

First Order 151

Chapter 151: You don't seem like a good person

Luo Lan watched Xiaoyu and Ren Xiaosu from the side as they helped to clean the wounds on the injured and unconscious supernatural being. He even reminded them every now and again, "Be careful, don't kill him."

Luo Lan became even more excited as he thought. After the supernatural being regained consciousness, Luo Lan would only need to stir his emotions with reasoning to touch his heart. Would he also end up with a supernatural being as his bodyguard, just like his younger brother, Qing Zhen?

Thinking of this, Luo Lan glanced at Chen Wudi. If this supernatural being turned out to be more powerful than Chen Wudi, that would really be great. It would make Ren Xiaosu so envious of him!

Luo Lan still felt begrudged over how he had failed to recruit Chen Wudi...

Xiaoyu went to get a towel to clean the bloodstains on the injured supernatural being's face. She said in surprise, "It's actually a woman, and she looks to be around 27."

Luo Lan's eyes lit up. "Are you sure?"

When he went closer to get a good look, he realized it really was a woman!

Chen Wudi went over as well. "Master, she looks like the White Dragon Horse."

Luo Lan got anxious. "It's fine if you want to go around acknowledging someone as your master, but don't go bringing others into the picture as well!"

To be honest, Luo Lan was fairly afraid the woman would follow Chen Wudi and the others to the Western Paradise to obtain Buddhist scriptures after she regained her consciousness...

Wouldn't all of his hard work go down the drain after spending so much effort to rescue her?!

Fortunately, Chen Wudi said after making a close inspection, "No, I got it wrong. She's older than the White Dragon Horse."

When Chen Wudi said that, Luo Lan finally felt more at ease. He chuckled and said, "It's good that she's not. I never expected you would fuss over something like age."

All of a sudden, Luo Lan felt he must also be fucking crazy. He took the lunatic Chen Wudi's words seriously?

When Ren Xiaosu saw it was a woman, he stepped aside for Xiaoyu to apply the medicine on her.

Xiaoyu sent everyone away. "When a woman is getting medicine applied on her, men shouldn't look."

But the supernatural being regained consciousness at this moment. When she saw everyone around her, she sat bolt upright and asked, "Who are you people?"

Luo Lan was the first to go over. "I'm the one who saved you from the Pyro Company!"

The woman scrutinized Luo Lan. "You? You don't look it."

"Who doesn't look it?!" Luo Lan nearly flipped the table. "Why doesn't it look like I saved you?! I'm really the one who saved you from the Pyro Company!"

But the woman just got up and walked outside without saying a word of thanks. But before she could even take two steps, she fell to the ground. Although the black medicine could help ease her pain quickly, it would not be so easy for her to recover from the injury she had suffered.

Xiaoyu ran over to help her up. She comforted her, "Your injury hasn't healed yet, so you shouldn't move about."

However, tears started to fall from the woman's eyes. "My big brother is still in the hands of the Pyro Company."

Luo Lan was stunned. The other supernatural being was her elder brother? So there were two supernatural beings in the same family?

But this also made Ren Xiaosu understand why she had gone to his rescue.

Next to her, Tang Zhou calmly said, "Then he's definitely dead. While you were escaping with him on your back, the blast from the RPG threw him off of you. We only had time to save you, but your big brother was not that lucky. Besides, the Pyro Company had always been after blood samples. They don't leave the donors alive."

Ren Xiaosu fell silent. When he first heard of the Pyro Company, he thought their mission was to keep the embers of humanity alive by ensuring the continuation of the human species. He never expected the Pyro Company would resort to any means necessary to obtain the blood of a supernatural being. In that case, would someone like Yang Xiaojin, who was an enemy of the Pyro Company, be considered good? No, that wasn't right either. Ren Xiaosu always had the feeling the girl did not seem to be a good person either.

In fact, the definition of a "good" or "bad" person was too limited. The complexity of human nature had greatly surpassed those definitions.

He suddenly asked, "Fatty Luo, did you save her from the Pyro Company? You better not drag us into this affair."

"Don't you worry a whit. You won't get implicated." Luo Lan snapped, "And I won't make you save someone for nothing in return. I'll have Tang Zhou send 30,000 yuan over tomorrow morning."

The female supernatural being slowly returned to her senses. She knew she could not save her older brother anymore. The most important thing she should do now was to hide, then seek a chance to avenge him.

Luo Lan squatted down next to her and said, "Why don't you join us? We happen to have a feud with the Pyro Company. We even killed more than a 100 of their members some time ago." Luo Lan started contemplating again. No matter what, she was still a real supernatural being, and she was even a woman....

However, the woman glared at Luo Lan. "You don't seem like a good person yourself either!"

Luo Lan got angry. "Why are you biting the hand that fed you? I really did save you!"

The supernatural being stood up at this moment and bowed to Ren Xiaosu and the others. She said, "Thanks to all of you. My name is Dong Funan. If there's a chance in the future, allow me to repay the favor. For now, I can't stay here. Otherwise, I'll implicate all of you."

"Gratitude received from Dong Funan, +1!"

Luo Lan said disconsolately, "Why?!"

Why was she thanking Ren Xiaosu and the others when he was the one who saved her?

Tang Zhou whispered, "Boss, maybe it's because you don't look like a good person."

Luo Lan turned around and looked dumbfoundedly at Tang Zhou. "Buddy, your skin's gotten really thick recently, eh!"

But just as Luo Lan finished speaking, the supernatural being, Dong Funan, fainted again.

"What should we do now?" Xiaoyu looked to Ren Xiaosu.

Ren Xiaosu said unsympathetically, "Luo Lan, hurry up and take her away."

Ren Xiaosu even suspected Dong Funan might have pretended to faint so she could impose on them. At least her thanks was sincere.

"She'll stay here with you all for now. I'll pay for it." Luo Lan said, "Take care of her for me and I'll send over the money tomorrow!"

"Deal." Ren Xiaosu said, "Big Sister Xiaoyu, help her to your room. Chen Wudi, you'll stand guard at Big Sister Xiaoyu's room. Don't let this woman escape before Fatty Luo pays up."

"Yes, Master," Chen Wudi said.

This series of arrangements made by Ren Xiaosu dumbfounded Luo Lan!

That very night, Luo Lan and his people waited until midnight before sneaking off. Meanwhile, Ren Xiaosu did not sleep a wink just to ensure that nothing untoward happened. The next morning, he led Yan Liuyuan and Wang Dalong to school.

When they walked up to the school gate, they bumped into Yang Xiaojin. Yan Liuyuan greeted her in a polite and friendly manner, "Hello, Big Sis."

Yang Xiaojin said happily, "Hello to you too. I'll bring some delicious food tomorrow and have your brother pass it to you."

"Mhm." Yan Liuyuan nodded in response.

Somehow, Ren Xiaosu felt that something was off as he watched their interaction from close by. When did their relationship become so good?!

Then Yang Xiaojin asked in curiosity, "Ren Xiaosu, didn't you have Teacher Jiang Wu teach you how to ride a bike yesterday? Why didn't you ride it here today? You couldn't learn it?"

"Hahahaha, how could I possibly not learn something so simple!" Ren Xiaosu laughed it off.

"Then why didn't you ride it here?" Yang Xiaojin asked.

Ren Xiaosu thought for a moment before saying, "I sent my bike in for maintenance."

Yang Xiaojin was confused.

Chapter 152: The two Ren Xiaosus

"You're saying you sent your bike in for maintenance?" Yang Xiaojin verified again with a strange look on her face.

"Yeah," Ren Xiaosu replied as he vaguely realized he might have said something wrong when he saw her expression. But he still did not know what he had said wrong.

Then in broad daylight, Ren Xiaosu watch Yang Xiaojin laugh so hard at the school's entrance she doubled over.

"What's so funny about that?" Ren Xiaosu walked into the school with a dark expression, leaving Yang Xiaojin behind as she continued laughing crazily outside the entrance.

After Ren Xiaosu entered the classroom, Yang Xiaojin followed close behind him. They sat in the last row and became new deskmates all of a sudden. At this moment, Yang Xiaojin was trying her best to restrain herself from looking at Ren Xiaosu. Otherwise, she would break out into a fit of laughter if she glanced at him.

"What's so funny?" Ren Xiaosu wondered.

"If you couldn't learn to ride a bike, just admit it." Yang Xiaojin said, "Why did you come up with such a bad excuse?"

"But when I asked Luo Lan about his vehicle yesterday, he told me that he sent it in for maintenance," Ren Xiaosu said puzzledly.

"He drives a car." Yang Xiaojin explained through laughter, "Maintenance for cars refers to changing the engine oil and filters, stuff like that. As if your bike has any oil filters!"

Ren Xiaosu understood where he had gone wrong. So it turned out there wasn't a need to send bicycles in for maintenance. This was truly a case of being disadvantaged due to poverty!

Ren Xiaosu raised his eyebrows. "So what if I didn't learn how to ride a bike? Did you master it on your first attempt?!"

Yang Xiaojin said in a serious tone, "That's right, I did master it on my first attempt."

Ren Xiaosu fell silent. He thought to himself if he should use the Basic Skill Duplication Scroll to copy cycling from her. Judging from his past experiences, Yang Xiaojin would most likely be an advanced or even master cyclist.

However, Ren Xiaosu had wised up by now. Before learning anything, he would first check with the palace. "What's Yang Xiaojin's cycling proficiency?"

The palace voice said, "She doesn't have any bicycle-related skills."

Ren Xiaosu turned around and stared at Yang Xiaojin in a daze. 'Then what are you bragging to me about! You might as well go to Heaven!'

At this moment, Ren Xiaosu realized that this girl, Yang Xiaojin, did not even need to "write a draft" 1 before lying. She just spoke irresponsibly!

Ren Xiaosu had learned about this idiom in class. But later on, he found out that it should have been "to speak daftly" 1 instead when checking through the old dictionaries that Zhang Jinglin kept. So he asked Zhang Jinglin why the idiom was written differently.

However, Zhang Jinglin said that it might have been a rebus character 1 from the past and that it was written as "draft" instead of "daft" these days. It was basically an idiom that could be used to describe someone who spoke nonsensically.

After the conversation about bicycles, Ren Xiaosu felt he had to synthesize any information he received from Yang Xiaojin.

When the bell rang, the teacher who taught math to Class 12-3 walked into the classroom. He stood at the lectern and said very slowly, "I will temporarily be teaching math for you. Everyone, open up your books. Today, we'll be reviewing probability."

Ren Xiaosu couldn't understand any of the lessons that had not been taught in town. Therefore, he decided to start studying according to his own study plan in order to catch up with the class as soon as possible.

He heard from Jiang Wu that the final exams would be starting soon. He was bound to fail the upcoming exam and could only hope to do better on the next one. According to Jiang Wu, he could finish studying the 12th grade curriculum within a year as long as he worked hard enough. If he was smart enough, it was also possible to finish it within half a year.

Ren Xiaosu thought that if he could catch up with the required progress by the college entrance examinations, he might even be able to qualify for university and have a look around there.

Suddenly, Ren Xiaosu discovered that Yang Xiaojin had fallen asleep at the bench. He wrote a note and poked Yang Xiaojin's arm. The note read, "Don't you have to study? Why are you coming to school?"

Yang Xiaojin got up and shot him a look. Then she replied on the note, "I'm here to sleep."

Ren Xiaosu replied on the note, "Why are you coming here to sleep instead of sleeping at home?"

"I can sleep better at school."

In reality, Ren Xiaosu had another purpose in writing the note. He wanted to verify that Yang Xiaojin was the one who had slotted the note under the threshold of their shop's door.

However, it seemed like Yang Xiaojin knew of Ren Xiaosu's intention. Even though the two of them sat at the same table, they continued to test each other while playing dumb.

Ren Xiaosu kept writing more notes to her, while Yang Xiaojin deliberately refrained from using her usual handwriting.

Ren Xiaosu wrote, "Any good eats around here?"

"What vehicles can't be sent in for maintenance besides bicycles?"

"What'd you have for dinner last night?"

The notes they exchanged were basically nonsense. Ren Xiaosu refused to believe that Yang Xiaojin could keep on pretending!

After passing back a series of notes filled with nonsense for a while, Yang Xiaojin frowned and switched her handwriting to the one she usually wrote in. "I'm the one who slotted the note into the shop, so just get to the point!" She decided to stop pretending and laid all her cards on the table.

Ren Xiaosu replied on the note, "So you told me not to overstay in this place because you were afraid that I might find out you stole my identity?"

With that, Yang Xiaojin completely ignored Ren Xiaosu.

Suddenly, the math teacher who was standing at the lectern said, "You two in the back, please stop passing notes back and forth."

All of the students in class gave Ren Xiaosu and Yang Xiaojin ambiguous looks. They heard the math teacher ask, "You two, what are your names?"

"I'm Ren Xiaosu."

“I’m also Ren Xiaosu!”

The math teacher got furious. “Do I look gullible to you?”

Ren Xiaosu felt badly wronged...

A student said softly to the math teacher, “Teacher, both of them are really called Ren Xiaosu.”

“Um, Teacher, it’s true....”

The math teacher was dumbfounded. He went to the office to get the roster for Class 12-7 and discovered to his surprise that there were really two Ren Xiaosus. What the hell!

After pondering it for a while, he realized it was indeed a misunderstanding. But he could not just leave it at that. “The Ren Xiaosu wearing the cap, I want you to answer the question on the blackboard.”

Ren Xiaosu was elated. ‘Serves you right, Yang Xiaojin!’

But a second later, Ren Xiaosu was stunned. He watched Yang Xiaojin take off her cap and put it on his head as though no one could see them. ‘Is this even allowed?!’ But Ren Xiaosu could not think about anything else at this moment. He was astounded by Yang Xiaojin’s delicate and stunning face.

In that instant, Ren Xiaosu felt Yang Xiaojin might have only worn a cap to hide her beauty, not because she wanted to hide her identity.

This was the first time Ren Xiaosu had seen her take off her cap, and he was absolutely astonished by how beautiful she was.

All the students held their breath. Like Ren Xiaosu, they did not expect Yang Xiaojin to look so beautiful.

In the entirety of the classroom, only the old math teacher remained calm and collected. “The Ren Xiaosu wearing the cap, stand up and answer the question.”

Ren Xiaosu pointed at himself after recovering from his shock. “Me?”

“Yes, you!” the math teacher said.

Ren Xiaosu was taken aback again. “Teacher, didn’t you see that this cap was just placed on me?”

The math teacher chuckled. “She’s such a lovely young lady that I can’t bear to make her answer the question, so hurry up and answer the questions.”

Ren Xiaosu was speechless.

Chapter 153: Copy! Shadow Door!

Ren Xiaosu still greatly respected those in the teaching profession due to his relationship with two teachers, Zhang Jinglin and Jiang Wu.

He stood up and said honestly, "Teacher, I don't know the answers to the questions on the blackboard since I've never learned them in the town's school. I'm starting to catch up from the 10th grade curriculum."

"Alright." The math teacher nodded. "Stop passing around notes in class. If there's anything you don't understand, you may come to the staff room and ask me. My office is on the third floor."

"Thank you, Teacher," Ren Xiaosu said politely.

"Please sit down," the math teacher said with a smile.

In fact, many of those who attended school in the stronghold would stop studying after 12th grade, because the university in the stronghold was not that big and the number of admission spots was limited. 90% of the students in the stronghold had no chance to further their studies.

After the students graduated from high school, they would immediately have to consider whether they wanted to find work or attend vocational schools to learn skills such as mechanics, agriculture, excavation, culinary arts, etc.

After they finished their studies, they would become the foundation of this stronghold.

There were high-end research laboratories in the stronghold, including the university that focused on research in various fields. University students in the stronghold were very valuable resources these days as they represented the knowledge structure of the stronghold.

But a complete society could not only consist of a superstructure 1. The base was indispensable too.

Just as the refugees needed to do basic work such as farming, mining, and similar menial tasks, most people in the stronghold were required to work basic jobs such as cleaning, greening 1, and so on.

During second period, Jiang Wu came into the classroom. The subject she taught was Chinese, but Chinese classes were generally held in third or fourth period. In this era, physics, chemistry, and mathematics were the most important subjects.

Jiang Wu stood at the lectern and said, "Settle down, everyone. You should know that our class has just been set up. We're still missing a class monitor, a student councilor, and representatives for the various subjects. So I'd like to make use of this period to hold an election for those roles."

A student named Zhu Peiyuan laughed and said, "There's no need to vote. Let's just appoint Ren Xiaosu as the class monitor."

After the recent incidents, the relationship between these students and Ren Xiaosu had gotten much closer, and everyone approved of him too. Therefore, if they were going to elect a class monitor, everyone would choose Ren Xiaosu.

At this moment, someone asked jokingly, "Which Ren Xiaosu?"



“Haha, both of them should be elected. The guy will be the class monitor, and the girl will be the student councilor. It’ll be easier to differentiate them that way. We’ll address them as Monitor Ren Xiaosu and Councilor Ren Xiaosu from now on,” one of the female classmates named Bian Lingchen said wittily.

“So it’s settled then?” Jiang Wu smiled at everyone.

“Yes, it’s settled!” the group of students echoed.

In the last row, Ren Xiaosu wondered if the class monitor would get more subsidies. They just made the decision without asking for his opinion.

Yang Xiaojin had already put her cap back on. Ren Xiaosu looked at her and whispered, “What are the class monitor and student councilor for?”

“They’re responsible for ensuring that everyone studies hard,” Yang Xiaojin replied in brief. She felt it was meaningless to answer this question. In reality, the class monitor and student councilor were rather unimportant roles, but she did not want to explain it to Ren Xiaosu in detail. However, she did not expect her remark to end up becoming a disaster for her classmates.

Ren Xiaosu found that Yang Xiaojin did not seem to be attentive to any of today’s lessons. He wondered why this girl was even attending school. Could it be that her target was hidden here in the school? But that couldn’t be right either. If she wanted to assassinate someone in this school, she would just kill the target based on her straightforward character. It should not be that difficult for her. So Ren Xiaosu had some doubts about this matter.

After school, Yang Xiaojin took the lead and headed out of class first. Ren Xiaosu followed her silently.

At this moment, Ren Xiaosu got an idea. He planned on finding out where Yang Xiaojin lived and if she was close to him.

After all, this girl had also bought those materials to make a bomb with. If she clashed with the Pyro Company, he would at least know where not to go.

However, Yang Xiaojin was walking towards a more and more remote place. When she came to a small alley, Ren Xiaosu suddenly saw Yang Xiaojin turn around and smile at him. Right after, a door opened again in the shadow of the alley and a hand stretched out.

Luo Xinyu must have come to pick Yang Xiaojin up!

Ren Xiaosu was shocked. This method could save him a lot of money used for taking the streetcar.

When he last saw Luo Xinyu take Yang Xiaojin away from the rooftop, he did not have the time to react. After returning home, Ren Xiaosu regretted it a little. Why didn’t he use the Skill Duplication Scroll on Luo Xinyu at that time?

This time, Ren Xiaosu was not going to miss the chance again.

He said in his mind, “Use the Basic Skill Duplication Scroll and Perfect Skill Duplication Scroll!”

Ren Xiaosu had two Skill Duplication Scrolls in total right now. He used them both at once so that in case he failed to copy her superpower, he could at least attempt to copy one of her master-level skills.

The palace voice intoned, “Randomly copied target’s Advanced Nose Picking. Do you want to learn it?”

Learn? My ass!

Ren Xiaosu was dumbfounded. ‘Can’t you two have some normal skills?! Why would a reputable celebrity like you have such odd skills! Can you pick your nose cleaner with Advanced Nose Picking? Is that how it is?!’

However, he still had another chance. The result of the Perfect Skill Duplication Scroll had not been determined yet!

Then, right before Yang Xiaojin completely disappeared—

“About to copy the target’s master-level skill or superpower. If you do not have the corresponding advanced-level skill after copying a master-level skill, you will not be able to learn it.”

“The target has many master-level and above skills. Randomly copied target’s superpower: ‘Shadow Door.’ Do you want to learn it?”

Yang Xiaojin, who had already left the place, did not see Ren Xiaosu celebrating in ecstasy. At this moment, Ren Xiaosu was drowning in an ocean of joy!

Frankly, Luo Xinyu was sure to possess quite a few master-level skills, or even perfect-level skills. Hence, there was only a tiny chance of being able to copy her superpower. As such, Ren Xiaosu did not expect he would really acquire his second superpower!

The power he got this time was going to be even more important for him, not to mention how incredible his first power, Shadow Clone, was.

Ren Xiaosu immediately tried out this new power. Instantly, two Shadow Doors appeared in front of him. One was the entrance, and the other was the exit.

The only flaw was that Ren Xiaosu still couldn’t grasp the exact location of where to open the exit, possibly because he had only just acquired this power.

The location of the exit in front of him was quite different from what he had imagined. He had wanted to open it on the left, but it ended up opening on the right.

But this was not important!

Ren Xiaosu was extremely delighted at the sight before him. With this, he also could take Yan Liuyuan and the others and travel through the stronghold at will!

He attempted to go through the entrance of the door, but something unexpected happened. Ren Xiaosu discovered he could only get half his arm through the door!

“Wait a minute! Something’s wrong!” Ren Xiaosu was dumbfounded as he tried it multiple times in the space of a minute. But no matter how many times he tried, he could still only get one of his arms through the door!

Was it because Luo Xinyu had only stretched out one of her arms when he used the scroll?

Could the palace be any more unreliable than this? ‘Why are the others able to travel freely through the door while I’m only allowed to put one arm through? What if I want to escape when I encounter danger? Is my arm supposed to escape first?!’

Chapter 154: Research results

In reality, Ren Xiaosu was someone who knew how to be content. Having a superpower was better than having nothing at all. It was quite fortunate he did not randomly copy the master-level jumping rope skill.

Ren Xiaosu felt that Luo Xinyu must have also possessed a very high level of proficiency at jump roping. After all, he thought it would be pointless for Yang Xiaojin to jump rope by herself...

Although he was content, he still felt a little peeved when he thought about how he had the chance to copy Shadow Door in its entirety the previous time.

The palace should have said so earlier if it couldn’t fully copy the skill during the duplication process. What was the point of finding out it was flawed only after the skill was copied over to him?

Ren Xiaosu really wanted a power like Shadow Door when he thought of how Luo Xinyu had used it repeatedly to escape with Yang Xiaojin. If he could utilize Shadow Door fully, he would no longer have to worry even if he encountered the wolf pack again.

In the end, he could only get one of his arms through it! What could he do with that? Steal?

Moreover, he still couldn’t open the Shadow Door wherever he wanted to. Just based on the earlier deviation, it seemed impossible for him to accurately control the location of the door.

However, Ren Xiaosu felt he could improve on accuracy through additional practice. There would definitely come a day when he could open the Shadow Door precisely where he wanted it.

In reality, what Ren Xiaosu did not know was that Luo Xinyu had spent nearly a year just to practice opening the door. Only then was she able to manipulate the Shadow Door at will.

When Ren Xiaosu returned to the shop, he locked himself in his bedroom to practice. He tried to find out if there was a pattern to controlling the Shadow Door by opening it over and over again.

Luo Xinyu would probably be shocked if she saw this, because when she started practicing at the beginning, she would get exhausted and dizzy after just one or two tries a day. Even now, she could only use the door within a one-kilometer range. Even if she did not expend all her mental strength, she still could open the door only three or four times a day.

Meanwhile, Ren Xiaosu had opened it more than a dozen times in just a short period.

At this moment, Xiaoyu knocked on his door. Ren Xiaosu opened the door and asked, "What's the matter, Big Sister Xiaoyu? Is it time for dinner?"

"No, not yet." Big Sister Xiaoyu asked with a dark expression, "I just wanted to ask you where Yan Liuyuan is. Did you forget to bring them back from school?"

"Huh?!" Ren Xiaosu finally came around. He should have gone to pick Yan Liuyuan and Wang Dalong up from the junior high section before heading home together in the first place. However, he had forgotten all about them and left them behind at school just so he could find out where Yang Xiaojin lived. "I'll go and fetch them immediately!"

"What kind of an older brother are you?" Xiaoyu grumbled. "Pick them up and come home for dinner. I'm almost done making it."

But a moment later, Jiang Wu walked in with Wang Dalong and Yan Liuyuan. She smiled and said, "Didn't you say we were going to continue learning how to ride a bike today? Why did you leave by yourself after school?"

Xiaoyu smiled and said, "Ms. Jiang Wu, you're here? Quick, wash your hands and join us for dinner."

Yan Liuyuan gave Ren Xiaosu a cold stare. "I stood in the school building and saw you and Yang Xiaojin leaving together with my own eyes."

Ren Xiaosu was a little embarrassed. "Hahaha, I had something urgent to attend to!"

Then they heard the rumbling of a car engine coming from the outside. It sounded like it had stopped outside their doorstep.

Eh? Ren Xiaosu wondered what was with today as people kept coming to the grocery store in wave after wave.

He heard Luo Lan's voice come from outside. "Ren Xiaosu? Come and have a look at my new car. What do you think?"

Ren Xiaosu couldn't help but roll his eyes. 'Look at how cocky you've become after buying a new car. So what if you are rich?!'

But why did Fatty Luo suddenly like coming here so much? Wang Fugui had mentioned Luo Lan had already been here to deliver the money at noon.

While he was thinking about that, Luo Lan and Tang Zhou walked in from outside. Tang Zhou was even carrying a lot of items in his arms. Luo Lan told Tang Zhou, "Take these over to Miss Dong Funan. These tonics are all beneficial to her recovery."

Ren Xiaosu sensed Luo Lan was in love.

Curious, Ren Xiaosu asked, "Do you have to resort to all this? As a big shot of the Qing Consortium, why do you still keep coming back here even after you've been snubbed?"

Luo Lan said unhappily, "What do you know? There used to be so many girls coming in and out of my life, yet I never once took a fancy to any of them. Now that I've changed, I realize that only Miss Dong Funan is worthy of me!"

"You've never taken a fancy to any of them?" Ren Xiaosu laughed. "So you mean you gave the medicine that you bought from me to Tang Zhou?"

"Don't you slander me. When have I ever bought any medicine from you!" Luo Lan looked downright indignant.

Dong Funan had been recuperating in Xiaoyu's room. But when she heard Luo Lan's voice, she locked the door from the inside. With a click, Luo Lan could not look any more embarrassed.

However, Luo Lan was not a normal person either. He pulled Ren Xiaosu aside and changed the subject. "Can you lend Chen Wudi to me for some time?"

"What do you want Chen Wudi for? How can I lend a living, breathing human being to you? You can ask him yourself." Ren Xiaosu washed his hands of the matter.

"These past two days, I found out that other powers are coming into this stronghold as well." Luo Lan whispered, "It's said that there's research that's about to be completed in the university of Stronghold 109, and many people are interested in getting ahold of the research results for themselves."

"What kind of research is it?" Ren Xiaosu was starting to get interested but did not show it on his face.

"I'm not sure..." Luo Lan said.

"You're having ideas about something you don't even know?" Ren Xiaosu wondered. But considering the circumstances, the Qing Consortium's people had probably not infiltrated into that university yet. He wondered how Luo Lan had found out about it. Yang Xiaojin had also mentioned the Li Consortium was trying their best to protect this thing.

This thing... was probably so important it would change the entire structure between the organizations. That was why all the different powers were placing a lot of emphasis on it.

And on the night some supernatural beings fled from the site of the explosion, the Li Consortium only expelled the known members of the Pyro Company who were present in the stronghold, but did not conduct a thorough search to make any further arrests. It seemed like they did not want to complicate things further since most of their manpower was probably used to guard and protect the research results.

However, Ren Xiaosu was curious about something. How could the Qing Consortium possibly not know what the research results were about? Others already knew, but only you were still in the dark?

“We never paid any attention to this university before.” Luo Lan said, “But it must have a very special value for so many powerful forces to be targeting it! How about this? Why don’t you order Chen Wudi to protect me and I’ll pay you for it!”

Ren Xiaosu felt that Luo Lan was lying through his teeth. He definitely knew what the research results were. He just didn’t want to tell Ren Xiaosu!

He shook his head and rejected Luo Lan. “If you want Chen Wudi to protect you, you can talk to him yourself. I will not order him about.”

Right at this moment, someone from the Qing Consortium walked in. He whispered a few words to Luo Lan before leaving in a hurry. As Ren Xiaosu watched the man from behind, sensing the Qing Consortium might be plotting something.

Ren Xiaosu wondered what made the research results so important. Could he steal them using the Shadow Door if he could ascertain its location?

Seeing that Ren Xiaosu was not planning to lend Chen Wudi to him, Luo Lan did not waste any more time on it. He just simply went over to talk to Dong Funan from the other side of the door. Before he could say much, Dong Funan said coldly from the bedroom, “I’ll come out to see you after you’ve slimmed down.”

Ren Xiaosu chuckled and said, “Then you’ll probably never get to see him.”

Luo Lan said angrily, “Don’t say such discouraging words. Isn’t it just losing some weight? I’ll slim down very soon!” Then Luo Lan whispered to Tang Zhou next to him, “How can I slim down quickly?”

Ren Xiaosu smiled and said, “You’ll definitely slim down if you only eat one steamed bun each in the morning, at noon, and during the evening.”

Luo Lan got lost in thought. “...Do I eat them before or after my meals?”

Ren Xiaosu was speechless.

Chapter 155: A seedy shop selling black medicine

Ren Xiaosu felt that Luo Lan was getting too obsessed with supernatural beings.

Chen Wudi had said that Benbo’erba had tried to get him to defect to his side, but that attempt was immediately seen through by his “discerning eyes.” As the Great Sage, how could he work for a demon? That definitely would not do since demons did not seek the Buddhist scriptures from the Western Paradise!

Luo Lan had even risked his own life to save Dong Funan just so he could have a supernatural being as his bodyguard. Furthermore, he relentlessly courted her, but Dong Funan did not take a liking to him.

In between, Ren Xiaosu even checked with Luo Lan to see if he might have set eyes on the wrong person. What if there were problems with Dong Funan?

Moreover, by allowing Dong Funan to stay here, it was equivalent to having a ticking time bomb next to them if she turned out to be problematic.

However, Luo Lan said there shouldn't be any problems since she looked so innocent.

"Shouldn't a big shot like you do a background check on her?" Ren Xiaosu snapped.

"It's not like this stronghold is under our control," Luo Lan replied matter-of-factly.

This made Ren Xiaosu feel that something was wrong. He would have to be warier of Dong Funan.

All of a sudden, the voice from the palace said, "Side quest: Take in someone in distress for seven days; one out of seven. After the quest is completed, you will unlock a new product in the vending machine."

Ren Xiaosu was stunned. He thought there was only black medicine to be bought from the vending machine. So it turned out he could also unlock new products by completing quests the palace assigned to him?

Then wasn't this quest going to be a cakewalk to complete?

While they were eating dinner, Ren Xiaosu nonchalantly asked Dong Funan, "What's your superpower?"

"I have more strength than normal..." Dong Funan said softly.

"More strength?" Ren Xiaosu felt that such a superpower was rather useless. "How much greater is it compared to the average person?"

"I probably have strength equivalent to two adult men." Dong Funan said, "But my strength is still increasing, and I might get even stronger in the future."

Ren Xiaosu sighed. "Frankly, you couldn't have escaped without Luo Lan and his men's help with just your superpower alone."

"He doesn't have good intentions!" Dong Funan replied, "His gaze and the way he speaks tells me that!"

"What plans do you have?" Ren Xiaosu asked. To be honest, he did not really like this willful girl. Even if she did not like Luo Lan, she should at least thank him for saving her. Ren Xiaosu even thought of speaking up for Luo Lan.

Dong Funan gave it some thought before saying, "When my injuries heal tomorrow, I'll go and get revenge on the Pyro Company!"

Ren Xiaosu shook his head. "You can't go."

"Why not?" Dong Funan was taken aback.

“First of all, the Pyro Company has already been expelled from the stronghold. Even if some of their people are still hiding in the stronghold, you won’t find them.” Ren Xiaosu said, “Second, you might reveal that we took you in before if you get caught and tortured by them.”

Besides, Ren Xiaosu thought to himself, ‘How am I suppose to complete my quest if you leave now!’

However, what he said was also true. What if the Pyro Company came to take revenge on them after Dong Funan was unable to endure the torture and confessed? This girl seemed very self-centered and wouldn’t care about other people’s safety. Therefore, Ren Xiaosu did not trust her at all.

Dong Funan said stubbornly, “Don’t worry, I won’t tell anyone that y’all took me in.”

“Can you guarantee that?” Ren Xiaosu said calmly, “Wudi, you’re in charge of keeping a close eye on her for the next few days!” But Ren Xiaosu then noticed Chen Wudi looked a little unhappy.

Yan Liuyuan whispered a few words to Chen Wudi, and he immediately agreed in delight.

Curious, Ren Xiaosu looked at Yan Liuyuan and asked him, “What did you say to make him so happy?”

“It’s very easy to make him happy.” Yan Liuyuan said after eating a spoonful of porridge, “Just address him as the Great Sage.”

Ren Xiaosu was stunned. He realized Yan Liuyuan was fantastic at noticing what made others tick.

Dong Funan attempted to run off while Ren Xiaosu and Yan Liuyuan were talking. She was afraid she wouldn’t be allowed to seek revenge. However, she was carried back by Chen Wudi before she could even get far.

No matter how great her strength, it couldn’t be greater than Chen Wudi’s current strength.

Next to him, Yan Liuyuan smiled at Chen Wudi and said, “The Great Sage is amazing!”

“Of course!” Chen Wudi said proudly.

Yan Liuyuan had Chen Wudi dancing in the palm of his hand as he knew exactly how to stroke Wudi’s ego.

Chen Wudi escorted Dong Funan to Xiaoyu’s room and even found a rope to tie her up with.

Dong Funan was shocked. She had thought she was saved by a group of kind-hearted people. But why did it feel like she had been taken and kidnapped by a den of thieves? All that was missing was a phone call to her family to ask for a ransom!

She roared, “Why are you all refusing to let me go? What kind of shop are you all operating? This must be a seedy shop, right? And you must be selling black medicine here too!”



Everyone looked quietly at her in this moment. Xiaoyu smiled and said, "We really do sell black medicine here..."

Dong Funan was confused.

Before this, she had the impression that Xiaoyu was tender and gentle and thought she must be a good person. But at this moment, she realized Xiaoyu was also in a gang with those bad people.

"I didn't expect y'all to be such people!" Dong Funan said angrily.

"We didn't expect you to be such a person either," Ren Xiaosu said.

Dong Funan tried to shout for help, but Chen Wudi had already stuffed her mouth shut with a pillowcase.

Ren Xiaosu sneered, "It's already very courteous of us to let you stay here. Even if you don't spare a thought for yourself, you have to think about our entire family. If you try to run away again, I'll break your legs!"

If Ren Xiaosu didn't receive the quest or accept Luo Lan's money, he would probably have....

It was the weekend the next day, and Luo Lan came over early in the morning to look for Dong Funan to speak with her. But no matter how long he called out to her at the door, he couldn't get any response from her.

Previously, Dong Funan would scold him a little. But now she did not even bother scolding him.

Luo Lan turned around and looked at Ren Xiaosu. "Has Dong Funan left already? Or did you people do something to her?"

Ren Xiaosu said calmly, "No, she just doesn't want to speak with you."

Luo Lan wondered, "But why doesn't she at least scold me a little?"

Ren Xiaosu pondered it. "She's probably sick of scolding you already."

"Oh." Luo Lan nodded in understanding.

"Say, I doubt you can handle this girl." Ren Xiaosu was thinking he could get Luo Lan to totally give her up. It would be easier to deal with Dong Funan after the seven days were up that way.

Luo Lan said disconsolately, "Can't you see that I still haven't found my next target?"

Alright! Ren Xiaosu realized Luo Lan was not such a devoted person after all. He might give up on Dong Funan after he found his next target. He said to Luo Lan, "Good luck."

At this moment, Tang Zhou came over to look for Luo Lan. After that, Luo Lan left in a hurry as though he had something urgent to attend to.

“Bro.” Yan Liuyuan watched Luo Lan’s receding figure as he left the store. “Luo Lan must be planning something. I wonder if it’ll involve us?”

The few of them had only gained their stronghold resident statuses because of Luo Lan. If Luo Lan stirred up any trouble here, the Li Consortium would likely settle the score with them as one.

“Let’s not worry about that.” Ren Xiaosu frowned and said, “You’ll keep watch at the room today. I’m going to start building a bomb. It’s gonna be our trump card... By the way, let’s test something.”

Ren Xiaosu then pulled Yan Liuyuan into a room. Ren Xiaosu said, “I’ve gained a new power that allows me to open up a door in the shadows. Let’s give it a try now and see if I can pull you into the door.”

“OK.” Yan Liuyuan did not ask Ren Xiaosu how he obtained this power or how he knew how to build a bomb.

Ren Xiaosu said in a serious tone, “Step back a little, I’m going to open the Shadow Door in front of you.”

A second later, Ren Xiaosu activated the Shadow Door in his mind. Yan Liuyuan stared blankly at the ceiling and said, “Y’know, Bro, can you fully control this door?”

Ren Xiaosu intended to open the Shadow Door in front of Yan Liuyuan, but it opened up across the ceiling.

“No, no, let me try it again. Trust me, I’m very sure I can do it. A minor mistake isn’t a big deal. Who doesn’t make mistakes anyway?” Ren Xiaosu said in embarrassment. Then the door opened up across the floor.

Yan Liuyuan quietly said, “Bro, you’d better not test it out on me first.... I’m a little nervous.”

Chapter 156: That’s such a miracle

Eventually, Ren Xiaosu abandoned the idea of using Yan Liuyuan to test out his new power due to safety concerns. After all, he still could not control the power all that well. What if something happened to Yan Liuyuan when he went through the Shadow Door?

However, Ren Xiaosu thought of another idea. When he copied the Shadow Door from Luo Xinyu, the door stood at almost two meters tall.

But since Ren Xiaosu could only get one arm through it, why would he need to open such a large door? Moreover, it would attract other people’s attention too easily. As such, Ren Xiaosu wondered if he could make the door smaller so it would be just enough for him to put one arm through.

When he thought of that, Yan Liuyuan, who was next to him, saw the Shadow Door reappear on the ceiling and start swaying. It was as though some kind of law were resisting Ren Xiaosu’s will.

Ren Xiaosu noticed the Shadow Door’s form seemed to be fixed from the very start and wasn’t something that could be changed.

This was going to be a clash of wills.

But wasn't it the power that served the will? The power that surpassed the ordinary had originated from the will itself.

Yan Liuyuan saw beads of sweat forming on Ren Xiaosu's forehead, but he did not dare interrupt him.

A second later, Yan Liuyuan saw the edges of the Shadow Door become unstable as it started shrinking!

If Luo Xinyu were here, her jaw would probably drop to the floor, because even though she was the originator of Shadow Door, she had no way of adjusting its size!

Ren Xiaosu heaved a sigh of relief. By this point, the diameter of the Shadow Door had become only as thick as an arm. He closed the Shadow Door and opened it up again. This time, Ren Xiaosu discovered he could control the size of the door at will.

His only regret was that no matter how large the door was, he could still only get one arm through it.

It didn't make any fucking sense at all!

Since he had completely mastered the power, why was there still such a limitation?

Ren Xiaosu asked his mind palace, "Are you the one who did this?"

The voice from the palace answered, "Unauthorized to answer."

Ren Xiaosu was annoyed. This time, he was quite certain the revolting condition of only being able to put one arm through the door was something that was decided by the rules of the palace.

Ren Xiaosu said to Yan Liuyuan, "Buy a live chicken when you and Big Sister Xiaoyu go grocery shopping tomorrow."

"Uh, OK," Yan Liuyuan responded. "Bro, what are the uses of this power of yours?"

"It couldn't be more useful." Ren Xiaosu said in a serious tone, "Even though I can only get one arm through it, I can still catch someone by surprise and give them a good beating. This way, no one will even know who the culprit is."

Although he hadn't perfected the power, it quite suited Ren Xiaosu's nature.

...

The next morning, Yan Liuyuan went grocery shopping with Xiaoyu. Right as Wang Fugui finished raising the shop's roller shutter door, he saw a familiar face waiting at the entrance.

It was Yan Linfeng from the Western District.

He watched Yan Linfeng swagger on in. "I heard you're selling a kind of wonder drug here?"

Wang Fugui thought about how business had finally arrived at their doorstep. It had been nearly a week since someone had bought the medicine from here. Usually, the medicine's effectiveness would've already been publicized. Yet no customers turned up even after such a long time.

Wang Fugui had felt a little low on confidence. But with Yan Linfeng now here, it meant the word of the medicine's effectiveness had spread.

However, Wang Fugui was not in a hurry. He replied with a smile. "Yes, we're selling a wonder drug that's specifically used by men. But due to the complexity of the manufacturing process, we can only sell one dose a week."

"Oh?" Yan Linfeng remarked, "How much does one dose go for?"

"2,000 yuan," Wang Fugui said with a smile.

"Highway robbery!" Yan Linfeng was shocked at the price. "Why did I hear that it was only 800 yuan per dose?"

"Because the raw materials needed for the formula are getting harder and harder to come by. The black medicine that can be made in the future will also decrease as a result," Wang Fugui replied nonchalantly. For a shrewd businessman like him who only had profit on the mind, wouldn't it be simple to find a reason to raise the price?

At this moment, Ren Xiaosu strolled in from the backyard. He heard Yan Linfeng say after some consideration, "Give me one dose."

"I'm sorry, we only start selling this week's supply tomorrow. The sales time each week is fixed," Wang Fugui said in a pompous manner, unmoved.

Yan Linfeng said unhappily, "Do you know who I am?"

Ren Xiaosu was amused since he knew him too well, but he didn't answer. Instead, he changed the subject and said, "We also turned down Supervisor Chen from the Public Order Division when he came to inquire last week. It's not that we're playing hard to get, but that the black medicine hasn't been made yet."

Yan Linfeng said with a dark expression, "I need the medicine urgently. Aren't you a doctor? Is this what a doctor should say? I'll give you all a chance to change the way you speak to me!"

Ren Xiaosu was stupefied for a moment. What should a doctor say? He thought for a moment before answering, "I'm sorry, but we tried our best."

Yan Linfeng was confounded. 'Is that what you should say?! Do I look like I'm dying?!'

Then some other customers walked in from outside. Yan Linfeng looked back and was surprised to see it was Supervisor Wang from the Planning Division.

He saw two subordinates following Supervisor Wang, and they were even holding a banner in their arms.

When Yan Linfeng saw him, he immediately bowed and said with a smile, "Supervisor Wang, what are you doing here?"

"Oh, it's Little Yan." Supervisor Wang said with a haughty smile, "I came to thank the doctor here."

When Ren Xiaosu saw the banner, he got an ominous feeling. Would it be something like "magic hands restore spring" again? But when Supervisor Wang's subordinates unfurled the banner, he saw four large characters embroidered on it: "Guanyin, Bringer of Children." 1 'Hey, wait a minute! What does this have anything to do with "Guanyin, Bringer of Children"?!

Nearby, Yan Linfeng was also dumbfounded by this sight. How could it have such an effect? But Yan Linfeng, who was about to create trouble, suddenly did not dare to make a move. He thought that if he caused trouble in the shop at this moment, he would likely offend Supervisor Wang.

Supervisor Wang explained gleefully, "The stronghold's No. 3 Hospital diagnosed me as infertile several years ago. It's always been bugging me that I couldn't conceive a child. Some time ago, someone passed the black medicine to me to try it out. To my surprise yesterday, my wife told me she was pregnant the day after I used it!"

The moment Supervisor Wang finished speaking, Ren Xiaosu asked his mind palace, "Does the black medicine also have the ability to treat infertility?"

To Ren Xiaosu's surprise, the voice from the palace bluntly answered, "No."

Even Ren Xiaosu and Wang Fugui were a little confused by this time. Ren Xiaosu asked to confirm, "Are you sure your wife is pregnant?"

They heard Supervisor Wang say happily, "I'm sure. We went to the hospital yesterday to take a blood test. Since the blood test cannot be wrong, she must be pregnant."

Ren Xiaosu gave it some thought as he looked at Supervisor Wang, then said with a smile, "That's such a miracle."

Chapter 157: Dong Funan has issues!

News about the black medicine in Ren Xiaosu's shop that could treat infertility had even caused a small stir in the stronghold, but Ren Xiaosu and Wang Fugui kept quiet about it.

Although they were very eager to make money, they could not publicize an effect the black medicine did not have.

When it was time for school the next day, Wang Dalong rode the bicycle with Yan Liuyuan to school. Ren Xiaosu could only take the streetcar to school. It was not that he did not want to ride the bicycle, but rather that he still hadn't managed to learn how to ride it.

Before leaving, Ren Xiaosu even repeatedly reminded Chen Wudi to watch over Dong Funan carefully. He had a feeling she would be a huge threat to them. For this reason, Ren Xiaosu even promised Chen Wudi he could go out and do as he liked for three days six days later!

Ren Xiaosu was finally able to go to school in peace when he saw Chen Wudi moving a small stool to sit right next to Dong Funan.

When he arrived in class, Yang Xiaojin was already lying on the table and sleeping. Ren Xiaosu wondered to himself if this girl was really coming to school just to sleep. Finals were gonna begin in a few days. Didn't she need to prepare?!

Ren Xiaosu ignored her and sat down. But just as he took his seat, Yang Xiaojin got up and said, "Luo Lan is planning something dangerous, so it's best you keep your distance from him."

Ren Xiaosu's interest was piqued. It happened that he also suspected Luo Lan was secretly up to something. "What is Luo Lan planning?"

"We saw people from the Qing Consortium scouting outside No. 4 Psychiatric Hospital." Yang Xiaojin said slowly, "It seems like they plan to rob that hospital."

"I've heard of people robbing jewelry shops and even the organizations' banks if they were desperate enough." Ren Xiaosu reacted with a strange expression. "But this is the first time I've heard of someone planning to rob a psychiatric hospital..."

"There's something you don't know." Yang Xiaojin said calmly, "That's where all the supernatural beings arrested by the Li Consortium are detained. There's a very dangerous supernatural being who's held there. It's a blessing for everyone that he's willing to quietly stay in the psychiatric hospital without putting up a resistance. If Luo Lan released him, I'm afraid all of Stronghold 109 would have an unpredictable future."

Ren Xiaosu immediately understood that Luo Lan had turned his attention to the so-called No. 4 Psychiatric Hospital when he failed to win Dong Funan over. That said, Luo Lan had really spared no effort in trying to find a supernatural being to be his bodyguard.

Unbeknownst to everyone, both Luo Lan and Qing Zhen had reached an agreement that supernatural beings were one of the most valuable resources in this wasteland. A large amount of information and intelligence led them to understand that the evolution of supernatural beings was very fast, and that there were probably no individual weapons that could compare to supernatural beings in the future of combat. Of course, when it came to weapons of mass destruction, the Qing Consortium already had those in their arsenal.

"But the Qing Consortium here have such few people. Why would they rob the psychiatric hospital?" Ren Xiaosu said in a speechless manner.

"You underestimate the Qing Consortium." Yang Xiaojin said, "Or should I say you're underestimating Qing Zhen."

The Qing Consortium must have planted quite a few of their people here in Stronghold 109, and they were currently all under the command of Luo Lan.

“But this is the Li Consortium’s territory.” Ren Xiaosu said, “Isn’t Luo Lan afraid that the Li Consortium will expel him after they find out about it?”

“You may not be aware of how much of a jerk Luo Lan is.” Yang Xiaojin said calmly, “When he was in Stronghold 113, he was already behaving lawlessly. But Luo Lan is a bold and careful person. He’s just using the fact that the Li Consortium can’t worry about him right now. Even if something were to happen, they would just get Qing Zhen to redeem Luo Lan with money. The Li Consortium would never dare to kill him.”

Alright, so he still wasn’t familiar enough with Luo Lan.

Curious, Ren Xiaosu asked, “Are y’all also afraid of the person locked up in No. 4 Psychiatric Hospital?”

“It’s not that we’re afraid of him,” Yang Xiaojin corrected. “We’re only worried he will bring too much uncertainty to the situation.”

“What’s his superpower?” Ren Xiaosu asked.

“Hypnosis.” Yang Xiaojin said, “He’s been completely isolated within the psychiatric hospital. Even the people who deliver food to him every day have to wear noise canceling headphones before sending in the food through the door.”

“Why do they have to keep it under wraps?” Ren Xiaosu thought to himself, ‘How scary of a person is he to make the Li Consortium and the stronghold overseer so wary of him?’ He asked, “Why don’t y’all just kill him if you’re so worried about him getting out?”

“Why should we kill him when he didn’t do anything bad?” Yang Xiaojin replied in confusion. “Your logic is very strange.”

Ren Xiaosu calmly said, “But how do y’all judge between good and evil? The power of judgment is all in your hands, but what if y’all’re wrong? You said that both Qing Zhen and the Pyro Company want to possess something they can’t control, but who’s to decide?”

Yang Xiaojin fell deep into thought before saying, “The world was destroyed because of those things. We just don’t want to see the world sink into despair again.”

Ren Xiaosu was stunned. This was the result of a previous cause. Yang Xiaojin’s organization was just clearing the world of the things that had destroyed it. He did not know how to answer her, because he sometimes felt the current him still knew nothing of this world.

Yang Xiaojin said, “By the way, there’s something up with that supernatural being Luo Lan saved. If she follows Luo Lan, you guys had better be careful.”

“Eh?” Ren Xiaosu was surprised that Yang Xiaojin was reminding him about so many things today and even told him a lot of undisclosed secrets. But was she referring to Dong Funan now? Ren Xiaosu asked, “What’s wrong with that supernatural being?”

Yang Xiaojin still did not know Dong Funan was lodging in Ren Xiaosu’s shop. Yang Xiaojin replied, “We’ve confirmed there’s no relationship between Dong Funan and the supernatural being that died. They had no blood ties, were not a couple, and did not have any dealings. We initially thought them to be allies but were later informed they were not.

“Furthermore, there’s been a string of strange murder cases in the stronghold recently. All of the victims were sucked dry of blood and turned into mummified remains. Right now, we think the supernatural being named Dong Funan is one of the prime suspects. Luo Xinyu witnessed the entire proceedings of the battle that night. After analyzing it, she felt that Dong Funan’s motive for saving another supernatural being was probably... because she wanted to hide somewhere to suck the blood of that supernatural being. But as she was inexperienced in battle, she screwed up. To put it bluntly, she’s just a newbie.”

Ren Xiaosu got a great deal of information from Yang Xiaojin. First of all, Dong Funan might only be acting out her current plight and was actually the one behind the string of murder cases. Second, Yang Xiaojin’s contact in the stronghold likely held an important position. If not, they couldn’t possibly have received such clear and detailed intel.

“Dong Funan is in our shop right now,” Ren Xiaosu said calmly.

“Then why don’t you run back to check on her?” Yang Xiaojin frowned and said, “I can get Luo Xinyu to send you back.”

“There’s no need.” Composed, Ren Xiaosu said, “She’s already been restrained by us.”

Yang Xiaojin looked quietly at Ren Xiaosu. She thought for a while, then said, “But she’s a supernatural being.”

“That’s fine. We have another supernatural being guarding her,” Ren Xiaosu replied.

“Chen Wudi?” Yang Xiaojin asked. “I know him. He was quite famous in Stronghold 113’s psychiatric hospital. But aren’t you worried he can’t keep her under control? What if your family’s safety gets compromised?”

Ren Xiaosu said calmly, “I’m not worried about the safety of my family right now. I’m just afraid that Chen Wudi will beat her to death.”

After all, he would not be able to complete the quest if she got beaten to death.

**Chapter 158: Three battles with the White Bone Specter**



Xiaoyu was busy washing and snapping apart vegetables in the backyard of the shop. Since last night, she had not been near Dong Funan at all, because Ren Xiaosu had informed her that something was wrong with Dong Funan.

Actually, Ren Xiaosu felt that something was wrong even before Yang Xiaojin told him about Dong Funan. Although he had received a sincere gratitude from her, what stood out to him was that she had rejected Luo Lan's approaches too readily.

Moreover, she only said her strength was greater than normal when asked about her superpower.

This made Ren Xiaosu a little suspicious. Was it really only her strength that was greater, or was she deliberately concealing her true power? So based on these suspicions, Ren Xiaosu had Xiaoyu stay away from Dong Funan to prevent any accidents from happening.

Thinking about it now, Dong Funan might have some kind of ability to distinguish who were supernatural beings. After she arrived at the shop, she immediately cast Luo Lan aside because she had discovered there were two supernatural beings here whose blood she could feed on.

However, Dong Funan was still very cautious. She waited until she had fully recovered from her injuries and when Chen Wudi was alone before she decided to make her move.

At present, Chen Wudi was sitting on a small stool next to Dong Funan and completely absorbed in watching a row of ants marching on the ground.

He still did not realize that Dong Funan, who was originally tied up behind him, had slowly freed herself from the binds.

Her slim and extremely flexible body was just like a snake's, allowing her to distort her joints as she liked. This made the rope that was binding her look like a decoration of sorts.

Xiaoyu shouted from outside, "Wudi, it's time for lunch."

"OK, Big Sister Xiaoyu," Chen Wudi said obediently. But all of a sudden, Dong Funan's arm moved up towards Chen Wudi's neck. It was as though she had leaned her entire body against his back.

Dong Funan whispered, "Little boy, what are you looking at?"

"Almsgiver, please behave yourself," Chen Wudi said in a startled manner.

But just as he finished speaking, Dong Funan opened her scarlet mouth. The two canine teeth in her mouth grew rapidly as she bit down onto Chen Wudi's neck! With a crack, her teeth broke off.

When Dong Funan bit his neck, a faint golden armor suddenly appeared under his skin on his shoulder. Then the armor even covered the entirety of his shoulder to his neck.

Dong Funan could never have expected such a thing to happen. She did not even know what Chen Wudi's power was, but the armor was way too hard!

But before she could react, a gust of wind stirred in the room. Chen Wudi immediately knelt and turned around, landing a heavy punch in Dong Funan's abdomen!

In the dimly lit room, Dong Funan could even see Chen Wudi's veins protruding after his armor vanished. The punch made her splutter out a mouthful of blood as she nearly got killed by him!

However, Chen Wudi did not hold back just because she was a woman. He landed yet another punch onto the left side of Dong Funan's face.

By this time, Dong Funan had completely lost her combat capabilities and even the ability to think properly as her head buzzed, ringing.

"Don't..." When Dong Funan was about to beg for mercy, she noticed the iron fist had once again punched her on the right side of her face!

When Dong Funan received the first punch, she knew she couldn't fight back. She was definitely not as powerful as Chen Wudi, so she thought of just lying on the ground and admitting defeat. But with Chen Wudi raining a combo of punches on her, she did not even get the chance to lie on the ground.

Chen Wudi straightened up and sneered, "I had thought you were the White Dragon Horse, but I didn't expect you'd turn out to be the White Bone Specter. However, you're still too weak to take a single punch from the Great Sage."

Dong Funan was nearly crying as she laid on the ground. "Then just punching me once would be enough. Why did you have to punch me two more times?"

Chen Wudi sneered. "Because I have to fight three battles with the White Bone Specter."

Dong Funan was confused.

In Chen Wudi's memory, there were many twists and turns in the plot of the "three battles with the White Bone Specter." For the first two battles, his master would misunderstand him, before getting convinced after the third battle that he had really defeated a demon. Hence, Chen Wudi thought that in order to avoid his master's misunderstandings, he would finish all three "battles" at once. In that way, he could skip the misunderstandings that would happen in between each of them!

Hehe, he really impressed himself by how quick-witted he was.

"Do you think I've never read Journey to the West before? Are you implying that the 'three battles with the White Bone Specter' was completed all at once?" Dong Funan laid on the ground and started crying in pain.

At this moment, Xiaoyu came into the room. She found that Chen Wudi had beaten Dong Funan to tears.

When Dong Funan saw Xiaoyu, she immediately said, "Big Sister Xiaoyu, you're the kindest person here. Can you ask them to let me go?"

But then, Dong Funan saw Xiaoyu hand Chen Wudi another rope. "Tie her up more securely this time. After that, come and have lunch."

Dong Funan wondered what kind of people lived in this house. Why weren't they taking people's lives seriously?!

She still did not know she had fallen into the hands of the most vicious family in Stronghold 109...

Although Dong Funan had killed people before, she still grew up in the peaceful environment of the stronghold. To be honest, Yan Liuyuan had killed more people than her.

She had wanted to wait in front of the Pyro Company in case someone went there to sell their blood. Then she would just wait for the seller to come out before she followed them home to feast on their blood.

Dong Funan grew stronger each time she sucked on someone's blood. So she wondered if she would get stronger even faster if she sucked the blood of a supernatural being. She couldn't figure out how she ended up in this sorry state.

In fact, Ren Xiaosu thought that this woman's modus operandi was just like children playing a game. She had no plans at all. Just as Yang Xiaojin had said, she was indeed a newbie. She was unlike Ren Xiaosu and the others who were used to seeing people die all the time and who had a great deal of combat experience.

She was also not trained by an organization like Yang Xiaojin, who not only had a lot of messed up skills but also had a fully functioning organization behind to provide her with intel.

Thus, Dong Funan was actually just a normal person who suddenly gained a superpower and was then corrupted by this strange and powerful ability.

When Ren Xiaosu returned home with Yan Liuyuan and Wang Dalong in the evening, he saw Dong Funan tied up in the room with her face all bruised and swollen. While looking at them through swollen eyes, her eyes took on a look of despair.

Frankly, Ren Xiaosu did not want to treat a woman like this. But in such times, were security risks differentiated by male and female?

Bad people were not always men; they could also be women, elders, or even children. Anything was possible. That was just how it was in these wastelands.

Kindness was precious, but if you were kind and unarmed, that would only be seen as weakness.

Then, Dong Funan heard Xiaoyu say to Ren Xiaosu, "What should we do now? Why don't we just kill her?"

"No." Ren Xiaosu said, "But lock the door properly. Don't let Luo Lan see her like this. Wudi, you did a very good job this time. Well done."

Wasn't he only doing this because he still had to "keep" her for another six days to complete the quest? Ren Xiaosu was actually looking forward to the new product that would be unlocked in the vending machine.

Next to him, Chen Wudi was really happy. He really managed to avoid the misunderstandings by finishing the three "battles" all at once.

Chapter 159: Hypnosis

"Do y'all feel like something's wrong?" Ren Xiaosu asked during dinner.

"It really does feel like something's wrong," Wang Fugui said as he wiped his mouth.

Yan Liuyuan said, "We're missing the noise that Luo Lan brings when he tries to get into Dong Funan's good books."

This was an unusual night. Luo Lan, who had come to the shop nearly three times a day for the past few days, did not even appear once today.

Ren Xiaosu realized Luo Lan and his men were planning their heist on the No. 4 Psychiatric Hospital. Surely it wasn't going to happen tonight, was it?

He asked, "Do y'all know where No. 4 Psychiatric Hospital is?"

"What's the matter?" Xiaoyu asked in surprise. "Liuyuan asked me to buy a map of Stronghold 109 just the day before. I'll go and get it. We should be able to locate No. 4 Psychiatric Hospital with it."

Ren Xiaosu looked at Yan Liuyuan as he did not expect him to be so prepared.

"I just felt that we were unfamiliar with this place. It's definitely right if we look at the map first when arriving at a new place," Yan Liuyuan said.

Yan Liuyuan probably developed this habit after getting influenced by Ren Xiaosu. It was the same with Ren Xiaosu when he went out into the wilderness. He would have to observe the environment and understand it first before there was any chance of survival.

The six of them leaned over the map of the stronghold that covered the entire table and searched for the psychiatric hospital. Wang Fugui suddenly said, "I found it, it's about ten kilometers from here."

Ren Xiaosu thought the stronghold was way too big. Just the distance between two places was greater than ten kilometers, and that was already considered close.

He ordered Chen Wudi and Yan Liuyuan, "Watch over Dong Funan closely. Be careful not to let her cause any trouble." As he trailed off, he thought of something and pulled Yan Liuyuan aside. He whispered, "Don't make any wishes if there's no danger."

“OK.” Yan Liuyuan nodded obediently. But in reality, both of them understood he would still make a wish if he had to.

After Ren Xiaosu spoke, he left the shop.

...

When it turned dark, the stronghold would usually be bustling as residents headed to teahouses in groups. During those times, the sound of people playing mahjong could be heard as it filled the entire streets.

The more affluent residents could even enjoy hot pot, with the hot pots filled with delicious-looking red broth, fresh vegetables, and meat that were extremely appealing to the palate.

In the current day, eating in a restaurant was a very prestigious affair. If a person often dined out at restaurants, it would mean they were very respected in the stronghold.

The aunties were still performing their plaza dance in the park as though they were not afraid of the cold winter. Meanwhile, some nightclubs were already filled with lonely and single men and women.

When the night sky turned pitch-black, the crowd started to disperse and leave.

A manhole cover outside No. 4 Psychiatric Hospital was suddenly pushed aside from below. Following, 30 combat troops with loaded guns climbed out of it. Luo Lan was there with them as well.

These men had attached silencers to their guns and even camouflaged their faces. All of them appeared to be exceptionally prepared.

No one knew when Qing Zhen started making his arrangements in Stronghold 109, but he already had a proper understanding of the entire underground system of Stronghold 109. Not even the Li Consortium might have known how many people were hidden underground or what other things might be down there.

Tang Zhou spoke into a simple communication device, “Split into three squads and get ready to infiltrate the building according to the briefing.”

The full platoon quickly divided themselves up into three squads, headed towards No. 4 Psychiatric Hospital, and surrounded it.

There were more than a 100 security guards guarding No. 4 Psychiatric Hospital, but the 30 members of the platoon were unafraid. In their opinion, there was no need to fear the security personnel here as they were only private troops..

Luo Lan followed them with a swagger as he saw the three squads swarm into No. 4 Psychiatric Hospital like three sharp, black daggers.

The moment the Qing Consortium’s combat troops encountered the security personnel in the psychiatric hospital, the guards were eliminated.

The three squads continued advancing until they finally reassembled as a full platoon outside the psychiatric hospital's main building. Tang Zhou whispered, "Don't keep lusting for a fight. Once Test Subject No. 2 is located, retreat immediately. Kill all targets on sight other than Test Subject No. 2."

According to their intel, Test Subject No. 2 would be getting dissected later tonight, which was why they chose to attack since they could not wait any longer.

Only two supernatural beings were held in No. 4 Psychiatric Hospital. But according to their intel, Test Subject No. 1 was far too dangerous. Therefore, Luo Lan decided to give up on the idea to abduct that person.

As the platoon broke through towards the top of the building, all of the psychiatric hospital's staff were surprised to see the hospital getting stormed. Importantly, it was still peacetime within the stronghold. Although there was that incident caused by the Pyro Company, their members had already been expelled from the stronghold.

Luo Lan was laughing at the back of the platoon as he said, "Don't show them any mercy. There's absolutely nothing wrong with killing those who treat their own species as lab rats." Right now, Luo Lan's face was filled with bellicosity and excitement.

Many people had the mindset that he was just a good-for-nothing, illegitimate child and would at most address him as "Qing Zhen's older brother." However, the people in Stronghold 113, as well as Qing Zhen and his men, all knew very well that Luo Lan was never a coward.

Just his participation in the smaller battles alone was countless. Some people felt that Luo Lan had the same maniacal blood flowing through his veins as his younger brother.

When they passed by the reference library, Luo Lan went inside and found the information related to Test Subject No. 1. This included three bulky and old fashioned videotapes.

He slowly inserted a videotape into the VCR in the reference library and turned on the television.

There were three recordings on this videotape. He saw a handsome young man with fair skin sitting in the interrogation room and a doctor in a white coat sitting across from him.

The young man suddenly asked, "Did you see where 'I' went?"

"I'm asking you, did you see where 'I' went?"

"What? Don't just open your mouth and say nothing.

"Hey, you there, did you see where 'I' went?"

The doctor said nothing for a long time.

The young man slowly lowered his head. "Oh... I'm sorry, 'I' can't be found anymore."

The young man sat there by himself with his head down. He had even lost himself.

Luo Lan stood before the television and quietly watched the footage. For some reason, he felt that the young man seemed to be sitting in a corner of the world as he slowly became forgotten by others and himself until he had nothing left.

This was what true loneliness felt like.

...

In the second clip of the treatment records, the hospital's hypnotist was trying to hypnotize the young man. In this clip, the young man seemed much more normal than before.

The hypnotist said to the young man, "Close your eyes.... Relax... try to imagine you're walking along a tunnel as the world gradually fades into darkness....

"It's a tunnel you're familiar with. You're running towards the tunnel on the right, and there's a light at the end of it. When you get to where the light is... you will arrive at where you want to be. On the count of 3...

"...2..."

"...1..."

But at this moment, the young man opened his eyes. The hypnotist asked in surprise, "Why have you opened your eyes?"

The young man smiled and said, "I ran in the wrong direction."

...

The third clip of the treatment records still showed the hypnosis process.

This time, the hypnotist said to the young man, "Close your eyes.... Relax... imagine being enveloped by warm seawater. While you're floating on the surface, breathe freely as you like. Once you submerge to the bottom of the sea, you'll arrive at where you want to be. On the count of 3...

"...2..."

"...1..."

However, a surprising turn of events happened. This time, it was the hypnotist who had fell asleep!

Meanwhile, the clip was showing the profile of the young man as he revealed a smile.

**Chapter 160: Tiger and pig**

The video ended abruptly during the third recording. It seemed like the follow-up research was either meaningless or could not be carried out any further.

But after watching the three video clips, Luo Lan had a feeling the young man was guarding unspeakable secrets. He lamented, "So it turns out this is the legendary Demon Whisperer? It seems like his superpower was awakened during the hypnotism process."

Tang Zhou asked, "Should we bring him with us?"

"Bring him with us?" Luo Lan shook his head. "I, Luo Lan, still know myself well enough to understand that I can't control someone like him. Moreover, we don't know what kind of trouble he'll cause if we let him out. You don't know how many people in this psychiatric hospital have died because of him."

"Demon Whisperer" was a title given by the organizations to supernatural beings who possessed extreme hypnotism methods.

Everyone was unsure about the level of hypnotism they possessed, but Luo Lan was surprised after watching the video. What made it even more scary was that the person in the video had probably only just awakened his superpower at the point the third video clip was being recorded.

Tang Zhou said, "Why don't we just capture him and bring him back to do research on?"

"Qing Zhen and I do not do such things," Luo Lan scorned. "Don't bother about him, we will only take with us the No. 2 test subject." Luo Lan then continued heading upstairs.

By this point, the platoon had already cleared the entire building. No one was alive other than Test Subjects No. 1 and 2.

The Qing Consortium's troops performed their tasks efficiently. The Pyro Company would not have been so badly battered by them otherwise. Of course, this was also because the Pyro Company had not expected Luo Lan and his men to suddenly appear there. Furthermore, force Dawn under the Pyro Company had also not participated in the battle.

When Luo Lan passed by the soundproof room that Test Subject No. 1 was isolated in, he subconsciously moved away from it. It was as though he were afraid some beast would suddenly jump out of there.

Luo Lan and Qing Zhen's father had passed away many years ago. He had died of lung cancer and could not be saved. At that time, their old man called them to his bedside and told them he was actually not worried about Luo Lan. He was more worried about Qing Zhen.

Because of the pride ingrained into Qing Zhen's bones, it made him a very showy person. If the first half of his life was not smooth sailing, the latter half might not end well.

But Luo Lan was different. As an illegitimate child, he was extremely adaptable to circumstances. Even if someone threw mud on his face, he would not take it up against those he could not afford to mess with.

The younger and older brothers were like a tiger and a pig, respectively.



The younger brother was obviously stronger, but their old man kept reminding Luo Lan to protect his younger brother before passing away. No one could understand what the old man was thinking.

By this time, the platoon had carried Test Subject No. 2 off the operating table. Luo Lan took a look at her, then he curled his lips and said, "She's too young. She must only be 10 or 11 at most? She could even be my daughter, so how is she supposed to help fight in the battles?!"

"Boss, the Li Consortium's fighting force has been deployed. We've got to hurry and leave now." Tang Zhou said, "The vehicle is standing by."

Just as he finished speaking, Luo Lan and Tang Zhou heard a few rumbling sounds outside. They looked out of the operating room's windows and were surprised to see that the vehicle standing by in the secluded area had exploded. It was as though they were watching a brilliant fireworks show in the middle of the night.

Luo Lan flew into a rage. "Who the fuck is destroying my new vehicles every day for no apparent reason?! I'll take this to the bitter end with them!"

"Boss, stop yelling. We have to quickly get down into the sewers." Tang Zhou dragged Luo Lan along as they ran out.

...

It was the wee hours of the morning. When Ren Xiaosu returned to the shop, everyone was still awake as they were worried about his safety. No one could sleep even if they wanted to. As Ren Xiaosu was now the mainstay of the entire family, no one would feel at ease if he wasn't back.

However, Dong Funan was the one who suffered the most. She really wanted to sleep, but Chen Wudi said that she had to pray for Ren Xiaosu's safe return together with them.

Dong Funan was dumbfounded. 'Isn't it good enough that you people are praying for his safe return? Why should I have to pray as well?! Are you all still human?! Never mind that I've been tied up and beaten, you're even refusing me sleep now?!

After Ren Xiaosu returned, he sat in the shop and waited quietly, because he reckoned... Luo Lan would probably come over later.

Right as Luo Lan and his group were about to leave the site, a battle ensued between them and the Li Consortium. Ren Xiaosu believed some people in Luo Lan's group would get injured. If they needed any treatment, his first choice would definitely be to head to Ren Xiaosu's place.

Luo Lan and his group got caught up in the battle because Yang Xiaojin had blown up their vehicle again. This girl was really good at sabotaging others, and her mind was probably filled with all kinds of trickeries.

Indeed, it wasn't long before Ren Xiaosu heard the sound of a manhole cover being lifted up outside the roller shutter door.

To be honest, Ren Xiaosu was a little curious. How did these people accurately locate the manhole cover that was outside their shop's door?!

Ren Xiaosu raised the roller shutter door and let them in. Luo Lan whispered, "Hurry up and give treatment to these two brothers of mine. I'll pay you!"

"Mhm, it's easy since you're paying," Ren Xiaosu said slowly. He had a look at the injuries of the soldiers and then said to Xiaoyu, "Big Sister Xiaoyu, remove the bullets from them before you suture their wounds and apply the medicine."

Then Ren Xiaosu looked at the girl in Tang Zhou's arms and asked, "Who is this?"

Seeing that the girl was still in a coma, Tang Zhou explained, "This is our boss's younger cousin."

Ren Xiaosu nearly burst out laughing. 'How shameless are y'all to lie like this?'

Chen Wudi also came over to have a look. He scrutinized the girl for a long while. Suddenly, he said to Ren Xiaosu, "Master, she looks like..."

Everyone in the room fell silent.

Luo Lan got so angry he laughed. "What? Does everyone look like the White Dragon Horse to you now?"

"No." Chen Wudi shook his head and said, "She's not the White Dragon Horse but a carrying pole." 1

Luo Lan was confused. Ren Xiaosu was speechless.

Luo Lan got really irked this time. "How can such a cute and beautiful little girl be a pole? Even the carrying pole has achieved spiritual awareness?!"

The girl was still unconscious from the anesthesia she received during the operation earlier in the night. Honestly, Ren Xiaosu could not understand. How could the people in the stronghold do such a thing to a little girl? Even if she were a supernatural being, they still shouldn't do something like that, right?!

Luo Lan glared at Chen Wudi. "It's fine if you want to go seek the scriptures yourself, but why are you always eyeing the people I bring back?"

Chen Wudi said patiently, "Like you'd understand anything, Benbo'erba!"

Luo Lan sneered. "If you claim that she's a carrying pole, does that make her a carrying pole? Would she agree to that?"

All of a sudden, the girl snorted and slowly regained consciousness. She looked around at the strangers around her, and then her gaze fixated onto Ren Xiaosu and Chen Wudi.

Chen Wudi tested her by saying, "Carrying pole?"

The girl stayed silent for a moment before saying, “Senior Apprentice Brother?!”

Luo Lan was confused. Ren Xiaosu was speechless.

‘What’s with a carrying pole like you randomly addressing someone as your senior apprentice brother?!’

Luo Lan felt like his intelligence had been insulted again. How could these two lunatics figure out the secret signal?! Just who were the ones going crazy?!