

First Order 721

### **Chapter 721 Su Lei's new business**

This time, after Su Lei had sold off all the fur hides and received the money, he suddenly felt like he was living the dream.

Before this, he had never once thought he would have so much cash on him.

For the past two days, Su Lei slept with the money close to him until he finally deposited it into the bank account he had just opened in Fortress 178. He was the only one who knew the password.

After that, Su Lei started sleeping alone. When he slept, he would make sure no one was around him. He was worried he would reveal the password accidentally if he talked in his sleep.

Su Lei purchased a large quantity of daily necessities at Stronghold 144. These were the items the young man from the grasslands requested.

Last time, Su Lei was too poor and did not manage to get all the items. This time, in order to build a good relationship with the customer, he picked all the best quality items to buy. He believed the young lord was a smart person, and that when he saw these items, he would know just how much effort Su Lei had put in.

He had also considered what Zhang Gong told him. Even if he had bought cheap ironware to supply the customer, it was still ironware nonetheless. But every time Su Lei remembered the young man's half-smile, he felt it was better not to deceive a smart person like that.

Not only that, Su Lei even purposely used a portion of the money he had received to buy gifts for the young lord from the grasslands. There was even an exquisite revolver among the gifts. Rumor had it that it used to belong to a high-ranking official of the Zong Consortium, and that he had sold off everything and fled to the Wang Consortium prior to Fortress 178 taking control of the Northwest.

Initially, that official did not want to sell this gun, but the people in the black market forcefully bought it from him anyway.

The black market's boss even laughed and said, "You should have seen how cowardly that bastard was back then. He used to be all high and mighty, but he did not dare to make a sound even though he had a gun in his hand."

Su Lei understood then that some people were born to be sheep. Even if they relied on their kin in the Zong Consortium and climbed to a high-ranking position, it would not change their natures.

Now that firearms were difficult to obtain, they should be in even shorter supply in a place like the grasslands, right?

Su Lei once thought about keeping the revolver for himself as he really liked it. But after some thought, he placed it back into the wooden box it came in. The bottom of the box was covered in velvet.

Compared to his future business, would a gun be more important?

Su Lei had been trying to establish a relationship with the garrison troops in Stronghold 144 for the past few days, but reality told him he was still only a small fry. No one cared about him a single bit.

“Boss, why are you always hanging around those Fortress 178 soldiers these days? We’re bandits, so we had better not get found out by them,” Zhang Gong said.

Next to them, Cui Qiang, who was polishing his dagger, said, “Boss has his own plans. Why do you care so much?”

Su Lei sighed. “That young lord in the grasslands definitely wants to get some firearms, and if we intend to sell firearms to him, it definitely won’t work without the support of the Fortress 178 troops. But it’s still early days, so let’s wait until a chance comes by in the future.”

Actually, Su Lei knew that his reselling of daily necessities was only a small business. A place like the grasslands would not have the ability to manufacture their own firearms, but which ruler would not want to have weapons so that they could stabilize their rule?

Therefore, only a future firearms business would allow him to reach the pinnacle of his life.

At this moment, a man suddenly sat down across from them and said with a smile, “Hello, are you Su Lei?”

When this man came over, Cui Qiang hid his dagger, and his muscles tensed. He was ready to pounce forward for the kill at any moment.

Su Lei patted Cui Qiang on the arm before turning to look at the man opposite him and said with a smile, “Yes, I’m Su Lei. You are?”

The man smiled and said, “Who I am is not important. I heard that you all came here from the steppe?”

“That’s not it. We only did some business with the nomads,” Su Lei said calmly.

“Oh.” The man took out 10,000 yuan and stuffed it into Su Lei’s hands. “Tell me about the situation in the steppe and this 10,000 yuan is yours.”

Su Lei frowned. He suddenly felt an inexplicable sense of pressure from the other party’s words. This person had just casually sat down in the wilderness outside Stronghold 144 without any fear that the several dozen of them would kill him.

Cui Qiang sneered, “You sure are ballsy, but why should our boss tell you that?”

“Because my fists are bigger,” the man said with a smile.

“Can’t you see how many people we have here?” Cui Qiang said coldly. “Oh?” The man smiled and said, “Then why don’t you turn and look outside?”

Su Lei looked back in shock. He was surprised to find they had been surrounded by dozens of plainclothes men armed with weapons at some point in time. The black muzzles were all locked onto them and within shooting range.

These were regular troops! They were definitely regular troops!

Could they be Fortress 178's troops? No, if they were from Fortress 178, they would not need to be dressed in plain clothes to deal with bandits like them.

The man said with a smile, "Su Lei, in that bandit town in the Northwest, although it no longer exists, you all were the only ones that survived. You even managed to make a deal with the nomads."

Su Lei said calmly, "Sir, have we ever offended you in the past?" "No." The man shook his head.

"Then why are you threatening us like this?" Su Lei asked, "Since you've come to look for us, you must have a motive, right? Just tell us directly what you want. Our bandit lives are worthless."

"Haha, what a straightforward person!" The man cut off a piece of meat from a goat leg. "Tell me about the steppe."

"We didn't go to the steppe. We only delivered some daily necessities to them at the agreed upon location. After that, they handed over the fur hides and other local specialties to us," Su Lei said.

"Oh, do they have a very powerful force?" the man asked.

"I don't know if they're powerful or not, but I'm very good at judging people. The person making the decisions is extremely smart. I believe that even if they aren't the most powerful force in the steppe, they'll be a force to be reckoned with in the future," Su Lei said firmly.

"What does he want?" the man asked.

"Daily necessities, ironware, and medicine." Su Lei said, "But with medicine being a controlled substance under Fortress 178, we can't buy enough even if we had the money."

"Don't they want weapons?" the man asked.

"Yes, but we can't get those," Su Lei admitted honestly.

The man smiled. "Fortress 178 will not sell any weapons to you all to aid the nomads. That's because once the nomads get stronger, they'll become a threat to the Central Plains. Zhang Jinglin will definitely not want to see a bloodbath happen."

When Su Lei heard this, he realized he was just a small-time bandit after all. He did not understand much about the situation or the important figures from the various forces, so he was unaware of something like that.

Only now did he realize that Fortress 178 would not possibly sell them any firearms. In that case, his business would have to be limited to reselling daily necessities. This left Su Lei feeling a little bad.

But the man changed the subject. "But while Fortress 178 will not sell you firearms, we can. Let's start over and get to know each other again. Hi, my name is Xu Man."

### **Chapter 722 A new deal**

The railroad linking the Qing Consortium and the Northwest was still under construction, but the trade between them had already started.

When Qing Zhen appointed the person to take charge of this matter, he did not consider anyone but Xu Man. Only he was the most suitable candidate for the job.

It had to be known that Xu Man oversaw the growth of the bandit forces in the valley, and it could be said that many of Qing Zhen's plans had always been executed perfectly whenever he handled them.

In the Qing Consortium, it would not be enough if it were only Qing Zhen alone who had to deal with this chaotic world. His farsightedness still required strong executioners.

Therefore, Xu Man could be said to be the Qing Consortium's principal person who oversaw their Northwestern strategy.

One of the more important matters in recent days was that Wang Fugui had brought back with him a group of merchants from the Central Plains. The amount of goods he hauled back to the Northwest made the other merchants extremely envious.

One of Xu Man's subordinates suggested they make contact with Wang Fugui and groom him to become an agent of the Qing Consortium.

However, Xu Man rejected the suggestion with an astounded expression. Others might not know about Wang Fugui, but how could he not know? That was not someone he could nurture.

Another important thing was that a batch of fur hides had suddenly appeared in the market.

Logically speaking, it was just a bunch of fur hides and not some strategic resources that appeared, so it should not have raised any concerns.

But Xu Man still personally made a trip over. When he saw the corsac fox fur hides, he immediately realized these goods must have come from the steppe.

NO

When normal people heard about the steppe, they would only get reminded of groups of nomadic tribes and barbarians. However, Xu Man deeply understood Qing Zhen's concerns. The steppe meant a great deal to the Qing Consortium.

Just like how Wang Shengzhi had specially made a trip to the Northwest to persuade Zhang Jinglin to help him suppress the Qing Consortium, Qing Zhen needed someone to suppress the Wang Consortium! Although the steppe was thousands of kilometers away from the Qing Consortium, the nomadic tribes there could get to the Wang Consortium immediately by passing through Stronghold 176.

If such geography were consolidated, it would create the same banditry situation as the valley that had annoyed the Yang Consortium back then, and annoy the Wang Consortium as well.

Just as Xu Man had said, Zhang Jinglin would definitely not allow something like that. That was because too many people would die if it ever happened.

But Qing Zhen had always been an unscrupulous person. The only people he wanted to protect were the Qing Consortium's people in the Southwest. The lives of others had nothing to do with him.

Therefore, Xu Man found and approached Su Lei instead. He wanted to send firearms to the steppe to help one of the major powers there consolidate the territory!

Xu Man got straight to the point. "The business you're running now is too small. I also know full well that you aren't satisfied with just reselling some daily necessities. However, you definitely can't get any help from Fortress 178, so you can only rely on us." "Where exactly are you from?" Su Lei asked hesitantly.

"It's not difficult to guess." Xu Man said with a smile, "If you can't even guess that, I might have to find someone smarter to work with."

"The Qing Consortium?" Su Lei asked. To be honest, he really did not expect the Qing Consortium would approach him.

Xu Man smiled and said, "Where did you guys do the deal?"

Su Lei hesitated. He was a little worried that if he told Xu Man about this, the other party would bypass him and directly make a deal with that young man from the grasslands.

Xu Man's smile got even wider. "What? Are you afraid I'll steal away your business? Forget it then. Just pretend that I didn't look for you today."

However, when Su Lei thought about it again, Qing Zhen's name was well-known throughout the Southwest and Northwest. He would definitely not do something meaningless. So why was the Qing Consortium trying to help the nomads in the Northern Plains? They must definitely be plotting something. Now that Xu Man had secretly approached him, the Qing Consortium's plan was definitely not supposed to be found out by anyone else. In fact, the plan should not even be headed by someone from the Qing Consortium. What they needed was an agent!

Su Lei said, "It's right next to the Shenmu River. It's almost time for the deal to happen. You may send someone to tag along with me for this first transaction."

Xu Man patted Su Lei on the shoulder. "You're truly a smart person. Don't worry, I'll send five platoons with you this time. There won't be a need for that again in the subsequent deals. Once the first transaction is completed, you'll become a lieutenant in our Qing Consortium. If you ever want to retire someday, you can come to the Qing Consortium to live out your retirement. We can offer you a path to take a step back towards. But if you get discovered, killed, or captured during the deal, we won't acknowledge that you're our people. However, we'll definitely try to save you. I'm sure you've heard of our Qing Consortium's reputation before. We never let down those who've worked hard for us."

These words made Su Lei a little happy. Just as Xu Man had said, the Qing Consortium's reputation was not only that of Qing Zhen's great wisdom, but also how well treated the Qing Consortium's soldiers were, how united they were, and how greatly Qing Zhen empathized with his subordinates.

Didn't the Qing Consortium and the Pyro Company have a conflict years ago over the Pyro Company's capture of Qing Zhen's people?

Now that he had gotten Xu Man's commitment, it was equivalent to having another way out in the future.

When Xu Man saw Su Lei's expression, he already knew the outcome. He got up to leave. "Alright, pack your things and follow me to collect the firearms. After that, we'll head to the Shenmu River as soon as possible to complete the transaction."

Seven days later, Su Lei and the others quietly arrived on the bank of the Shenmu River. They waited quietly for that young man to arrive. But even after a day had passed, they still did not see anyone coming. By the riverbank, Su Lei had gained an additional few large cargo trucks since the last time he was here. Meanwhile, Xu Man was standing behind him and would be observing the transaction as Su Lei's subordinate this time.

Xu Man asked, "Why aren't they here yet?"

"The nomads might not have a good sense of time, or they could have been delayed by something important." Su Lei said, "They also arrived two days late the previous time."

As they were talking, the sound of horse hooves clopping came from the frozen surface of the Shenmu River. Xu Man turned around and looked into the fog. He saw a group of people gradually come into focus.

Hassan spurred his horse to the front of the group. He greeted Su Lei from afar, "Friend, I'm sorry that I'm late. My master sends his apologies."

Su Lei smiled and said, "It's fine. As long as it doesn't affect your master's business, I won't mind even if I have to wait another month. But where's your master?"

"My master has more important matters to deal with, so I'll be the one doing business with you from now on." As Hassan spoke, he looked at the people behind Su Lei and suddenly turned wary. "Brother Su Lei, these people weren't here during the previous deal."

Su Lei explained with a smile, "These are the new subordinates that I've recruited. Furthermore, I've got a huge surprise for you this time. The things that your master wanted most, I've brought them!"

Hassan muttered, "Brother Su Lei, look at you. You're getting so excited just because you've brought some cabbages?" Su Lei stiffened. "I'm not talking about cabbages!"

He gave a wave of his hand and had Cui Qiang bring out an automatic rifle. Cui Qiang pulled back the charging handle on the rifle and fired it into the sky. The hot shell casing landed on the surface of the ice and burned through it.

Cui Qiang handed the rifle in his hand to Hassan, who looked at the heavy gun happily. "My master said that you would definitely bring him a surprise. I didn't expect it to be true."

### **Chapter 723 Happy cooperation**

No one would dislike weapons, especially in a place like the grasslands where fighting and killing were common, and even tribes could be destroyed at any moment.

In the grasslands, whoever had guns would have a louder say than the others. In the early years, this was the reason why those large tribes became large tribes.

However, the dilapidated guns in the hands of the large tribes could not even be compared to the brand-new weapons in front of them. The quantity of weapons was also incomparable.

Xu Man, who was standing behind Su Lei, took out an automatic rifle from a wooden box and casually aimed it at a rock a 100 meters away. With two shots, the rock shattered into pieces.

"The effective range of this firearm is 400 meters, with a maximum range of 600 meters." Xu Man said, "There are a total of 300 automatic rifles here, 20,000 rounds of ammo, a 1,000 grenades, and two heavy machine guns with an additional 20,000 rounds of ammo. It's just that we came here in a hurry this time, otherwise we would've brought even more with us. We can make another transaction at the same time next month. At that time, we can even get artillery if that's what you need."

Su Lei was secretly shocked when he heard that. As expected, the Qing Consortium's people were far more confident with their promises. They were even planning to transport artillery to the grasslands!

Xu Man said to Hassan with a smile, "Actually, we can get you armored vehicles as well, but there's probably no way to build a supply line in the steppe for armored vehicles. So it wouldn't be feasible even if we gave them to you. But it won't be too late to talk about it after you all have unified the grasslands."

Hassan was looking down at Xu Man from his horse. He suddenly said with a smile, "My master said that if the consortiums in the South were smart, they would have their people tag along for this deal. He told me not to ask who you are and only wanted me to pass you a message. He says that he likes being friends with smart people."

Xu Man laughed out loud. "Similarly, we also like being friends with smart people. Consider this batch of weapons our meeting gift."

When Su Lei heard that, his expression immediately turned bitter. How was he going to make money now that the weapons had been given away? Hassan also said, "Then please accept the goods that we brought this time as a gift to you all as well. In the future, when you all visit the grasslands as our guests, I, Hassan, will personally slaughter goats and cows to serve you, my new friends."

"Deal," Xu Man replied.

Su Lei was overjoyed. Hassan had brought along quite a lot of fur hides this time, and Xu Man would definitely not be interested in the things. In the end, they would still end up in his hands.

By being the broker just this once, he could already receive such massive returns. Su Lei suddenly had an even higher expectation of the future.

As for the reason why Xu Man had given the weapons as a gift, that was because while the items might be in demand in the grasslands and were very coveted by Su Lei, they were not worth much to the Qing Consortium.

He was basically giving them away by the tens of thousands of bullets and hundreds of automatic rifles. What was that number to the Qing Consortium?

To be honest, Xu Man also realized the master Hassan was referring to was a smart person. What he was trying to find the most right now was also a smart person. Without someone like that, it would be impossible to keep the Wang Consortium in check.

At this moment, Xu Man even regretted that he had brought too few weapons with him!

Be it Xu Man or Hassan, both of them were happy with this deal. However, Su Lei suddenly asked, "I'm afraid y'all have brought too few horses with you. These firearms are quite heavy. Can you transport them?"

Xu Man added, "If it's difficult for you all to transport them, we can also help with that. And if you don't know how to use these firearms, we can provide you with instructors as well."

Xu Man was hoping the grasslands would quickly get consolidated by these nomads. Only then would they have greater ambitions to spread into the Central Plains.

In the end, Hassan said with a smile, "We'll talk about the matter of the instructors during the next transaction. As for how we're going to bring the goods back, my master told me before we set off that Su Lei would definitely bring a lot of things with him this time. So I've also brought quite a lot of people with me." With that, Hassan ordered a tribesman next to him to take out a horn. The melodious and sorrowful call of the horn drifted across the Shenmu River as though it were trying to blow the thick fog away. Hassan felt a little emotional. His master had said there would be people from the consortiums coming this time, and it really came true. His master also said Su Lei would bring a lot of items with him, so he specifically instructed him to bring more people along for the trip. In the end, it was really as his master had said.

That young lord was a seer, always capable of seeing ahead of Hassan at all times.

The divine predictions he made caused Hassan to revere him like a god.

Currently, Hassan was Yan Liuyuan's most loyal believer. Moreover, he felt that more and more people in the grasslands would become devout believers like him as well.

It seemed that Yan Liuyuan's power was born just for this, and it made the nomads unable to resist his rule.

The galloping of horses came from the north. Xu Man saw several hundred strong men riding on tall horses break through the fog and arrive in front of them.



Xu Man was a soldier. He sized up these men and was surprised by the valiant aura they exuded. At some point, Xu Man even wondered if it was the right decision to provide weapons to the steppe. These people were natural-born warriors.

After Hassan left with a full load of goods, Su Lei stood beside Xu Man and said, "Sir, what do you think?"

Xu Man glanced at Su Lei and said, "You don't have to be so polite with me. You may take full authority starting from the next deal. You only have to report to me after each transaction is completed." "I have another question." Su Lei asked, "Is it worth giving away all those things at once? The other party seems to be too smart. Will there be any problems if we send those weapons to the North like this?"

"I'm just afraid that he's not smart enough and can't make good use of the weapons." Xu Man smiled and patted Su Lei on the shoulder. "What I fear the most is that I'm helping out an idiot. If you help a smart person, you can support him with 10% of your strength, and he'll amplify that by 10 times. If it's an idiot you're helping, even if you support him with a 100% of your strength, he'll only be able to use 10% of that. The remaining 90% will all go to waste!"

"Then these fur hides..." Su Lei said tactfully.

"They're yours to keep." Xu Man said with a smile, "The Qing Consortium has never mistreated anyone who works for them. But I have a question for you. You said the young lord seems to know a great deal about the South? Then do you have any idea if he's been to the South before or if he was originally from there?"

Su Lei carefully thought back and said, "I guessed he was from the South because his complexion wasn't as rough as Hassan's. He looks really delicate."

Xu Man fell into deep thought. If the other party was a Southerner, why hadn't he heard of anyone with such capabilities before?

At this moment, Hassan was leading a group of several hundred people and heading towards the Northern Plains. Just a month ago, he probably would not have been able to transport so many goods back. But it was different now. Their tribe had seized a new opportunity under the leadership of their master, and the number of people in the tribe had suddenly increased by severalfold.

He had to hurry back to the tribe to help his master deal with the chaos in the steppe.

#### **Chapter 724 I'm also not sure why the Pyro Company captured your khan**

When Hassan led the group back to the tribe, even though he had only been away for less than 10 days, he felt that it looked completely different again.

Before this, their tribe was so small he could see everything with just a glance. But now, the tents that had been set up here were spread out far and wide. It was truly quite a spectacular sight.

In just a few weeks, Yan Liuyuan had annexed about seven tribes of various sizes and completed a rare and rapid expansion. But before Hassan could ride back into the territory of the tribe, he saw two people running over in a hurry. "Hassan, hurry back. Something has happened at the royal tent."

Hassan's legs tightened around the horse's flanks as he led the men behind him into the tribe. The so-called royal tent was where Yan Liuyuan was situated.

Since someone said that something had happened at the royal tent, Yan Liuyuan might be in danger.

The price of expanding too quickly was that the internal stability of the tribe would be difficult to ensure. This was because many of the tribes that had just been annexed might not truly be convinced by them, nor were they as loyal to Yan Liuyuan as Hassan was.

As Hassan rode his horse towards the royal tent, he was surprised to find many people standing at the side looking on in silence.

"Raise your guns." Hassan said coldly, "Let's make a deep impression on these people!"

With that, the hundreds of men raised their guns and fired them into the sky.

The loud gunshots frightened the cows and goats of the various tribes and sent them scurrying in all directions. Meanwhile, the herdsmen of those tribes had looks of fear on their faces.

They did not know where Hassan had gotten such sophisticated weapons from. All they knew was that these weapons were enough to intimidate them.

While Hassan and the others were firing their weapons, all of the nomads in the tribal camp fell silent. There was only the cracking of gunshots and the screeching of livestock. This was a sign of submission in the face of strength.

The grasslands were a place where people worshipped the strong. If you were strong enough, everyone would acknowledge you from the bottom of their hearts.

Some of the children wanted to pick up the shells on the ground that Hassan and the others had discharged from firing their weapons. But they were held back by their parents as they were afraid that Hassan would kill them as a warning to the others.

Hassan arrived at the front of the royal tent and was surprised to find that the leaders of the various tribes were already standing outside it. One of them glanced at Hassan before continuing to shout at the royal tent, "As a battle-hardened warrior and also the chief of the Alat tribe, I'm here to challenge you today to see if you're qualified to be our khan. Don't use those guns that you've gotten from the Central Plains people or use the wolves to scare me. A man should trust in his own strength, not something that emboldens them from the outside!"

This was the difference between the nomads and the people of the Central Plains. If this were the Central Plains, with Yan Liuyuan having a 1,000 wolves at his command and also possessing those sophisticated weapons that no one else had, who would possibly dare to challenge him?

In the eyes of the Central Plains people, that would be pure foolishness.

But here in the grasslands, this chief of the Alat tribe was seen as extremely courageous by everyone.

Moreover, if the chief of the Alat tribe were to win in the challenge, they would start looking down on Yan Liuyuan from the bottom of their hearts.

Even Hassan did not know what to do when faced with this issue. Logically speaking, Yan Liuyuan would have to accept the challenge, but due to his loyalty to Yan Liuyuan, Hassan could not bear to see others provoking Yan Liuyuan like this. "Alat tribe, if you want a challenge, let me, Hassan, take you on." The leader of the Alat tribe sneered, "You're not the one I'm challenging!"

Yan Liuyuan's voice came from the royal tent. Curious, he asked, "What I don't understand is that even if you do defeat me, I still own the guns, and the wolves won't leave my side, so what are you really after? You can't take away my authority, so isn't this challenge essentially meaningless?"

The leader of the Alat tribe said ruthlessly, "You colluded with the people of the Central Plains and disrupted the rules of the grasslands. I, Alat Baghatur, won't stand for it!"

"When did I collude with the Central Plains people?" Yan Liuyuan said calmly.

"Where did you get those guns from? And why did those Central Plains people capture our khan?!" Alat Baghatur asked loudly.

Yan Liuyuan said melancholically, "I'm also not sure why the Pyro Company has captured your khan."

When the Pyro Company's people arrived at their tribe, Yan Liuyuan was prepared to attack them. However, he realized they were only asking for directions. Their target was actually the largest tribe in the grasslands.

At the beginning, Yan Liuyuan did not know what the Pyro Company's people were up to. But later on, he heard the ruthless people from the Pyro Company had actually captured that large tribe's khan.

This left Yan Liuyuan dumbfounded for two days as he could not figure out what the Pyro Company was up to.

He knew the Pyro Company liked to capture supernatural beings to extract their DNA, but why did they come all the way to the grasslands to do that?

Furthermore, this act by the Pyro Company had unknowingly helped Yan Liuyuan greatly. Yan Liuyuan was in a confrontation with this large tribe earlier. It was said that their khan was also a supernatural being. If the Pyro Company had not appeared, this large tribe would have been the biggest obstacle in Yan Liuyuan's plan to unify the grasslands.

Of course, Yan Liuyuan was not afraid of that either. It would have just made it very troublesome for him to achieve his goal.

But now, that stumbling block had been cleared away by the Pyro Company.

Actually, even Yan Liuyuan himself got the feeling that it was him who hired the Pyro Company to do that.

For some reason, ever since he had the thought of unifying the grasslands, it was as though the Heavens were on his side. When he asked Hassan to handle the deal with Su Lei, he managed to bring back a batch of firearms by the second transaction. He wanted to eradicate that large tribe, but it ended up being taken apart even faster than he had expected. Right now, that large tribe was divided into three factions. The one that Yan Liuyuan had consolidated into his tribe was ostracized by the other two factions. After several battles, they had lost all of them and could only pledge allegiance to Yan Liuyuan.

But after reaching this point, Alat Baghatur, who had gained a foothold among the nomads, remained unconvinced by Yan Liuyuan. That was why he wanted to challenge Yan Liuyuan today.

They had not seen the wolves while they were here, so they were even starting to wonder if the wolves were real.

But at this moment, exclamations of surprise rang out outside the tribe. A large number of tribe members started running into the campsite. When Alat Baghatur turned around, he saw the entire tribal camp was surrounded by countless wolves.

The Wolf King, whose body was covered in snow-white fur, walked into the tribe alone. It did not hurt anyone, but its formless dignity caused everyone to take a step or two back.

Finally, the Wolf King laid in front of the royal tent and started resting as though nothing had happened.

Yan Liuyuan walked out of the royal tent and stroked the Wolf King's neck with a smile. The Wolf King closed its eyes in comfort and rested.

This was the first time the people of the various tribes had seen the wolf pack and the Wolf King since pledging allegiance to Yan Liuyuan. For a moment, they were so shocked they could not even speak.

Yan Liuyuan looked at Alat Baghatur and said with a smile, "You must be thinking that I look very weak, so you want to make me lose my dignity by challenging me. However, you've made the wrong decision. I'll accept your challenge. But let me ask you again: Have you fully thought about the consequences?"

Alat Baghatur's face turned red with boiling anger. He stayed silent for a dozen seconds before saying, "I've thought it through!"

Chapter 725 A new imperial court

"I still want to challenge you." Alat Baghatur said coldly, "A battle-hardened warrior does not go back on their word on this steppe!"

Calling himself a battle-hardened warrior was only a title, but there were less than 20 people in the entire steppe that were worthy of such a title. Once one became a battle-hardened warrior, they could immediately attract the following of some nomads who admired the strong, forming their own tribes in the process.

Moreover, the most important issue was that Alat Baghatu had a strong personality. He was brave and had the traits of the nomads, so he would definitely not give up challenging this new khan just because there was the threat of the wolves.

The nomads were used to using their courage and strength to win applause and respect. When Alat Baghatu said he still wanted to challenge Yan Liuyuan, the Wolf King stood up. Suddenly, everyone felt that the already tall and burly Alat Baghatu looked a little insignificant in front of the Wolf King.

Yan Liuyuan patted the Wolf King and said with a smile, "Alright, don't scare him."

After that, the Wolf King laid down docilely again. Even the servant, Hassan, was surprised by how loyal the wolves were to Yan Liuyuan.

When the other nomads saw this, they were sincerely in awe of Yan Liuyuan. The nomads revered all kinds of mysterious powers and deeply believed that gods really existed in this world.

Some of the elderly women in the tribe even knelt down in Yan Liuyuan's direction all of a sudden.

Everything that was happening here would surely be incomprehensible to the people of the Central Plains. A lot of people from the Central Plains would probably feel a little envious if they saw this. As long as they could display some "miracles" here, they would be immediately regarded as gods. Yan Liuyuan looked at Alat Baghatu. "Let's get started then. Let me have a look at what battle-hardened warriors are capable of." Alat Baghatu said, "You need to explain to the wolves and your people first that this is a fair challenge. Even if I accidentally kill you, they cannot pursue the matter."

"Sure." Yan Liuyuan said to Hassan with a smile, "Did you hear what he said? If I get killed, you don't have to take it up with him."

Yan Liuyuan patted the Wolf King. "You too."

Then everyone saw the Wolf King nod!

A moment later, Alat Baghatu rushed towards Yan Liuyuan. However, he suddenly noticed some fine silvery patterns appearing on Yan Liuyuan's face. There was even a silvery glow in his eyes.

The nanomachines Ren Xiaosu had given to his younger brother immediately activated and strengthened their master's physical body.

Within his blood, bones, and muscles, the nanomachines were everywhere. They followed Yan Liuyuan's will and became his strongest support.

Alat Baghatu slashed down at Yan Liuyuan with his saber, but the blade could not get any further than the top of Yan Liuyuan's head. Yan Liuyuan grabbed the blade with his palm as though it were a toy handed to him by a child.

With a snap, Yan Liuyuan snapped Alat Baghatu's saber in half. The broken saber continued slashing down across Yan Liuyuan's face, but it still remained a fraction away from Yan Liuyuan's cheeks. Yan Liuyuan did not even blink as he watched the broken saber descend. When Alat Baghatu's saber came

to a stop, Yan Liuyuan took a step forward and used the knuckle of his index finger to hit the other party squarely on the chest.

Although it looked like a simple knock, it caused Alat Baghatur so much pain he nearly fainted. He clutched his chest and fell on his knees as though he were submitting to Yan Liuyuan.

This battle ended as quickly as it started. To those watching, it looked like a god teaching his believer a lesson. This was not an evenly matched battle at all.

Everything Yan Liuyuan did seemed so easy.

Meanwhile, the surrounding tribal chiefs suddenly felt that everything made sense.

If Yan Liuyuan were not strong, why would such powerful wolves follow him willingly?

No, it was no longer enough to define Yan Liuyuan as strong. They started to seriously consider if Yan Liuyuan were really a god who had descended to the human world, just as Hassan had thought when he first met Yan Liuyuan.

Yan Liuyuan was standing next to Alat Baghatur. He held the broken blade in his left hand and placed it at his neck. The cold edge of the blade caused Alat Baghatur's body to tremble.

He did not say anything and seemed to be thinking about something. Alat Baghatur was still clutching his chest and panting heavily. He did not have any strength to resist at all.

Hassan raised his gun and pointed it at the chiefs of the various tribes, as well as Alat Baghatur's fellow tribespeople. This was to prevent them from suddenly causing any trouble.

Yan Liuyuan suddenly said, "Today, I will set up my imperial court here. The blood of Alat Baghatur will be used to draw the flag of my court as a warning to those who come later. A true king is needed in the steppe. Killing a person might not prove that I have the right to rule over y'all. But follow me to the South in half a month's time. I'll bestow on everyone all the fame and glory that others can't give to you. Everything that the other khans can't do, I'll show you that it's possible!"

With that, Yan Liuyuan slashed the sharp edge of the blade across Alat Baghatur's neck. Hassan immediately ordered someone to bring a wooden basin over to collect the blood that was gushing out of Alat Baghatur's neck.

Yan Liuyuan turned around. Actually, he could have spared Alat Baghatur to show benevolence.

But in these grasslands, there was no need for any benevolent rulers.

If he wanted to unite the grasslands quickly, it would have to be through a bloody process. Yan Liuyuan did not mind showing benevolence, but that would have to wait until he unified the grasslands.

As for how Alat Baghatur's tribespeople would react, Yan Liuyuan believed that Hassan would handle it very well.

At this moment, Yan Liuyuan saw Xiaoyu looking at him worriedly from the royal tent.

Yan Liuyuan walked back into the tent and said softly, "Big Sister Xiaoyu, do you think what I did today was a little cruel?"

Xiaoyu touched his forehead. "No, Liuyuan has grown up into a man. This is what you have to go through. I've also thought about it before. The world does not allow us to be weak. You should rest for a while first. I'll go and cook for you."

Xiaoyu walked outside and looked back at the royal tent behind her. From today onwards, this would be the imperial court of the grasslands.

It might look a little shabby now, but it was never glamor that represented the authority of a leader. It was all about absolute power.

Yan Liuyuan sat inside the tent in silence for a long time. Beside him, Tsetseg said, "Let me comb your hair for you."

Yan Liuyuan was stunned for a moment before chuckling. "Alright."

Tsetseg went to get a comb and dipped the wooden teeth of it into some clear water before brushing it through Yan Liuyuan's long hair.

Even after going through a battle, Yan Liuyuan's hair did not get messed up. Tsetseg said softly, "You didn't actually want to kill Alat Baghatur, right?"

Tsetseg could feel the dilemma in Yan Liuyuan's heart. It was as though he were personally destroying something within him, hardening his heart along the way.

To others, Yan Liuyuan was a god.

Initially, that was what Tsetseg thought as well. But after interacting with Yan Liuyuan for some time, she realized he was also a person of flesh and blood.

But she liked the version of Yan Liuyuan she had in her heart more. It did not matter what he did, right or wrong.

### **Chapter 726 The strange canyon**

At this moment, Ren Xiaosu's team had just arrived at a canyon in the Sacred Mountains. Cheng Yu received a message saying that Vanilla's team had encountered Li Shentan on the other side and that they had lost control of the situation there. Everyone in that team was even forced to watch Li Shentan do magic tricks every day.

But at this moment, Cheng Yu actually felt a psychological sense of equilibrium in his heart. At least, it wasn't just his team that had encountered trouble. In comparison, even though their group had a troublemaker like Ren Xiaosu, they also had a great helper like White Mask. Although White Mask was unwilling to communicate with them, Cheng Yu felt a sense of security with him in the group. Ren Xiaosu looked at the canyon in front of them. The edges of the stone walls on both sides of the canyon were as sharp as knives. He whispered to Yang Xiaojin, "Somehow, I feel that everything that we've seen and

encountered this time is really strange. It's just like a whirlpool that was designed by someone to trap all the Anjing House teams. This is similar to that tunnel at the bottom of East Lake back when it could collapse at any moment."

Ren Xiaosu had underestimated the Pyro Company in the past. That was because some of the Pyro Company members he had encountered were full of nonsense and not very good at fighting in a direct showdown.

But ever since the fall of East Lake, he realized there was a reason why the Qing Consortium and the Saboteurs paid so much attention to the Pyro Company. The Pyro Company was never one to just sit back and do nothing about a situation.

"I've never heard you mention who controls the Pyro Company before," Ren Xiaosu said. "I didn't mention it because the Pyro Company is not controlled by a single person. What's different about them is that while the other consortiums are led by a single clan leader, the Pyro Company has five." Yang Xiaojin said, "You can't be sure of who's behind one of their strategies, or if they're working together."

"Five leaders?" Ren Xiaosu said in surprise, "Then wouldn't they feud over the distribution of benefits?"

"That's what makes the Pyro Company unique." Yang Xiaojin said, "Rumor has it that they have never had any disagreements about their interests before. Moreover, their roles are not like the other consortiums that have a board of directors. They're the chief scientists of five fields, and those five roles are fixed. Each person will lead a research team, and the organization will carry out research in five different areas. If one of them dies, a person on their team will replace them."

"Then who do you think is the mastermind behind the fall of East Lake?" Ren Xiaosu asked.

"I'm not sure." Yang Xiaojin shook her head.

After walking into the canyon, Ren Xiaosu suddenly realized there seemed to be signs of excavation and cracks on the stone walls on both sides of the canyon.

The canyon was so rugged it looked like it was manmade.

When everyone realized this, Cheng Yu's assistant asked curiously, "Could it be that someone dug this canyon out of the mountain? Surely that's not necessary, right? It's not like this is the only way to get into the mountains, so why would they dig a canyon here?"

They had been traveling in the wilderness all this time. The Pyro Company had also built roads in the mountains, but their group did not dare to take those routes.

"Alright, cut the crap." Cheng Yu said, "Hurry through here first."

Given the dangerous terrain of the canyon, it would be easy for them to get ambushed. Therefore, Cheng Yu did not want to waste any time here.

we



As they made their way through the canyon, everyone was cautiously guarding against the Pyro Company's sneak attacks. But when they were about to finish walking through the long canyon, the enemy still did not make a move. "This doesn't make sense," Ren Xiaosu said. The Pyro Company would definitely not give up on using such a convenient place for an ambush. This was their home field, after all, so they should be familiar with the terrain.

As he spoke, "Old Xu" passed everyone and was walking in front of the group. "He" was the first to walk out of the canyon.

Cheng Yu sighed and said, "As expected, the stronger they are, the more responsible they tend to be. Look at White Mask. He's always walking in front of us to fend off any danger, but some people in the team are unwilling to do that."

There was an insinuation in his words. It was obvious that Luo Lan was being backed by Ren Xiaosu. However, Ren Xiaosu and Yang Xiaojin kept walking behind them the entire way. It was as though they were afraid they would be the first to bear the brunt of any danger.

Ren Xiaosu ignored him. He could already see through Old Xu's vision that there was just a normal forest lying beyond the canyon. There was nothing strange about it, nor was there anyone lying in ambush outside the canyon.

Everyone followed Old Xu out of the canyon. But the moment they stepped out, Ren Xiaosu suddenly saw Cheng Yu's assistant at the front of the group take out a gun and shoot someone next to him.

It was not only Cheng Yu's assistant; many others also seemed to have gone crazy the moment they stepped out of the canyon.

In just a short span of half a minute, three people in the team had already died at the hands of their own teammates. The people who went crazy were wielding firearms as bullets whizzed through the air.

Ren Xiaosu quickly pulled Yang Xiaojin back into the canyon and called out to Luo Lan, Zhou Qi, and the Great Hoodwinker.

He looked at Yang Xiaojin and saw that her eyes were shut tightly. It looked like she was struggling with something. Ren Xiaosu was worried she might also have been possessed, so he prepared to knock her out. But before he could do anything, Yang Xiaojin opened her eyes again. "There's something strange about this canyon. Quick, save Luo Lan and the others first."

Ren Xiaosu looked at Luo Lan. He was surprised to find that Luo Lan and the others were also in a very chaotic state. It was just that they did not make any rash moves to kill the people around them.

A bullet came out of nowhere and hit Luo Lan right in the leg. Luo Lan let out a cry, but the chaos was still not over yet. In fact, he even wanted to join in the chaotic battle ahead. When Ren Xiaosu realized something was off, he quickly pulled Luo Lan back and knocked him unconscious.

After all, Luo Lan had only become a supernatural being a short while ago. Meanwhile, Zhou Qi and the Great Hoodwinker were in much better condition. Although they came around a little slower than Yang Xiaojin, they still managed to regain control of their faculties by themselves.

However, the Great Hoodwinker's first reaction was to quickly lie down on the ground and pretend to be unconscious. In the end, he was also helplessly dragged back into the canyon by Ren Xiaosu. "What's going on? What happened just now?" Ren Xiaosu asked Yang Xiaojin curiously, "Why am I totally fine?".

"The moment I stepped out of the canyon, I started hallucinating. In my hallucination, I saw you drawing your saber at me," Yang Xiaojin said.

"Then how did you snap out of it?" Ren Xiaosu asked.

"Oh, I didn't think you would attack me. I realized it shouldn't be real, so I woke up," Yang Xiaojin said matter-of-factly.

Ren Xiaosu looked outside and quickly had Old Xu knock everyone out amid the chaos in an attempt to stop it.

However, he realized that other than him, there were also others in the group who were still themselves. The young man named Wang Yun shuttled through the crowd and carefully avoided all the bullets. He first knocked out his subordinates and dragged them aside. Then he returned to the battlefield and killed four people in succession!

His gaze was extremely cold, and it did not look like he was possessed at all. The people he killed were all spies sent by his competitors.

The man took advantage of this opportunity to eliminate his enemies. It could be said that he was truly ruthless.

However, to have saved his subordinates in such a chaotic situation, Ren Xiaosu did not know how to gauge the type of person he was.

### **Chapter 727 Wang Yun's probing**

After Wang Yun killed those he wanted to kill, he immediately left the battlefield and waited quietly as the rest fought among themselves.

He made a deliberate observation and realized that only Ren Xiaosu, Yang Xiaojin, Zhou Qi, the Great Hoodwinker, Cheng Yu, and another woman were still conscious and unaffected.

There were very few women in this group to begin with, so it was quite unexpected that other than Yang Xiaojin, she was also able to remain in control of herself.

Before this, the young woman had always kept a low profile and did not even speak much in the group. But now, no one could continue pretending. To remain conscious after passing through this canyon, she had to be a supernatural being!

Among them, it was obvious that Ren Xiaosu and White Mask had the strongest mental strength. Wang Yun's mind was only affected for a moment, probably four seconds at most. When he came back to his senses, he realized Ren Xiaosu and White Mask were totally fine. Even Yang Xiaojin was OK.

He had already felt that there was a problem with Ren Xiaosu. From the look of it, it seemed like it was even a big problem. But in terms of mental strength, Ren Xiaosu and White Mask were indeed the most powerful among them. He wondered who the stronger one was.

Unlike Cheng Yu, Wang Yun was not prejudiced in his judgment of Ren Xiaosu. After all, with the jumping rope and nursery rhyme incidents, it was really difficult for Cheng Yu to see Ren Xiaosu in a normal way. Therefore, he always had the thought that White Mask was capable while belittling Ren Xiaosu.

However, Wang Yun felt that Ren Xiaosu might not necessarily be weaker than White Mask. After all, those who did not reveal themselves were the ones who were the scariest these days.

At the moment, other than Luo Lan, Zhou Qi, and the Great Hoodwinker, no one in the group knew the names of Ren Xiaosu and Yang Xiaojin. Wang Yun felt there was a need to probe them a little. Perhaps their names had appeared before in that powerful memory of his. In that way, he could find out some clues about them.

The top tier of the group had appeared. It was Ren Xiaosu and White Mask. The second tier consisted of Wang Yun, Yang Xiaojin, Cheng Yu, Zhou Qi, the unknown young woman, and Song Qiao.

These people were the supernatural beings in the group. As for the remaining members, Wang Yun felt there was basically no need to rank them. Luo Lan's behavior had puzzled him before. He was like a supernatural being, but his willpower did not seem that strong, so he temporarily ruled him out.

This was a coincidence. Luo Lan had just awakened his power, and it was very difficult for him to compare with other supernatural beings in terms of willpower. So he was ruled out by Wang Yun.

Ren Xiaosu finished making "Old Xu" knock everyone unconscious. Next to him, Yang Xiaojin asked softly, "Did you experience any hallucinations throughout all these?" "Oh, I did, I did!" Ren Xiaosu said, "In my hallucination, I was about to raise my saber and slash it at you. However, I had an internal struggle and thought to myself at that time, 'How can I attack you? No matter who I attack, it mustn't be you.' And then I woke up."

Yang Xiaojin rolled her eyes and said, "Stop being melodramatic. I think everyone here thought they were being attacked, but you're the only one who's hallucinating that you're attacking someone. Alright, stop faking it. So you were really not affected at all."

Yang Xiaojin remembered what she had said before. "When a disaster comes, mental strength becomes the highest caliber of weapon humanity has in the face of danger."

Then just how strong would Ren Xiaosu's willpower have to be?

Even now, no consortium or organization in this world had a clear set of standards that defined a supernatural being's level.

In fact, who in this world had the ability to define such superpowers? The Pyro Company could categorize their members from T1 to T5 as they only needed to look at their physical fitness, with the speed or strength of a punch or any other overall ratings to determine their levels.

But the superpowers of other supernatural beings were unpredictable, so how could they be defined?

Job roles could be defined, and salaries could also be defined, but how were superpowers supposed to be defined? They could only be classified by danger ratings. Yang Xiaojin knew that someone in the Saboteurs was already coming up with a list to categorize all the supernatural beings that had appeared before. There would be classifications based on different categories. However, she did not know the progress of this, nor did she know what rating Ren Xiaosu had been assigned.

Cheng Yu had a worried frown on his face on the battlefield. There were originally more than 60 people in the team, and this was even the number after the two teams had merged.

In the end, nine people had died in this chaos, six were seriously injured, and 17 others were lightly injured. It was quite tragic.

He did not even know how the Pyro Company did it. They had only just stepped out of the canyon before they started attacking one another.

Cheng Yu looked at the people who were still conscious. "Did you all also experience a hallucination that someone had attacked you?"

"That's right." Wang Yun nodded.

"It seems like there's something strange about this canyon." Cheng Yu said, "Everyone, let's help save the wounded first. We'll talk about it after they wake up."

"What should we do with the seriously injured?" Wang Yun asked, "Should we continue bringing them with us? Actually, I suggest we don't even bring along any of those who suffered light injuries. Who knows what else is waiting in the Sacred Mountains? The smell of blood is gonna make us a target in the wilderness."

"No, I want to go into the Sacred Mountains!" Luo Lan gradually came to. He was the first person to regain consciousness...

Gradually, the people outside the canyon started waking up as well. It wasn't so bad for those who were not injured, but those who were immediately started wailing in pain when they woke up. They might as well have remained unconscious.

Luo Lan secretly asked Ren Xiaosu for the black medicine before getting him to extract the bullet.

Ren Xiaosu glanced at him. "Bear with it."

"Don't worry," Before Luo Lan could finish speaking, Ren Xiaosu had already used a pair of forceps to clip the bullet out of his leg while he was distracted.

This was to prevent Luo Lan from getting too nervous and having his muscles clamp down on the bullet, which would cause him to suffer even more.

Ren Xiaosu threw the bullet aside and said, "Not bad, you didn't make a sound."

Luo Lan broke out into a cold sweat. "I'm not kidding you; I, Luo Lan, am a real man."

Ren Xiaosu gave him another glance. Usually, Luo Lan would complain about being tired even if he didn't seem so. He was as frivolous as he could be, and it made him seem like he was extremely unreliable. But during critical moments, some of his true qualities would surface and reveal themselves.

"Then why are you always pretending?" Ren Xiaosu asked, "It's not like you're a lazy person either."

"Aren't I just trying to strategically confuse my opponents?" Luo Lan chuckled. When the black medicine was applied, his pain immediately went away.

When Wang Yun saw they were conversing with one another in a rather relaxed manner, he suddenly took the opportunity to ask Ren Xiaosu jokingly, "By the way, we've been traveling together for so long now, but I still didn't get your name yet. How should I address you? We'll still be traveling together for some time in the coming days, so I can't possibly keep calling you 'hey,' right?"

"My name?" Ren Xiaosu was taken aback.

Wang Yun smiled and said, "Yes."

"Oh." Ren Xiaosu thought for a moment. "I'm sorry, I was named too long ago, so I seem to have forgotten what it is."

Wang Yun was surprised. What kind of fucking lame excuse was that?!

### **Chapter 728 Li Shentan's DNA sample**

In the world of adults, if I didn't want to answer your questions, I would just come up with an excuse to reject you, and you should know to back off.

Wang Yun understood this logic, but he just could not understand how this young man had the nerve to find such a lame excuse to do that.

However, he could be sure of one thing now. The other party was definitely not a nobody. His name must have come up in some past incidents, which was why he was unwilling to give his name.

Wang Yun thought about it carefully and tried to recall if there was anyone in his memory that matched Ren Xiaosu's characteristics. Right at this moment, Wang Yun suddenly remembered a photo!

It wasn't really an important picture, and it was even filed together with some Class C intel.

The Kong Consortium's intelligence assessments were divided into four classes: A, B, C, and D. These four classes were used to differentiate the importance of the intel and prioritize them. Usually, directors

of the intelligence agency would only read through the Class A and B intel. As for the Class C and D intel, they would at most give them a passing glance.

Most people would forget them immediately after seeing them, but Wang Yun was different. His memory was ridiculously good. That picture was of two sculptures that had just been erected on Wangchunmen Boulevard in Luoyang City. Although the Qinghe Group had tried its best to hide the true silhouette of the two sculptures, the girl's cap remained on Wang Yun's mind.

Previously, Wang Yun did not take notice of this at all as there were many girls who wore caps. Two years ago, there was a celebrity who was famous throughout the Central Plains who especially liked wearing caps, so a lot of girls imitated her fashion sense.

But now, it was clear that Ren Xiaosu was likely much stronger than him. Therefore, Wang Yun's range of conjecture shrank infinitely as well.

Instantly, Wang Yun got down to guessing. He had also heard about the battle at Wangchunmen Boulevard back then, but because the Kong Consortium's people had been killed by Wang Wenyan, he did not manage to get any concrete intel.

From the look of it, it was very likely this young man and young woman in front of him were the ones who defeated all the consortiums in that battle.

In that case, it also meant he was the legendary superhuman who had destroyed a stronghold in the Northwest!

Thinking of this, Wang Yun was a little baffled. Disregarding the whereabouts of his reinforcements, even if they were still trailing behind him right now, he also couldn't be sure if he would be a match for the guy in front of him.

Moreover, White Mask had also appeared in Luoyang City back then and helped the Qinghe Group and the Riders. Could it be a coincidence that this young man and White Mask had appeared here together as well then?

He did not fucking believe that such coincidences existed in this world!

Wang Yun had always been a very conceited person, but he was also very aware of his own capabilities. He knew his greatest advantage was his brains, status, and the support this status brought him. He was indeed very strong in terms of his superpower, but he was definitely not the strongest.

Wang Yun knew very well that the strongest group of supernatural beings had already started to break away from the boundaries that defined humans.

However, Wang Yun thought that since he had not offended the other party, they were not on opposing sides yet.

But this time, the Pyro Company would probably be the ones getting a headache now that these two had arrived in the Sacred Mountains.

Thinking of this, Wang Yun calmed down again. He even started to worry for the Pyro Company.

Of course, Wang Yun felt that just these two people alone would not be enough to deal with the entire Pyro Company. After all, the Pyro Company was already prepared for their arrival. Who knew what kinds of traps had been set for them?

Wang Yun started getting excited as he really wanted to witness this battle. It would be great if the Pyro Company, the young man in front of him, and White Mask were to inflict damage on each other so that both sides would suffer!

However, what Wang Yun did not know was that Li Shentan, Zhou Yingxue, and Si Liren were currently leading a team into the canyon of the mountains on another route.

The canyon Li Shentan and the others were facing was almost exactly the same as the one Wang Yun and the others had encountered.

Just as they had guessed, this was a protective barrier set up by the Pyro Company in the first place. They could easily intercept most uninvited guests who tried to pass through here without having to trouble themselves.

If it weren't for Ren Xiaosu and "Old Xu," Wang Yun's group would have already suffered more than 30 casualties!

Li Shentan raised a little red flag and said, "Come, everyone at the back, follow close behind me. Let me emphasize this again: After we enter this canyon, you all just have to keep your eyes fixed on this little red flag. Don't go looking elsewhere, understand?"

There was a scattered response from those at the back of the group. "Understood..."

Li Shentan did not seem too satisfied with everyone's response. He said, "Have you all not been eating? This canyon is very dangerous. If you all can't understand what I'm saying, I'll have to hypnotize you all for the sake of your own safety." Vanilla took the lead and roared, "Understood!"

Vanilla felt a sense of helplessness inside. For the past few days, Li Shentan had constantly been talking about hypnotizing everyone. All of them knew this was just a threat, but they could not muster up any resistance.

Over at Cheng Yu's side, he got overshadowed by Luo Lan's thuglike demeanor and had his authority usurped as a result. At the same time, everyone was also waiting to see Cheng Yu make a fool of himself.

But it was different here at Vanilla's side. Everyone was cooperating closely with Li Shentan because they were acting upon their inner desires to survive...

In the legends that spoke of Li Shentan, he was someone who could kill 5,000 people without batting an eyelid. The number of people they had in their group was not even enough to satisfy his appetite for killing!

At this moment, Li Shentan was acting just like a tour guide, holding a little red flag as he walked in front of the group.

As they walked, he explained, "The problem with this canyon is not exactly a mystery. As you all can see, there are signs of manmade excavation marks on the cliff walls. You all must be thinking that the Pyro Company must have nothing better to do, right? Why did they insist on digging out a useless canyon here? But that's not it. Every trace of excavation marks here was made to hypnotize you all. Although I don't know what it's for, you all might start hallucinating and killing each other after walking through this canyon. There's also a possibility that you might end up in a vegetative state."

Vanilla muttered at the side, "As if it's that mystical."

Li Shentan turned to Vanilla with a smile. "You don't believe in my professionalism?"

"No, that's not it." Vanilla quickly shook his head.

Li Shentan smiled and said, "I don't know why the Pyro Company has someone who's proficient in the art of hypnotism either, but I know that DNA samples were stolen from the Li Consortium's psychiatric hospital that I was staying in several years ago. It's very likely that the Pyro Company was behind it."

Vanilla was taken aback. This was something they really did not know about.

Li Shentan pondered things for a moment. "Then will I encounter another me in here? At that time, Little Liren had not been admitted into the psychiatric hospital yet, so they did not manage to get a sample of her DNA. However, they did steal mine. It's so interesting just thinking about it!" When Vanilla and the others heard this, they were deeply worried. If there were really another Demon Whisperer from the Pyro Company here in the Sacred Mountains, that would be too dangerous.

But while they were worrying, Li Shentan turned to them and said with a smile, "Don't worry, if there really is another me in here, I'll kill him."

Vanilla was stunned. "Why?"

"So that he won't steal my limelight!" Li Shentan said matter-of-factly.

## **Chapter 729 T6**

Actually, most people were unaware that the DNA samples at the Li Consortium's psychiatric hospital had been stolen. At that time, the various consortiums had only just learned about supernatural beings, so they did not pay as much attention to it as they did now.

That was why the Pyro Company's plan to steal the DNA samples had gone extremely smoothly back then. The psychiatric hospital was even only guarded by the private troops at that time, and such defensive measures were as good as none to the Pyro Company. If the Pyro Company had not unintentionally angered Qing Zhen, they might still be operating unopposed in the Southwest.



However, a lot of people would not have thought that two of the most powerful supernatural beings used to stay in a psychiatric hospital in the Southwest. It could even be said that the era of the Rise of the Gods had started with them.

Li Shentan, Chen Wudi.

When Vanilla found out about this, he instinctively felt that something was not right. He did not even know whether Li Shentan, who was next to him, was friend or foe. If another Demon Whisperer were to pop up here in the Sacred Mountains, who could deal with them?!

Moreover, this could be someone even more troublesome to deal with than the Demon Whisperer.

In the past, everyone's understanding of the Pyro Company was that those in their fighting forces did not have any special powers at all. It was just their physical fitness that was much better.

as n

Some people even wondered if the Pyro Company had really managed to replicate any of the superhumans' powers after collecting so many of their DNA samples. If they did, why didn't anyone encounter those clones before?

Since they were unable to clone an exact copy of those supernatural beings, why did they go through all that hassle to capture them?

But now, the canyon they were facing had proven the Pyro Company really did have the capability to replicate powers. Such unethical scientific practices had been going on in the Pyro Company all this time. It was just that the outside world did not know about it!

Rumor had it that there were still T6s above the T5s in the Pyro Company. Vanilla felt he could probably guess what kind of being a T6 was.

So the reason the Pyro Company had lured everyone to the Sacred Mountains this time was to create even more T6s? Li Shentan looked at Vanilla, who was frowning, and said with a smile, "Don't worry, it's actually not that scary."

Vanilla looked at Li Shentan and thought to himself, 'Don't you know how terrifying you are?' He snapped, "Let's make this clear first: Don't you hypnotize me. Let's talk about the facts now. If there really is someone in these mountains who has the same power as you, it will truly be disastrous for all of us. So please tell us honestly, what should we do if we really encounter them?"

Li Shentan pondered it for a while. "It seems that there's really nothing you all can do about it. You're all too weak."

Vanilla was irked. "Can you not be so blunt with your speech?!"

"But don't worry, there's someone in these mountains that not even I can do anything about." Li Shentan laughed strangely. "If there really is another Demon Whisperer in the Sacred Mountains, that person will definitely give him a big surprise! Just the thought of it excites me!"

Vanilla felt a little helpless. He realized Li Shentan was excited for some reason. But when he thought about it carefully, he felt that something was not right. Li Shentan was actually admitting there was someone in the world he could not do anything about?

Just what would that person who could make a legendary supernatural being like Li Shentan ashamed of his inferiority be like?

Could it be Zhou Yingxue's boss?! It wasn't that difficult to connect the dots.

"Besides," Li Shentan said with a smile, "the reason why supernatural beings can become supernatural beings is because of their willpower. What is willpower? It's something that genetic predisposition determines the baseline of a person's potential of, while their experiences and mentality decide how far they can go. How can a freak that was cloned possibly defeat me?"

As he spoke, Li Shentan exuded so much confidence it even felt tangible. This was the first time Vanilla had seen Li Shentan's arrogant side.

Yes, this was exactly what the Demon Whisperer should look like as per the legends.

Vanilla was just about to say something, but he was surprised to see Li Shentan raising the little red flag again. "Alright, alright, don't get distracted at the back; keep up with the group. Let me give you a simple explanation of this canyon. Look at the fine engravings on my left-hand side. It actually leads you to open up your subconsciousness as you advance through the canyon. Then there will be patterns that hint to your subconsciousness. Everyone, just take a quick look at it but not for a moment longer. Eyes back on the little red flag now. That's right, keep moving forward with me..."

At some point, Vanilla felt that Li Shentan was really just like a tour guide. He even provided commentary along the way. Si Liren floated next to Li Shentan and asked softly, "Do you think there will really be another you out here?"

"Your question is not accurate." Li Shentan corrected her, "There might be someone who has a similar power as mine, but it's not another me."

"Oh." Si Liren nodded. "Then can you really defeat him?"

"Of course!" Li Shentan said. "Why?" Si Liren still did not understand Li Shentan's confidence. "He might have undergone training here in the mountains for a long time and mastered many ways of killing people. But you? All you do every day is do magic tricks and mess around, so what makes you think that you can defeat him?" Li Shentan held the little red flag in one hand and fiddled with the exquisite silver coin in the other. He thought for a moment and said, "Because he's incomplete." "What's he missing?"

"Whatever makes a person human."

Si Liren stayed silent for a while before muttering, "Isn't it because he doesn't have me beside him?"

Si Liren had been questioning him all this while because she wanted to hear this answer. She did not care about the other reasons.

Li Shentan was taken aback for a moment. "That is quite a novel way of putting it.... But I agree that Little Liren is the best!" Si Liren laughed. "That's more like it."

...

On the other side, Cheng Yu and the others were already preparing to set up camp outside the canyon. Wang Yun had managed to save all of his own subordinates. Of course, it would be easy to say that they should leave the wounded behind, but none of the others would do that. Since their teammates were injured, they had to delay their journey temporarily.

Cheng Yu took a look at his cell phone. There was no signal when they were in the canyon. After exiting it, he received a text from the Anjing House: "The other teams have suffered heavy casualties." Currently, six other teams were advancing towards the interior of the Sacred Mountains as well, and like them, they also encountered a canyon.

Nobody knew when the Pyro Company had built these canyons, but its purpose since it was constructed was to fend off external enemies by killing them.

When Ren Xiaosu saw the others preparing to set up their tents, he stopped them and said, "Don't set up camp here."

Someone looked at Ren Xiaosu. "Why? We have so many wounded teammates, so it won't be possible to advance any further for now." Another person said coldly, "If you want to leave the wounded behind, go into the mountains by yourself. We're not leaving anyway."

Wang Yun looked at Ren Xiaosu with great interest. He really wanted to know what this young man was trying to tell them.

Ren Xiaosu got up and beckoned to Luo Lan and the others to leave with him. As he got up, he said, "Setting up camp here is no different than waiting for death."

### **Chapter 730 Perfect Skill Duplication Scroll!**

Cheng Yu looked at Ren Xiaosu as he prepared to leave with Yang Xiaojin and the others. He could not understand what they were talking about. What did setting up camp here have anything to do with waiting for death?

"What do you mean?" Cheng Yu asked.

"Wasn't the ambush at this place devised by the Pyro Company?" Ren Xiaosu asked. "Of course it was. Who else could it be other than them?" Cheng Yu said.

"And what is the Pyro Company after?" Ren Xiaosu asked.

What the Pyro Company wanted was the DNA samples of supernatural beings!

That was why the Pyro Company members immediately went to collect the DNA samples after the tarantulas attacked the group. But this time, all of the teams had suffered heavy casualties. If they were

to set up camp again on the spot, they would probably be attacked immediately by the Pyro Company. This was not speculation but a certainty.

It wasn't like the rest of the people were stupid either. Something clicked in their minds the moment Ren Xiaosu said that.

No matter what injuries they had sustained, they still got up from the ground.

Yang Xiaojin watched this unfold quietly. Back in the Jing Mountains, if the private troops had listened to Ren Xiaosu's suggestions more, they would not have been completely wiped out.

No, wait! They were not completely wiped out. Xu Xianchu had still managed to survive.

As they were about to leave, Wang Yun led his subordinates to do something in the forest nearby. However, no one had a clear look at what they were up to.

Curious, Cheng Yu asked, "I saw you all holding some grenades just now. What are you all trying to do?"

Wang Yun smiled and said, "We're leaving a surprise for the Pyro Company, of course."

The route Ren Xiaosu chose to leave by had slightly deviated from the original plan. They did not head directly towards the interior of the Pyro Company's Sacred Mountains in order to avoid encountering the Pyro Company's combat troops.

Before they could get far, those who had doubted Ren Xiaosu earlier heard an explosion come from the direction of the canyon. Wang Yun's grenade trap must have been triggered by the Pyro Company's members.

At this moment, everyone felt a sense of relief. They were fortunate to have left beforehand. Otherwise, the team would have lost even more members.

Cheng Yu found a spot downwind and sat down. One of the wounded suddenly said, "Many of you here are superhumans. Actually, even if we encounter the frontline troops of the Pyro Company, I doubt you all have anything to be afraid of. It's just that none of you are willing to do anything about it. We haven't even entered the interior of the Sacred Mountains yet. I've calculated that it will take at least another two to three days before we can get there. It wouldn't be a good thing for all of you if we lose too many people now, right?"

Another wounded person was placed on the ground by his teammates. The wounded person was panting heavily and looked like he was on the verge of dying.

"They're the ones who were injured today, but we might be the ones to get injured tomorrow. In a place like this where we can't even call for backup, the consequence of getting injured is death," a middle-aged man said.

"Why are you saying such depressing things now?" Luo Lan curled his lips. "We're all here for our own interests, so don't make it sound like we're martyrs."

But no matter what Luo Lan said, it would not change this fact.

Even though they were all from different forces, everyone came here with the same purpose. The deaths of the others would also somehow cause them to feel depressed. Suddenly, Ren Xiaosu heard the voice from the palace say in his mind, "Quest: Show the wounded there is hope."

Ren Xiaosu frowned. The definition of this quest was way too vague. How was he supposed to show them there was hope?

He looked at the wounded personnel, then at Luo Lan before suddenly taking out a small vial of black medicine and pointing at the wound on Luo Lan's leg. "This is a secret ancestral remedy. Luo Lan was also shot just now, but his wound has already started healing. In another eight hours, he will be able to move freely again like a normal person. The wound will fully recover in two days."

When everyone heard this, they immediately turned to look at Luo Lan. Indeed, the gunshot wound on Fatty Luo's leg had already stopped bleeding

Earlier, some people noticed Ren Xiaosu had secretly applied the medicine for Luo Lan. However, they did not expect the medicine to be so miraculous.

Everyone's eyes lit up. Immediately after, they saw Ren Xiaosu put the black medicine back into his pocket.

Cheng Yu wondered, "Didn't you take the medicine out for everyone to use? Why did you put it away again?"

"Oh?" Ren Xiaosu replied, "I just wanted to show it to you all."

Cheng Yu was confused. So were the wounded. Based on Ren Xiaosu's understanding, the palace had only issued a quest for him to show his teammates hope. Since they had seen it, he felt it should be enough.

The voice from the palace said, "Quest complete. Awarded Perfect Skill Duplication Scroll!"

Ren Xiaosu was stunned for a moment. He wondered that if the palace's reward criteria had a correlation to the quest's completion level, then did it mean the palace thought he had done a good job this time?

For a moment, Ren Xiaosu could not figure out what the palace was really trying to get him to do.

But no matter what, the reward was still a Perfect Skill Duplication Scroll. He had not received such a good item in a long time!

Luo Lan's power that allowed him to summon his dead friends had been on Ren Xiaosu's mind for too long now. He really had very high hopes for this power.

In the current times, the lives of humans were as worthless as weeds. One minute, you could be chatting with your friends, and the next, danger and disaster might befall everyone.

Perhaps those friends might lose their freedoms after they became the golden figures that protected the user, but this was the only power Ren Xiaosu had come across so far that could “extend” life.

Moreover, Luo Lan’s dead comrades clearly still retained consciousness.

As Luo Lan’s mental strength was limited, he could not keep those golden figures outside for long. But it was different for Ren Xiaosu. He could!

It could be assumed that Luo Lan had only awakened such a power because he sincerely cherished the lives of those soldiers.

Superpowers were an extension of a person’s willpower.

But just as Ren Xiaosu was about to use this Perfect Skill Duplication Scroll on Luo Lan, he hesitated again.

That was because Ren Xiaosu knew that Luo Lan was someone who always pretended to be weak, so he must have many other master-level and above skills on him. What if he could not pick that specific superpower to copy?

Would life be that smooth-sailing? Could he always get what he wanted? In the past, he might have managed to duplicate the right skills because of Yan Liuyuan’s luck enhancement on him. But now that he did not have the luck enhancement anymore, Ren Xiaosu had to be more cautious.

Ren Xiaosu looked at Luo Lan and wondered if he should first incapacitate all of Luo Lan’s other master-level skills before using the scroll on him?

But how should he incapacitate him? Break his hands and legs?

Luo Lan realized that Ren Xiaosu was sizing him up, but he was a little spooked by it. He got an ominous feeling.

But at this moment, the voice from the palace said. “You may choose to learn a specific skill using three Perfect Skill Duplication Scrolls.”

Ren Xiaosu’s eyes lit up. Although it was a little wasteful to use three scrolls to learn a specific skill, it would definitely be worth it when said skill was especially important!