it wouldn't help, they won't break through this base's defenses."

Ling Chen nodded, secretly relieved; tonight he could finally sleep peacefully.

...

"What did you say?"

At this moment, in a villa on the outskirts of East Sea City, Lin Guodong abruptly stood up from the sofa, looking coldly at the young man in front of him, saying, "So many people, even with two Heavenly List masters mobilized, still haven't taken that base, what are they doing?"

The young man hunched his head, trembling with fear as he said, "Mr. Lin, we really have no way out. That new base was built per your orders to be the most secure base, so a lot was invested in defense mechanisms. The entire base cost thirteen billion, with nearly half the funds used to reinforce the defenses. Before we constructed the base, we considered the issue with Heavenly List masters, hence the strengthened defense focus. Unless special circumstances arise, generally speaking, Heavenly List masters would find it difficult to break through its defenses."

"Then tell me what we're supposed to do now?" Lin Guodong asked coldly, "Are we just going to hand over the new base we've built at the cost of tens of billions? Money is a small issue, but we poured so much manpower, material resources, and energy into this, only to do it all for someone else; do you understand how much time building such a base takes?"

"But... Mr. Lin, I really have no way."

Lin Guodong couldn't help but roar angrily, "No way? You oversaw the design and construction of that base, even you have no way, how would I have one?"

The young man said unjustly, "Mr. Lin, it's true I oversaw the base's construction, but the problem is, when we built it initially, we only considered its sturdiness and defense, never how to breach it. In other words, that base is virtually impenetrable in terms of defense."

Hearing this, Lin Guodong took a deep breath, watching the young man as he asked in measured words, "Tell me truthfully, what's the likelihood of capturing that base?"

"Less than twenty percent."

"Twenty percent?" Lin Guodong asked coldly, "Why can Ling Chen easily seize control of that base, yet we can't?"

"Well... the base was completed less than three days ago, our people entered two days ago, they're still unfamiliar with many aspects. Moreover, our technical personnel are all overseas; according to plan, they will arrive in East Sea City on tomorrow's flight to take over base control. Thus, the staff in the base for these two days are amateur, not professionals, so efficiency may be slower. But Ling Chen is different, he has Tang Guolun and those technical experts assisting him. I've checked their files, they were previously elite technical felons, extremely formidable, even more so than our technical personnel. Hence, they grasped the base system rapidly."

Lin Guodong impatiently waved his hand, "I don't want to hear so much, I'm giving you three more days. If you can't reclaim that base within three days, don't bother coming back to see me. Now get out of my sight, I don't want to see you."

"Understood." the young man responded hurriedly, quickly exiting the living room.

...

In the blink of an eye, daylight gradually appeared.

Ling Chen stretched lazily, sitting up from the sofa in the control center, yawning as he asked, "Is it morning?"

Tang Guolun brought a cup of coffee to Ling Chen, smiling as he said, "Awake? Slept well last night, didn't you?"

"Not bad." Ling Chen took a couple of sips of coffee to shake off his drowsiness and asked, "What about Ji Gang and the others, are they still outside?"

"No, they retreated earlier. However, I think God Organization won't give up easily. After all, we're occupying their newly built base, and nobody would willingly accept that. So, in the next couple of days, they will surely take action."

Ling Chen thought for a moment and said, "Why not; I'll call my second brother and ask them to help keep an eye out just in case."

"That's fine."

"Boss Tang!"

Just then, a technician stood up from behind the computer and loudly called Tang Guolun's name.

"What's happening?" Tang Guolun asked, swiftly walking over to the technician's side. Ling Chen, fearing trouble, followed in Tang Guolun's footsteps.

"Boss Tang, many workers have come to the construction site, ready to break ground."

Tang Guolun said indifferently, "Let them be, don't bother about them."

"That might not work." The technician had a bitter smile on his face.

Chapter 977 - 984: Armored Ironman (1)

"Why not?" Ling Chen interjected.

The technician pointed to several workers on the surveillance screen and said, "They just brought in a few machines, all professional drilling equipment. Furthermore, they've chosen a drilling location directly above the base. If this were ordinary construction, there would be no need to drill into the ground. This shows they are part of the God Organization, attempting to drill through the top defense walls of the base."

Upon hearing this, Ling Chen couldn't help but frown. It seemed that the people from the God Organization still wouldn't give up, even resorting to large machinery. Thinking of this, Ling Chen asked, "If it's as you say, how long will it take them to drill through the base's outer walls?"

"With their professional equipment, no more than four or five hours. The outer concrete wall is relatively easy to penetrate; only the inner steel plate will take a long time. Mr. Ling, I suggest you find a way to stop them; don't let them succeed at all costs."

Ling Chen thought for a moment, unsure of what to do. Beside him, Tang Guolun suggested, "Why don't we send someone out?"

"It's useless." Ling Chen waved his hand and said, "The God Organization must have arranged people outside. As soon as we send people to stop them, it's exactly what they want. They're now eager for us to open the exit."

"Then what do we do?"

"Don't rush, let me think it over." Ling Chen left a word and walked alone in the control center, pacing back and forth, pondering a solution.

A moment passed, and Ling Chen took out his phone from his pocket, selected a number, and hesitantly placed his thumb on the call button. The owner of that number was none other than Xia Mutong.

After much thought, Ling Chen realized the only person he could turn to was Xia Mutong. Because Xia Mutong is a police officer, only if Xia Mutong takes the lead with the police can the God Organization be

stopped. Currently, the God Organization has not yet established a stronghold in East Sea City and dare not easily clash with the police. Otherwise, it would attract the government's heightened attention and crackdown, making their position very dangerous.

After previously talking with Mr. Zhang from the government, Ling Chen was well aware of the government's stance. At present, although the government knows the Ling Family is the mastermind behind the God Organization, they dare not rashly move against them, because the resources controlled by the Ling Family are immense. If the Ling Family retaliated after being eradicated, it would cause social turmoil and unimaginable consequences.

Because of this, the government has been secretly investigating and gathering evidence, not daring to act impulsively. The government sent Mr. Zhang on a covert mission, intending to tackle the Ling Family without official sanction.

Thus, the Ling Family is momentarily safe mainly because the government doesn't wish to break the precarious peace. If anyone were to pierce that fragile paper wall, it would only lead to an all-out conflict between the government and the Ling Family.

If it ever reached that point, it would be disadvantageous for anyone. Calling Xia Mutong for help might inadvertently spark a fierce battle between the God Organization and the government. Considering this, Ling Chen immediately put away his phone and gave up the idea of asking Xia Mutong for help.

Under no circumstances could he become the fuse between the government and the Ling Family.

As moments ticked by, Ling Chen suddenly felt a buzzing overhead. Simultaneously, the base's ceiling began to vibrate slightly.

"Ling Chen, they've started working," Tang Guolun's voice came through.

Hearing it, Ling Chen replied, "I know, hold on, I'm still working on it."

While pondering, he saw porridge girl walking in from outside the control center. Looking at the pensive Ling Chen, she asked, "What's wrong?"

Ling Chen pointed helplessly upwards and said, "They're drilling."

"Drilling?" Porridge girl turned her head to the surveillance screen, her expression suddenly changing.

"I'll go out and take a look." As she spoke, porridge girl was ready to head out.

"Don't go!" Ling Chen hurriedly grabbed her hand and stopped her, "Now is not the time to go out. They must have stationed people outside. Besides, Ji Gang and Chen Quan's whereabouts are unknown; we can't be sure if they're outside. For safety's sake, it's best not to go out."

"Then what? Are we just going to watch them drill through the base? Once the base defenses are breached, won't we still have to face them?"

"This..." Ling Chen hesitated for a moment and said, "How about this, you stay in the base, and I'll find someone to help." With that, Ling Chen picked up his phone and dialed a number.

A half-hour passed.

"Ling Chen, they've penetrated the outer concrete wall of the base," Tang Guolun said solemnly, looking at the big screen's surveillance feed.

"So soon?" Ling Chen was shocked. According to their estimation, it would take at least four to five hours. But now, it seemed that they would drill through the top defense walls of the base in just two to three hours.

While contemplating, Ling Chen suddenly heard his phone ringing in his pocket. He pulled it out, glanced at the caller ID, and answered the call promptly, asking, "Fourth brother, how's the situation outside?"

"You'd better not come out; Chen Quan and Ji Gang are guarding outside." After a pause, Zhang Zhongfeng continued, "Sixth brother, your second brother's idea is that we'll help you draw Ji Gang away."

"No way!" Ling Chen refused without hesitation, "That's too dangerous." If they were just Earthly List experts, Ling Chen would agree without a second thought. However, Ji Gang and Chen Quan are true Heavenly List experts; even if Xu Ming and others joined forces, they might not escape. He didn't want to place Xu Ming and the others in danger because of himself.

"Fourth brother, keep an eye out, and inform me immediately if anything happens."

After saying this, Ling Chen hung up the phone and walked to Tang Guolun's side, looking at the surveillance feed on the big screen, "Does this base have a countermeasure system?"

"There is, but the countermeasure system is concentrated at the main gate; there's nothing elsewhere, but..."

"But what?"

"I checked the base's reserve resources last night; there's an equipment room. I don't know if there's anything useful in there."

Equipment room?

Ling Chen's heart stirred, and he asked, "Where is the equipment room you mentioned?"

"Base's second floor, the room on the north side. Why, do you want to check it out?"

"Since there's no other way now, we might as well take a look. Maybe there's something in there we can use."

"Alright, I'll go with you."

Then, Ling Chen followed Tang Guolun to the second floor of the base. Before long, they were standing outside the equipment room. Seeing the locked door, Tang Guolun went up and input the reset password into the keypad. With a 'click' sound, the heavy blast door opened immediately.

Chapter 978 - 985: Armored Ironman (Part 2)

Passing through the blast door, Ling Chen followed behind Tang Guolun into the equipment room.

With the lights on, looking at the bright equipment room, Ling Chen and Tang Guolun were immediately stunned by the pile of items before them.

Wow!

This is indeed worthy of the God Organization's equipment room, and the things stored here are truly abundant. Besides some ordinary equipment, there's also a specific area for storing heavy equipment.

Looking at the equipment emitting a metallic sheen, Ling Chen clicked his tongue in amazement, quickly walked over, and touched the cold metal surface.

Unexpected... truly unexpected, that the God Organization could manufacture such things.

The giant metal before him was two and a half meters tall, shaped like an iron man. Previously, during the Heavenly Mechanism Great Ceremony, Zhu Hong had appeared in a fully armed armor suit. However, this armor was much larger than the one Zhu Hong wore. Moreover, this metal emitted a cold shine, definitely not common metal. Although the material was unknown, it was certain that it was nothing ordinary.

"What is this?" At this moment, Tang Guolun also noticed this gigantic armored ironman.

"This is a giant armor created through exoskeleton armor technology," Ling Chen explained. "To put it simply, it's a type of mechanical armor that can be worn by a person."

"Are you serious?" Tang Guolun said in surprise, "I've never seen such a thing, but I have seen it in movies."

"Today's technology level is far more advanced than you imagine." Saying this, Ling Chen lightly tapped with his toe and jumped onto the armored ironman. At the top of the armored ironman, there was a button.

Ling Chen gently pressed it, and with a few light clicks, the abdomen of the armored ironman immediately opened outward, revealing a narrow cockpit. The cockpit in the armored ironman was tiny, only able to accommodate one adult, and the height cannot exceed one meter eighty. Ling Chen sat in the cockpit, slightly adjusted, and felt it was just manageable.

Inside the cockpit, there were numerous buttons and display screens. Ling Chen scrutinized them for a few seconds and locked his gaze on a conspicuous red button. When the red button was pressed, all the display screens in the cockpit lit up. At the same time, various parts of the armored ironman emitted a series of crisp 'ka-ka' sounds, gears inside turned swiftly, driving the massive armored ironman to stand up.

Tang Guolun widened his eyes, watching the armored ironman slowly stand upright, with eyes full of wonder. If Ling Chen wasn't still sitting in the cockpit, he couldn't resist climbing in to take a look.

"Boss Tang, help me check the weapon system."

"Hold on!" Tang Guolun responded, quickly fetched a laptop, and connected it to the armored ironman's main system.

A few minutes passed, and Tang Guolun spoke up, "This armor is equipped with twenty grenades and two Gatling guns, very powerful, along with a flamethrower. If fully powered, even experts from the Heavenly List wouldn't be a match. However, although this armor is equipped with a weapon system, no ammunition is installed."

"Isn't there any in the equipment room?"

"No, I've checked, there are only equipment, no ammunition boxes. I guess the God Organization hasn't transported the ammunition yet."

"Never mind," Ling Chen said nonchalantly, "Anyway, this is within the country, heavy weapons can't be used."

"Okay! All inspected, the system is intact, no problems. Ling Chen, would you like to give it a try?"

"Sure!" Ling Chen nodded and closed the cockpit of the armored ironman. Instantly, a clear image appeared on the screen before Ling Chen, displaying all the surroundings on the screens.

Without needing to turn his head, Ling Chen could clearly see everything around with this 360-degree view.

Everything was ready, Ling Chen slowly lifted his foot, controlled the armored ironman to walk forward. It must be said, the stability of this armor was outstanding. Even an amateur like Ling Chen, who had just come into contact with it, could immediately master it. After training in the equipment room for about half an hour, Ling Chen could already skillfully control the armored ironman, moving around and performing some relatively difficult maneuvers.

Unfortunately, this armored ironman was too heavy, making some high-difficulty movements difficult, and technically unsupported.

The cockpit opened, and Ling Chen poked his head out, looking at Tang Guolun, "Boss Tang, I'm ready to take this thing outside to meet those guys."

"Are you sure?" Tang Guolun said with concern, "This thing isn't equipped with ammunition, what will you use to fight them?"

"Nothing to fear," Ling Chen replied confidently, "With this thing protecting me, they won't be able to do anything to me, you can rest easy. Let's go!"

"Alright then, follow me."

Under the lead of Tang Guolun, Ling Chen controlled the armored ironman to reach a cargo elevator. The cargo elevator was very large, capable of bearing five tons. It seemed this cargo elevator was specially built for transporting the armored ironman, able to perfectly support the weight and size of the armored ironman.

Standing in the cargo elevator, Tang Guolun gave a few more instructions before pressing the switch to send Ling Chen to the base surface.

Soon, the cargo elevator's door slowly opened, a beam of sunlight shone onto the armored ironman.

Ling Chen looked around and found the cargo elevator was hidden in an old residential house. As soon as he walked out of the cargo elevator, Ling Chen immediately saw more than a dozen men in suits standing on both sides of the house, all members of the God Organization.

At this moment, seeing a giant armored ironman emerge from the cargo elevator, everyone present was stunned, staring at the armored ironman, unable to react for a long time.

"What... what is this thing?"

While they were in shock, Ling Chen was already controlling the armored ironman charging towards the construction site. His target was very clear, to destroy the drilling equipment, as without the equipment, let's see how they could break through the base.

Because the armored ironman was too heavy, its speed wasn't very fast. However, even so, no one dared to block the armored ironman's path.

Facing such a terrifying armor, who would dare to stand in the way? That would be courting death.

For a moment, all the members of the God Organization stationed outside stared in wide-eyed wonder at the rampant armored ironman, unable to do anything.

While advancing, Ling Chen suddenly saw a few people rapidly approaching from not far away, it was Chen Quan and Ji Gang along with others.

"Old Man Ji, long time no see." Ling Chen's voice projected through a loudspeaker.

"Ling Chen?" Ji Gang snorted, saying coldly, "I wondered who it was, turns out to be you, coward. Ling Chen, didn't you used to be quite bold? Why don't you dare to show your face now?"

"Old Man Ji, don't bother provoking me, it won't work, I'm not stupid. With you two experts from the Heavenly List here, do you expect me to walk into my death?"

Chapter 979 - 986: Armored Iron Man (Part 3)

"Hmph!" Chen Quan sneered, "You cowardly rat, do you think hiding in there will save you? Ling Chen, aren't you a bit too naive."

"Whether it's me being naive or you, it's still uncertain. But you Heavenly List experts bullying a junior like me with all these Earthly List masters, don't you feel any shame? Though, when I think about it, you all are shameless people who would do anything. Wouldn't you agree?"

"Enough, stop wasting time with him, kill him." Ji Gang shouted coldly, tapping his toe and rushing towards the armored suit.

As he got closer, Ji Gang leaped high and struck hard at the center of the armored suit with a single palm. However, his force didn't make a dent; the suit stood immovable, solid as a rock.

Seeing this, Chen Quan and the others were stunned. They knew Ji Gang's strength well, yet he couldn't harm that armored suit.

Seeing this situation, Chen Quan and Song Mingzhe immediately rushed forward, surrounding the armored suit in the center.

"Everyone attack, dismantle this damn thing."

Hearing Chen Quan's command, without hesitation, everyone rushed to the front of the armor suit, unleashing punches and kicks. The sound of 'clang, clang' echoed around the suit.

Amidst the onslaught, Ling Chen sat silently in the cockpit, watching the scenes on the monitor, a slight smile on his lips. Kudos to the God Organization for making this; the quality is impeccable. No matter how strong Ji Gang and the others were, the armored suit remained undamaged, all systems functioning normally.

After letting Ji Gang and others pester for a while, Ling Chen turned on the cockpit's loudspeaker and said, "Everyone, tired yet? Want to take a break?"

Hearing Ling Chen's sarcasm, their faces instantly darkened.

"Master, this armor's metal is very sturdy, we should think of another method," Zhu Hong suggested, watching from the side.

Chen Quan said coldly, "Why don't you think of a method instead of making sarcastic comments here."

"I..." Zhu Hong was at a loss for words. Unlike Chu Huaiyang and Song Mingzhe, he didn't know much martial arts and couldn't help at all, so he had no plan.

"If you're done playing, then it's my turn." As soon as Ling Chen ended his sentence, two gun barrels extended from the shoulders of the armored suit, targeting Ji Gang and the others.

Upon seeing the barrels, Zhu Hong's face changed, and he hurriedly dived behind a row of cover, shouting loudly, "Run!"

At that moment, Chen Quan and Ji Gang also noticed the long gun barrels. Although they were martial artists, they were familiar with firearms, and those were definitely the distinct barrels of a Gatling gun.

In an instant, no one dared to linger near the armored suit anymore, scrambling to find cover while fleeing.

Within seconds, everyone who had surrounded the armored suit vanished.

Seeing the empty surroundings on the screen, Ling Chen couldn't help but laugh. These guys really were cowards, scared so easily. The armored suit's weapon system wasn't even equipped with ammo, it's just for show and isn't actually functional.

While Ji Gang and the others retreated, Ling Chen immediately controlled the armored suit to rush forward. At this moment, several large drilling machines appeared in his sight, less than thirty meters away.

Hearing the armored suit's footsteps growing distant, Ji Gang and others, hiding behind cover, poked their heads out, watching the suit's back with cold expressions.

"Chase it!"

Ji Gang shouted in a low voice, jumping from behind his cover. But just then, the advancing armored suit suddenly turned around, aiming its barrels at Ji Gang once more.

Seeing this, Ji Gang's expression changed; he didn't dare to pursue further and quickly dove to the side among the bricks and tiles.

Sitting in the cockpit, Ling Chen chuckled to himself, ignoring Ji Gang, and continued to drive the armored suit forward.

Watching the terrifying armored suit closing in, the workers operating the drilling machines dared not linger and quickly scattered. In the blink of an eye, dozens of workers had fled.

Taking advantage of this moment, Ling Chen swung the mechanical arm of the armored suit, smashing it onto one of the drilling machines.

Bam!

With a loud crash, the drilling machine was instantly crushed by the mechanical arm. Under the armored suit's powerful attack, it wasn't long before all the drilling machines were destroyed.

Looking at the scattered parts, Ling Chen smiled. Mission accomplished, time to head back!

He then controlled the armored suit, slowly moving its legs toward the freight elevator.

Seeing the armored suit approaching, Ji Gang and the others looked grim. With that suit for protection, they had no way to harm Ling Chen. Moreover, equipped with heavy firepower, even Heavenly List experts like Ji Gang and Chen Quan were extremely wary.

Despite their formidable skills, they couldn't change the fact that they were mere flesh and blood.

Watching the armored suit disappear into the freight elevator, Ji Gang snorted, frustrated, and said, "Let's go."

"Are we leaving matters here unchecked?" Zhu Hong asked.

Ji Gang glanced at Zhu Hong coldly and said, "Do you have the ability to handle it? Hmph! You're the most useless here, shut your mouth."

"Elder Ji, no need to get angry." Chen Quan spoke calmly, "My disciple meant well. Honestly, if we can't find a way to deal with that thing, there's no breaking through the base's defense wall."

"I understand, I'll report this to the higher-ups."

...

At this moment, in the equipment room of the base, Ling Chen parked the armored suit, opened the cockpit, and jumped out.

Tang Guolun, who was waiting outside, laughed and quickly walked up.

"So, how was it? Quite thrilling, right?"

"Not bad, not bad at all," Ling Chen laughed heartily, "I must say, the God Organization showed some skills; even the Heavenly List masters were helpless against it. If it were equipped with ammo, it could genuinely threaten top experts."

"With this thing, let's see how they can drill, it'll be destroyed each time. Oh! I just received news that Ji Gang and the others have retreated."

Ling Chen exhaled, nodding with a smile, "Good, finally some relief. I'll call Fatty later, telling him to come over quickly. Plus, we need to organize the base's security forces."

"Do you have any suggestions?"

"I've hired a professional team to handle the perimeter security of the base, but for internal security, I still need to find people." Ling Chen sighed helplessly, "I'm really short on manpower right now."

Chapter 980 - 987: Expanding the Faction (1)

After receiving Ling Chen's notification, it didn't take long for Hu Fei and Beison to arrive with their team at the base.

Before capturing this base, Ling Chen hadn't told Hu Fei. Once this guy reached the base, he jumped up in excitement.

In every aspect, this base is several times better than the previous research base.

"Ling Chen, you finally did something good," Hu Fei chuckled. "Now Lin Guodong will probably be heartbroken."

"More than just heartbroken, the God Organization spent so much effort and resources to build this base, but it ended up being taken over by us. He's probably furious by now."

After a few jokes, Ling Chen changed his tone and said seriously, "Hey, fatty, speaking seriously, do you have any contacts who can bring in some decent manpower?"

"You want to recruit people?" Hu Fei said, "Don't you still have Jiang Hao and his people? Jiang Hao has hundreds under him, isn't that enough?"

"Jiang Hao's group are all street thugs. What use are they? Besides, his underlings have families, I can't just send them to their deaths. I need professionals. Look!" Ling Chen pointed to Beison not far away and said, "See that? That's what I call professional."

"You're looking for mercenaries?" Hu Fei immediately waved his hand and said, "It's best not to hire too many mercenaries. Even though they're professionals, they only care about money and never talk about loyalty. So, it's hard to gain their loyalty, and they can't be completely trusted. I think one mercenary team is enough."

"So what do you suggest? Right now, Beison's people are guarding the perimeter, so that's not a big worry. But inside the base, there isn't a decent security team. If the God Organization launches a massive attack, what do you expect me to fight back with?"

"Well..." Hu Fei rubbed his head, hesitant about what to say.

At this moment, the porridge girl interjected, "If you're looking for manpower, maybe I can help you."

"Really?" Ling Chen's eyes lit up, and he quickly asked, "What do you have in mind?"

"Recently, I've been busy cleaning up after the Secret Society, integrating its remaining forces. You've all had dealings with the Secret Society before, so you should know how extensive their power is. Globally, the Secret Society's reach is second only to the God Organization. Wherever the God Organization is, you can bet we have Secret Society people there, just not in the same numbers. This time, I've gathered all the remaining members of the Secret Society. Although their power has been greatly reduced under the God Organization's suppression, a starved camel is still bigger than a horse, and we still have quite a few available hands. If you need, I can call them all here to follow your orders."

Hearing the porridge girl's words, Ling Chen's brows unfurled, and he smiled, saying, "If the Secret Society joins us, that's wonderful. But... I'm afraid they won't follow my arrangements."

"You can rest assured about that. I've talked to Master before, and according to him, he is also prepared to entrust all the Secret Society's existing forces to you. After all, the Secret Society isn't what it used to be, and going it alone won't accomplish much. Instead, it's better to cooperate with you and combine our forces. Only then will we have enough strength to contend with the God Organization."

"Alright," Ling Chen nodded, "If that's the case, then bring them all here. After all, I'm short on hands here, and this base is large enough to accommodate two or three hundred people."

"Okay, I'll contact them later and have them come to East Sea City as soon as possible."

"By the way!" At this moment, Hu Fei seemed to remember something and curiously asked, "Porridge girl, how did Ling Chen's dad become the leader of the Secret Society? As far as I know, the Secret Society has been around for over fifty years. Given his dad's age, he couldn't have founded it."

As soon as Hu Fei finished speaking, Ling Chen also looked towards the porridge girl. He, like Hu Fei, was puzzled about how Ling Kun became the leader of the Secret Society. Back then, Ling Kun was always by Ling Chen's side until he was a teenager. All things considered, Ling Chen and his dad have only been apart for about ten years. It seems strange that in such a short time, his dad suddenly became the leader of the world's second-largest power.

Facing their gaze, the porridge girl replied casually, "I'm not very clear about this matter. You can ask Master directly when he comes back."

...

In half a day, with Ling Chen and his group's efforts, the base gradually got into gear. Zhou Qi and Zhou Jun were brought to the base and began stepping into their roles. Zhou Qi's position remained unchanged; he continued to be the head steward of the base.

Zhou Qi previously served at the Heavenly Mechanism Pavilion, overseeing all major affairs there, so he has a wealth of experience in this area. Moreover, Zhou Qi is also an Earthly List expert. Because of these two factors, Ling Chen, together with Zhou Jun, went to great lengths to recruit Zhou Qi.

Currently, there are very few experts available in the base: Kaelina, Jiang Yunkai, Qin Genglong, Zhou Qi, plus Zhou Jun. Among them, only Qin Genglong and Zhou Qi are truly outstanding, while the others are rather ordinary. In a real sense, Kaelina and Jiang Yunkai are not considered top experts.

Of course, these people are nominally members of the base. Besides them, there's also the Eight Oddities, which is the real strength Ling Chen can wield. However, Qiu Yong and the others help out of brotherhood, and they are not Ling Chen's subordinates.

For this reason, Ling Chen is reluctant to rely too much on their strength. Every time, due to his own issues, he made Qiu Yong and the others run back and forth, risking themselves. Especially this time, Qiu Yong almost lost his life from a snakebite while rescuing him.

Although Qiu Yong and the others emphasize brotherhood, Ling Chen feels he owes them too much, and he feels uncomfortable asking for their help each time. Therefore, he hopes to quickly strengthen his own forces so that others don't have to take risks for him.

A day passed.

The base experienced a rare day of calm. Ever since Ling Chen destroyed all the drilling equipment that day, the God Organization hasn't sent anyone over again. They probably realized that as long as that armored titan remains, they can't use drilling machines to breach the base's defenses.

Meanwhile, Secret Society members also arrived one after another, gathering at the base.

This time, Ling Chen truly witnessed the vast power of the Secret Society and deeply understood the saying that a starved camel is still bigger than a horse.

Even though they were only the remnants of the Secret Society, there were still over four hundred people. Even this newly built base couldn't accommodate so many people.