

Chapter 651: Lost goons

In the house at Junmin Alley, Wang Yuchi and the others were going through some revision materials Zhou Yingxue had recently bought for them. In the kitchen, soup boiling could be heard. The thick broth was simmering with a quiet bubbling sound within the earthenware.

The smell of the soup floated over from the kitchen to the living room. Wang Zhe, who was sitting next to Wang Yuchi, said, "I'm working so hard on these questions that I'm smelling chicken soup."

Zhou Yingxue walked out of the kitchen. She had ladled out a small bowl of chicken soup for all of the students. Wang Yuchi looked up and asked, "Ms. Yingxue, is Brother Xiaosu really going to be fine? Why don't we go and help him? We have nanomachines in our bodies as well."

Zhou Yingxue said with a smile, "Your top priority right now is to study hard. He even specially instructed me to look after you guys. Don't you know him? Who could possibly pose a threat to him in this city?"

"That's true." Wang Yuchi nodded.

Zhou Yingxue then picked up all the trash bags in the kitchen and living room while humming along to Li Ran's song. She said to the students, "I'm taking out the trash."

With that, Zhou Yingxue went outside.

But as soon as she opened the door, she was startled. However, she still stepped out as though nothing was wrong. She saw some vague figures moving around within Junmin Alley. It looked like an ambush had already been laid all around the house!

Just as Zhou Yingxue was about to reach the garbage bin, someone abruptly charged at her from the shadows. They wanted to quickly subdue Zhou Yingxue to prevent her from screaming for help.

But before they could even close in on Zhou Yingxue, some strange plants in the house started spitting out khaki-colored lumps in succession at an extremely fast rate.

The people who wanted to attack Zhou Yingxue did not expect such a turn of events at all. After all, someone had already checked out this house from a vantage point in the distance and everything looked normal. Other than there being some plants in the yard, there was nothing suspicious.

However, it was precisely these plants that caught the thugs off guard.

As the large potatoes struck them one after another, the goons were all thrown into disarray as they suffered serious injuries.

After all, the Potato Shooter was no longer a simple food crop after Zhou Yingxue's power enhanced it. It had regained its dignity as an offensive plant!

A lot more thugs who were lurking outside rushed over. They were already prepared to attack if they realized there were people guarding the house!

A superhuman followed this group of thugs. When he saw Zhou Yingxue's appearance, his eyes lit up. "Don't hurt that woman. I want her alive."

But at this moment, Zhou Yingxue, who was standing in the front yard, suddenly held up something glowing green in her fingers and threw it on the ground. The thugs were stunned. When the green glow disappeared into the ground, countless vines started sprouting from the soil. In just the blink of an eye, leafy vines were spreading rapidly outwards.

The creeper vines' tentacles covered the entire house in an instant with Zhou Yingxue standing at its center. The thugs who tried to break in through the windows at the back of the house were immediately wrapped up by the creeper vines' thorny vines. The sharp spikes stabbed into them mercilessly and started sucking their blood without stop.

Everything happened in an instant.

Ever since Zhou Yingxue obtained this power, she had not used it. It was not that she did not want to use it, but that her master was too powerful, so there was no chance for her to show what she was capable of.

As such, even Qin Sheng and the others did not pay much attention to Zhou Yingxue. They only treated her as a normal superhuman who followed Ren Xiaosu around.

But only Ren Xiaosu and Zhou Yingxue knew her current self had probably already become a top-tier figure among the superhumans.

To Ren Xiaosu, Zhou Yingxue was still that maidservant who liked munching on melon seeds. Recently, she even took a liking to cooking soup and preparing meals.

But to the enemy, she was as good as a hidden monster.

The thugs were wrapped up by the countless vines before they could even get a chance to shoot. Someone wanted to pull the trigger to warn their companions at the rear, but they had already lost all their strength. There was a poison within the thorny vines that could paralyze people instantly.

The superhuman who said he wanted Zhou Yingxue alive suddenly looked aghast. He remembered the rumors about the creeper vine at the Wang Consortium's stronghold. In an instant, he linked that to everything he was witnessing before his eyes. Could the creeper vine under this woman's feet be the thing that had wiped out an entire stronghold's population?

He immediately felt a tingling sensation in his scalp and wanted to retreat. But when he turned around, he realized a green wall of vines had appeared behind him at some point in time and blocked him from escaping.

Zhou Yingxue laughed and said, "You guys should have brought some gifts since you were visiting. So then, why don't you offer me your life?"

Ten minutes later, Zhou Yingxue went back into the house. Everyone outside had disappeared, and the creeper vines had furled up and were hidden somewhere by Zhou Yingxue. It was as though nothing had happened at all.

Wang Yuchi looked at Zhou Yingxue, who had just come in through the door, and asked, “Ms. Yingxue, why were you gone for so long? I thought I heard you talking to someone just now.”

“Oh, it was just someone that got lost.” Zhou Yingxue smiled and said, “Have you guys finished the chicken soup? I’ll get you some more.”

...

Meanwhile, the same thing was happening outside the orphanage.

Hu Shuo was giving a basic education lesson to the children. “How many ways are there to write a secret letter? Which one of you knows the answer?”

A child raised his hand. “Sir, you taught us three ways to write one. They can be done with onion juice, aminophenazone tablets, and starch water.”

Hu Shuo laughed happily and said, “I’ll teach you all the fourth method today. First, take two pieces of paper and wet one of them with water before placing it on the table. Then, place the dry sheet on top of the wet one. After that, write on the dry sheet of paper with a pencil and let the ink penetrate onto the wet sheet below. After allowing the paper to dry completely, the handwriting will become invisible. But you can make it reappear by wetting it with water again...”

The children were listening with keen interest, including Zhang Baogen who was standing off to the side. However, he felt a little curious. “Director, do you intend for these children to...”

Hu Shuo shook his head. “I can only teach you guys the skills, but you have to choose your own paths. I can’t force anything.”

Hu Shuo suddenly looked at the main entrance of the orphanage. Then he said to Zhang Baogen, “I’m going out for a while. Bring the children into the house. We’re ending today’s lesson here.”

With that, Hu Shuo walked out of the orphanage. After that, the screams of intruders and gunfire came from outside the front yard.

Hu Shuo returned to the orphanage less than half an hour later. Zhang Baogen examined him when he came back. Other than a few bloodstains on him, he looked as though nothing had happened.

Zhang Baogen asked with concern, “Director, what happened?”

“I think the disbursement of funds from the Riders may have attracted some robbers. Don’t worry, I’ve already handled it.” Hu Shuo said with a smile, “Let’s continue with our lessons.”

After the destruction of the Li Consortium, Hu Shuo had faded from everyone's sight. When Chen Wudi was asked to assess the old man's combat prowess back then, he could only muster up a "what the fuck" in response!

Chapter 652: The final crisis

Be it Hu Shuo or Zhou Yingxue, the two of them dealt with the thugs and superhumans like it was nothing. They went back to what they were doing after the battle, and it was as though there wasn't any pressure at all.

The only difference was that Wang Yuchi and the others got to have a few more pieces of potatoes with their chicken soup.

These three consortiums thought they had found a way to break the deadlock. But instead, they somehow zeroed in on the two monsters in the stronghold who had wanted to isolate themselves from the world.

Regarding Zhou Yingxue, Ren Xiaosu was the one who had ordered her to stay home and not to go out. She was to ensure that Wang Yuchi and the others were safe.

But the thugs had gone overboard with regards to Hu Shuo. They just had to go looking for trouble when Hu Shuo was teaching the children how to write secret messages. Even if they managed to defeat him, what would they have done if Li Shentan and Si Liren came to avenge him?

Actually, the Xu clan representative was not wrong. It was indeed suspicious for Yang Ruilin to vacate his house and the Riders to suddenly disburse funds to the orphanage right before the big battle happened.

Moreover, they had indeed located Ren Xiaosu's family too. If Zhou Yingxue had not been around, they might even have succeeded in their mission.

But "ifs" did not matter in this world.

The three consortiums' representatives were waiting silently for good news from the operatives in their secluded residence. It was different from the tense atmosphere earlier. At this moment, all of them were more relaxed and even touched on the topic of wine tasting.

Second Brother Kong said with a smile, "There's a bottle of Suntory Whisky hidden at my place. I wonder which rich family from the Pre-Cataclysm times that wine cellar belonged to. The seals on the wine bottles inside are all very well-preserved."

The young man from the Wang Consortium, Wang Wenyan, glanced at him. "I still prefer Maotai." [1]

As time ticked by, the three of them got the feeling that something was off. Second Brother Kong looked at his watch. "It's been more than 40 minutes already. Why isn't there any news yet? Go and contact the field teams and find out their current progress."

However, the subordinate ran back immediately after he went out. He said with a sense of unease, "We couldn't get in contact with them!"

“Which team can you not contact?” Wang Wenyan asked with a sullen face.

“We couldn’t contact either of them.”

The three representatives immediately raised their eyebrows. They had thought something had happened to one of the teams. But now it seemed that both teams might have perished.

“Send someone to check out the vicinity!” Second Brother Kong said.

The three of them sat down again, but the unease inside them only got stronger.

Ten minutes later, the person who went to check came back and said, “The people who went to Junmin Alley to investigate the situation have all disappeared. I also saw from a distance away people from the Qinghe Group clearing the corpses of our people at the orphanage. From the looks of it, they were all killed before they could even get past the entrance!”

Second Brother Kong clenched his teeth and said, “Bring the Xu clan members to me!”

He had been quite polite with the Xu clan members, but not anymore.

When the Xu clan members were brought into the house, they looked utterly confused. “Is there something you all want from us?”

Second Brother Kong was so angry he laughed. “You’re still trying to feign ignorance? Your clan’s Xu Ke and schemes! He actually set up an ambush and got the few of you to lure our people into this trap to weaken our strength.”

The Xu clan members were stunned. “What are you talking about?”

“Hehe.” Second Brother Kong sneered, “You’re all good men. You clearly know you can’t escape after setting the trap for us, yet you still dare to come here and be a double agent. I’ll grant you a swift death then. Take them out and execute them!”

The Xu clan members protested, “Could there be some misunderstanding between us? I don’t even understand what you’re talking about! Didn’t we already agree that once the matter is settled, you will only take the satellites while the assets of Luoyang City will go to us? We don’t want the money anymore. Can’t you spare our lives!”

As they spoke, the Xu clan members started sobbing.

Unfortunately, no outsiders could hear them anymore. The entire neighborhood in the vicinity was occupied by the three consortiums’ people.

Actually, they also could not be sure it was the people from the Xu clan who had deliberately set the trap for them. After all, they were the ones who had allowed the people from the three consortiums to come into the stronghold over the years. They even did it very secretly. If they had betrayed them, it would not make any sense at all.

It was likelier that Xu Ke had predicted the Xu clan members would sell him out. Therefore, he deliberately let slip seemingly flawed information to lure them into the trap.

But it did not matter anymore. The people from the Xu clan had already become disposable, and the three consortiums had not planned on splitting Luoyang City with them anyway.

But what they did not know was that Xu Ke had not plotted this at all. Even if he did, it would not be in these areas. The reason why those two field teams and two superhumans they dispatched had died was purely because they were unfortunate enough to hit a brick wall.

Rather than describing it as a brick wall, they had crashed into two granite blocks.

At this moment, the people from the Qinghe Group were cleaning up the corpses of the consortiums' people that were left at the doorstep of the orphanage. Several dozen thugs had died here, and there was even one superhuman among the dead.

There was no way that Hu Shuo's identity as a superhuman could be kept secret anymore with what happened. However, the Qinghe Group had never mistreated superhumans, nor would they do anything bad to them. Therefore, he did not care whether his identity was exposed.

When Qin Sheng arrived at the orphanage, Hu Shuo came forward to explain he did not know why the thugs would come here. Hu Shuo was not lying. He really did not fucking know why!

"It's probably because we Riders have placed the orphanage under our jurisdiction, making the malicious take notice." Qin Sheng sighed, "I was worried about this, but I didn't expect the enemy would be so crazy to not even spare an orphanage. Please rest up. This was all thanks to your help. In the future, the funds for the orphanage will be disbursed on time. In fact, the sum will be increased by a lot. Consider it our Riders' gratitude to you."

"Alright, I still have to get ready for my lessons with the children, so please do what you need to do." Hu Shuo waved his hand and closed the door of the orphanage. It was as though he did not care about what had happened at all.

When Qin Sheng told Xu Ke about this, Xu Ke got the feeling he had secured the victory of a distant battle without even needing to do anything.

However, everyone knew they had not won yet. Before the end of the night, the consortiums definitely still had more trump cards left to play.

In the secluded residence, Wang Wenyan said calmly, "This is still the Qinghe Group's territory. There are too many things we don't know about. Our opponent has been running the place for so long, so it should be expected that they also have something up their sleeves. I think everyone here should stop hesitating. It's no longer possible for us to keep our casualties to a minimum before the end of the battle. It's time to go all out and make our move. While creating chaos, we can take down Xu Ke at the same time."

Before this, the three consortiums had attempted to find ways to take advantage of the situation over and over again, such as capturing Jiang Xu or finding a way to break the deadlock. It was not that their strength was inferior to the Qinghe Group, but the three consortiums wanted to reserve their strength to deal with the other two consortiums after destroying the Qinghe Group.

Second Brother Kong got up and sneered, "Then let's do this! Everyone will have to depend on their own capabilities now."

Chapter 653: Xu Ke's choice

At 9 PM, an unexpected visitor suddenly came to the Qinghe Group's headquarters. The president of Qinghe University's Student Council, Xu Zhi, stood outside the security gate and said, "I'm the Xu clan's Xu Zhi. I would like to meet my brother, Xu Ke."

Xu Ke was Xu Zhi's elder first cousin on his father's side. Before Luoyang City was in trouble, the two of them had a very good relationship. Many of Xu Zhi's friends knew Xu Zhi saw Xu Ke as his role model.

But at this moment, it did not matter who came to look for Xu Ke. The Rider who was guarding the entrance, Luo Yunxian, just looked up and said, "Xu Ke is not receiving any visitors today. Please come back tomorrow."

As for whether the Qinghe Group would still be around tomorrow, they would have to wait until after tonight. Time would decide the outcome.

Xu Zhi stood at the gate and fell silent for a moment. "Can you let my brother know? He might be willing to see me?"

Luo Yunxian totally ignored him as the Riders were not the Qinghe Group's subordinates. All they needed to do today was protect the Qinghe Group, and nothing else mattered to them.

In the past, Xu Zhi would be the center of attention wherever he went. But suddenly, he felt a little lonely. As expected, the adult world would not care about his achievements in school.

But then Xu Ke's secretary came down from the elevator and said to Xu Zhi, "Follow me upstairs."

Xu Zhi's eyes lit up again at the secretary's words. "OK."

The elevator went all the way up to the top floor. When the elevator door opened, Xu Zhi saw Xu Ke standing by himself next to the floor-to-ceiling window of the 12th floor, overlooking the entirety of Luoyang City.

Today's Luoyang City was no longer a sleepless city with bright lights. Most of the neon lights had been turned off, and the usual pedestrians were hiding in their homes, too scared to head out. As such, the streets looked utterly deserted.

Before Xu Zhi could walk over to Xu Ke, Xu Ke started laughing. "Look, a city without a strong military force is just so fragile."

“It will definitely return to its former prosperity,” Xu Zhi said softly.

“Is there a reason you’re looking for me?” Xu Ke asked.

“Someone is looking to oppose you,” Xu Zhi said.

“I know.”

“They’re going to kill you.”

“I know that too.”

Finally, Xu Zhi could not help but say, “They’ve sent a lot more people here this time than you can imagine. The ones who died earlier were just some foreign superhumans who were hired by the three consortiums. Right now, their core strength might not even be shaken yet.”

Xu Ke asked with great interest, “What else do you know?”

“And... be careful of the people around you.” Xu Zhi sighed.

Xu Ke fell silent.

This time, he had no choice but to stay silent. No matter how many external enemies might descend on this city, it would not make him feel this nervous. It was this revelation that caused Xu Ke’s gaze to waver.

But Xu Zhi suddenly felt that Xu Ke already knew about this.

“I know that my uncle is involved, but he doesn’t represent my standpoint. My father went to the black market yesterday as he intends to stay out of this matter. I initially wanted to leave as well, but I somehow felt a little uneasy,” Xu Zhi said.

Xu Ke patted him on the shoulder and said with a smile, “Leave now while there’s still time. Get away from this troublesome place and come back tomorrow.”

Before today, even the work permit holders were stopped from entering Luoyang City as the gates had been closed.

However, Luoyang City suddenly reopened its gates today to allow all its residents to flee from the city. They were told they could come back again tomorrow. No matter who was controlling Luoyang City the next day, they would not make things difficult for the commoners.

Xu Ke did this because he did not want all of Luoyang City to perish together with him.

Li Yingyun, Zhang Qingxi, and the others had been running around all these days simply because they wanted to protect the Qinghe Group. All of them still had feelings for the Qinghe Group and Luoyang City.

But Xu Ke suddenly felt the city and its people were much more important than the Qinghe Group.

Actually, everyone already knew full well the Qinghe Group could not stand against the three consortiums since they had joined forces. Even with Ren Xiaosu on their side, it was still not enough to stop them.

Some people said that ever since the era of the “Rise of Gods” started, the time of the consortiums would eventually come to an end. Xu Ke also agreed with this statement. But at least for now, the consortiums were still standing strong.

At this moment, an explosive glow could be seen out in the distance through the floor-to-ceiling window. It lit up the entire stronghold and did not fade away.

Many other explosions went off elsewhere in the stronghold, and like they were the final salvo of fireworks going off.

Xu Zhi turned around and looked at Xu Ke. He suddenly felt that Xu Ke, who was frowning deeply, had made his decision

Xu Ke smiled at Xu Zhi. “Go back. This isn’t where you should be right now.”

After sending Xu Zhi away, Xu Ke changed into his combat uniform. He had kept this uniform in his wardrobe for some years and had not touched it again until now.

As he stood alone in his office on the top floor, he ironed away all the creases on his uniform in a ritual manner.

After he got changed, he headed downstairs. But instead of taking the elevator, he climbed down from the building’s façade with his bare hands. His movements were so agile he was like a lizard.

Before Qin Sheng became a Rider, even he was not aware that Xu Ke was also a Rider. It was only when he reached the top of that cliff and saw Xu Ke’s name that he realized this.

Xu Ke avoided Luo Yunxian and the other Riders’ line of sight and headed onto the streets alone. He was a little tired of being protected by others. Tonight, he was also a Rider.

Xu Ke turned around and looked at the brightly lit Qinghe Building that had been standing for decades. And Luoyang City had existed for even longer than the Qinghe Building.

Too many people had died in the past few days. The Riders had all been sleeping only a few hours every day as well. Even though Old Li was injured, he kept it from everyone. Luo Yunxian and Huang Xiaoyu had been keeping watch over the Qinghe Building without getting any rest and were so tired they could fall asleep even when standing upright.

Since the consortiums were only after the seven satellites and his life, Xu Ke was willing to give that up to them. There was no need for even more people to perish together with him.

The Riders were supposed to be carefree people. They were all born from their love for freedom and faith.

But because Xu Ke was the head of the Qinghe Group, he had tied down all the Riders to Luoyang City. After all, the Riders were all bound together for better or worse.

The Riders even had to work together with the Xu clan members they despised.

So if Xu Ke weren't around anymore, everyone should be able to lead a better life, right?

But before that, as a Rider, Xu Ke had to die with dignity.

In other words, he needed the lives of his enemies to become his epitaph.

The outside of the Qinghe Building was filled with the various organizations' spies keeping an eye on the situation. So the moment Xu Ke left the building by himself, the consortiums found about it before the two Riders, Luo Yunxian and Huang Xiaoyu, could even realize.

After Xu Ke got far away, he suddenly said to the shadowy figures behind him with a smile, "Tell your boss that Xu Ke will be waiting here. Let's see just how many of you have come to Luoyang City."

A nearby voice laughed and said, "The head of the Qinghe Group is indeed braver and tougher than we thought. Don't worry, the people we've sent here tonight will definitely be more than enough to bury the entire Qinghe Group."

Chapter 654: Forever young

Old Li felt sad as he watched the flames burn everywhere in the stronghold. The Luoyang City they had lived in for so many years had become a hopeless mess overnight because of these invaders.

Right now, he wanted nothing more than to kill all the enemies in the stronghold. However, Old Li knew he was not capable of that.

The Riders' combat prowess was far more powerful than average superhumans, but there were just too many enemies this time.

Moreover, the invading consortiums had become wary of the Riders due to their combat prowess and avoided them as they went around wreaking havoc in the stronghold over the past two days. Faced with so many troublemakers, Old Li and the others had been running around the stronghold like firefighters putting out fires everywhere.

At this moment, Old Li's satellite phone rang. He heard Luo Yunxian say, "Xu Ke has gone missing. He probably wants to put an end to this mess by himself."

When Old Li heard that, he kept quiet for a long time. Ren Xiaosu, who was standing next to him, asked, "What's the matter?"

"Xu Ke suddenly left the Qinghe Building to go and face the enemy by himself," Li Yingyun said with a sigh.

Ren Xiaosu was puzzled. "But why? Wasn't everything going well? The enemies who came here have all been intercepted, and none of you Riders were killed, so why did he suddenly go out to face the enemy alone?"

Old Li did not answer his question. "Even Riders change."

Ren Xiaosu was stunned. All this while, he had seen the Riders as a united group, even as a symbol of justice, unity, and courage.

But when Old Li suddenly said that even Riders change, he realized Xu Ke probably felt an unprecedented crisis approaching and did not want to further implicate anyone because of the Qinghe Group. Therefore, he chose to put an end to this mess by himself and die like a hero.

True, how could a utopia truly exist in this world? Ren Xiaosu should have understood this fact.

Ren Xiaosu frowned and asked, "Who is it? Do I know the person? You already knew about this?"

1

Old Li and the others must have already known. Otherwise, it wouldn't only be Xu Ke, Zhang Qingxi, Qin Sheng, and Old Li turning up for that recent dinner party when there were clearly other Riders in the stronghold as well.

"You don't know that person." Old Li shook his head.

"Why did the Riders collude with those consortiums to overthrow the Qinghe Group?" Ren Xiaosu found it a little unbelievable.

"They didn't collude with the consortiums." Old Li said, "It's just that the Riders and the Qinghe Group have become more and more tightly bound together after all these years. They often have to deal with many of the Qinghe Group's affairs on their behalf, and that finally made some people unhappy. Someone thought Xu Ke no longer acted like a Rider. At a meeting two years ago, someone suggested the Riders should completely separate from the Qinghe Group. However, the matter was dropped in the end. So Xu Ke has been feeling quite remorseful for the past two years. He wanted to make changes, but the situation was already what it was, so introducing any changes would be very difficult unless the Qinghe Group were destroyed or someone trustworthy could take over the Qinghe Group from him."

Ren Xiaosu said with a sigh, "Y'all are really weird."

What normal person would not want money and authority?

But of course, normal people would not seek the boundaries of life and death by experiencing the high mountains or skies either.

"Then where's Xu Ke now?" Ren Xiaosu asked, "Let's go and help him. How can he possibly handle something so major all by himself?"

“Let’s split up and look for him.” Old Li sighed, “We might not be able to find him in this chaos at all. Also, he’ll definitely lead our enemies to someplace difficult to find.”

Flames were still burning everywhere in the stronghold. Many stronghold residents had been forced out onto the streets by the inferno. In this chaos, it would be very difficult to determine Xu Ke’s location.

After they split up, Ren Xiaosu immediately jumped onto the roof of a high-rise building and tried to quickly search for Xu Ke’s whereabouts. However, it was too difficult to find someone with the intent to hide inside a city that held hundreds of thousands of people.

An explosion boomed in the stronghold again. It sounded like someone had detonated another set of buried explosives.

Ren Xiaosu ignored this as he stood on the high-rise building. He was a little lost. Where should he go and find Xu Ke?

But then, Ren Xiaosu noticed someone leaping across the roofs and heading north. He increased his pace to catch up.

That person was flitting between buildings when he suddenly saw a figure catching up to him. Then Ren Xiaosu patted him on the shoulder and asked, “Are you looking for Xu Ke?”

1

This superhuman was stunned for a moment but ignored Ren Xiaosu. Instead, he picked up his pace again and tried to shake off Ren Xiaosu.

But when he increased his speed, Ren Xiaosu went faster as well.

Ren Xiaosu shouted next to him, “I’m asking you, are you looking for Xu Ke?”

The superhuman increased his speed again but realized he could not run anymore. When he turned around, he was surprised to see Ren Xiaosu grabbing hold of his clothes from behind. Ren Xiaosu said with a dark expression, “I’m asking you a question! Didn’t you hear me?”

The superhuman wondered, “Didn’t your superior tell you where to assemble? Who the fuck are you! Ah!”

While he was speaking, Ren Xiaosu lifted the superhuman and leaped into the air. Then he threw the other party down to the ground from high up in between two high-rise buildings. The superhuman was ruthlessly slammed to the ground like a cannonball, breaking many of his bones.

1

As he struggled and looked up, he saw Ren Xiaosu not stopping at all as he continued making his way northwards.

...

Xu Ke stood in the middle of Wangchunmen Boulevard and looked around with a smile. "Anyone else?"

Xu Ke was covered in blood, with eight superhumans' corpses lying next to him.

1

The might of this Rider actually made the superhumans around him stop in their tracks. Everyone was waiting for further instructions from the higher-ups on how to proceed.

Some of the supernatural beings had rashly attacked just now, but not even eight of them could defeat Xu Ke.

Before this, everyone had speculated about Xu Ke's combat prowess. However, they did not expect him to be this strong. They did not even know Xu Ke was also a Rider himself.

Seeing no movement from the supernatural beings, Xu Ke noticed more and more people were gathering on the boulevard. Supernatural beings and armed combatants had arrived.

Caught in the ambush, Xu Ke broke into hearty laughter and said, "You people are nothing but minions! Rider Xu Ke at your service! Who dares challenge me!"

At this moment, Xu Ke remembered when he first climbed up the cliff and saw the sunrise radiate brilliantly.

I turn my head startled, the sky three feet above me!

Like a thousand stallions, in full gallop in the heat of battle!

And just like Qin Sheng had done after him, he also carved his name clearly into the rock face after writing, "Only faith, the sun, and the moon are eternal."

He suddenly remembered the words that didn't have an autograph. "Forever young."

Perhaps this was what it really meant to be a Rider. To be forever zealous, forever sincere, forever journeying, and forever young.

1

Ever since he became the leader of the Qinghe Group, he felt like he had not been this happy in a long time. Perhaps Huang Xiaoyu was right. The Riders should never have been embroiled in these matters. But it was too late to say that now.

It was time for him to accept his fate.

But at this moment, he saw the crowd of people at the end of the long street get sent flying into the air by an unstoppable force. Someone had forced open up a bloody path through the ambush.

1

As a result, the people who had surrounded Xu Ke subconsciously made way for the other party.

When Xu Ke saw who it was, he said calmly, "It's not worth it."

Ren Xiaosu killed his way through the crowd of several hundred and made his way towards him with a grin. "Do you believe in me?"

Xu Ke was taken aback for a second. Then he smiled as well. "Yes."

Chapter 655: No rules

Xu Ke had really not expected someone to suddenly cut their way through an ambush from the end of the street in this darkness, then say to him, "Do you believe in me?"

Actually, Xu Ke really wanted to say, "You shouldn't have come here at this time. As long as I'm dead, this matter will be over. You still have a maid and a girl you like, so why would you come here to die with me?"

But under the flashing neon lights, Xu Ke suddenly felt he might not have to die today when he saw Ren Xiaosu's smile.

Did he believe in him? He chose to believe!

1

It was like someone had suddenly grabbed hold of him when he was about to fall into an abyss. "Don't worry, I'll destroy this abyss for you!"

This was the first time Xu Ke experienced something like that. As the head of the Qinghe Group, when had he ever needed anyone's help before?

But perhaps because he had been the head of the Qinghe Group for too long, he eventually chose to face his enemies alone. He was already used to facing everything by himself.

Today, Xu Ke seemed to rediscover how it felt to fight alongside the other Riders, even though Ren Xiaosu was not one of them.

But how was Ren Xiaosu going to handle so many supernatural beings by himself?

Just as he was pondering this, the whistling of a train and the metallic clanging of tracks could suddenly be heard on the boulevard in the darkness!

Everyone immediately turned around and saw that a steam locomotive had actually emerged out of thin air from the darkness behind them. The locomotive was spewing thick black fumes from its top and had appeared like a monster in front of them without any warning!

Segments of railroad tracks materialized and pieced together one by one in front of the train. The loud metallic clanging was pounding everyone's chests like a heartbeat had escaped the body.

The steam locomotive increased its speed to maximum after appearing, and in the blink of an eye, more than a dozen of the consortiums' combatants that had surrounded Ren Xiaosu and Xu Ke were caught off guard and knocked to the ground!

1

Xu Ke was stunned as he had not expected such a turn of events. Was this Ren Xiaosu's power? No, he had heard about this power a long time ago! The person who controlled this power should be someone named Wang Congyang!

Ren Xiaosu dashed into the crowd again while everyone was still dazed and killed some more people. With just a single kick, he had bounded forward by a dozen meters.

One of the consortium's combatants on the street shouted into their radio, "Open fire!"

Blazing bullets and tongues of flame spewed out of the cold and unfeeling firearms. As the bullets passed through the rifling of the barrels, they started spinning rapidly!

But when the combatants tried to rain down a hail of bullets on Ren Xiaosu, they realized Ren Xiaosu was only feinting. With just a slight tap of his feet on the ground, he changed his direction of movement.

At the same time, Ren Xiaosu even grabbed a supernatural being and used him as a human shield. The intense gunfire did not manage to hurt Ren Xiaosu but killed their ally first instead!

As the barrage of bullets hit the supernatural being, countless bloody holes bored into his body. This supernatural being could not even die in peace.

The combat troops were shocked by this sight. Everything happened too quickly just now, and when they finally came back to their senses, they realized Ren Xiaosu was already grabbing a supernatural being!

Ren Xiaosu was holding his black saber in one hand while using the other to hold the now dead supernatural being. He was like a fierce soldier charging his way through an army, while the supernatural being everyone envied had become a shield for him.

That was a supernatural being, alright! But when he went up against Ren Xiaosu, he could not put up any resistance. Ren Xiaosu held him up effortlessly as a shield like he was some frightened little chicken!

This supernatural being had been carefully selected by Ren Xiaosu. Without his armor, it was impossible to face a hail of bullets head on. And since he already had the sharpest saber, he had to find a shield for himself!

1

The reason why he chose a supernatural being was that their bodies were strong.

The consortiums' troops quickly got into a defensive formation and retreated in case Ren Xiaosu tried to force his way through. But their efforts were futile as Ren Xiaosu was much faster than them!

The formation broke. A bullet was fired from the shadows, as though someone were trying to get Ren Xiaosu by shooting through the gap between the shield and him. However, the black saber suddenly flashed across and blocked the bullet just as it was about to hit him in the side. The bullet ricocheted off the slant of the saber's edge and hit another combatant right in the head.

Everyone was shocked by this sight. They could not tell whether Ren Xiaosu did this deliberately or if it was just a coincidence!

When Ren Xiaosu was about to charge into their formation, a supernatural being suddenly jumped out from the rear and made a strange seal symbol with his hands.

1

A battle between supernatural beings was extremely dangerous, because if you did not know what the other party's superpower was, you could not guard against it.

Actually, when supernatural beings of the same level encountered each other most of the time, the most terrifying thing would be fighting a counter. For example, the supernatural being who had tried to sneak attack Ren Xiaosu in front of Hope Media's headquarters. His saber had suddenly turned into a liquid form and spread towards Ren Xiaosu. If Ren Xiaosu did not have his nanomachines protecting him, he might really have gotten killed.

So Ren Xiaosu was extremely cautious when facing this supernatural being. Between him and the other party, whose superpower would be stronger?

The sniper rifle was more powerful, of course.

When the supernatural being finished forming his hand seals, a glow in the shape of a lotus emerged from his hands. However, he noticed the black saber in Ren Xiaosu's hand had turned into a black sniper rifle. He did not even have the chance to get close to Ren Xiaosu before he was sent flying backwards by a shot.

The caliber of Ren Xiaosu's sniper rifle was so large it could be used as a cannon at close range!

"You think y'all are the only ones who know how to use guns?" Ren Xiaosu sneered. As he spoke, the black sniper rifle in his hand suddenly changed into a heavy machine gun. Normal people would need a tripod to put the heavy machine gun on, but Ren Xiaosu was holding it in his hand as though it were a feather!

This was one of the heavy weapons he had seized from the Zong Consortium. When Ren Xiaosu pulled the trigger, the internal mechanisms of the machine gun started firing at extremely high speeds as countless bullets spewed out of the muzzle. In just the blink of an eye, the consortiums' combat troops were forcefully dispersed in front of him!

1

Among them, there were even supernatural beings who could not dodge in time and got shot!

But it was quite a pity he couldn't reload the heavy machine gun. So he had to switch to other weapons after firing off all the rounds.

A lot of people were stunned by this. They had never encountered such a strange supernatural being like him before. How was he able to switch weapons at will? Wait a minute, it looked like he had taken out a grenade this time!

As a supernatural being, why was he depending on all these firearms and explosives?!

This was something Ren Xiaosu had figured out long ago. If it were a duel, of course his black saber would be more powerful. But when there were too many enemies, it would be better to use firearms and explosives.

Whoever stated supernatural beings could not use firearms and explosives? Ren Xiaosu had always survived in the wilderness, and the rule in the wilderness was, "There are no rules!"

1

The choice of weapon used would depend on who it was used against. There were infinite ways of fighting as long as it could kill the enemy!

The combat commander of the consortiums' troops was staring closely at Ren Xiaosu's movements from the rear. Never mind that their gunfire could not break through the human shield and kill their enemy, they were even forced to flee with their tails between their legs by an individual.

A moment later, the commander's expression changed greatly. "Get out of the way! It's TNT!"

Chapter 656: There's someone that I believe in too, and I know that she'll definitely come

Ever since Ren Xiaosu plundered the Zong Consortium's military factories, the stockpile of ammunition he had in his storage space was enough to equip an entire company. Back then, he had taken these weapons in case the Razor Sharp Company needed to replace their equipment. But as the fortunes of war changed quickly, he ended up having no use for them in that war.

The amount of grenades in a military factory was simply unimaginable. If he had not already given away a lot of them because of the war, he would have even more grenades in his possession.

But the power of the grenades paled in comparison to TNT.

The consortiums' troops suddenly felt like Ren Xiaosu was armed with even more ammunition than they were. After Ren Xiaosu threw the TNT, it exploded very quickly in the distance.

The consortiums' combatants did not even have time to get out of the TNT's explosive range. Immediately, the shockwave sent all the nearby soldiers flying!

When the commanding officer of the troops saw this scene, he could almost feel his heart bleeding!

Before they came here, their higher-ups had specially instructed them to watch what they did in case of repercussions. Although they wanted to seize the satellites, they should not make it like an all-out war as it would not look good on them.

At that time, everyone was confident of seizing the satellites, so they were more concerned about their public image.

But now that someone like Ren Xiaosu had appeared, who would still care about what the public thought? Winning was the priority!

However, the thought of going all out against these few hundred people never crossed Ren Xiaosu's mind at all. Otherwise, he would not have summoned the steam locomotive right off the bat!

Taking advantage of the chaos created by the explosion, Ren Xiaosu turned and ran towards Xu Ke. He shouted at Xu Ke, "Quick, get on the train!"

One of the supernatural beings could tell that Ren Xiaosu intended to escape with Xu Ke. He immediately opened a notebook in his hand and wrote quickly in it, "The young man prepared to escape on the train after the explosion went off, but the street lamp beside him suddenly fell down. As he dodged the falling street lamp, he revealed an opening between himself and his shield. Then a bullet shot through him."

This superhuman wrote extremely fast. He only took about two seconds to finish writing a few dozen words. The handwriting in the notebook was so illegible that nobody else could read what he had written!

The moment he was done writing, he added a period to the sentence, and it actually started coming true!

A moment later, a soldier from the troops sprayed bullets at the road next to Ren Xiaosu. He was aiming at Ren Xiaosu at first, but the bullets directed at him got blocked by the human shield in his hand.

Another few shots that missed Ren Xiaosu ended up hitting the street lamp in front of him.

As the street lamp started falling, a creaking sound came from it.

The superhuman holding the notebook started to show a smile. He had been hiding in the corner just to wait for this moment to arrive. No matter how powerful the other party was, they still couldn't escape their fate.

But before he could fully break into a smile, blood splattered from his mouth. Ren Xiaosu did not dodge even when the street lamp was falling towards him. Instead, he kicked it away. In between, the combatants who were trying to shoot at Ren Xiaosu realized they could not find an opening through the human shield even though an accident like this happened!

The superhuman with the notebook looked at his handwriting in a daze. The words he wrote on the empty sheet of paper seemed to be getting rubbed away by an eraser as they started fading slowly!

The superhuman was shocked. He had never come across a strange situation like this before. The other party not only refused to accept his fate, he even caused him to suffer backlash!

Everything happened in a split second. When the superhuman raised his head to look for Ren Xiaosu's figure, he realized Ren Xiaosu was aiming at him with a large black sniper rifle while running. In the blink of an eye, an intense muzzle flash burst from the rugged black sniper rifle. A huge bullet penetrated the book in his hand, then his heart as well.

The superhuman was thrown backwards by this huge force. He could even feel the spinning bullet tearing through the muscles and organs inside him after entering his body.

He could not understand why the other party would notice him. However, he did not have a chance to ponder that anymore.

Ren Xiaosu put away the sniper rifle and muttered, "Why are you holding a book at a time like this? Stop trying to look smart. You think you're the only one who's studious?!"

Ren Xiaosu rejoined Xu Ke. Meanwhile, the steam locomotive had also driven up to Xu Ke.

But just as Xu Ke was getting on the steam locomotive, a supernatural being who was hiding somewhere flashed out of the shadows. The other party jumped up into the air and pointed at the steam locomotive with one finger.

When his finger came into contact with the steam locomotive's black metallic surface, the entire train body got covered by a layer of purple mist.

This purple mist shrouded the entire steam locomotive and froze it in place. The steam locomotive that was barging its way forward was immediately halted!

The powers of superhumans in the world had reached a stage where they were almost magical. Some superhumans could sense the presence of other superhumans, some could materialize a train out of thin air, and there was even someone who could use a notebook to decide the fate of others.

And now, there was someone who could freeze a steam locomotive in place with their power!

Ren Xiaosu was bewildered. He felt he was fully capable of overcoming the other party's superpower, and it would only take him a few seconds to do so!

But at present, they were out in the open! He was unwilling to waste even a few seconds here! If he reacted any slower, Xu Ke might get turned into Swiss cheese!

After all, Xu Ke was already completely exhausted after killing several superhumans. If it had not been for Ren Xiaosu's arrival, he would have been dead by now.

With no time to waste, Ren Xiaosu rushed to Xu Ke's side and dragged him along as they wildly dodged the bullets on the long boulevard.

He had wanted to escape their pursuers by entering a nearby building, but if they went into the building, they would probably have no way to escape once the combatants and superhumans surrounded it from the outside.

Xu Ke gave a bitter smile. "I'm sorry to have dragged you in."

Having been forced into a corner, Xu Ke was not the most upset about his impending death but that he had dragged Ren Xiaosu down with him.

But at a time like this, Ren Xiaosu actually laughed again. "Do you believe in me?"

Xu Ke smiled bitterly. "Yes."

In the face of death, he shouldn't be refuting Ren Xiaosu anymore, right? However, he did not know where Ren Xiaosu's confidence came from. It was clear Ren Xiaosu had no other way out either.

Ren Xiaosu said with a smile as they ran, "There's someone that I believe in too, and I know that she'll definitely come"

Elsewhere, a girl wearing a cap was traversing through the flames and crowds in the darkness. She was running somewhere with all her might.

Chapter 657: Authority on the battlefield

Most sentiments in the world would fade with time. Like sand running through an hourglass, it would disappear bit by bit.

Be it friendship or love, it was all the same.

There was a time Yang Xiaojin really thought Ren Xiaosu had died in that flood. Her stubborn persistence in waiting was actually just her way of dealing with it.

Although she told Yang Anjing she wanted to go look for Ren Xiaosu, she did not even have the slightest idea of where to start. As she journeyed aimlessly in the wilderness, Yang Xiaojin was struck by a wave of loneliness.

That was until Li Shentan found her in the wilderness. Li Shentan held up a copy of a newspaper and waved it around as though he were holding a white flag. Then he threw the newspaper on the ground before running away.

After confirming Li Shentan and Si Liren had left, Yang Xiaojin put away her sniper rifle and walked over to the newspaper puzzledly.

She then came across the news of the steel armor appearing in Luoyang City!

At this moment, Yang Xiaojin was running madly within Luoyang City. She had not slept for the past two days, all for the sake of an inexplicable hope.

She had traveled more than 300 kilometers during these two days as she trekked across mountains and rivers day and night.

Right now, Yang Xiaojin was so close to that person it was like she could sense the other party's aura. That warm feeling was like a hand brushing past her cheek and stroking her hair.

Her cap was a little dirty, and her hair was also messy, but that didn't matter at all!

In this chaotic city where everyone was avoiding gunfire, only this girl wearing a cap was rushing towards the gunshots without hesitation. She was looking for someone over there.

On Wangchunmen Boulevard, the young man was fighting furiously to open up an escape path.

Outside Wangchunmen Boulevard, a girl wearing a cap was making her way to the top of a high-rise building.

A moment ago.

Ren Xiaosu asked with a smile, "Do you believe in me?"

Xu Ke replied that he did, rather startled.

And a moment later, Xu Ke heard Ren Xiaosu say with a smile, "And now, the person that I believe in is here."

A supernatural being suddenly raised his hand, and a green glow appeared around it. No one knew what kind of killing blow he was preparing to make.

However, a gunshot suddenly rang out from a high-rise building in the distance. The bullet traveled through the vast sky, through countless days and nights, through incessant persistence, through longing, and turned that supernatural being who was about to release his killing blow into a bloody mist!

The Perfect Firearms Proficiency user started taking control of the battlefield. From this moment, anyone who wanted to kill Ren Xiaosu would die.

This was her authority.

Ren Xiaosu had deliberately announced to the world that the user of the armor was here. It was as though he knew Yang Xiaojin would definitely show up once she heard news of him.

After receiving news that Ren Xiaosu was at Luoyang City, Yang Xiaojin trekked across the treacherous mountains and passed through a sea of people to fulfill that unspoken promise with him.

Ren Xiaosu turned around and looked at the high-rise building in the distance. The girl wearing the cap seemingly acknowledged him as she pulled the trigger and killed a supernatural being who was trying to sneak up on Ren Xiaosu.

A smile appeared on Yang Xiaojin's face under her cap. *'You knew I would come to meet you, so here I am.'*

But suddenly, time seemed to freeze. The two of them had been waiting for this day for too long. So every minute and second of this day slowed down, allowing them to cherish every moment of it.

It had been a while.

Ren Xiaosu turned to Xu Ke and said with a smile, "Do you have any strength left?"

Xu Ke said with a wry smile, "I should be able to kill a few more enemies."

"Then let's kill all of them."

Then screams came from both ends of the boulevard. It sounded like someone had launched a surprise attack from both sides.

Xu Ke's gaze pierced through the crowd, and he saw Old Li, Qin Sheng, and Zhang Qingxi arriving. But he was even more surprised to see Luo Yunxian and Huang Xiaoyu with them.

The consortiums' combatants roared, "We're under attack! Be careful, there's a sniper and Riders too!"

Initially, this was a battle of ambushes and encirclement. But now, the hunters have become the hunted.

Actually, ever since Yang Xiaojin arrived, the scales of victory had tipped towards them.

Ren Xiaosu suddenly dropped his human shield and strode towards the crowd of people. There were clearly enemies everywhere, but all of them ended up turning into a bloody mist first no matter where Ren Xiaosu went.

At this moment, the consortiums' troops were hoping the supernatural beings could use their strong physiques to dodge the sniper's shots and finish off Ren Xiaosu.

Although the supernatural beings were extremely quick, Ren Xiaosu was even faster!

Some supernatural beings started jumping onto the rooftops of high-rise buildings in an attempt to close down on Yang Xiaojin. They intended to kill the sniper first.

However, their path was blocked by White Mask, "Old Xu."

No matter how hard these supernatural beings tried, "Old Xu" was like a mountain blocking them. It could not be penetrated by guns, and its movements were demonically fast.

The appearance of "Old Xu" also gave Yang Xiaojin more assurance to pull the trigger without any worries.

When she saw "Old Xu" through her scope from the high-rise building, she almost thought he was a supernatural being she did not know. But when she saw the black saber in Old Xu's hand, she understood it was actually Ren Xiaosu's shadow clone. It was just that Ren Xiaosu had thoroughly disguised the shadow clone as a person.

Yang Xiaojin's smile widened. "You've become more cautious."

As she spoke, she fired another bullet.

The enemies collapsed one after another next to Ren Xiaosu. Ren Xiaosu looked more like he was taking a stroll than engaging in a fight to the death with the enemies.

That strong sense of self-confidence did not originate from just himself but also from that girl atop the high-rise building.

Although it was really hard to believe, it was a fact that all this chaos and overwhelming advantage the group had was because of this young man and young woman.

Before this, it was really difficult for anyone to imagine there could be two people in this world who would trust each other and cooperate so well together.

The young man strolled along the bloodstained boulevard without taking any defensive measures. But the strange thing was that no one was aiming their guns at him.

The people who had pointed their guns at Ren Xiaosu were all dead.

Xu Ke was following right behind Ren Xiaosu. He felt this young man in front of him must be the greatest poser he had ever seen in all his years. No one else came close.

The consortiums' combatants tried countless times to reorganize their forces to counterattack. However, the sniper bullets seemingly had eyes and would keep targeting the commanders directing the battle.

For Yang Xiaojin, if all she could do was hit her targets with her shots, she would definitely not be considered a Perfect Firearms Proficiency user at all.

A true Firearms Proficiency master would know exactly which targets to take out first and where their precise positions were.

Yang Xiaojin had the entire battlefield in range from the roof of the high-rise building at the end of the boulevard. There were no blind spots, and no one could survive her attacks.

As such, the consortiums' officers on the battlefield were killed one after another until there was no one left to give any orders.

Although the consortiums' soldiers did not fear death, they could only fight individually without anyone to direct them.

Ren Xiaosu walked towards a supernatural being unobstructed.

He carried his sniper rifle and fired off shots one after another like an artillery attack.

"All of you have been surrounded." Ren Xiaosu laughed heartily and said, "Put your weapons down and surrender."

It had been a very long time since he was this happy!

The steam locomotive started moving again, leaving the enemies on the boulevard a little flustered. They did not know when the bullets representing the Grim Reaper would descend upon them.

This feeling of awaiting judgment was especially tormenting and dreadful.

Gradually, some people started fleeing. However, Li Yingyun, Qin Sheng, and the Riders had already blocked their path.

Especially Huang Xiaoyu. He cut his way through their enemies and forged a bloody path leading to Xu Ke.

Xu Ke was stunned. "Didn't you..."

Huang Xiaoyu said calmly, "I was only against protecting the Qinghe Group and getting involved with those disputes over fame and fortune. That didn't mean I'm willing to watch you die."

Old Li roared in the distance, "Stop chatting! I'm injured all over! Hurry up and come help me!"

Chapter 658: The mantis stalks the cicada, unaware of the oriole behind

After so many years of planning by the consortiums and smuggling all these people into Luoyang City through coordination with the Xu clan's renegades, they were all defeated in just a single day.

Under the siege of the Riders, some of the supernatural beings fled their separate ways. If it were only a few Riders who had shown up here, they would not have left in such a hurry.

But the garrison troops had already arrived at both ends of Wangchunmen Boulevard. The armored vehicles and heavy machine guns were not to be trifled with. No matter how powerful the supernatural beings were, there was no reason for them to go all out against the troops.

Otherwise, they would not have gone through so much trouble and tried to capture Jiang Xu, Zhou Yingxue, and Hu Shuo.

Second Brother Kong was sitting in the hidden residence. The lights in the living room were not on, his face shrouded in darkness.

He suddenly said, "Actually, we were all wrong. From the moment that superhuman from the Northwest appeared, we should've withdrawn."

No one responded to him in the darkness. Everyone had fallen silent.

Second Brother Kong was not a superhuman himself. He had only appeared here because he was in charge of the Kong Consortium's intelligence and field operations.

He was also the first to make contact with the Xu clan's relatives.

It could be said that Second Brother Kong was the one who sparked off everything that happened at Luoyang City.

The consortiums were well-prepared for this operation. Before embarking on it, they had even taken into account the Pyro Company's strength.

When the consortiums realized the Pyro Company did not come to Qinghe's aid, they even felt a little relieved. This way, their plan to take over the Qinghe Group would be much more secure.

But they did not expect the arrival of a young man from the Northwest would actually disrupt all of their plans.

From the moment they tried to attack Qinghe University to the failure of capturing Jiang Xu, it seemed that every step they took was wrong.

A single wrong move affected all subsequent moves. Perhaps the root of their mistake was that everyone had underestimated the impact a superhuman could have on the world.

Of course, they had also underestimated that superhuman's maidservant.

While sitting in the dark living room, Second Brother Kong occasionally had thoughts that if they did not send the operatives to attack the residence at Junmin Alley and the orphanage earlier, the current situation would have been a little more favorable for them.

Second Brother Kong asked Wang Wenyan, who was sitting across from him, "What's your Wang Consortium planning to do next? Will you follow through to the end and send your troops to attack Luoyang City or will you just accept defeat? And the Zhou Consortium, what are your next plans?"

The Zhou Consortium's representative said with a sneer, "Second Brother Kong, are you trying to instigate the Central Plains into starting a war? I'm afraid that once the three consortiums assemble here at Luoyang City, no one can stop the war from happening."

At that time, it would not be as simple as seizing Luoyang City anymore. When the three consortiums' troops met, the flames of war would probably ignite across the entire Central Plains.

Second Brother Kong realized something was amiss. "Wang Wenyan?"

When he got up to turn on the lights, he realized Wang Wenyan had disappeared from the living room. There was only a black mist on the sofa across from him that was maintaining the silhouette of a human figure. When Second Brother Kong reached out to touch it, the black mist dissipated like a punctured balloon!

Second Brother Kong was stunned on the spot. "Where did Wang Wenyan go? He's actually a superhuman?!"

All of them were sitting in the house just a moment ago, and Second Brother Kong was sure he did not hear anyone leaving through the door or windows. He did not even hear Wang Wenyan's footsteps, but that person had somehow disappeared into thin air.

A second later, the sofa Second Brother Kong was sitting on started to glow a fiery red. A bomb that had been planted in the room exploded loudly, and the entire building was engulfed in flames in the blink of an eye.

At this moment, many other places in Luoyang City were also burning in flames, so there was nothing too particular about this place. There would just be a wait for the firefighters to arrive and put out the fire before discovering the corpses here in the residential building.

The black mist drifted into the air and towards the Qinghe Building like a black scarf fluttering in the wind.

In the darkness of the night, everyone thought it was just a small patch of dark clouds or did not notice it at all when the black mist drifted past them.

When it reached the outside of the Qinghe headquarters, the black mist entered the building through the ventilation system. As long as there were some gaps in the building, it would be impossible to stop it from getting in.

The black mist drifted rapidly through the ventilation ducts before finally ending up in a room filled with electronic equipment on the 11th floor. Then the black mist slowly “solidified” into the figure of Wang Wenyan.

He walked to a set of equipment with a smile and took out a black, palm-sized device which he connected to the instrument’s data port.

A green light lit up on the black, palm-sized device. Wang Wenyan could suddenly feel something had made its way into the entire Qinghe Building, as well as into those satellites, through this device.

The lights in the Qinghe Building went off for a moment before immediately returning to normal. It was like the entire Qinghe Building had been “rebooted.”

Wang Wenyan did not stay around any longer. He turned into the black mist again and left through the ventilation system.

The surveillance footage of the entire building was about to be tampered with by an unknown force, and no one would discover that Wang Wenyan had been here.

Actually, Second Brother Kong and that Zhou Consortium’s representative were unaware that the Wang Consortium had no intention of taking Xu Ke hostage or capturing the Qinghe Building. Because they knew right from the beginning that there was actually no need for any fighting or killing if they wanted to take control of the satellites.

Of course, if Xu Ke had been killed or if someone could help distract their enemies, that would even be better. But it did not matter that Xu Ke was still alive, as long as the Zhou Consortium and the Kong Consortium suffered many casualties.

To the Wang Consortium, this operation was still extremely successful.

Although some of their elite soldiers and superhumans had also died, the Kong Consortium and the Zhou Consortium had taken more casualties.

The remainder of the Wang Consortium's super humans had not gone to Wangchunmen Boulevard tonight. Instead, they took advantage of the chaos and left Luoyang City earlier in the night.

The people who looked like superhumans at Wangchunmen Boulevard were just normal soldiers the Wang Consortium dressed up carefully to look like supernatural beings.

This time, they not only wanted to seize the satellites but also weaken the strength of the Kong Consortium and Zhou Consortium.

Therefore, everything that happened tonight was just like Wang Shengzhi's foreshadowing for the future.

Second Brother Kong was right. A single wrong move affected all subsequent moves. The mistakes of the Kong Consortium and the Zhou Consortium had effectively started from today.

A young woman in a black combat uniform was standing atop a high-rise building next to Wangchunmen Boulevard. She was surrounded by a dozen paper cranes hovering around her.

The woman in the black cap quietly watched as the cap-wearing girl continued pulling the trigger from the roof of another building. She suddenly took off her black cap and threw it into the wind, sending it flying off to somewhere.

Yang Xiaojin suddenly sensed something and turned her head towards her aunt. They were looking at each other from the roofs of the two buildings. When the dark clouds in the sky dispersed, the crescent moon reappeared.

Yang Xiaojin hesitated a little, but she did not say anything in the end. She turned around and ran downstairs, sprinting straight for Ren Xiaosu.

And so, Yang Anjing was left standing alone on the roof of a high-rise building. No one knew what she was thinking.

She looked at the Qinghe Building from afar and only left when she saw the lights in the entire building flicker off and light up again.

Chapter 659: I heard that you recently got a maid?

The battle was over. At the same time, the outcome of the Battle of Wangchunmen Boulevard meant the monthlong chaos in Luoyang City had come to an end.

However, Old Li, Xu Ke, and the others could not feel any joy when they saw how devastated Luoyang City had become.

Not all of the consortiums' supernatural beings were annihilated in this place, with at least a third of them managing to escape. Old Li regretted this a little.

In this battle, the Riders also realized their shortcomings. Although they were much stronger than most normal superhumans, the 12 of them were still unable to cope when it came down to protecting such a large stronghold.

If Wu Dingyuan and Wen Meng had managed to rush back on time, it would probably have been much better. However, they were also held back by the enemy out in the wilderness.

With shackles, there would also be weaknesses.

When he was at Stronghold 74, Li Yingyun could just leave when the situation became impossible to handle. However, he could not do the same when it came to Luoyang City.

It was not that the Riders had deep feelings for Luoyang City but that they could not abandon Xu Ke.

Riders with no attachments to the world were truly terrifying. As a united group of 12 superhumans, even the consortiums would not dare to underestimate them.

But once they were tied down by their responsibility to the stronghold, the Riders would not have any distinct advantage over others.

Take Luo Yunxian for example. He had remained guard at the Qinghe Group's headquarters even when the crisis was unfolding. But upon learning Xu Ke was in danger, he finally stood down from his duty and went to his rescue. Throughout the entire battle, it could be said that Luo Yunxian did not really face any enemies at all.

Many of the stronghold residents who worshipped the Riders always felt they were invincible and extremely powerful. But while that was what they wished for, reality did not concur.

This was probably the reason why Huang Xiaoyu wanted the Riders to leave the Qinghe Group completely.

At this moment, Xu Ke leaned against a wall and slowly sat down. He looked up at Huang Xiaoyu and asked, "So you've already considered this point. That's why you wanted the Riders to leave the Qinghe Group?"

Huang Xiaoyu, who was standing next to him, said, "Even if the Riders have to continue guarding the Qinghe Group, it should be done covertly. Do you understand what I mean? Once the enemy knows what you care about, you've already lost. Actually, I have feelings for the Qinghe Group and Luoyang City as well. But with the world already in chaos, we can't gift others an opportunity to bring us down."

In Huang Xiaoyu's opinion, only when the Riders became a sword of Damocles above their enemies' heads would their enemies feel fear.

If their enemies attacked Luoyang City again, the Riders would no longer be its guardian. Instead, they would avenge it. They could destroy Luoyang City as much as they liked, but they would have to face the fanatic retaliation of the 12 Riders in the aftermath. No matter which consortium it might be, they would definitely be afraid of this happening.

In this era, you could not have anything that would tie you down. Even if you did, you couldn't let others know about it, and you would have to be ruthless as well.

This was the point Huang Xiaoyu was trying to make.

Xu Ke nodded. "Then we can start making plans for that. I can't cut ties with the Qinghe Group for the time being, but I'll join up with you all in a year."

"Do you plan to hand over the Qinghe Group?" Huang Xiaoyu asked, "Who are you gonna to give it to?"

Xu Ke glanced at Ren Xiaosu, then thought for a moment and said, "To Xu Zhi."

"Xu Zhi? That young man?" Huang Xiaoyu said with a frown, "Surely he's not capable yet, right?"

"When I took over the Qinghe Group, I was also only 23 years old. Who would be capable right from the beginning?" Xu Ke said with a smile, "I'll take him under my wing for a year. Other things aside, at least that kid has courage and determination. Did you hear of the time he got kidnapped? The kid straight-up told his kidnappers to kill him rather than giving in to their demands. Among the young ones, he's definitely the cream of the crop."

Huang Xiaoyu still felt it would be a little rash to hand the Qinghe Group over to Xu Zhi. After all, Xu Zhi was way too young.

However, Xu Ke said with a sigh, "It's mainly because there's no other suitable candidate. I... also want to achieve freedom like you all as soon as possible."

These were Xu Ke's heartfelt words. After this battle, he suddenly got the desire to travel across the famous mountains and great rivers with everyone. He did not want to be a tycoon who had to toil so hard for the stronghold. That was not Xu Ke's ambition in the slightest.

If fame and fortune were his goals, he would not have been able to become a Rider.

As Xu Zhi was too young, Xu Ke could not help but be a little worried too. But after the chaos this time, the internal ranks of the Qinghe Group had been thoroughly purged for good. The core members of the board were not severely affected either. On the contrary, the Qinghe Group might even end up becoming more united than ever.

As for whether Xu Zhi could manage the Qinghe Group well or not... who cared about that! He only owned 3% shares anyway.

Right now, Xu Ke was also a little keen on cutting himself free from all ties.

Running footsteps came from the end of the street. Everyone turned their gaze and was surprised to see a cap-wearing girl running towards Ren Xiaosu.

When Yang Xiaojin ran past Old Li, Old Li tried to thank her. However, he realized she had completely ignored him.

Yang Xiaojin was sprinting when she was far away. But by the time she approached, she slowed her pace. This reservation she was showing was very pure, and it was the first time Ren Xiaosu had seen this reserved side of her.

Xu Ke looked at his own injury and sighed, "This fucking show of affection is the fucking worst! Why can't they spare a thought for us onlookers' feelings?"

However, Qin Sheng urged, "Brother Xiaosu, go over!"

Ren Xiaosu walked to Yang Xiaojin with a smile, but he was stunned.

Ren Xiaosu stopped in his tracks when he saw the black barrel of the sniper rifle pointing at him from a short distance away.

Yang Xiaojin calmly asked, "I heard you recently got a maid and that she's very close to you?"

"Huh?" Ren Xiaosu was stunned on the spot as he did not expect Yang Xiaojin to suddenly bring this up.

Bang! A bullet nearly grazed Ren Xiaosu's ear and nicked a lock of his hair. Yang Xiaojin's voice harshened. "I asked you a question!"

Ren Xiaosu retreated bit by bit. "Wait, let me explain..."

"I don't wanna hear it!"

Xu Ke was enjoying this. *'What goes around comes around! You deserve it for blustering!'*

It was obviously such an intense and dangerous battlefield earlier, yet he could still say something like "the person that I believe in is here"? Pshaw!

As Yang Xiaojin approached step by step, pointing the muzzle of the sniper rifle at Ren Xiaosu, he retreated step by step. His back was drenched in sweat!

Slowly, the two of them started running, with one chasing and the other retreating. As the sniper rifle rang out, Ren Xiaosu shouted, "Listen to me, it's really not what you think it is. She's not that close to me!"

"So you really do have a maid!" Yang Xiaojin's voice also drifted over from in the distance.

Their voices were getting farther away as they ran out of the stronghold.

The couple who had just reunited immediately began a grand pursuit!

Li Shentan was standing on the stronghold walls and watching this with delight. He said with a smile to Si Liren next to him, "Our trip here wasn't made in vain. This is really fun to watch. So enjoyable! Such fun!"

Of course, the Hope Media newspapers would not mention anything about the master-servant relationship between Ren Xiaosu and Zhou Yingxue, but Li Shentan would!

Si Liren saw with her own eyes how Li Shentan had written a sentence on the newspaper he gave to Yang Xiaojin. "That mysterious young man in the limelight lately, the one who travels everywhere with his maid in tow, is none other than Ren Xiaosu."

Chapter 660: He ran away just like that?

Other people might not understand this awful hobby of Li Shentan's, but Si Liren knew very well that this brother of hers only liked dabbling in interesting matters.

Moreover, she also enjoyed watching sadistic romance tropes like these. It was much more enjoyable than reading those romance novels!

Si Liren watched with delight and even thought of flying out of the stronghold to see how Ren Xiaosu would get hunted down by Yang Xiaojin. However, Li Shentan stopped her.

"Ahem." Li Shentan said, "We'll just have a look here. It's a little too much if we follow them as well. If these two suddenly get angry out of embarrassment and decide to attack us, wouldn't we be bringing trouble upon ourselves?"

"Then where do we go now?" Si Liren asked.

"Let's go to the orphanage to visit Grandpa!" Li Shentan said firmly.

"But weren't we supposed to head south to see the typhoons?" Si Liren asked.

"There's no need to be so anxious about that. The typhoons will not arrive for a few more months." Li Shentan explained, "Let's go to the orphanage first and do some magic for the children to cheer them up!"

"Do magic for them?" Si Liren wondered.

"That's right! Think about it: If I do some magic for them, they'll definitely applaud hard and worship me as their idol." Li Shentan started fantasizing again.

"But, Big Brother Shentan, why do you always do whatever you like?" Si Liren said, curling her lips.

Li Shentan said matter-of-factly, "That's how all mental patients are!"

...

Several of the Riders were sitting side by side at Wangchunmen Boulevard as they watched Ren Xiaosu and Yang Xiaojin disappear into the distance. Xu Ke sighed and said, "How nice it is to be young. Meanwhile, we're already in our thirties..."

"Big Brother Xu Ke, I'm only 18," Qin Sheng said.

"I wasn't talking about you." Xu Ke snapped, "Old Li, I think you all should... Old Li?"

When Xu Ke turned his head, he was surprised to see Old Li was not even looking at him, nor did he hear what he just said. Old Li was staring hard at the stone slabs on the street.

Xu Ke stretched his hand out and waved it in Old Li's face. Only then did Li Yingyun come back to his senses. Xu Ke saw a blur as Old Li threw himself to the ground and picked up something from the bloodstains.

"Old Li, what are you doing?" Huang Xiaoyu asked with a frown, "Why're you acting like you've gone crazy? Could it be that you were beaten up silly while fighting just now? You looked pretty agile there. If you're not tired, come and give me a hand..."

But Old Li did not even notice him as he stared, fixated on the thing in his hand.

"Old Li!" Huang Xiaoyu said anxiously, "What the hell are you doing?!"

Li Yingyun turned around and looked at them. "This is Ren Xiaosu's hair that fell on the ground."

Before this, Old Li and Qin Sheng had gone to Ren Xiaosu's room to search for his hair on more than one occasion, because they suspected Ren Xiaosu was the person they were looking for.

But to Old Li's disappointment, they always returned empty-handed.

It seemed that Ren Xiaosu did not have any hair loss worries that most normal people would face.

Actually, even a normal person would occasionally lose some hair in their daily lives as it was a normal phenomenon. However, Ren Xiaosu was not normal at all.

It was just like how the gods in the legends attained transcendence.

Later, Qin Sheng even followed Ren Xiaosu to Stronghold 61 with the same purpose. However, he still found nothing at all.

Now that Yang Xiaojin had shot off a lock of Ren Xiaosu's hair, Old Li could finally use it to extract his DNA for a test!

A lot of people did not know the Qinghe Group still had the DNA sequence data of the founder stored here. This was the most important mission for the Qinghe Group. The Pyro Company had always wanted to obtain it, but the Qinghe Group never announced they had it to the public.

Old Li finally managed to get his hands on some of Ren Xiaosu's hair. However, everyone suddenly felt unsettled by this. It was like they were a group of students waiting for their exam results to be released.

Huang Xiaoyu and the others stood up. "Old Li, are you sure you saw it clearly? Is that really his hair?"

"I'm sure of it. I didn't even blink just now." Old Li said firmly, "Let's go back to the Qinghe headquarters. This is our utmost priority right now!"

“And what if he really is the one?” Zhang Qingxi said distantly from next to him, “That Ren Xiaosu is even more powerful than we imagined, and it seems like he doesn’t hunger for power. I suggest everyone think carefully about how to get along with him if he really is...”

...

On that very night, Qin Sheng went to look for Zhou Yingxue. “We’ve arranged a new place for you all to live at. The house is even more well-hidden than this one, and it’s closer to Qinghe University as well.”

The place where Zhou Yingxue and the others were living right now was the home of an important member of the Qinghe Group, Yang Ruilin. This arrangement was made to provide Ren Xiaosu’s group with a smokescreen on their arrival at the stronghold. Now that the matter was over, it would not be very nice to have Yang Ruilin continue staying at the hotel anymore. So Luo Yunxian vacated his villa to Zhou Yingxue and the others.

In any case, the Riders were already planning to leave Luoyang City soon.

Zhou Yingxue looked at Qin Sheng and wondered, “Why are you here? Where’s my master?”

Qin Sheng hesitated for a moment. “He left with Yang Xiaojin. Didn’t anyone tell you?”

Then Qin Sheng saw Zhou Yingxue, who was smiling, suddenly look like she had been struck by lightning.

“Eh?!” Zhou Yingxue flew into a rage. “He ran away just like that? He didn’t even tell me anything? Where did he go? Does he still remember that his maid is here?!”

Qin Sheng said innocently, “I—”

Zhou Yingxue ignored him and continued throwing a tantrum. “How can he forget about his maid after reuniting with his wife? Is the maid not important at all? Huh? He should have at least said something! This is too much!”

Qin Sheng was forced to flee.

While Zhou Yingxue was throwing her tantrum, Qin Sheng suddenly felt the woman in front of him was extremely dangerous. He was so frightened his hair stood on end. It felt as though the stronghold was about to get destroyed in her rage.

He could not understand why he got this feeling.

Of course, Qin Sheng did not know that Zhou Yingxue was really capable of destroying a stronghold now.

When Wang Yuchi and the others saw Zhou Yingxue walk back into the house, they quickly lowered their heads and started studying. They were afraid the woman would start venting her anger on them.

While they were having dinner that evening, the expressions on Wang Yuchi and the others' faces changed. Zhou Yingxue must have poured all the salt in the house into the pot when she was cooking.

Three days later, Zhang Qingxi suddenly announced their separation from the Qinghe Group on behalf of the Riders. As this news was directly published by Hope Media, it gained widespread coverage.

After this incident, Xu Ke was the only Rider that remained in the Qinghe Group. It was as though the two sides had fallen out.

Before this, the consortiums had already noticed the Riders were divided. As such, it seemed inevitable this would happen now.

However, the consortiums were still relatively cautious. A matter that was widely publicized like this might not be trustworthy.

Immediately after, the Riders led by Zhang Qingxi joined up with Wu Dingyuan and Wen Meng before disappearing into the wilderness. All of a sudden, the consortiums had their guards up. They were all afraid the Riders would launch a retaliation attack on them.