

Wow 401

Chapter 401 Spiritual Energy Shock_2

So strong...

Even though she knew the other party was strong, the repeated facts still kept on impacting Franca's worldview.

["Lucky Strike" Energy+5.]

"So, what exactly am I supposed to do?" Faced with Franca's somewhat vacant eyes, Bai E sincerely inquired.

"You still don't know Spiritual Energy Shock?" Franca, emerging from her stupor, incredulously retorted, and as soon as the words left her mouth, she turned to slap herself on the mouth.

What a question... The person had just broken through to the second realm, where could they possibly have acquired such a technique that could only be mastered after entering the second realm?

It was mainly because this individual was unexpectedly strong, every detail was inconsistent with her usual understanding, it overloaded her CPU.

"..." Franca puffed her cheeks, before saying in a muffled voice, "Learning a new technique also requires time, and with that time, I'd rather focus on restoring my own Spiritual Energy. If you want to learn, come find me in the barracks when you have some time."

"Why not give it a try?" Bai E's lips revealed a gentle smile, causing Franca's heart to involuntarily skip a beat.

Confident and gentle.

Everything that the other person had done before was the backdrop of this moment, when that mysterious manager emerged from the unknown mist to become a concrete individual she recognized, all her fantasies now had real support.

"Although it's not difficult, it's not something that can be learned in a short time..." Franca explained, "But... if you want to learn it now, we can also give it a try."

Although teaching would definitely interfere with her concentration and slow down the restoration of her Spiritual Energy, if it was for this... lord, it was acceptable.

"When I first learned this technique, it took me an entire half-day; I was already considered quick in their eyes," Franca whispered, then sat cross-legged on the spot, placing her longsword across her legs.

The use of Spiritual Energy was indeed as one desired, yet certain postures could still help one to control the use of Spiritual Energy more quickly and closely.

The instruction received when someone just starts learning about Spiritual Energy often becomes a treasure for the life of a Spiritual Energy practitioner.

"The Spiritual Energy at the second realm is far more active than at the first realm; you've just broken through, so you might not be quite used to it yet..." Franca closed her eyes, only allowing a tiny bit of her recovered Spiritual Energy to emanate within a certain radius around her, enabling her to easily sense the presence of the individual with an immensely strong life force beside her.

"Hmm~" Bai E softly acknowledged, indicating that he was listening.

"The foundation of Spiritual Energy Shock is built upon the maxims of Spiritual Energy; it's simply a matter of turning the activated Spiritual Energy into a more proactive disruptive force, to adhere to one's actions..."

[You are learning a technique related to Spiritual Energy...]

[Triggered Teaching Mission—Spiritual Energy Shock.]

[Teaching Mission—Spiritual Energy Shock: Your proficiency in Spiritual Energy has made minor achievements, and having advanced to a higher realm, you can now access more techniques related to the use of Spiritual Energy. As a basic introductory skill of second-stage Spiritual Energy—Spiritual Energy Shock, it's a technique that everyone entering the second stage of Spiritual Energy must master. Mission Requirement: Follow Franca's guidance to organize your Spiritual Energy for the first time and perform the first shock. Reward for completing the mission: Spiritual Energy+5/5.]

Time was of the essence, for every second the blood pool existed, it posed a significant threat to the physical world.

Bai E didn't waste words and began burning experience directly.

With plenty of experience in reserve, plus the ten thousand points of combat experience that had just burst forth, he could afford the cost, no matter how much experience it required.

[You are spending combat experience to organize your freshly activated Spiritual Energy...]

[Current progress of the organization: 1%]

5%...

10%...

20%...

What Franca said was right, this technique was indeed simpler than the Spiritual Energy Veil technique she and Yue Ying had learned during the first stage.

As he accelerated the learning process by spending experience, the progress bar soared quickly.

In the process of instructing Bai E, Franca's own Spiritual Energy continued to recover in this serene harmony. Feeling the increasingly abundant energy inside her, she regained the familiar sense of strength in her body, which also improved her mood significantly.

The recovery during the teaching process was a bit slower than the normal rate, but not completely absent. In about an hour or so, she would have enough Spiritual Energy to completely seal off the remaining blood pool.

"How do you feel?" Franca, in high spirits, turned to glance at the figure sitting in meditation beside her, also silent and motionless.

The other person had been still for a long time, and she couldn't sense his Spiritual Energy state at all, having no clue about his learning progress.

"..."

Franca pursed her lips as she received no reply.

The other party was a formidable master, and such a master often possessed indescribable confidence and self-esteem.

Being taught by someone less skilled than him probably already made the other uncomfortable, and now to inquire about his learning progress, might it be a bit impolite?

"Normally, it's very difficult for someone to learn a new skill in a short period of time, and there are many who take a whole day or even several days to half a month to master a skill, so not seeing any results in an hour or two is actually quite normal..." Franca carefully chose her words, while cautiously observing the other's facial expressions—

No expression?

Perfectly calm?

Well... the management of emotions is also an essential ability for the strong, so this doesn't prove anything.

"Okay."

"Huh?" Franca didn't hear clearly, and instinctively let out a "huh?"

"Thank you." Bai E slowly opened his eyes and looked towards the bewildered Franca with a slight smile.

"Huh?" Like a gentle breeze blowing directly in her face, akin to a tender palm lightly caressing her cheek, Franca felt a fresh breath of air assail her spiritual senses.

Such a mild breath was so comforting that it gave one a sense of sincere tranquility and peace of mind.

"Drip~" Like a quiet spring subtly dripping, the parched earth became instantly moist and blossomed.

Spiritual Energy... has it recovered a bit?

[Current Comprehension Completion: 100%, you have thoroughly completed organizing your Spiritual Energy and have mastered the basic techniques of the second level of Spiritual Energy— the use of Spiritual Energy Shock.]

[Spiritual Energy (Stage Two) Skill— Spiritual Energy Shock: You have proficiently mastered the use of higher-level Spiritual Energy, and from now on, you can freely shape the Spiritual Energy you release from thin air, or through any "connected" external object to temporarily transfer the power of Spiritual Energy. With this action, you can complete almost all the impact forms you can "precisely imagine," including but not limited to "mental oppression, mental soothing, shape changing impact, etc.]

[You have completely familiarized yourself with the newborn Spiritual Energy and have executed an accurate Spiritual Energy Shock. Reward: Spiritual Energy +5/5, distributed.]

Bai E stood up and walked towards the ruins behind him, simultaneously casually pulling out the iron rod he had planted into the ground, his movements succinct and powerful.

Turning to look at his retreating figure, Franca still wore a puzzled expression, uttering an inquisitive sound, "Huh?"

Was that a Spiritual Energy Shock? A shock that replenished his magic?

Could such a high-level application really be achieved by a beginner?

No, wait... he's only been studying for less than an hour!

...Less than an hour of study time, an expenditure of 1100 battle experience points.

Whoever the teacher, the results would be the same with these basic skills. Whether it was Yue Ying or Franca teaching, it made no difference.

Of course, Bai E wanted to destroy the dilapidated blood pool with his own hands.

One reason was the task at hand, which made him reluctant to rely on others to resolve the situation, and the second was... whatever the matter, he always felt more if he participated personally.

"Extend!"

"Extend!"

"Extend!"

The iron rod lengthened.

It stabbed into the earth.

Powerful Spiritual Energy manifested as a tangible shock, and with a fierce thrust into the shrinking blood-colored hole that seemed to breathe in and out, it struck at the hole that was progressively narrowing.

A storm suddenly arose.

"Hiss~"

The boundless wind screeched in the realm of spiritual perception.

A voice both twisted with excitement and mixed with utmost fear disturbingly accompanied the feedback of Spiritual Energy back into Bai E's mind—

"Hiss ha hiss ha~ I found you! I found you! Hahaha! I found you! Hiss ha~"

"..."

Chapter 402 After Processing

The voice that came from the psychic feedback had a familiar quality to it for Bai E—

The essence of fear...

Was it the Archdemon of Fear, whose body he had crushed directly in the material world?

It was a bona fide high-dimensional demon in its own right, capable of being killed in the material world only to retreat to high-dimensional space, where it could gather strength to resurrect. And upon resurrection, it could even retain some memories from before its death.

And now... had that demon already resurrected?

But what of it? Having killed you once, I can kill you a second time.

Bai E collected his thoughts, completely unconcerned.

"Whoosh~"

Space collapsed abruptly.

As the blood pool was completely shattered and closed, the material world that had been corrupted by it also revealed the actual impact of the destruction it had wrought.

The existence of the blood pool was half illusory, half real; it was not easy for sentient beings to enter its illusory core to strangle the heart of its power. Yet, the real aspect had forever changed parts of the material world, and a force from the higher dimension sought to sweep away even more of the basic matter from the material world.

The wind swept through, and the earth fell into ruin.

The Spiritual Energy dispersed in the air prematurely reflected this potential outcome within Bai E's consciousness. Thus, the moment he raised his iron rod and pierced the blood pool, he lightly leaped backward, leaving the range of the disturbance.

"Boom boom boom!"

The ongoing sound of collapse was enormous, falling behind the figure standing at the brink, becoming mere background.

Only now, at the conclusion of the event, did all the players, including Franca and the three natives of Grey Iron City, finally shift their thoughts away from the abrupt crisis, realizing who the core protagonist of this incident was.

He had almost single-handedly repelled this invasion from the high-dimensional space. They had struggled so hard to defeat a few lesser demons, and what about this man?

"Bai is so powerful~" Nova, who had regained some semblance of her strength, sat on a discarded stone, her hands cradling her face, her eyes adoringly fixed on the figure swallowed by the darkness.

["Lucky Strike" charge +12.]

The number was not large, but the amount of charge provided was surprisingly high.

"..." Bai E silently swept the scattered figures in the dim night around him, turning his focus to the panel notification he received.

[Side quest—Stop the demon invasion, completed.]

[Mission reward: Spiritual Energy +10, Spiritual Energy Skill—High-Dimensional Walking, granted.]

Pure power transformed directly into Bai E's Spiritual Energy and integrated into his system. The 100 points of war Spiritual Energy that had exploded from the Demon Prince were similarly ground into the purest essence of power by the soul's black hole grinder.

Endless power filled Bai E's body. He had never felt such an abundance of power surging within him, even though he had just been through a great battle, he was still far more powerful than ever before.

Glimmering mist light concentrated in Bai E's eyes, then vanished in an instant.

Bai E stepped forward towards Franca, his expression stern.

The event of the demon invasion itself was resolved, but the influence of the demons was far from over. These beings, adept at corrupting the heart, always inflicted the least physical destruction among the harms they caused.

Those lured by the invaded blood pool, those who had witnessed the true form of the Demon Prince, would suffer endless temptations in the times ahead.

In Black Street, where people had been corrupted by only lower demons, the rate of corruption was terrifying. Not to mention these core war demons, or even the Demon Prince who had ascended from humanity, the consequences of directly gazing upon them were far more severe than any prior influences.

What to do with these people was a big problem.

In this matter, Franca was obviously the expert among all present.

"Those people, how do you want to deal with them?" Bai E asked directly.

As he spoke, his gaze flicked over those who lay scattered around in the dimness of night like lifeless bodies.

Franca looked intently at Bai E in front of her, her expression serious, "These people, they cannot be saved."

It seemed as though the physical structure of the abandoned factory blocked their view, preventing these people from directly facing the blood pool; they were knocked unconscious by Nova before that could happen. However, in reality... the half-illusory blood pool was exceedingly conspicuous in each of their spiritual worlds, which is why they were drawn to come together before the situation fully escalated.

This direct invasion by a high-dimensional phenomenon was far more serious than the consequences of directly witnessing any demon in its true form. What's more, those who were attracted on their own were already on the verge of falling; after this ordeal, being corrupted into demonic minions was almost certain.

Having encountered this high-dimensional anomaly, 99.99 percent of them would fall due to the impure whispers from the high dimension, with hardly any chance of luck.

Never mind any talk of natural talent; under such circumstances, the more gifted they were, the easier it was for them to become mortal vessels for powerful demons, and channels for high-dimensional invasions.

"For these people, we have only one solution in our place..."

"Kill them?"

"Close enough..." Franca sighed lightly, her eyes showing a hint of pity, "More thorough than simply killing them, use the soul furnace..."

This device was too cruel for ordinary people. Even though Franca had had some interactions with Bai E before and discussed some matters related to Spiritual Energy, she had never revealed this secret generally known only to the executors of the Arbitration Place.

Chapter 403 After Processing_2

[Acquired Infamous Information (Unidentified): Soul Furnace.]

"Soul Furnace?" Bai E repeated the term, touching upon knowledge he had never heard before.

"Yes," Franca nodded, "Do you think that the Exorcism Essential Oil, which can harm those Spiritual Energy creatures, is an easily accessible substance? The only thing that can harm the soul is Spiritual Energy itself."

Her words were cold, but this was the truth.

"..." Even with some mental preparation, Bai E could not help but instantly think of the agonized figures who were thrown into the furnace to be burnt and screamed out in pain to extract Exorcism Essential Oil.

Was it cruel? Of course, it was cruel. In any world view that Bai E had previously understood, such an act would undoubtedly be labeled as "evil."

Yet in this world... without burning a part of the population, it would not be possible to save another part.

The one making this decision must be suffering more than anyone else.

Given such a situation, Bai E, although sympathetic, could not blame her in the slightest before he had enough strength to change this evident fact.

"Not even a glimmer of hope?"

"There is," Franca looked straight into Bai E's eyes, honestly confessing, "Out of a hundred million humans in such a situation, perhaps one or two might successfully break free from the high-dimensional corruption... If there was a 50% chance, I would be willing to believe them, but risking greater harm for that one in a hundred million chance... sorry..."

She couldn't do it.

Bai E couldn't do it either.

"I understand..." Bai E sighed softly, remembering that not only were those unconscious figures affected by tonight's event.

Those who provided him with a source of power also gazed directly into the true form of the demon prince.

"When I was distracting that demon prince..." Bai E shared truthfully. He felt he could trust this lady executor from the Arbitration Place, "...What about those people? Surely there's hope for them?"

"There is hope, but..." Franca pursed her lips, "they are far more susceptible to corruption than the residents of Black Street you previously managed. The level of corruption the demon prince can cause is not the same as that of ordinary demons. They are more troublesome... no one is willing to take them in."

Except for you...

'But you will be dragged down.' Franca did not articulate this.

When the enigmatic Black Street manager finally took on a tangible form, all too idealistic guesses vanished, and Franca began to let her own reason dominate every issue.

The group of Black Street veterans she saw that night were already considered resolute, yet they too, unbeknownst to even themselves, had involuntarily become the minions of demons amid the long torment of life. What more of these ordinary civilians?

Demons are the greatest enemy of human society, even more dangerous than bugs and smart machines.

The more you deal with anything related to this enemy, the more entangled you find this thing to be.

Many times... you have no choice.

Bai E hesitated for a moment before saying softly, "Let's try."

"Huh?" Franca's eyes quivered as she looked at the not particularly handsome but charmingly resolute face just inches away, "It's troublesome."

"But someone has to try. Without trying... there's never a way out."

The world is a mess, but everyone is striving to live.

The path ahead is uncertain, but as long as you move forward, that's the direction.

If others have done it before, then follow the experience of predecessors.

If no one has done it before, then blaze your own trail.

Without the resolve to face any danger, difficulty, or challenge, how can one dare to dream of becoming a warlord, bearing the hopes of all beings?

"Let's try," Bai E turned and walked away into the dark night, "I want to try."

The dissipating Spiritual Energy sensed an active fluctuation. It might be an executor from Arbitration Place belatedly noticing the demon's presence due to the distance and moving closer.

["Lucky Strike" energy charge +5.]

Franca bit her lip, pondered for less than an instant, then shouted, "My colleagues will take care of things here, and as for those people... I will handle them and send them to Black Street. Just have them ready to receive the delivery."

Without turning back, Bai E waved his hand, "Understood."

As Bai E continued to walk away, Franca suddenly called out again, "Hey!"

"?" Bai E paused and turned his head to look at her, "What is it?"

In the dim light of the night, those smiling white teeth were so captivating that Franca's lips quivered as she asked loudly, "Would you be interested in joining us at Arbitration Place? I can refer you?"

"Arbitration Place?" Bai E was taken aback and waved his hand, "No need, I'm doing just fine in the military."

Approaching Nova, Bai E looked down at the figure sitting on the ground, cradling her chin and gazing at him, and smiled slightly, "Let's go."

"Okay~"

The somewhat recovered Nova sprang up merrily the moment Bai E called her.

Bai is so handsome... Everything he does is so handsome...

Slurp slurp slurp~ I really want to lick him.

"What are we going to do now?" Nova tried to keep up with Bai E's pace, craning her neck to catch a whiff of his scent.

Bai E glanced at Nova's pretty little face close by and the two teammates who were diligently following her, and chuckled softly, "Fix the problems with you guys."

Bai E had never forgotten about the tracker's signal that had been continuously suppressed with Spiritual Energy on Nova's body.

Things had to be done one by one, but every single one needed to be addressed.

Everyone was important. Bai E had only just returned to the base to report for duty when he was immediately assigned a mission that led him to the arena... A series of events had barely given him a moment's rest. Now that he had some time, of course, the first thing he wanted to deal with was the ticking time bombs on the bodies of the three from Grey Iron City.

But once everything settled down, the feedback from the mission's task finally came through—

[Feedback from the task: Your insight +0.1, physical fitness +0.2, reflex +0.2, mystique +0.4, light weapon mastery experience +68, light firearms mastery experience +38, ranged weapon mastery experience +40, heavy weapon mastery experience +72, Knowledge - Human Body Modification Project 1.0 Experience +42.]

Wen Jie was working hard. The experiences provided were content Bai E had no access to on his own.

And coincidentally, it was exactly what he needed. Applying it to Nova now would be most apt.

With the experience feedback from Wen Jie alone, Bai E's Human Body Modification Project 1.0 had already reached the level of 2 with 50/500 progress.

The efficiency of this experience gain wasn't limited by Wen Jie's capacity, but by the level cap of the Knowledge itself.

This Knowledge only went up to level 3. Even if Wen Jie maxed out the level of Knowledge, according to the rule that halves the feedback of experience, he could only provide a total of 450 modification experience to himself.

And exactly 450 modification experience points could level this Knowledge to 2 with 50/500 progress. The rest had to come from his own efforts.

Level up.

Bai E pondered internally.

[Would you like to pay 450 universal experience points to upgrade the Knowledge level of Human Body Modification Project 1.0?]

[Yes.]

[Detected that the character has Level 4 (max level) Knowledge - Anatomy, experience cost halved.]

[Payment: 225 universal experience points.]

[Acquired "Level 3 Human Body Modification Project 1.0", simultaneously obtained 1 technology point.]

[Human Body Modification Project 1.0 (3/3 level): You have mastered the secrets of the human body and are familiar with most of the internal organs, including their functions. From now on, with the necessary tools at hand, you can harmlessly treat, replace, and add some organs based on current theories, with an 80% success rate.]

[Detected that the character has Level 2 (max level) Knowledge - First Aid, which adds +20% to the success rate of surgeries from Knowledge - Human Body Modification Project 1.0.]

An unexpected joy. As his abilities became more complete, they began to create various marvelous interconnections between them.

Bai E led the group directly to Black Street.

Chapter 404 Soul Crucible

At the edge of the toppling ruins, several still, dark figures had arrived at an unknown time.

Their eyes, hidden beneath black cloaks, silently swept across the entire battlefield, filled with a hint of surprise and doubt.

Squads of two or three Executioners arrived in several groups, extremely sensitive to the demonic presence; they had detected the high-dimensional space fluctuations from a great distance away.

Having exerted all their efforts to reach the source of the fluctuations, they found the scene to be eerily tranquil.

There was only the chaos lying all around and the figures of unconscious civilians strewn about, prompting them to whisper amongst themselves, each expressing their own viewpoints.

"Such a large disturbance..."

"I smelled an incredibly intense demonic scent earlier, but why is it gone now?"

"The demon was definitely here, I can still sense the traces of residual high-dimensional space fluctuations."

"Could it have gone into hiding?"

Not all demons are fervent, war-crazed lunatics. Demons of the "conspiracy" kind, including their Believers and elect, are extremely adept at disguising themselves. Unless they actively slip up, it's very difficult for the Executioners to find them.

And, as Nova left, the effects caused by her Spiritual Energy were gradually losing their efficacy.

The ordinary people lying on the ground were slowly regaining consciousness, but not fully aware yet.

A rich, blood-red light burst from the eyes of one civilian who had woken up. Having just emerged from an unconscious state, he swiftly entered a demon-possessed, frenzied condition. Sensing the life around him, he casually grasped an irregular stone next to him, raising it high to smash it down.

Even if his victim could not resist, the sheer act of bloody killing was enough to satisfy him deeply.

Not every Believer could adhere to the "honor" of warfare like demons from the war-chief series did; those who only agree with one or two aspects were also under the umbrella of "war."

Yet, it was clear he would not get his way.

"Snap!"

The bloody, severed palm, together with the stone in hand, fell to the ground, blood spraying...

The man's zealotry-tainted mind was in control, so much so that the pain from his severed hand seemed insignificant to him.

A pair of slightly bloodshot eyes suddenly looked toward the direction of the attack, the man grabbing another conveniently located stone and lifting it high, charging toward the Executioner who had launched the attack.

His resistance to Spiritual Energy was higher, and so he woke up earlier than the rest.

However, those who voluntarily embrace the demons' "rules" and actively seek possession—if their talent in this regard is strong—often also means they pose a greater problem.

Still, for these seasoned and powerful veteran Executioners, such challenges were far from formidable.

"Thud!"

An invisible pulse flickered by, and the head burst open instantaneously like a watermelon.

The headless corpse remained standing, one hand still clutching the bloody stone, until after a moment it fell to the ground with a "thump."

The man's awakening was only the prelude. As time passed, more and more figures gradually stirred from their unconscious state.

Those who immediately fell into a violent rage were not numerous; many others, upon realizing their situation and the strange atmosphere where occasional headshots occurred around them, wisely curled up to observe and understand why they had unknowingly appeared in this bizarre place...

The stoic Executioners effortlessly dealt with the civilians who had spiraled into a state of possession, while one turned to his partner and said, "These people have been deeply eroded, beyond salvation."

The partner did not take action, but was closely observing the details of the civilians and their numbers. "To affect so many people invisibly, the ranking of the demon that appeared this time might be very high..."

"But why are these people dizzy?"

Demons themselves wouldn't do such a thing. To the intelligent beings attracted to them, they would be transformed into wicked servants, not left in a state that, at least for now, is still human.

And observing the distribution of these people... Was there an outsider who forcefully and instantaneously knocked them all out?

Ordinary physical means can kill instantly, but not stun without harm, unless it's... Spiritual Energy.

Did a colleague who arrived first lend a hand?

Realizing this, the Executioner looked towards another group of Executioners not far away. "You guys seem to have arrived before us?"

Most Executioners are lone wolves, with almost no communication with other Executioners, aside from their partners. Therefore, they must all have their own opinions and, in any situation, their first reaction is always to rely on their own observations to judge the beginning and end of an event.

Only when there is an information gap do they consider seeking help from others.

The questioned Executioner shook his head, directing his gaze towards another direction. "They were here before I was."

"I wasn't the earliest either. When I arrived, I just saw that young girl standing there," another one added.

Executioners wander about, rarely meeting each other. When they do meet, it's their uniforms or some unique psychic perception that serves as identification.

More often than not, even if they pass by each other, they may not know each other's identities.

Not everyone knew Franca, but at this moment, all the later-arrived Executioners' eyes were fixed on her, waiting to hear more information about this demon from her.

Chapter 405 Soul Crucible_2

Facing the gaze of her colleagues, Franca gently shook her head, "I wasn't the first one to arrive here, either."

Disappointment was visibly evident in the eyes of many executioners.

"But I nearly witnessed the entire process of the event."

"..."

"What!"

"Where's the demon!" an executioner immediately asked, his voice tinged with urgency about the matter that concerned him most.

Although they did not appear to be in a rush, any frantic actions taken before the target was locked were side effects.

It was only upon hearing the definite news at this moment that they suddenly became anxious.

Every lurking demon was a major cause for concern, the longer it lay in wait, the bigger the threat!

Could this girl still be an intern? Why isn't she panicking at all?

"It has been vanquished."

"..."

"..."

"Ah?" An executioner gaped, uttering a sound of confusion.

Franca spoke calmly, quietly recounting, "Just now, the original coliseum here, with the war spirits and blood energy that had gathered over many years, successfully underwent a high-dimensional sublimation. A human in the coliseum transformed into a demon prince..."

"Hiss~"

"Demon prince!"

"It indeed looked like the sort of disturbance that could only be caused by a demon of that level."

Just the spontaneous disturbance that began as it invaded the material world was enough to attract such a large crowd of ordinary people to come "in audience"—it was certainly not something that a common demon could achieve.

Although they might not be familiar with this coliseum, they had observed the surrounding terrain to a basic extent on the way here; the nearest human settlement was several kilometers away. If it weren't for the distortion's significant effect, it could not attract such a massive, dense circle of "believers" to voluntarily come here in the night.

"How was it resolved?"

"Did you kill it?"

Impatient in nature, an executioner sized up the young female colleague whose spiritual energy did not seem very strong, beginning to wonder if he should change his tone when talking to her.

Those he couldn't see through might well be rare monsters.

"A... stranger I don't know." Franca's eyes slightly glazed over as if lost in memories.

"..."

"..."

"Ah?" An executioner gaped again, releasing a sound of confusion.

"I don't know him... There were several people with him. The one who knocked everyone present unconscious was alone; yet another person alone killed that demon prince. It was too dark and they were in disguise—I couldn't make them out," Franca spoke softly, seeming somewhat regretful.

She didn't want to bring any trouble to Bai E because of the Arbitration Place's trivial matters.

He trusted her, and she could not betray that trust. Bai E's identity might be revealed, but only to a trusted few, not just anyone.

The Arbitration Place had no style, but every executioner did. Franca couldn't guarantee that every executioner who heard this news could control their curiosity or some strange rule and not bother Bai E.

"..."

"..."

Instantly, an executioner, irate with the tale that seemed far-fetched yet somewhat believable, questioned angrily, "So you were the first to arrive, but you just stood by and watched?"

As executioners, they were to question everything.

Even if Franca's words might be the truth and they also perfectly matched everything they had observed at the moment.

But such an unverifiable statement always felt frustrating.

Who knew if this colleague wasn't already corrupted by a demon, fabricating lies to help a demon hide its tracks and deceive them?

Franca's eyebrows furrowed slightly, her expression turning somewhat fierce, which made the other party's heart skip a beat, but he still demanded coldly, "Show evidence!"

"A war-type demon prince was involved—if all of us who arrived at the scene joined forces, what certainty did we have to subdue Him? Faced with an adversary of that level, what do you think I could do? Yes, I couldn't do much. All I could do was clear out a few Bloodletting Vampires summoned through the sacrifice of ordinary people here while that mysterious expert faced the demon prince alone."

"She doesn't seem to be lying..."

More rational and composed, some executioners closely observed Franca with their spiritual sense; feedback from the spiritual energy confirmed the truthfulness of Franca's words... provided that she was not vastly more skilled in this field than themselves.

"The remaining aura does indeed seem like that of a war-type demon."

As is well known, the power of war-type demons has no place for avoidance or concealment.

Humans may abandon their principles and become more flexible, while demons without their principles would lose power... and even lose will, lose form.

So...

"Who exactly is this mysterious expert you speak of?"

"What are their goals?"

Anything associated with demons must be taken with utmost seriousness; warriors fighting demons could at any time become tools of demons.

Be wary of everything that must be, careful with everything that needs to be.

'That's why I couldn't tell you openly...'

Some stubborn executioners always wanted to eliminate any risk, but he would never be the source of that risk.

Any person in the world might one day turn to the embrace of demons, but it seemed only he never would.

Chapter 406 Soul Crucible_3

Absolutely, absolutely... never will!

It's a kind of inexplicable trust.

Franca looked at the person who asked with a mocking smile, "So what makes you think I can pry into the identity of a master who can take down a demonic prince of the war faction all by himself?"

The demons of the war faction are universally acknowledged for having the strongest combat power, and a being who can take down a prince of this faction by himself far exceeds the ordinary imagination.

The executioner who was suddenly rebutted turned cold, but indeed had nothing to say.

"But there must be some specific details, right?" Another rational and calm executioner came forward to mediate, "We are all quite curious."

Franca nodded and began to calmly extract elements from her memory, "He used a silver iron rod, but it seemed to be just an ordinary object. It only became massive and indestructible under the enhancement of his Spiritual Energy..."

"It seems to be true..."

"There really is someone who can kill a demonic prince of the war faction alone..."

The executioners looked at each other; Franca's additional details were numerous, and it would not be easy to concoct something so perfect.

Moreover, with their collective Spiritual Energy monitoring, fabricating such an extent of lies would not be easy.

It seems that everything she said was true...

So a silent astonishment arose from their hearts, how formidable must one be to kill a demonic prince of the war faction by oneself?

["Lucky Strike" charge +16.]

Seeing that her "bluff" had barely passed, Franca did not want them to continue investing effort in this matter. Her gaze roved the surroundings, where among the ordinary people who had awoken from their bewitchment, some had completely lost their sanity and mindlessly attacked others. The executioners, while listening to her, had not forgotten to deal with those who had gone mad.

"Instead of focusing on that mysterious master who at least stands on the side of humanity, we should consider how to deal with these people right now."

"Them..." An executioner swept across them, his eyes devoid of any emotion; these degenerates who had given themselves over did not deserve any further attention.

"Burn them, that's all."

"Yes, these people are beyond saving."

Even the most merciful executioner knew that those ordinary people who had been in close contact with the high-dimensional space invasion point had no chance of redemption.

"Let's make a request." Someone suggested.

"Let's make a request," another concurred.

"Agreed."

There was no question, as they easily reached a consensus.

"I'll initiate the request," one of the executioners, who appeared steady and even somewhat naïve, volunteered to take on this responsibility.

As a certain wave was transmitted into the void powered by Spiritual Energy, authorization from the headquarters of Arbitration Place came through. A barely visible artifact, resembling a bronze cauldron interwoven with Spiritual Energy and technological aura, materialized above the entire ruins, enveloping all the ordinary people who had awoken from their stupor.

These ignorant people curiously watched the semi-illusory thing that emerged from the void, utterly unaware of the fate that awaited them.

All the executioners looked up at the massive artifact, channeling their Spiritual Energy in unison with their intentions.

As the executioners' Spiritual Energy converged, the bronze cauldron-like artifact grew more solid, and ultimately displayed its form full of mystical significance.

When the flames started burning, the will of living beings turned into kindling, and at last solidified into material that could be utilized by humans.

Chapter 407 "Memory"

The elderly man still stood at the intersection of the long street in the evening, gazing into the distance.

Just now, the Guard had come to report that someone had violated the curfew order, charging out recklessly, as if afflicted by hysteria, ignoring the warnings.

And the huge noises coming from afar in the dark night, along with the trembling of the ground beneath, were cause for concern.

Since he had undertaken the responsibility given by the superior to manage this vast settlement, Gilder felt that he at least needed to fulfill his duties.

In this era, both a full belly and trust were equally valuable, once lost, they could not be found again.

The old man's tired eyes were fixed intently on the darkness, where the commotion had ceased for quite a while. What about those who had rushed out? When would they return?

Sometime later, an even darker shadow swayed in the night mist.

Seeing a figure approach under the cover of darkness, Gilder was clearly on the alert, and he gestured to Xu Ruoguang, who had always been following close behind, to signal that they should be prepared for anything on this night.

Only when the figure was revealed by the dim light at the intersection to be his own superior did everyone heave a sigh of relief, and a smile of reassurance bloomed on Gilder's face, "My Lord..."

"Mm." Bai E nodded, seeing Gilder at the entrance to Black Street immediately indicated a significant implication—

"Did our people go over there as well?"

"Mm... thirty-seven."

"That many..." Bai E narrowed his eyes slightly, somewhat surprised.

Gilder continued to look past Bai E, as if searching for the figures of those people. "How are they?"

Logically, since the Lord had also come from that direction, he surely wouldn't have overlooked his own people, or even just ordinary strangers, suffering hardships.

"They can't come back..." Bai E shook his head, "It was a disturbance caused by demons."

After all, according to Franca's explanation, those ordinary people who had faced the demon prince would have to be brought over eventually. The whole situation had to be clarified to Gilder, and since they had met now, it was fine to speak directly.

"Oh~" Gilder responded with a somewhat subdued tone.

No matter how many times, the loss of life was always more lamentable.

On the other hand, Xu Ruoguang, who was leading the Black Street Guard, showed keen interest when he heard the key phrase, "My Lord, did you say... you encountered a demon?"

Bai E glanced at him, knowing this youngster treated all heretics as mortal enemies, as if he played with a deeper sense of immersion than other players, and so he nodded in reply, "Yes, it was the Underground Colosseum. The continual offerings of blood have twisted that place into a high-dimensional space invasion node. The commotion just now was mainly made by a warlike demon prince."

Since the players had been involved in the entire incident and had certainly communicated with each other, there was no point in hiding it; it was better to reveal it oneself.

Besides, there was no need for secrecy, and equivocation could only lead to more curiosity and unknowable actions.

"Demon prince?" Xu Ruoguang murmured the term, his eyebrows furrowing slightly as if puzzled.

"What's the matter?"

"Ah~" Xu Ruoguang lifted his head as if he had just realized something, facing Bai E's concerned gaze, his face slightly flushed as he shook his head, "It's nothing, just... lost in thought."

Lost in thought again.

In the instant he heard the term 'demon prince,' images flashed through his mind—giant starships covering the sky silently opening fire, giant red bodies emerging from behind verdant planets.

A demon prince... Should that not be what a demon prince looks like?

Just causing the earth to tremble a bit, what kind of demon prince is that?

The thought was fleeting, and Xu Ruoguang shook his head with a self-deprecating laugh, claiming he didn't know a damn thing about demon princes, of course, his Lord was far more experienced.

It must be scenes from films, television, or anime that he had once seen that caused him to have such unwarranted associations, though he couldn't remember where he had seen them...

The visions in his mind had felt so real for that instant, overwhelming, as if he were the person standing at the forefront inside a space warship's command center, staring through the transparent hull at that red form, as if he were the one there.

But those dreamlike visions of time condensed in his eyes, then silently shattered.

Xu Ruoguang stood under the street lamp by the roadside, smiling wryly.

Was it himself?

Would there be a day for him, too, in the future? They say the game has a broad outlook, and venturing into space was just a matter of time.

If one day he could lead a Space Fleet to conquer far and wide... the thought was quite exciting indeed.

"..." Bai E withdrew his gaze, saying no more.

The typical absent-mindedness of a player, who could drift off while talking, wondering who knows what.

Getting materials for new equipment tonight?

"Let's go, didn't I have you guys set up a medical facility?"

Though Black Street was small, it had everything.

Such spontaneous settlements might seem trivial in the eyes of most city dwellers, but each one was also a miniature society.

To become a self-contained autonomous territory, it needed to meet various conditions such as production, medical care, and housing; it could be rudimentary, but not nonexistent.

And Black Street, neither too large nor too small, had a few people with medical experience, though not many.

Chapter 408 "Memory"_2

They could handle some minor ailments like headaches and fevers with their meager abilities, without much issue.

As for an as-sterile-as-possible operating room, although it might not be immediately needed, Bai E had already instructed to have it built, and it should be finished by now.

Gilder immediately accepted, "Of course."

This territory was entirely dedicated to serving the master, and all tasks could wait, except for the master's commands which had to be executed at once.

"Lead the way."

"Yes!"

Stepping forward, Bai E's gaze briefly swept over the Black Street Guard stationed a bit farther away—those veteran soldiers who had been taken in.

Even if those veterans were artificial humans, no one knew what their ingrained prohibitions would morph into after being tainted by society.

In fact, even though they had been taken in, Bai E still didn't fully trust them; their feedback about Tiger hadn't been particularly good.

He hadn't been to Black Street these past few days, and he still needed to inquire about Tiger's situation later...

Therefore, in dealing with these veterans, Bai E was somewhat cautious and naturally didn't want them to know too much about Nova.

So, he said softly, "If there's nothing else, continue with your patrol. Every night requires vigilance."

At this moment, Xu Ruoguang was exchanging glances and making faces with his close friends, whispering among themselves.

Upon hearing Bai E's voice, his body jerked as if by reflex, snapping to attention and responding loudly, "Yes! Master!"

Turning around to face the veterans who were also preparing to follow, he ordered sternly, "All units, continue the patrol!"

"Yes! Commander!" the veterans responded in unison, their voices full of vigor.

After the battle with the eternal decayed corpses, while Xu Ruoguang might not yet be fully trusted by them, as a temporary commander he was still considered reliable.

Black Street wasn't large, and the medical room that had been established was even right in the center of several streets, so they arrived in an instant.

"This is it, master." Gilder gestured with his hand, leading the way.

The white walls emitted a soft glow, which seemed quite out of place in the overall style of Black Street.

In the midst of pervasive darkness, that unblemished whiteness appeared even more glaring.

"Inside, we have the medical equipment we purchased, which should be able to help the master to some extent."

An old piece of equipment, bought secondhand or perhaps more, had cost nearly all of Black Street's savings. Gilder still remembered the seven beds that came with the package deal... For an unremarkable metal bed, they had charged them a thousand Blackwater coins each; utter beasts!

However, at this moment, his tone was as light as a feather; a competent butler would never let the master feel distressed.

Money can be earned again, but the master's commands must be completely implemented.

"Good," Bai E said with a smile, nodding his head. His knowledge certainly contained elements that were beyond rational due to Spiritual Energy, and besides the "necessary components" for different situations, he could also adjust the surgical process according to different existing conditions. Having specialized equipment always made things a little easier.

Medical equipment wasn't essential, but it was better to have it.

"I'll perform the surgery on her first; you may move about freely now."

Bai E didn't understand why the players were still following him—the rewards for their tasks had long been settled—so he used this opportunity to send the players on their way.

If they really had something to address, they should have spoken up by now.

"Master..." Gong Yan stepped forward, her eyes fixed on Bai E, asking softly.

"Hmm?"

"I was wondering if there's any way we could help?"

They had been following all this time for two reasons: curiosity and utilitarianism.

Curiosity was, of course, the desire to "watch the story unfold".

The time players spent in the game could sometimes be very precious, but also very wasteful.

They raced against time when leveling up, but when idle, they could spend entire days just taking in the sights.

The white-haired NPC by the lord's side is a new face in the organization, and not only is she powerful, but she's also attractive, seeming to harbor some special affection for the lord.

They instinctively wanted to see the excitement, catching the scent of gossip.

As for the utilitarian aspect...

The game offers a high degree of freedom, and triggering many quests may require initiative from the players.

Following an obviously special NPC with a camera to watch a scene, they might just trigger a related quest.

Compared to the stable rewards of a quest chain, fresh and exciting unfamiliar quests always elicit more excitement among players.

Looking at Gong Yan's eyes as she made the request, Bai E guessed from the perspective of a player what they were all thinking.

"Not at the moment, I need to perform a minor surgery on her, and I'll notify you all if there's a need later," Bai E said.

"Surgery?" Gong Yan's eyes lit up, "Can I learn it, my lord?"

The lord's abilities far exceeded her own, and she hadn't noticed any visible injuries on the young lady, so whatever was happening now surely wasn't covered by the 'first aid' she had learned before.

Gong Yan was interested in these medical abilities.

"You learn?" Bai E was taken aback, then smiled warmly, "Of course, you can."

While speaking, he manually added the newly enlightened knowledge into the Faction Shop.

Faction Shop (Level 2) new addition: [Human Transformation Project 1.0 Teaching, Pricing — Basic Instruction: 25 points of faction contribution; Professional Instruction: 40 points of faction contribution; Expert Instruction: 60 points of faction contribution.]

While adding, Bai E explained, trying to convince the players that this was a logical, self-consistent game world, and he definitely hadn't done any backdoor manipulations, "Considering the different stages of development, the former you were not quite suitable for being exposed to these deeper aspects. I feared you would waste too much energy on things that aren't currently useful, so I only let you access them now."

"Hmm hmm~" Gong Yanchunchun nodded fervently.

Reasonable!

In past games, there were always players who wanted to start over because they bought or learned the wrong things, and this game could even intelligently help them manage their experience.

Smart! Appropriate!

"I'll learn!"

If the lord thought it was the right time to open it up to them, then it meant he approved of their current level and they could take on more new information.

As for the requirement of 60 points of faction contribution... It was a piece of cake for her, currently holding a stock of 330 points of faction contribution.

Bai E nodded with satisfaction, "Okay, then you come in too."

After going through several decontamination procedures, they entered a specially constructed sterile surgery room. Bai E first looked around the room at all the structures, his knowledge-based abilities giving him an unconscious clarity on the practical functions of the related equipment.

Through the observation of the environment and the organization of knowledge, Bai E already had a complete plan in mind.

"First, I'll do a basic physical examination for you." He pointed toward the direction of the medical examination equipment while he himself went to a corner of the room to change clothes and prepare with more meticulous disinfection.

"Oh~"

Looking at the familiar yet strange arrangements inside the room, Nova's expression was clearly timid.

The white surgery room triggered some distant, blurry memories.

Especially when Bai E sorted out the instruments and produced a "ting-ling clang-clang" sound, those "remote" memories surged like waves.

The specific images were hazy, but she could vaguely see a tall figure with greying hair pulling off his leather gloves and raising a silver surgical instrument towards her point of view.

What was clearer were the emotions awakening with those memories—

Fear, helplessness, confusion, dread...

Was her body being manipulated and even cut open against the cold touch?

A glimmer of misty light rose from the depths of Nova's eyes, and those overwhelming emotions engulfed all her mind in an instant.

"What's wrong?"

A kind smile broke through those images, and a gentle voice rose from not far away, calmly soothing her.

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"I'm... I'm okay," Nova bit her lip and lay down on the patchy, cold, and paint-peeled surface.

Identity reversed, Bai E, who had once been researched by Helen from the Scientific Research Institute, now also sat in front of the operating console of such medical examination equipment.

Looking at Nova lying before him with her eyes tightly shut and her eyelashes trembling slightly, Bai E gently reached out to touch her forehead, his voice soft and soothing, "It's okay, it's just a checkup."

The warmth of his palm seemed to convey boundless energy. The originally uneasy heart calmed down instantly, Nova nodded her chin and replied softly, "Mhm~"

"Buzz~"

The old machine made a heavy operational noise, but thankfully, amid those miscellaneous sounds, the machine still faithfully fulfilled its intended mission.

Looking at the freshly printed medical examination chart, Bai E's eyes slightly lost focus.

Physical 17, Insight 16, Reflex 17

These old machines certainly weren't as precise as the brand-new creations used by Helen, offering only a rough integer approximation, but the attributes displayed as a whole still far exceeded those of ordinary humans, even surpassing Bai E's three-dimensional attributes by quite a lot.

Nova looked thin and small, fragile as if unable to withstand a breeze, yet her attributes could be described as incredibly opulent.

The base limit of 15 points in attributes is in reference to ordinary human bodies. For those who have undergone biochemical modifications, their bodies no longer belong within the limits of a normal human.

Seeing the test report in an instant, Bai E felt a measure of relief in his heart—he was fortunate that he had the upper hand in skills, and fortunately, this special individual from Grey Iron City hadn't systematically learned too much about combat techniques. Her strength relied purely on her raw attributes and instinctual responses, or else the fight with her back then might have been more perilous than fortunate.

Not only in terms of Spiritual Energy level—if she were to learn some practical combat techniques, just relying on her body and weapons, the combat power Nova could demonstrate would probably be terrifying.

This was a super soldier with tremendous potential, yet that doctor from Grey Iron City, who originally controlled her destiny, never designed a "future" for her.

Of course, perhaps it wasn't short-sightedness... but rather because he foresaw that Nova's randomness meant she could not always be perfectly controlled; the stronger the abilities she possessed, the more terrifying the backlash when it occurred.

Would that doctor give up on such an excellent test subject?

I don't know.

But first, it's important to actively block the other party's prying.

Bai E's gaze swept across Nova's body scan images, noting several differences from a normal human anatomy.

The most noticeable were her two stomachs, multiple lungs, secondary heart, and even traces of adjustment in the blood and muscles, which brought considerable confusion to Bai E when trying to locate the "tracking device."

"I need to attempt this a few times," Bai E looked at Nova.

The knowledge he possessed was not about learning everything regarding body modification in one fell swoop; rather, he favored "learning" as a method of "mastering."

With this knowledge, Bai E could research these abnormal individuals, infer and categorize the technology, and thus discern which effects of the biochemical modifications were normal and which were not. Only then could he locate the so-called "tracking device."

"Go change into a gown."

"Prepare the anesthetic."

Bai E's prep work was systematic. While going through all the procedures, he didn't forget to transfer his knowledge to Gong Yan, who followed behind him.

Nova, wearing a loose blue and white striped surgical gown, stood somewhat awkwardly in front of Bai E, looking bashful.

The soft cotton material gently brushed against her body, the inside starkly empty.

In those blurry images, whenever surgery was performed on her body, she was always stark naked...

Back then, she, who hardly had any concept of "shame," could take it as normal, but now recalling it only made her want to bury her head in the ground.

Yet thinking that the one who would soon see her body was Bai, that annoyed and embarrassed feeling unconsciously took on a bit of anticipation.

Her eyes carefully peeked at Bai E from beneath the messy white fringe, brimming with luster.

Bai E's gaze swept over her body, which unexpectedly seemed somewhat curvaceous, his expression almost completely unfluctuating.

Any impure thought that arose at this time would be a desecration to both parties.

"Calm down, don't think too much." The impact of Spiritual Energy imbued with the effect of spiritual maxims gently washed over her, as Bai E's will directly transmitted into Nova's mind.

Thoughts can affect the secretion of hormones in the body, and Nova, who hadn't learned any skills like "self-restraint," could easily interfere with the observations.

As if a cold draft suddenly descended, Nova felt her mind instantly clear, obediently saying, "Okay~"

Then she turned and looked sullenly at the anesthetic prepared by Bai E, "Anesthetics don't work on me..."

"..." Bai E paused, looking into Nova's eyes, "How did you before..."

"It only hurt a little... I'm used to it."

"..." Bai E pursed his lips, his hand tightening slightly around the bottle of medicine, then nodded, indicating, "I understand... I'll be as quick as possible."

"Drip~"

"Drip~"

Time ticked by second by second, and in the quiet operating room, only the occasional sound of metal instruments and the intermittent beeps from the machines maintaining operation were heard.

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Finally, Bai E pinpointed the target's location—on the right side of the chest cavity.

A rice grain-sized foreign object, seemingly made of flesh and blood, was delicately extracted by Bai E using tweezers, trying to emit ripple after ripple of invisible waves under the lock of Spiritual Energy.

Its biomaterial composition perfectly concealed within Nova's own body, no wonder even her Spiritual Energy failed to detect this tiny thing.

"This is it!" Nova, whose will had always been lucid though her brow was constantly furrowed, also sharply sensed the anomaly with her Spiritual Energy, and stared at the small object held by Bai E's tweezers with a look of surprise on her face.

This thing was her shackles.

With this object inside her body, the shadow of being controlled by others always loomed over her heart, never dissipating.

Now that it had been removed, she felt as if the sky had broadened, the earth had opened up—a complete freedom.

"Thump~ Thump~"

Her brow twitched slightly, pulsing like a heartbeat.

Spiritual Energy jumped, rising and falling.

Spiritual Energy... had it improved again?

Bai E shifted his gaze from the tracker held by the tweezers to Nova's face, full of disbelief...

The talent of these native geniuses, is it so unreasonable?

"Snap!" With a light effort of his hand, the tracker completely shattered under the directed explosion of Spiritual Energy.

Bai E smiled at Nova, whose complexion was slightly pale, and offered his blessings, "Congratulations, you're free now."

"Hee~" Nova, who had been tightly pursing her lips, causing them to become somewhat dry, showed a broad smile on her face, which seemed particularly bright against the backdrop of blood-stained bandages on her body.

Bai E pressed down on Nova, who wanted to get up, and gently advised, "You've lost a lot of blood, rest for a while."

"It's fine, I'll heal up quickly."

"No." Bai E applied a bit more pressure with his hand, "An injured person should receive meticulous care; things are different now, you need to get used to it."

A drifting heart is far more tiring than physical pain, and even the strongest people have their moments of vulnerability.

He liked... Nova's personality very much.

"Oh~" Nova blinked, her eyes fluttering, without making a sound.

Opening the sealed door, Bai E pushed the bed with Nova directly into the next room, a resting chamber, before he finally took off his own equipment and changed into a more normal attire, leaving with Gong Yan.

"Have you learned it?"

"Mhm mhm~" Gong Yan nodded vigorously.

"Good." The cheats of players and the talent of the natives are both unreasonable.

Though he himself had both, hee hee!

["Teaching" completed. Through the feedback from "teaching," you have gained a total of 780 battle experience points and 920 general experience points.]

"Do you have any must-do tasks on hand recently?"

During the surgery for Nova, Bai E also recalled the problem of the two warriors from Grey Iron City—

Stabilizing Repair Fluid.

Nova's endless regenerative capabilities allowed her to perfectly adapt to those implanted bio-chemical organs, but the two regular humans had to occasionally endure the backlash from the foreign organs.

The Stabilizing Repair Fluid, needed at regular intervals, was their knot that had to be untangled head-on.

Certainly, Blackwater City had nothing of the sort; Bai E had never heard of anyone in the city developing such technology, so naturally, there would not be a corresponding "antidote."

Ultimately, they had to find a way from Grey Iron City.

He couldn't leave himself, and the players would likely be curious about the new map's discovery, a win-win!

Bai E decided to entrust this task to the players.

Upon hearing their leader's question, Gong Yan's eyes lit up, and she shook her head vehemently, "No, no!"

"That's good... I happen to have some things to assign to you all."

Bai E brought several players together, facing their eager eyes, he narrated the cause and effect, "These three are escapees from another city called Grey Iron City..."

"Oh~"

The three players looked at each other, their eyes conveying understanding.

As expected! The leader was still the same leader, a professional scavenger.

Having interacted with him over time, they had guessed some of Gilder's background, probably another of the leader's finds, like the mouse person he had picked up before.

Always collecting scraps, all they saw were newly acquired members, without a glimpse of the original ones.

"That city practices a mandatory trend of body modification, using endless modifications to collect data and perfect their technology, but at the cost of every single living being. These three are rebels who disagreed with this ban, yet even as they fled in haste, they still carry marks from that city within them. The bio-chemical modification is not a perfected technology; the implanted foreign organs create severe conflicts with the human body. The Stabilizing Repair Fluid is the key resource that can alleviate this conflict, only available in that city."

At this point, Bai E paused slightly, his steady gaze sweeping across the four players before him, "Therefore, I need you to risk everything to obtain enough Genetic Stability Repair Fluid capable of temporarily easing their symptoms from that nefarious city. Are you willing to undertake this extremely dangerous mission?"

Willing!

More than willing!

The players' eyes shone with an excited gleam.

New plot, new mission, new map!

Even though they hadn't fully explored Blackwater City, the prospect of unlocking clues to a new city was always more exhilarating.