

The Legendary Hero 11 – 20

Chapter 11: Crunch Time

All that Han Xiao had in his arsenal was the enhanced 73-WASP handgun,

an N9 Colt Assault Rifle, 15 magazines of ammo, and the

Lightweight

Mecha Arm whose durability had been reduced to 130. He was

essentially

outmatched in terms of equipment.

Bang!

The sniper rifle was fired again. The bullet pierced through the tree he was

hiding behind, narrowly missing him. Han Xiao groaned. While

the enemy

had night-vision, he could only attempt to make out their

position from the

muzzle flashes.

The sniper rifle was too powerful. With his current health, it would

probably take only 3 shots to kill him. Han Xiao decided to put

the 18

unassigned stat points at his disposal to use. He added 14 points

into END

for additional health and 4 into STR to bolster his STR advantage.

Engaging in a shootout would only be disadvantageous, so even

though

close combat was risky, he had to take the chance. It was virtually

impossible to run away since the enemy had night vision. The

only way to

make it out now was to kill them all!

With the +10 bonus from the Heroal Arm on top of his 29 STR,

Han

Xiao had enough STR to ensure that his blows would proc ‘overwhelming blows’. With 36 points in END, he now had a max HP of 460. He had instantly gained 140 HP from adding END, which was crucial as Han Xiao was already low on health. His current HP was now close to 400, which was much more optimistic than before.

The agents were fanning out to surround him, and Han Xiao noticed that they were not very closely coordinated.

He estimated that it would take around 5 to 8 seconds for them to reach each other to help.

In other words, Han Xiao had to be sure to finish off his target in this short amount of time.

Having killed over 30 guards in the Valkyrie base, Han Xiao was now sitting on 116,000 experience points.

He dumped all of it into his combat skills.

[Grappling] has been raised to Lv. 5

+7% Counter, +10% Damage (bare-handed)

[Basic Combat] has been raised to Lv. 8

+8% Damage (bare-handed)

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As [Basic Combat] has reached Lv. 8 and [Submission] has reached Lv. 3,

you may learn one of these three advanced skills:

[Special Ops Combat]

[Jiu-jitsu]

[Iron Fist]

Special Ops focused on explosiveness, assassination, and usage of tools;

Jiu-jitsu focused on grappling and submission; Iron Fist focused on strengthening the limbs and improving one's tolerance to taking damage.

They were three very different styles of skills. What Han Xiao needed now was explosiveness, so he chose [Special Ops Combat].

You have learnt the advanced skill [Special Ops Combat]
+6% Crit Rate (melee), +4% Damage (bare-handed)

Han Xiao's melee damage was now increased by 15%, and his overall combat ability was also boosted considerably. Not only did he feel much stronger than before, he had a mysterious feeling that he had somehow acquired mastery over several fighting styles.

It's a pity that I still don't have any active energy-based combat skills,

thought Han Xiao. As Heros had very few active skills in their earlier levels, they couldn't make much use of their Energy.

Han Xiao put on the Lightweight Mecha Arm and crouched down.

He took a few moments to regulate his breathing and optimize his oxygen flow

before suddenly springing forward and charging towards the agent closest

to him on the flank. As soon as Han Xiao showed himself, the 6

agents
opened fire.

With the mecha arm as his shield, Han Xiao weaved through the trees to evade the rain of metal while returning fire with the SMG in his other hand.

The smell of gunpowder was overbearing.

In 3 seconds, Han Xiao came within range of his target. He threw the SMG

at the agent's gun hand as a distraction before swinging the mighty mecha

arm at him. The agent raised his arms in reflex to block the blow and

endured the pain to draw his handgun. He aimed at Han Xiao's head and

fired, but Han Xiao's DEX was not just for show. With seemingly inhuman

reflexes, Han Xiao clipped his arm over the agent's gun hand and tugged

down to make him lose balance and buckle forward before proceeding to

ruthlessly smash his knee up into his groin.

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You have dealt a fatal blow! 2x Critical Hit! Your target is

stunned for 2

seconds!

Although the agent's expression was covered by his goggles, his painful

scream was telling of the blow's effectiveness. Han Xiao took advantage of

his temporary immobility to knee him again and again.

Thud! Thud! Thud!

-78! -81! -84!

Sorry brother, I know it must hurt a lot, but I'm not the one who decided not to include groin protection in your armour!

The agent's HP plummeted and Han Xiao finished him off by ripping into his throat with the Heroal Arm. Before Han Xiao could celebrate his first kill, he felt a sharp pain in his back. He hurriedly dropped to the ground and dragged the agent's body over him as a shield while he crawled towards a tree for cover.

You have been shot by an SWP Sniper Rifle! 68 Damage taken!
You have been shot by a high caliber bullet! You are now bleeding (medium)! You will lose 3 HP every second for 15 seconds.

The pain caused Han Xiao's face to pale. Just a single shot had taken out one whole chunk of his health bar. Unfortunately, he could not afford the time to bandage the wound.

"Damn it!" The remaining five Night Owl agents were enraged that Han Xiao had killed their comrade. They rapidly closed in as they fired, cornering Han Xiao.

Han Xiao quickly searched through the agent's body and put on his Kevlar Vest. It would do well to block one or two shots. More importantly, however, he found three G-fragment grenades, one of which he immediately tossed out.

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Kaboom!

The agents had to stop shooting as they frantically ducked for cover.

“Shoot more, assholes!” yelled Han Xiao furiously as he threw out a second grenade, causing the five agents to scramble back to the ground just as they were about to get up.

After the blast, a third black object was flung out in the air, and the five agents subconsciously crouched down once more. However, when there was no explosion after two seconds had passed, they looked up to see that it was just a piece of rock.

Meanwhile, Han Xiao was already charging towards the next agent while firing his assault rifle wildly. Although Han Xiao managed to kill the agent who was seeking cover in the grass, he was now out of ammo. Han Xiao tossed the rifle away and threw the third grenade, buying himself some time to get in range. As he rammed into the third agent, knocking him down, a shot from Silver Blade’s assault rifle clipped him in the calf.

Han Xiao grimaced. The calf injury affected his movement speed, so Han Xiao decided to jump into the agent he had knocked down, causing them to tumble together out of the other agents’ line of sight where he made short work of him behind a tree. The agents simply stood no chance

against him
at close combat.

But there were still three agents left! Although the odds were
against him
and he had lost half of his HP, Han Xiao remained calm and spent
some
time to plan his next move.

“The enemy will probably...”

Meanwhile, Silver Blade was in complete disbelief. He had vastly
underestimated the test subject, resulting in their number being
halved.

“Bomb him!” he ordered.

They threw grenades
Kaboom!

“Is he dead?”

“Stay cautious,” replied Silver Blade as he and the other two
agents slowly
approached.

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When they reached the tree, they noticed that there was a burnt
corpse on
the ground. From what remained of its uniform, it appeared to
have been
Han Xiao.

“Finally.” The two agents lowered their guns and relaxed.

“No!” shouted Silver Blade all of a sudden. “Get down!”

Chapter 12: Original Identity

Before the two agents could react, a gunshot was fired! However,
the
gunshot was not intended for either of them! Instead, it was
aimed at the
corpse, or more precisely, the three grenades that were planted
on it!

As they were at point blank range, the two agents were instantly engulfed by the blast and bombarded with shrapnel.

You have dealt 60 Damage to the enemy! x8

You have killed a Night Owl Agent! 1500 EXP gained! x2

Han Xiao rose up weakly from a patch of tall grass. He was heavily injured, bleeding, and almost out of stamina. Fatigue was setting in, and it was taking him all the willpower and focus that he could muster just to keep his eyes open.

He had managed to survive the previous blast with 50 HP left by using the agent's corpse as a meat shield, after which he had dressed the corpse in his clothes and planted the grenades. Only Silver Blade had been vigilant enough to escape his trap.

Han Xiao limbs were shaking uncontrollably, and he couldn't even see properly due to the blood blurring his vision.

Suddenly, a black figure darted towards him.

"You asked for it!" howled an enraged Silver Blade as he thrust a knife forward.

...

The searchlight from a Black Harrier helicopter was illuminating the forest.

Hila jumped down from the aircraft into what seemed like the aftermath of a fierce battle.

The test subject squad had already arrived and were collecting blood

samples. No. 1 was standing silently with clenched fists.

The sight of the six agents' bodies stunned Hila for a few moments.

As unbelievable as it seemed, Zero had eliminated Night Owl Squad 3 and escaped!

She crouched down to examine the bodies, and was able to deduce that one had died by gunshot, two by explosion, and three in melee combat.

Silver Blade's entire lower body had been pulverized, and there were shards of glass from his night vision goggles embedded in his eyes. He had clearly been done in by someone much more powerful than him!

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How could Zero have become so strong all of a sudden? Even if he had

been hiding his true capabilities the entire time, Zero had only been training

for at most half a year! It was simply inconceivable that he could take on

the Night Owl Squad that comprised of veteran elite agents.

“Could he have awoken superpowers like I did?”

Hila regretted not having kept a closer eye on Han Xiao. Perhaps, she

thought, she could have prevented all of this.

Also, Zero had chosen to escape on the same day that she had happened to

be away. Was it luck, or had he planned it all?

“Their equipment is missing, but we managed to find this,”

reported one of
the agents as he showed the mecha arm to Hila.

The mecha arm was drenched in blood, and there was a knife
sticking out of
its engine.

“Bring it back.”

...

One day later, a large number of Germinal personnel arrived at
the Valkyrie
base to salvage any remaining surveillance footage and gather
clues. The

boss himself also came.

The boss of the Germinal Organization wore a black coat, black
mask,

black gloves... well, he was essentially covered in black from
head to toe,

and looked like he had come right out of ‘Detective Conan’. Only
five

people in the entire organization had ever seen his face.

“Where is Zero?” he asked plainly.

“We failed to track him,” answered No. 1 through clenched teeth.

“If I have
more time...”

The boss abruptly raised a hand in dismissal. No. 1 immediately
stopped
blabbering.

The boss was in an extremely bad mood. Just a few days ago, he
had

dismissed Zero as a piece of trash, and this ‘piece of trash’ had
managed to

escape while taking out so many of his men.

“Thirty armed guards killed, all the research destroyed, and one
elite squad

wiped. On top of that, he killed Lin Wei Xian and escaped? Are you kidding me?” he yelled at his men.

“I want to know when he turned and how he got so strong.”

A researcher hastily replied, “We have come up with a theory after going through his records.”

“Go on.”

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“Zero’s behavior and actions before and after the experiment are strikingly

different. According to the original reports from his capture,

Zero’s original

identity was Xiao Han, the third son of the Alumera family’s second-in-charge.”

This was shocking news even to the boss himself. The Alumera family were

a powerful warring clan allied with the country of Theus.

Test subjects captured for experimentation were usually criminals or

stragglers. How did someone with such background end up in their hands?

“The son of the Alumera’s second-in-charge? How?”

“According to our investigations, Xiao Han was the most ungifted among

his siblings. Not only was he unable to awaken any energy, he was

extremely incapable at leadership and weak-minded,” answered the

researcher as he flipped through his report. “Our agents stumbled across

him in the wreckage of a battle. He had been following his elder brother,

Xiao Hai, on a transport mission when they were ambushed by an enemy.”

“Continue.”

“At the time, Xiao Hai was in command of the team, and the assailants’ true aim was not the goods that they were transporting, but he himself.

He was

the most promising of his siblings, and was more or less

guaranteed to

succeed his father’s position. According to our intel, the ambush was an

inside job. Someone within the family wanted to get rid of him.”

“During the ambush, Xiao Hai forced Xiao Han to swap clothes with him

and he used him as bait. In the end, while Xiao Han was hit by a cannon,

Xiao Hai managed to escape to safety.”

“Since when was our network that well-informed?” frowned the boss.

“Erm... Xiao Hai did not bother to hide the truth, including the fact that he used Xiao Han as bait.”

“The circumstances of Xiao Han’s death did not hurt Xiao Hai’s standing in the family. At the time, the second-in-charge even said that Xiao Hai had

done well. As you know, the Alumera family values power above all. A

burden like Xiao Han meant nothing to them. Even his siblings did not

mourn his death.”

Han Xiao’s past existence was like a roadside flower that everyone trampled

over without notice.

The boss laughed coldly.

“The weak do indeed deserve no sympathy. Enough of his past.

Tell me

what happened during the 6 months.”

“We think that the Valkyrie experiment triggered a change within his body

—a change greater than we could have imagined. It did not just unlock his

talent for machinery; what it did was enhance his intelligence.

We think that

he has been planning his escape from the very start!”

“Are you saying that the brainwash did not work on him?”

interrupted Hila.

“Yes, I’m afraid so.”

Hila frowned.

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The researcher continued, “How is it possible for a subject with no

memories to develop his own will? The only explanation seems to be that

Valkyrie helped him to regain his memories. However, since he was never a

gifted person to begin with, Valkyrie must have also awakened some kind

of hidden strength within him.”

“Are you sure?” asked the leader coldly.

“Not absolutely...” admitted the researcher. It was simply conjecture after

all. Who the hell could be sure.

No. 1 couldn’t help but butt in. “Was he just luck—”

The boss instantly silenced him with a stare.

“Oh right. The guards also brought back this mecha arm that he

used,”

added the researcher. “Although the craftsmanship of the arm itself is not very refined, I must say that it is quite a revolutionary concept. It seems like this mecha arm played a huge part in his escape. The weapons development department would like to replicate this model for development.”

Finally, thought the boss, something good to hear.

“Funds are not an issue. I just want results.”

The researcher nodded, continuing. “No matter what, Zero’s cunning and talents make him a dangerous person. He has high research value.

Whether

dead or alive, obtaining his body will undoubtedly help us in perfecting Valkyrie.”

While the researchers were all terrified of Han Xiao as he could have killed

them anytime he wanted, they were, after all, men of science.

No. 1 frowned.

From the moment that he was created, he knew that he had a predecessor.

This fact alone caused him to identify Han Xiao as an enemy.

However, just

when he thought that he had surpassed Han Xiao, reality hit him like a truck.

“Before determining the exact factor behind the drug’s effects, cease all

experimentation. Round up all the test subjects once more for another round

of brainwashing. I don’t want another Zero to appear,” ordered

the boss.

No. 1's eyes widened in disbelief. He felt that his loyalty to the organization was being doubted.

"I wish to lead a team to pursue Zero!" he burst out.

The boss looked at No. 1 as he contemplated. He did indeed have high expectations for the test subject squad.

"Can you do it?"

"I will definitely succeed!" declared No. 1.

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"Fine. Bring Zero back—dead or alive!"

Chapter 13: Wanderers

Seven days later, somewhere in a radiant, glowing forest, a frail-looking

man was still trying to find his way out of the seemingly endless woods.

Han Xiao needed food and water desperately. His backpack was bulging but only with equipment.

Seven days ago, he had defeated Silver Blade with relative ease by sacrificing the mecha arm.

Losing it was not that big of a deal though, as Han Xiao still had the blueprints and could always craft another.

Although the forest was not an ideal place for recovery, Han Xiao's high

END gave him resistance to wound infection. Still, he did have to withstand

the pain of digging out the bullets inside him. The pain from extracting the

sniper bullet lodged in his shoulder blade, in particular, had been

so
excruciating that it had immobilized Han Xiao for almost an hour.
At the very least, he was lucky to have not encountered any wild
beasts,
although he did catch a few hares. The wild beasts on Planet
Aquamarine
were extremely ferocious, and some of them were even intelligent.

In
Galaxy, they occasionally attacked human cities. Some beasts,
like the
amphibious orca elephant, were so massive that conventional
weaponry was
completely ineffective against them.

Although Han Xiao knew the geography of Planet Aquamarine
well, it
wasn't really of much use to him when he did not know where
exactly he
was. Han Xiao would sleep on top of trees at night, and if the past
seven
nights had taught him anything, it was that mosquitoes were the
most
detestable creatures in the world.

Will I ever get out of this forest ?

As if in answer to his prayers, a wanderers' encampment soon
appeared in
Han Xiao's sights.

Suddenly, Han Xiao's expression changed and he jumped
backwards
abruptly. In the same instant that he had reacted, a huge net
sprung up from
beneath the sand. It was embedded with shards of metal.

“The bastard dodged!”

A long-haired young man carrying a shotgun walked out from

behind a tree.

His clothes were ragged and patched with animal skin.

“Stand still!” he shouted.

The young man was most likely one of the residents from the encampment,

and Han Xiao, not wishing to create unnecessary trouble, held his hands up above his head.

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“I’m just a passerby.”

“A passerby?”

Han Xiao’s bulging backpack caught the young man’s eye.

“What’s in the bag? Take everything out! “

Han Xiao sighed. No wonder the trap was so big; it was precisely meant to

catch people. Morals are always blurred in times of trouble. Most wanderers

were surviving citizens of the old countries who opted not to join the Six

Nations. As life in the wild was harsh, killing and stealing might have been

frowned upon, but they were inevitable occurrences.

“Are you deaf? I said, take everything out!” yelled the long-haired young

man as he walked forward to hit Han Xiao on the forehead with the butt of his shotgun.

Han Xiao was exasperated. The only contents in his backpack were guns,

ammo, and equipment that belonged to the Germinal Organisation. How

was he going to explain that?

“Do you not understand me? Want me to screw you up?”

The long-haired young man cocked the shotgun threateningly. Suddenly, Han Xiao threw an elbow into the chest of the unsuspecting young man, sending him flying back in shock. Han Xiao grabbed the shotgun from him out of mid-air.

The young man landed heavily on the ground, and he clutched his chest in terror as he scrambled to crawl away.

Han Xiao cut out some rope from the trap and tied the whimpering young man to a tree.

When he examined the shotgun, he realized that its barrel was outright crooked and shook his head. At the very least, it implied that the young man had never killed before and that he had only been acting.

Nonetheless, the young man was so terrified that when he saw it in Han Xiao's hand, he panicked even more.

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“Big brother, please spare me! Forgive me for not recognizing Mt. Tai.”

Han Xiao slapped him squarely on the face, reprimanding, “So, you know that you were wrong?”

“I was wrong. I was wrong,” blurted the young man shamelessly.

“Why?”

The young man thought for a moment before carefully answering,

“I... should have brought one more gun?”

Han Xiao burst into laughter.

“You're a funny one, eh?”

“Please show me mercy, Mr. Saint. Just let me go as if you’re passing wind,” sobbed the young man with dripping tears.

“Get lost! I’ve never passed such a big wind before.”

Han Xiao raised the shotgun and struck the young man across his face to

knock him out cold. At the end of the day, the young man was most likely a

resident of the encampment, and Han Xiao still needed to obtain food and water from them.

“Count yourself lucky.”

Half an hour later, Han Xiao finally reached the encampment. His appearance seemed to unsettle the wanderers.

Life in the wild was full of perils, and wanderers were often unwelcoming

to outsiders. Their way of life was similar to that of the gypsies, and they

were frequently on the go. There were pick-up trucks lined up outside the

tent. Most of them were rusty and some didn’t even have exteriors.

Han Xiao noticed that there were only a few dozen tents, making this

community a relatively small one. Nevertheless, it was a miniature society

in its own, and Han Xiao located the camp’s merchant: a bearded westerner

who conducted his business by his pick-up truck.

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“Outsider?” The bearded man raised an eyebrow.

“Do you know the rules?” he asked.

“What rules?”

“Barter trading only.”

Well, that’s just fine , thought Han Xiao, since I don’t have a single penny.

“I want a map, three buckets of water, and five kilos of food. Bread or dried meat will do.” said Han Xiao as he retrieved a handful of bullets from his bag and put them on the truck.

“I’ll pay with this.”

“Gunpowder?”

The bearded merchant’s eyes flashed with greed.

Gunpowder was extremely valuable among wanderers as hunting was a key source of food.

“150 bullets,” stated the bearded merchant.

Han Xiao’s face darkened.

Daylight robbery!

The items he had asked for were basic necessities. There was no way that they could be worth so much.

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Han Xiao’s bronze bullets were high-quality bullets that could easily go for % 10 apiece, yet the merchant was asking for 150 of them, equivalent to % 1,500!

“Up to you,” added the merchant nonchalantly as he turned his attention to his fingernails.

Chapter 14: The Old Era and the

New

As Han Xiao desperately needed food and water, he gave in to the merchant’s demand.

Sighing, he aligned 150 bullets on the back of the truck.

Suddenly, the big bearded man waved a finger.

“180.”

Han Xiao glared at him.

“Ohoho! Such scary eyes. Do you want to kill me or something?”

Quickly,

people, come and see! This man wants to kill me!”

Dozens of wanderers gathered around in an instant. Some of them even

came with sticks and bats.

“This is our territory. Are you trying to be funny kid?”

“Okay, okay. 180 bullets. f*ck me.”

Han Xiao hastily threw out more bullets in case he jacked the price up further.

The merchant laughed shrewdly and sent someone to fetch the goods.

After confirming the items, Han Xiao raised a middle finger at the merchant before turning around.

Suddenly, the merchant spoke.

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“Hey, are you planning to walk out of the forest?”

“Why, you have a problem with that?”

“I have an old pickup. Want it?” asked the bearded merchant nicely.

“Not as though I can afford your price.” Han Xiao shot back.

“Oh, I think you can,” said the merchant as he pointed towards Han Xiao’s

bag. “You have so many bullets. You must have many guns too.”

Han Xiao’s bag was indeed full of guns—high quality ones at that.

He had

looted from the Night Owl Squad. He even had the sniper rifle and some Kevlar vests. He could easily afford an old pickup.

However, Han Xiao shook his head.

A car would leave a trail. Han Xiao would rather not try racing a helicopter.

Walking was safer.

Furthermore, if the Germinal Organization's agents discovered their guns

here, it would be disastrous not only for Han Xiao, but for the wanderers

here as well. In some sense, it would be dishonest of him to sell them.

Although Han Xiao had recently killed a big number of people, it was not out of perverseness. It was to survive.

The merchant, however, was not an easily dissuaded person.

He was about to speak again when, suddenly, a man's voice boomed out.

“Kai Luo! You're taking advantage of outsiders again!”

A well-built man clad in hunter's clothes patched with animal skins

appeared behind the crowd. As he strode forward to the centre of the crowd,

everyone shifted to make way for him. The man seemed to command respect.

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The big bearded merchant groaned.

“Hu Xuan Jun, I just painstakingly closed a deal. Don't come and interfere!”

Hu Xuan Jun grabbed the bullets on the truck up and pushed them back into

Han Xiao.

“The stuff you want isn’t actually worth much. Treat it as a gift. Here, take these back.”

Han Xiao was stunned by the man’s chivalry and stared at him in disbelief.

The man was an extremely muscular Mongolian with white hair on the sides of his head, and his eyes were as sharp as an eagle. He looked very much the part of a righteous man, and Han Xiao instantly warmed up to him.

“Hey, what about me?” interrupted Kai Luo.

“Isn’t it just some food? I’ll give you more tomorrow,” replied Hu Xuan Jun casually.

Kai Luo was frustrated. It wasn’t every day that a foreigner came by for him to make a quick buck.

“He who comes from afar is a guest. You look too frail to be travelling alone. Why not recuperate over at my house?”

Han Xiao hesitated. He did indeed need a proper place to recuperate. In any case, Hu Xuan Jun had given him a very good first impression, so he nodded.

As Han Xiao followed Hu Xuan Jun, the crowd scattered. Kai Luo fumed, but there was nothing that he could do. He did not dare to offend Hu Xuan Jun.

Hu Xuan Jun led Han Xiao to his tent. As he entered the tent, he shouted,

“An, we have a guest today. Cook more.”

“Okay!” replied a woman’s voice..

The source of this chapter;

Han Xiao followed behind Hu Xuan Jun into the tent. An was a woman

who looked rather ordinary and wore a simple waist skirt. Han Xiao noticed that she was blind.

“This is my wife,” introduced Hu Xuan Jun with a smile.

“Nice to meet you,” greeted An as she faced the entrance. She then turned

back to pick up crockery, dried meat, and wild vegetables and arranged

them inside a simple clay oven in the center of the tent.

Han Xiao and Hu Xuan Jun sat down and chatted away.

After a while, Han Xiao became certain that Hu Xuan Jun did not have any

ulterior motives; he was simply an extremely nice person.

“I noticed earlier that most of the people in your community are white. How

did you end up with them?” asked Han Xiao.

There were four races of humans on Aquamarine: black, white, yellow, and

shanu.

“There wasn’t any special reason for it. It just happened to be a chaotic time.

I met some travelers by chance and decided to stay with them as An was

sick at the time. Although we come from different countries and are of

different races, we are all remnants of the old era, and have all

experienced
the loss of our countries. There isn't a need for distinction. We are
all human
after all.”

Some of those who had lost their countries chose to join the Six Nations.

Others opted to join the Germinal Organization. The rest could only become wanderers. Wanderers made up a third of the planet's population. Aquamarine used to have over a hundred nations, but that all changed when an advanced civilization came into contact with the planet. The idea of advancing humanity and stepping out into space sparked a movement for sustainability, and the idea of unifying countries gained some popularity.

While it was indeed far-fetched to think that that alone could change the face of the entire planet, there were people in power who supported the idea and conspired behind the scenes to make it happen. Long story short, after numerous wars, negotiations, and all kinds of peaceful and non-peaceful efforts, all the countries were united into the Six Nations in the span of a few decades.

Many things that people had once thought to be irreplaceable were simply shove aside by the unstoppable tides of change, and many lives were sacrificed in the process.

Such is civilization. People are like the sediments in the river,

destined to
go with the flow.

While maintaining the status quo is always easy, revolution
always comes
with pain and suffering. When comparing individual gain to
societal
improvement, it is natural for people to favor the former. Truly
selfless
people are rare creatures, otherwise selflessness would not be
seen as a
virtue. Statements such as “see, there are still good people in the
world” are
sad to hear.

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Nevertheless, change had come too soon to Aquamarine.

“The Battle of Andrea was the nail in the coffin. Sometimes, I
think about
the way we took our lives for granted. I miss how life was
peaceful back
then. Who would have thought that change could come so
suddenly? I

mean, even if the planet’s resources do end up being depleted,
wouldn’t that
be in a few hundred years from now? Why do we have to answer
for
something like that?” lamented Hu Xuan Jun.

Han Xiao sighed empathetically.

Chapter 15: Burglary

“Who knows, perhaps it was inevitable. Societal strife was
destined to reach
a boiling point. Maybe short-term pain is better than long-term
suffering.”

Han Xiao shrugged.

The Battle of Andrea set the post-unification landscape of the planet in stone.

Andrea was the name of a continent, once home to several nations. As the war developed, Andrea had, for some reason, become the proxy of the conflict. It was as though all the countries had agreed to settle things there once and for all, as though they were trying to contain the scale of damage inflicted onto the planet. However, billions of lives were lost as a result.

By the time the war ended, all that remained of Andrea was a desolate land of scorched earth and withered trees. Its rivers were left blighted, and the once fertile, lush landscape was no more. The Six Nations simply packed up and left as soon as the battle ended, ignoring the destruction that they had caused.

Han Xiao noticed an old blister on Hu Xuan Jun's palm.

"You used to be a soldier?" he asked.

"Yes, for over ten years."

"I thought that remnants like yourself would choose to join the Germinal Organization."

Hu Xuan Jun shook his head.

"My home country was peacefully annexed by Stardragon.

Soldiers like me didn't have any say. We simply follow the decision that our leaders made. I

do detest the Six Nations, but the Germinal Organization is no better. They popped out of nowhere to take advantage of our hatred for the Six Nations.

Sigh... I'm a simple man. All I want is to escape war.”

“War is cruel. My eyes were blinded by a flash grenade. My husband and I fled tirelessly before settling here. Even though life as a wanderer is not easy, it is better than war,” An chimed in.

As she finished speaking, the smell of meat filled up the tent, causing Han Xiao's mouth to water.

“How do you cook without being able to see?” he asked.

An puffed her cheeks.

“Don't look down on me! I might be blind, but I can still smell, hear, and feel! It's not like I don't have any limbs.”

Hu Xuan Jun smiled.

“She has a strong character. Won't even let me take care of her.”

“I don't want to be your baggage,” responded An meekly, prompting Hu Xuan Jun to scratch his head in embarrassment. He hurriedly changed the subject.

“Oh right, I'll let you take a look at my baby.”

Hu Xuan Jun opened a storage box beside him to retrieve an old-fashioned gun.

“Let's see if you know your guns,” he said proudly.

You can find the rest of this content on the platform.

Advertisement

Bayonet Musket (Old Era)

Grade: Average

Base Stats:

Damage: 38-40

Fire Rate: 0.9/s

Magazine Capacity: 20

Range: 200m Range

Power Output: 25

Durability: 5/300

Stat Bonus: +1 Dexterity

Length: 0.77m

Weight: 7.1kg

Additional Effects: Accurate

Remarks: This weapon has accompanied its master through countless battles.

“It is a fine gun,” praised Han Xiao. “Even though it has been used for so long, you still keep it well polished. The barrel is perfect. Truly a well-made gun.”

“This gun is my partner. He’s been with me for close to ten years,” laughed

Hu Xuan Jun. “It only looks new because I frequently oil it. The truth is that its workings have aged. It can’t be used anymore.”

The pair continued to chat until the sky darkened and An had finished cooking.

An had cooked a gigantic pot of creamy soup filled with tender meat and wild vegetables. Not only was it extremely fragrant and flavorful, it was also visually appetizing, and Han Xiao couldn't help but drool. Han Xiao gulped at the sight of the meat. He had had nothing good to eat for the past seven days! His closeness with Hu Jun Xuan was skyrocketing on the spot. +1! +1! +1!

The latest episodes are on the website.

After dinner, Hu Xuan Jun asked Han Xiao to stay for the night. Han Xiao decided to stay since he did not intend to travel at night anyway.

They laid a mattress for him and set up a partition.

“Your bag is too big. I'll put it outside,” said An.

“I'll do it myself.”

Before bringing his bag out, Han Xiao dismantled all the guns in his backpack to take out their triggers. He wrapped them in some animal skin that he got from Hu Jun Xuan and set the package in a corner. Han Xiao also loaded up his 73-WASP and placed it under his pillow. Of

course, he was not being weary of his warm hosts or anything like that. It

was simply important always to be prepared and alert.

As soon as Han Xiao's head hit the pillow, he instantly fell asleep. His snoring could be heard through the curtain. Hu Xuan Jun laughed as he shook his head.

“Looks like he's beat. Let's not disturb him.”

An nodded and proceeded to take the cutlery outside to wash.

“Uncle, uncle! I’m famished!”

Suddenly, a disheveled young man entered the tent. His entire face was covered in mud, and there was a swollen bump on his head. It was none other than the young man that Han Xiao had encountered this afternoon.

He was Hu Xuan Jun’s nephew, Hu Fei.

“Where have you been all day? I didn’t see you at all,” questioned Hu Xuan Jun.

“I— I went out hunting,” stammered Hu Fei.

Hu Xuan Jun could tell that his nephew was lying. He pulled Hu Fei’s ear and began to scold him in a strict but soft voice, “Are you up to your pranks again? I told you that I would f*cking chop them off if you took that broken shotgun to scare people again, didn’t I?”

Tears began to flow out of Hu Fei’s eyes as he filled up with indignance and pain. “Your nephew not only got bullied today, he was even tied to a tree for the entire day! I’m so tired and hungry, uncle, give me a break,” he thought.

“Please, uncle, don’t chop them off,” he bawled.

“Which leg do you want me to chop?”

“J-just don’t chop off my balls...”

“...”

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“You and your dirty mind! Don’t worry, I’ll chop them off for you since that’s what you want!”

Hu Xuan Jun was about to raise a hand to slap Hu Fei when he remembered that Han Xiao was sleeping. He let Hu Fei off with a warning. Noticing that there was someone else in the tent, Hu Fei peered beyond the partition to see who it was. When he saw Han Xiao, his jaw dropped.

‘Isn’t that the devil from this afternoon?’

“What are you looking at? Tonight, you sleep outside,” Hu Xuan Jun suddenly whispered from his side.

Hu Fei gave a start and fell backwards. He quickly scrambled out of the tent on all fours, leaving Hu Xuan Jun bewildered.

‘Is my face that hideous?’

...

“Why am I running away from my own home? This is the perfect chance to get my revenge!” realized Hu Fei as he stopped in his tracks. He proceeded to turn back to return to the tent, instantly changed his mind at the thought of Han Xiao’s scary face.

“Hu Fei, ah, Hu Fei, show some guts!”

As he began to formulate a plan he recalled that there was a package in the tent that he had never seen before.

“It must be his!”

...

Hu Fei waited until midnight, when everyone had gone to bed. He tiptoed into his own house and picked up the package.

“Hehe. What do we have here?”

When Hu Fei unfolded the package, his eyes widened in disbelief.

Guns!

High quality guns!

“I can’t take them all...”

Hu Fei picked out two 73-WASPs.

Follow current_novel on

“Forget it. Since my uncle is playing host to you, I’ll only take two as compensation!”

He wrapped the remaining guns up and returned the package to its original position.

“It’s only two guns. He probably won’t notice.”

Chapter 16: Misfortune

Han Xiao woke up the next morning fully recovered.

“Brother Han, you’re awake,” greeted Hu Xuan Jun, who was doing his morning exercises outside the tent.

Although Han Xiao was somewhat unwilling to bid farewell to the kindhearted couple, he knew that he had to leave.

“I am indebted to you. Unfortunately, I need to leave now. I will repay you in the future.”

“I’ve made some pancakes; you can eat them while traveling,” said An as she handed a small package over to Han Xiao.

The warmth from the pancakes flowed into Han Xiao’s hands, resonating with his heart.

“I slept well last night. Thank you for everything.”

“Ha ha. Don’t mention it. Just helping a brother in need,” replied Hu Xuan Jun sincerely.

Han Xiao went to gather his belongings. When he went to fetch

the bundle
of guns, he noticed that the leaf he had placed on it the night
before had
fallen off.

“Someone has touched my stuff.”

“That’s not possible!” Hu Xuan Jun was alarmed. “An and I
didn’t—hold
on! Hu Fei! Get your ass over here right now!”

Hu Fei, who had been eavesdropping from behind the tent,
walked out.

“You again?”

Hu Fei averted his eyes to the ground.

Hu Xuan Jun kicked his nephew in the butt.

“Did you steal again? Hand it back right now!”

Hu Fei bit his lips and grudgingly took out a 73-WASP handgun
from his
clothes.

“Brother Han, do as you deem fit! This kid deserves a beating.”

“It’s okay. Everything is fine as long as I get the gun back. My
guns will
bring you misfortune,” Han Xiao sighed a breath of relief.

“May we be fated to meet again. Farewell,” bid Han Xiao.

“Take care,” nodded Hu Xuan Jun.

Han Xiao picked up his backpack and departed.

“I will never forget this kindness,” he thought to himself.

“Bastard’s finally gone,” rejoiced Hu Fei. “Hehe, he didn’t
realize that I
stole two guns.”

For more_novel, visit

He slipped to the back of the tent where he had hidden the other
handgun in
a box.

“Even if he comes back, I just have to deny that I have it.”

“But... why does this gun have no trigger?”

...

The map that Han Xiao had obtained had been crudely drawn.

However,

Han Xiao was able to learn his current position from it and that sufficed.

He was currently in the country of Stardragon, and by his estimations, it

would take him just three more days to reach the main road.

There, he could

hitch a ride to the city.

In the afternoon, Han Xiao found a spot to eat and replenish his stamina.

As he unpacked his guns to return them to his backpack, he

suddenly

discovered that something was amiss.

There seems to be a missing gun.

Han Xiao recounted to confirm his suspicions. He immediately

dispelled

any thoughts of lunch and hastily packed up to retrieve it.

...

No. 1 and his men arrived at the encampment right after Han Xiao had left.

They rounded up the wanderers and were holding them at gunpoint.

“Has anyone seen this man?”

No. 1 projected a holographic face in mid-air using a device on his wrist.

It was none other than Han Xiao.

“No.”

“Never seen him before.”

Everyone denied seeing him.

They knew that the Germinal Organization would not dare to do anything to them.

Wanderers were a neutral faction, and both the Six Nations and the Germinal Organization were always trying to win their support. Only one wanderer was trembling uncontrollably for some reason. No. 1 was in a foul mood, having been in pursuit of Han Xiao for 7 days

before arriving at this encampment. If the people here had not seen Han Xiao, it meant that he had gone in the completely wrong direction. “Withdraw!” ordered No. 1. However, just as he was about to board the car,

he noticed the shaking Hu Fei.

“Bring that kid here!”

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Hu Fei was dragged to No. 1.

No. 1 squinted at him and asked, “Do you know this person?”

“No, I don’t.” Hu Fei shook his head repeatedly.

No. 1 noticed an out-of-place outline in his clothes and ordered, “Search his body!”

Hu Fei was pressed to the ground and watched in horror as the 73-WASP was taken from him.

“This is one of our guns!” exclaimed No. 1. He held the gun up to the crowd and shouted, “Zero has obviously been here. How dare you all try and lie!

Do you want to die?”

“Speak! Where has he gone!”

The terrified wanderers began to turn their eyes to the person who had first spoken to Han Xiao, Kai Luo.

Kai Luo was squatting in the corner like an ostrich.

“What are you guys looking at me for? All I did was sell him some stuff.

Ask Hu Xuan Jun! He definitely knows!”

Hu Xuan Jun stood up slowly in the crowd.

“I don’t know,” he declared.

Kai Luo, wanting to cast away the suspicion on him, retorted,

“How can you not know? You let him spend the night at your house!”

No. 1’s face darkened.

The other wanderers began to urge Hu Xuan Jun to say the truth.

“Hurry up and say what you know!”

“Do you want us to die because of some outsider?”

Hu Xuan Jun cursed Kai Luo under his breath before taking a deep breath to compose himself.

“That person went in that direction,” he said, pointing to the opposite of where Han Xiao had headed.

“You’re very good, you.”

Bang!

A hole appeared in Hu Xuan Jun’s forehead. He fell back and landed on the ground with a loud thud.

Hu Fei shrieked at the sight of his lifeless body.

Just... just like that?

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No. 1 stared at the Hu Xuan Jun’s dead body. He would not hesitate to kill

anyone who helped Han Xiao.

“Old Hu?” An couldn’t see, but she could hear exactly what had transpired.

She stood up from the crowd and attempted to locate her husband.

Bang!

Her head exploded.

An’s body crumpled to the ground, landing an arm’s length away from her husband.

No. 1 sneered.

“Asked for it.”

Hu Fei was torn with regret.

His one moment of greed had caused all of this.

All the wanderers were stunned, unable to comprehend what had just happened.

Suddenly, No. 1’s transmitter lit up, projecting a holograph of the boss’s face.

“What the hell are you doing? Who gave you permission to kill?”

No. 1 instantly shrunk in fear. He hastily began to explain,

“These wanderers lied to us, so I was just trying to teach them a lesson.

We’ll depart right now.”

“Forget it. Since you’ve already started it, end it properly. Don’t let news of this get out.”

No. 1 nodded and gave a signal.

...

Dusk had fallen.

Han Xiao was finally reaching the encampment. Suddenly, the smell of blood filled his nose, causing his heart to sink.

“I’m too late.”

Han Xiao entered the encampment to a gruesome sight. It was the aftermath of a bloodbath.

He spotted Hu Xuan Jun and An’s lifeless bodies, causing him to shake with rage.

Suddenly, a figure began got up from the ground. It was the big bearded merchant who had attempted to scam Han Xiao.

Kai Luo had fainted at the start of the massacre, and it ended up saving his life. Before he could rejoice, however, he noticed that there was someone looking at him. When he saw that it was Han Xiao, he began to tremble in fear.

Han Xiao walked over to him and grabbed his collar.

New_chap_ters are pub_lished on

“Tell me what happened here!”

“It was the Germinal Organization! The Germinal Organization!

They

killed us because we wouldn’t tell them where you went! Ah!

They

massacred us! You must take revenge for us, for Hu Xuan Jun!”

Chapter 17: Kill

“Ugh... cough...”

Han Xiao suddenly heard another person making feeble noises.

He followed

the sound and found Hu Fei, who was riddled with 5 or 6 bullet

holes. He

was on the brink of death.

When he saw the handgun clutched in Hu Fei's hand, Han Xiao understood

exactly what had transpired. Mixed emotions filled him.

"I told you the gun was dangerous... but you didn't listen..."

Hu Fei clutched onto Han Xiao's pants with a shaking hand. The sight of

him crying was heartbreaking.

"I shouldn't have been so greedy! I— I regret it so much... I was wrong... I

was wrong..."

Hu Fei weakly lifted a finger to point at Kai Luo.

"Don't believe him... he betrayed my uncle..."

Hu Fei spurted out a big mouthful of blood.

"I will help you end your misery," said Han Xiao, shaking his head.

Crack!

"Don't listen to h—"

Before Kai Luo could finish his sentence, Han Xiao fired a shot. A hole

appeared in his head.

Kai Luo's body collapsed to its knees.

"Everyone is dead. You should join them, too."

Han Xiao closed his eyes tightly.

Although Han Xiao's killing intent was skyrocketing, it was being restrained by his logic, much like a caged tiger. The cooler he appeared, the

hotter he would erupt.

Han Xiao walked over to Hu Xuan Jun's body. His finger was still outstretched, pointing towards some car trails.

The exact opposite of where he had headed to!

Hu Xuan Jun had not sold him out.

Han Xiao's heart ached.

Even until the end, Hu Xuan Jun had looked out for him, an outsider.

You have activated a Class-E Quest

The latest episodes are on the website.

[Revenge]

Quest Hint: Eliminate the Test Subject Squad

Quest Reward: 15,000 Experience

Han Xiao left the couple's side and walked into the tent to retrieve Hu Xuan

Jun's prized bayonet musket. For a second, it seemed to glow and call out to

Han Xiao.

"You want to avenge your partner, right?"

Han Xiao took all the guns in his bag and lay them beside the bayonet

musket. He began to dismantle them and use their parts to

remodel the

bayonet musket.

Han Xiao's Basic Assembly and Basic Enhancement were both Lv. 10.

Although the names of these two abilities were very simple, they were

indispensable abilities of a Hero.

Bayonet Rifle (Modified)

Grade: Average

Base Stats:

Damage: 66-69

Fire Rate: 1.1/s

Magazine Capacity: 10

Effective Range: 450

Power Output: 37

Bonus Stats: +2 Dexterity

Length: 0.86m

Weight: 8.3kg

Additional Effect: Accurate – Wind effects reduced.

Additional Effect: Piercing – Modified to use large-caliber ammo for higher penetration.

Description: It hungers for vengeance.

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Han Xiao counted his sniper bullets. There were 25, all looted from Silver Blade.

As there seemed to have only been two cars, there was probably not more than twelve enemies.

Han Xiao began to give chase into the forest.

He knew that it would be impossible to catch up with a car, but that was not Han Xiao's intention at all.

There was a high chance that they would realize they had been lied to and head back. Hence, Han Xiao planned to ambush them when they inevitably retraced their steps.

Although if Han Xiao fled in the opposite direction he would be able to shake them off once and for all, an inner voice told him that he would regret it.

The quest itself was irrelevant. This was personal.

“Germinal!” spat Han Xiao hatefully.

...

The forest was pitch black at night, making it hard to even see one’s fingers.

Wolves howled in the distance.

Han Xiao had been lying in wait for almost three hours.

Suddenly, the sound of engines approached. Han Xiao’s face twitched. Four

headlights appeared in the distance.

“Finally...” mumbled Han Xiao calmly.

He put on one of the Night Owl Squad’s night vision goggles and spotted the outline of two cars.

He then cocked the rifle and held his breath to aim.

After eight seconds, he pulled the trigger.

In an instant, the sniper bullet travelled across hundreds of meters to strike a tyre on the front car, causing it to explode.

The car crashed into a tree.

“Do you even know how to drive?” cursed a dazed No. 1.

“Leader, the tire exploded.”

“How can a low-pressure tyre explode?”

One of the squad members knelt down to investigate the tyre.

“There’s a bullet lodged in here!” he suddenly exclaimed.

“Ambush!”

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Suddenly, the agent closest to No. 1 was blown up in the head by a sniper

bullet. His blood splattered all over No. 1.

“Get down!” he yelled.

The agents hurriedly dropped to the ground. A suffocating silence

ensued.

They were all terrified. Only No. 1 was able to contain his nerves and he immediately called for reinforcements.

The Test Subject Squad was pinned. None of them dared to move.

“Who is ambushing us?”

“No idea!”

“It’s so dark here. He must have night-vision goggles!”

“What do we do now?”

“Just lie in wait I think... until reinforcements arrive.”

No. 1 suddenly exploded. “Are you stupid? Won’t he escape then?”

The

enemy is one, why are we so afraid of him? What will the

Organization

think of us?”

The faces of his teammates instantly changed.

“It’s just one enemy! We have cars, guns, and the advantage in numbers.

How can we lose?” No. 1 added.

“Right...! We need to counterattack!”

“Ascertain the sniper’s position!”

One squad member plucked up the courage to reveal himself,

hoping to bait

the sniper into revealing his location. However, the sniper was

faster than

he could imagine. He was instantly shot. The force of the impact

alone

caused his body to fly back several metres.

No. 1 felt a chill run down his spine. Who is this godlike sniper?

The agent’s death had not been in vain. One squad member was

able to

catch the muzzle flash of Han Xiao’s rifle.

“I’ve found him! 300 meters south!”

“Get in the car!”

Han Xiao could see them get up and run towards the other vehicle.

He instantly understood their plan.

There were seven enemies displayed on the thermal imaging.

They seemed to be betting on the slow firing rate of a sniper, and were willing to sacrifice one or two to get to the vehicle.

Han Xiao decided not to rush. He calmly fired two more shots to kill two more of them before the rest hopped onto the vehicle. The vehicle’s engine roared as it charged towards him.

All of a sudden, Han Xiao’s situation seemed to turn for the worse. However, he still appeared calm.

The best tactic, he mused, is also the most predictable one.

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Chapter 18: Bigger Than You

Imagined

“Go to hell!” screamed No. 1 as he stepped on the pedal, not noticing several grenades hanging from mid-air in their path.

The vehicle came to a sudden stop as it ran into the rope that Han Xiao had tied between two trees. The two trees were almost uprooted by the force of the crash, and, the agents in the vehicle were tossed around like rag dolls.

Immediately after, the grenades exploded, setting the night ablaze. The

bulletproof windshield was heavily cracked by the shrapnel.

It was a simple, yet devastating trap.

Han Xiao tossed the night-vision goggles away as soon as the grenades exploded. The fire from the blast gave him all the vision that he needed. He

began to fire. The rifle was so powerful that each shot caused Han Xiao's entire upper body to shudder in recoil.

Han Xiao was firing at the windscreen, and from the pattern that the windscreen cracked, it was clear that Han Xiao was aiming for the driver,

No. 1.

No. 1 gritted his teeth and yanked the person next to him up to use as a shield. In the next instant, the windscreen shattered, and the poor guy's brains blew up in his face.

“Get out of the car!”

The remaining agents hastily jumped out of the car. In his rage, No. 1 began to spray wildly with a submachine gun. His teammates blindly followed suit.

Han Xiao ceased shooting to reload.

Bullets whizzed past in Han Xiao's surroundings, but Han Xiao knew that they did not know his exact location. They were simply panicking.

He patiently waited for them to reload.

The agents soon realized that they had acted too rashly, but it was too late –

Han Xiao now had the initiative.

Bang! Bang! Bang!

There was a strangely beautiful rhythm to Han Xiao's shots. As his comrades began to fall one after another, No. 1 started to tremble. As

he wildly fired, he screamed, "Who the hell are you! Show yourself!"

His confidence had been completely and utterly destroyed.

Click click click...

He ran out of ammo once more.

This content is taken from

"Show yourself!"

Suddenly, Han Xiao walked out into the clearing.

No. 1's eyes widened in shock

"H-h-how can it be!"

Never in his wildest dreams would he have expected Han Xiao to counterattack. He had, in his hubris, thought for sure that Han Xiao was

fleeing for dear life. Despite all the facts proving otherwise, he had stubbornly refused to believe that Han Xiao was better than him.

Now, it

finally dawned upon him.

Zero was way stronger than him.

His false sense of superiority was instantly replaced by jealousy.

"I am the better test subject! You are the failure! A failure!"

He pulled a handgun out and attempted to shoot, but Han Xiao was faster. A

sniper bullet tore through No. 1's entire right arm.

As No. 1 slowly turned to look at the right side of his body in horror.

Han Xiao fired again, this time at No. 1's leg, causing him to collapse to the

ground. He then took his time to reload before continuing to maim his remaining limbs.

No. 1 lay helplessly on the ground as he stared at Han Xiao hatefully.

“ZERO!” he screamed hoarsely, like a wounded beast.

“Keep quiet.”

Han Xiao strode forward to No. 1 to give him a vicious kick in his jaw.

“Wanna know why I left you for last? Because I don’t want you to enjoy a quick death.”

No. 1 was writhing on the ground, unable to reply. Blood was continuously spurting out of his wounds.

Suddenly, the communication device on his severed arm lit up. A holograph of the leader appeared in mid-air.

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“Zero, that’s enough,” he said.

Han Xiao frowned.

“I am the leader of the Germinal Organization,” he introduced.

“Do you think you can truly escape from us? No matter where you go, the

Germinal Organization will find you. However, I can give you a chance to live.”

“How?” asked Han Xiao plainly.

“Return to the organization obediently. I will allow you to retain your memories. You will be given a position you deserve,” answered the boss.

He was truly fascinated by Han Xiao's strength.

No. 1's face grew livid at his leader's words. How could he treat

Zero so

well after all the men that he had killed?

Han Xiao glanced at No. 1 and replied tauntingly, "You want to

rope me in

even after I've killed so many of your people?"

"A bunch of failures. Their deaths are not worth mourning," the

boss replied

instantly.

No. 1 shuddered.

"What makes you think I want to work under you?"

"We are destined to accomplish greater things. Join us. What's

there to

hesitate? Oh, I know. Is it because you are still unhappy with

how we

treated you before? Don't be so petty, think of the bigger picture.

Such

things are trivial when compared to our ultimate goal."

Han Xiao replied coldly, "I have no interest whatsoever in your

ideology.

You killed my friends, so you are my enemy. That is all."

"If you refuse to join us, there will not be a place for you in this

world!"

threatened the boss.

"I will destroy you all," Han Xiao declared.

It was the only solution.

The boss burst out in laughter.

"Destroy us? What do you think you are? You are just a small,

pitiful ant

that we can squash whenever we want. Did killing a few lowly

grunts make

you think that you are invincible now? Childish!”

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“Wait and see then. The world is bigger than you can imagine.”

Han Xiao shook his head and raised his gun. He fired three shots aimed at

No. 1’s heart.

The test subject squad no longer existed!

The boss’s mask could not conceal his fury.

“You’ll regret this,” he coldly warned before ending the transmission.

Advertisement

You have killed the No. 1 , the Valkyrie Experiment Test Subject, gaining

900 experience.

You have completed [Revenge], gaining 15,000 experience.

Crack!

Suddenly, the bayonet rifle came apart.

The SWP sniper rifle that Han Xiao retrieved from the test subject squad

had the prerequisite of the [Sniper] ability, so Han Xiao

dismantled it to fix

the bayonet rifle.

Han Xiao had gained a total of 20,000 experience tonight.

As the Germinal Organization would surely come for him, Han

Xiao

needed to find a hiding place. He was indeed still too weak to

take them

head-on. The wealth of information that he carried over from the game was

his trump card.

In order to make good use of it, Han Xiao needed to seek the aid of a power as mighty as the Organization.

The Six Nations!

Stardragon, Maple, Theseus, Raylen, Hesla, and Ordina.

Since he was already in Stardragon, and they were the most peaceful of the six nations, there could be no better choice.

For more_novel, visit

Chapter 19:

chapterlist:chaptername ,000,000

Bounty! Class A Mission!

The next morning, the boss, Hila, and a group of staff arrived at the wreckage of the battle.

The boss snorted coldly at the sight of No. 1's corpse.

“Useless trash.”

“All of them are dead,” reported a researcher after they gathered all the bodies.

The leader gazed thoughtfully at the mountain range in the distance.

“Issue a bounty under the name of the Organization.

% 1,000,000, dead or alive,” he suddenly ordered.

Hila and the rest of the group were shocked by his decision.

The Germinal Organization was the kingpin of the underworld, and they had not needed to issue a bounty for the past three years. Was it really necessary to do so for a lowly traitor?

“My leader, you seem to overrate him. Zero barely managed to escape by the skin of teeth. What threat can he pose to us?”

“Hmph. That bastard actually dared to declare war against us, so I will make him pay for his arrogance! I will crush him! If Zero is captured alive, use all available means to extract his secrets! If he is killed, then dissect his body to figure it out!”

“What about those people?” asked the researcher as he pointed towards the corpses.

The boss was about to order them to be disposed of when a thought crossed his mind.

“How’s the preparation for the super soldier project?” he asked.

“The basic theory has been perfected. We are about to proceed with cell and animal testing. We should be able to remove any side effects and carry out human experimentation in eight months—”

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“Skip the testing. Proceed with human experimentation immediately,”

interrupted the boss.

“Erm... the risks are too huge. Only Valkyrie test subjects can endure the procedure, and there aren’t many of them. Rushing things might be unproductive.”

“Experimentation can only create cannon fodder. Only vengeance can

create true monsters,” he replied enigmatically.

“He is the perfect subject,” he added, pointing at No. 1. “Hatred will fuel him. No pain will stop him from his desire for revenge.”

“I see.”

The researcher nodded.

“Summon his soul,” the boss ordered Hila.

Hila exhaled deeply before raising her hands in the air. They began to glow in a grayish light as the surrounding temperature instantly dropped.

Suddenly, ghostly wailing resonated in their surroundings, and No. 1’s body seemed to respond to the cries.

A gray, misty cloud of fog began to materialize above No. 1 before flowing into his orifices.

The boss unfurled his jacket to retrieve a vial of crimson red fluid. Hila’s expression changed when she saw the red fluid. Her eyes flickered with killing intent for a moment. She had to force herself to suppress her emotions.

Aurora Reviving Drug.

An extremely powerful healing drug made from her sister’s bone marrow extract!

The boss poured the fluid over No. 1.

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The fluid seeped into his body, and what followed next could only be called miraculous. No. 1 began to regain his color, and his wounds

started to regenerate. The damage to his jaw was reversed, and limbs began to form out of his stumps.

No. 1 suddenly opened his eyes. His face was twisted in agony.
” Zero! “

You have unlocked reputation with the Germinal Organization faction!

Your reputation with the Germinal Organization has dropped by 1000!

Germinal Organization: Hated (Traitor)

You have triggered the Class A quest, [A Seedling in the Dirt].

Quest Synopsis: Freedom is priceless, and you have risked your life to earn it, but your troubles are not over yet. The Organization has put a bounty on your head. You will be hunted down for the rest of your day. You may have escaped, but your prison has simply grown larger. In order to obtain true freedom, there is only one path. You know what to do!

Quest Tip: This quest is an achievement quest. You will be rewarded based on the amount of damage and destruction you cause to the organization.

Current achievement rate: 0%

Note: Your achievement rate may not be fixed. Your achievement rate may drop. You may also choose to finish the quest at any time. If your achievement rate is less than 20%, you will fail the quest. If your achievement rate is higher than 20%, you will be rewarded based on your

achievement tier.

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Generally speaking, Class B and higher quests were main quests related to key events. In Version 1.0, the key event on Planet Aquamarine was the clash between the Six Nations and the Germinal Organization, and players were allowed a choice of ally.

From Han Xiao's memory, there had been quite a number of players who had allied with the Germinal Organization. This meant that he would have to face up against them eventually.

Although the Germinal Organization neither won nor lost, they did suffer huge losses. Han Xiao realized that he would have to watch out for competitors – there were many factions fighting against the Germinal Organization.

Han Xiao felt that having to contribute 20% of the total damage done was asking too much. Nevertheless, he accepted the quest without hesitation—there was no harm in trying.

This is the main quest line.

In Version 1.0, the events of Aquamarine were heavily centered around the Germinal Organization. Since Han Xiao would have get stronger on the planet anyway, he would definitely become involved in the war. During the character creation process of Galaxy, the system

would ask the player to input his preferences, such as the type of planet or class they would enjoy. From their answers, they would be sent to a planet that suited them. This was a key feature of the game and attracted many players. Some people simply liked exploring the universe and experiencing different kinds of civilizations. Aquamarine was a more ‘realistic’ science-fiction city-style planet modeled after Earth itself.

The truth was that Han Xiao could just hide himself in the wilderness and wait until the Germinal Organization weakened. However, while this ensured his safety, he wouldn’t be able to get stronger.

When the main plot of the planet unfolded, there would be an influx of quests and missions. With Han Xiao’s knowledge of the game gave him an unfair advantage.

3 days later, Han Xiao finally emerged from the forest. The forest was situated within Stardragon territory, which made the fact that the Germinal Organization dared to setup a base here quite surprising. Perhaps, the safest place is where the enemy least expects them to be.

Han Xiao walked for a while more before seeing railway tracks. He hopped onto a freight train that was on its way to deliver livestock to the Western Capital.

As the wilderness was fraught with danger, and war seemed like it would break out at any moment, most of the public roads connecting Stardragon's cities had been blockaded. Resources were transported mainly by freight.

Stardragon's cities were all enclosed in giant electric metal fences. Two days later, Han Xiao could spot the giant enclosure through the window in his carriage.

The source of this chapter;

He swept aside the hens jumping around him to make space to stand up and take a better look.

Stardragon, Western Capital. Division 13, here I come!

“Cock-a-doodle-doo—”

Chapter 20: Illegal Entry

Stardragon—one of the Six Nations. The majority of Stardragon's population was comprised of yellow people, and its national symbol was a celestial dragon.

The bad blood between Stardragon and the Germinal Organization can be traced back to the Battle of Andrea, where the Germinal Organization had colluded with other enemies of Stardragon to launch large-scale assaults on its cities during the crucial period of the war. Casualties numbered in the hundreds of thousands, and Stardragon had been forced to recall all its forces. Back then, it had severely weakened their status as one of the Six

Nations.

All of Stardragon's cities were barricaded by great electric fences of barbed wire, and the only way to enter any city was through a main gate. The freight train arrived at the open-air train station connected to the entrance of the city. The area was like a military base – there were bunkers and watchtowers guarded by the army. Troops were stationed in every corner.

Over a thousand wanderers alighted onto to the station square. They began to queue up for the inspection. Only those confirmed not to possess weaponry or carry infectious diseases were permitted to enter. The Six Nations all welcomed wanderers. The war had caused a lack of manpower and talent.

Han Xiao needed to find a way to evade inspection. The Germinal Organization had offered a bounty for him, so things could go awry if he were to be recognized. While his aim was to get in touch with Division 13, he could not risk being exposed before then. Fortunately, there existed a way.

Back in the game, players that were wanted by a country simply had to pay a smuggler NPC a fee to be sneaked in.

There was a very inconspicuous man in a corner of the station. He was neither queuing up to enter, nor seemed to be waiting for anything in

particular.

This man was the ringleader of the smuggling business, and normally, he would only serve people who were trusted in their network. Suddenly, he noticed a frail-looking man coming up to him. It was none other than Han Xiao.

“Is it safe?” he asked.

The ringleader looked up at Han Xiao. It was a face he did not recognize.

“Safe?” the ringleader played dumb.

“I’ll pay with these – enough?”

Try the [platform](#) for the most advanced [reading](#) experience. Han Xiao tossed his backpack to the ringleader. He opened the bag up to take a look inside.

Holy shit! So many guns! Which syndicate is this young master the boss of?

As guns were prohibited in the western capital, Han Xiao had to dispose of them one way or the other.

“Enough, definitely enough.”

“Where did you learn about my business?” he curiously asked.

“That’s none of your business.”

The ringleader took no offence to Han Xiao. He knew that he had been too inquisitive in his excitement. He got up and asked Han Xiao to follow.

Han Xiao was led to a van parked outside the station. There were already a few passengers on board, and when he arrived, he became the center of

attention. Han Xiao found a spot and sat down quietly. The windows of the van were plastered with black tape. The van would bring them to a secret military side-entrance. As long as the price was right, the officer in charge would turn a blind eye.

A short young man was sitting beside Han Xiao. Bored, and seeing that Han Xiao seemed like an easygoing person, the young man spoke to him.

“Little brother, your first time to the western capital?”

Han Xiao glanced at him and replied, “Yeah, it is. How should I address you?”

“Ma Jie, you?”

“Han Xiao.”

“Hannie, since it’s your first time to the Western Capital, I shall introduce you to the city. The Western Capital is divided into eight districts. District 1

is the seat of the government, and where the officials reside. No one is allowed to enter there. The other seven districts each have their own attractions, but they are all secretly controlled by big shots in the underworld. Remember, never offend any of them, or else you might lose your life.”

Han Xiao sighed inwardly. The underworld referred to illegal operations like drugs, prostitution, trafficking, and mercenaries. These ‘big shots’ that Ma Jie mentioned were actually just small-time hoodlums. Ma Jie

was
clearly trying to brag.

You can find the rest of this content on the platform.

“What about the army?” asked Han Xiao.

“Heh, what can they do? Do you expect them to raid the districts?”

My
cousin is the right-hand man of one of the bosses in the
underworld. I came

here to seek—cough—help him,” boasted Ma Jie.

“Wow, you’re so cool,” replied Han Xiao.

Being praised sent Ma Jie over the moon.

“Of course! My cousin is quite the figure in western capital. Have
you ever
heard of his great name, The Leopard? Oh, right, it’s your first
time here.

Are you here to seek refuge with relatives?”

“No, I’ve come to find a job and settle down,” Han Xiao chose a
random
answer.

“What do you say—wanna come with me? Follow my brother
and you will
have a bright future!”

Ma Jie suddenly became animated.

Han Xiao rejected his offer, but Ma Jie was not easily dissuaded.

“Let me tell you what ordinary life is like in the city. Two words
– poverty
and sadness! Do you want to eat spoiled food everyday? The Six
Nations are
just putting on a show to welcome wanderers like you. The truth
is that they
could hardly give a damn about you! If you follow me, I can
guarantee that
you’ll be fed well for the rest of your life!”

“No thanks.”

Han Xiao’s repeated refusals clearly upset Ma Jie.

“Fool! You’ll regret this. Don’t come crying to me in the future.”

Han Xiao ignored the idiot and turned away. Ma Jie glared at him.

...

A while later, the van stopped in front of what seemed to be a closed tunnel.

You can find the rest of this content on the platform.

There was an officer waiting for them on the other side of the fence in the tunnel. He opened the passageway to let them in upon receiving payment from the ringleader.

“Follow the officer, he will bring you to the outskirts of the city.”

The officer silently led them through the compound. When they finally stepped out into the sun, they were greeted by a line of skyscrapers in the distance.

As the group scattered, Ma Jie glared at Han Xiao one more time before going on his way.

As Han Xiao walked on the streets, he noticed that his tattered clothes were gaining a lot of attention. Without any money to quench his thirst, he had to look for a public water dispensary. All he had to his name was a seven-day stench.

Of course, none of it actually posed a problem to him.

...

Half an hour later, Han Xiao emerged from a shopping mall

dressed in a
white shirt and black pants. There was a cigarette in his mouth.

You have unlocked a new ability: Lv. 1 [Steal]!

[Steal]: Increases your success rate when stealing

In his previous life, many real life skills had practical use in the
game. For

example, someone who had a military background would have an
easier

time grasping shooting-related abilities in the game.

As the saying goes, one can never learn too many tricks. Han Xiao

only

acquired skills in thievery as a means of self-defense against

thieves...

Me, a thief? Hey hey, don't accuse me of stealing if you don't
have proof! I,

the venerable Han, am a law-abiding, state-loving citizen. Back

in

secondary school and high school, I was always the model student!

I was in

the top 3 every year! People always praised me for being a

righteous young

man, plus I've never even peeked on a girl before, much less steal!

As for now— cough, cough —I'm just borrowing some money

from a

kindred soul out of desperation. You feel me bro?