

Crossing 971

Chapter 971 Mercenary Team!

It was midnight at the port of Planet Shanghai. A merchant group was about to leave the port so they were busy loading their goods.

In one of the warehouses on the ships, a small mercenary team consisting of seven people gathered in a corner and chatted among themselves. The equipment on them was old, and the badly bruised old mecha models beside them proved that their journey here wasn't easy.

The leader of this team was a skinny middle-aged man around 50 years old. His face showed many signs of old age. He drank the low-grade alcohol that the merchants gave them and looked at the team members around him. He sighed sadly. "I'm sorry, everyone. I'm too incapable. For the past ten years, our situation kept getting worse. Now, we even need to take missions that require so much time and effort, but don't have good rewards so we can fill up our stomachs."

"Grandpa Leader, what are you talking about. If it wasn't for you, I would have died from hunger when I was six years old." One of the young men who looked around 14 years old smiled. He didn't mind the harsh times they were facing.

"Little Tao, it's a waste of your talent if you remain in Shadow Cat." The leader looked at Little Tao and shook his head in pity. He was someone who didn't have much ability and the Shadow Cat Mercenary Team would probably remain in this bad state. There was no future for them. With Little Tao's ability and talent, he could go to a better mercenary team. He might even be able to enter an elite mercenary team too. However, this little fellow stubbornly remained here, so that he could repay the kindness of that one bowl of rice when he was young.

"I think that this life is pretty good." Little Tao smiled brightly. "We can take missions and earn money to feed ourselves. The grandfathers in the team take good care of me and treat me like their own grandson. If I go outside, I won't be able to enjoy such treatment. I will probably be bullied by the older members. Plus, if that happens, your heart will ache."

"Little Tao is getting better at talking." The other old members of Shadow Cat smiled happily.

They were all ordinary people. They didn't have many abilities so they were only low-level mercenaries. They just wanted to earn some money to keep themselves and their families alive. Mercenaries like them were like extras among all the huge mercenary teams. They were able to survive until now because their leader was a careful person, as he never took missions that exceeded their limits. However, this also meant that the level of their mercenary team would never increase. At the same time, their standard of living got worse. A low standard of living wouldn't attract powerful mercenaries. A mercenary team that wasn't powerful enough wouldn't be able to accept the harder missions which had more rewards. Hence, as the cycle continued, the Shadow Cat Mercenary Team's situation got worse over time. They couldn't even feed themselves properly now.

This was why the leader of Shadow Cat decided to take this mission. They didn't have any rice left back at home. He knew that this mission might be dangerous and the result was uncertain, but he could only take the risk.

While they were chatting, the door of the warehouse suddenly opened. The person-in-charge of this merchant team walked in with a few other people. There was a muscular man around 50 years old, a cultured young man around 30 years old, a smart-looking middle-aged man and an arrogant and wealthy young man.

The person-in-charge pointed at the leader of Shadow Cat and said, "This is the leader of the Shadow Cat Mercenary Team, Yuan Mulin. Leader Yuan is the first to arrive."

The person-in-charge pointed at the muscular man and introduced, "This is the leader of the Grey Bat Mercenary Team, Dibi Luya." Dibi Luya greeted everyone friendly.

"The leader of Red Maple Mercenary Team, Ye Shao." The cultured young man smiled and nodded at everyone.

"The leader of Poison Teeth Mercenary Team, Jiang Bizhi." The smart-looking middle-aged man nodded coldly. He didn't look like a friendly person.

"The leader of Mighty Sky, Ma Yizhe." The wealthy man seemed to look down on these poor leaders so he just raised his head arrogantly and scoffed. He didn't greet anyone.

The three leaders' expressions changed when they saw Ma Yizhe's attitude. Among all the three leaders, Ye Shao and Dibi Luya were more shrewd, so they immediately started smiling again. Jiang Bizhi, on the other hand, continued wearing his cold expression. He just glared at Ma Yizhe with a vicious gaze like the eyes of a poisonous snake.

"This will be your accommodation for the time being. I hope that everyone can work together for this mission and come back alive." The person-in-charge ignored the tension that was going on between the leaders. They only invited these mercenary teams to protect their merchant team, As for the relationship of the mercenary teams, it was not their concern.

The person-in-charge wanted to leave. Ye Shao suddenly thought of something and shouted, "President Tu, is everyone here?"

President Tu replied, "The Little Four Mercenary Team is still on their way."

"Haha, Little Four Mercenary Team? Who came up with such a weak name?" Ma Yizhe laughed loudly when he heard this.

President Tu didn't say anything. He just smiled. Names were given by the leaders based on their own preferences. It had nothing to do with ability. Plus, he didn't think that the name 'Mighty Sky' was any good too.

Suddenly, his communicator vibrated. He looked down and smiled. "Speak of the devil, they're here." He walked out of the warehouse. Around 10 minutes later, he came in with someone wearing a mask. This young person had a gentle aura. It was Ling Lan.

"This is the leader of Little Four Mercenary Team, Jiang Hui." President Tu's smile was more sincere this time. For some reason, he had a good impression of Jiang Hui. President Tu thought that this must be because of fate.

After that, he introduced the other leaders to Jiang Hui. Jiang Hui's presence was gentle so even Ma Yizhe, who laughed at the name of Ling Lan's team, didn't give her attitude. He didn't appear as arrogant and irritating as before.

The warehouse was segregated into six different sections naturally. Every section belonged to a respective mercenary team. Very soon, the five new teams moved their pieces of equipment and mechas into the warehouse.

Ling Lan's team was situated between Shadow Cat and Poison Teeth. Soon, the 14 brand new mechas that belonged to them got transported into the warehouse.

Ling Lan was late because she was preparing the equipment for her team. Fortunately, Ling Lan had loads of money and Little Four knew many ways of getting things. Little Four found a secret black market and managed to get 14 modified mechas within two short days. Of course, a lot of money was spent on it. They even got some equipment for the mechas and spare parts. The other leaders might have looked down on this young mercenary team but the moment their mechas entered the warehouse, they became serious. They decided that they wouldn't provoke this mercenary team until they knew more about their background.

Chapter 972 Accident!

The 14 mechas and the pieces of equipment caused the other five mercenary teams to become vigilant of the Little Four Mercenary Team. However, when the members of this team came down from the cockpit of their mechas, this vigilance died down.

The members of the Little Four Mercenary Team were mostly young men around 20 years old. There were even three women, a teenager that was still underage, and two young children. Obviously, this was a team made up of ambitious young people. Their family background must be good too since they were able to get such good mechas and pieces of equipment. The only two middle-aged men must be their bodyguards.

Plus, they might be doing it for fun, all of them wore a metal mask that covered half their faces just like their leader.

Soon, it was 8 am. The merchant team finally finished their preparations. They were ready to leave.

It had to be said that the merchant team was really stingy, as the three meals they provided were very simple.

Besides Shadow Cat, the other mercenary teams didn't lack money. They took out their own food and started eating. Ling Lan and her team members didn't like to torture themselves too. Lin Zhong-qing had thought about this possibility so he had prepared a lot of good food while they were getting ready all their equipment for the mission. After some time, all the team members from the Little Four Mercenary Team had oily lips from their delicious meal. This just further confirmed to everyone that this was a bunch of young masters having fun.

The members of Shadow Cat swallowed their saliva as they watched the members of Little Four eating their hearty meal happily while they had already finished their simple meal. They rolled themselves up

to hide the sound from their growling stomach. Little Tao was still growing so the simple meal provided by the merchant team couldn't satisfy him.

However, he still controlled his hunger and didn't reveal any signs of it. He knew that the old men in his team needed more nutrients because their bodies were exhausted from the continuous fighting. If they knew that he was still hungry, they would definitely give him some of their food and he didn't want them to do that.

Little Tao thought that he hid his hunger well but a few people managed to hear it. Ma Yizhe looked at him with disdain. If they had a hard time filling up their stomachs, it meant that the Shadow Cat Mercenary Team was useless.

The other leaders didn't portray their thoughts so directly but they also looked down on Shadow Cat. No one wanted to work with useless people.

As for the Little Four Mercenary Team, besides the old man, the two children, and Aunt Liu, everyone heard it.

But, Ling Lan didn't look down on Shadow Cat because of this. Although Shadow Cat's situation was bad, Little Tao's actions showed that the relationship between the team members was strong. Plus, she saw Little Tao rejecting the food from his comrades when they offered it to him.

Compared to strength, Ling Lan felt that true friendship was more important. Without a doubt, Shadow Cat was much better than the other mercenary teams in this area.

Ling Lan had a good impression of Shadow Cat but she wasn't planning to help them. From the start, she didn't plan to have any interactions with the other mercenary teams.

However, sometimes accidents happen.

For instance, Liu Aihua.

The two children didn't hear the growl from the stomach, but the two children referred to Wang Qi and Liu Aijun. Liu Aihua, on the other hand, had her innate talent awakened so she heard the growl. She gave him a look of pity, as she was familiar with this sound. She used to have similar experiences too. She knew that the feeling of hunger wasn't good.

Liu Aihua was an obedient child but she was too kind sometimes. She knew that Little Tao was hungry and she had good food in her hands too. Hence, she ran over without much thinking and passed the drumstick in her hand to Little Tao. "Big brother, this is for you."

Little Tao was stunned. He didn't expect a little girl who was a stranger to him to give him her drumstick. He was touched but he shook his head. "Thank you, little sister. I'm not hungry." He was very hungry but he didn't wish to owe people favors. Plus, she was just a small little girl, she needed the food more than him.

Ma Yizhe laughed when he heard Little Tao's reply. "Little brat, stop pretending. Since someone is offering you food, eat it. If not, your stomach will continue growling. It's not good if you disturb our rest."

The leader of Shadow Cat and the other members instantly understood what was happening. At first, they were puzzled at Little Aihua's actions. "Little Tao, since you're still hungry, why didn't you tell us? Old people like us can't finish all those food anyway."

It looks like he was really old. He should have noticed that Little Tao was still hungry. Even old men like them weren't full after the meal. How could Little Tao be full?

"Speaking of which, your team is really terrible. You can't even feed your team members properly. I wonder how a useless mercenary team like yours manage to survive till now. Tsk tsk tsk..." Ma Yizhe shook his head and sighed. He appeared to be pitying them but his words were sarcastic.

Yuan Mulin was furious and his face turned red in anger. A lot of people had laughed at them before but they all did it behind their backs. This was the first time someone mocked them directly. Yet, he had to bear with it. Among the six mercenary teams, they had the fewest number of people and most of his team members were old and weak. If they really had a conflict with another mercenary team, they would be at a disadvantage.

Yuan Mulin was able to control his emotions but Little Tao couldn't, as he was young and hot-blooded. He replied coldly, "What does that have to do with you? Why are you being such a busybody?"

A muscular man sitting beside Ma Yizhe suddenly jumped up and rushed towards Little Tao. Little Tao's words had angered him. Liu Aihua was in his way so he reached out and wanted to throw Liu Aihua aside.

Aunt Liu and Wang Qi shouted in astonishment when they saw this.

The gazes of the members of the Little Four mercenary team turned cold. Liu Furong was prepared to get up but Little Tao acted before him. He hugged Liu Aihua and rolled to the side, managing to evade the attack.

Everyone from Little Four mercenary team relaxed a little. Liu Furong calmed down and sat down. He decided to observe the situation first.

Chapter 973 Worth it!

Little Tao pulled Liu Aihua up. He was furious. "What are you trying to do?" 1

The muscular man didn't reply to him. He just smiled and continued attacking Little Tao furiously.

Luckily, Little Tao was agile. Although he had Liu Aihua beside him, he still managed to dodge all the attacks.

The muscular man's eyes turned vicious when he couldn't hit Little Tao. He suddenly changed his target and started attacking Liu Aihua. Little Tao was afraid that Liu Aihua would be hurt so he couldn't dodge as freely as before, making his movements seem restricted. As for Liu Aihua, she didn't panic at all, she just stared at the man's fist intently.

This wasn't the normal reaction for a ten-year-old who was in danger. Ma Yizhe furrowed his brows as he watched at the side. Then, he turned to look at the Little Four Mercenary Team, they seemed oblivious to the fact that one of their team members was in danger.

Ma Yizhe was arrogant and he looked down on everyone, but he didn't want to cause too much unnecessary trouble.

However, the reaction of the members of the Little Four Mercenary Team stunned him greatly. Besides the teenager and the lady who seemed to be the little girl's mother, everyone else was calmly eating their food. Only the two of them looked at the fight with a frightened expression. Some of them even laughed and chatted among themselves.

The two beautiful young ladies didn't look worried too. The lady who seemed more extrovert was pointing at the fight and seemed to be explaining something to the other lady.

'What is happening? Are they not worried about the little girl? Or are they confident that she wouldn't get hurt?' 1

If it was the first possibility, it wasn't much of a problem. If it was the second... Ma Yizhe turned serious. No matter what the reason was, their calmness proved that they were not easy to deal with.

Ma Yizhe wanted to let his subordinate teach Little Tao a lesson but now, he shouted, "Zhang Mo, come back."

Zhang Mo, who was the muscular man, instantly came back to Ma Yizhe's side.

Ma Yizhe turned to look at Ling Lan and gave an ambiguous smile. "Leader Jiang, please watch over your members if you want to prevent unnecessary troubles."

Ma Yizhe decided to be careful. He asked Ling Lan to bring Liu Aihua away so that he wouldn't offend the Little Four Mercenary Team too much.

All the members of Little Four Mercenary Team looked at Ling Lan as they waited for her reply.

As for Little Tao, he took this opportunity to push Liu Aihua away. He was the one who offended them. He shouldn't implicate this little girl who kindly came to give him some food.

Ling Lan raised her head and glanced at Ma Yizhe. She calmly twirled the knife in her hand and cut off a small piece of steak in front of her. She placed it inside her mouth and chew it slowly. She only replied after she finished eating the piece of steak. "What's the matter?"

The members of the Little Four Mercenary Team smiled. It looks like their Boss wanted to interfere with this matter.

Her nonchalant attitude infuriated Ma Yizhe. His gaze turned cold as he said angrily, "I've reminded you already. Since you don't mind, don't blame us if anything bad happens."

Little Tao got agitated when he heard that the Little Four Mercenary Team wasn't going to care about Liu Aihua anymore. He shouted, "Leader Jiang, this has nothing to do with her. Please forgive her for acting rashly." He heard that many mercenary teams would give up on a member that was disobedient. Little Tao was still young so he thought that Liu Aihua had angered Ling Lan because she gave her food away on her own accord.

'What a simple and naive fellow.' Liu Furong took a sip of wine and thought. However, he approved of his kindness in helping Liu Aihua.

Luo Yi smiled brightly. He lowered his voice and said, "Little Liu, you can groom this kid."

"Why?" Liu Furong was surprised.

Luo Yi continued smiling. "You need to find a son-in-law, right? Compared to letting her be fooled by some random young man, why not groom a few talented people now so you won't have to worry in the future."

Liu Furong's expression turned dark. "What are you talking about? Old Luo, my daughter is still young." He suddenly understood the worry of being a father. He now had to be conscious about protecting his daughter from being fooled by some stupid brat.

Liu Furong had some admiration for Little Tao but now, it was all gone. 2

Ling Lan looked at the agitated Little Tao. She touched her chin and smiled as she asked, "What if I don't want to?"

'I have changed my aura into a gentle person now. Why does he still think that I am so heartless that I would abandon my own members?'

Little Tao's expression changed drastically. He looked at Ma Yizhe and his men who were getting restless. He instantly made a decision. He said calmly, "Although I don't have much capabilities, I can still help with small matters. If you are willing to continue protecting her, I'll owe you my life. Anytime you need it, you can come and take it."

"Little Tao!" Yuan Mulin shouted angrily. 'Why is this kid so stupid? How can he owe his life to a little girl he just met?;

Plus, it was obvious that those people would help the little girl no matter what. The little girl might not be important to them, but no one in the right mind would take a step back.

"Little Aihua, you used one drumstick to get a life. It's well worth it," Ling Lan said calmly. 1

'A drumstick for a life? Worth it? What is Brother Jiang Hui saying?' Little Aihua looked at the drumstick that was still in her hand while looking puzzled.

"I'm sorry, this young man belongs to me now. Leader Ma, please forgive him for my sake." Ling Lan really wanted to have a relaxing trip. She also hoped that their journey would be quiet and peaceful.

Ma Yizhe narrowed his eyes. He said coldly, "Leader Jiang, are you standing up for him?" Ma Yizhe felt that Ling Lan was purposely trying to suppress him.

Ling Lan cut another piece of steak and placed it in her mouth. She said indifferently, "Are you not planning to solve this peacefully?"

The members of the Little Four Mercenary Team put down whatever they were doing and looked at Ma Yizhe and his team. The atmosphere in the warehouse turned tense suddenly. A huge battle seemed imminent. 2

The leader of Poison Teeth, Jiang Bizhi, had decided to sit on the fence. Ye Shao and Dibi Luya exchanged glances with one another. In the next second, Ye Shao stood up and smiled. "Leader Ma, the

child just made a mistake. If you get angry at him, you will be stooping to their level. Come, let's have a chat with all the leaders." He turned and looked at Ling Lan, "Leader Jiang, what do you think?"

Ling Lan smiled gently. "I'm okay. I just wonder if Leader Ma is willing to do it." Ling Lan didn't want to create trouble, especially unnecessary trouble.

Ma Yizhe snorted. Ye Shao comforted him for a while before he decided to sit down for a chat.

Chapter 974 Living Harmoniously In Peace

However, Ye Shao and Dibi Luya purposely disregarded Yuan Mulin. They didn't invite him over. This was even worse than humiliating him verbally. Yuan Mulin's face turned red in shame.

Ling Lan didn't move from her seat. She gave a half-smile and looked at Ye Shao. "Are you not planning to invite Leader Yuan?"

Yuan Mulin looked at Ling Lan gratefully. Ling Lan was helping him. If Ling Lan didn't mention anything, he would have to bear with the humiliation. His mercenary team would be trampled upon by the other mercenary teams if he said anything to gain the last bit of dignity he had left.

Yuan Mulin was not the only one that was grateful to Ling Lan. The members of Shadow Cat were grateful that she helped them keep their pride. Because of this, Little Tao also decided that owing his life to Ling Lan was worth it.

Ye Shao's expression froze. After a moment, he slapped his forehead and pretended to be sorry. "Leader Yuan, look at me. Sorry about this. Please come and have a chat together."

Yuan Mulin looked at Ling Lan unconsciously. Unknowingly, he started following Ling Lan.

Ling Lan smiled and stood up. She walked towards the area where Ye Shao, Dibi Luya, Jiang Bizhi, and Ma Yizhe were at.

Ye Shao, Dibi Luya, and Jiang Bizhi narrowed their eyes when they saw this. They got more vigilant of Ling Lan.

Luo Yi lowered his voice and said to Liu Furong, "Your regiment commander is not simple."

"If he is simple, he wouldn't be able to become a regiment commander of a mecha clan at the age of 21," Liu Furong replied with a proud expression.

"Look at how proud you are." Luo Yi drank some wine. His gaze turned unfocused. "At first, I thought that he achieved all these with the help of his father." Ling Xiao was one of the ten great generals so he definitely had the ability to let his son become a regiment commander.

"When he became out regiment commander that year, no one knew he was Ling Xiao's son." Liu Furong smiled. He remembered how everyone looked down on Ling Lan when they first knew that a young man was going to be their regiment commander. They thought that he would fail too. Furthermore, a lot of people had tried to help them from their dark place before, but none of them succeeded except for a 21-year-old man.

No one knew that this gentle-looking person was actually cold-blooded and ruthless. Their regiment commander was someone who would kill you if he felt that you had no hope. Liu Furong remembered Ling Lan's brutal methods in the past and felt cold sweat all over his body. The time when he advanced to the domain stage, he really felt that his regiment commander didn't plan to let him stay alive.

"Oh right. You haven't told me how you enter General Ling Xiao's 250 Ace Mecha Clan." He couldn't understand why that powerful person in the 3rd Division let him off.

Liu Furong sneered. He slowly told Luo Yi what had happened to him over the years. At first, he was still under the control of that person after he went into 250 Ace Mecha Clan. His opportunity to escape from his grasp came when Ling Lan appeared.

While Liu Furong was talking to Luo Yi, Ling Lan was met with many questions. The other leaders tried to dig out more information from her, but she just smiled most of the time and didn't reply to them. Hence, the other leaders couldn't do anything but stare at her. As for Yuan Mulin, they just ignored him all the way. Yuan Mulin didn't make his presence known too. He just remained quiet until the end.

Ling Lan returned to her mercenary team and sat with her team members.

Han Jijyun whispered, "Boss, what are the backgrounds of all those mercenary teams?"

"Grey Bat and Red Maple are strong teams. Their leaders are strong too. Ma Yizhe seemed rash but every step he took is precise. Jiang Bizhi has a tight mouth too. Besides Shadow Cat, the other mercenary teams have their own motive for accepting this mission." Ling Lan said calmly, "There must be something going on."

"Isn't Ma Yizhe's mercenary team a new mercenary team?" Luo Lang was surprised. Ma Yizhe gave him the impression that he was rash and wealthy. He thought that Ma Yizhe created his mercenary team because he was bored and wanted to have some excitement in his life.

"Of course not." Xie Yi explained hurriedly, "His team members knew what to do the moment Ma Yizhe looked at them. How could this be a team that just got created? Well, unless they knew each other since they were young just like us."

Luo Lang remembered how fast the members of Mighty Sky reacted when they almost had a fight just now. Their cooperation and cohesiveness were not awkward nor faked at all. He nodded.

"Your regiment commander is a monster," Luo Yi exclaimed. Ling Lan just had a short chat with the leaders but he managed to understand each mercenary team well. He felt that if more time was given to Ling Lan, he would be able to surpass Regiment Commander Wang. He might even become the second Ling Xiao.

"They always say that a Ling Xiao only appears every thousand years. If that is the case, our regiment commander is someone who appears every ten thousand years." Liu Furong felt that Ling Lan would become even stronger than Ling Xiao, as he was even more brutal and vicious than Ling Xiao.

Mighty Sky, Shadow Cat, and Little Four Mercenary Team had some conflict on the first day but the entire trip was relatively peaceful. Everyone lived harmoniously. They all lived in the same warehouse so they saw each other every day. After some time, they got familiar with each other too.

As for Little Tao, whose full name was Tao Ying, he would come to the Little Four Mercenary Team whenever he was free. He was 13 years old so he became good friends with Wang Qi who was 16 years old and Liu Aihua, who was 10 years old. The little burden, Liu Aijun, would always follow behind the three of them. The four youths always stayed beside Chang Xinyuan and Luo Yi. They would observe them as they did maintenance for the mechas.

Because of Tao Ying, the Little Four Mercenary Team and the Shadow Cat Mercenary Team had a good relationship with each other. Lin Zhong-qing took pity on the old mercenaries so he would occasionally give them some leftover parts. The old mercenaries from Shadow Cat were thankful.

The team members from Red Maple and Grey Bat always had meals and played games together. Soon, they became brother teams and formed an alliance among themselves. The people from Mighty Sky and Poison Teeth would sometimes join them for their meals and games. All in all, the six mercenary teams had a harmonious time, at least on the surface.

Finally, the merchant fleet arrived at the Chaotic Lands.

The people from Shadow Cat heaved a sigh of relief. They were afraid that the fully loaded merchant ships would meet intergalactic pirates along the way. If that was the case, they might not be able to go back home alive.

On the other hand, the other mercenary teams were more nervous when they landed.

Ye Shao and Dibi Luya, who always had smiles on their faces, turned serious too.

President Tu appeared at the entrance of the warehouse. He cupped his hands and bowed at them. "We'll have to trouble you for the coming week."

As expected, the merchant team didn't hire them to protect the ships during the journey to and fro the Chaotic Lands. They hired them to protect them when they were in Chaotic Lands.

Chapter 975 Black Market!

The members of Little Four Mercenary Team took a tour around the biggest city in Chaotic Lands and came back with various information about this place.

Just like its name suggests, Chaotic Lands was a place where reasoning was useless. The fist was the most important thing here. There was no government so the order of the place was messy. Acts of violence could happen anytime. Yet, this place was the most prosperous and free market in the entire Federation. Many merchants and wealthy people filled the roads of the city. Thus, as long as you have money, you could buy anything here.

Crimes happened in the Chaotic Lands all the time. If people who didn't have the ability to protect themselves came to this place accidentally, they would be killed almost instantly.

The Chaotic Lands and the Lawless Lands were the two places where evil congregated. However, they were very different even though their principles seemed similar.

The Lawless Lands was really messy. It was filled with criminals from various nations, merciless killers, and brutal murderers. Every day, innumerable people died. Huge fights occurred all the time. Compared

to the Lawless Lands, the Chaotic Lands was much more orderly. Besides the fact that average people were not suitable to live here, everything else was fine.

The reason no one dared to create a huge mess here was because the Chaotic Lands was actually controlled by three underground kings. They were Frost Monarch, Hades, and Ninja. It was rumored that all three of them were imperial level domain experts. However, that was just a rumor. There was no evidence to prove it.

Out of the three uncrowned kings, Ling Lan was most interested in Frost Monarch. From his name, she could tell that he was an ice element domain realm masters. Fighting with a formidable warrior who had the same element as her would be of great help.

Ling Lan was a half step into the imperial level. She had tried her best to extend the various techniques in her domain and practiced using them with the various states, but she still couldn't manage to find her breakthrough opportunity. She was stuck at the entrance of imperial level.

Of course, this was just Ling Lan's thoughts. She wouldn't offend Frost Monarch purposely so that she could have a battle with him. If she came here alone, she might do it. But, her comrades were with her. Ling Lan wouldn't put her comrades at risk, especially when they were in someone else's territory.

The six mercenary teams split into two groups. One group would stay with the fleet and protect the ships while the other was in charge of protecting the person-in-charge of the merchant team when he went to discuss business deals with other merchants. Three days later, the two teams would swap. To ensure that the results were fair, the leader of Grey Bat, Dibi Luya, suggested that they draw lots.

Yuan Mulin agreed with the suggestion. Jiang Bizhi and Ma Yizhe thought for a while and decided to go with it. Since the majority agreed, Ling Lan and Yuan Mulin's opinion didn't matter.

This drawing lots were not the low-level kind where everyone would close their eyes and choose a piece of paper. First, they would appoint someone to throw the balls of paper in the air. Everyone would use their ability to get the order they wanted.

Ling Lan didn't really care at the start but when she saw Dibi Luya and Ye Shao choosing to stay with the fleet first, she had a change of mind. She snatched the last piece of paper with the same sequence as Dibi Luya and Ye Shao before Jiang Bizhi caught it.

In the end, Little Four, Grey Bat, and Red Maple were in one team. They would stay with the fleet first and then go out. Jiang Bizhi and Ma Yizhe sighed when they realized the results of the lots. It seemed like they wanted to be the second batch that would leave the fleet too.

'Why do they want to stay on the fleet first?' Ling Lan was puzzled. It was a coincidence that she chose to come to the Chaotic Lands, so she was unfamiliar with this area. Little Four tried to find more information but there was not a single mainframe in this place. Even the communicators here were deactivated so Little Four's progress of obtaining information was slow.

For the first three days, everything was peaceful. The two groups swapped their positions. It was time for Ling Lan's team to go out. For the first two days of her shift, she protected the person-in-charge of the merchant team as he ran around the market to buy or exchange goods. On the third day, when Ling

Lan arrived at the destination with the person-in-charge, she finally understood why the leaders wanted to be in the second batch that would come out.

It was because there was a secret event on the third day. It was known as the black market. The Chaotic Lands was already a place where people could trade freely but a black market still existed, so there must be some interesting things inside.

There was a special way to enter the black market, which only the president of the merchant team, President Tu, knew.

Every year, the method of entering the black market would change. Hence, President Tu wasn't afraid that this secret would be leaked out.

The black market was also an extremely dangerous place. Some people didn't mind to kill to gain whatever they want so President Tu brought the three mercenary teams with him to boost his confidence and security.

Plus, if the people he brought to the black market was able to gain the liking of the person-in-charge of the black market and get an invitation the following year, he would be able to get heavy commissions too. He had nothing to lose from this so President Tu allowed them to follow him without any worry.

The moment they entered the black market, they saw all the representatives from all the various huge merchant clans as well as the wealthy and powerful people from the various nations. Those that got the invitation but couldn't come personally would send their confidants over to take part in this distinguished gathering.

The black market was split into three districts. The outer ring was the normal district. Of course, the normal district was filled with weapons banned from moving out of the various nations. There were also precious minerals and mines, savage beast forbidden to be sold, rare artifacts and national treasures, as well as books teaching special techniques. There were even some secret scriptures. However, these were only the lowest tier of goods. Even mechas from the various countries could be found here. The highest level of mecha available in the normal district was actually the special-class mecha. Everyone knew that mechas from a country were banned from being sold outside the country.

The inner ring was the special district. Ace mechas from different nations could be found here. Of course, they were not the latest model. If the latest model of ace mechas were available, the various nations would have made noises by now. They would organize their troops and collaborate with one another to destroy the Chaotic Lands. Besides mechas, there were other interesting items too. For instance, new supplies, ores, plants. Some products that could only be found on Planet Juhao were seen here too.

The center of the ring was the private collection district. Military starships were sold here. Ling Lan even saw the Divine Dragon starship in the list of items sold. This starship was just retired from the military and was considered the highest grade starship of the Federation. Ling Lan was astounded. In order to get this starship here without alerting anyone, someone from the higher authorities must be part of this. However, this was not the only thing that shocked Ling Lan. After the starship, humans started appearing on the list.

There were men, women, children, as well as the elderly. They were locked up in cages. The virtual screen beside the cage contained information about the innate talents of these people. It also showed their current level and their potential.

Most of them were children like Liu Aihua. These children had amazing potentials and were prodigies that managed to awaken their innate talent at a young age. They should have grown to become elites, but they were now being sold as goods. They would become their buyer's tools or slaves.

Ling Lan frowned. She could accept the other items found here. Even if they were adults being sold, she wouldn't be so bothered about it. Yet, this bunch of children who had fear and hope in their eyes made her feel uncomfortable.

975 Black Market!

The members of Little Four Mercenary Team took a tour around the biggest city in Chaotic Lands and came back with various information about this place.

Just like its name suggests, Chaotic Lands was a place where reasoning was useless. The fist was the most important thing here. There was no government so the order of the place was messy. Acts of violence could happen anytime. Yet, this place was the most prosperous and free market in the entire Federation. Many merchants and wealthy people filled the roads of the city. Thus, as long as you have money, you could buy anything here.

Crimes happened in the Chaotic Lands all the time. If people who didn't have the ability to protect themselves came to this place accidentally, they would be killed almost instantly.

The Chaotic Lands and the Lawless Lands were the two places where evil congregated. However, they were very different even though their principles seemed similar.

The Lawless Lands was really messy. It was filled with criminals from various nations, merciless killers, and brutal murderers. Every day, innumerable people died. Huge fights occurred all the time. Compared to the Lawless Lands, the Chaotic Lands was much more orderly. Besides the fact that average people were not suitable to live here, everything else was fine.

The reason no one dared to create a huge mess here was because the Chaotic Lands was actually controlled by three underground kings. They were Frost Monarch, Hades, and Ninja. It was rumored that all three of them were imperial level domain experts. However, that was just a rumor. There was no evidence to prove it.

Out of the three uncrowned kings, Ling Lan was most interested in Frost Monarch. From his name, she could tell that he was an ice element domain realm masters. Fighting with a formidable warrior who had the same element as her would be of great help.

Ling Lan was a half step into the imperial level. She had tried her best to extend the various techniques in her domain and practiced using them with the various states, but she still couldn't manage to find her breakthrough opportunity. She was stuck at the entrance of imperial level.

Of course, this was just Ling Lan's thoughts. She wouldn't offend Frost Monarch purposely so that she could have a battle with him. If she came here alone, she might do it. But, her comrades were with her. Ling Lan wouldn't put her comrades at risk, especially when they were in someone else's territory.

The six mercenary teams split into two groups. One group would stay with the fleet and protect the ships while the other was in charge of protecting the person-in-charge of the merchant team when he went to discuss business deals with other merchants. Three days later, the two teams would swap. To ensure that the results were fair, the leader of Grey Bat, Dibi Luya, suggested that they draw lots.

Yuan Mulin agreed with the suggestion. Jiang Bizhi and Ma Yizhe thought for a while and decided to go with it. Since the majority agreed, Ling Lan and Yuan Mulin's opinion didn't matter.

This drawing lots were not the low-level kind where everyone would close their eyes and choose a piece of paper. First, they would appoint someone to throw the balls of paper in the air. Everyone would use their ability to get the order they wanted.

Ling Lan didn't really care at the start but when she saw Dibi Luya and Ye Shao choosing to stay with the fleet first, she had a change of mind. She snatched the last piece of paper with the same sequence as Dibi Luya and Ye Shao before Jiang Bizhi caught it.

In the end, Little Four, Grey Bat, and Red Maple were in one team. They would stay with the fleet first and then go out. Jiang Bizhi and Ma Yizhe sighed when they realized the results of the lots. It seemed like they wanted to be the second batch that would leave the fleet too.

'Why do they want to stay on the fleet first?' Ling Lan was puzzled. It was a coincidence that she chose to come to the Chaotic Lands, so she was unfamiliar with this area. Little Four tried to find more information but there was not a single mainframe in this place. Even the communicators here were deactivated so Little Four's progress of obtaining information was slow.

For the first three days, everything was peaceful. The two groups swapped their positions. It was time for Ling Lan's team to go out. For the first two days of her shift, she protected the person-in-charge of the merchant team as he ran around the market to buy or exchange goods. On the third day, when Ling Lan arrived at the destination with the person-in-charge, she finally understood why the leaders wanted to be in the second batch that would come out.

It was because there was a secret event on the third day. It was known as the black market. The Chaotic Lands was already a place where people could trade freely but a black market still existed, so there must be some interesting things inside.

There was a special way to enter the black market, which only the president of the merchant team, President Tu, knew.

Every year, the method of entering the black market would change. Hence, President Tu wasn't afraid that this secret would be leaked out.

The black market was also an extremely dangerous place. Some people didn't mind to kill to gain whatever they want so President Tu brought the three mercenary teams with him to boost his confidence and security.

Plus, if the people he brought to the black market was able to gain the liking of the person-in-charge of the black market and get an invitation the following year, he would be able to get heavy commissions too. He had nothing to lose from this so President Tu allowed them to follow him without any worry.

The moment they entered the black market, they saw all the representatives from all the various huge merchant clans as well as the wealthy and powerful people from the various nations. Those that got the invitation but couldn't come personally would send their confidants over to take part in this distinguished gathering.

The black market was split into three districts. The outer ring was the normal district. Of course, the normal district was filled with weapons banned from moving out of the various nations. There were also precious minerals and mines, savage beast forbidden to be sold, rare artifacts and national treasures, as well as books teaching special techniques. There were even some secret scriptures. However, these were only the lowest tier of goods. Even mechas from the various countries could be found here. The highest level of mecha available in the normal district was actually the special-class mecha. Everyone knew that mechas from a country were banned from being sold outside the country.

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Chapter 976 Missing!

President Tu thought that Ling Lan was interested in the children when he saw her looking at them intently. He said, "The children here are all quite average. If you want to groom a good subordinate, you can wait for the auction at night. There will be better candidates then."

Speaking about this, President Tu sighed. "It's their luck to land in your hands. Leader Jiang, if you are interested, buy one. Save one while you can."

If his merchant team had the budget, he wanted to buy one of the children too. He wasn't planning to raise the child as his slave. He just wanted to accumulate some virtue for himself.

"They should be expensive." Ling Lan was in deep thought.

"Yes. But, it's worth it. The black market has the ability to make these people listen to you for life. They'll not betray you. That's why their business is so good. They have a good reputation," President Tu explained to her softly.

Ling Lan nodded. That cadet that died in her hands had the ability to hypnotize people. Hence, they might be someone with similar abilities in the black market. That was how they could brainwash the people and let them serve their master faithfully.

Ling Lan was attracted by the items in the black market, but Ye Shao and Dibi Luya were not interested in them. They seemed to pay more attention to the people that came to the black market. From this point, they appeared more professional than Ling Lan. They didn't forget to remain vigilant of their surroundings after entering the black market.

President Tu was satisfied with their performance. However, since Ling Lan was the youngest among them, he felt that it was understandable. Thus, he didn't blame Ling Lan for her unprofessionalism.

While Ling Lan and the other two leaders accompanied President Tu to the black market to get what he wanted, the people who remained at the warehouse were having lunch. Most of the time, the merchant team would send them their food on time. But, this time, there was no sign of anyone from the merchant team.

The other two mercenary teams had their own food so they just calmly opened their food supply and started eating. However, Shadow Cat didn't have their own food supply. The Little Four Mercenary Team that always gave them some food was out for their mission so they could only wait patiently for the merchant team to provide them their meals.

A moment later, an unfamiliar muscular man wearing the uniform of the merchant clan they were guarding walked over and shouted, "The logisticians informed us that they are busy with the loading of the goods so they don't have the time to send food over. Please send someone from your team to get your food."

Tao Ying jumped up immediately. "I'll go"

The muscular man looked at the other two teams. "Who is going from your team?"

Ma Yizhe scoffed and said, "Forget it. We won't die from hunger if we don't eat one meal. We don't want the food anymore."

Jiang Bizhi agreed and said coldly, "Do you really think that we need to rely on you for food? Hmph!"

The man's expression froze. He said to Tao Ying awkwardly, "Follow me."

Yuan Mulin wanted to reject arrogantly like the other two leaders but he looked at the hungry old people in his team and said, "Hurry up and go."

"I understand." Tao Ying nodded. He was thinking that since the other two teams didn't want their food, maybe he could get more servings for his members?

Tao Ying left with the muscular man. After a long time, he still hadn't come back. Yuan Mulin got worried. Finally, after waiting for an hour, he couldn't control his agitation and went to look for Tao Ying in the cafeteria.

When he reached the cafeteria, he was notified that the worker who was supposed to send the food over had left long ago. Yuan Mulin felt that something was amiss. He immediately searched through the place with the people from the merchant team. A while later, they told him that they found the corpse of the worker that went to send their food. It was predicted that he had died for more than two hours.

Yuan Mulin was shocked and furious. He knew that he got tricked. The muscular man that came to their warehouse wasn't from the merchant team. However, he didn't know why the person would sneak into the merchant's base and bring Little Tao away. There were no other casualties found and no goods were stolen. The person's target wasn't the product of the merchant. It seemed to be Little Tao.

However, they stayed beside their employer obediently all the time and never offended anyone. Yuan Mulin squatted on the ground and started crying furiously. He knew that the merchant wouldn't send people to look for Little Tao. Yet, with the six of them, they wouldn't have any chance of finding him in this chaotic region without any clues.

"My condolences. People who went missing in the Chaotic Lands were never found," Ma Yizhe pretended to console him.

Jiang Bizhi sneered and said, "This is the result of overestimating yourself. Don't come to this area again. It's not suitable for you."

"Leader, we can't leave without Little Tao. We watch him grow up," the old mercenary from Shadow Cat said in agony. If it wasn't for them, Little Tao could have joined a better mercenary team. He wouldn't have to come to this place and everything wouldn't have happened.

"I will. Even if I die, I will bring him back." Yuan Mulin's eyes were bloodshot but his gaze was firm. He wouldn't return to the Federation unless he found Little Tao.

Yuan Mulin calmed down after crying. He made friends with Luo Yi from the Little Four mercenary team as their age was similar. They exchanged their numbers too so he immediately contacted Luo Yi and told him that Little Tao was missing.

Yuan Mulin didn't know what to do so he could only plead the Little Four Mercenary Team to help him. Yuan Mulin decided that no matter what the results were, as long as the Little Four Mercenary Team were willing to help them, he was willing to do the toughest and most dangerous job for them. This was the only way he could think of repaying them.

Luo Yi was guarding the goods outside. He hung up the call with a serious face.

"What happened?" Liu Furong was startled. Ever since they left Planet Muyang, this was the first time he saw such a serious expression on Luo Yi's face.

"The leader of Shadow Cat called just now and told me that Tao Ying is missing," Luo Yi replied.

“Isn’t Tao Ying always in the warehouse? How did he disappear?” Liu Furong was shocked.

Luo Yi briefly told him how Tao Ying disappeared. Liu Furong frowned. “It seemed like the person’s target was Tao Ying from the start. But, why do they have to sneak in to take him away?”

Yuan Mulin had too little information on his hand. The two people thought for a long time but no conclusion was reached.

“We need to find our regiment commander.” Liu Furong was helpless so he could only look for the most powerful person he knew.

Chapter 977 Heavily Injured!

Liu Furong contacted Ling Lan but she told him that it was inconvenient for her to talk now and asked him to leave a message. Hence, Liu Furong texted what happened to Tao Ying to her and waited for her reply patiently.

In the black market, Ling Lan raised her arm to look at her communicator. Ye Shao noticed Ling Lan’s actions and smiled. “There are interference systems in place so our communicators can’t be used. Even if we are just standing in front of each other, we can’t communicate through our communicators.”

Ling Lan smiled in reply. “No wonder there is no reaction. I asked my team members to report their situation to me every hour.”

Ling Lan settled Ye Shao and read through the message Liu Furong sent her in her mind. She started pondering over it.

Little Tao was a normal person but he had a strong point. The first time she saw him, she discovered that he had awakened his innate talent at a young age too. She remembered all the children she saw in the black market and arrived at a conclusion.

Those human traffickers must have noticed Little Tao’s strength accidentally. They also knew that he was from a weak mercenary team so there would be no consequences involved if they kidnapped him. Since there was nothing to lose, they had no reason to give up on this piece of meat.

Ling Lan told Liu Furong her guess. Liu Furong was enlightened. No wonder Little Tao was taken away. He told Luo Yi what Ling Lan told him. As he was speaking, he suddenly remembered that his precious daughter had awakened her innate talent too. He got frightened. He told Luo Yi, “Luo Yi, stay here. I’ll go and find my daughter.”

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Then, he disappeared.

Damn it, his Little Aihua followed Wang Qi, Han Xuya, and some other people to the market. He hoped that nothing happened to them.

Wang Qi and Liu Aihua liked to walk around freely so they cooperated and managed to leave their little burden, Liu Aijun, behind. Without Liu Aijun following them, Aunt Liu wouldn’t nag at them. However, since they were just kids, Han Xuya was worried about letting them walk around alone so she split up

with Luo Chao. She would follow Wang Qi and Liu Aihua while Luo Chao would follow Aunt Liu and Liu Aijun.

Besides the two of them, Luo Lang and Qi Long came to protect them too. Luo Lang followed his sister so Qi Long followed Han Xuya. Just like how Han Xuya was worried about Wang Qi and Liu Aihua, Qi Long was worried about Han Xuya too.

The Chaotic Lands were dangerous and unsafe but the items sold here were good. The price was much cheaper than their own planet too. Some were shockingly cheap. Wang Qi and Liu Aihua managed to buy some knick-knacks after a while.

As Wang Qi and Liu Aihua stood in front of a stall and looked through the pile of goods, Han Xuya had some free time to take a look at the wide array of goods beside her too. A spherical ball with mist coming out of it caught her attention. She walked over and held the ball. A cold feeling flowed up her hand. This was a frost pearl.

“Miss, this is the frost pearl special to Planet Aoliduo. It’s very precious.” The stall owner smiled happily when he saw a customer.

“The frost river produced millions of frost pearls every year. It isn’t as precious as you say,” Han Xuya replied calmly. She liked the frost pearl because she felt that it was compatible with her Boss. She wasn’t a stupid person who didn’t know how to bargain. She wouldn’t be fooled by a few words.

The stall owner’s lie got exposed so he laughed awkwardly and said, “You are a knowledgeable person. I can’t fool you. How about this, if you like it, you can take it at this price.” The stall owner knew that he couldn’t get more money from this beautiful lady so he gave up this thought decisively and named his price.

Han Xuya looked at the frost pearl carefully. Then, she offered half the price the stall owner gave her.

The stall owner gave a forced smile. “Miss, I came all the way here to set up my stall. Let me earn some money. I really can’t earn much at this price. I can’t sell it to you.”

Han Xuya put down the frost pearl indifferently. “Forget it. I hope that you can get a better buyer.” She looked as though she wanted to stand up.

The stall owner saw her action and shouted, “Wait, miss, do you want to buy more things? If you buy more, I’ll sell it to you at your price.”

“This frost pearl can only be used as an accessory. There is no use for it. The price I’m offering you is high enough. You’ll not be able to find a better buyer. Plus, there is only one pearl. I can’t even make a bracelet with it.” Han Xuya pretended to be nonchalant. “If you are willing to sell it, I can buy it for fun. If not, I don’t have to get it too.”

The owner thought for a moment and asked, “You want more frost pearls?”

Han Xuya raised one of her eyebrows. “You have more?”

“How many do you need? If you buy more, I’ll offer it to you at the price.” That which is rare is dear. The stall owner didn’t bring out all his stock first.

“How many do you have?” Han Xuya didn’t answer him.

The stall owner show ‘10’ with his fingers.

“I want all of them. However, I want them at this price.” Han Xuya signaled another price with her fingers. The stall owner’s expression seemed even more forced. “Miss, this is not how you should bargain.”

“You should know that once there is a huge supply of something, the price will become cheaper.” Han Xuya smiled like a sly little fox.

“You’re impressive.” The stall owner couldn’t do anything. He agreed with the price. It was a third of his original price but at least he managed to sell all his frost pearls. He had gotten back most of his cost for this trip.

Han Xuya happily took the camphor wood box containing the ten frost pearls. As she was getting up, she saw Wang Qi and Liu Aihua running into the crowd. She got up hurriedly and chased after them. Two big-sized men suddenly blocked her path.

Han Xuya tilted her body and wanted to evade them. Suddenly, a hand appeared in front of her chest. One of the men was trying to molest

her.

“What are you trying to do?” Qi Long appeared instantly and grabbed the hand. He was furious.

Han Xuya looked at Qi Long.

Qi Long nodded to show that he would take care of this matter. Han Xuya moved to the side and left. She wanted to catch up with the two children among the crowd. She still remembered that she needed to take care of them.

She took a few steps when suddenly, she couldn’t move anymore. Wang Qi, who was in front of her, was gone.

Han Xuya vomited a mouthful of blood.

The force that was gripping her body disappeared. The heavily injured Han Xuya leaned back and fell towards the ground. A warm and strong arm caught her tightly. “Xuya!” Qi Long shouted anxiously.

‘This is the first time you called me Xuya!’ Han Xuya wanted to tell him this but she couldn’t speak. Blood kept flowing out of her mouth, staining her clothes.

Chapter 978 Saving People!

Liu Furong arrived at this moment. He quickly felt an unfamiliar domain energy taking Little Aihua away at a very fast speed. He hurried over but he stopped halfway.

“Damn it, I’m a step too late.” Liu Furong couldn’t find any traces of the domain realm master. He was worried about Han Xuya so he went back.

Luo Chao was already giving Han Xuya some emergency agents. However, this agent was only able to keep her alive. Han Xuya got injured by a domain realm master. If Qi Long didn’t save her in time, she might have died on the spot.

Liu Furong immediately reported their situation to Ling Lan. At first, Ling Lan didn’t like the selling of humans in the black market but she didn’t want to interfere in anything troublesome. But now, the actions of these people had infuriated her.

‘How dare they touch her comrades! They must go to hell!’

Killing intent appeared in Ling Lan’s eyes. She ordered Little Four to find the base of these human traffickers no matter what it takes.

At this moment, the domain realm master who caught Little Aihua had arrived at his secret base. He threw the unconscious Little Aihua into a cage that was prepared beforehand. His face was filled with anger.

“Damn it. Why didn’t you all tell me that there are domain realm masters protecting this little girl?” If he didn’t run away fast enough, he would have been caught by the domain realm master chasing him. He wasn’t afraid but in order to have domain realm masters protecting her, this little girl’s identity must be special. He didn’t want to create any huge trouble for his organization.

The business they did was illegal but they wouldn’t choose people with a background. Yet, the little girl he just caught was obviously from a powerful background.

“Based on what our scouts told us, the other party was rich but they aren’t powerful.” His subordinate heard him and hurriedly replied.

“Not powerful? Where did the domain realm master come from then? There is not one, but two domain realm masters.” The person who broke through his domain must be a domain realm master too. When his force of presence was broken, he felt something amiss so he ran away immediately with his prey. This allowed him to escape that domain realm master who was chasing him just in time.

“Maybe they made a mistake.” His subordinate wiped the cold sweat off his forehead as he explained. Then, he pointed at Little Aihua and asked, “What do we do with her?”

“What do we do? Since we took her, we can’t make a loss, right?” The domain realm master frowned. “We must act quickly. Make arrangements to have this troublesome girl sold at the auction tonight. Also, tell the people below to hide for this period of time. Don’t go out and source for prey. If they get caught, the organization will not save them.”

Two domain realm masters couldn’t create a fuss in the Chaotic Lands, and the organization behind them would be able to subdue them easily if they really found their base. However, their organization was afraid of trouble. If there was a background behind the two domain realm masters, a background like a powerful elite family, their organization would quickly abandon them.

“But that would mean that we don’t have the time to assess her.” Normally, they had to do a thorough assessment of all their goods so that they could provide clear information to their buyers to make them feel at ease.

“Write special type. Some people like to try their luck, right?” The domain realm master answered nonchalantly. No matter how bad the goods was, once it entered the auction, it would be able to fetch a high price. He was not worried that he would make a loss.

“I understand.” The subordinate had been doing this kind of business for a long time so he knew the minds of the buyers too.

Inside a house they rented temporary, ten people sat quietly in the living room.

Li Lanfeng touched Little White’s back slowly. Little White felt comfortable but the tense atmosphere in the living room caused him to keep quiet.

The door suddenly opened. Li Shiyu and Luo Chao walked out fully dressed in their medics uniform.

Li Shiyu took off his mask and said calmly, “She’s out of danger.”

This was the first time he experienced the power of domain. Han Xuya’s body kept being hurt by the residual domain energy. If Ling Lan didn’t leave a bottle of Nuwa agent for emergency purposes, Han Xuya situation might have gone for the worse.

This made Li Shiyu understand that he needed to source the main ingredient for his Nuwa agent immediately. If not, he wouldn’t be able to save his comrades for the next time they get in trouble.

Everyone relaxed a little when they heard this.

Qi Long remembered Han Xuya’s weak appearance when she laid in his arms just now. His heart ached. He slammed his hand on the handle beside him and breaking it in the process.

“I want to kill that fellow!” Qi Long’s eyes were bloodshot. Malicious intent could be seen inside them. He looked like a devil from hell.

Liu Furong’s expression relaxed when he heard that Han Xuya was alright. However, when he thought about his missing daughter, his face turned dark again.

Beep beep beep! His communicator started vibrating. He instantly turned on his communicator and a map appeared on the virtual screen.

It had to be said that when Little Four decided to be serious, he was extremely efficient. Within two hours from the time Liu Furong reported their situation to Ling Lan, Little Four managed to find the base of the human traffickers.

“There are three suspicious locations. They are...” Ling Lan’s voice was heard along with the appearance of the map. “All of you will split into four groups. One group will stay at our base while each of the other three groups will go to one of the locations. Please remember that our aim is to save our people and not to take revenge.”

Ling Lan was afraid that her comrades would be controlled by their emotions and forget the purpose of their mission. Before Little Aihua was saved, she didn't want anyone to discover her comrades. She was afraid that the other party would kill Little Aihua to cover up their traces.

"I understand." Liu Furong felt touched. If Ling Lan didn't say this, Qi Long might be overwhelmed by his anger and want to take revenge. If that happened, he couldn't stop him.

The killing intent in Qi Long's eyes subsided after he heard what Ling Lan said. He resumed his composure and the people around him heaved a sigh of relief.

They acted quickly and split themselves into four teams.

Qi Long was tasked to remain behind to protect the people who weren't participating in this mission. A portion of the people was worried that he would act rashly because of his emotions, but the main reason he would stay behind was that he was one of the most powerful people among them. Those that stayed back were mostly weak and injured people. Hence, Qi Long was given the important task of protecting them.

Liu Furong and Zhao Jun were in one team, Luo Lang and Xie Yi were in one team, and Li Lanfeng and Little White were in the last team.

Out of the three teams, the team with Liu Furong and Zhao Jun was the weakest. Zhao Jun wasn't a domain realm master yet but he was just half a step away from it. He just needed an opportunity to breakthrough. He was more powerful than all the other Qi-Jin masters and even if he met a domain realm master, he could fight evenly with them for a while.

As for Little White, everyone knew what it actually was. In 250 Ace Mecha Clan, it was the most powerful 'person' after their Boss. Hence, Li Lanfeng and Little White would go to the most dangerous location Ling Lan mentioned.

Chapter 979 Transfer!

Li Lanfeng hugged Little White and went to his designated destination. He looked like a tourist with Little White in his arms.

His destination was an old village. It was remote and the houses in the village were dilapidated. If the interior of the houses were the same as their outer appearance, they were definitely classified as hazardous based on the Federation's building standard.

Li Lanfeng stood at the entrance of a small alley. He looked at the lively children running around with smiles on their faces. He smiled gently as if influenced by their smiles.

Many old men and women sat outside their houses and bathed in the rare sunlight. At the same time, they were watching over their grandsons too. When they saw a stranger entering their village, they looked at him vigilantly. As a local of the Chaotic Lands, this was the normal look they would give to a stranger.

If Ling Lan didn't tell him, Li Lanfeng wouldn't have suspected this place. Li Lanfeng commended his opponents in his heart. From this mission, he had learned a lesson from them. Sometimes, you don't have to hide your base and guard it heavily. You can display your base blatantly in front of anyone. Most

would think that this was just a rundown village and would never expect it to be a base of human traffickers.

Even if they suspect anything, they would think that there were only a few criminals. They might enter the base alone and get caught by the traffickers.

Li Lanfeng slowly walked to the center of the village.

There were no blind spots here. No matter where he went, there were always people looking at him. These people hid so well that even Qi-Jin masters might not notice these people. Unfortunately for them, they were hiding from a domain realm master.

Li Lanfeng smiled, as it was time for the act to start. He scratched Little White's tiny body.

"Rawr!"

'What do you want me to do?' Little White rubbed its tentacles. It could finally show off its true capabilities. Rawr!

Lately, Little White was frustrated. It had to pretend to be an obedient pet in front of Little Aijun and Little Aihua. If its master didn't tell it that it couldn't harm anyone, it would have eaten those people that dared to touch its master's friends.

Li Lanfeng smiled at flicked its forehead. "Wow, you are really expressive today, aren't you?"

"Rawr!"

'Even master had never flick my perfect forehead before. How dare you flick it? Ah! You're dead...'

"Stop." Li Lanfeng scratched Little White's round body. "You know Liu Aihua. Our aim is to find her. Of course, I don't mind if you eat their treasures along the way."

Little White's eyes lit up. 'I can eat? Well, since this bastard allowed me to eat, I will forgive you for that finger flick. I am not that narrow-minded.'

"Go!" Under Li Lanfeng's command, Little White suddenly struggled and jumped off Li Lanfeng's arms. It landed on the ground and started running towards another alley.

"Ah, Little White, don't run..." Li Lanfeng followed behind Little White with an agitated expression as he tried to catch up with Little White.

However, Little White was very fast. Li Lanfeng pretended that he couldn't catch up with it because of his weak body. After some time, Little White disappeared from Li Lanfeng's eyes.

Li Lanfeng stopped running and panted heavily. He pretended to appear worried as he looked around him cluelessly. He seemingly chose a random alley and ran inside it. When he met people, he would ask them anxiously if they saw his pet. His acting was oscar-winning

"This person should be clean," one of the people who was watching over Li Lanfeng said. Li Lanfeng had been searching through the village for half an hour and he didn't notice anything amiss with him.

“It’s better to be careful. Our superior said that someone provided the wrong information so we caught someone with a powerful background. He is afraid that those people might come and look for the person,” another person replied.

“Even if they came, we’ll kill them.” The person who spoke first sneered. “They’ll just be our prey.” Unless an imperial stage domain expert came, no one would be able to get out of here alive.

“That’s true. Actually, we used this method to catch many good products before.” The other person started smiling confidently.

Li Lanfeng couldn’t find Little White after more than an hour of searching and asking around so he left the village dejectedly.

After Li Lanfeng left, the people watching over him looked away.

Li Lanfeng walked for some distance. When he noticed that the people watching him were gone, a sinister smile appeared on his face. “I wish you all good luck. Rabbit is not someone you should offend.” His body started sparkling. After a while, he turned into tiny particles and dissipated into the air.

Li Lanfeng had walked around the entire village and found a few suspicious locations. He needed to visit those places now.

Half an hour later, the particles congregated and Li Lanfeng appeared. His face was stern. The results of his investigation weren’t good. Inside the secret rooms under the village, he saw many young children kept in cages. However, there was no sign of Liu Aihua.

After some time, a white light flashed passed. Li Lanfeng raised his arms and Little White laid on them comfortably. He even burped in satisfaction.

“How is it?” Li Lanfeng rubbed Little White’s round stomach and asked.

“Rawr!” This is so comfortable.’ Little White said lazily, “I didn’t find Little Aihua.” It had searched all the corners of the village and made sure that Little Aihua was not here. Although it didn’t find Little Aihua, Little White didn’t waste its effort too. It ate many things in the place.

When it had the chance, it should find its master for a compliment. It had many things in its stomach now. Its master would definitely be able to find something likable.

“I don’t know what is the situation in the other two locations.” Li Lanfeng frowned. He could only hope that the other two teams had some good news.

However, the other two teams came back with bad news. They didn’t find Liu Aihua too. But, Luo Lang and Xie Yi found Tao Ying. It was an unexpected finding. Just like what their boss thought, he was caught by the human traffickers.

Tao Ying told them that before they came, a batch of children had been transported to the black market for the auction tonight.

Ling Lan’s gaze turned cold when she received this piece of news.

Obviously, the organization was afraid of causing trouble so they decided to move Little Aihua away quickly.

Chapter 980 Exterminate!

The peace during this period of time caused all of them to let down their guards. They felt that with their capabilities, they would be able to protect the weak people around them. They even thought that since there were many domain realm masters on their side, no one would dare to touch them. This arrogant and overconfident attitude caused them to make mistakes and give those traffickers a chance to kidnap not just one but two of them.

'I am to be blamed too!' Ling Lan took a deep breath and stopped feeling relaxed. Her gaze turned cold and deep just like how they were when she was in the military.

She couldn't deny that she had started to become more relaxed after she knew that she might have to leave the military soon. Her vigilance and sense of crisis also had decreased after she knew that fact.

'Ling Lan, this is not a safe place. Unless you become a lady that doesn't go out of your house, you'll meet all kinds of dangers. Once you let down your guard, you'll cause a calamity to yourself and your friends.' She thought to herself.

Ling Lan self-reflected. Then, she smiled. She was laughing at herself as well as feeling enlightened and the lazy aura around her disappeared.

Ye Shao and Dibi Luya felt the change in Ling Lan's aura. They were stunned. They exchanged glances with each other as they wondered why a relaxed person suddenly became so focused.

Beep beep beep! The three teams that were waiting for further orders from their boss all received a message on their communicator.

"There's a new order." Everyone quickly looked down. There was only one word. It was an astonishing word.

"Exterminate!"

This was a word that represented killing and blood. Even Liu Furong, who was an old veteran who had been on many battlefields, felt goosebumps on his head when he saw this word.

However, this was what their regiment commander would do. If someone touched his bottom line, he would mercilessly annihilate all the evil.

Everyone gasped and they looked at their targets coldly. This time, they would become the god of death and clean these evils up.

"Little White, its time for you to eat again," Li Lanfeng told Little White.

Little White clapped and waved its tentacles in the air. Then, it disappeared in front of Li Lanfeng again.

Li Lanfeng walked towards the old village slowly. An old man near the entrance of the village saw Li Lanfeng returning and became vigilant. He wanted to touch the hidden button under his seat to remind the people inside, but he realized that he couldn't move.

'What is happening?' The old man was in shock. Suddenly, he heard a clear voice beside his ears.

"Although you will still die, I don't want this massacre to be too bloody or else, Rabbit will be angry."

Li Lanfeng, who was supposed to be 50 meters away from the old man, suddenly appeared beside him. He had a smile on his face as though he was asking the old man for his favorite food.

The old man was not a powerful person but he could feel how dangerous this young man was. He was definitely not a normal person.

He thought about the young man's performance before this, and felt that he had an ulterior motive.

The old man tried to struggle free, but Li Lanfeng just snapped his fingers and a black ray of light shot towards the old man.

The black ray of light entered the old man's body and the old man started shining. In the next second, the old man exploded into small particles and disappeared without a trace.

"You're lucky. You're the first person to enjoy my technique." Li Lanfeng's smile got brighter when he saw this.

Li Lanfeng didn't need to use most of his domain energy when he wanted to format someone. Ling Lan had been asking him to practice controlling his domain energy. The results were good. Li Lanfeng was able to gain a deeper understanding of his domain technique and controlled it better. He was even able to use his technique without wasting his domain energy.

Li Lanfeng walked deeper into the village. Multiple black rays of light shone around him. No matter who touched the rays of black light, they would turn into tiny particles.

There was one to two domain realm masters stationed at every base. While Li Lanfeng walked towards the center of the village, a fat old man and a skinny old man who were at some underground bunker, hugging a naked woman each and enjoying some wine.

Just as they were about to have s*x with their woman, they felt a strong killing intent as well as a faint and unfamiliar domain energy in the vicinity.

Their expressions changed. They pushed their woman away and stood up immediately.

"There is an enemy."

Li Lanfeng's blatant killing intent had alerted them.

They exchanged glances with each other and grabbed their gowns. Then, they disappeared instantly.

Li Lanfeng detected something. He looked up at the roof on his left and said calmly, "You are finally here."

It was difficult for him to find them. It was their base after all. It was easier for them to find him than it was for him to find them. Hence, he didn't restrain his force of presence and allowed it to spread all over the village. He wanted them to discover him.

“You know that we’re here but you still dare to come here. Are you not afraid of death, youngster?” The fat old man scoffed when he saw that their enemy was just a young man.

Li Lanfeng smiled and didn’t say anything. Instead, he flicked his fingers continuously and two rays of black light shot towards the two old men.

The two old men waved their hands to block the rays. However, the black rays passed through their sleeves and pierced into their skin.

The two old men were stunned. They quickly used their hands as knives and sliced the part of their skin which got infected by the black light.

Two pieces of meat got sliced off their arms. The moment the piece of meat left their body, it turned into particles and disappeared.

The two old men looked at Li Lanfeng with frightened expressions. They finally felt fear in their hearts. What kind of domain was that? If they didn’t react in time, they might have disappeared from this world just like their pieces of meat.

“Who are you? Why are you at the Hades Palace?” The skinny cupped his hands hurriedly. He no longer underestimated this young man so his tone was full of respect now.

That single attack was enough to prove that this young man was not someone easy to deal with. The Hades Palace was able to make a name for itself in the Chaotic Lands and did business smoothly because they never provoked powerful people. Of course, they had powerful people backing them up too.

“Who am I? You don’t have to know that. As for why I’m here...” Li Lanfeng’s smile got brighter. “I came to kill.”

“Bastard!” The fat man was furious. They didn’t want to provoke powerful people but that didn’t mean that they would bear with them if they offended them.

There was only one outcome if someone wanted to become the enemy of the Hades Palace.

Death

The two stomped their feet and charged at Li Lanfeng.