

Oh My God 301

Chapter 301: Able to Achieve Success One Way or Another

Fortunately, Mr. Jin did not want to offend the Shen family, Lu family disciples, as well as children who worked in Sky Pillar Corporation and Universe Corporation.

After he sized them up once, like a lion out on a hunt, he shifted his gaze away.

Everyone sighed in relief. It was only then that they realized that their backs were covered in cold sweat, and their shirts stuck to their bodies.

Even Lu Siya did not say anything to Meng Chao. She followed Shen Yupeng and his group out of Golden Tooth Lair.

Once they got through the market and returned to the wide road, the air suddenly felt much fresher, and Meng Chao felt as if he had stepped into another world.

Shen Yupeng shoved Small Insect into an airtight van. Then, he told Meng Chao that he would immediately look for a place to interrogate him so that he could get the crucial clues and be able to carry out an operation against the instigator from Heavenly Works Machines.

If everything went smoothly, he would contact Meng Chao before midnight. After all, Meng Chao was the one who discovered the super Giant Sandworm and Small Insect. He could be considered as one of the people involved in the case. Based on procedures, they had to provide information to fill him in on the situation.

Shen Yupeng hoped that there would be no need to bother the youth with anything more.

Meng Chao agreed to it readily. He asked Shen Yupeng to contact him at any time he wanted and agreed that he wanted to get the newest information as soon as possible.

After he sent Shen Yupeng away, he turned his head around and noticed that Lu Siya was still glaring at him.

Meng Chao rubbed his nose.

Lu Siya had always given him the feeling that she was incredibly domineering and always had victory in her grasp.

Even when she was betrayed by Lin Chuan, she was more sad than angry.

He had never seen her this angry before.

Meng Chao thought about it and asked tentatively, "Looks like we can't be friends anymore, huh?"

"At least you know your place," Lu Siya said coldly.

"Got it. I'll disappear now." Meng Chao turned around and took two steps forward before he suddenly thought of something. He turned around and asked, "Just to be sure, if I really have supper later with Shen Yupeng and hear something really shocking or a new development in the case, I don't need to tell

you about it, right? After all, we lied to each other, so no matter what else I say, you won't believe me, right?"

"Wait." Lu Siya narrowed her eyes. "Now that Shen Yupeng has Small Insect in his hands, with his abilities, he will definitely be able to find the instigator hiding in Heavenly Works Machines in less than twenty-four hours. Even if you manage to hear any shocking news, it'll be too late. What's the point even if you tell me?"

"Don't say that. Do you remember my theory when we first examined the corpses?" Meng Chao asked calmly. "I have a feeling that the case of murderous pets in Blessed Paradise is actually two cases. The first case is Jin Yongqiang from Heavenly Works Machines secretly getting his hands on mutated rabies and discreetly injecting it into the pets in his residential area so that they would go berserk and defame Spirit Creations Creatures. This case has basically been solved.

"The problem is, how did Jin Yongqiang end up dead, and why did his pet also have mutated rabies? Wasn't that pet a tool he bought to get closer to his neighbors? There was no reason for him to harm himself. If the mastermind in Heavenly Works Machines wanted to silence him, there was no need to choose this moment and this method to kill him, either.

"Besides, based on the information I obtained from the lacerations I saw on Jin Yongqiang's spine, the clues all point to another culprit, which is probably even more dangerous than Jin Yongqiang.

"The one who planned the first case is definitely someone from Heavenly Works Machines. Since he's a superhuman criminal, it's only logical that we should hand this case to the Supernatural Tower and adjudicator court. That's why I went to Shen Yupeng and told him everything.

"But my instincts are telling me that the second case is related to a really cunning and smart monster. It's the work of the abnormal beast research department, and I'm more inclined to work on this together with you.

"You can choose whether to believe me or not. Perhaps the second case is the real shocker, and it might be the best stepping stone for you to climb up the ranks of the abnormal beast research department. Compared to finding the person who killed Jin Yongqiang, Heavenly Works Machines is a really small fish."

Meng Chao did not lie to Lu Siya this time.

If the memories from his previous life were correct, the case was related to a Supernatural Entity, and the value of this fish was definitely much higher than of the Heavenly Works Machines case

Lu Siya was still angry. She snorted coldly but did not say anything.

"Alright. Looks like the trust between us is completely gone." Meng Chao shrugged. "Then, I will just have to force myself to work with Shen Yupeng to find the truth."

Before his voice could fade away, he turned around to leave.

He left resolutely. His footsteps were like the wind, and in the blink of an eye, he was already dozens of meters away.

Lu Siya caught up to him.

The biggest difference between her and normal rich ladies was that she had a determined heart.

In just five seconds, she had managed to compose herself. Once again, she started walking in her sneakers as if she was walking on high heels.

“You promise that you will tell me everything that Shen Yupeng said?” She seemed to have forgotten all that had happened just now.

“Yup,” Meng Chao said. “But Shen Yupeng knows about our relationship. He might not tell me super classified insider information.”

“It’s fine. Even if we don’t have information from Shen Yupeng, I will definitely turn the tables around!” Lu Siya bit down on her lip so hard that she left behind a row of teeth marks. She cast a deep glance at Meng Chao. “Where are you going to next?”

Meng Chao thought about it. “I’m going back to Agricultural University. If Shen Yupeng calls for me later, the time will be rather awkward for me. I’ve been busy for an entire day, and I haven’t eaten a proper meal. I’m thinking about looking for some restaurant and filling up my belly for now. Then, I’ll go to a 24-hour Ultimate Style Experience Center and cultivate for a few hours to reenergize myself.”

“Alright. Then we’ll eat first before we go and train.” Lu Siya decided on the plan.

“Wait. Are you thinking about going with me?” Meng Chao asked.

“Are you thinking about casting me aside now?” Lu Siya asked.

Meng Chao scratched his head. “That’s not what I meant. I just thought that you... suddenly became really passionate. Are you afraid that I’ll cast you aside and go to ride Shen Yupeng’s coattails?”

Lu Siya stared at him. “Will you?”

“You’re overthinking things.” Meng Chao smiled faintly. He pointed at his strong and powerful legs.

Lu Siya hesitated. “Are you saying that you have a wild and untameable personality and the dignity of someone powerful, so you intend to use your own legs to walk your own path and will absolutely not ride on anyone’s coattails?”

“No. What I mean is that I have two legs,” Meng Chao said seriously. “So, I will achieve success one way or another. I’m going to ride on your coattails with one leg, and I’m going to ride on Shen Yupeng’s coattails with the other leg. I’ll ride on both the Lu family and the Shen family, Sky Pillar Corporation and Universe Corporation, and the research department and adjudicator court’s coattails at the same time.”

Perhaps it was because she had not fully mastered her Spike Art, but after Lu Siya endured her anger for a long time, she was not able to summon a sharp spike to pierce Meng Chao’s crotch and kill him.

Instead, she brought Meng Chao to a members-only private restaurant she often frequented.

When she saw Meng Chao wolfing down food and eating like a lout who could not appreciate good food, she found herself regretting it a little. There was simply no need for her to bring Meng Chao to this sort of place so he would trample all over the delicacies she loved.

Meng Chao ate a lot.

His thoughts were not on the food that had all sorts of complicated tastes and was displayed as if it were the work of God.

Instead, his eyes were fixed on his tablet.

The news was about the gathering and rally of the supporters of biochemical modification technology.

Many of the homepages had photos of Xie Xiaolei, the creator of Spirit Creations Creatures. He appeared high-spirited and was waving his arm to call out to the people.

He had given a speech that was logical, supported by clear data, touching, and sensational.

This gained him countless netizens' support.

Many of the netizens turned into keyboard warriors and pointed out the various suspicious points in the case. They stated clearly in their posts that Spirit Creation Creatures might be a victim. Their technology threatened quite a number of people's interests, which was why one of them decided to use a brutal and violent way to sling mud on them... No, it would be more accurate to say that they decided to sling blood on them.

Even though Meng Chao could tell at first glance that there was someone controlling the comments, what they said was the truth.

Once the truth was revealed, he believed that Spirit Creation Creatures would definitely be able to enjoy riches. Their fame, the scale of their business, business deals, and the theories they proposed would all rise by a whole level.

"Strange." Meng Chao swiped his finger across the tablet for a long time before he suddenly frowned in contemplation.

"What are your instincts telling you?"

"It's nothing. I was just thinking, who could have possibly leaked the information about the case online?" Meng Chao thought about it some more. "The case is highly classified, so Spirit Creation Creatures and Heavenly Works Machines would not have spoken about it. There shouldn't have been that many details leaked outside.

"If the case wasn't revealed, such a violent debate wouldn't have stirred up online. The conflict between biochemical modification technology and runic symbol machines technology would not have become so intense. There wouldn't have been a gathering and rally today either."

Lu Siya thought about it as well. "Could it be that someone from Heavenly Works Machines leaked it so that they could defame Spirit Creation Creatures and use the pressure of public opinion to get the deal for the construction of Subway No.20?"

"That's what I originally thought, especially when I saw the post that angered the Agricultural University students. The bias was a little too clear," Meng Chao said. "But once I thought about it again, I couldn't help but wonder if the people from Heavenly Works Machines would really expose this when they already knew that a needle-shaped hole had been discovered in two of the biochemical pets' ear canals.

“They knew that it wasn’t an accident but murder. They also knew that this case had been handed to the Supernatural Tower and the adjudicator court. They should have been really fearful and alarmed. It’s meaningless even if they do something like this to provoke their opponents further. Then, are they struggling in their deathbed?”

“It’s impossible for them to not know that while they use public opinion to push Spirit Creation Creatures to the center of the storm, all the people who work in the biochemical modification field and those who support them would stand up together to face a common enemy. They would take out a lot of resources to support Spirit Creation Creatures so that they can figure out the truth.

“As criminals with an ulterior motive, Heavenly Works Machines shouldn’t have the motive to expose the case. The bigger the ruckus this causes, the less benefits they will get from it.

“Today, Spirit Creation Creatures might seem to be criticized and cursed all over the place. They might appear as victims, but once the truth of the case comes out, they will definitely be able to launch a counterattack, and their momentum will become even greater than before. If the case wasn’t leaked yesterday, the tides wouldn’t have turned to favor them this way, and they wouldn’t be able to produce such a dramatic effect!”

Chapter 302: Secret Police Squad

Lu Siya thought about it and asked, “Are you thinking that someone from Spirit Creation Creatures leaked the case yesterday night?”

“I don’t know. What do you think, based on your understanding of Xie Xiaolei?” Meng Chao shook his head.

Lu Siya pondered it for a moment. “It’s possible. Xie Xiaolei is really good at promoting things. He also loves taking the deviant path. If he believed that he is innocent, he would definitely not let go of the chance to increase exposure. But if he exposed it on his own, doesn’t this mean that he doesn’t have any ulterior motive? It doesn’t have any connection with the true criminal who killed Jin Yongqiang.”

“True. Looks like we will have to wait for Shen Yupeng’s results before we can do anything.” Meng Chao suddenly stopped as if he had thought of something.

Lu Siya quirked her eyebrows. “What is it?”

Meng Chao touched his belly and asked with a red face, “I’m sorry, Big Sis Ya. Do they have... non-counterfeit stuff here?”

“Non-counterfeit stuff?”

“You know, food that actually fills your belly. The one that you can eat happily until not a scrap is left.”

“... Weren’t you eating happily just now? I don’t see anything left on the plate.”

“I mean, I thought that those were cold dishes served before the main dish. I’ve been waiting for a long time, but I don’t see any real food coming over, so I decided to ask you about it.”

Meng Chao was not used to eating in a private restaurant reserved only for its members.

In the end, he went to the street food street in Nine Sands University City to eat to his heart's content.

He did not expect that Lu Siya would follow him, so he had to sneak around to make sure that his university mates did not see him. Otherwise, he would have to spend a lot of time explaining things to them.

There was a 24-hour Ultimate Style Experience Center in Nine Sands University City.

Meng Chao lay down in the cultivation cabin and let gene medicine as well as high-calorie nutritional fluid submerge his mouth and nose.

The medicine slowly filled his lungs and stomach through his nose and mouth. Then, it seeped into the thin capillaries through the 36,000 pores on his body.

He entered a deep meditative state as bioelectricity and the sparks of his thoughts clashed against each other.

When he picked up Shen Yupeng's call, it was no longer midnight, but five in the morning.

They were not going to eat supper together, after all. They were going to end up eating breakfast.

Lu Siya insisted on sending Meng Chao over. She also intentionally had him get out of her car in front of Shen Yupeng and the others.

Meng Chao did not know whether this was her staking claim over him in front of Shen Yupeng or whether she was telling Shen Yupeng that Meng Chao was hers.

He just smiled at this.

Any other normal university student would definitely have some sort of twisted ego after they managed to ride the coattails of a rich woman. They would feel like they were going to lose her at any moment, even though they had her at this moment. They would overthink things, and it would be impossible for them to treat the matter with a normal mind.

But Meng Chao had returned to the past from the apocalypse.

He had seen thousands of destructive stars shining above Dragon City.

He had seen the city built over half a century by tens of millions of people razed to the ground.

He had seen countless glorious buildings collapsing in an instant. Before the reinforced concrete could land on the ground, it was burned to a crisp by a tornado that was more than ten thousand degrees Celsius.

He had seen humans turn into charcoal after screaming their lungs out from pain.

He had seen countless souls escaping their torn bodies and instantly being wiped away by a spirit energy tsunami. In the end, not a single bit of them was left. Not even the signs of them laughing, crying, being happy, or being sad.

Meng Chao had seen too many things. At some point of time and from a certain angle, he had a really mature and profound heart.

To save Dragon City and create a bright future, he would ride Lu Siya's coattails without any burden in his heart and without batting an eyelid. He could even do it in a righteous manner.

But he was also wary of her ambitious nature and recklessness.

Yet after he set her up, he could even calmly return to ride on her coattails.

As for riding on both Lu Siya and Shen Yupeng's coattails at the same time? That was something simple and commonly seen.

However, riding their coattails was one thing. No matter, he still insisted on not changing his heart. He wanted to be a good citizen who loved Dragon City, defended his hometown, contributed to society selflessly, and had good morals.

Meng Chao walked into the congee restaurant where he agreed to meet with Shen Yupeng.

"Ms. Lu sent you?" Shen Yupeng asked. "Isn't she angry about what happened yesterday?"

Meng Chao nodded. "She is."

"Then..." Shen Yupeng hesitated. "Isn't that kind of bad? Would it affect your cooperation with her?"

"Ms. Lu didn't work together with me because I'm honest, loyal, or humorous." Meng Chao shrugged. "Until my skills and qualifications that make me worthy of working with her are present, I think that she will continue working with me."

"Meng Chao, you're really interesting."

Shen Yupeng laughed and led Meng Chao into the congee restaurant.

It was five in the morning, and the sky still looked like a gray layer of ice. There were not many pedestrians on the road. The restaurant owner snored lightly in a corner. There were only two women and one man sitting at one table. They looked like really skilful people.

They had already washed off the paint on their faces.

The bright light that shone in their eyes allowed Meng Chao to recognize them at first glance. They were some of the secret police officers and adjudicators who had gone with Shen Yupeng into Golden Tooth Lair.

If they could become secret police and adjudicators, it meant that they had above average strength.

Even though they had suppressed their vitality magnetic fields, Meng Chao could still sense the spirit energy ripples around them while they breathed. They danced and jumped about rhythmically.

"Red Tea, White Leaf, and Orchid. My right hands. They're really skilled subordinates."

Shen Yupeng then said with a smile, "This is Meng Chao. I don't think I need to introduce him to you lot."

The three names were clearly codenames.

The woman named Red Tea appeared to be in her twenties. She had a buzzcut, and her hair was really short, where the end of her hair was close to her scalp. After she entered the congee restaurant, she had never stopped chewing on a piece of gum.

Her army-green jacket was bumpy. Each of its pockets was filled with bullets and guns. Her arms were swollen with muscles. She wore a Sam Brown Belt around her waist and black combat boots. She looked like a gun maniac.

The one called White Leaf was a middle-aged man in his thirties and appeared quite elegant. His features were not prominent, as if someone had used diluted ink to draw his features. The moment Meng Chao looked away, he forgot what the man looked like. If White Leaf blended into a crowd, Meng Chao would never be able to find him.

Orchid was a pretty woman with long and narrow eyes. She gave off the air of a mature scholarly woman.

Her eyes occasionally shone at a mysterious rhythm. The sparks appeared like a coin that swayed constantly because of a hypnotist swinging it nonstop. No one could resist it and would just trust her.

'Red Tea is a gun expert. The man should be a tracking and information expert, while the last one should be skilled in mind attacks. The three of them are all at the peak of Earth Realm or might have even reached Heaven Realm.'

While Meng Chao thought of this, he sat down beside the four people and smiled. "Hello, everyone. Honestly speaking, this is the first time I'm in such close contact with the legendary secret police and adjudicators. It feels strange. I didn't expect that you'd eat century egg and minced pork congee as well."

His words caused Red Tea, the gun maniac with the buzzcut, to laugh. "What do you mean? Do you think that adjudicators don't need to eat?"

"No. I just..." Meng Chao thought about his words. "I heard of too many stories related to the secret police and adjudicators when I was young. Compared to the hunters who kill monsters, information about you guys is always in fragments, so you can't tell the truth apart from the lies. It makes you guys really mysterious. I heard that your identities are supposed to be top secret. Is it really okay for you to show me your real face?"

"It's not as exaggerated as you think," Shen Yupeng explained. "The adjudicator court is a law enforcement organization that is used to deal with internal enemies. A lot of the suspects we capture are famous superhumans who are really powerful. If we approach them with guns blazing, we'd bring ourselves unnecessary trouble. That's why we don't promote ourselves as flagrantly as hunters, but our identities are not 'top secret'. That's too much of an exaggeration."

Red Tea smirked. "Besides, how would you know that you're looking at our real faces right now?"

She was quite the wild person and carefree as a boy.

When Meng Chao was about to answer, he suddenly saw White Leaf's hand in his peripheral vision.

White Leaf was using his chopsticks to pick up a pork ball from his bowl.

When he saw Meng Chao staring at his hands, he could not help but say, "I'm sorry. I've been working through the night, so I'm really hungry now. I started eating before you even came here. You don't mind, right, Meng Chao?"

"I don't." Meng Chao appeared contemplative. "But you investigated me before?"

White Leaf was a little stunned and his pupils shrank swiftly.

Shen Yupeng stared at Meng Chao with interest. "What made you say that?"

"I saw Big Brother White's hands before," Meng Chao said. "When I was at the northern frontlines and went to the cafeteria on the last few days I was at the east lake base in Shattered Starlake, I ran into a student whose complexion was rather waxy. He sat near me a few times.

"Big Brother White, even though he was shorter by half a head compared to you right now and his palms were as coarse as sandpaper, the way you hold your chopsticks is exactly the same.

"This is a very professional stance. You don't look like you're holding chopsticks, but like you're holding a pen or a carving knife. Besides, when you pick up pork balls, you like to form half a circle to the left before you pick one up so that your pork balls are soaked in soup. That student should have been you, right, Big Brother White?"

Shock slowly appeared on White Leaf's vague features.

Shen Yupeng smiled and said, "Meng Chao, there are thousands of students eating at the same time in Shattered Starlake's cafeteria. You can't have possibly remembered the characteristics of everyone's hands and the way they pick up their vegetables, right?"

"Of course I can't remember everyone's habits," Meng Chao said. "But when someone is sneaking looks at me, I can sense it, so I put to memory the characteristics of those who are watching me. It's not something difficult.

"But I find this strange. I'm just a normal freshman and have just become a two-star superhuman. What exactly about me has caught the secret police's attention?"

Shen Yupeng cast a glance at Red Tea, White Leaf, and Orchid.

The four of them remained silent for a few seconds.

Red Tea was the first one to be unable to hold back. She laughed and pointed at White Leaf before she said, "Old Leaf, you even said that your disguises and tracking are second to none. You said that you can change into dozens of disguises in a day and talk to the same person without them noticing you, but it's all talk! Hahahaha!"

White Leaf looked frustrated and impressed. He glanced at his hand, which was what had exposed him, and smiled wryly before he said, "Meng Chao, now that you've said that, I won't dare to eat pork balls in the future."

"Don't mind it, Meng Chao. This is indeed not the first time we met," Shen Yupeng explained. "But at that time, the target of the investigation wasn't you. It's Lu Siya. Since you were hired, the procedure required us to investigate you as well."

“Lu Siya?” Meng Chao was slightly stunned. “Why?”

“Of course it’s due to the matter of my cousin and his entire team dying mysteriously under Raging Waves.” Shen Yupeng smiled and said, “Don’t you think that this is something worthy of careful investigation?”

Chapter 303: Just an Accident

Meng Chao’s expression did not change. “When you add the mine exploration teams from Sky Pillar Corporation and Universe Corporation together, you get dozens of people. They encountered a major underground explosion from a crystal mine, but in the end, only three people managed to escape. It’s something that is really worthy of investigation. So, did you find anything?”

“We did find some clues, but they don’t support the theory of Lu Siya killing Shen Yulong in secret. Later, the case was taken over by the abnormal beast research department. Due to Lu Siya’s unique status, we have to be extra careful. After all, she has a position in both Sky Pillar Corporation and the abnormal beast research department. In the end, the records for this case have been locked by the secret police,” Shen Yupeng said. “That’s why you don’t have to worry, Meng Chao. Our cooperation won’t be affected by Shen Yulong’s death.”

“I’ve never been worried, anyway. My hands aren’t stained with the blood of innocents.” Meng Chao looked at Orchid, who was skilled in mind attacks while saying those frank words. Then, he changed the topic. “Since you came to me so early in the morning, is it because you gained progress with the case of the murderous pets in Blessed Paradise?”

“Based on our rules, we shouldn’t leak information, but thanks to you, after working for an entire night, we’ve successfully captured a higher-up from Heavenly Works Machines, who, we believe, is the mastermind. Today, at ten in the morning sharp, the Supernatural Tower will organize a briefing of the case and tell the media about the case. So, even if we tell you this now, it’s fine.”

Shen Yupeng ordered a bowl of congee for Meng Chao and started wolfing down his own congee without caring about his image.

It was likely because he was really hungry and had worked overnight. There was stubble on his face, which took away some of the fierceness from his hook nose and the noble air he had because he came from a powerful family.

His wrinkled trench coat dragged on the floor, and he looked like the uncle-next-door you could find anywhere.

While he ate the congee, he talked tirelessly about the case.

“Most of your guesses were correct. Heavenly Works Machines has been competing for the construction deal of Subway No.20 with Spirit Creation Creatures, but they ran into some technical difficulties; they aren’t able to find the way to carve an ancient runic symbol, so there’s a lot of noise and tremors from their new tunnel boring machine. If they dug the tunnel under the river, accidents could happen at any time.

“Meanwhile, the modification of Giant Sandworms at Spirit Creation Creatures’ side was going great.

“During the previous two technical tests, Spirit Creations won out in seven out of ten technical indices, and there was a high chance that they would get the tempting deal.

“The higher-up from Heavenly Works Machines in charge of the development of the new tunnel boring machine and the tendering of construction deals chose to take risk and looked for Jin Yongqiang to think of something.

“He picked Jin Yongqiang because he often went to Golden Tooth Lair and had numerous social relationships. He had ways to get unorthodox tools and drugs. The second reason is because Jin Yongqiang is not a core member of the higher management in Heavenly Works. The department where he is located has nothing to do with the tendering of the construction deal. Besides, his financial situation is pretty bad, so it was easy for him to associate himself with bad elements.

“After Jin Yongqiang received an order and promise from the higher-up, he remembered the underground pharmacist he got to know at Golden Tooth Lair, who is Mr. Liao, nicknamed Small Insect.

“At the end of last year, the two of them had offended Black Bone due to creating illegal drugs that cause monsters to go berserk just so that they could cheat during the monster fights. One of them had his legs broken, while the other came to owe a major debt. They could be said to be brothers facing the same distress, so they shared a great friendship.

“Jin Yongqiang spent a lot of money to buy a few of the drugs from Small Insect, and his first target was, naturally, the Giant Sandworms. He decided to attack them in Trash Site 4, because it was quite easy to sneak into that place.

“He managed to easily inject the drugs into five Giant Sandworms. But unexpectedly, the Giant Sandworms were too large, and the structure of their nervous systems was different from mammals, so they did not go berserk instantly. They just went out of control and fled underground.

“This result was not satisfactory to the higher-up in Heavenly Works Machines. He could not get the deal during the tendering in one go either. So, he asked Jin Yongqiang to cause something even more shocking and dangerous.

“Jin Yongqiang was forced into a corner, so he could only cast his sights on the pets in his residential area. He bought a Contest Tiger modified by Spirit Creation Creatures and began to mingle among the owners who had the same type of pets in the residential area. He also used his status as an employee in Heavenly Works Machines to surf the net and look for related information regarding Contest Tigers. It allowed him to successfully gain his neighbors’ trust.

“At the same time, he asked Small Insect for a method to silently and swiftly inject the drugs into a pet without it reacting.

“At this point in time, Small Insect had already become a full-time pharmacist for Black Bone. His daily job was to inject drugs into the incredibly fierce and violent monsters. Naturally, he had methods and tools for it.

“In the end, Jin Yongqiang found a chance and used the method Small Insect taught him to inject the drug containing mutated rabies virus into the ear canals of two Contest Tigers. He then created a terrifying and tragic case.

“Now, the truth is revealed. We’ve successfully destroyed the mental defenses of that Heavenly Works Machines’ higher-up, and he confessed to his crimes.

“Small Insect has also spilled the beans and told us everything. He said that he didn’t expect that Jin Yongqiang would do something so outrageous. He thought that he was just going to stimulate those biochemical pets a little so that they would injure their owners. He never thought that he wanted to kill them. Ever since he saw the news, he had been really scared, which is why he hid so many mechanisms in his mechanical legs.

“We’ve also discovered other proof, such as video evidence of Jin Yongqiang entering Golden Tooth Lair, him researching the layout of his residential area, video evidence of him avoiding the surveillance cameras, records of him buying his biochemical pet and him going online to search for related information, and most importantly, the tools he used to modify the drugs and inject the drug into the pets. This is already more than enough evidence.

“This is a case that has a really bad influence on society, and it might cause the conflict between various forces of power to become really tense, but we managed to figure out the truth a few days after the case happened. Meng Chao, you’ve contributed greatly, so I will ask for the organization to reward you.”

Shen Yupeng told Meng Chao that due to the unique nature of investigating and capturing criminal superhumans, there were a lot of times when they had to ask for help from various parties in society. They often relied on the power of the superhumans who were on the good side to fight against those on the evil side.

Hence, there was already an existing model in the organization about how to reward kind citizens who provided clues and helped them capture criminals. Everything was based on their contribution.

The rewards were naturally Supernatural Coins, which provided the most material benefits.

To superhumans, this was hard currency that was even more valuable than money. It allowed them to buy treasures in the Supernatural Tower, create amazing weapons, and even release their own missions to hire elite squads formed by other superhumans.

But this was not what concerned Meng Chao the most right now.

“But what’s the deal with Jin Yongqiang’s death?” he asked Shen Yupeng.

“Our tentative guess is that when he injected the drug into the two Contest Tigers of his neighbors, his own pet was accidentally scratched or bitten by the infected pets. In the end, he suffered a backlash because of it,” Shen Yupeng explained.

“While he was thinking of ways to send his neighbors away, the three pets must have been together, and after he injected the first biochemical pet with the drug, he must have been really tense because he was wary of his surroundings. It was impossible for him to notice what one of the pets and his own tiger were doing while he injected the drug into the second pet.

“We got some information from Small Insect. After a monster is injected with the drug, even if there is a delay in the drug taking effect, they are still affected by the slightest stimulus, and their aggressiveness increases slightly. Hence, when they play around with their kind, it’s possible for them to accidentally scratch or bite their own kind and transfer the virus.

“That’s the conclusion. The two neighbors died tragic deaths in this murder case with great ill-will. But the death of Jin Yongqiang is an accident. Karma just decided to strike him back, that’s all.”

“...”

‘You’ve got to be kidding me’ were practically printed on Meng Chao’s face as he stared at Shen Yupeng.

Shen Yupeng calmly finished a bowl of congee while under Meng Chao’s stare and started eating the second bowl.

“What about his wound?” Meng Chao asked. “If Jin Yongqiang’s pet was scratched or bitten by his own kind and infected because of it, where is its wound?”

“The wound might be on the flesh that is lost,” Shen Yupeng said. “You know that this biochemical pet was incredibly aggressive. The neighbors who subjugated it had to attack it violently, and it ended up in a bloody mess. Many of the wounds are gone because of it.”

Meng Chao stared at him in disbelief. “But Jin Yongqiang’s wounds show that he was killed in a single blow. Don’t you think that the berserk biochemical pet attacked a little too smoothly and cleanly?”

“It’s not strange for all sorts of attack styles to be used by biochemical pets who have been injected with drugs that make them go wild,” Shen Yupeng said. “You must have come to another possibility toward Jin Yongqiang’s death with exciting deduction and imagination, but when it comes to cases, we don’t talk about possibilities, just evidence.”

“We have already examined all the surveillance cameras in Blessed Paradise before and after the accident. This residential area is a high middle-grade residential area that has been built recently. There are few blind spots in its surveillance system, and we didn’t find the presence of any suspicious strangers. Those who appeared were all residents of the area.”

“And during the period of time before and after Jin Yongqiang’s death, the entire residential area was shocked awake due to the two out-of-control biochemical pets fleeing outwards. At that time, the security guards launched the highest security protocol, and not even a fly could escape. It was impossible for anyone to enter the area and kill Jin Yongqiang while making it look like his pet killed him.”

“Besides, you admitted it. If the higher-up from Heavenly Works Machines wanted to kill him to silence him, he wouldn’t have chosen that time to do it.”

“And while Jin Yongqiang owes a lot of money to Golden Tooth Lair, it’s not to the point where others will want to kill him. The people in the lair exercise a great sense of propriety. There’s no need for them to do anything out of bounds.”

“As for his other relations in society? Jin Yongqiang is just a member of the middle-rank management in Heavenly Works Machines and has been in dismay because he couldn’t achieve his ambitions. Who would want to plot his death and elusively kill him while making it look like his pet killed him?”

Chapter 304: That’s the End

Meng Chao’s jaw hung open for a long time.

Shen Yupeng’s puzzlement was also his puzzlement.

Aside from the conflict with Spirit Creation Creatures, Jin Yongqiang had no conflict with anyone that would warrant his death.

And it was impossible for Spirit Creation Creatures to know that he had poisoned the pets at that time.

If they had, they could have just reported it to the police, and the law would execute justice. There was no need for them to bring trouble to their own doorstep.

But even if they did not have proof, Meng Chao was still certain that Jin Yongqiang's death was not an accident.

He had seen a notification at the top corner of his field of vision, and it said: Current progress for the Mystery of the Supernatural Entities: 8%.

As the case gradually came to light, the progress of the case went forward.

This meant that Jin Yongqiang's death was definitely related to the Supernatural Entities.

But how was he supposed to convince Shen Yupeng of that?

Meng Chao thought about it for a long time, but could only say, "So, that's the end of the case?"

"What else?" Shen Yupeng retorted. "We've captured the mastermind and found the supplier of the drugs. We also found a unique syringe and other tools used for the crime in the house of the person who carried out the crime. The souls of the two victims will now be able to rest in peace in heaven, and Spirit Creation Creatures won't be wronged anymore. Isn't this the perfect way to end the case?"

"Meng Chao, I know what you are thinking about, but this case isn't as simple as you think it is. You must have seen the news about the gathering and rally of those in the biochemical modification technology and monster industry, right?"

Meng Chao nodded. "I did. I heard that tens of thousands of people participated in it."

"It's not tens of thousands of people. It's more than one hundred thousand people. You know that the unemployment rate in Dragon City is really high right now, right? There are a lot of youngsters who have nothing to do but wander about the alleys and streets. If they run into something like this, there's no way they will not join in the fun."

Shen Yupeng sighed and said, "If we don't solve the case as soon as possible, the atmosphere between the supporters of biochemical modification technology and runic symbol machines technology will become even tenser. If you have tens of thousands of people and tens of thousands of pets going for a rally on the streets today, tomorrow, you will have mine excavating machines that weigh hundreds of tons being driven to the Supernatural Tower, and they will be parked on the roads to obstruct traffic.

"This will attract hundreds of thousands of angry, unemployed youngsters. If anyone's the slightest bit careless, fights will break out, and this will become a major case that will sweep through Dragon City.

"The higher-ups have stated that they don't want to see the conflict between biochemical modification technology and runic symbol machines technology become worse. They want us to conclude the case as soon as possible so that we can placate both sides. With each day this case remains unsolved, the risk of this affair causing a massive disaster in the city increases. Do you understand it now?"

“Even though we faced major pressure, we didn’t act recklessly, and we didn’t make anyone confess under torture either. Instead, we worked day and night for more than forty-eight hours, and we did a lot of detailed work. Trust me, 99% of the case has been verified repeatedly. After all, once we reveal the conclusion, we will definitely have to face the biochemical modification technology and runic symbol machines factions trying to pick out flaws in our conclusion. We must have an ironclad conclusion.

“Even if there is a 1% flaw in the explanation of Jin Yongqiang’s death, I believe that no one will care about it. Spirit Creation Creatures won’t, and Heavenly Works Machines, who is in a terrible fix because of this, won’t as well.”

Meng Chao looked at him with a grave expression. “But if Jin Yongqiang was really killed by someone else, and the killer is still wandering around free, what happens when they commit another crime?”

“Then, the next time he or she commits a crime, we will bring them to justice.” Shen Yupeng picked up another bowl of congee and smiled. “Do you think that we’re pessimistic and are not like the secret police officers, who are said to be heroic and able to solve cases like we are blessed by the Gods?”

“We don’t have any other choice. We live in a world that is different from Earth. There is an essential difference between our civilization and Earth’s civilization, even though we look similar.

“We have plenty of superhumans in our society, and they’re all human-shaped monsters, human-shaped tanks, human-shaped battle fortresses, and human-shaped explosives. They have incredible destructive powers and various methods to commit crimes. We are unable to stop all of the superhumans from committing crimes, and we can’t tell which superhuman has the possibility of committing a crime either.

“Let’s take you as an example, Meng Chao. Right now, you’re at the height of your youth. You have great skills, a wide circle of acquaintances, and a bright future. No matter what, you don’t look like someone who will commit a crime.

“But if you make the smallest mistake in your cultivation and an insignificant trail of spirit energy rushes into your central nervous system and destroys or modifies a region that is only the size of a piece of grain in your brain, it might cause you to go through spirit energy deviation. Your temperament will change, and you will be plagued by a great desire for destruction and murder.

“So, how are we supposed to be on guard against all the out-of-control criminals?”

“Can you promise that you will definitely not go through spirit energy deviation while you’re cultivating?”

Meng Chao thought about it for a long time. He could indeed not give any guarantees.

“The Supernatural Tower and the adjudicator court have a limited amount of resources. We face limitations when it comes to manpower, funds we require to solve cases, and collateral damage that might happen when we solve cases,” Shen Yupeng said with resignation in his voice.

“I want to be able to solve a case 100% too, but we can’t continue pouring in all our resources into a case that only has a 1% chance of mistake. After all, while I investigate the mysteries behind Jin Yongqiang’s death, there is a possibility that dozens of other malicious cases of superhumans going out of control due to spirit energy deviation will commit crimes in the city. I believe that you are able to weigh the importance of things.

Meng Chao sighed and got himself another bowl of congee while he said, "I know the principle of not being too focused on certain details, and I know that there are many things that are impossible to do. It's not because we don't want to do them, but because we can't."

"It's just like how Dragon City doesn't have the ability to get rid of Golden Tooth Lair, even though we know that it's a place that accommodates the wicked and has a lot of wanted criminals hiding in it."

"But I just find it a little hard to accept bowing out when we're so close to the answer, the truth, and justice. We can't investigate the case to the end just because we have to resolve the conflict between the biochemical modification and runic symbol machines factions."

"Truth and justice have never been what the secret police, adjudicator court, the Supernatural Tower, and even the Survival Committee seek," Shen Yupeng said faintly. "Unity and stability is what the current Dragon City needs the most."

"Big Brother Shen, you think that there is no such thing as absolute truth and justice, but there is a possibility for full unity and stability?" Meng Chao frowned.

"Why not?" Shen Yupeng drew closer and stared at Meng Chao. "If I searched for absolute justice, the first thing I would want to investigate is what exactly happened to Shen Yulong and Lu Siya's mine exploration teams under Raging Waves. Did the mine explorers who died without a grave really die from the spirit energy tsunami, or did they die because they swung their weapons and mining tools at each other?"

"If I really did that, the conflict between Universe Corporation and Sky Pillar Corporation, the Shen family and Lu family, and the adjudicator court and research department would become so tense that they would turn into each other's enemies."

"Even so, I would not be swayed by this possibility and unveil the truth so that I can find the true culprit who caused the deaths of those mine explorers. I would also want to understand the roles you, Lu Siya, and Qin Hu played in this matter. After all, this is what you would call complete justice, and this is the only way the dead will be able to rest in peace. This is what the secret police should do, right?"

"Look into my eyes and tell me, should I investigate everything?"

Meng Chao could say nothing to that.

"And what about the truth? If I wanted to find out the truth, my first target of investigation would be you," Shen Yupeng continued. "Why did you suddenly rise to power fifty days before the national college examination, and in a short half a year, became a two-star superhuman?"

"Why are you in possession of so many strange skills? Who is the Old Fire Relayer you speak of? Does he exist? Is this Old Fire Relayer some crazy, illegal scientific research team, or is it some criminal organization hiding in a lair?"

"Do you think that I should use every method at my disposal and check your origins, background, source of your strength, and every other aspect until not a single secret is left?"

Meng Chao had nothing to say to that.

“Look, absolute truth and justice cannot bring unity and stability.” Shen Yupeng relaxed and returned to looking like a lazy and sleazy uncle next door. He said lackadaisically, “I joined the adjudicator court years ago. There are a lot of stories circulating in the world about me and many people think that I’m a merciless and ruthless person, because I have terrifying titles like a secret police officer, adjudicator, and even adjudicating judge.

“But honestly, as long as you aren’t a major threat to Dragon City, I won’t want to kill you.

“I can turn a blind eye to the conflict that happened under Raging Waves. If you say that my cousin and the numerous mine explorers died because of a spirit energy tsunami, then I’ll consider it an accident.

“I can also ignore your origins. If you like concocting stories about the Old Fire Relayer, go on ahead. In any case, every superhuman has their own secrets and likes to make up stories.

“Based on the same logic, even if there is a final piece to the puzzle that is the case of the murderous pets in Blessed Paradise, the price of looking for that piece is too high, so let’s just pretend that the case has come to an end, okay?”

Chapter 305: Papermaker

Meng Chao thought about it for a long time.

“Okay.” He paused for a moment before he added, “If I find new clues and really find the person who killed Jin Yongqiang, can I ask for your help again?”

“Of course.” Shen Yupeng smiled. “Regardless of whether you find any clues or suspicious people, you can contact me at any time. As long as I don’t have any cases on hand, I will definitely hurry to your side as soon as I can. Although, there’s rarely a time when I don’t have anything at hand.”

Meng Chao smiled. “I look forward to a chance to work together with you and your team of elites again.”

“As long as you want to, there will be a chance.” Shen Yupeng looked impressed. “Due to the unique nature of the secret police’s work, we sometimes recruit a few members to join a squad based on the requirements of a case. First, it’s to cover up the lack of skills in a certain professional territory, and second, if we often show up, people will come to know our identities. The suspects will then become wary and might do something extreme.

“If we bring in unfamiliar faces, it’s easier for us to do things.

“You’re young, courageous, and ambitious, but you also appear to be a youngster who has nothing to do. So, if you’re willing to support our work, we’ll definitely welcome you with arms open.”

“That’s a promise!” Meng Chao extended his hand to Shen Yupeng.

He had told Shen Yupeng the clues because he hoped that he could use Shen Yupeng to form a connection with the secret police.

As a law enforcement organization in charge of investigating and executing justice on out-of-control superhumans, the adjudicator court would continue to serve an important purpose in Dragon City in the future.

Based on what he remembered he might need to do, if he managed to get himself the authority of the adjudicator court, he would be able to interfere with the future even better.

When he left the congee restaurant, it was almost seven.

Pedestrians had started appearing on the streets. They wore 3D mobile gears and jumped around to go to work.

Meng Chao sat down in Lu Siya's car and heaved a long sigh.

He told her about Shen Yupeng's suspicions regarding Shen Yulong's death.

Lu Siya was completely unbothered. "If he wants to investigate it, let him. Shen Yulong wasn't killed by you, Qin Hu, or me. I even went out of my way to ask Lin Chuan to spare him, but in the end, the White Spirit took his life.

"I've also split part of the mining rights for the Red Radiance Jade mine with Universe Corporation. As for the mine explorers from both parties who died in the accident, their families have received compensation fees that were higher than the ones in the contract. One of these days, I will also find the mastermind behind White Spirit and take revenge for everyone!"

Meng Chao then told her about the results of the case of the murderous pets in Blessed Paradise.

"It's about the same as what I thought," Lu Siya said. "This matter has been blown out of proportion. There are leaders in the biochemical modification technology and the runic symbol machines factions who might even be Deity Realm elites. No one wants this minor case to cause an internal rift in Dragon City. That's why this is the best conclusion.

"What now? You look quite gloomy. Have you been looking forward to another result?"

"That's not it." Meng Chao shook his head. "Logically, I understand the difficulties of the secret police, but emotionally... It feels like the secret police is different from what I imagined. They aren't the ruthless, perceptive, and sharp law enforcement organization I thought they were. They're more like... papermakers, I guess?"

Lu Siya chuckled.

"Papermakers? That's an apt description. Honestly, the secret police aren't the only papermakers. The Supernatural Tower is also made of a group of papermakers. In fact, even the entirety of the Survival Committee is made of papermakers. Everyone is just trying their best to maintain the illusion of unity and stability. Do you know why?" Lu Siya asked faintly. "Because Dragon City is not like a true country.

"No, I'm not talking about the population and territory we have. If we talked about that, even though our territory is small, Dragon City is still a city that has tens of millions of people, and that number is higher than that of many small countries on Earth. Besides, the concept of a city state has existed since ancient times. That's not the problem.

"The problem is the transmigration itself. The rampage from the zombie virus and out-of-control superhumans destroyed the concept of nations and society from ancient times. The people who struggled past the bloody and dark era had to rely on the various organizations that were built during

those times. Those organizations kept expanding and merging until they turned into corporations, and later upgraded to mega corporations.

“The mega corporations of the Other World are completely different entities compared to the mega corporations on Earth.

“To resist the zombies, monsters, and out-of-control superhumans, the employees possess great fighting strength and are in control of people’s needs. They have the right to set up various rules that replace the laws, and they even have the people’s gratitude and loyalty up to a certain degree.

“In some sense, the mega corporations are miniature pseudo countries.

“The Survival Committee is just an alliance of the pseudo countries. Most of the power and authority in the current Dragon City belongs to the mega corporations.

“Then again, the appearance of superhumans have caused the control of countries over individuals to plummet to the drain.

“But nations can’t be held together by violence. If a nation can’t control the individuals living in it and have to use extreme violence to control them, this nation will not have any prestige.

“Unfortunately, Dragon City is currently in such an awkward state.

“Shen Yupeng is right. There is a limit to the resources of the Supernatural Tower and the adjudicator court, and their opponents are much stronger and crazier than the criminals on Earth.

“On Earth, no matter how crazy a hoodlum is, even if he ties bombs all over his body and has a bus full of hostages, his evil is limited to that bus full of people.

“You just need to deploy a few squads of armored special forces and a few armored vehicles to deal with this sort of hoodlum. A limited amount of capital is needed to suppress it.

“But superhumans are incredibly unstable elements in the Other World and Dragon City. One out-of-control Heaven Realm elite can collapse a building at any moment, which will take the lives of thousands of people.

“He might also be skilled at hiding. He could sneak out of the secret police’s encirclement or even change his appearance and figure to swagger past the surveillance cameras to continue committing crimes.

“Because of that, the capital required to capture an out-of-control superhuman is much higher than the same type of criminal on Earth. It’s enough to cripple any organization.

“The secret police, naturally, wants to solve this problem. The Supernatural Tower wants to centralize all the power in Dragon City and enforce stricter control over the superhumans.

“But right from the start, the adjudicator court is just an arbitrator organization to judge superhumans. They need mega corporations to provide them with money, technical skills, and resources. They’re part of the problem, so how can they rely on themselves to solve it?

“Perhaps this is why the research department was born. We’re the ones who can truly centralize all the power in Dragon City!”

Lu Siya’s gaze was intense.

She seemed to be hinting at something.

Her speech reminded Meng Chao of something. The abnormal beast research department did not seem to only focus on investigating abnormal beasts in his previous life.

They seemed to have been involved in an unfathomable problem.

Unfortunately, in his previous life, Meng Chao was just a poor citizen. He did not have a clear understanding of the fights between the mega corporations, the Supernatural Tower, and the Survival Committee.

He only knew that the conflict in Dragon City and their goal of colonizing the Other World had possessed a negative influence.

“I didn’t expect that you would have such a great understanding of the negative aspects of mega corporations. Aren’t you—”

“Aren’t I a member of Sky Pillar Corporation, which is one of the mega corporations?” Lu Siya smiled at him. “Let’s put it this way. If Sky Pillar Corporation belonged to me completely and I was content with it, I would definitely stand on Sky Pillar Corporation’s side and fight for it to the death.

“Unfortunately, Sky Pillar Corporation is not mine. Besides, the Other World is huge. The fog is gradually disappearing, and no one knows what sort of an exciting world is hiding behind it. Am I supposed to be trapped in Sky Pillar Corporation and the land it controls while fighting against my relatives until I’m badly battered? That’s... really boring.”

Meng Chao stared at her for a long time. “What exactly do you want to do?”

“I don’t know.” Lu Siya shrugged. “An unknown future is the most interesting aspect about life, don’t you think so?”

Meng Chao returned to Agricultural University before ten in the morning.

The university had deliberately set up ten big screens on the field to broadcast the adjudicator court’s case briefing about the murderous pets in Blessed Paradise.

When the students heard that the case had been solved and the mastermind from Heavenly Works Machines was discovered, the field instantly filled with cheers.

“I knew it. There’s just no way the modification technology from Spirit Creation Creatures would have gone wrong. Even if the pets went out of control, they wouldn’t do something as terrible as kill their owners!”

“Biochemical modification technology is Dragon City’s future! We didn’t choose the wrong path! This is great!”

“Those people from Heavenly Works Machines are too despicable. They can’t win against us, so they used such a lowly method! They’re even worse than monsters!”

“Yesterday, those people from the University of Technology’s machine course were acting all arrogant and said that there must be a problem with the modification of those pets! Let’s see what they will say now!”

The students cheered.

The hot-blooded and passionate freshmen were the most excited.

The day before, they had gone on an “expedition” to the University of Technology. They engaged them in a debate before starting a sparring session, which allowed them to act on their hot-blooded nature.

The only problem was that Meng Chao had never showed up.

“Meng Chao, you’re the worst!” Xie Feng threw an arm around Meng Chao’s neck while grumbling. “You said that you would cheer for the monster controller course students in the afternoon, but forget about showing up and even disappeared for an entire night. So, what exactly did you do with that beautiful woman? Did you do something... really exciting?”

The students stared at him with gazes as sharp as blades.

Meng Chao remembered what he did yesterday.

He first performed an autopsy. Then, he went to the depths of a trash site to fight against a giant Sandworm.

He performed another autopsy after that.

Afterwards, he went into Golden Tooth Lair to search for Small Insect and chased him down a shabby street. Oh, and he also went into a women’s toilet.

Once he recalled what he did, he massaged his temples and sighed with sudden exhaustion.

“Yeah, it was really exciting. You cannot imagine it,” he said faintly.

Chapter 306: Drizzle Studio

The case of the murderous pets in Blessed Paradise came to an end.

A week later, they heard the good news of Spirit Creation Creatures having secured part of the construction deal for Subway No.20.

The students in Agricultural University cheered once more.

After all, if biochemical modification technology could be used in various aspects of Dragon City’s development, it would prove beneficial for them when looking for job opportunities, creating their own businesses, or cultivating.

Meng Chao was treated as someone who performed an outstanding service by Xie Xiaolei in terms of proving their innocence and helping them get the construction deal. He was invited to Spirit Creation

Creatures a few times so that Xie Xiaolei could thank him, and they talked about the possibility of Spirit Creation Creatures working together with Superstar Resource Recovery Company.

Meng Chao also witnessed the process of Spirit Creation Creatures trying to develop an upgraded version of the Giant Sandworm.

Apparently, Gao Ye found inspiration in the industrial wastewater in the depths of Trash Site 4. He developed a brand new formula that would make the Giant Sandworms even larger and smarter. Their work efficiency would also increase by a large degree and they would provide even more help to the long-term development of underground tunnels for transportation purposes for the next few decades.

When Meng Chao looked at the Giant Sandworms that were larger than train coaches, he felt uneasy.

For a week, he felt like he had a lot of clues, but he was not able to smooth out his thoughts. At night, he often dreamed about the Supernatural Entity eating the foundation of the city and making it collapse. During the day, he was plagued by various thoughts.

Even Qin Hu, who came to eat with him, could see that he was feeling uneasy.

In not so nice terms, Qin Hu was someone who did not have a stance on the matter. It was his characteristic. He changed his views like socks and was the type of person to let his biases decide his choices.

In nicer terms, Qin Hu was someone who had great resistance. He knew how to adapt to situations and could change his viewpoint and the way he did things based on the situation.

After cultivating for a few months, he had not recovered his strength and reached Heaven Realm.

But that did not stop him from being carefree and enjoying his life every day.

In his words, the path of a superhuman had always been a hellish road filled with trials and tribulations. As long as his head was still connected to his neck, and his neck was still connected to his chest, then he was fine.

When he noticed that the usual cultivation method could not help him regain his strength, he decided to just set this problem aside for the time being. He concentrated on expanding Superstar Resource Recovery Company's business and managed to make the company flourish and grow.

Since Meng Chao was a big help to Spirit Creation Creatures, Xie Xiaolei decided to return the favor, and there was a huge possibility that he could increase Superstar's business scale and strength to a new degree.

Qin Hu had joined forces with Meng Chao on Prosperity. With the shares he held, he was the second most powerful person in Superstar, so it was only natural that he needed to discuss things with Meng Chao when it came to how they could make things work for the businesses related to Spirit Creation Creatures.

Meng Chao's absent-minded look immediately attracted the attention of this experienced member of society.

“Meng Chao, you seem to have run into some kind of trouble. Even though my strength has plummeted and my cultivation base is not as great as before, my experiences still remain. Be it problems with love or business, I can give you some pointers.”

Meng Chao frowned and tactfully rejected Qin Hu’s kindness. He said that it was a matter concerning the biochemical modification field and runic symbol machines field. No matter how experienced Qin Hu was as a hunter, he was in a completely different and unrelated field.

“I’ve been in the hunter circle for years, and there are people from all sorts of factions there. I know all sorts of strange people with amazing skills, and I’ve seen all sorts of weird stuff in my life. Don’t they say that the bystanders are the ones who can view the situation clearly? Even if I can’t give you a convincing explanation about what is going on, I can help you analyze it and get rid of some of that gloominess.”

Meng Chao could not win against him, so he turned on his laptop and brought out the thread that had started the whole conflict between the biochemical modification and runic symbol machines faction.

Qin Hu cast it a glance and said, “Isn’t this the thread about the case of murderous pets in Blessed Paradise? It caused quite a ruckus a few days ago. I thought that it has already been solved and the culprit has been captured?”

“Yeah,” Meng Chao said. “The culprit has been captured, but I received some information on my side saying that these threads were not posted by online ghostwriters hired by the culprit, which makes sense. The culprit felt guilty and he knew full well that it’s impossible to create confusion in this way. It only angered the biochemical modification faction and the case’s exposure rose to new heights. This brought no benefits to Heavenly Works Machines.

“So, my question is, who asked the online ghostwriters to post these threads?”

Qin Hu scratched his beard. “There are plenty of people online who love chaos. Anyone could have posted it. What’s so strange here?”

Meng Chao shook his head and said, “That’s not right. The pictures and information in the thread are very professional and highly confidential. Only the people from the two companies or someone from the monster research department would know about this. It’s impossible for someone unrelated to the case to have posted it.”

“So what? The case has already been closed. Why are you still worried about who posted the thread? Does it matter who did it?”

“It doesn’t. I might just be paranoid.” Meng Chao sighed and exited the webpage. “I just feel like the case hasn’t been solved beautifully, and this is the only suspicious point I can find... Forget it. Now that I think about it carefully, no matter who sent it, it won’t be able to prove that a problem exists.”

“Wait.” Qin Hu scrolled to an article and cast it a glance. His eyes lit up, and he grabbed Meng Chao’s arm. He said with a grin, “Meng Chao, no matter what, I’ve been working in society for a few more years compared to you. You made the right choice by coming to me for advice.”

Meng Chao was slightly stunned. “You know who asked the online ghostwriters to post that thread?”

“How would I know? I’m not a God!” Qin Hu let out a huff, which made his moustache and beard move. “But I do know which ghostwriter did this,” he said smugly

“What?!” Meng Chao shot up. “Mr. Hu, please go into detail.”

“Online ghostwriters are online mass media companies, entertainment companies, and the private studios of those involved in we-media. They have clear styles in their promotion methods, especially when it comes to the long phrases. There are few people who can imitate them,” Qin Hu said. “If my guess is correct, the various threads came from an online mass media company called Drizzle Studio. This article has Drizzle’s writing style. He’s the editor-in-chief.”

Meng Chao went over to take a look.

It was the article written in the tone of a student from the University of Technology, which had enraged the students from Agricultural University.

“Isn’t this written by a student from the University of Technology? Mr. Hu, are you sure that this is from Drizzle Studio?” Meng Chao asked with hesitation.

“I worked with them before,” Qin Hu said. “The main job of superhuman fighting squads is to fight in the wild, but managing our image and promoting our achievements is equally important. We need a high exposure rate to attract the attention of a large number of citizens, since it’s the only way we can find good sponsors and become spokespeople for the weapons and equipment from major factories. That’s why we often look for mass media companies online to write advertorials and help us create some publicity.

“Drizzle Studio might not be the most famous and best online mass media company, but their professionalism is first class. They have a lot of connections to various channels as well. We’ve worked together a few times, so I have a deep impression of their working style.”

“Mr. Hu, are you absolutely sure of this?”

“Of course I’m not.” Qin Hu shrugged and added in an irresponsible manner, “There’s still the possibility of someone imitating their style to send these advertorials or reactionary articles.”

Meng Chao thought about it and asked, “Mr. Hu, could you help me look for the person-in-charge of Drizzle Studio?”

“I’m afraid not,” Qin Hu said. “I contacted them online, so I’ve never met them before. You must understand, those working in this field often have to stir up public opinion. They spy on the higher-ups and reveal all sorts of shocking news.

“They’re hated by everyone, so they’re usually very careful in real life. Unless they’ve worked together with a major client for years, they don’t usually reveal their identities.”

“Is that so...” Meng Chao was silent for a while, then went outside to call Yan Feirou.

“Meng Chao, you didn’t contact me since you defeated Dragon City University’s Wang Dao!” Yan Feirou grinned on the screen.

Meng Chao exchanged some pleasantries with her and asked her whether she knew of Drizzle Studio.

Yan Feirou was an internet celebrity and in charge of the promotional work for Yan Organization, so he guessed that she would not be unfamiliar with online mass media companies.

“Has Drizzle Studio ever worked with Yan Organization before?” Meng Chao asked. “If I wanted to meet the person-in-charge from Drizzle Studio, could you recommend me to him or her?”

“Sure, no problem. Yan Organization is a major client of Drizzle Studio. We’re very familiar with their person-in-charge, Drizzle,” Yan Feirou said readily. “But what sort of reason should I give if they ask for one?”

Meng Chao’s mind raced. “It’s like this, Superstar Resource Recovery Company has been growing really quickly, but we haven’t done any work to promote our company’s image. I’m thinking of finding someone professional to plan our overall image and help us present ourselves in a suitable manner. I heard that Drizzle Studio has a pretty good reputation in the field, so I wanted to look for the person-in-charge to talk to him or her.”

“Sure. I’ll ask them for their opinion so you can go and meet them. How does that sound?”

“I’ve booked a business suite in a hotel today. Could you ask the person-in-charge to go there and talk to me? And uh, you know, about confidentiality...”

Yan Feirou grinned. “Sure, I get it!”

Drizzle, the person-in-charge of Drizzle Studio, was an imposing man with the height of eight feet.

Based on his appearance, he did not give off the impression that he was as gentle as his online ID, Drizzle, implied, and he did not look as arrogant as the person who stirred up conflict online either.

He was dressed in a suit and looked like a full of vigor elite in the business field.

“Mr. Meng, hello. Thank you for trusting Drizzle Studio. Ms. Yan told me the general gist of your request. While I was coming here, I’ve thought of a few plans.”

The moment he entered the business suite Meng Chao had prepared, Drizzle went straight to the point. “Superstar Resource Recovery Company has recently become very famous in the harvesting circle, and your action of buying the veteran Prosperity Resource Recovery Company at lightning speed has also been treated as your signature move for becoming famous. It’s said that the sky’s the limit for your company.

“But you’ve been growing too quickly, so there has to be various problems in your company. So, you need a new angle to promote your company. You made a wise move coming to us to make a plan for you and form your public image—cough, cough.”

Drizzle coughed lightly. The air in the business suite might have been too dry.

Meng Chao poured a cup of tea for him and another for himself. He invited him to take a seat on the couch so they could discuss the matter.

Chapter 307: Your Expression Betrayed You

“I’ll propose two plans first so that you can understand the gist of these plans,” Drizzle said.

“The first is a rather normal promotional operation. Naturally, we will be talking about your harvesting skills. I heard that you shot to fame in the harvesting circle and mastered some really shocking skills. It would then be best for you to set up a few harvesting broadcasts and perfectly harvest some rare materials from furious creatures.

“As long as you’re confident that your harvesting skills are interesting, with Drizzle Studio pushing the tides, we will definitely be able to make Superstar Resource Recovery Company even more famous.”

Meng Chao thought about it and said, “I’m definitely confident in my harvesting skills, but it all depends on luck as to whether I can find rare materials in a monster’s body. The probability of running into rare materials is the same for newbies and skilled harvesters.”

“We can control your luck when it comes to this.” Drizzle smiled. “Even if there aren’t any rare materials in a monster’s body, can’t you put some beforehand?”

Meng Chao was stunned for a moment, then began to think about it.

Drizzle explained, “There aren’t that many rare materials in the world. Many of the hunters and harvesters do this to make a name for themselves. They first place a really rare material into the body of a monster that might contain this material, then harvest it in front of a crowd.

“A lot of organizations that need to get a professional rank or junior professionals who want to be promoted to intermediate professionals are just like you and need to increase their fame as quickly as possible. This is nothing. Of course, this matter will take time, and the capital required for it is rather high. After all, you won’t often be able to harvest rare materials that only have a one in a million chance of appearing. And if you do it too frequently, it’ll be too obvious, right?”

“Yeah,” Meng Chao said. “Judging by your words, there is a plan that will take a shorter time and requires a lower capital, but will be able to make my company and me famous very quickly?”

“Honestly, you’re already famous. When Yan Organization worked together with us, we set up your public image and promoted you. Now, the problem is, how are we supposed to connect your public image with Superstar’s image?”

“I have a rather radical plan with me: Cause trouble at a material exchange fair.”

Meng Chao cocked his eyebrows. “Cause trouble?”

“Not real trouble, of course,” Drizzle said. “It’s the type where you pretend to be a loser to catch your target, where you pretend to be weak so that you can hit others where it hurts. Do you know how to do that?”

“You should be really good in this area. I heard that while still in highschool, you embarrassed Poison Hand Liao Santong’s grandson by going to appraise a rare material during a material exchange fair. Unfortunately, the media wasn’t there at that time, or this sort of news that most citizens love reading about would have spread through the city a long time ago.

“But that’s fine. You have us now!”

“Think about it. If you keep a low profile when you attend some material exchange fair next time, you’ll be looked down upon. But when a certain item that no one is able to identify appears, suddenly, you will

speak about it and shock everyone with your skills. At this time, some media company we're familiar with in the area will write a news article about this event.

"If you look for some rich man's son just like you did during the material exchange fair in the third year of your high school and stand on opposite sides with him before you embarrass him, it'll be even easier for us to write the news article. In the long run, Superstar Resource Recovery Company will definitely become famous, and everyone will know about your company.

"But of course there are side effects to this sort of publicity. Still, the business field is like a battlefield. When you face a major profit, there will be a lot of competitors. Even if you don't embarrass each other, you will still end up fighting against each other, yes?"

"Yeah." Meng Chao thought about it. "But how am I supposed to make sure that no one is able to recognize a certain material during a material exchange fair but I can?"

Drizzle smiled and said, "That's easy. If this material is provided by you, you'll be able to say where it came from."

"..." Meng Chao sucked in a sharp breath. "Listening to you is better than trying to read PR books. Today, I finally understand that there are actually a lot of twists and turns in this circle."

Drizzle smiled at him. "We're in a different profession, so it feels like we're worlds apart. You're focused on hunting monsters and harvesting, so it's normal that you don't understand the inner workings of this field.

"Nowadays, you won't be able to rise to the top by just working hard. Creating sensational news is a very neutral thing. As long as you're skilled, the sensational news will make your fame rise quickly. It will also make your abilities clear to the public. I don't see a reason against it."

"Alright. I'll think about your suggestions carefully. I also would like it if you would visit Superstar Resource Recovery Company to make a more detailed public image and promotional plan according to our circumstances."

Meng Chao sat on the sofa in a very comfortable manner and looked at the time before he asked casually, "Mr. Drizzle, how many years have you been working in this field? I heard that your studio is pretty famous."

"Seven or eight years." Drizzle smiled in a very confident manner. "Drizzle Studio might not compare to some of the large online mass media companies, but when it comes to skills and strength, we have a lot of good comments from our clients. The most important thing about promotion is that you don't reveal your tracks. We spread the information we want to project to the target consumers' hearts like a drizzle, making it silently nourish their hearts like a piece of land. This is the goal we have been pursuing all this while."

When he said this, he seemed to feel a little hot, for he instinctively tugged at his shirt collar.

His breathing quickened, and his pupils widened a little.

He did not notice that his mind was a little off.

Due to his mouth feeling dry, he drank the tea in one go.

Meng Chao poured another cup for him and continued, "Allow me to ask you a rather sensitive question. Does your studio ever do something that goes past morality and law when performing some rather radical promotions?"

Drizzle smiled. "Are you asking about us abandoning morals or ignoring the law? Based on what I know, the limits for the two are different. We're good citizens who obey the law. We will never break laws."

After he said that, he looked slightly stunned, and a puzzled expression appeared on his face.

It seemed like he himself could not understand why he would be so outspoken to Meng Chao, a client he just met.

"Got it." Meng Chao nodded. He seemed to be very satisfied with Drizzle's answer and poured a third cup of tea for him. "Then, could you talk about the successful cases, such as how you managed to leak the case of the murderous pets in Blessed Paradise to stir up the conflict between the biochemical modification and runic symbol machines factions?"

"The article you posted was enlightening, and it showed you standing on the side of the runic symbol machines faction while you criticized biochemical modification technology. You also mentioned in your article that there is a possibility for artificial intelligence to go out of control. You terrified me, a student from Agricultural University, and cold sweat broke out on my back!"

Drizzle's smile froze on his face.

But it was not due to panic. It was due to slight puzzlement.

This puzzlement spread out from his mouth to his entire face like ripples on cement.

"What did you give me?" He stared at the cup. "What was there in the cup?"

"Poison extracted from a Hallucinogenic Lizard. I also added some other stuff from a special formula. Don't worry, it will just cause temporary paralysis to your nerves. You will recover within half an hour, and there won't be any side effects," Meng Chao said with a smile.

"But within this half an hour, you might have a hard time controlling the nerves and muscle fibers on your face which take care of your microexpressions. In other words, this is something similar to a truth serum."

This was something Meng Chao had learned in the Ghost Tribe training camp.

As he fought in continuous battles, more memory fragments of his previous life gradually returned to him. Aside from Walking Corpse and Bizarre Stab, he remembered other deviant methods to do things as well.

"Oh."

"You don't seem too surprised. You aren't panicking either," Meng Chao said.

"I was a little panicked in the beginning, because I didn't know what you were thinking of doing. But since this is a truth serum, there's no need for me to panic." Drizzle sighed. "Those in my field have insider information about a lot of our clients. There are often people who want to use us to pry into our

clients' secrets, but we have our own work ethics. We never reveal others' secrets easily. But you're the first to use this sort of method to launch a sudden ambush on me."

"I'm sorry. This is a major matter. I didn't want to use the worst method to ask you for information either."

"It's fine. But I will definitely not tell you any of my clients' information."

"It doesn't matter. I already have a few answers that I'm confident in. I just want to verify those answers with you. You drank the poison from the Hallucinogenic Lizard. Even if you resist telling the truth, you won't be able to control your microexpressions," Meng Chao said. "For example, just now, when I mentioned the case of the murderous pets in Blessed Paradise, your expression betrayed you. It let me know that you're the one who leaked the information online."

"Of course, you're just a tool, and one which is very skilled in wandering around the limits of law and the limits of morals. I'm not interested in you. I'm just interested in the person who hired you to do it."

"I know you won't tell me, but you don't have to. I'll just guess."

"You revealed detailed information about the case, and you talked about a lot of details regarding the three biochemical pets that were examined that day. Only the monster research center, Spirit Creation Creatures, and Heavenly Works Machines were in contact with those details."

"The monster research center took a neutral stance in this matter, so we can set them aside for now."

"Heavenly Works Machines might appear to have the best motive because they wanted to use the pressure of public opinion to squash Spirit Creation Creatures, but they're the guilty party. Once the needle-shaped holes were discovered in the pets' ear canals, they would not want to cause a fuss."

"Spirit Creation Creatures might seem to have little reason to leak the case, because that would mean that they would be slinging mud on their own heads."

"But I've heard of the way Xie Xiaolei does things. Spirit Creation Creatures likes being unconventional and doing things that surprise others. If he was confident that the truth of the case would be revealed, it's not necessarily a bad thing for him to be accused of a crime for a few days. After all, the case can increase Spirit Creation Creatures' fame. Even though it is negative fame at first, once the tables are turned, the case will work in their favor, and Spirit Creation Creatures' image will become really positive."

"So, it's Xie Xiaolei, right?"

"You don't have to answer. Your expression has already answered the question for you."

Chapter 308: I Knew It, It's Him

As Meng Chao spoke, he poured another cup for Drizzle. Then, he poured two drops of faint green liquid into the tea. It then gained a crystalline texture. He delivered the cup to Drizzle's lips and said, "Do you feel dizzy now? Should I feed you?"

Drizzle looked at the cup and said with a wry smile, "You've already obtained your answer. Why do you still need to give me more truth serum?"

"This isn't poison from the Hallucinogenic Lizard. It's liquid extracted from a Red Arrow Frog's skin. It can counter the poisonous properties of a Hallucinogenic Lizard and get rid of the effects of the truth serum," Meng Chao explained. "Of course, if you don't trust me, you don't need to drink it. You can rest here for half an hour. It's the same."

Drizzle thought about it in silence for a while before he drank the faint green liquid. He asked in puzzlement, "What now?"

"There's nothing else," Meng Chao said. "I've already obtained my answer. You can leave now."

Drizzle was slightly stunned. "That's all?"

"What else?" Meng Chao asked. "You just said that the most important thing about those working in your field is wandering around the limits of the law and the limits of morals.

"Leaking the details of a case beforehand might have put you under suspicion for breaking the law, but I'm not a judge, and I'm not interested in arguing with you over this either.

"Stirring up the conflict between the biochemical modification faction and runic symbol machines faction might be horrible, but I can't exactly kill you to vent my anger, can I?"

Drizzle frowned. He stared at Meng Chao seriously and thought about it for some time before he said, "Then, how are you going to vent?"

"I will do my absolute best and use all the connections that I have to make sure that various major corporations will stop working with Drizzle Studio," Meng Chao said faintly. "Don't even think about working together with Superstar. My words hold some authority in Yan Organization as well. I will do my best to persuade Yan Organization to stop working with you. I'll do the same with Soul Breaking Saber Luo Wu, White-haired Ghostly Hands Ning Shewo, and Sky Pillar Corporation..."

"Of course, my individual strength is weak, but Agricultural University is known as Monster University, and the power of the university is second only to that of Dragon City University. We have alumni in various fields, and they are involved in various industries. Once news about your studio fanning the flames spreads, how many people do you think will want to work with you?"

"All the people in the biochemical modification faction will kick you aside like you're some filthy rat.

"Then, will the runic symbol machines faction be thankful to you? No. It's precisely because you stirred up this storm of opinions and made the runic symbol machines faction sound arrogant that they were caught in an awkward situation after the truth was revealed. They lost a few major deals, and the public doesn't have a good image of them right now. Over the past few days, the students from the University of Technology's machine course have been really dejected and can't walk tall in Nine Sands University City.

"I believe that once news of you causing this storm due to Xie Xiaolei inciting you to do so reaches the runic symbol machines faction, there won't be a lot of businesses related to that field for your studio either.

“In other words, I want to destroy the way you earn your living. No matter what I do when faced with someone like you who fans the flames among his own people even when there is a major enemy in front of us just to stir up conflict and increase the exposure rate of your client, I will feel no guilt.”

Drizzle sat down once more.

He stared at the empty teacup silently and let his mind wander for a long time before he said, “What do you want?”

“I want to know the details. What did Xie Xiaolei tell you? Why did you agree to do something so dangerous and troublesome? Don’t you know that there is a huge possibility that you will end up getting dragged into trouble if you add fuel to the conflict between the biochemical modification technology and runic symbol machines factions? That something like today would happen to you?”

Drizzle’s face was pale, and he asked feebly, “Do you promise to keep complete confidentiality if I tell you everything?”

“That depends on whether what you say is valuable, and whether you’re valuable.”

“Man will truly throw their lives away for money, just like how birds will die for food.” Drizzle was silent for a moment before he sighed. “Drizzle Studio occasionally takes up deals that we can’t speak of, but we usually know how to exercise propriety. We don’t touch something as sensitive as the case of the murderous pets in Blessed Paradise.

“But Xie Xiaolei offered us... a price that we could not refuse. I... We didn’t have a choice.”

“How much?”

Drizzle gave him a figure.

It was a figure that made Meng Chao suck in a sharp breath.

“Xie Xiaolei really threw in a lot of money. Was there a need for that?” Meng Chao mumbled. “You’ve worked for a long time with Xie Xiaolei. Is he usually so liberal with his money?”

“Of course not,” Drizzle said with a bitter smile. “President Xie from Spirit Creation Creatures is a very wise person. No one can even think about taking advantage of him. We’ve worked together for around five years. Every year, we get two or three deals from him, so he can be considered an old client. Otherwise, it would have been impossible for him to ask me to do this, and I would have never agreed to help him with it.

“But the money he offered in our past partnerships was the normal amount. He never offered so much before.”

Meng Chao nodded with a contemplative expression. “Do you usually help him control public opinion like this?”

“No.” Drizzle shook his head. “Most of our partnerships with Spirit Creation Creatures involve us doing normal things for them, such as setting up their public image and making promotional advertisements. At most, we look for ghostwriters online, write some advertorials, and filter the comments. We don’t do things like this every day.”

“Then, how did he contact you this time?” Meng Chao asked. “Do you remember... his condition at that time? Was there anything about him that you found strange? You can say anything, as long as you found it suspicious.”

“For the usual deals, he usually asks me to go to Spirit Creation Creatures, but sometimes, he also comes to our studio. He’s skilled at promotional advertisements, so he always does it himself when it comes to them,” Drizzle said. “He contacts me in an anonymous chat room in the deep web only when it comes to rather sensitive work. He also completes the transaction through a deep web bank account. He used this method this time as well.”

Meng Chao nodded.

He knew that there were a few anonymous chat rooms in the deep web that made it difficult for others to track down the people in the chat.

There were a lot of methods that allowed people to perform large transactions in secret.

The simplest method was opening a safe for rare materials in the Supernatural Tower and storing a certain number of high-purity crystals or highly valuable materials inside. Then, they would send the password to the other party so that they could get it. That way, they could elusively complete the transfer of a large amount of funds.

If they were worried about there being surveillance cameras in the Supernatural Tower, there were also a lot of banks and cultivation centers in Dragon City that provided similar services.

For example, to protect the privacy of the superhumans cultivating at the cultivation centers, cultivation centers usually did not install surveillance cameras in the rooms.

“If you’re looking for anything abnormal, there wasn’t anything strange,” Drizzle said. “Only Preside Xie’s tone was a little strange. He sounded a little more aloof and tougher than usual. Chills went down my spine while listening to him. But since something so major had happened, it’s understandable that he was not in a good mood.

“The anonymous chat room we used had a voice changing function to interfere with voice prints. That’s why his voice sounded very sharp and shrill. But there’s nothing strange about it.”

“Then, he sent all the information to you and asked you to stir up public opinion?” Meng Chao asked.

“That’s right.” Drizzle nodded. “In the beginning, I was shocked, because President Xie asked me to stand on the side of the runic symbol machines and criticize the biochemical modification faction. He asked me to talk about the possibility of biochemical modification technology giving rise to artificial intelligence that humans cannot control. I was to criticize this aspect viciously, but he is in the biochemical modification faction, you know?”

“Still, the client’s request was very clear. It would not be convenient for us to get to the bottom of things. Then, you saw what happened online.”

“Oh?” Meng Chao tapped on the table. “There is an article with 10,000 words in it. You wrote it really well. Even though you intentionally imitated the naive tone of a university student, there are plenty of

lines where you showed clear understanding of the subject. You talked about the flaws of biochemical modification technology. You have a good understanding of this field, right?"

"I don't understand biochemical modification technology at all." Drizzle smiled bitterly. "President Xie prepared the outline, and I was just told to add some flair to it."

"Were you?" Meng Chao was slightly stunned. "After you were done with it, was Xie Xiaolei happy with your performance?"

"I don't know," Drizzle said. "President Xie said that this is a major and sensitive matter. He only contacted me once, and he told me not to contact him unless I have something important over the next few months."

"But I think that he should be satisfied with it. He had split the pay into two parts. He first deposited half of the pay, and after I did my work, he paid the other half on time as well. Also, due to the truth of the case of murderous pets in Blessed Paradise coming to light, Spirit Creation Creatures managed to get the construction deal for Subway No.20."

"I saw President Xie joining quite a lot of activities and looking high-spirited and full of enthusiasm. He sounds completely different compared to the person who talked to me in the anonymous chat room."

Meng Chao quickly blinked. "So, you've never gone to Spirit Creation Creatures and never met Xie Xiaolei himself from the moment you took up the deal? Is that normal?"

"It's... nothing strange," Drizzle said. "You have to be elusive when you work in this field."

"Wait. If you really want to be elusive, it's best if you look for a secretive place and meet up with each other, right?" Meng Chao frowned. "Even though it's an anonymous chat room, all online communication methods still leave clues of your conversation. The simplest way to leave a clue is this: he cannot be sure that you won't record the conversation. Even if it doesn't sound like his voice, if this goes out, it's still a scandal that will cause quite the stir."

"Wait, has Xie Xiaolei always acted as your receiver when it comes to the deals with Spirit Creation Creatures?"

"Yes." Drizzle nodded. "Over the years, I have always talked to President Xie when it comes to dealing with Spirit Creation Creatures. I seldom come into contact with his assistant or secretary."

"Call him." Meng Chao looked at Drizzle. "Then talk to him about this."

Chapter 309: It's Not Him?!

Drizzle hesitated for a moment. "May I know the reason? If you tell me why you looked for me today, I will know what I should tell President Xie."

Meng Chao thought about it for a moment. "I feel like Xie Xiaolei knew the truth ahead of the related police departments."

"They discovered small needle-shaped holes in two of the ear canals of the three biochemical pets through the autopsy report, but the two holes wouldn't lead them to finding the true culprit."

“As long as they couldn’t find the culprit, the truth would not come. Heavenly Works Machines is rich, and they have a lot of peerless elites who relied on runic symbol machines technology to reach Heaven Realm or Deity Realm. They wouldn’t readily admit defeat.

“If there was no culprit, the storm you stirred up at Xie Xiaolei’s request wouldn’t calm down so easily. What if he couldn’t clear Spirit Creation Creatures of blame? His plan would end up backfiring on him, and he would have caused great trouble for himself.

“You must understand, biochemical modification technology has always been a very sensitive topic. The citizens are willing to keep a biochemical pet with sharp claws and great fighting powers in their houses because they have full trust in modification technology. If there is even a 1% crack in that trust, everything will fall apart.

“So, Xie Xiaolei’s promotion was just too risky. Was there a need for him to do it?”

Drizzle was stunned for a moment, then he mumbled, “Makes sense. I was very curious at that time as well. He was basically slinging mud on himself while waiting for the truth to be revealed. This is what you call a 180-degree change in a situation. There have been similar cases in the past, but this is a terrible plan, and it’s mostly deployed by companies who are forced into a corner.

“Spirit Creation Creatures was actually in a pretty good situation before this. There were a lot of people paying attention to the case, so even if we didn’t push the tides, as long as the truth came out, the company’s reputation and influence would still increase by leaps and bounds. There was also a high chance that they would get the deal. I don’t know why President Xie would choose to do something so unnecessary and pay so much for it.”

“That is, unless he knew who the culprit was and had crucial evidence,” Meng Chao said faintly. “Even if the police and related departments couldn’t find the culprit, he would still have ways to expose the culprit.

“And since he knew who the culprit was but refused to report to the police and related departments, it means that he is guilty of something.

“If that’s really the case, it’s highly likely that you’ve turned into the accomplice of some crime as well.”

Drizzle’s eyes remained fixed on one spot for a long time.

He brought out a microcomputer from his bag.

Then, he placed a pair of glasses with a lot of runic symbols and micro crystal chips over his eyes.

He connected to the deep web, and through an anonymous chat room, he sent an invite to Xie Xiaolei. He asked to have a voice call.

The invite box stayed for a long time on the screen. It seemed that Xie Xiaolei did not expect that Drizzle would contact him.

Then, when Drizzle patiently called him a third time, the invite was accepted.

“Yes?”

What they heard was a sharp and tentative voice.

It was completely different from the usual Xie Xiaolei.

“President Xie.” Drizzle nudged his glasses up the bridge of his nose, and a professional smile appeared on his face. “It’s me. I would like to ask you for feedback on the work I did for you last time. I’m not bothering you, am I?”

The other side was silent for a moment.

“You did well for the activity at Silver Lion. I was very satisfied with it. I’ve been working with your studio for years, so there’s no way you would cause me any trouble.”

Even the voice change function could not hide the great puzzlement in Xie Xiaolei’s voice. “But it has been a long time since it happened. Why are you mentioning it and using this method to contact me? You could have called me at my office phone for this.”

Drizzle coughed softly. “President Xie, I’m not talking about Silver Lion. It’s about the matter at Blessed Paradise.”

The other party was silent for a while. Then, the voice rose by several pitches. “The matter at Blessed Paradise?”

“That’s right, President Xie.”

Drizzle exchanged a glance with Meng Chao. They did not expect that Xie Xiaolei would react this way.

Meng Chao thought about it and asked Drizzle to go straight to the point. “Weren’t you the one who asked me to leak the information about the case of the murderous pets in Blessed Paradise and have someone criticize Spirit Creation Creatures and biochemical modification technology?”

“What? Aren’t you mistaken? Why would I do that? Drizzle, aren’t you mistaken about something?” Xie Xiaolei screeched. He stopped talking for a moment before his voice suddenly became incredibly alert and calm. “Wait. Are you really Drizzle? Who are you? And what are you investigating?”

“No matter who you are, listen carefully. I’m a proper businessman. I’ve never done anything against the law. I’m completely innocent when it comes to the case of the murderous pets in Blessed Paradise.

“There’s nothing wrong with the products of my company, and I’ve never hired any online mass media company or person dabbling in we-media. I didn’t ask anyone to do any promotions that break the limits of moral codes and deceive people.

“As long as you’re smart enough, you will be able to see that my company and I are completely innocent, and we’re the victims. There is no need for me to do this. All I needed to do is to wait for the police and the related departments to figure out the truth to get the profit that I should get. Why would I do something so unnecessary and leave behind a stain on my name? What a joke!”

Drizzle cast a glance at Meng Chao.

Meng Chao thought about it for a while before he took the computer and glasses. He made minor adjustments to the voice changing system and imitated Drizzle’s sharp voice while he spoke in shock.

“President Xie, what are you saying? Didn’t you send all the information to me through this chat room that day? You even told me how I should handle things. In the end, you even offered me a price that I couldn’t refuse?”

“I’m not accusing you of not paying me. You’ve already paid me everything as per the contract, but I feel like someone has been investigating this matter recently, so I wanted to talk to you about this.”

“That’s impossible,” Xie Xiaolei said firmly. “I haven’t used this chat room over the past few months. Honestly, I haven’t met you for at least three months, and that’s if you’re Drizzle!”

“But half a month ago, someone did indeed use your identity in this chat room to contact us and negotiate the terms for the deal,” Meng Chao said. “President Xie, if it weren’t because we’re familiar with each other and because the offer you made was extremely high, we wouldn’t have taken up the deal. If someone really comes to my doorstep, we’ll be forced to tell them this when we’re forced into a corner.”

“That’s easy.” Xie Xiaolei snorted. “Just tell them that someone used my name to make this deal with Drizzle Studio. Everything can be falsified on the deep web. There wouldn’t be a problem even if I told someone that I’m the mayor of Dragon City.”

“There is,” Meng Chao said. “President Xie, you forgot. To ensure that this chat room provides absolute confidentiality and safety, we’re the only ones who can connect to the chat room via our terminals. Besides, we need to scan our corneas and check a series of biological information to be certain that the person who is talking to us is the real deal.

“Otherwise, we wouldn’t have readily agreed to do something like helping the president of Spirit Creation Creatures defame his own company!”

The other party was silent for a long time.

Then, Xie Xiaolei spoke again. Even the voice changing system could not hide the hoarseness and panic in his voice. “Are you sure that ‘I’ really used this chat room to contact you last time?”

“Of course, President Xie. There’s no need for me to tell a lie that can be easily seen through,” Meng Chao said. “Even though this anonymous chat room automatically deletes all signs of previous chats and information transferred, the related departments will still be able to find clues. You should be prepared!”

“I got it,” Xie Xiaolei said calmly. “We’ll meet at our old place at seven o’clock tonight and talk about it. Don’t tell anyone about this for now, alright?”

“Got it.” Meng Chao hung up.

He sank into the couch and laced his fingers together so that he could prop his chin on them. He thought about it for three minutes.

Then, he came to a conclusion. “Xie Xiaolei doesn’t know about this. The person who contacted you half a month ago wasn’t Xie Xiaolei.”

“What? How is that possible?” Drizzle asked in shock.

“I know that it’s practically impossible,” Meng Chao said. “If another person wanted to use this chat room, he had to be able to get Xie Xiaolei’s terminal, account, password, hair, cornea, his blood sample, and other information, and he had to do it without Xie Xiaolei noticing it as well. Of course, he must also know how he works with Drizzle Studio.

“This seems like an impossible task. Still, it reduces my suspects to only a few people. Let me think carefully...”

Suddenly, Meng Chao shot up from the couch as if he had been electrocuted.

Then, under Drizzle’s surprised gaze, he shot out like the wind.

He did not even bother riding the elevator.

With just a few strides, he descended the stairs.

He rushed into the street, and while he ran, he called Xie Xiaolei.

Due to him providing great help to the case of the murderous pets in Blessed Paradise, Xie Xiaolei had given Meng Chao his personal phone number. Meng Chao could contact the person himself without going through the secretary.

But the personal phone was turned off.

Meng Chao thought about it and sent a message to Xie Xiaolei stating that he wanted to discuss the details regarding the cooperation between Superstar and Spirit Creations Creatures.

He did not receive a reply for the message even after a long time had passed.

Meng Chao cursed under his breath and called Shen Yupeng.

Shen Yupeng’s phone was not turned off, but no one picked up the call for a long period of time.

Shen Yupeng had told Meng Chao that he usually spent about twenty hours a day solving cases outside. He would probably never be able to pick up his calls, but the moment he was free, he would definitely call him back.

Meng Chao pondered his choices and could only call Lu Siya.

“Xie Xiaolei’s life is in danger. In fact, he might already be dead.”

His first sentence shocked Lu Siya, and while she was regaining her senses, Meng Chao told her of his discovery.

“But even if someone used Xie Xiaolei’s name to do this, why are you so certain that Xie Xiaolei’s life is in danger?” Lu Siya asked in puzzlement.

“Don’t you understand?” Meng Chao said anxiously. “The person who can get Xie Xiaolei’s terminal, cornea, and other biological information must be the closest person to him, for only he would know how Xie Xiaolei works with Drizzle Studio.

“But while he might be able to hide this for a time, he won’t be able to hide it forever. Xie Xiaolei is going to end up working with Drizzle Studios sooner or later once more, and when he meets with Drizzle, with just a few words, that person will soon be exposed, because Xie Xiaolei is smart.

“He might be able to guess what happened, and that person will definitely not leave behind such a major problem around.

“So, when he pretended to be Xie Xiaolei and contacted Drizzle Studios, he was already plotting Xie Xiaolei’s murder. Once this matter is settled, he will definitely kill Xie Xiaolei just like how he killed Jin Yongqiang!”

Chapter 310: Nightmare Comes True

“Alright. Where are you? We can find a place and talk about your newest discovery,” Lu Siya said.

“There’s no time. I’m on my way to Spirit Creation Creatures. I suspect that the person has already taken action,” Meng Chao said while gasping for breath. “Originally, that person might not have taken action so quickly. There is a high chance that he would have waited for the storm of the case caused by the murderous pets in Blessed Paradise to pass before he silently caused Xie Xiaolei to disappear or die in an accident before the next time Xie Xiaolei went to Drizzle Studios to work with them. This would minimize all suspicions on him.

“But now, Xie Xiaolei knows everything, and he will definitely go back to the company to investigate things. He will also become suspicious of that person.

“I think that the person must be monitoring Xie Xiaolei’s actions at all times. Once he discovers traces of suspicious behavior, he will immediately strike first to gain an advantage. That’s why I cannot contact Xie Xiaolei right now.

“I have to hurry to Spirit Creation Creatures and stop this person from harming Xie Xiaolei. If Xie Xiaolei really dies, then I cannot give him the time to destroy or move Xie Xiaolei’s corpse.”

“Then, what do you want me to do, call the cops?” Lu Siya asked. “I can contact the police at Nine Sands University City through Sky Pillar Corporation and have them send a squad of elites to Spirit Creation Creatures. But I don’t have concrete evidence, and no one reported a case. They won’t have the right to perform a complete investigation.

“At the end of the day, you’re just suspecting that Xie Xiaolei might end up being killed. Him turning off his phone isn’t a major matter. Adults like him are only considered to have gone missing once you lose contact with them for more than forty-eight hours. It’s only then that an investigation can be performed. And before they find any traces of blood, murder weapons, or a suspect with a clear motive to kill him, they won’t upgrade the case from a missing person to intentional murder.”

“That’s why I didn’t contact the police,” Meng Chao said. “It’s not just for the reasons that I told you. More importantly, I highly suspect that we’re about to face an incredibly dangerous criminal. Let’s not talk about his or its intelligence for now. He or it has at least the fighting strength of the White Spirit, and normal police officers won’t be able to handle him or it. They’ll just end up dead for no reason.

"I hope that you can report this to the abnormal beast research department immediately and have them send real elites; otherwise, even if we end up exposing the true culprit, there's a high possibility that he or it will create collateral damage or flee!"

Lu Siya was silent for a few seconds.

"Meng Chao, I'm truly impressed. You managed to come up with a magnificent theory based on small clues that can't even be considered questionable points.

"But even if I was willing to share this achievement with my colleagues from the abnormal beast research department, where is the proof?"

"Up till now, we haven't found a single proof that shows that this matter is related to abnormal beasts!"

"Even if Jin Yongqiang, who is the criminal and victim of the case of the murderous pets in Blessed Paradise, was really killed by a third person, it's out of question that this person has fighting strength that is equivalent to that of the White Spirit, right?"

Meng Chao said nothing.

He ignored the pedestrians' gazes while he ran at full speed of a two-star superhuman and raced against the clock toward Nine Sands University City.

"Fine! Alright! Got it!" Lu Siya said in a troubled manner. "I don't know what sort of spell I'm under. Why am I willing to do something so insane with you? Even if I've already been deceived by you once, it's as if that's not enough, I just have to trust you again.

"How about this? I'll go with you to Spirit Creation Creatures. That's enough, right? If we work together, even a Hell Beast can be subjugated."

"No," Meng Chao stated firmly. "Either bring the elites from the abnormal beast research department over or don't come. If my instincts are right, this abnormal beast that has been lurking in Spirit Creation Creatures is not something that can be killed with just me, a two-star superhuman, and you, who is an amateur Heaven Realm superhuman who has only just become a fighter. If you come here alone, I'm just going to end up causing your death."

"You..." Lu Siya said angrily. "You have to give me some proof!"

Meng Chao's head stung.

It was as if there was a super Giant Sandworm raging around in his sulci.

The progress of the Mystery of Supernatural Entities was already 9%.

"Trust me." He gritted his teeth and said, "Trust me just like how you did when we escaped from the underground!"

Lu Siya fell silent again.

"I can trust you and ask for help from the abnormal beast research department," she said seriously, "but you must understand that we can only do this once. After all, we're forcing the abnormal beast research department to spend a lot of resources and mobilize their elites on our word alone.

“It’d be great if we could gain something out of this, and I would have the chance to climb higher up the ranks in the department, which also means that I would be able to help you get more clues about the White Spirit.

“But if we end up gathering a lot of forces yet end up with nothing, or if Xie Xiaolei shows up in perfect shape, which proves that all that you said is just your paranoia and I was stupid enough to believe it, I’ll end up as a joke in the abnormal beast research department and will never be able to come into contact with the core, the top-secret cases, and top-secret information.”

“I know. I promise you that there is definitely something wrong with Spirit Creation Creatures! Trust me!” Meng Chao shouted.

“Alright. Give me an hour. I’ll get a group of people over. We’ll meet up near Spirit Creation Creatures,” Lu Siya said.

“There’s no time. I’ll go into Spirit Creation Creatures first to take a look. I can’t give the person time to move or destroy the corpse,” Meng Chao said. “I trust that you will have a way to locate or track my phone. Remember this, that person is very dangerous. You can’t be careless!”

“Hey, Meng Chao, don’t do anything stupid. Hey!” Lu Siya said the last word louder.

But Meng Chao had already hung up.

He was now at the entrance of Spirit Creation Creatures.

Spirit Creation Creatures was much more deserted compared to other times.

Usually, the building was lit up, but today, fewer than a third of the lights were turned on.

The Giant Sandworms, which were supposed to be in the hatching pond, now lurked under the mud. They were not as active as usual.

Since Meng Chao had visited Spirit Creation Creatures a lot recently, he was a rather familiar face to the security guards and some of the technicians working at the front desk.

The security guard who was in the watch room was familiar with him. When he saw Meng Chao gasping for breath and drenched in sweat, he found it strange, but he did not stop him.

At the front desk, Meng Chao found that half of the employees who were in charge of reception were gone. Fortunately, the receptionist on duty knew him, so she stood up and said, “Mr. Meng, what?”

“I’m here for President Xie. It’s for something urgent. Is he in the company?” Meng Chao went straight to the point.

That employee hesitated for a moment and said, “You don’t have an appointment? I can call him.”

She called Xie Xiaolei twice, but the line was busy. She switched to another channel and spoke to the person on the other side softly before saying, “I’m sorry, Mr. Meng, President Xie is not in today.”

“Okay.” Meng Chao looked around. “Is there something going on with the company today? I feel like there’re fewer people here compared to other days.”

The receptionist thought about it and said, "Everyone has been really busy over this period of time, and they've been really tense. Things have finally settled over the past few days, so the company decided to let us take turns taking leave."

"Is that so?" Meng Chao appeared contemplative. "So, you haven't seen President Xie today at all, right?"

She hesitated, not knowing whether she should answer.

But Meng Chao was able to get the answer from her expression.

"Then, is Director Gao around?" Meng Chao asked. "Is it possible for me to meet Director Gao?"

She called the extension leading to the lab.

After exchanging a few words softly, she stood up and said, "Director Gao is in the lab. Please follow me."

Two-thirds of the researchers were also gone from the lab, which made the place look a little empty and eerie.

Through a transparent window, Meng Chao could see an incredibly large Giant Sandworm lying horizontally in the indoor hatching pond.

It was larger than the creature Meng Chao had seen under Trash Site 4. It was also much uglier. Not only was its mouth full of rings of sharp and tough teeth, there were also four long slits around its mouth. In other words, its mouth could open up to the max, like that of Slit-mouthed Anacondas or other man-eating flowers, so they could eat the largest prey possible. The worm's aggressiveness instantly increased by several levels because of this.

Aside from that, it also had bumpy tumors or osteomas growing all around its body, which made it look like it had a layer of bumpy metal armor on its body. Rows of fine and dense spikes grew between the metal armor, which increased its grip and agility. Of course, the moment it rubbed its body lightly against its prey, a large part of its flesh and blood would also be yanked off.

This creature was very different compared to normal Giant Sandworms.

Instead, it resembled the Supernatural Entity Meng Chao had seen in his nightmare, and in a daze, he thought he saw the Supernatural Entity underground.

It was clear that he had already obtained his answer, but when he saw the creature, he still could not help but sigh.

Fortunately, this creature had not been fully modified.

There were a large number of cables and nutrition tubes connected to its body to inject super growth hormones, gene medicine, and strengthening nutrients into its body.

It also received dual stimulation from spirit energy and bioelectricity so that its neural network would form even faster and reach an unprecedentedly complicated degree.

A few of the researchers busied themselves around it while it stayed in the hatching pond. It did not appear to be any different from the normal Giant Sandworms that were in the outdoor hatching pond.

Meng Chao saw Gao Ye in a lab that oversaw the entire sunken hatching pond from above. He was the creator of Spirit Creation Creatures, the second-in-command of the company, and also the technical director of the lab.

He was an amazing person who had a unique way of doing things. He remained curled up in his wheelchair like an incomplete prawn and appeared to be even more haggard compared to the last time Meng Chao had seen him. Even his skin showed signs of dullness and dryness.

There had never been a lot of flesh on his face, but now, he looked like a living skeleton with only skin over his bones.

But his only eye continued sparkling intensely. His life burned fiercely, as if it was using his flesh as fuel to push him to fulfill his great cause.

At that moment, there was a huge superbrain above his head. It was like a complicated and strange helmet. There were a lot of wires connected to it, and it was connected to the huge terminal calculator in the lab. The wires were also connected to the numerous monitors and modification equipment in the sunken hatching pond.

He looked like he was part human and part machine. It seemed like he was a prisoner of machines, which he hated.