

WHEN 'GOD' DECIDES TO START OVER

Chapter 61: Absolute Pitch

Kun Sha couldn't bear to witness Li Xiu's death and turned his head to the side.

But suddenly he heard a familiar voice shout, "Kun Sha, what are you doing? Hurry up and stop the ball."

Kun Sha immediately realized the voice was Li Xiu's. He turned his head in surprise and indeed saw Li Xiu standing in the circle, alive, while the soccer ball was already in his circle.

Kun Sha stretched out his foot to stop the ball, and to his astonishment, he found that the ring on his hand did not explode, and Li Xiu was also unharmed.

"How could this be?" Kun Sha was bewildered but mostly filled with delight.

"The second round of trials is over, the third round of trials begins."

Music began to play again.

"Didn't you notice? The trial rules only state that four rounds of tests will be conducted, but they don't specify that four people must be eliminated, nor do they say only one person can survive the trial." Li Xiu explained.

"What's the difference?" Shale was still confused.

"The rule is that when the music ends, whichever trial taker's circle the ball is in, that trial taker will be eliminated. If at the end of the music, the soccer ball isn't in any trial taker's circle, then no one will be eliminated." Li Xiu continued to explain.

"But how do you know that if the music stops, and the ball is in someone else's circle, that person won't be eliminated?" Pa Shan was also puzzled.

"We just tested it; the result proves that as long as the soccer ball is not within the circle at the moment the music stops, no one will be eliminated." Li Xiu urged, "Quickly pass the ball out, there's not much time left."

"It's still not right; how do you know when the music will stop?" Kun Sha still didn't pass the ball and stared at Li Xiu.

"I wouldn't joke with my life. Trust me, there's not much time left. Pass the ball here first, and I'll slowly explain to you." Li Xiu said helplessly.

Kun Sha deeply looked at Li Xiu, then passed the ball to Pa Shan, who immediately passed it to Shale, and Shale quickly passed it to Li Xiu.

Li Xiu stopped the ball, standing at the edge closest to Kun Sha, seemingly listening to the music with his head down.

Shale anxiously wanted to ask something but hadn't gotten the words out when he suddenly saw Li Xiu kick the ball away.

Just after Li Xiu kicked the ball out of the circle, the music on the light screen stopped. The ball slowly rolled a bit farther and reached Kun Sha's circle.

Kun Sha and the other two were ecstatic; now they could finally be sure that Li Xiu had indeed found the BUG in this trial.

In other words, all four of them could survive.

"The third round of trials is over, the fourth round of trials begins."

Music began to play again, this time Kun Sha unhesitatingly passed the ball, and soon the soccer ball reached Li Xiu's feet once again.

"Li Xiu, how exactly do you know when the music will stop?" Shale couldn't help but ask.

"There are a few different notes, and that's when the music stops. As long as the ball is kicked out at the first different note, controlling the ball speed slightly will do." Li Xiu explained as simply as possible.

Kun Sha and the others immediately listened closely to the music, but no matter how they listened, the music was just a few simple notes repeating

over and over, each repetition was exactly the same, and they couldn't hear any differences.

"What's different about the notes? I don't hear anything." Shale asked, feeling frustrated.

Li Xiu thought to himself, "That's because your ears aren't skilled enough. If it were Bai Qiuyi, that guy would surely hear it."

Li Xiu had no understanding or interest in music, but Bai Qiuyi loved music very much and often attended concerts.

Once, Bai Qiuyi dragged Li Xiu to hear a live concerto performance and whispered to Li Xiu that one of the piano keys was not tuned correctly during the performance.

Among so many instruments, being able to hear that one piano key was not tuned correctly is quite a formidable skill.

Bai Qiuyi proudly told Li Xiu that his ability was called "Absolute Pitch," a natural talent that is rare, different from something acquired through training.

Li Xiu didn't think much of his so-called Absolute Pitch because after Bai Qiuyi pointed out the wrong note, Li Xiu could also hear it.

Thinking of Bai Qiuyi, Li Xiu sighed inwardly, "Why not just be a good Magic Armor Master? Why insist on being a Trial Taker, risking your life—is it really worth it?"

Li Xiu himself seemed unaware that he was walking down Bai Qiuyi's path.

Before the fourth round of music ended, Li Xiu kicked the ball out, and all four of them lived to complete the final trial.

"Final trial ends, rewards are randomly generating... Each person can receive two types of rewards..."

Soon, a light screen appeared in front of each person, displaying four icons.

The icons in front of Li Xiu included Demon Core, Attribute, Skill, and Entry Ticket.

Pa Shan and Shale had the same, including Demon Core, Attribute, Talent, and Skill.

Kun Sha's options were Demon Core, Attribute, Talent, and Entry Ticket.

Li Xiu wasn't sure if it was coincidence, but the two who had previously obtained Entry Tickets were randomly assigned Entry Tickets again.

"Pa Shan, Shale, don't choose the rewards yet. Wait for me to come out before you make your choice." Kun Sha said, selecting Talent and Entry Ticket.

A fiery-red talent Ruby appeared before Kun Sha and quickly merged into his body.

The Entry Ticket was also projected out, forming a vortex that absorbed Kun Sha.

"Also wait for me a moment, I'll come out quickly." Li Xiu chose Skill and Entry Ticket.

A fiery-red Skill Ring was imprinted on Li Xiu's finger, and the skill information simultaneously flooded into his mind.

Blood Boiling: S-level trial skill, activates body potential to exert two hundred percent ability.

Though it overlapped with Li Xiu's previous Blood Boiling skill, the level was different; both skills were retained, and the S-level skill was far superior to the E-level skill in many ways.

There was no time restriction for use, with a two hundred percent boost, meaning one could double their physical capabilities.

However, compared to the same S-level skill Super Exciting, it lacked a special effect.

As Li Xiu was comparing the two S-level skills, the Entry Ticket had already turned into a red vortex, pulling him inside.

The familiar dark space, dim copper lamps, and ancient stone table looked similar to what Li Xiu had experienced before, but not exactly the same.

The style of the copper lamps and stone table differed, and behind the stone table, there was no blue Metal Coffin.

Not seeing Kun Sha, Li Xiu's gaze landed on the stone table, and he was stunned to see what was on it.

Kun Sha had said he saw a hammer on the stone table, but what was on it now was not a hammer.

Chapter 62: The True Trial Taker

That was a very thin sword, the blade only a finger wide, the hilt resembling a flattened and widened "sun" character.

Just how thin was this sword? Li Xiu didn't know how to describe it.

The phrase "thin as a cicada's wing" wasn't enough to capture its thinness; clearly a metal weapon, yet thin enough to appear somewhat transparent.

Despite its thinness, the blade was perfectly straight, without any curve.

If you looked from the blade's side, without a close inspection, you might almost fail to notice the blade's presence.

On that seemingly transparent blade, flame-like patterns seemed to have permeated into the blade, giving it a faint reddish hue.

The hilt was dark red, like the color of dried blood.

"Could it be that even with the same Trial Ground ticket, the entry point is not exactly the same?" Li Xiu guessed to himself.

Fingers lightly stroking the hilt, he immediately felt a scorching heat ignite at his fingertips, giving Li Xiu a slight feeling of being burnt.

Thankfully, Li Xiu's physical qualities were much stronger now, and he could withstand this level of heat.

Grabbing the hilt with both hands, he tried to lift the sword with force, but as expected, the sword didn't budge.

Without excessive attempts, the S-level skill of Boiling Blood activated, making Li Xiu feel the acceleration of blood flow all over his body, a heat current flowing through him, creating an illusion that his blood was about to boil.

Muscles swelled, changing Li Xiu's physique from brawny to a muscle-bound hulk, his whole body seeming to brim with explosive power.

Now Li Xiu realized, although the same S-level skill, Boiling Blood was much milder than Super Exciting, allowing him to use it for a longer duration given his physical conditions.

Unlike Super Exciting, which was so domineering; if used for a slightly extended period, his body couldn't bear it.

Under the boost of the S-level Boiling Blood, Li Xiu gripped the hilt with both hands, exerting all his strength, but the hilt barely moved and still wasn't lifted by Li Xiu.

This was also within Li Xiu's expectations—back then Kun Sha already possessed S-level Boiling Blood, and he couldn't lift the hammer; Li Xiu failing to lift it wasn't surprising.

In the next moment, Li Xiu's eyes sharpened, his entire body's cells painfully tingled as if pricked by needles, hairs standing on end; a blue-glowing Skill Brand appeared on his fingertip.

Super Exciting finally activated, with the dual S-level skills' reinforcement, Li Xiu felt as though his body was about to burst with terrifying power.

Gritting his teeth and exerting himself wildly, that peculiar sword was finally lifted by Li Xiu.

The moment the entire sword left the tabletop, red Light Flame rose from the blade, revealing a glow similar to Demonic Light.

"Indeed, weapons here are the ones that can slay demon spirits, the person Kun Sha saw should be the Trial Taker who obtained a weapon using a ticket." Li Xiu examined the sword in his hand emitting the red Light Flame, planning to put it down first.

Super Exciting was too much; he could hardly sustain it, the pain was simply torturous.

He planned to wait until the ticket time was almost up, then pick up the sword again to see if he could leave with it.

If he could take the sword out of the Trial Ground, would he be able to use it directly in the future?

This kind of sword, his own strength wouldn't suffice to wield it freely, but once donned with Demon Armor, it would be different; he could completely use it after wearing Demon Armor.

Li Xiu hadn't put down the sword in his hand yet, when he suddenly heard a bizarre voice emerging from the dark.

"Congratulations, insignificant carbon-based life form, you have earned the qualification to become a life symbiosis with a high-level life form 'contract' (契). Its name is Fire Lotus. Use your blood to complete a life pact with it; from now on, you will be inseparable—it will be the cornerstone of your growth..."

Li Xiu was shocked in his heart, only now realizing that completing the trial in the Trial Ground didn't mean one was a genuine Trial Taker.

Only by becoming a life symbiote with the contract could one be considered a genuine Trial Taker.

"Is this why you let me come to the Trial Ground?" Li Xiu pondered about the words Bai Qiuyi had told him before dying, perhaps now having the answer.

The true Trial Taker could rely on their body and the contract to battle demon spirits, not needing to use Demon Armor.

Li Xiu didn't follow what the voice said, but gritted his teeth to put the Fire Lotus back on the tabletop, stopping Boiling Blood and Super Exciting.

After the Fire Lotus returned to the tabletop, the Light Flame did not relent, still shining brightly.

"Does everyone only unite with one contract to become a life symbiote?" Li Xiu asked, gazing into the darkness.

"Insignificant carbon-based life form, your greed will lead you step by step towards death." That voice truly responded to his question and continued, "Everyone can possess multiple different contracts, but the first one is different; only the first contract will be your life symbiote, your everything will become unified, and even if you have more contracts, those would merely be tools, not impacting your body's essence."

"Are contracts divided into strong and weak?" Li Xiu asked again.

"Contracts are classified into Flowing Color, Shining, Radiant, and Glorious levels; Fire Lotus is a Shining Level contract." That voice robotically answered Li Xiu's questions.

"Is there a big gap in power between different level contracts?" Li Xiu pondered briefly before asking.

"Initially, the gap isn't large; in fact, a contract's strength relates to its other half." That voice suddenly urged, "You don't have much time left, please complete the life pact with the contract promptly, and become a true Trial Taker."

"I'm afraid to disappoint you; I won't choose it as my first contract..." Li Xiu made his choice directly, he wouldn't complete a life pact with Fire Lotus.

Because Li Xiu felt Blood Pattern Revolver was stronger than Fire Lotus; knowing there's a higher-level contract, someone like Li Xiu couldn't possibly settle for a Shining Level contract as the sole Symbiotic Contract.

Gazing at the Light Flame shining from the Fire Lotus Sword, Li Xiu's finger lightly brushed across the blade, murmuring: "It's not that you aren't good enough, but my expectations are high. I hope next time you encounter the right person..."

Fire Lotus Sword seemed to understand his words, its blade suddenly flashed red light, Li Xiu's finger was immediately cut by the red light, blood dripped onto Fire Lotus Sword's blade.

Li Xiu's face changed drastically, reaching to wipe off the blood from the blade, but it was already too late; his blood was absorbed like a sponge, merging into the Fire Lotus Sword's blade.

Blood continuously blended with the Fire Lotus pattern inside the blade, the Fire Lotus Sword emitted bursts of sword hums, suddenly flying up by itself, the sword tip aiming at Li Xiu's abdomen to stab down.

Chapter 63: Agreement

The speed of the Fire Lotus Sword was just too fast; Li Xiu didn't even have time to dodge before it struck his abdomen, the blade disappearing in an instant up to the hilt.

"It's over! Am I just dead like this?" Li Xiu felt unwilling but resigned himself to his fate, thinking, "This time I can finally reunite with Bai Qiuyi. Unexpectedly, the world's two best Magic Armor Masters both died because of the Trial Gate."

"Strange, why doesn't it hurt? Is it because the sword is too thin and fast, that it pierced through my body without me noticing? The wound is still tightly sealed, just waiting for me to move, then it will open up and my intestines will spill everywhere?" Li Xiu thought, suddenly sensing something amiss. He

looked down and found that the Fire Lotus Sword hadn't pierced his abdomen at all.

The sword's body bent like a belt, wrapping around his waist, the tip just connecting with the end of the hilt, making it look from a distance like a dark-patterned fire lotus belt around Li Xiu's waist.

Li Xiu hadn't figured out what was happening when the entrance ticket time ran out, and he was transported out.

As he was teleported away, Li Xiu vaguely heard that strange voice saying words like "Life Pact Failed," "Transformation," "Parasite."

Back at the arena, he found Kun Sha had returned, carrying a massive black fire-patterned hammer on his back.

The head of the hammer was as thick as a bucket, and covered in red flame patterns, with a shaft about two meters long, looking extremely domineering and fierce.

Li Xiu was staring blankly because Kun Sha, carrying such a giant hammer, seemed completely unaffected.

He himself carried a tiny Fire Lotus on his waist, which felt like it was about to snap him in two, his legs trembling ceaselessly, ready to give way at any moment.

"Haha, I finally understand, now a real Trial Taker, I have become a real Trial Taker." Kun Sha, a person usually mature, shouted excitedly.

"What Trial Taker, what is that hammer?" Shale asked curiously.

"This is the pact. Only with it can one be a true Trial Taker. My pact is called the Flame Hammer, and now it and I are a life community, allowing us to fight and grow together. The Flame Hammer is far better than Demon Armor; it inherently has a life, possessing spirituality, perfectly matching with my consciousness," Kun Sha spoke more excitedly, revealing unexpected verbosity.

"Doesn't it tire you carrying such a huge hammer?" Li Xiu couldn't help but ask.

"Not at all, now the Flame Hammer and I are a life community. It's spiritual, feeling weightless in my hand, but for anyone else, it's easily hundreds of pounds. Plus, it can be stored inside the body." Kun Sha proudly demonstrated how he stores the hammer within himself, showcasing its uniqueness.

Kun Sha seemed completely different from his usual steadiness, now like a child with a beloved toy.

However, it aroused great envy in Pa Shan, Shale, and Li Xiu.

"There's something like this? Why is mine still so heavy? Could it be that my comment offended the Fire Lotus Sword and it's retaliating?" But Li Xiu quickly dismissed this thought.

Because he remembered the last sounds he heard, mentioning his Life Pact with the Fire Lotus Sword failing, followed by transformation and parasite, Li Xiu didn't hear clearly and was then transported out.

"Li Xiu, what's that on your waist? Why is there an additional belt?" Shale noticed the anomaly on Li Xiu.

"Li Xiu, did you also receive the pact and become a Trial Taker? That's fantastic; next we can both use the pact and carve a bloody path out, helping Pa Shan and Shale escape..." Kun Sha, overly excited, then noticed the light red belt on Li Xiu's waist.

"Mine isn't really a pact... I haven't become a Trial Taker either..." Li Xiu said, almost tearing up.

This thing weighs him down; forget fighting to escape, he's struggling just to move, forced to shuffle along slowly, it's unbearably heavy.

Li Xiu seriously doubted that if he could lift a leg, relying solely on one leg, it might snap.

"Didn't know Trial Takers have this quirk, I'll get one for fun later." Shale's eyes couldn't hide his envy.

"There's not much time, quickly choose your reward, with the S-level talent and skills, we can be helpful. Let future matters be dealt with later," Pa Shan said nearby.

Shale heard and agreed, promptly selecting his reward.

Li Xiu strongly suspected that the Blood Boiling Skill was rather common; both Shale and Pa Shan obtained this skill.

Now all four of them had an S-level Blood Boiling Skill.

The talents obtained varied slightly as the Talent Gemstones differed; naturally, Li Xiu didn't feel comfortable asking what their talents were.

After choosing their rewards, the four were transported outside together.

The sight that greeted them left Li Xiu and the others quite stunned, expecting to face a group of soldiers with assault rifles, or perhaps a row of Magic Armor Masters waiting.

Unexpectedly, before them were not dark gun barrels nor Iron-Man-like Magic Armor Masters.

Instead, there were cameras, camcorders, even people holding smartphones filming them.

Snap! Snap!

The flashlights flickered continuously, almost blinding them.

"Teacher Kun Sha, please share your thoughts, what's the feel of attempting S-level trials a second time?"

"Teacher Kun Sha, being a noble Magic Armor Master, what drove you to risk participating in the trial? What experiences prompted you to make such a decision?"

Reporters rushed to question Kun Sha, some even wanting to interview Li Xiu, Shale, and Pa Shan.

Soldiers standing guard beside, finally reacted, aiming their guns at Li Xiu and the media staff.

They never imagined Kun Sha would be the one to emerge.

Zheng De and the Guyue City Lord had long departed, leaving behind confidants with soldiers guarding here.

They invited this media, intending to show Tyrone City's residents their bets lost; Kun Sha lost, he wouldn't emerge.

Those informed believed Kun Sha couldn't come out alive, though reality proved magical, Kun Sha emerged alive, and Li Xiu, Pa Shan, and Shale weren't dead.

Those expected to die remained, those expected to live perished; it left everyone stunned momentarily.

Once they grasped the situation, calling Zheng De, Zheng De responded with one line: "Kill them all, leave no survivors."

Li Xiu saw the soldiers pointing their gun barrels at this side and knew something was wrong. Yet the media were still desperately pushing forward for interviews, so dedicated to the point of disregarding their lives, not even checking what's happening behind.

Li Xiu opened the Blood Boiling Skill without hesitation, then rolled on the ground, lying flat as he rolled to the side.

He wished he didn't have to be so embarrassed, but even with the Blood Boiling Skill, he couldn't speed up while carrying the Fire Lotus Sword.

The media were perplexed by what madness Li Xiu was displaying, then they heard the rattling sound behind them.

And then came the sound of bullets penetrating flesh and bone, mingled with the sounds of blood splattering and screams.

The area in front of the Trial Gate instantly turned into an Asura slaughterhouse, with Shale and Pa Shan already charging towards the nearby cover.

Kun Sha grabbed the Flaming Great Hammer slung across his back and flung it forcefully at the firing soldiers.

Bang!

Four or five soldiers were swept by the great hammer. Those hit by the hammer's handle had their bones shattered, and those struck directly by the hammer's head crashed into the wall, their chests collapsing, spewing blood from their mouths.

Taking advantage of the chaos, Kun Sha quickly rushed into the soldiers, grabbed the flaming hammer, and swung it wildly.

The flame patterns on the hammer lit up, glowing like scorching molten lava.

In such close proximity, Kun Sha was unstoppable; anyone in his path was smashed and sent flying backward, rows of soldiers falling away.

On the other side, the soldiers turned their guns towards Kun Sha, but before they could target him, Shale and Pa Shan had already stealthily approached them from behind.

Shale's lips curved into a wicked grin as his hand blade sliced through the neck of the soldier in front.

Pa Shan grabbed a soldier's head from behind and fiercely slammed it down, causing both soldiers' heads to explode like eggs.

Li Xiu hid behind a pile of sandbags to avoid stray bullets; he's not invincible, and since he can't move quickly now, he'd be in trouble if accidentally hit by bullets.

More soldiers continued to rush in from outside, wielding assault rifles and opening fire indiscriminately at those inside, killing at sight, clearly intending to leave no survivors.

Li Xiu saw a reporter with a photographer hiding behind the treads of a parked tank not far away, and the photographer was still secretly filming, risking his life for the news.

Suddenly, a few soldiers spotted Li Xiu and charged towards him with guns drawn, continuously firing, causing sand to spew from the sandbags.

Li Xiu knew this couldn't go on, he had to get rid of the Fire Lotus Sword on him, or he was surely doomed.

He pressed his palm against the sword hilt like a belt buckle, trying to pull the Fire Lotus Sword off his waist.

This maneuver stunned the photographer and female reporter who were secretly filming; the enemy was almost upon him, yet this guy was trying to remove his belt, they couldn't comprehend his actions.

"Is he trying to seduce them for survival? There aren't any women among the soldiers!" The female reporter thought to herself sarcastically.

Seeing the soldiers about to charge under the cover of suppressive fire, Li Xiu yanked desperately, yet couldn't pull the Fire Lotus Sword out.

"I'm doomed!" Li Xiu thought as two soldiers charged from the side, aiming their automatic rifles at him with a series of gunshots.

He had already used Blood Boiling and Super Exciting, still couldn't draw the sword, and couldn't even run, much less dodge the bullets.

Ding!

At this moment, Li Xiu suddenly felt his hand lighten, as the Fire Lotus Sword he had been unable to draw was finally pulled out.

The blade sprang from his waist, stood upright, and flew out of his hand.

The Fire Lotus pattern on the sword flashed red light, as its thin blade swiftly flickered before Li Xiu, like rays of red light crisscrossing.

The constant clinking and clattering sounded unending, as the bullets fired towards Li Xiu were sliced open by the Fire Lotus Sword, leaving fractured bullet heads scattered all over the ground.

The soldiers were all stunned, having no idea what kind of weapon this was.

While they were still shocked, the Fire Lotus Sword glided past like a stream of light, and each soldier only saw a flash of red light.

Thud! Thud!

When the soldiers lowered their heads to look, their upper bodies slid forward, while their lower bodies remained standing. When their upper bodies hit the ground, their lower bodies finally fell.

"So powerful?" Li Xiu was astonished and delighted, ready to join the battle on the other side, but the Fire Lotus Sword had already transformed into a red stream of light and returned, wrapping around his waist in an instant.

Li Xiu felt his body sink, unable to move again.

This maneuver seemed slow when described, but it all happened in mere seconds, from pulling out the Fire Lotus Sword to it returning to his waist, it was almost seamless.

These scenes fell into the eyes of the cameraman and the female reporter, as if Li Xiu was orchestrating everything, so much so that it could be described as impressive.

"Could Sword Immortals really exist in this world?" The female reporter looked at Li Xiu standing there, her eyes almost turning into glowing heart-shaped lights.

Fortunately, the battle on the other side was nearing its end, and Kun Sha was like a God of Slaughter, hammering the soldiers into cries of agony, making those who perished or fled.

The tank that just started was smashed by Kun Sha's hammer, and after a few more hits, it was completely ruined.

Witnessing this, the soldiers fled even faster, tossing their guns away, wishing their parents had given birth to more legs.

Zheng De thought Kun Sha was dead for sure, especially since they planned to rob several prominent families in Tyrone City, leaving no Magic Armor Masters here.

"Is everyone okay?" Seeing the soldiers had already fled far away, Kun Sha called to Li Xiu and the others.

Shale was unharmed, Pa Shan took a bullet in his arm but simply dug the lodged bullet out of his bone with his fingers, tossing it on the ground with a shake of his head saying it was nothing.

Many media personnel had died. The few survivors were shaken, but their gazes at Kun Sha were filled with frenzy and admiration.

Kun Sha's performance just now was indeed like a war deity.

"You two, stop." The female reporter and cameraman were preparing to leave but were halted by Li Xiu.

"Hello, what can I do for you?" The female reporter smiled sweetly, turning to look at Li Xiu.

"Give me what you just filmed." Li Xiu extended his hand.

"If you want to see it, you can watch tomorrow's Tyrone News..." The female reporter didn't finish her sentence and fell silent.

Li Xiu's hand was already on his waist, gazing coldly at the female reporter.

Without waiting for the female reporter to speak further, the cameraman smartly removed the memory card from the camera and handed it to Li Xiu.

"If I find out you have backups, or see any reports about me, you know the consequences." Li Xiu said, crushing the memory card into fragments with his fingertips.

Chapter 65: The Mad Zheng De

This day is destined to leave a significant mark on the history of Tyrone City.

The prominent families that held a grip on the gemstone veins or managed the gemstone trade in Tyrone City were destroyed overnight, and a large quantity of gemstones was transported to the City Lord's Mansion.

Zheng De looked at the boxes full of gemstones and excitedly downed the wine in his goblet.

"These old fools always trying to hoard Tyrone City's gemstones, they all deserve death." Zheng De grabbed a handful of gemstones, letting them slip through his fingers, his expression frenzied and twisted.

"Congratulations, my lord, from now on, Tyrone City belongs to you alone." Sha Chu said with a smile beside him.

"You also contributed a lot, and as I promised, those few ruby veins will belong to your family from now on." Zheng De said, filled with confidence and satisfaction.

"My lord, it was my duty." Sha Chu smiled.

"You're wise, unlike those old fools who sought their own demise. The future of Tyrone City depends on talents like you to develop it well." Zheng De said, squinting as he stared at Sha Chu's ample bosom.

"I hope to have the opportunity to reminisce with you, City Lord, in the future."
Sha Chu lowered her head with a faint smile.

"There's always an opportunity. As long as I'm here, the City Lord's Mansion is your home." Zheng De laughed heartily.

"My lord, Kun Sha is here." A Magic Armor Master reported to Zheng De.

"As expected of Kun Sha, still able to return. Where is he now?" Zheng De said calmly.

"At the main gate, he asked for you to meet him outside." The Magic Armor Master said.

"Very well, there should be an end to this." Zheng De stood up and said, "Go invite Qin Shi over, have her accompany me to meet Kun Sha."

On the street outside the main gate of the City Lord's Mansion, Kun Sha stood with a flame hammer on his back and a Magic Armor Box in his hand, staring coldly at the gate.

On the roof of a distant dilapidated building, Li Xiu, Pa Shan, and Shale were watching the situation on the side of the City Lord's Mansion from afar.

"Kun Sha will be alright on his own, right?" Pa Shan frowned, a little worried.

"Whether he is or isn't doesn't concern us. Can you handle those Magic Armor Masters?" Shale said with a curl of his lips: "It's a battle between Magic Armor Masters, even if we go, it would be in vain."

Pa Shan was silent; a Trial Taker was too fragile in front of a Magic Armor Master.

"Li Xiu, what are you doing over there?" Shale saw Li Xiu fiddling with his phone and asked curiously.

"Contacting a friend to send me something." Li Xiu got in touch with A Fei, and thankfully A Fei was fine, so he asked A Fei to bring over his set of E-Class Magic Armor.

The Fire Lotus Sword on him made it difficult for him to even stand, let alone fight.

Moreover, the Fire Lotus Sword was erratic and not under Li Xiu's control.

In this battle of Kun Sha, if possible, Li Xiu hoped to help Kun Sha win.

If Kun Sha died, Zheng De would certainly eliminate all those related to Kun Sha, leaving them no chance of acquiring high-level Magic Armor and forcing them to flee by night.

But if Zheng De could be killed instead, they could pick any Magic Armor from the City Lord's Mansion.

Furthermore, Zheng De nearly killed Li Xiu; this debt had to be settled. Li Xiu was not one to easily forgive; grudges must be avenged.

While they were talking, a figure carrying a case walked up to the rooftop—it was A Fei, bringing the Magic Armor Box.

"Magic Armor, is this what you wanted? Are you telling us you're also a Magic Armor Master?" Shale asked wide-eyed, seeing A Fei place the Magic Armor Box before Li Xiu.

"That's exactly what I'm saying." Li Xiu smiled.

"Come on, are all Magic Armor Masters so reckless now? Dodging the comforts of being a Magic Armor Master to risk your life at the Trial Ground, are you just bored out of your mind?" Shale couldn't understand why Magic Armor Masters like Li Xiu and Kun Sha would venture into the Trial Ground.

"You're right, since I'm idle anyway, might as well have some fun." Li Xiu laughed.

This left Shale speechless; the things he risked his life for, Li Xiu just treated like casual fun.

Opening his mouth to retort, he recalled Li Xiu's performance in the trials—a casual activity, indeed.

Not only did he participate casually, but he was exceptionally good at it. Without Li Xiu, they would have died in the Trial Ground.

"What level is your Magic Armor?" Shale shifted the topic.

"E-Class." Li Xiu answered honestly.

Shale immediately sneered, "An E-Class Magic Armor Master? You better stay put. Kun Sha is an S-Class Magic Armor Master. Zheng De has at least twenty or thirty E and D-Class Magic Armor Masters, along with several B and A-Class ones. There's even an S-Class Magic Armor Master, Phoenix. You're walking into death."

"High-level Magic Armor Masters don't mean everything; perhaps cannon fodder has its uses." Li Xiu wasn't concerned, laughing as he spoke.

"What use could there be? Can this broken E-Class of yours even topple an S-Class?" Shale curled his lips.

"You never know," Li Xiu said absentmindedly as he observed the situation at the City Lord's Mansion.

"If you manage to use that broken thing to take down an S-Class Magic Armor Master, I'll call you daddy. Enough with the nonsense, let's plan for if Kun Sha dies, how we'll escape. I think we should leave Tyrone City immediately..." Shale rambled on and on.

The gate of the City Lord's Mansion opened, and Zheng De, surrounded by about a dozen Magic Armor Masters, along with Qin Shi in Phoenix Magic Armor, came out.

"Kun Sha, you dare to come?" Zheng De said recklessly.

"Why wouldn't I dare? I, Kun Sha, have always been forthright and honest. I can go wherever I please." Kun Sha coldly looked at Zheng De, "I recall you once told me you'd lead Tyrone City to glory, so that all people could live good lives—otherwise, you said you'd give your head to me as a chamber pot. Now's the time to fulfill that promise."

"Kun Sha, how do you know I can't lead Tyrone City to glory? Under my leadership, Tyrone City will grow stronger. No need for grandstanding; you just want to kill me and take my place, so why waste words?" Zheng De sneered, "Everything you have now, didn't I give it to you? Do you really think you're something great? Without me, you'd still be a nobody, unable to even touch an E-Class Magic Armor, let alone an S-Class. The one betraying is you."

Zheng De was skilled at inverting black and white.

"Betraying brothers, harming kin, plundering others' wealth—is this how you lead Tyrone City to glory?" Kun Sha's eyes flashed with disappointment; he didn't know when Zheng De became like this.

"Didn't this so-called brother want to kill me and seize power too? What kinsmen, those old fools wouldn't let go of the gemstone veins. How could I develop Tyrone City? How could I let my people live well? This is for Tyrone City's benefit; those gemstone veins must be reclaimed as public property of the City Lord's Mansion, the common wealth of Tyrone City's people." Zheng De shamelessly declared with righteousness.

"What about your debt to the Eternal Heaven?" Kun Sha asked calmly.

"What Eternal Heaven? Stop spreading false rumors." A trace of panic flashed in Zheng De's eyes as he waved his hand: "Phoenix, take down this ungrateful wretch for me, and I'll give you triple the rubies."

"Triple, is it?" Qin Shi looked up at Kun Sha, stepping forward slowly.

Chapter 66: After Modification - 66 Are You a Magic Armor Master?

Qin Shi didn't want to know what exactly was the grudge between Kun Sha and Zheng De or who was right or wrong.

To her, none of this mattered; she was just here to earn gemstones. As long as she got enough gemstones, that was enough.

After all, regardless of who came to power, it was the ordinary people who would suffer in the end.

No one knew better than Qin Shi about the nature of the Southern Cross Alliance; the more gemstone veins a place had, the more severe the exploitation of the lower classes.

"Phoenix, I've long heard of your name. Why would a Magic Armor Master like you help someone like Zheng De?" Kun Sha frowned as he looked at Qin Shi.

"I came only for the gemstones. Zheng De gave me enough rubies, so naturally, I'd work for him." The Phoenix Magic Armor on Qin Shi lit up.

Kun Sha knew that saying anything more was unnecessary. He pressed the start button on the Magic Armor Box, which disassembled into pieces of armor, wrapping around Kun Sha's body.

The red-colored magic armor was somewhat similar to Qin Shi's Phoenix Magic Armor, but there were still differences in style.

"It's not convenient to fight here. Follow me." Light patterns appeared on Kun Sha's armor, and the flashing demonic light lifted his body toward the sky.

Qin Shi said nothing, breaking through the air to chase after him.

Before long, blinding red light and rings of light explosion from explosions were seen erupting in the sky.

The battle between S-Class Magic Armor Masters could almost destroy everything. If they fought in the city, the entire city could be destroyed.

The clouds in the sky were torn apart by their battle, and red demonic light shone like red lightning within the clouds.

Even though they were at such a high altitude, the ground could still feel gusts of wild wind sweeping down from the sky, causing thinner trees to sway and topple.

Roofs made of iron sheets were also torn and lifted as if a storm was sweeping through the city.

"Looks like it's my turn to step in." Li Xiu grabbed the Magic Armor Box, which immediately dispersed into pieces of armor encasing his body.

With the power of magic armor, Li Xiu didn't need to exert himself, and the Fire Lotus Sword on him didn't have much of an impact either.

"Are you crazy? You really want to go? There are more than a dozen Magic Armor Masters over there, several being A-Class and B-Class. With that junk of yours, aren't you going to your death?" Shale doubted if Li Xiu's mind was intact.

He admitted that Li Xiu was very powerful, but the gap in levels between Magic Armor Masters was much bigger than that of Trial Takers. Even an outsider like him knew that low-level Magic Armor Masters couldn't break through the armor of high-level ones. How was this going to be a fight?

"How will I know it's impossible if I don't try?" Li Xiu said as he activated the armor and jumped down from the rooftop, then sprinted towards the City Lord's Mansion gate.

"A Magic Armor Master is approaching." The A-Class Magic Armor Master Lei Zan, who was always by Zheng De's side, noticed the sprinting Li Xiu.

"Another Magic Armor Master?" Zheng De frowned slightly, and the Magic Armor Masters beside him became alert.

But when they clearly saw the approaching Magic Armor Master, they all relaxed.

Most of the Magic Armor Masters recognized the armor—a worn-out Iron Armor Magic Armor, an outdated E-Class low-end product.

Its energy limit was very low, with only two attack methods: the Demon Light Ball and Demon Light Blade. Even the E-Class Magic Armor Masters under Zheng De didn't use this old thing anymore.

"Who are you?" Seeing such a Magic Armor Master, Zheng De didn't take it seriously and asked with confidence.

"The City Lord is so eager to see me dead, yet doesn't even know who I am?" Li Xiu said indifferently, not stopping his sprint.

"Li Xiu, so it's you. You actually didn't die and became a Magic Armor Master. Truly surprising." Zheng De slightly gestured, and immediately two E-Class Magic Armor Masters rushed forward.

With Li Xiu's worn-out armor, Zheng De felt that sending two E-Class Magic Armor Masters was like using a butcher's knife to kill a chicken.

Although they were both E-Class armor, the ones used by his subordinates were new models. In terms of both defense and energy limit, they were much stronger than Li Xiu's Iron Armor Magic Armor.

Their demonic light attack methods were also more varied. These were good things he had acquired from Space City before he incurred enormous debt with the Eternal Heaven.

Two E-Class Magic Armor Masters approached from left and right towards Li Xiu, simultaneously raising their hands and firing four demonic lights at him.

The new E-Class Magic Armor condensed demonic light much faster than the Iron Armor Magic Armor.

While Li Xiu moved swiftly, he threw a Demon Light Ball from each of his palms.

The power of the Demon Light Ball was less than the demonic light beams they used and slower. The two Demon Light Balls flew toward the two E-Class Magic Armor Masters.

The two Magic Armor Masters were disdainful, each raising a palm and shooting demonic light at the Demon Light Balls, intending to explode them in mid-air.

But just as their demonic light was about to hit the Demon Light Balls, the Demon Light Balls suddenly plummeted, striking the ground in front of them.

Boom! Boom!

The Demon Light Balls gouged two large pits into the ground, earth and stones flew, kicking up blinding clouds of dust.

The two Magic Armor Masters' vision was obscured by the dust, and before they could see what happened, two Demon Light Balls had already hit them.

"How could it be possible to condense Demon Light Balls so quickly again!" This was the only thought that flashed through their minds before the Demon Light Balls exploded on their faces.

Boom! Boom!

Their masks shattered, and they fell to the ground, howling in pain, clutching their faces.

Li Xiu didn't spare them a glance, continuing to rush towards the gate of the City Lord's Mansion without a pause.

"That person is a bit strange, his speed in condensing demonic light is abnormal." Lei Zan said to Zheng De.

"What does it matter if his speed is faster, he's still an E-Class Magic Armor Master. If the same level cannot take him down, then send in higher levels." Zheng De glanced casually at the Magic Armor Masters in front, and a C-Class Magic Armor Master immediately stepped forward, his armor flickering with blue light, heading straight for Li Xiu.

Li Xiu gave the C-Class Magic Armor Master no chance to act, as soon as he saw him approaching, he flung out Demon Light Balls with both hands.

One after another, Demon Light Balls were thrown by Li Xiu in quick succession, flying in arcs like light bulbs toward the C-Class Magic Armor Master.

The C-Class Magic Armor Master sneered and rushed forward, not dodging at all. The defensive strength of the C-Class Magic Armor feared not Demon Light Balls of that level; E-Class Magic Armor's demonic light balls could not harm him.

Just as he was about to break them with sheer force, he was surprised to find that all the Demon Light Balls flew in arcs, not toward his body, but in front of him.

Li Xiu quickly launched over a dozen Demon Light Balls, and regardless of whether they were thrown earlier or later, they all converged at the same spot simultaneously.

Boom!

A dozen Demon Light Balls collided and exploded in front of the C-Class Magic Armor Master.

The terrifying energy blasted a large pit on the nearby concrete ground, and the C-Class Magic Armor Master was blown back, discovering as he fell that the chest plate of his armor had a large piece blown away, and blood was seeping out.

"Kill him!" Zheng De also noticed something was off and waved his hand, ordering all the Magic Armor Masters except Lei Zan to rush forward.

Chapter 67: An Unusual Magic Armor Master

Watching a dozen Magic Armor Masters wearing E-class, D-class, C-class, B-class, and even A-class Magic Armor charge up, Li Xiu took a deep breath. The energy of the Magic Armor was driven to its extreme, directly crashing through the wall behind and rushing into the building.

This building was right across from the City Lord's Mansion, separated by only one street, a three-story mall-like structure.

Zheng De originally planned to make this the largest gemstone trading market in the Southern Cross Federation, but due to excessive plundering later on, small businesses couldn't bear it and moved out. The foot traffic decreased, and large businesses left one by one. Two years ago, it became vacant.

A dozen Magic Armor Masters followed, crashing through the wall and charging in, seeing Li Xiu on the elevator leading to the second floor.

A few Magic Armor Masters immediately gathered Demonic Light and blasted it over. The elevator and the floating platform on the second floor exploded into pieces, and fragments of cement and steel flew everywhere.

Li Xiu weaved left and right amid the dense Demonic Light, dancing like a butterfly, avoiding every hit. He flipped onto the second floor, tossed two Demon Light Balls backward without looking back, and rushed into a shop on the second floor.

The two Demon Light Balls flew fiercely towards the two E-class Magic Armor Masters, who had learned from past experiences and didn't dare to destroy the Demon Light Balls with Demonic Light, choosing to dodge to the sides instead.

However, the two Demon Light Balls seemed to have eyes, suddenly making a sharp turn and hitting them precisely.

Bang! Bang!

After two explosions, the two E-class Magic Armor Masters were blasted to the ground, with cracks appearing on their Magic Armor. Although not fatal, the damage affected their Magic Armor. When they tried to gather Demonic Light for a counterattack, they found that it wouldn't condense.

Their Magic Armor mostly came from Space City, and Li Xiu was very familiar with Space City's Magic Armor. He knew all the design flaws and issues of each model, achieving maximum results at minimal cost.

The leading Magic Armor Master commanded everyone to surround and corner Li Xiu from different directions; a mass of Magic Armor Masters stormed up to the second floor.

"Can that guy do it?" Shale paced back and forth, irritated, as he looked at the building continually erupting with explosion sounds in the distance.

He was deeply impressed by Li Xiu's abilities shown at the Trial Ground, but the realm of Magic Armor Masters was something he didn't understand. He only knew that Li Xiu's Magic Armor level was really low.

"For someone like him, do you think he would do something he's not confident in?" Pa Shan said, his gaze intensely focused on the building that kept exploding: "Although I also think that it seems impossible, think about it, ever since we started working with him, has anything he's done seemed achievable to us? He's the kind of person who turns the impossible into possible."

Shale was slightly taken aback, "Makes sense as well. Truly an enviable guy; we're both human, yet I don't know what he eats to achieve those unimaginable feats."

"No matter what, we can only trust them now." Pa Shan said firmly, "Being a bystander like this feels terrible; in this life, becoming a Magic Armor Master seems out of the question, but there's still a chance to become a true Trial Taker. That will be my goal from now on."

"Heh heh, that's not easy. Didn't you hear what Kun Sha said? Even with his skills, he only barely became a true Trial Taker." Shale said.

"So what if it's hard? Even if I have to stake my life, I will become a true Trial Taker." Pa Shan declared resolutely.

"Since you're saying it like that, how can I let someone like you outdo me? I'll definitely become a true Trial Taker before you." Shale said, pursing his lips.

Boom! Boom!

The abandoned mall's exterior walls kept getting blown open, revealing intermittent flashes of Demonic Light inside. However, the sounds never ceased.

Zheng De's face grew increasingly unsightly. The continuing sounds meant the battle hadn't ended. So many Magic Armor Masters targeting one wearing E-class Magic Armor; this much time had passed, and they still hadn't taken him down, making him more and more irritable.

"A bunch of worthless fools, so many people and so long, and they can't even take down one E-class Magic Armor Master."

"That Magic Armor Master is not an ordinary E-class Magic Armor Master. His abilities must far exceed the level of E-class. He could very well be an A-class or even an S-class Magic Armor Master." Lei Zan analyzed coolly, "To control such an outdated E-class Magic Armor and instantaneously cast Demon Light Balls, and to control the Demon Light Balls to such a degree, this isn't something an E-class Magic Armor Master's Spiritual Sense can achieve."

"So what if he's a high-level Magic Armor Master? Even if he's truly an S-class Magic Armor Master, wearing E-class Magic Armor only makes him an E-class Magic Armor Master. I refuse to believe that the Demonic Light of E-class Magic Armor can harm B-class and A-class Magic Armor Masters." Zheng De said coldly.

"Theoretically, it shouldn't be possible." Lei Zan thought the same, yet couldn't shake a feeling of unease.

That's what they believed, and Anijia in there with A-class Magic Armor believed it too. How could E-class Magic Armor damage A-class Magic Armor? That seemed impossible.

Even if controlling over a dozen Demon Light Balls to collide could create massive explosive energy, at most, it could damage C-class Magic Armor, while B-class and A-class Magic Armor could ignore such explosive energy.

Anijia hunted Li Xiu recklessly, yet Li Xiu moved like a ghost within the building, elusive, leading the group of Magic Light Masters around in circles through the shops and floors.

Several times they almost caught up with him, but the Demonic Light they fired was always dodged by him.

Finally, Anijia blocked Li Xiu at the bridge on the third floor, and there was nowhere to go at the end of the bridge.

"Run, try running again!" Anijia raised his arm, aiming at Li Xiu.

"If I were you, I wouldn't attack now." Li Xiu said calmly, standing there.

"Too bad you're not me, so you're dead." Anijia immediately launched the strongest attack mode of his Magic Armor, a barrage of Demonic Light akin to Gatling gunfire fiercely bombarding Li Xiu.

However, the trajectory of those Demonic Lights deviated, all shooting over Li Xiu's head, veering increasingly off course, finally hitting the ceiling.

A large hole broke open beneath Anijia's feet on the bridge, and he fell through it.

When Li Xiu charged across, he had used Demonic Light to disrupt the bridge's structure. The powerful Demonic Light attack mode Anijia used generated a strong recoil, making him instinctively exert force with his legs. The stress on the compromised structure of the bridge finally caused it to collapse, splitting open a large hole.

Anijia's Magic Armor didn't have flight capability, and as he fell, he flailed his arms instinctively, grasping at the air, but catching nothing.

Suddenly, Li Xiu's figure descended from above, leaping down through that big hole like a meteor, crashing toward the airborne Anijia.

Boom!

Li Xiu's knee slammed into Anijia's chest, and the two of them fell from the third floor directly to the first-floor hall, creating a large crater on the floor, with the surrounding tiles cracking like a spider web.

Anijia lay in the pit, looking at Li Xiu on top of him. Suddenly, he grabbed Li Xiu's arm and laughed wildly, "It's useless. An E-grade Demon Armor can't harm me. In the face of absolute power, all tricks are futile. You're doomed."

"Is that so?" Li Xiu allowed Anijia to grab his arm but did not resist.

Anijia held onto Li Xiu's arm, and the other Magic Armor Masters, hearing the noise, rushed over to see what had happened.

Anijia was about to get up but suddenly felt as if his armor was not responding, no matter how he tried, he couldn't stand up.

"Do you really understand this set of A-grade Destructive Magic Armor on you?" Li Xiu slowly got up, lifting slowly with Anijia's waist under his knee.

The Demon Armor at his knee was already shattered, yet the armor on Anijia's waist was still intact. However, there was a slight misalignment at a connection of the Demon Armor Shell on his waist.

"You... what did you do..." Anijia struggled a few times, finding his lower body's magic armor completely unresponsive, as if paralyzed.

"Nothing, just wanted to change my armor," Li Xiu said casually as his Demon Armor disassembled itself, his other hand darting like lightning into the gap of the misaligned Destructive Armor.

"Attack immediately, kill him!" Anijia felt his armor shaking uncontrollably and starting to disassemble and peel off from his body, and he couldn't help but scream.

The Magic Armor Masters rushing from the third, second, and first floors heard Anijia's cry, and hastily targeted Li Xiu, who had already discarded his armor, and fired beams of Demonic Light.

Faced with the surging Demonic Light from all directions, Li Xiu did not dodge. His hand, thrust into the gap of the Destructive Armor, applied force, and the

Destructive Armor instantly shattered into pieces, with armor shells leaving Anijia quickly and flying toward Li Xiu. In the blink of an eye, they enveloped him completely.

Watching the Demonic Light beams shooting from all directions, Li Xiu raised his hands, and beams of Demonic Light burst out from his palms, sweeping through them like bullets from a Gatling gun.

Bang! Bang! Bang! Bang!

Zheng De and Lei Zan watched the already riddled building, listening to the insane roar, followed by continuous collapses, and then all the noise suddenly stopped.

A deathly silence.

Zheng De swallowed nervously, and suddenly, he saw a figure emerge from the ruinous building.

"It's the Destroyer." Zheng De clearly saw the armor and was overjoyed, thinking Li Xiu had been killed by the Destroyer. He was about to move forward but was suddenly pulled back by Lei Zan.

"No, that's not the original Magic Armour Master controlling the Destroyer." Lei Zan noticed something was wrong. Although Magic Armor Masters generally use code names and don't show their true faces, Lei Zan had never seen Anijia's true face. However, he noticed that the person now controlling the Destroyer had different movements from Anijia.

This relates to the habits and control methods unique to each Magic Armor Master, not easily changed.

So, Lei Zan was sure that the person inside the Destroyer Magic Armor now definitely wasn't its original master.

"Sorry to disappoint you." Li Xiu walked toward Zheng De, speaking softly.

"How is this possible..." Zheng De was shocked.

He couldn't comprehend how someone wearing an old-style E-grade Demon Armor could kill more than a dozen Magic Armor Masters more advanced than him and even snatch the A-grade armor from Anijia.

He never imagined such a thing happening; he involuntarily took step after step backward, wanting to escape.

"My God! Is he even human?" Shale gaped, staring at Li Xiu, who had donned the Destroyer Magic Armor, taking a long time to recover.

Li Xiu raised his arm, and Zheng De was so scared that he turned and fled toward the City Lord's Mansion, yelling, "Lei Zan, stop him."

"Are you still willing to fight for someone like him?" Li Xiu looked at Lei Zan, who stood in front of Zheng De, not firing immediately.

"The world can blame him, but I cannot. He saved my life, and now it's time to return the favor." Lei Zan knew he was no match for Li Xiu. If he were Li Xiu, he wouldn't be able to accomplish what Li Xiu just did.

Now, Lei Zan was already certain; Li Xiu was an S-grade Magic Armor Master and not just any S-grade, possibly one of the famed Magic Armor Masters on the rankings.

Li Xiu said no more, as the black Light Pattern on his armor lit up, propelling his body like a beast emitting a black glow, charging toward Lei Zan, who blocked him.

Lei Zan's armor also burst with red Light Patterns, and red Demon Light Blades emerged from his hands, crossing and slashing at the oncoming Li Xiu.

As their bodies passed each other, Lei Zan stood still as if frozen, back to Li Xiu.

"Who exactly are you?" Lei Zan struggled to speak.

Without a response, Li Xiu continued toward the stumbling Zheng De.

The magic armor on Lei Zan's chest shattered; he fell to the ground and struggled to get up but couldn't.

"Save me... Lei Zan... Qin Shi..." Zheng De cried out in terror, drawing a pistol and frantically shooting at Li Xiu. In his panic, he didn't even call her code name, just her name.

Most bullets missed and hit the ground in his panic, and those hitting Li Xiu were deflected by the armor, not hurting him at all.

Zheng De had no Magic Armor Master's talent and didn't dare risk his life to become a Trial Taker. He was just an ordinary person.

"Don't kill me. Whatever you want, I can give you. Gemstones, you want gemstones, right? I have many gemstones. I can give you as many as you want..." Zheng De pleaded while retreating.

"Of course, I want gemstones. I want your life all the same. A life owed must be repaid... you... deserve to die..." Li Xiu said coldly.

"No..." Zheng De wanted to say more but suddenly heard a loud crash.

A red light fell, crashing into a small building inside the City Lord's Mansion, collapsing it directly. Another red figure landed in front of Zheng De, surprisingly Qin Shi, wearing the Phoenix Magic Armor.

In the collapsed building, Kun Sha, with broken armor, crawled out with difficulty. His armor was cracked in many places, seemingly having lost the capacity to continue fighting.

"Haha, dream on if you think you can kill me. Today, you all must die. Qin Shi, kill them all. I'll give you tenfold the ruby... no... a hundredfold..." Zheng De shouted maniacally.

Qin Shi didn't move; she just observed Li Xiu in front of her.

"Was that set of Iron Armor Magic Armor yours?" Qin Shi suddenly asked, even amid battle, she paid attention to the situation below.

Not that she particularly cared about Zheng De, but she feared she wouldn't receive her share of rubies if Zheng De died.

"Yes," Li Xiu replied.

"Have you seen that giant demon spirit?" Qin Shi asked again.

"Yes, and I threw a few Demon Light Balls," Li Xiu answered casually.

Qin Shi nodded, then slowly stepped aside, and snickered at Zheng De, "City Lord, I'm terribly sorry, but I won't take this deal."

"Not taking it!" Zheng De was stunned, never expecting Qin Shi to refuse him at this moment.

"Not enough gemstones? No worries, I can give you more rubies—however many you want. I can even give you the mining rights to those Ruby Ore Veins..." Zheng De believed Qin Shi was just bargaining hard for more benefits and made crazy promises.

"I want to earn that money, but unfortunately, I'm not his match," Qin Shi said with a smile.

"Not his match!" These four words not only shocked Zheng De but also the heavily injured Kun Sha.

Shale, Pa Shan, and Afei, who hurried over, also wore peculiar expressions.

The renowned Phoenix, who just defeated Tyrone City's top Magic Armor Master Kun Sha, didn't even try and admitted she wasn't Li Xiu's match.

Zheng De instantly fell from heaven to hell and turned to flee desperately.

Bang!

Li Xiu directly fired a Demon Light Ball, blowing Zheng De's body to pieces.

"Thanks." After taking out Zheng De, Li Xiu turned to thank Qin Shi.

"No need to thank me, we're even." Qin Shi meant that since Li Xiu had saved her before, letting him go now made them square.

Qin Shi didn't truly believe she couldn't beat Li Xiu; she merely returned the favor of saving her life.

Li Xiu didn't mind, turning to check Kun Sha's injuries.

Fortunately, his injuries weren't very serious, not hitting any vital spots, but his S-Class Magic Armor was destroyed. Repairing damage of this extent would be difficult.

Shale walked over, said nothing, and gave Li Xiu a thumbs-up.

A savage and arrogant man like him was now speechless at Li Xiu; whatever Li Xiu played, he seemed unbeatable, leaving Shale without temper.

"Enough chatter; let's divide the gemstones Zheng De plundered. Except for the rubies, the rest are all yours," Qin Shi said, walking towards Zheng De's gemstone vault.

Li Xiu and his companions followed him, but before they could enter the vault, they saw the vault ahead tear open, and a terrifying head emerged from below.

The head looked like a snake and a lizard, yet it gleamed with a metallic luster, as if forged from polished steel—it appeared incredibly strange, that one head being as large as a room.

Next, another head stretched out, the ground tearing as a giant body emerged.

"Demon spirit!" Everyone backed away in shock.

Li Xiu squinted and stared at the demon spirit resembling a double-headed steel dragon, seeing a graceful silhouette standing on its back, surrounded by several boxes.

The figure wore a red fitted dress, revealing snow-white, long, smooth legs, a belt tied at her waist, with a sheathed Tang Blade strapped to her back, appearing both alluring and extremely dangerous.

"Sha Chu?" Kun Sha, spotting the silhouette on the demon spirit's back, shouted incredulously.

"Li Xiu, is it? I remember you—hope you're still alive when we meet again," Sha Chu smiled faintly, and the twin-headed demon spirit spread its wings, soaring into the sky.

"Leave me the gemstones!" Qin Shi fired a Demon Light Cannon at Sha Chu on the demon spirit's back.

The thick beam of light slammed onto Sha Chu's rear.

Without turning back, Sha Chu suddenly drew the Tang Blade, slicing the terrifying light into two with a backward slash.

Twisting the blade in a flowery spin, sheathed it, leaving everyone in awe. The twin-headed demon spirit ascended to the clouds, vanishing in an instant.

"It's her; it really is her. The person I met back then was her, but she wore black attire and a mask, so I didn't recognize her..." Kun Sha muttered incoherently.

Others couldn't understand what Kun Sha was talking about, but Li Xiu knew—Kun Sha had previously encountered Sha Chu, who didn't use Demon Armor yet could slay demon spirits using her blade.

"Someone can really control demon spirits!" Li Xiu gazed at the sky, his mouth slightly upturned in a smile.

He had stood at the pinnacle of Magic Armor Mastery for too long, already losing the exhilarating feeling of facing challenges, entirely devoid of passion.

Whether it was the emergence of a true Trial Taker or Sha Chu who could control demon spirits, both reignited his anticipation for the unknown.

Anticipating the unknown, anticipating growth time and again.

"Bai Qiuyi, perhaps you're right; such a world is indeed more interesting," Li Xiu muttered.

The place where the twin-headed demon spirit emerged was Zheng De's underground vault.

The roof, made of steel plates and concrete, over two meters thick, was ripped into a big hole. Descending into the pit, they found all the boxes of gemstones gone, leaving only empty boxes strewn about.

"Damn it!" Qin Shi angrily kicked an empty box flying.

"It's all over now." Kun Sha's face turned ashen, feeling worse than Qin Shi.

Qin Shi merely didn't get her reward, but Kun Sha was worried about the life and death of Tyrone City's residents.

The gemstones and accumulated demon cores plundered from the City Lord's Mansion by Zheng De were looted by Sha Chu, not just Zheng De's wealth.

Now Tyrone City had no gemstone inventory, meaning that the originally tradable Tyrone Dollars could no longer exchange for gemstones, effectively making them worthless—akin to scrap paper, with the economy collapsing completely.

The ordinary people who had toiled their entire lives to accumulate Tyrone Dollars now found them valueless, unable even to sustain themselves—what would become of them next?

Kun Sha, after a brief exchange with Li Xiu, hurriedly departed. He must restore at least basic order to Tyrone City, or it would plunge into chaos, potentially causing countless deaths.

Poverty can sometimes be more terrifying than war.

After Kun Sha left, Shale rolled his peculiar eyes, "Let's go, let's search again—I refuse to believe Zheng De doesn't have a secret vault."

On hearing this, Qin Shi's spirits lifted, and she dashed out at once.

Li Xiu followed Shale, Pa Shan, and Afei; he wasn't interested in finding Zheng De's secret vault but wanted to see if he could find an S-Class magic armor.

The City Lord's Mansion was already in chaos, with debris everywhere. With Zheng De dead, the soldiers and servants fled, many snatching some loot from the mansion as they escaped.

Especially Zheng De's several wives and the entire "personal bodyguard" squad—they ransacked the mansion's contents thoroughly, taking anything valuable.

When Li Xiu and his companions reached Zheng De's residence, witnessing the mess, Pa Shan chuckled bitterly, "I doubt there's much of value left."

Qin Shi wandered around each room in the courtyard, visibly disappointed.

"That might not be the case; watch me perform. Professional work should be left to professionals," Shale glanced around, touched this and inspected that, occasionally tapping his hand—appearing quite professional.

Chapter 70: Hunger Feeling

Before long, Shale stopped in front of the Buddhist shrine.

Tyrone City practices Theravada Buddhism, and it's very prevalent; many people are Buddhists, and temples are everywhere.

Having a Buddha statue at home is quite normal, but the one Zheng De offered to was a bit strange, with three faces on its head and a child-like figure with a frightening ghost face at its feet.

There were also many bizarre plaques on the altar, which Li Xiu couldn't understand, looking quite odd.

Shale got excited, reached out to the statue, touched it a few times, and then twisted its head, turning it 180 degrees.

Crack!

The floor slowly cracked open, and half of the room's floor retracted inward toward the wall, revealing a staircase leading down.

"Heh heh, that old fox Zheng De sure is cunning. Almost everyone in Tyrone City is a Buddhist, so no one would dare disrespect a Buddha statue. By placing the mechanism here, most wouldn't dare to touch it." Shale said as he led the way down.

At the end of the stairs was the gate of a vault. Qin Shi directly formed a Demon Light Blade and sliced through the more than one-meter thick alloy door.

When they went inside, they were overjoyed; the room, dozens of square meters wide, was filled with many glass cabinets, with many of them containing various items.

There were some antiques and paintings, which Li Xiu and the others didn't understand, but Li Xiu immediately noticed a large glass cabinet holding a piece of Demon Armor.

The Demon Armor had somewhat exaggerated lines, with sharp angles in some places, a very technological style, matte finish, purple as the main color with black edges, giving a bio-armor look.

Li Xiu recognized the origin of that Demon Armor at first glance; it was the limited-edition S-Class Magic Armor "Ghost-faced" made by Space City Lab 1.

Although called limited edition, many S-Class Magic Armors are limited because the materials for making them are usually hard to gather for a second set.

The difference between limited and non-limited, theoretically, is mostly the different sources of the core material Demon Core and auxiliary materials.

Generally, non-limited magic gear's Demon Cores come from the Trial Gate; cores obtained from the same Trial Ground have entirely consistent properties.

However, the demon cores obtained by slaying Demon Spirits will differ from other cores, being not completely identical.

Moreover, Demon Cores obtained by slaying Demon Spirits can use a Demon Spirit as auxiliary material, making it very challenging to create an identical second set of armor.

This set of S-Class Ghost-faced Magic Armor was made using the Demon Core and body of an S-Class Demon Spirit, which was killed by Li Xiu himself.

"I didn't expect this Ghost-faced to fall into Zheng De's hands. This armor alone is invaluable. Despite having so many valuable items, he didn't use them to pay off debts and instead scavenged from the lower-class poor. Truly typical upper-class behavior." Li Xiu lamented in his heart.

"Do you like it? If you like it, it's yours." Shale chuckled.

Li Xiu glanced at Qin Shi beside him; seeing no intention from her to compete, he walked over to open the glass cover and took out the Ghost-faced Magic Armor.

Qin Shi wasn't interested in looking at these things; she opened safe after safe, some containing Demon Cores, others gemstones. Although not many, each was a fine piece.

It wasn't until she opened a safe filled with boxes of rubies that she excitedly collected them all.

"I only want these; the rest is yours." Qin Shi said.

Shale unceremoniously rummaged through the loot, but Pa Shan stood still.

Li Xiu wasn't very interested in these gemstones, mainly since their purpose was entering the Trial Gate, having no other practical value.

As Li Xiu swept a glance over the gemstones, his gaze suddenly fixed on one of them.

It was a red gemstone; at first glance, it could be mistaken for a ruby, but upon closer inspection, it showed differences from a ruby.

Its color wasn't as deep as a ruby, leaning towards pink, but it had a stronger luminescent feel, vivid and pure, shining under the light like a Jedi Knight's Light Saber, emitting intense fluorescence.

"This is a red spinel, often an associated mineral with rubies. Though not a ruby, its value is quite high. This red spinel's color might have reached the top color quality... Jedi Knight color. If I'm not mistaken, this Jedi Knight spinel should be from the Namiya mine, a source depleted decades ago. Generally, Namiya's spinels are quite small with many impurities in the crystal. This Namiya Jedi Knight spinel seems over ten carats and remarkably pure, a real

rarity. Such a rare top-grade red spinel's worth is certainly no less than a ruby. Among Zheng De's gemstone collection, this is among the top, without many rivals." Shale, rummaging through the safe, picked up the gemstone and tossed it to Li Xiu when he saw him staring at it.

Li Xiu caught the Namiya Jedi Knight spinel and stared at it intently.

Li Xiu wasn't very knowledgeable about gemstones; he knew the globally recognized top gemstones like rubies, sapphires, emeralds, diamonds, and cat's eye, and was somewhat aware of spinels, but not in detail.

The reason for his interest wasn't recognizing the gemstone's value or its aesthetic.

The real reason, which might be hard to believe, was that upon seeing the gemstone, he felt a hunger in his stomach.

His mind was actually generating a desire to consume the red spinel, shocking Li Xiu himself and giving him a bad feeling.

Since, as far as Li Xiu knew, the only beings capable of eating gemstones were the Demon Spirits mysteriously descended from unknown places.

Now, having developed a desire to consume the gemstone made him worry more about whether the Demon Spirit larva inside him was truly dead.

Strangely, amidst numerous gemstones in the vault, even top-grade Pigeon Blood Rubies with higher value didn't incite any desire; only this red spinel made him feel hunger.

"What's going on? Could those Demon Cores have been eaten by me too?" Li Xiu pondered with a frown, considering whether to consume the red spinel to see what would happen.

He quickly suppressed the urge and put the red spinel away for the moment, thinking if he consumed it now, Shale and the others might see him as a monster.

"Looks like I need to find a professional place to thoroughly examine my body." Li Xiu silently planned where to get his body checked.