

### 331 THE ONLOOKERS

Once the person who greeted Chen Zuan left, Chen Zuan immediately turned to Lu Shu and spoke softly, "Do you mind, Brother Shu? Please save me some face. I told them I killed a spy in the remains, which is the truth..."

"Of course I don't mind," Lu Shu grinned. That could be considered as after-sale service. No problem at all!

Within a few minutes, the message that Chen Zuan was there with a pro of about the same level as him soon spread to the entire audience at the combat venue.

In practice, the people there were mainly students. Even the Practitioners belonged to the Daoyuan Class. Those from the Heavenly Network were not so free but Daoyuan students were slightly slacker. Moreover, it was still during summer holidays then.

Thus, the average standard of the Practitioners there was relatively low, making Chen Zuan, who had just ascended to Class D, a competent expert.

Most of the girls there came from prestigious families. Instead of celebrities, they were more attracted to Practitioners.

Nowadays, actual combat using martial arts could bring about a sense of street fighting. Since the fighters were all ordinary people, their strength, speed and reaction time were not quite up to standard. Hence, the combat were not as aesthetic as those on movie screens.

No speed or strength and no beauty in violence.

But Practitioners were different. They did not aim to kill. Yet their serious fighting

scenes were very worth watching.

However, those were not up to Lu Shu's taste. If he really wanted to fight, he would not even let his enemies get close. A lance would settle his opponents for him. When his rival finally got closer, haha, they still could not defeat him.

Some people came over to see them upon receiving the message of Chen Zuan's arrival. Unexpectedly, most were girls. But they only came to say hi, not to get intimate or anything.

But the very fact that a boy wanted girls to take the initiative to greet him was already problematic.

Lu Shu remained unaware that Chen Zuan seemed to enjoy a high position here. No wonder he risked his life in the Salt Lake remains for military achievements.

In addition to large combat platforms, there were stacks of neatly arranged white towels at the side as well. A group of waiters and waitresses served the teenagers with fruit platters, dried fruits and beverages.

With Chen Zuan surrounded, Lu Shu made his own way to the food. He had not eaten anything since noon and now his bag had been confiscated too.

Instinctively, the city felt unsafe to him, as though he was under constant surveillance. In any case, it would not make sense if the Heavenly Network had simply dumped them there without it.

Hence, Lu Shu had no opportunity to conjure some food out of thin air. Now, his hunger had set in.

The fighters were a girl and a boy. It seemed that the girl was better than her opponent, her power about the peak of Class E.

Both parties were actively engaged in combat. Although it was quite interesting to watch, Lu Shu had no interest at all. He was still thinking about the cute night party girls in revealing clothes. But all jokes aside, the girl on stage was pretty good-looking.

Lu Shu was planning to muddle along with Chen Zuan for the remaining 15 days. At the end of the day, he would not even mind if Nie Ting sent him back to Luo Cheng directly without meeting him.

Suddenly, he heard a loud cheer for the huge boxing ring, "Let's go Wenxin, let's go!"

It was obviously for the girl. Was her name Wenxin? It took Lu Shu several minutes before he finally deciphered that it was actually Xu Wenxin.

At that moment, the girl named Xu Wenxin suddenly lowered her waist and raised her elbow and heavily punched the boy's stomach. Game over!

Lu Shu was impressed. Not only was she better in terms of her power, her skills and techniques were much stronger too.

But, she was still too weak for Lu Shu.

After she got off the stage, her supporters quickly passed towels and water to her. Someone made a concluding statement, "Wenxin, your last blow was brilliant!"

It was Chen Zuan...

However, Xu Wenxin completely ignored him. Awkward.

Cracking his melon seeds, Lu Shu felt sorry, as if something was missing. Oh, right. Soft drinks were missing.

While he was supposed to be the new expert brought in by Chen Zuan, Lu Shu had perfectly transitioned to an onlooker. Maybe that was one of his gifts too.

To everyone's surprise, Xu Wenxin suddenly walked towards Lu Shu. Even Chen Zuan himself was shocked to see Wenxin extend her beautiful hand to the latter.

Lu Shu was stunned too. After musing for a few seconds, he put the remaining melon seeds in her hand...

"From Xu Wenxin's distress, +199..."

It was beyond expectation that Xu Wenxin would shake hands with the stranger first, and what was even more shocking was that this stranger stuffed her hand with melon seeds...

In that instance, the supposed handshake turned weird, where Xu Wenxin was now seemingly asking Lu Shu for melon seeds like a child...

That was Xu Wenxin, for God's sake!

Xu Wenxin's family background was one of the top few among those present. But this was not important. Besides her pretty appearance, ever since the regeneration of her

Spirit Qi, countless male students had fallen for her undisguised obsession with strength.

It was indeed a headache that she would not rest until she had a fight everyday. Never a sweet, loving girl, Xu Wenxin had been equally fierce to any student, thwarting all her pursuers.

But the more she was like this, the more they wanted to chase.

Honestly speaking, it was the first time that someone initiated a handshake with Lu Shu in his entire life. When she reached out to him, he racked his brains but still could not figure out why. Utterly confused about why she was provoked by his melon seeds, he made a generous move to give her all he had...

Everyone else was completely dumbfounded. Who the hell asked you for your melon seeds?!

"From Chen Zuan's distress, +399!"

"From..."

"From..."

Lu Shu lit up, this bunch of kids had great potential too!

Astonishingly, Xu Wenxin really accepted the melon seeds and sat down beside Lu Shu. She asked as she was eating the seeds, "Judging from your expression just now, you seemed unimpressed with our combat?"

"Not at all," Lu Shu grabbed another handful of seeds, "It's very commendable for people of your level to fight such a combat."

All those around shuddered. Apparently his reply was very condescending.

### **332 GOOD NEWS & BAD NEWS**

Lu Shu's words instantly silenced everyone present. No one was angry, and no one challenged him to a duel.

One only asked calmly, "May I ask then, what class are you? Honestly, D is not much higher than us. A mere military achievement can readily promote us there. Since you are Chen Zuan's friend, I'm guessing you were there with him at the Salt Lake remains?"

Lu Shu nodded, "Yes, I was there."

There was nothing wrong with his answer. He really was there but as for his class... Zhong Yutang told him not to disclose it, so be it.

Xu Wenxin could hardly wait, "Let's fight."

Lu Shu hesitated, "Can you defeat Chen Zuan?"

"Yes. I defeated him before," there was no arrogance on Xu Wenxin's beautiful little face, as if it was not something worth bragging about.

But Lu Shu turned to Chen Zuan, his expression shocked. Bro, you are one class higher than her yet you still lost?

Chen Zuan looked at the ceiling with his mouth shut tight.

Yet, it made Lu Shu start taking the girl seriously. Earlier, he was only impressed by her skills and her control over details during combat, but never had he expected that she could defeat Chen Zuan.

Though not excluding another possibility that Chen Zuan did not unleash his full potential as his opponent was a girl... Forget it, Lu Shu gave up on finding excuses for him.

However, even if you could win against Chen Zuan, you still couldn't fight me. Lu Shu was helpless, "We are really of different classes. It's pointless."

Others could not figure out why this fellow had so much confidence. Judging from his age, he was only a student, plus the fact that he was definitely not from the Heavenly Network. How could he be so free if he was really an ace from the Network?

Xu Wenxin insisted while eating the seeds, "You'll never know if you don't wanna fight!"

Another person said calmly, "Maybe your class is indeed very high, but I don't think there's any necessity to be so proud. Wenxin has never lost to a single person so far."

Lu Shu sighed, was it a trend now that people liked to pick fights with the bystanders? Without a choice, he raised his palms, "Do you want to know where I got my calluses from?"

Everybody trembled. Could it be he was trained in iron-palm? Or was it some other exclusive technique?

Xu Wenxin was interested, eager to know what Lu Shu was going to say next. She sat

the closest to him, so she got the best view of his palms. The thick calluses on Lu Shu's hands were indeed clearly visible.

She had heard that experts in iron-palm would have...

Lu Shu sighed, "They're from my laundry duties."

Xu Wenxin was speechless.

So was Chen Zuan.

And everyone else.

Why would you suddenly think about the past?! This plot twist was so unexpected!

"From Xu Wenxin's..."

"From..."

At that moment, someone realized that Lu Shu was joking. One of them leaped onto the boxing ring, "I give you three breaths. Come up by yourself!"

Everyone turned to see how Lu Shu would respond.

Then, Lu Shu took a deep breath and started holding it.

One minute, two minutes, three minutes... How could they underestimate Lu Shu's current vital capacity? Ten minutes had passed, but he still remained unmoved and even smiled!



The rest were shocked, why was your breath so long?! He said three breaths but he certainly didn't mean it literally! If you can hold it for one hour, do we have to wait for three hours?!

The person in the ring was frustrated too. What kind of bloody opponent did he pick today?

"From Chen Zuan's distress, +666!"

"From Xu Wenxin's distress, +666..."

"From..."

Lu Shu was happy. Thanks Zuan bro for your rocket and thanks Wenxin sis for your yacht...

The one on stage could not stand waiting for him anymore. He jumped down the ring and flung a lance towards Lu Shu at incredible speeds!

Based on his accuracy, he was clearly well trained!

When the lance was about to hit Lu Shu's face, Xu Wenxin frowned and wanted to stop it herself. But before she could stand up, Lu Shu had already disappeared beside her.

They could only stare when Lu Shu caught the speeding lance single-handedly and hurled it back with a backhand action.

It was too fast. The lance was cast back at lightning fast speeds, much faster than the original throw.. Before that person could react, a sharp blast of wind scratched against his cheek and resulted in a giant hole in the wall behind him.

Yet, it was not the end. Looking through the huge cavity, the lance pierced through two more factory buildings before coming to a stop.

This strength... was indeed not of the same class!

Lu Shu grinned, "Who taught you lancing?"

The person's voice shook, "We were only experimenting. It's said to be a technique devised by a genius named Lu Shu. Suitable for Practitioners of Class C and below who can't wield a sword..."

"Oh," Lu Shu was smug that he himself was known as a genius. He nodded, smiling, "I am Lu Shu."

His smile was exceptionally bright now, but at the same time it made everyone utterly powerless. The strength just now, was indeed Class C?!

"From Kang Dingding's distress, +666..."

"From..."

...

The young man at the gate of the factory building was lying leisurely on his sling chair. Although some people felt that the role of a security guard really devalued his

ability as a Class D Metahuman, he did not think so at all. Anyway, his boss was paying him enough.

In the first place, the club itself needed Practitioners and Metahumans as a form of publicity. The boss wanted face, and he desired money and social status. Fair deal.

However, at that moment, a man in a black cloak descended from the sky. Upon landing, the dust around him was thrown into the air and radiated outwards.

The young man choked on the dust and started coughing badly, "Who the hell are you?!"

But once he opened his eyes, his heart almost jumped out of his throat. He stood up like a little quail, "How do you do, Your Heavenly Nie."

"Behave yourself," with no intention of wasting his time with him, Nie Ting walked inside the factory.

Instantly, the young man behind him started sweating like a pig. He had his own reasons for not joining the Heavenly Network, not because of the neglect of the latter.

Nie Ting walked straight to the innermost venue. He looked at Lu Shu with composure on his handsome face, "Return to your assessment. Chen Zuan, join the assessment too. Hand over your belongings to the people in charge and Lu Shu will fill the rest in for you. Do not try to use your power."

After that, Nie Ting rose again to the sky and disappeared.

This time, Lu Shu was in real shock. The Heavenly King himself actually came in

person to ask him to go back to his assessment?! And Chen Zuan was brought in too?!

Lu Shu himself would not believe it if one claimed that Nie Ting did not pay special attention to him! What on Earth was going on!

Lu Shu cast a sympathetic look at Chen Zuan, haha the poor boy...

Honestly speaking, Lu Shu did not feel that guilty. Grinning, he asked Chen Zuan who was still in deep shock, "I have a good news and a bad news. Which one first?"

"Bad news..."

"You'll have to surrender your phone, wallet and everything else and keep yourself alive by yourself."

Chen Zuan wanted to grab more melon seeds while he still could, but Nie Ting's earlier warning made him stop.

Only a few people were not scared of Nie Ting.

"What's the good news?"

Lu Shu smiled, "Only geniuses with Class A aptitude are qualified for this assessment, meaning, they are giving you a chance."

In an instant, the air in the room froze. Everyone was stunned by the series of changes before their eyes. There was no horror, nor fear or anger. All emotions were vaporized the moment Nie Ting appeared. Now, all that was left was shock!

### 333 WHO STOLE MY BUSINESS?

After Lu Shu and Chen Zuan hurried away, everyone else stood, staring at one another in disbelief.

"Was the guy just now really the Lu Shu that our teacher mentioned?"

"I think so... I didn't notice it at first. Think about his shirt."

Everyone was trying to recall Lu Shu's shirt...

What the hell! Was it not printed there, Lu Shu's coming and Lu Shu's gone?!

He was really that legendary Lu Shu?

Speaking of which, how did Chen Zuan come to know him? They turned to look at the hole in the wall, damn, his power must be beyond Class D, or even Class C!

Moreover, when Xu Wenxin reached out to stop the lance, her intention was obvious. But Lu Shu had already backhandedly hurled back the lance before she could even react.

That speed... was indeed not of the same class.

The young man who challenged Lu Shu for a fight earlier sighed, "I was too impulsive."

"Haha, don't be. Who knew he's so pro!"

"But thinking about it, he stuffed our Wenxin's hand with seeds and held his breath to wait for 'three breaths'. I think he's quite weird. Plus the prints on his shirt, why do I

feel like he's a joker from head to toe..."

"Haha, geniuses all have unique personalities. Come, let's resume our training. After the summer holidays, I'm gonna tell my classmates that I met a real pro today! Even the Heavenly King came in person for him!"

The crowd dispersed. Some of them were still discussing softly what assessment it was that Nie Ting had mentioned just now.

Only Xu Wenxin did not leave. Suddenly, she crossed her knees and finished her melon seeds. Her eyes were shining while her thoughts loitered elsewhere. When only two seeds were left, she hesitated and put them in her pocket.

She did not finish them all.

Unexpectedly, she rose and walked to the boxing ring, "Who else dares to fight me? Quickly. Don't make me wait."

The others exchanged surprised glances at one another. Didn't she say one match per day?

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"Brother Shu, what now?" Chen Zuan followed Lu Shu onto the street. He did not even dare to drive his car outside. All his belongings were put inside the car so that there was no need to be surrendered to people in charge too.

Chen Zuan would probably have cut corners if somebody else, not Nie Ting, had come to pass down the message. But since it was Nie Ting who came, Zuan

immediately behaved out of the awe he felt for that name.

Then, Lu Shu stopped to ponder how to earn money in the Capital.

Maybe some people really had such abilities. Those big men in the 90's who had seen the real world, for instance, might have many business talents.

But Daoyuan Class geniuses were talented in cultivation, not business!

And the question was, how could he get his starting funds?

Lu Shu was a serious person at work and he was never a fan of impromptu actions. Focused on the formulation of his plans, he stood still for half an hour straight.

By his side, Chen Zuan was dumbfounded, "Brother Shu, are you thinking about how to make money?"

"If not you think I'm making wishes?"

"From Chen Zuan's distress, +199!"

Chen Zuan was confused, "How come you know so many lame jokes?"

Lu Shu sighed, with a tinge of sadness crossing his face, "I've been out in the world for long, and lame jokes are the lessons I've learned."

Actually, Chen Zuan was crystal clear about his current situation. After all, it was an assessment only for people with Class A aptitude! Thus, its significance to his prospects was apparent.

Chen Zuan had lost his interest in his family matters. If he could really go beyond Class C, or even attain Class B one day, he would not even think twice before leaving his home.

In any case, he had adored his granduncle Chen Baili since he was young. When he was still a kid, he constantly pestered his granduncle to bring him uphill for cultivation, and did not stop until he got a bad thrashing from his mum.

Despite being dragged into this pitiful state, Chen Zuan was actually grateful to Lu Shu for helping him get the opportunity.

He thought, with contradicting emotions, although Lu Shu never failed to bring him bad luck, in the end it would always turn out to be a blessing in disguise.

"Uhm... Brother Shu, you won't leave me, will you?" Chen Zuan calculated his chances of survival, which were rather slim if he was left on his own.

Lu Shu shot him a glance, "Am I that kind of loser? Rest assured, I won't starve you."

But even Lu Shu himself could not be so sure about that. Though he was indeed cunning, the methods he used to adopt to make money were actually nothing fancy, such as selling boiled eggs and fermented tofu.

However, now it was no longer that simple. He knew very well that they were under constant monitoring by Nie Ting and his team, so it would not be very nice to steal. Moreover, besides the ingredients, they had no cooking utensils too.

But Lu Shu got another idea.



"Come. Let's go and uphold social justice," Lu Shu was already on the go with Chen Zuan. First thing first, he needed his starting fund.

After thirty minutes, squatting besides a bus station, Chen Zuan suddenly turned to Lu Shu, who was also squatting there, and asked, "So, this is the 'upholding social justice' that you talked about?"

Lu Shu's initial plan was to catch a thief at the bus station. But they had not seen any after so long. Since when was public security in the Capital so good?

As a matter of fact, they had purposely picked the place with the largest volume of commuters. Lu Shu had thought of going on the metro, but then they realized they could not even afford the metro fares.

"Brother Shu!" Chen Zuan's eyes suddenly brightened, "Over there!"

Following his eyes, Lu Shu saw a man sneakily walk behind a white-collar lady in the crowd, his eyes targeting her bag.

"Here comes the business!" Lu Shu anticipated the theft. As long as he caught the man stealing, Lu Shu could stop him at once and return the stolen items to their owner. After that, he would ask the thief for some money.

Chen Zuan and Lu Shu stood up. The man's hand was already in the lady's bag when she was getting on the bus!

However, before they could take action, two middle-aged men suddenly shouted, "Don't move! We are the police!"

In the next second, the thief was already subdued and lay on the floor, not giving Lu Shu any opportunity. Those were plainclothes policemen!

### **334 BREAKING ROCKS WITH HIS CHES**

Therefore, the plan of catching thieves had failed. Sometimes things would simply never happen as planned. While Chen Zuan was still at a loss, Lu Shu had begun picking up bottles on the streets as he walked.

"Brother Shu, could you please uphold your image as a pro? Is it really necessary to be so down-to-earth?" Chen Zuan was hesitant. Since when did a Class C expert like Lu Shu resort to collecting bottles?

"Are you hungry?" Lu Shu looked askance at him.

"Yea."

"Then, is image edible?" Lu Shu continued glancing at him.

"No..."

"Then why aren't you picking up bottles with me?!"

"From Chen Zuan's distress, +488!"

Since he was young, he had never gone through this before...

"We shall collect bottles first. Later we'll have a better plan," Lu Shu comforted him, "We won't be collecting bottles for 15 days anyway."

For someone like Lu Shu who could get along just fine, of course he would need

careful calculations. If the next step turned out successful, they would proceed from there and if not, collecting bottles would be another alternative too.

Until then, the Daoyuan Class geniuses were still discussing how to make money. However, they became more and more lost as the discussion went on. On their way to the Backsea, they realized that they might not make it there before sunset on foot. Thus, they ended up using their Practitioner power to run faster.

After their arrival at the Backsea, the pub owner was shocked to see such a big crowd requesting for a job there all together.

Since all of them were students and it was not yet time for evening service, he agreed to give them an audition. In the end, about half of them, who were pianists, were rejected as the owner insisted that the piano was too elegant for a pub.

Fine. The piano players stood aside to reconsider their means of livelihood.

Meanwhile, the owner was very pleased with the guitarists, who were much better than those low and common performers that never received professional training.

When it was dark-skinned Cheng Qiuqiao's turn, the boss asked, "What do you play?"

Cheng Qiuqiao replied with great confidence, "I can play Erhu! I believe the combination of Erhu and modern instruments will be miraculous!"

Not sure whether it would be miraculous, but the owner almost laughed out loud at the ridiculousness.

Indeed, as a traditional Chinese instrument, Erhu enjoys considerable prestige. But

which pub would play Erhu? Unreasonable!

In the end, many did not manage to find a suitable job despite the long journey to the Backsea. As the sky was getting darker, their accommodation was still in question. Cheng Qiuqiao hesitated, "Should we find a bridge first?"

"What for?"

"I heard that the homeless usually sleep under the bridge..."

But they still could not let down their face to do something else.

Then, the bunch of geniuses went to offices for vacancies. After all, a white-collar job was better than waiters and waitresses.

Without suspense, they failed again.

Suddenly, a person realized, "Where's Cao Qingci?"

"Eh? She wasn't with us at the Backsea just now, was she?"

"Never mind. We don't need to worry about her."

At that moment, Cao Qingci was standing in front of a construction site. In full witness of the labor contractor, she single-handedly lifted up a bundle of concrete bars that weighed a few hundred kilograms, "Need people? I got strength."

"My goodness," the man winced, "Practitioner? Or Metahuman?"

"I can't say," Cao Qingci replied with composure.

The contractor froze for a second and smiled, "Strength is more useful than anything, girl. I've got a place for you. Go and report to Li Qiang over there."

"Thanks."

The man turned to joke loudly with the other workers on the site, "Don't mess with this girl. If not, don't say I've never warned you. If she hurts you, it's not considered as an industrial injury!"

"Save it! We've already seen how strong she is."

...

Deep in the Lingjing Lane, Nie Ting was still staring blankly in the room full of screens. All images were projected into his eyes, and analyzed accurately in his brains.

By his side, Shi Xuejin put down his book and smiled, "How's everything going?"

"Cao Qingci is working at a construction site and Lu Shu is collecting stones and bottles with Chen Zuan. But the rest are yet to relinquish their haughty airs," Nie Ting's eyes were refocused again.

"They are still kids. This is tantamount to throwing them into the High Lord's alchemical oven directly. At the end of the day, it still depends on luck whether they become a horse keeper or Monkey King. Don't you think it is a bit too hasty?"

"We are already very kind compared to those organizations yet to form. Fire is the test of gold. Without fire, we'll never know whether it is real gold. If we are kind to them now, their future enemies will never be nice to them."

"Then, what's your view of Lu Shu?" Shi Xuejin was interested, "Any comments?"

Nie Ting mused for ten seconds, "Nothing can kill people like him."

"Then why the need to bring Chen's son with him?"

"... because he felt like it too?"

...

There's another way to make money? Chen Zuan was suddenly happy, "Brother Shu! What's your plan? Please share it with me!"

Lu Shu was pretending to be mysterious, "To perform breaking rocks with my chest!"

"From Chen Zuan's distress, +667..."

I really wanna punch your face but I'm not sure whether I should do it...

Chen Zuan hesitated, "Well, how to perform?"

"You've never seen it before? Just put a big rock on your chest and then..." Lu Shu was shocked.

Chen Zuan did not agree, "I know. I mean we don't have rocks?"

Hearing that his hard-thought idea was rejected, Lu Shu was displeased, "Then what? You'll be the rock?"

"Errr, Brother Shu, can we just rob some rocks?" Chen Zuan diverted the topic. Why would someone in the right mind be willing to play the role as a rock and let a Class C expert punch him?

However, all of a sudden, Lu Shu became unprecedentedly serious at this topic, "Please remember, although we are constantly reminded that we can never afford to be too gullible, many have forgotten that we shouldn't cause other people harm as well. We will not attack unless we are attacked. One must have integrity. What if the money you've robbed is actually someone else's medical fees? And he needs it urgently for his family? The era of cultivation is upon us, people's physical strength has broken free from our imagination to become a reality. Everyone must be restrained by their own principles. Otherwise, no one knows what kind of person you will become."

Chen Zuan could not catch up with Lu Shu's words, "Then... my watch..."

"What watch?" Lu Shu looked at him with complete calmness.

"From Chen Zuan's distress, +667..."

But after careful consideration, Lu Shu realized that it was indeed difficult to find large rocks in a place as big as the Capital. Although it was relatively easy to find some bricks but... even those bricks on the construction sites would cost money!

"Stop picking up bottles! Pick stones!" Lu Shu said. Pick those big ones!

### **335 STREET PERFORMERS**

Thus, the two picked up stuff along the way. Lu Shu carried two plastic bags of bottles while Chen Zuan lifted a sack of stones.

Both the plastic bags and the sack were taken from the roadside. There were faint prints of XX fertilizer on the sack. Who the hell knew where it was from.

"Where are we going?" Chen Zuan asked out of curiosity. It was not a tiring job per se, but neither did he feel comfortable under the pedestrians' unwanted stares.

Truth be told, from a young age Chen Zuan had never had to suffer much hardship. Although he was not a spoiled kid, his life was much easier than others. With maids at home, he never needed to bother about any household chores.

A few days ago, he had just returned home with an impressive achievement. But before he could fully enjoy his life, he was now picking up stones on the streets. What a tragedy!

Why was he so goddamn unlucky?!

Moreover, the popular girl Xu Wenxin seemed to be interested in Lu Shu as well. Chen Zuan felt that Du Xuemei was the only girl left in his soul mate list, although he had never asked whether Xuemei would be willing to accept him.

Du Xuemei was another legendary girl in their circle. However, unlike Xu Wenxin, what was so unique about Xuemei was her exceptional talent. This Xuemei was not even as pretty as Wenxin, though her vibe was attractive.



"Let's find a metro station with a lot of people. Don't performers always do that?" Lu Shu said, as though it was only reasonable that way.

"Performers?!" Chen Zuan froze, "Perform what?"

At that time, they were just at the entrance of a metro station. Lu Shu walked down the staircase first, "Hurry up!"

Usually, performing in metro stations was prohibited. But unlike begging, there were no clear rules on that.

Lu Shu despised begging too. Indeed, nowadays, many beggars were just trying to leverage people's kindness for easy money.

In the past, despite his own plight, Lu Shu would still give some coins to the elderly beggars on the streets. After all, they had no means to keep themselves alive.

But for younger ones, Lu Shu would never give a cent. Honestly, they could even make a living by folding boxes for charity organizations.

Before they reached the bottom of the stairs, they both heard someone singing in a hoarse voice further down the passageway. It sounded like a person was singing softly while playing the guitar.

When they looked down, they saw a middle-aged man with a guitar sitting in the passageway. His melodies were beautiful, "The world outside is wonderful, the world outside is cruel. When you have nowhere to go, remember I'm here waiting for ya..."

"So good," Chen Zuan commended.

Lu Shu called this market investigation. But of course, he would not rule out the possibility that the man had put in some money himself to persuade others to give.

However, that was clearly not applicable to the two of them, who were totally penniless.

"Alright. Let's start!" after a deep breath, Lu Shu said.

Chen Zuan suddenly had a hunch that something bad was going to happen.

...

The metro station was bustling with commuters. The volume of passengers had grown larger when it was evening time.

The middle-aged singer was dressed rather fashionably, with the slight atmosphere of a last-century Hong Kong star. He sang softly, "It was so long ago, when I belonged to you, and you belonged to me..."

He frowned when Lu Shu and Chen Zuan approached. After the pair had started offloading their stuff beside him, he could not help but say, "This is my place. Please leave."

Lu Shu was stunned. In fact, they were relatively far apart by at least ten meters. Although ten meters was not that far per se, it was already far enough.

Lu Shu had never planned to have any quarrel with the man and they would leave once they got their starting funds. But in spite of the man's gentle appearance, his

words were not kind at all.

Who were you talking to? Was this place your home? As the saying went, one cannot judge a book by its cover. Since the man looked like a reasonable person, Lu Shu had purposely kept his distance so as to minimize his disturbance. Unexpectedly, however, that man was actually so rude.

Without a word, Lu Shu carried the sack of stones and closed the gap until there was only one meter beside the man.

The man sneered, what can you do? If you want to compete with me, so be it. He continued singing, "When the sun sets..."

Ka! His singing was interrupted by a cracking sound nearby. When the man turned to look, he saw Lu Shu smashing another stone against his forehead. Ka! The stone broke into pieces again...

"Take a look. Take a look! The amazing breaking stones with forehead!" Lu Shu shouted cheerfully and then chopped another one into halves with his bare hands, "And chop stones with bare hands!"

The singer freaked out upon seeing Lu Shu smashing stones with his forehead non-stop like a mad man!

The original graceful scene collapsed instantly and started to get scary.

The commuters were shocked too. What was happening?!

Haha, let alone them, even Chen Zuan was stunned. Were all Class C experts' heads

this hard?!

"Are those fake?" someone remarked in disbelief.

Lu Shu grinned. He passed the person a stone and watched as he hit it against the floor. It was indeed a real stone!

But before he could say anything, Lu Shu took the stone from his hand and smashed it against his forehead. Ka, the stone broke into pieces again.

Lu Shu laughed, "The secret to breaking stones with my chest is the result of precise calculations of pressure and force. You see, the pressure on your chest is small given the large surface area and the small impact point. Moreover, that one hasn't been trained. The person beside him won't hammer that hard in order to protect the person underneath. But mine is even more amazing. I can withstand great pressure..."

Lu Shu made his audience struggle to understand. Many dropped some money and left immediately. There was one, five and ten yuan. This performance was too violent for the heart!

Chen Zuan quickly collected all the money. All their food depended on it!

Lu Shu watched as they left while he continued smashing stones, "Thank you! Have a nice day!"

The singer almost wanted to cry. What the hell was that? They were from a completely different world! Theirs was so bloody!

The man was at a loss and did not know what to do. He clenched his teeth and

continued singing, "Though the sky was raining..."

"Ka!"

"Still, I'm waiting for your return..."

"Ka!"

In that instance, the man named Wang Xianda had made a contribution of over three thousand distress points to Lu Shu. With their separation of a mere one meter, the disturbance was unavoidable.

### **336 PRINCIPAL NIE**

"300,301,320..." Lu Shu counted the stack of notes as he walked, "389 yuan!"

Although they were already rich enough to afford land or a house, Lu Shu was still passionate about making money. At first, he expected his journey in the Capital would be rather boring, but now he had found some new ways to have fun.

"Brother Shu..." Chen Zuan watched as Lu Shu counted the money for thirty minutes. It was not that the money was too hard to count, but Lu Shu had counted it more than once.

"Yes?" Lu Shu turned to look at Chen Zuan.

"Aren't you hungry?" Chen Zuan hinted. It was almost 8pm and time for dinner.

"Nope," Lu Shu replied, "I ate quite a lot of melon seeds this afternoon, and the fruit plate too. Oh, the honeydew was super sweet..."

"From Chen Zuan's distress, +199!"

All this ordinary food now seemed so delicious. But could you please stop talking?

"Are you hungry?" Lu Shu grinned.

Chen Zuan was almost hissing with displeasure, "You asking me whether I'm hungry? Don't you have any bloody idea about that?"

"Very good. I can feel your strong urge to survive. Let's go for dinner," Lu Shu smiled.

Just right there, was a street side stall, Chuanzhou Cool Pot Brochette and Lu Shu walked in with Chen Zuan. Anyway, living a life was equally important as earning money.

At the stall, customers could choose as many sticks of brochette as they wanted and pay accordingly. For this, Lu Shu knew a petty trick where he could hide the sticks in his Seal of Lands. That way, who know how many he ate?

But Lu Shu would never do that. It was not easy for him to make money, so it would be the same for other people as well.

Chen Zuan was ravenous. Although he had the talent of staving off hunger so long as he was full, who would use it under normal conditions? But truth be told, Lu Shu always found it hilarious that Zuan had awakened to this kind of power.

"Brother Shu, where are we sleeping today? Any plan for tomorrow?" Chen Zuan asked as he was gorging on brochette.

"Don't worry. I've got a place in mind. You'll have a good sleep, away from winds and rains, I promise," Lu Shu replied as he stuffed food into his mouth.

Chen Zuan was confused. His reply didn't quite sound like a hotel? Weren't they going to stay in a hotel?

"Brother Shu, as a candidate in this assessment, do you have any plans for your future? Honestly speaking, I do admire you from the bottom of my heart, though I'm aware of your ordinary aptitude," Chen Zuan asked.

"Don't call me Brother Shu. It sounds like Brother Shoe."

"Err..." Chen Zuan hesitated. Was there any difference?

One cannot deny the power of language. Despite the same pronunciation, the translation of a Chinese name into an English one could really make many jokes. No wonder Chen Zuan didn't get it at first.

"Not any plans in particular. I'll just get along well with Xiaoyu, send her to school and grow some Chinese chives on a magic-rich land. Of course, I can't sell the crops at a vegetable market, but maybe I can give it a try at the antique market," Lu Shu spluttered.

Chen Zuan was stupefied, "So normal? You gonna be a farmer?"

What Chen Zuan had wanted to ask was Lu Shu's plans in the Heavenly Network!

However, it seemed that Lu Shu did not intend on furthering his path in the Heavenly

Network at all.

Was he unambitious or was it simply his character?

Was Lu Shu really considered an expert? Nowadays, the number of Class C experts in the country was on the rise and reached about one hundred. As one of the one hundred out of billions, Lu Shu was indeed an ace.

The two had a long chat. It was August, the hottest time of the year. Casually, Chen Zuan asked the stall owner, who was cleaning the tables dirtied by customers, "Hey, your cool pot brochette is very authentic. Are you from Chuanzhou?"

Being praised, the owner laughed at once, "Tank ya tank ya."

Chen Zuan was speechless.

Lu Shu as well.

The air of the countryside was almost being emitted from his mouth.

The dinner cost more than one hundred dollars, less than Lu Shu's expectation.

Products at these kinds of stalls were usually cheap and fine. Then, Lu Shu led Chen Zuan towards the west.

"Where are we going?"

"You'll know when we reach it. Based on the time now, we can make it there in time!"

Lu Shu smiled.



Within five minutes, Chen Zuan found himself standing in front of a giant mall, a furniture shop!

"It'll be closed at night. How to sleep?" Lu Shu's intent was immediately clear.

"Can someone who has undergone cultivation still get caught by an ordinary security guard? What kind of cultivation are you trained for?"

"But... Didn't Heavenly King Nie already say we are not allowed to use our power?"

"Are you an idiot? Did I not use my power when I smashed stones with my forehead just now? Without your power, you'll be starved to death on the streets of the Capital. Understood?" Lu Shu said irritably. Though Chen Zuan looked like a smart guy, why did he suddenly become so obedient in the face of Nie Ting, just like those geniuses who grew up in the warm house?

Honestly, Lu Shu had underestimated the deterrence of Nie Ting's name in people's mind. Local students in the Capital were more afraid of him than respectful, but the converse was true for those from elsewhere.

Chen Zuan pleaded, "Nie Ting is our principal."

Lu Shu chuckled at once. He was suddenly aware of his ignorance of this issue. Due to some special reasons, Li Yixiao was the principal in Luo Cheng. Thus, without a doubt, Nie Ting would be the principal in the Capital.

Seeing how frightened this little fatty was, Lu Shu could not imagine how much pressure Nie Ting had exerted on them.

"Don't laugh," Chen Zuan was cautious, "Heavenly King Nie is kind of weird. It seems that he has pretty good knowledge of a lot of things without even seeing them!"

Oh, Lu Shu nodded. They already had prior experience after all.

The pair strutted into the furniture shop. There, the IKEA would open until 10pm, unlike other furniture shops which usually closed at 5 to 6pm.

"After we enter, follow me to a hiding place. Since we are both unclean, don't sleep on their beds. A random piece of blanket will do. We can sleep on their pillows, but do remember to wash your hair in the toilet before sleeping. Don't cause them trouble," Lu Shu said.

"Oh..." Chen Zuan was expecting to sleep on a bed. But after a second thought, this was still much better than sleeping outside under the sky. Earlier, he thought Lu Shu would make him sleep under a bridge.

For unknown reasons, Chen Zuan felt that although Lu Shu was a joker, he had his own principles he stuck to, which was praiseworthy.

### **337 MEN IN BLACK**

It was unexpected that there would be hand wash left in the IKEA toilet. Considering the situation at hand, hand wash could be a makeshift shampoo as well.

Honestly speaking, Chen Zuan had never been through this kind of life before, but Lu Shu was calm, "Cultivation brings hardships. If the apocalypse is doomed to befall upon us in the future, there won't be any hand wash on the battlefield. Getting used to it earlier is good for you."

Chen Zuan watched as Lu Shu put the money in his pocket carefully after he was done

with his hair wash. Hesitantly, he asked, "Lu Shu, it must have been hard for you after you and Xiaoyu left the orphanage, wasn't it?"

"Really?" Lu Shu smiled, "As long as there's food and shelter, I don't think it's hard."

But Chen Zuan was suddenly saddened. Some people were born to face the hardships in the world, and Lu Shu and Lu Xiaoyu encountered the coldest apathy on this Earth, their birth parents abandoning them at the orphanage. A sign that they no longer loved them.

Then, Lu Shu said, "Next time when we go to the remains, remember to bring more friends, especially those with watches. They may easily get a promotion."

At that moment, it suddenly came to Chen Zuan's mind that his watch was worth 420 thousand yuan. Instantly, he started to feel sympathetic for himself.

Now, Chen Zuan could see Lu Shu's second quality. Although life had indeed not been kind to him, he still had the tenacity to live in this world with positivity. It was hard for someone like him to arouse compassion, but it inspired admiration.

"Can I change it into cash? Actually I don't have much pocket money..." Chen Zuan asked.

"Money hurts friendships! Sleep!" Lu Shu grinned. He then took a pillow and put some toilet paper on top before leaning his head on it.

"From Chen Zuan's distress, +199..."

At that time, it was already pitch black in the furniture mall, but Chen Zuan did not

feel sleepy at all. His homesickness started to creep in.

...

Finally, the Daoyuan Class geniuses did not manage to find a job as well, though they did have something for dinner. In the end, they ran out of choices and went to restaurants one by one in search for vacancies for hourly workers. However, even low-level jobs like that were not easy to find.

Those employers were clever people, who could see straight away that the students were almost totally inexperienced and could not add much value to their stores. Moreover, they wanted long-term contracted workers. Who would waste their energy on hiring someone for half a month, only to hire another one for replacement later?

Fortunately, however, the lady in the last store was kindhearted enough to let them take away all unsold buns that night. Now, although exhausted, at least their dinner was settled.

The Class A aptitude geniuses were suddenly like angels fallen from Heaven. Screw the pub musical performers, screw the white-collar workers, only buns were true and tangible happiness!

There were around one-hundred and twenty buns, which were divided into, on average four per person. Most of them had finished two and decided to save the other two for breakfast.

It was not that they could not sustain through hardships, but that they had never been forced to, until this stage. Human beings' adaptability was awesome. One who cannot endure destitution is one who was simply spoiled.

However, right at the moment when everybody was tortured by sleepiness and hunger, over twenty people in black suddenly jumped off from the bridge.

Instantly, the air froze in the sweltering summer heat.

With their faces half covered by black masks, the intruders' eyes were cold as ice. All Daoyuan Class students immediately jumped to their feet but before they could react, the leader curled his lips, "Rob them!"

Like wolves, the men in black attacked. In spite of their extraordinary powers, the geniuses were no rivals for their attackers. Some observant ones noticed at once that there were at least five Class C experts in this group!

Actually, their key strength was in their teamwork instead of their power. Due to their flawless collaboration, the geniuses could not harm any of them.

The students had never encountered such enemies before. Why did so many Practitioners suddenly attack them in the Capital? What on Earth did they want?

In the blink of an eye, the plastic bags in many students' hands were taken away, together with the buns inside!

And in the next second, everyone's buns were gone!

Then, the leader shouted, "Retreat!"

Just as how it was described, light come light go. No one could stop them.

The students were both confused and totally frustrated. Now, everybody knew that it was the Heavenly Network's idea. But why did they rob our buns at night? What for?!

Are they insane? Who the hell suggested that idea?!

I should have eaten all my buns! Now? Great! We'll have no breakfast tomorrow. Excellent!

Suddenly, all of them began to miss their home. Two girls wept with their arms hugging their knees, "I want to go home! I'm not playing anymore!"

Haha, who are you playing with? Can you afford your ticket back home?

...

Meanwhile, outside the IKEA, Lu Shu and Chen Zuan's hiding place, a car parked in the distance. Five people in black alighted from the car and all wore black masks.

One smiled, "Is it necessary for all five of us to take down two students? Only twenty-two people were deployed to deal with thirty students there."

"Don't underestimate them. The Heavenly King's own instructions will never go wrong. Inside there, there is a Class C Metahuman of the strength type. Also, flying daggers are not allowed if we are really going to fight. As the only Class C in this team, I can't even be sure whether I can defeat him alone," the leader said.

"Is he the newly promoted Major from Luo Cheng? Oh my goodness, it's him!" one person was shocked for a second.

"Correct. Our objective is to rob all the money he earned today," the leader replied.

"So where are the two of them?" another person asked.

"According to the Heavenly King, they are sleeping inside the furniture mall right now."

"Wah, they surely know how to enjoy their lives! At least they are better than those bunch of nerds!"

"Don't get too used to calling them nerds. Those are all Class A aptitude geniuses. Who knows, maybe one day some of them will become our superiors."

"Fine, fair enough," the group approached the main entrance secretly.

However, upon their arrival, a problem suddenly emerged. Lu Shu and Chen Zuan had sneaked in during its opening hours, but now the door was locked. So, how should they enter?

What the...

This was surely a headache. The leader had examined the structure of the mall before they came. But, dishearteningly, he realized that all the windows could only be unlocked from the inside with designated keys. This was the case in most shopping malls, and some windows could not even be opened at all.

The iron roll-up door was already down at the main entrance. But they could not just dismantle it with their flying daggers, could they?

"These two kids..." one person's head was throbbing, "They certainly picked the right place!"

### **338 ROOKIES & VETERANS**

Although the fighters from the Heavenly Network certainly had ways to break through the door, it was a breach in their code of conduct to damage public property for such a small task.

If they were fighting against external organizations, there would be no doubt that they would use every means at their disposal. But now, their role were that of guardians.

In many foreign movies, the special agents would destroy public facilities without a care for the cost in their sports cars so as to fulfill their missions. Those kind of things were complete bullshit. If it had happened in reality, their cities would have been immediately flooded with public protests.

Furthermore, they were instructed to rob Lu Shu's money and by right not to even hurt him.

In fact, they did not take their task very seriously. Five versus two and one of whom was even a rookie. Their chances of winning were 100%.

To veterans like them, candidates like Chen Zuan were complete newbies.

They knew, slight advantages in power were never enough to compensate for actual combat experience and confidence. Moreover, Chen Zuan, who had just ascended to Class D, had no advantage in his power at all.

The mall consisted of three floors with great separation between every two levels. At that time, all the lights in the furniture mall had been turned off. Thus, the five men in



black climbed up the stairs in complete darkness.

"There may be security guards on the top floor. If there is, one person stay behind to make an explanation. Do not hurt him!" the leader said.

"Rest assured, leader. We won't hurt him. We know the limits!"

Under the current circumstance, even knocking the guard out was not a desirable solution. Be it by attacking the back of his head or his carotid artery, it was nonsense to claim that knowing their limits would result in no harm at all.

It would be just fine if they could show their identification documents and be mindful of the consequences. But of course, it would be even better if they could sneak in without being seen. Their initial plan to enter from the main entrance was in the hope that they would go unnoticed as well.

The five ascended quickly. But suddenly, a knocking sound pierced through the silence of the night.

Everyone was stunned, "What is that sound?"

"Dong dong dong!"

Everybody turned to the source of the sound and saw Lu Shu knocking on a French window above them. He was looking down at them calmly.

Lu Shu was on the third floor while they were somewhere between the second and the third. All of a sudden, it became awkward.

Lu Shu breathed out a breath on the window, covering the glass in white vapor. Then, he wrote with his finger, "Red fishies."

The group looked at one another in confusion. What did he mean?

"And donkeys."

"From Hao Zhichao's distress, +199..."

"From Wang Yuchi's distress, +177..."

"From..."

"Is he saying we are donkeys?!"

"What the hell? Does he wanna die?!"

"Goddamn it! Isn't he sleeping?"

"No... I cannot let him pass like this. I'll beat him up!"

In fact, Lu Shu had written it separately mainly because the vapors dried up too fast in summer and he could not write that many words quickly enough.

But when he saw the distress points, he realized instantly, oh... expectedly it was you five!

A few minutes ago when he was just about to sleep, he received quite a lot of distress points when Hao Zhichao and the rest were stuck outside the furniture mall. At once,

Lu Shu had a suspicion that something was up, which was further reinforced by the faint energy waves he felt afterwards. And now, they were standing right in front of him...

But Lu Shu was curious, why were they here? Judging from their Chinese names, it seemed unlikely that they were enemies from external superpower organizations who were here to attack Class A aptitude geniuses. Thus, Lu Shu decided at once that they were probably people sent from the Heavenly Network to cause them trouble.

Earlier, he had a feeling that the assessors were too easy on them. It would be too boring in the absence of challenges along the way. Although those geniuses were indeed spoiled, sooner or later they would come to realize the meaning of real life.

The five people sped towards the top floor. No matter how strong this Class C strength type was, they were determined to teach him a lesson tonight.

How could a rookie make fun of the veterans?

As for Lu Shu, he never planned on going easy on them as well. Haha, what was wrong with the Heavenly Network? They certainly did not come with good intentions as they had entered so sneakily!

Lu Shu had carefully considered their motives. To beat them up? Unlikely. The five people clearly held the advantage with their numbers. So what was the point?

Therefore, their target was probably Lu Shu's money, so as to increase the difficulty of their survival?!

My money? Till here, Lu Shu was already fuming with anger.

Immediately, Lu Shu woke Chen Zuan up, "Go! Someone's here!"

Chen Zuan was still in his dreamland, "Huh? Who?"

"Nie Ting!" only this name could awaken the little fatty instantly.

Chen Zuan was fully awake at once. Principal Nie's deterrence in the Capital Daoyuan Class was definitely not a joke. As the Heavenly King, his role as the Principal was only thought to be nominal at first.

One day, Chen Zuan decided to skip a lesson, but he ended up standing in Nie Ting's office as punishment and even his parents were called to the school.

What the... For ordinary teachers and principals, who dared to call Chen Zuan's parents? Only Nie Ting could do that.

That was not all. As for where he had been and what he had done, Nie Ting was fully aware to each and every detail. Chen Zuan's flesh crept, as though he had no secrets in front of Nie Ting.

As a result, he would recoil reflexively at the sound of Nie Ting's name. Chen Zuan was very certain that Nie Ting did not like him.

"What is Heavenly King Nie doing here at night?" Chen Zuan was flustered.

Lu Shu mused, right, what should he be doing here... After two seconds, he said, "To beat you up?"

"Brother Shu, can you please tell me the truth?" Chen Zuan's face darkened. He was not stupid. Why on Earth would the Heavenly King travel a long way to beat him up at night? Though scary, it was illogical upon second thought.

"Well, there are five people from the Heavenly Network here, maybe to rob our money so as to make it more difficult for us," Lu Shu said frankly.

"Then what should we do now, Lu Shu?" Chen Zuan drew a cold breath. Although he never cared much about money, he now understood even a few hundred yuan could save their lives.

"Call the police?" Lu Shu was pondering.

"The police?" Chen Zuan was shocked. Was it really suitable to report that to the police? Tell them that there were a group of Practitioners planning to rob their two hundred yuan or so?

Lu Shu suddenly asked, "Do you think they brought their wallets with them?"

Chen Zuan hesitated, "Maybe!"

### **339 HEAD-ON ATTACK!**

Hao Zhichao and the rest broke in from the rooftop. Although the rooftop door was locked, it was an ordinary household padlock which was easily picked open.

Lu Shu was on the third floor. But they knew, they should not treat him the same way they did to the other newbie students. In spite of the possibility that those students might become important figures in the future, their current strategy against ambush was more of evasion.

It was not a matter of who was stronger, but the instinctive nature of the majority who

had been living a peaceful life.

Lu Shu was different, though. He was well known for accomplishing two military achievements, twice in the remains, a testament to his exceptional abilities.

Moreover, his aggressiveness was evident from his proactive decision to write messages to his opponents. They must be wary of his sneak attack!

If the story spread out that a group of veterans ended up being tricked by a rookie, they would be so ashamed...

"But be cautious, he may try to escape too. Once he's not seen on the third floor, speed up!"

"Roger!"

The five descended the stairs slowly. There had long been tacit collaboration among them.

But as soon as they walked to the hall on Level 3, to their surprise, Lu Shu was darting towards them like an arrow, with the little fatty Chen Zuan struggling to catch up behind.

What happened to the secret attack and escape? How reckless was he?!

"Is he... insane?"

"What's happening?"

"Beat him up!"

It was hard to judge which side was more aggressive, on the one hand was the veterans' anger at being tricked, and the other was Lu Shu's desire for money.

In order to not damage any furniture nearby, the two sides could not unleash their full power.

But after hearing the two words "beat him", it was clear that the invaders had no intention to kill. Thus, Lu Shu decided not to restrain himself too.

Upon their first encounter, Lu Shu and Hao Zhichao of Class C gave each other a punch in the chest.

Following a loud sound, the two flew backwards under the blow. Hao Zhichao was stunned by Lu Shu's move. At the current rate, neither side would gain anything from the fight. Was he out of his mind?

Moreover, Hao Zhichao noticed he had underestimated Lu Shu's strength. Despite being of the same Class, as a normal Practitioner, Hao's strength was one class lower than Lu Shu's. But by right, a recently awakened Class C should not have so much strength!

With impressive agility, Lu Shu's back flying motion soon stopped.

Then... he shot towards them again.

According to his analysis of the situation, Lu Shu himself clearly held the advantage with his defense and strength. Without flying daggers, there was no way that his

opponents could defeat him.

Due to the teamwork on Hao Zhichao's side, Lu Shu's every blow would be fended off by them together. But the harm they exerted on Lu Shu was apparently insignificant.

It felt like a five versus one fight, where your own HP was being reduced by half from every attack but your opponent's remained almost full. More frustratingly, even your own equipment was banned from use, so you could not amp up your attack anyway...

Now, it hurt Hao Zhichao's head to see Lu Shu dashing towards them again. What kind of person was that?!

In fact, the greatest weapon of Class C Practitioners in the country was flying daggers, which could accomplish impressive feats in times of crisis. Last time, in Chen Baili and Anthony's fight, the dagger pierced through the thick curtain of sand and severely wounded the enemy at once.

But their spirit as fighters was no joke as well. At least their will was undoubtedly stronger than ordinary peoples.

In the end, Hao Zhichao started to muster his Spirit Qi Armor as self-defense. He was prepared to resist Lu Shu's attack until he got the student's money. A veteran's dignity? That's not the priority!

If not, when Lu Shu had exhausted all their energy, things would get more complicated than who beat who up...

However, right at this moment, Lu Shu suddenly increased his speed to the extreme, even faster than just then!



Now, Hao Zhichao's speed was no match for Lu Shu's, despite his improved defense thanks to his Spirit Qi Armor. Meanwhile, his other Class D team members were defeated by Lu Shu effortlessly with merely a few strikes of his punches.

It all happened in an instant!

At first, Chen Zuan was following Lu Shu back to the third floor. When the fight just started, he, roared and wanted to come up to help. But when Lu Shu circumvented Hao Zhichao for the other members, Chen Zuan happened to be right in front of Hao Zhichao. After a few seconds of silently staring, Zuan roared, turned and ran away...

Was it not obvious? It was Lu Shu who was the pro. How could he, Chen Zuan, be a rival against a Class C expert?!

After finishing off the rest, Lu Shu turned back to deal with Hao Zhichao. Sensing the change in the situation, Hao Zhichao tried to escape at once. He could never win against Lu Shu!

When Chen Zuan turned, he was shocked to see Hao Zhichao had switched his target from Lu Shu to himself. Lu Shu had the money! Why are you chasing me!

However, the little fatty was still a loyal friend. This thought had to be suppressed!

Otherwise, who the hell knew how scary Lu Shu would become after the fight!

But before Hao Zhichao could reach Chen Zuan, Lu Shu had already caught up to him. Of course, Lu Shu did not intend to kill him either. With a loud punch on Hao Zhichao's back, he demanded, "Give me all your money!"

Hao Zhichao was provoked at once, "Listen up! I CAN defeat you! But my flying..."

Boom! Another punch!

That almost made Hao Zhichao fall. Though his armor was intact, it was not nice to have someone chase him only to punch him, "Don't force me into using my flying daggers! I..."

"Where's your money!"

Hao Zhichao was on the verge of exploding. What kind of candidate was that?! It was not out of his own will, but his superiors' instructions that the flying daggers were not to be used! What the!

And who could imagine that a group of five, comprising one Class C leader and four Class D members, could not defeat one single student?!

Following another punch, cracks started to appear on Hao Zhichao's armor. Despite the rapid recovery power from his Spirit Qi, he already had a bad feeling about what was going to happen. Why was this student so powerful?

At that moment, Chen Zuan joined in too. With Lu Shu by his side, he managed to pluck up his courage as well.

After five minutes, Hao Zhichao sat together with his teammates who were equally bruised, "If it were not for the risk that we might hurt you with our daggers... Don't touch! I'll give you the money myself!"

Fending off Lu Shu's hand which was reaching into his pocket, Hao Zhichao took out his wallet by himself...

"From Hao Zhichao's distress, +999!"

"Huh? So little?" counting the 1,600 yuan in his hands, displeasure crept up on Lu Shu's face, "Bring more next time!"

Hao Zhichao was fuming with infuriation, "Haha, next time? Next time I'll bring over twenty people to kick your ass, you hear me..."

"Still got more in your left pocket?" Lu Shu asked.

### **340 STILL LOS**

"Lu Shu, is it really okay that we did this?" a tinge of worry crossed Chen Zuan's face. What on Earth had they done...

In any case, they were experts from the Heavenly Network. In the past, how did Chen Zuan dare to imagine that he would beat them up and rob their money afterwards!

But in Lu Shu's words, it was justified for a robber to be robbed. Why they could rob us but we cannot do the same to them? Because their faces were bigger?!

Chen Zuan hesitated for a while, "But then, you shouldn't search all their pants and shoes for money. It's not easy for them to save some secret hoard I guess..."

After that, Lu Shu fished out another more than three hundred yuan from Hao Zhichao and the rest. Now, they already had 2,200 yuan but it seemed that they had made themselves enemies.

"Let's leave. We can't stay here anymore," Lu Shu frowned, "I'm afraid he may really bring back dozens of people for revenge... Speaking of which, how did they find out our location? I was very cautious along the entire way and there were no followers at all. Are there talents in the Heavenly Network specialized in stalking?"

"You ask me? How do I know! If I knew, my parents wouldn't have been called to school..."

"This kind of trick can only be used once, but this much is definitely enough for us to survive for 15 days thriftily. It seems that the assessment is not that hard after all," Lu Shu exclaimed.

Chen Zuan was struck speechless. Who else could whup a Class C expert like him? Fine, even if there was, who else would be so shameless as to conduct a body search for money!

And he still called it "not that hard"?

Chen Zuan suddenly started to worry how other people would treat him when he returned to his Daoyuan Class. His head was already spinning at the thought that one of the five was actually the class master next door.

However, Chen Zuan was really unsure about the value of 2,200 yuan. On usual days, one single meal would cost more than that for him. He was concerned, "Is it really enough?"

Lu Shu shot him a glance, "Or, we can always find a buffet and stuff you with 15-days amount of food. Isn't it true that you won't get hungry as long as you got enough food?"

Chen Zuan exploded at once, "I won't do something so shameful! In the Capital, I, Chen Zuan, am..."

Staring into Lu Shu's composed eyes, his voice was getting increasingly softer. In the end, he immediately re-strategized under fear, "Moreover, Heavenly King Nie had told us specifically not to use our power..."

"You are too obedient. Are you his parrot or what?" Lu Shu scorned.

Actually, he would not force him either. It would indeed put Chen Zuan in an embarrassing situation by asking him, the young master of the Chen family, to eat into the buffet restaurants' blacklist. After all, they still had other alternatives available.

The pair returned the pillows to their original places. Then, following the same path taken by the men in black just now, they ascended to the rooftop through the stairs.

Lu Shu walked in front while Chen Zuan followed behind. Once Lu Shu emerged from the rooftop gate, he froze. Confused, Chen Zuan caught up with him but was stunned in place immediately as well.

"Good evening, Your Heavenly King."

"Good evening, Your Heavenly King."

They greeted Nie Ting compliantly. At that time, Nie Ting was looking at them on the rooftop, with an expressionless look on his face.

For a moment, no one broke the silence in between. Reluctantly, Lu Shu handed over

1000 yuan to Nie Ting, "Can't be more. We got the money with our own abilities..."

Lu Shu's voice slowly vanished into the air as well. It was a bloody Class A that he was facing! Even someone with an itching palm would have to stay alive to spend his money. By the way, as the Heavenly King, why was he so free all the time?

Nie Ting took the 1000 yuan in his hand but remained silent as before. Then, he still did not utter a word after Lu Shu surrendered another 500. Lu Shu was unhappy, "Please, we need to keep something as the reward for our hard work!"

However, only after Lu Shu yielded up another 200 did Nie Ting finally withdraw his hand, "Behave yourselves."

After that, he was gone, leaving behind Lu Shu with dejection written all over his face, "Time to have a buffet..."

"I'm out!" Chen Zuan clenched his teeth.

"We only have less than 600 left. Do you think we can make it through fifteen days given the cost of living here?"

"In any case I'm not going! I have my face to save!"

"Well, it seems you never learn to appreciate," Lu Shu sneered.

"... Can I just eat three days' amount?" Chen Zuan was scared. He could not afford to displease either the Heavenly King or Lu Shu. Disobeying the former might not bring about severe consequences but as for the latter... Chen Zuan might be skinned alive.

"From Chen Zuan's distress, +399..."

...

Nie Ting's tall build cast a shadow on the stairs deep inside the Lingjing lane. He walked down with a graceful pace.

Overwhelmed with anxiety, Hao Zhichao's team were waiting in the base below. Nie Ting passed the 1,700 yuan to them and proceeded deeper inside, while Hao Zhichao could not help but admit to their mistake, "Your Heavenly King, it was our fault that the mission failed."

"You are not to blame. I underestimated him. Go and have some rest. I will send more people to you next time," Nie Ting said calmly.

Behind him, Hao Zhichao and the rest were deeply moved. In fact, although it was a widely understood fact that military merit was the sole testament to power there, the Heavenly Network was not a single-dimensional result-oriented place. The insiders all knew that the Heavenly King would never punish or chide anyone so long as they had put in their best.

Actually, Nie Ting cared deeply about his people. In order to avenge the twenty-one comrades-in-arms who were killed by the Class B Metahuman of water type, Nie Ting had been very carefully planning for as long as three months.

This incident made everyone in the Heavenly Network tremble as they learned that someone would certainly take vengeance for them even if they died in their post.

The underground base was huge. Redesigned from the prototype of an air-raid shelter,

it went even deeper into the earth.

Nie Ting walked all the way back to the secret room full of monitor screens. Shi Xuejin was already in side. He put down his book and smiled, "Did the kid surrender his money?"

"Only 1,700," Nie Ting sat down, "His strength has been growing rapidly since his awakening. Also, earlier on the train, I already had the suspicion that he is a rare case who awakened to two types of powers, but one of which is seldom used. Back then, his power was covered by Cao Qingci's, so I can't say for sure which type his belongs to."

"Then are you disappointed in him yet? A brat who dares to rob his own people's money?" Shi Xuejin laughed. Actually, he had been paying attention to the young man since his first encounter with Li Xianyi, but had given up his interest after nothing abnormal happened.

However, how could he be normal, as a person who made military achievements twice in the remains and helped Chen Baili and Li Xianyi with their foundation restoration and their ascension to Class A?