

Oh My God 471

Chapter 471: Rumors Rising

“Big Brother Peng, are you very familiar with Jin Wanhao?”

Meng Chao remembered that a huge fire had broken out in Golden Tooth Lair in his previous life.

That fire caused major casualties among the lair citizens. Countless people lost their homes, and the gray industries and lost people who had originally gathered in the lairs spilled into the city. They caused major bloodshed and depleted Dragon City’s strength by a large margin, so the war situation, which already had its victor clear for all to see, became shrouded in uncertainty. It dragged out the humans’ path to victory by several years, and in the end, they only ended up with a pyrrhic victory.

If they could stop the major fire from breaking out in Golden Tooth Lair, they had the chance of completely changing the war situation.

Then, once they completely destroy the threat posed by the monsters, it would be much easier for them to solve the problems of the lairs.

With this thought in mind, Meng Chao said, “We should remind Jin Wanhao that this matter might not be as simple as it seems. The robbery last night was just the beginning, so the mastermind’s real goal might be Jin Wanhao, Golden Tooth, and Golden Tooth Lair itself!”

Shen Yupengg and Zhou Chong were both a little surprised.

“Why did you say that?” Shen Yupeng asked.

“The one hundred robberies last night might cause the secret police to run themselves ragged, but it’s not enough to shake Dragon City’s foundation,” Meng Chao explained. “The abnormal beasts have not launched any large scale attacks over the past half a year. If this is their new attack after the ambush at Noble Descent Hotel, then it’s all bark and no bite.

“I think that the robberies this time aren’t the goal, just a method for the enemy to get more raw materials to create more Deification Capsules so the large number of normal people who are forced to a dead end would ‘sign up’ and turn into malicious robbers.

“Now, the mastermind has a large amount of valuable resources and can create Deification Capsules ten times to one hundred times the original amount. They even gathered robbers whose hands are stained with blood and can’t go back now. It’s enough for them to carry out their real plan.

“And their goal is most likely the lairs!”

“Why?”

“The reason is simple. Big Brother Peng, you mentioned just now that the lairs are Dragon City’s toilets. We don’t want to blow them up and cause the things in there to spill everywhere,” Meng Chao said. “And the more we don’t want something to happen, the more the enemy wants to do it.

“If the abnormal beasts cause major damage to the lairs and chase the hundreds of thousands of lair citizens outside, Dragon City will return to the dark era with no order and no law. To the abnormal beasts, isn’t that the strategy with the best cost-performance ratio?”

“The abnormal beasts don’t even need to throw a lot of effort into this. All they need to do is light up a fire in Golden Tooth Lair and burn it to ashes. Then, Dragon City will end up in mayhem.”

“It won’t be that easy to set the lairs on fire.” Shen Yupeng thought about it. “Right now, the lairs are the largest slums in Dragon City, but decades ago, the lairs were the final fortresses of humans against zombies and monsters.

“Plenty of facilities in the lairs are made based on the standards of shelters and battle fortresses. Naturally, they have perfect fire prevention, disaster resistance, and survival abilities.

“When necessary, the lairs can be shut down and fortified like normal residential areas. They will then turn into super forts that are airtight and self-sufficient.

“Of course, we must always be prepared for accidents. What you said makes absolute sense. We should remind the gangs in the lairs to be on full guard.”

“Can you speak directly to Jin Wanhao?” Meng Chao asked.

“Of course not.” Shen Yupeng laughed in spite of himself. “Saber Jin Wanhao is an older generation superhuman who is at the same level as my grandfather and Battle God Lei Zongchao. What right do I have to speak directly to him?”

“Besides, Jin Wanhao has seldom appeared in the past few years. He rarely shows up to manage the gang and lair directly. It might be as you said. He was too severely injured when he was young and is in his twilight years.

“Now, the major and minor affairs of Golden Tooth and Golden Tooth Lair are handled by Jin Wanhao’s assistant, Red Brows Su Lun.

“This person has a degree in the management course from Dragon City University, and he’s classmates with a lot of the middle and high management members of a lot of big companies, along with many of the politicians in the Survival Committee. He’s smart, skillful, resourceful, knows the gravity of many things, and has a great sense of propriety.

“I think that he will convey our thoughts to Jin Wanhao, so we can work together to solve this matter appropriately.”

They had no time to waste. Shen Yupeng was about to contact Red Brows Su Lun when suddenly, a deafening explosion came from outside the window.

Even if the windows were made of three layers of soundproof technology and were explosion resistant, they still trembled and made cracking sounds.

Everyone’s expressions changed, even Meng Chao’s.

Right now, it was still day time.

This was also the central commercial area where the mega corporations were gathered.

Where did that explosion come from?

The group ran to the window.

Then, they saw thick, black smoke rising from the top few floors of a towering skyscraper not far from them.

More than ten small black dots drove non-motorized gliders as they fled into the distance.

In an instant, they disappeared among the buildings.

Shen Yupeng gasped in disbelief. "It's a lab from Soaring Dragon Construction. They actually thought about stealing from Soaring Dragon Construction?"

Soaring Dragon Construction was the same as Universe Corporation and Sky Pillar Corporation. It was one of the nine mega corporations that created the Survival Committee in the past.

If they actually had the guts to rob Soaring Dragon Construction, it was the same as them slapping the Survival Committee and all superhumans in the face. Their prestige was shaken.

And with the series of crimes that happened the night before, all sorts of noise and rumors started festering online.

It should be said that Dragon Citizens had the patience to handle zombie and monster invasions. They were mentally prepared for it.

If monsters destroyed their homes or they were infected by zombie viruses, they could only consider themselves to have bad luck. There was no one to blame.

But superhuman criminals were another thing.

Some people said that the Survival Committee had largely concealed the number of crimes that happened at night. In truth, there were not just one hundred crimes, but one thousand. Many innocent citizens were killed, and countless malicious robbers and serial killers were wandering the streets of the city. They lurked among the people as normal humans.

There were even some who said that the superhumans had already given up on protecting the worthless normal people. They also intended to give up on the main city area of Dragon City. The proof was that most of the fighting-class superhumans had left Dragon City and ran off into the fog for pathfinding activities or to build new areas.

If things continued like this, the superhumans would turn the new areas into beautiful places that were the superhumans' heaven.

And the main city area would lose all its resources, which would then cause it to become increasingly worn down, chaotic, and gradually, the main city area would turn into a super large slum. The normal people could only stay in the slums and endure being robbed while they were left to their own devices.

The current state of the lairs was the future of Dragon City. It was the emptying of a city.

Some people also mentioned that a really amazing super gene medicine had appeared in the market. It was known as the Deification Capsule, and with just one, they could become superhumans without getting tired or going through any trouble.

Even though they could not maintain that state for long, normal people never had to use supernatural abilities 24/7, anyway. When it was necessary, all they needed to do was just take another pill.

Apparently, the robbers at night had taken the Deification Capsules, which was why they could beat up the superhumans.

In fact, during the day, the robbers used the Deification Capsules to attack Soaring Dragon Construction.

The normal citizens obeyed the law because they could not think about breaking the law nor did they have the ability to do so.

But since the robbers could use such powerful drugs, if the lawful citizens also stored up some of these Deification Capsules, they could fend against trouble!

The rumors online spread swiftly like the flu during the four seasons.

Very soon, they spread to every forum and social media platform.

Many citizens who did not know the truth talked about it.

Even Bai Suxin called Meng Chao to ask what was going on. She said that her mahjong group, shopping group, and family group were all talking about it.

Last time, when they threw the party celebrating the Meng family's move, they invited their friends and family to join it. His aunts all knew that Meng Chao had become successful and had a close relationship with the abnormal beast research department, which was why he could move to the staff apartment of the abnormal beast research department.

Now, they were all asking Bai Suxin whether Meng Chao could get them "that powerful gene medicine to use as a supplement".

Meng Chao did not know whether he should laugh or cry. He asked his mother to calm down and not believe in rumors and not spread them, because the rumors online were all nonsense.

First, since yesterday, Meng Chao had spent all his time together with Shen Yupeng, so he had first-hand information from the secret police.

Even though it was a night of crime, things did not go out of hand and there were no one thousand crimes. If they calculated every crime, at most, there were only around three hundred of them.

Second, most of the fighting-class superhumans did indeed rarely stay in Dragon City and went to the wild to hunt monsters as well as build and defend the new city areas, which led to a lack of fighting power in the main city area. It was why the thieves took the opportunity to steal, but that did not mean that they cast aside the normal citizens and ignored them. It was the opposite—they did it for the normal people!

They needed resources for the project to upgrade the old residential areas. They also needed resources for the project to provide three nutritional meals for the children of the right age groups.

If they wanted to upgrade all the elementary schools and middle schools in the city so that the poor children could enjoy the same education as the rich children, they also needed resources.

Resources would not be handed to them on a silver platter, so they needed fighting-class superhumans to go out and do pathfinding activities as well as harvest monsters!

Also, the greatest problem in Dragon City right now was that aside from zombies and monsters, millions of young adults could not find jobs.

The main city area had been developed to its limit a long time ago and could not provide an extra million jobs.

They had to build up around twenty new city areas in the four cardinal directions to create new chances and hope for the people.

Besides, the chances for offense were fleeting. The humans had to be constantly on the offense against monsters so that they could stop them from counterattacking.

The monsters had already created their civilization. If they gave it a chance to catch its breath even for a few days, who knew what sort of trouble it would cause.

During this critical moment, it was only inevitable that a large number of fighting-class superhumans could not come back to defend the main city area.

Otherwise, the astronomical amount of resources they cast to develop the areas outside the city earlier on and the plans that were about to begin in the city and were beneficial for the development of the city in the long run would all be for nothing.

Chapter 472: Setting the Rhythm

As for the talk about “we don’t need to go through all that trouble and become tired, we can become superhumans by just taking in the Deification Capsules”, that was an extremely sinister lie.

The current cultivation system had been developed for decades, and it was a comprehensive system that was absolutely scientific.

Gene medicine, high-calorie nutritional fluid, spirit energy magnetic fields, all sorts of meditation and stance techniques, and the constant refinement of the mind and spirit by throwing oneself at the edge of life and death by fighting in blood... all of it was important. There was absolutely no possibility of anyone becoming a peerless superhuman by just taking some pill. Not even miracle medicine could do it.

If one imagined supernatural abilities as a fast race car, the fuel, strength and design of the race car, and the skills of the racer were all equally important. None of them could go missing.

When normal people took in the Deification Capsule, it would be the same as an unmodified car used for groceries by a housewife being injected with super fuel rich with spirit energy and the housewife then trying to race a professional racer.

Since the super fuel was really powerful, during the first few times, the car for groceries would definitely be able to drive at a crazy speed on certain race tracks.

But the car would not be able to maintain this speed for long.

Even if the super fuel could continuously provide energy to the car, the car itself is not strong enough. The slightest crash could easily make it collapse.

And the housewife lacks the skills and mindset of a professional racer. It's impossible for her to make a car speed down a race track while its engine burns for a long period of time.

In the end, she would definitely end up with the car destroyed and die along with it.

This was the unanimous conclusion that the professional labs from the research department and adjudicator court came up with after they analyzed the Deification Capsule.

If a normal person took the Deification Capsules numerous times, then even if they had a sufficient amount of high-calorie nutritional fluid every single time they used it, their bones, muscles, nerves, and cells would be unable to handle the wild spirit energy fluctuations.

They would become paralyzed, go mad, experience organ failure, and even combust. This was the foregone conclusion for all those who took Deification Capsules again and again.

Using the Deification Capsule to increase one's strength was basically someone trying to quench their thirst by drinking poison.

The evil drug was absolutely not the hope of normal people. It was just a despicable trap that would bring endless despair.

But when it came to rumors, the moment they started spreading, it required a lot of effort to clear them.

Meng Chao could convince his mother. He could also go out of his way to convince his aunts and his neighbors, but it was impossible for him to use his glib tongue to completely clear the rumors online. There were just too many versions of them, and they were becoming more ridiculous as time passed.

At that moment, Qin Hu came to him and said that some really strange posts had appeared on the official website of the Broken Star Club.

The first post was this.

[I'm a broken-star superhuman. I've always adhered to the beliefs of superhumans and fought to defend Dragon City and my comrades. Even if I was injured badly, my spirit meridians withered, my cultivation stopped improving, and I experienced all sorts of complications and sequelae from cultivation, I never regretted it.

[I didn't expect that the "comrades" that I have been protecting all this while would stab me in the back. After they took the Deification Capsules, they robbed the company that I spent more than ten years building till there was nothing left! They even destroyed the equipment that they couldn't move!

[It's all over! My hard work over ten years has been ruined!

[In the end, when I went online to take a look, I saw a lot of normal people complaining that we superhumans haven't been protecting them. They even said that we'll abandon normal people and run off to the areas outside the city to build a heaven for superhumans? How ungrateful!]

The second post was similar.

[That's right. These normal people are greedy, ungrateful bastards. They always say nonsense like "the more powerful you are, the greater your responsibility". It's like we must serve them after we awaken to supernatural abilities.

[They should know that the responsibility superhumans bear is already great enough! I'm a hunter in the wild, and I have to offer more than half of the monster materials to the Supernatural Tower whenever I kill a monster so that they can give it to the normal people in the city.

[But look at this! Right now, the government is doing this plan to upgrade old residential areas and a project to provide three nutritional meals. They need a lot of resources for it, so they can only force us superhumans to tighten our belts. Now, we need to offer two-thirds of the materials from the original half.

[Think. We fight with our lives on the line all the time. We're basically sticking our necks while dancing between our blades and monster fangs. We kill those monsters with our hands, but we can only get one-third of the resources.

[The normal people just stay in the city comfortably and do nothing, but they can get two-thirds of the resources! And they're constantly complaining about how friggin' unfair the world is and that we're always so high-and-mighty and only know how to enjoy our lives. They even say that we want to abandon them! Is that what they should be saying right now?! Is that fair?!]

And there was a third post as well.

[I say, you're too stupid. Did you really give two-thirds of the materials just because the Supernatural Tower asked you to?

[Hmph. When superhumans protect normal people, it's out of affection for them, not out of a sense of duty. If the normal people know how to be grateful, then everything is fine. But if they're going to act like this, why should we send the monster materials back to the city?

[We should just set up secret developing lands and illegal black markets in the wild. After we kill the monsters, we'll eat them right there, and if we can't finish them, we can get them to the black market and exchange them for other cultivation resources. In any case, the only thing real is us having to think of ways to increase our strength.

[And if the Supernatural Tower wants to hold us accountable? The law can't hold a group accountable. If all the superhumans do this, what can the Supernatural Tower do to us?

[In any case, the further we are, the more we will be beyond the control of authority. The situation in the wild has always been complicated, and the internet there is constantly stuttering. If we hunt monsters, eat them, and trade them in secret, no one is going to discover it.

[If you don't have the courage to do it, at the very least, don't work so hard when you hunt monsters. You should preserve your life when you cultivate and hunt calmly. That's still okay with you, right? In any case, even if you hunt many monsters, you'll just end up sending them back to the city to feed those ungrateful louts! What's the point in it?!!]

There were a few more posts like this.

Meng Chao scowled when he saw it.

"These are all from our members? That's too extreme!

"People's aggressive nature has always been much stronger online compared to the real world, but how could they treat the rumors and noise online as something real? In reality, most of the normal citizens still respect and support superhumans. When I walk on campus, a lot of female university students run up to me for my signature!"

"That's where the problem is," Qin Hu said. "Our official website requires our members to use their real names to verify their accounts. Each account corresponds to the Broken Star Club members' club ID. I've checked them, and the members who posted the posts yesterday had lost their accounts. They're not the ones who posted these."

Meng Chao was stunned. "What?"

"It's true. These members are baffled themselves. They swore that they never posted these things. Besides, the posts don't correlate to their identities. Many of them aren't hunters, and the first guy wasn't robbed last night. There's no reason for them to release such provocative posts," Qin Hu said.

"Our technicians are investigating now, and they've already found some loopholes. In truth, when the Broken Star Club created its official website, we never thought much. We just used a template, so it's very easy for others to hack and steal our accounts."

"So, you're saying that someone is setting the rhythm?" Meng Chao came to an understanding.

"Exactly. Most of the Broken Star Club members came from poor families. Even if they've already moved out of the old residential areas, plenty of their friends and families are still staying in old residential areas, so they're very supportive of the plan to upgrade the old residential areas.

"Even if they have to bear even greater responsibility, they won't complain about it, much less post these things," Qin Hu said. "It's obvious that someone is setting the rhythm with these posts. They want to sow discord between the normal people and superhumans.

"By the way, the Broken Star Club's official website isn't the only one affected. I've discovered signs of someone controlling public opinion in many forums and social media platforms.

"Honestly, over the past half a year, the Survival Committee and the Supernatural Tower have been paying a lot of attention to changing the relationship between superhumans and normal people. They want to close the distance between us.

"Be it their act of announcing the slogan that 'the blood of the strong flows for the weak', the upgrades for the old residential areas, the three nutritional meals, the act of having superhumans proactively take

part in voluntary work, and creating as well as promoting model superhumans, all of them are to promote Dragon Citizens to work hard and become united.

“Even Lu Siya moved out of her mansion and sold her race car so that she can stroll around the streets with her worn down van every day to help normal people, right?”

“She might have ulterior motives, but she’s really doing a lot of stuff and has earned a lot of normal people’s favor. Many of the normal people’s opinions of the rich have changed for the better. Logically, there shouldn’t be this much noise and rumors popping up overnight.”

“You’re right.” Meng Chao massaged his temples. He felt a headache pounding. “Looks like the discordant noises online are the monsters’ new offense toward humans. They want to control public opinion!”

But even if they were now sure of this, it was difficult to fend against it.

Meng Chao told his and Qin Hu’s analysis to Lu Siya and Shen Yupeng.

The sectors related to the research department and the adjudicator court soon used the clues to locate a number of network terminals.

But the people who spread the rumors and sowed conflict were low-class citizens who lived in the slums or squatter areas.

They did not have strength, jobs, or hope, so they were not afraid of any punishments.

Besides, they only saw the rumors online and shared them. At most, they just added fuel to the fire. They were not the source of the rumors, so it was difficult to classify their actions as true crimes.

Besides, when some of the posters were discovered, they still believed that they were speaking on behalf of the general population of normal citizens and defending justice by criticizing the superhumans’ oppression.

Both organizations also discovered a unique email with a vortex watermark in many of their mailboxes.

By the looks of it, they were hypnotized by the Vortex and imagined themselves as the spokespeople of the normal people.

As for the true source of the rumors, they were hidden in the depths of the deep web, and even if the government used all sorts of data mining methods, it was difficult to locate the source in a short time.

Chapter 473: A Capture Squad With A Grand Lineup

The day ended in chaos.

When the starless night arrived once more, scattered gunshots and explosions rose again inside and outside Dragon City.

Numerous crimes happened again.

The main characters were robbers who had gained supernatural abilities for the time being by eating Deification Capsules but were a little off in the head.

The Dragon Citizens were warier than last night.

The robbers' plans were also clearly not as sophisticated as the previous night.

Many of the robbers were discovered immediately.

But they did not intend to stay around and just be captured. Instead, they acted desperately and fought against the secret police as well as the righteous citizens.

The robbers, secret police, and righteous people all possessed supernatural abilities. When they clashed fists with each other, it was basically the same as main battle tanks clashing viciously in the city.

Even if the robbers were captured or killed in the end, they had resisted fiercely and caused major collateral damage.

The initial statistics showed that with every captured or killed robber, Dragon City suffered millions or tens of millions worth of yuan of direct economic loss.

And that was if they did not consider the innocent citizens who died or were injured in the scuffle, the large number of buildings that collapsed during the capture, leading to the citizens losing their homes, and the subsequent effects it brought.

The secret police were constantly at work and often lost sight of one thing while attending to another.

The Red Dragon Army was stationed in the city to defend the citizens' lives, property, and safety.

But trying to use the army to handle the robbers hiding in the city was the typical case of using anti-aircraft machine guns to kill mosquitoes. Not only would they use up a lot of resources, the effects might not be entirely satisfactory either. If the robbers hid themselves in residential buildings, the army could not just bring out their artillery guns and shoot them, right?

The armed investigators from the abnormal beast research department made preparations for the battle. They defended the power plants, water treatment plants, crystal refinement factories, synthesized food factories, and other important places, worried that the monsters would enter while they were weak, so they did not dare to slack off.

But no monsters appeared.

Yet Meng Chao, Lu Siya, Ye Xiaoxing, and all the investigators were even more tense.

Everyone knew that if the Deification Capsules were really created by the abnormal beasts as a secret weapon to fight against Dragon City, the monsters would definitely not miss this God-given chance.

The monsters did not appear because the defenses in Dragon City had not been forced to their limits yet.

But if the abnormal beasts used the resources they stole to create ten times the number of Deification Capsules and sent them to the robbers so they would gain the destructive abilities of superhumans and then provided them with professional guidance on how to commit crimes, in less than half a month, Dragon City would become a paradise for crime, and societal order would be completely gone.

And the secret, armed investigators, and the Red Dragon Army would be wrung dry by the countless crimes. They would not have the energy to take care of the abnormal beasts invading them.

At that time, the abnormal beasts could secretly spread the zombie viruses and Blood Flower spores again to create an offense that was ten times stronger in terms of scale and power compared to the ambush on Noble Descent Hotel.

There was a high possibility that Dragon City would really sink into an abyss that they could never escape at that time.

The only way to handle this was to have the whole city be on guard and execute the strictest curfews and military control.

Dragon City had gone through periods of time when all citizens were treated as soldiers and everything adhered to a militarized management, but the result of having every citizen become a soldier was that the speed of economic development plummeted. They could not maintain the vigor required of a society, and they could not create enough effective jobs. In the long run, this would just drain their potential and was the same as drinking poison to quench one's thirst.

Now, Dragon City was going through its second Great Construction Era. They were building more than ten new city areas and had more than one hundred projects going on at the same time.

If they executed a full militarized management at this point, it would be the same as hitting the emergency brakes for their economic development.

Unless it was absolutely necessary, the Survival Committee would have a hard time making this decision.

Fortunately, when on the second half of the night, good news came from Golden Tooth Lair.

Shen Yupeng told Meng Chao that ever since they sent the information regarding the large-scale robberies and Deification Captures to Golden Tooth Lair, all the gangs in the lair became tense.

They were different from robbers.

The gangs required a certain degree of order in gray areas to gain profit for themselves.

The robbers, though, did not distinguish right from wrong and just wanted to destroy all forms of order.

After having learned that Golden Tooth Lair might have ended up as the robbers' nest and that abnormal beasts were actually employing petty tricks under his nose, Saber Jin Wanhao became livid, just as they expected.

Gangs had their own ways to investigate the truth, and to a certain degree, they were even more effective than the secret police.

They started investigating from the ten illegal finance companies in Golden Tooth Lair and managed to find clues about a leak of name lists regarding people who took loans from them.

Then, through these clues, they found a few of the robbers' hiding places.

However, these robbers were all the Vortex's bewitched puppets. Capturing or suppressing them would not be very meaningful.

The key was still the mastermind hiding behind the robbers and the illegal lab that created the Deification Capsules.

Shen Yupeng was greedy. He wanted to capture the robbers and mastermind in one go.

He mobilized resources from all sides and came up with a plan.

During the series of crimes the previous night, two robbers had been knocked unconscious while they were running away.

Shen Yupeng captured them, and while they were unconscious, implanted mini-tapping chips and locating chips into their wounds.

Then, he intentionally threw them deep into some alley.

When the two robbers woke up, they thought that they had fortunately escaped being captured, and naturally, just like other robbers, they fled in alarm to Golden Tooth Lair.

Shen Yupeng believed that the mastermind would not just cast aside these two “talented people” who had successfully escaped once and now had great experience in committing crimes and fleeing.

Regardless of whether the mastermind would show up directly and give the two robbers more resources and guidance or whether it would give them remote commands through the internet again, Jin Wanhao would be able to get more clues, because he was the Underground Emperor of the lair.

Of course, if the mastermind were really an abnormal beast, the lair would have a hard time killing it with its own fighting strength.

In the face of an unprecedented threat, Saber Jin Wanhao decided to step aside and allow the fighting power from the world outside the lair to enter Golden Tooth Lair, all so that they could capture and suppress the mastermind.

Of course, the Underground Emperor also set up his conditions. He did not wish that the secret police, abnormal beast research department, and the Red Dragon Army would use brute force in the lair and break the tacit agreement they had built over the decades.

This was not a problem.

The hundreds of crimes outside had already wrung the secret police completely dry of energy. The abnormal beast research department also had to fend off the abnormal beasts’ infiltration and ambush at full force. As for the Red Dragon Army, it was not suitable for them to use their heavy equipment for a battle in the 3D maze that was the lair.

Besides, the secret police, abnormal beast research department, and the Red Dragon Army had never been the only top fighting powers in Dragon City.

The four great research centers, Dragon City University, the alliance of the five universities, Universe Corporation, Sky Pillar Corporation, Soaring Dragon Construction, and the other six mega corporations had veteran superhumans who had survived through hundreds of battles and possessed unbelievable, practically sci-fi tech.

Very soon, a capture squad formed of more than ten Heaven Realm superhumans led by Man-eating Shark Zhou Chong himself, who was at the peak of Heaven Realm, came from the various insurance companies in Dragon City.

They took into consideration that the environment in the lair was complicated and had hundreds of thousands of innocent citizens. Even if Deity Realm superhumans entered, it would be difficult for them to go all out and fight to their hearts' content.

Hence, this capture squad had an average fighting strength of Heaven Realm, and it was already an unprecedentedly grand lineup.

"Don't worry. Zhou Chong is a senior in the hunter circle. His sense of smell when it comes to hunting is much sharper than that of the average person.

"When he was in the wild, he once caught countless monsters skilled in disguising and hiding themselves. He has already memorized the scents of quite a number of robbers and the Deification Capsule. If he can smell even a whiff of their scent, the mastermind won't be able to escape!"

Shen Yupeng was at his wits' end because of the hundreds of crimes over the past two days, but his righteous nature was still stirred up, and he swore that he would not stop fighting until he died. He punched the air and said to Meng Chao when he came to ask for information, "Just wait for good news. Dragon City won't suffer through a third lawless night!"

Meng Chao cast a glance at the capture squad list that Shen Yupeng gave him, and he saw quite a number of famous names.

They were all like Man-eating Shark Zhou Chong, idols from his teenage years.

But he was still a little uneasy and a little agitated. He thought about it and said earnestly to Shen Yupeng, "Big Brother Peng, can I join the capture squad and enter the lair with Senior Zhou and the others?"

Shen Yupeng was surprised. "Why?"

Meng Chao did not come to this decision on a whim.

He did not want to play hero in front of veteran hunters like Man-eating Shark Zhou Chong, either.

Instead, after he thought about it carefully, he discovered three reasons behind why he had to go.

First, if the mastermind was really the Supernatural Entity Vortex, he might be able to unravel more of the Mystery of the Supernatural Entities through this creature.

Second, the fire that ignited in Golden Tooth Lair in his previous life dealt a decisive, negative impact on the direction of the Monster War.

But Shen Yupeng told Meng Chao that Golden Tooth Lair was built based on the standards of shelters and war fortresses, so it was impossible for an accidental fire to affect the whole lair.

If it were not an accident, then what sort of scheme lurked behind the fire that had yet to happen?

Meng Chao remembered that in his previous life, the fire led to at least one hundred thousand lair citizens dying or being injured.

No matter what, he had to stop this tragedy from happening.

The third reason was related to the X-shaped Eye.

Ever since he saw the X-shaped Eye in the Demonic Abyss Eye's dying memories, Meng Chao secretly searched through all the major medical organizations in Dragon City, including the files related to the medical organizations that no longer existed since around twenty years ago.

But he never discovered the existence of the X-shaped Eye.

However, Golden Tooth Lair could be considered as a living fossil. There were plenty of places in the lair that still retained their original look from decades ago, and there were a large number of illegal workshops, secret labs, and unlicensed private medical organizations hiding in it.

Meng Chao believed that he might be able to find the answer in Golden Tooth Lair.

With that thought in mind, he said decisively, "Of course it's because I hate the wicked and swore when I was young that I will be the mortal enemy of evil! I will definitely cut down the mastermind who extended its claws toward Dragon City's innocent citizens!

"Big Brother Peng, trust me. I won't hold Man-eating Shark Zhou Chong and the others back!"

Chapter 474: Veteran and Amateur

"Of course I trust you. Let's not talk about anything else but your feat of killing a Tyrant Mammoth alone in the wild the day before yesterday. I know that your strength isn't as simple as of those who just entered Heaven Realm. You naturally won't hold them back," Shen Yupeng said.

"But we're going deep into the lair to fight, and we can't just consider a person's fighting strength alone. We also have to consider the problem of collateral damage.

"The environment in the lair is complicated. There's a dense population there, and all sorts of gray industries and illegal workshops. The place is filled with unexpected variables.

"For decades, once plenty of robbers stole outside and hid in the lairs by holding hundreds of thousands of lair citizens as their hostages, the secret police couldn't do anything against them.

"Based on the mastermind's plan, we can tell that the enemy is very sinister and has no humanity. They won't hesitate on using hundreds of thousands of lair citizens as meat shields. In fact, they might even use them as ticking time bombs.

"I'm not worried about them fleeing. Divine retribution will never miss out on handing out punishments. Even if the mastermind really manages to run away this time, we will be able to capture him sooner or later.

"But we're worried that they will do something like destroying everything and use their full power in the lair in a shocking battle with the capture squad. At that time, the innocent citizens who die or are injured might number to thousands or ten thousands.

“We’ve agreed to Saber Jin Wanhao’s request so readily and did not send any secret police, research department investigators, or the regular squads from the Red Dragon Army into Golden Tooth Lair mostly because of this consideration.

“If the regular fighting forces cause a stir in the lair and make countless buildings collapse, which will cause ten thousand casualties, it might lead to a chain reaction that will make the Survival Committee’s prestige and financial situation take a turn for the worse.

“The crisis management members from the insurance companies can be considered mercenaries. At the very least, on paper, they have no major connection to the Survival Committee and have more space to do the things they like.

“If... something undesirable really happens, the government will have a buffer when they need to handle the situation.

“But you’ve just entered Heaven Realm and have a bright future ahead of you. There’s no need for you to step into this mess. If the enemy really makes this ‘toilet’ explode, you’re going to end up covered in... you know what!”

Meng Chao knew what Shen Yupeng meant.

If the capture squad led by the Heaven Realm superhumans engaged in a fight to the death with the Vortex in the lair, it would be the same as two Tyrant Mammoths leading two monster hordes to fight against each other. It would be difficult for them to not hurt any innocents at all.

The capture squad might be careful, but the Supernatural Entity Vortex did not care about human lives. It might even cause numerous casualties to shake the human wills and unity.

It was precisely because of this that Meng Chao wanted to enter Golden Tooth Lair and face the Vortex!

“I’ve never been an official investigator of the abnormal beast research department and am just a normal citizen who loves contributing to Dragon City because of exemplary conduct and having been born sympathetic. I won’t cause any trouble if I enter the lair due to my status.”

Shen Yupeng stared at him for a long time and saw the intense light in his eyes.

He pondered over this for a while, then nodded. “Alright. Right now, Man-eating Shark Zhou Chong and the rest are in a temporary base near Golden Tooth Lair to assemble their equipment, get used to their team, and form their plan, so I’ll bring you over.

“But I’ll be blunt. Man-eating Shark Zhou Chong is the direct commander of the squad. Most of the members of the capture squad are his friends from the hunter circle. Their teamwork is pretty good, which is why they’re fine with letting each other take care of their backs. I’m not sure whether they’ll be willing to take you along. If he doesn’t agree to it, I can’t force him.”

“Got it.” Meng Chao nodded readily. “I’ll do my best to make Senior Zhou agree to take me along!”

They had no time to waste, so they left immediately.

The robbers who had tapping devices and locating chips implanted in their wounds might wake up at any moment and sneak into the lair.

And the two locating chips might be discovered by the devious mastermind as well.

There was not much time left.

Meng Chao and Shen Yulong used non-motorized gliders, and fifteen minutes later, they arrived at a building that looked like a huge fort located near Golden Tooth Lair.

Decades ago, when the zombies ran wild in the land, it was one of Dragon City's largest food waste recycling and processing bases as well as food storages.

When the zombie crisis faded away and the borders of the city continued expanding outward, the place was slowly abandoned. It was now torn down, and only an empty storage was left.

At that moment, it was used as the joint command center for the Deification Capsule case by the adjudicator court and the research department.

Nearly one hundred computers were set up at a corner. A large number of trained data analysts and research specialists were focused as they contacted the people inside Golden Tooth Lair and monitored the situation.

At another corner was all sorts of advanced equipment and powerful ammunition.

At the center of the storage was a complicated and fragile 3D maze made from a large number of glass and steel pipes.

The vice director of the abnormal beast research department, Nie Chenglong, personally came to the frontlines to supervise the operation.

He did not deny Meng Chao's request to join the capture squad immediately. Instead, he just looked at Meng Chao with great interest. "Why?"

Meng Chao pondered it for a while and said, "Last time, during the Noble Descent Hotel ambush, I fought to the death with that Mutated Demonic Air Ripping Eye, and when I killed it, I was affected by its brain waves. While my mind was in a daze, I saw some fragmented pictures.

"At that time, I didn't think about what those fragmented scenes meant, but now that I did, they were scenes from within a lair.

"I think—no, I believe that the abnormal beast must be planning something big in Golden Tooth Lair. It's only if I enter its depths that I'll be able to 'see' more things.

"Sometimes, the only reason why we can't figure out a riddle is because we aren't close enough to it. I want to be in contact with the abnormal beast's scheme at a close distance. That's all."

"Alright!" Nie Chenglong's expression changed. "I have to say, Meng Chao, among all the people I've seen, you're the most suited to be an investigator and explorer. Come with me!"

Nie Chenglong brought Meng Chao to the center of the storage. They stopped in front of the really disorderly and fragile 3D maze.

The main parts that formed the 3D maze were intersecting pipes. They stacked on each other layer by layer until they reached the ceiling, which was more than thirty meters from the floor.

The steel pipes were not arranged nicely like the scaffolding in construction sites.

Instead, they were intersected with each other. Various parts jutted out, making the whole 3D space look as if it was in tatters.

The intersecting pipes created all sorts of twisted and narrow tunnels.

Between quite a number of tunnels were irregular mirrors and transparent glasses. As light continued reflecting and refracting off them, the mirrors in the 3D maze looked even more complicated.

The pipes without mirrors between them had wind chimes and heavy balloons filled with water hanging in them.

The slightest movement caused the wind chimes to release pleasant sounds. The balloons could also easily fall and make a splash.

More than ten veteran elites who were famous in the hunter circle and Man-eating Shark Zhou Chong were moving around as if they were flying in the 3D maze.

Sometimes, someone was unable to dodge in time and ended up touching the wind chimes or smashing a mirror, which instantly stirred up merciless laughter from the people around them.

The veteran hunters were just warming up, but as if it was as easy as breathing for them, they released the nonchalant presence of people who had fought in hundreds of battles.

This sort of presence created a small circle belonging only to those who were experienced. It was not a circle that an amateur who had just stepped into society could easily enter.

Nie Chenglong could see that Meng Chao was puzzled, so he explained, "They're conducting adaptive training.

"There's no reason to be skeptical of the fighting strength of veteran hunters like Man-eating Shark Zhou Chong. Right now, our biggest problem isn't the lack of fighting strength, but the fear that they will release too much of it.

"If they get too worked up fighting in the lair and activate a really powerful spirit energy magnetic field that rams into the illegal buildings that are around eighty floors high instead of the mastermind, that will be bad news.

"That's why we set this thing up spontaneously as a simulation of the environment in the lair. The steel pipes create all sorts of narrow tunnels, which represent the alleys in the lair. You can think of the wind chimes as the alarm system set up by the mastermind. As for the water balloons, you can think of them as the heads of the innocent citizens in the lair."

Meng Chao looked at the torn pieces of the balloons all over the floor and suddenly felt that this operation was much more troublesome than he thought it was.

Nie Chenglong smiled wanly. "Figured out how troublesome the lair is now? If it weren't this troublesome, we would have leveled the lairs decades ago. There's no way we would have let them remain until this day.

“You still have time to change your mind. Stay here and monitor the capturing process in real time. When it’s necessary, provide reinforcements to the capture squad. It’ll be the same.”

“Don’t need to.” Meng Chao gritted his teeth. “If worse comes to worst, I’ll just follow Senior Zhou and the others obediently and observe the situation in the dark. I won’t move even one of my fingers.”

Nie Chenglong smiled and said, “Alright. As long as Zhou Chong agrees to it, I will have nothing to say about it.

“You’re lucky. I had gotten acquainted with Zhou Chong in the wild and once saved his life. If you want to be successful in life, he will definitely give you a chance.

“Sharkie!” Nie Chenglong shouted upward in the direction of the 3D maze.

Man-eating Shark Zhou Chong was originally curled up in the deepest parts of the 3D maze.

When he heard the shout, he moved like a compressed spring that had been abruptly released. With unbelievable agility, he shot between the gaps of the steel pipes, glass, wind chimes, and water balloons. Then, like a feather in a vacuum, he landed swiftly and lightly on the floor.

“Let me introduce to you a great newbie. You know Meng Chao, right?” Nie Chenglong grinned. “You’re lucky. The higher-ups are paying a lot of attention to the Deification Capsule case and decided to send the future star that the abnormal beast research department has been secretly training to assist you in the capture. You know that Meng Chao was the one who killed the Mutated Demonic Air Ripping Eye in the Noble Descent Hotel ambush, right?”

Man-eating Shark Zhou Chong frowned a little and looked at Nie Chenglong. Then, he cast a glance at Shen Yupeng, who stood nearby. He thought about it and extended three fingers before he gestured with his chin at the 3D maze behind him.

“Three minutes. If he can last three minutes in there without being captured, I’ll take him into the lair.”

Chapter 475: Battle in the 3D Maze

“Sure.” Before Nie Chenglong and Shen Yupeng could say anything, Meng Chao agreed to it.

Man-eating Shark Zhou Chong could not be considered to be making things hard for him by just asking for him to avoid capture for three short minutes.

The capture mission in the lair was not a child’s game. If his strength was not great enough for this capture squad (it had, after all, a grand lineup), what right did he have to go in and cause trouble?

The veteran hunters training in the 3D maze all heard Meng Chao’s confident voice.

They sized up Meng Chao curiously, puzzled as to why he seemed to have a killing intent that was almost the same as theirs and looked as if he had fought for years in the wild when he looked so young.

The superhuman circle in Dragon City was quite small, and the youngest Heaven Realm superhuman in the past ten years was quite famous.

Many people had had business cooperations with Meng Chao before through Ning Shewo, Yan Organization, or Soul Breaking Saber Luo Wu.

Some of them also worked for Sky Pillar Corporation and had heard about him through Lu Siya.

Everyone surrounded him curiously in a friendly manner. They wanted to see just what sort of skills this boy who had not graduated from university had and why he dared to go with them into such a dangerous place.

“Senior Zhou, seniors, please treat me well!”

Meng Chao did not waste his breath. He removed his jacket, because the wind chimes and steel pipes might get caught in them, which left him in a nano fighting suit that was tailor-made for him with the top-tier technology from Agricultural University’s biochemical course.

The pure black nano fighting suit was clearly as thin as a cicada’s wing, but it had amazing stretchability, and its texture made it seem as thick as armor.

It could spread an enemy’s attacks evenly to all parts of the fighting suit and accumulate spirit energy to help the wearer execute skills that required accumulating spirit energy but had amazing power.

The fighting suit was known as Black Soul, and with Meng Chao’s bulging muscles that looked like dynamite packs, it instantly changed his presence from that of a harmless boy to a fierce fighter

Whoosh! Whoosh, whoosh, whoosh!

Meng Chao casually exercised his wrists and ankles and easily threw a few punches and kicks to complete his warm up.

But the expressions of the veteran hunters changed right away.

They were people who knew their stuff, so they could naturally tell that Meng Chao’s punches and kicks were not that simple. In just those few short instances, he threw nearly one hundred punches that were as swift as lightning and delivered dozens of dazzling kicks.

However, his fists and kicks were too fast and the trajectories were so accurate that they completely overlapped with each other, which was why it only seemed like he threw three punches and two kicks.

“Interesting.” A few of the veteran hunters’ eyes lit up. They looked eager to test Meng Chao’s abilities.

Meng Chao scanned their faces; he did not intend to hide his might. When veteran hunters stared at him, he fearlessly stared back.

At the moment he removed his jacket, they were no longer seniors in his eyes. They were just opponents he longed to challenge.

Meng Chao sucked in a deep breath and climbed into the 3D maze. He found a tunnel with no glass and mirrors blocking his path and crawled in.

He first tapped the surface lightly with his feet to test the sturdiness of the steel pipes and how tightly they were bound together. Then, he carefully crawled into the depths of the intersecting pipes.

“Youngsters nowadays are getting more impressive.” Nie Chenglong gasped in amazement and smiled as he looked at the veteran hunters.

“Let me!” Before Man-eating Shark Zhou Chong could speak, a burly man with a crew cut pushed aside the crowd and strode forward.

His body shape was really unique. It was the standard inverted triangle, but it was not because his waist was too thin, but because his arms were too thick.

His arms were practically thicker than Meng Chao’s thighs. They gave off a metallic shine and were covered in pulsing blood vessels. Every pore on his arms seemed to have spirit flames gushing out of them.

His arms were also really long, and his fingertips were below his knees. When he walked, he was like a domineering ape.

The ape’s roars were as loud as thunder, causing Meng Chao to immediately notice him.

Multi-armed Bear Hong Li!

This veteran hunter’s information swiftly appeared in his mind.

He knew that this man was definitely not someone who was all brawns and no brains, despite what his appearance suggested.

If anyone could reach Heaven Realm and survive through hundreds of battles in the wild, they were definitely not people to be underestimated.

Hong Li might seem like a strength-type superhuman who had a firm character, but in truth, with his spirit energy, he could turn his arms so pliant that they might seem boneless. When his spirit energy magnetic field surged, everything within a circular area of three meters would be covered in his punches and palm strikes, and it would feel as if he had grown eighteen arms.

That was how he gained the nickname Multi-armed Bear.

Just as Meng Chao expected, while Hong Li’s body was large and seemingly clumsy, which might make one think that it was not suitable for him to move around in the 3D maze, the moment he shot in, it looked like his bones and muscles had shrunk, and he turned into a meatball that rolled about everywhere while avoiding the steel pipes, wind chimes, and water balloons. He charged at Meng Chao.

When Meng Chao crawled into the 3D maze, he released his vitality magnetic field to sense and scan his surroundings.

He noticed that while the space in the 3D maze was pretty big, there were a lot of places that were blocked by glass, mirrors, wind chimes, and water balloons. There were not many places that could serve as escape routes.

Even though there were more than ten meters between them, both sides had to use all their brain cells and calculate each path swiftly while predicting the direction the other person might take to try to widen the distance between them or get closer to the other party.

The battle might be silent, but from the second it started, it reached its climax.

Both sides had loads of sweat covering their foreheads, but they soon evaporated because of their boiling hot skin.

Each step they took, each time they peaked out of a corner, and even each gaze they matched was a fight. They were in a fatal competition.

“It’s already half a minute?” Man-eating Shark Zhou Chong cast a glance at his watch, and a subtle, surprised look appeared in his eyes.

Half a minute had passed. Meng Chao and Multi-armed Bear Hong Li moved around the 3D maze, but the distance between them never shortened, and Meng Chao didn’t touch a single mirror or wind chime.

When they saw his increasingly relaxed movements, the interest in the veteran hunters’ eyes grew stronger.

“That silly bear is no good. He can’t capture that little boy even after half a minute? I told him to go on a diet!”

“I say, that boy does have some tricks up his sleeves. His senses are frighteningly strong. I think he uses his body hair to sense his surroundings.”

“Just now, when we climbed for the first time, we were thrown into confusion, but forget breaking a glass, the boy didn’t even make a single wind chime ring. Has he really just entered Heaven Realm?”

While the veteran hunters talked, they all expressed shock at Meng Chao’s performance.

Hence, due to some form of luck conservation law, in the next second, Meng Chao missed a step and fell down.

‘Oh no!’

Meng Chao had thought that the steel pipes supporting the 3D mazes were only bound loosely and swayed when he climbed on them.

He did not expect that whoever constructed the pipes had sinister intentions and left a lot of steel pipes suspended on practically nothing but air. They were not bound tightly at all.

Meng Chao had stepped into a trap and instantly lost his balance.

When he activated his maglev and regained control over his body, Multi-armed Bear Hong Li pounced on him and surrounded him with dozens of punches and palm strikes from all directions.

Meng Chao bit the tip of his tongue and hunched his shoulders. He gripped tightly onto another steel pipe like an eagle clutching its prey in a death grip. Then, he fell backward and did a 180 degree spin downward. The muscle fibers on his feet pulsed, and with the bounce from the steel pipes, he shot into a spot not far away.

Multi-armed Bear Hong Li snorted coldly. He fell down out of the blue like a weight and landed on the steel pipe Meng Chao had just stepped on. After he observed what Meng Chao did, he took action. He also wanted to use the bounce.

But to his surprise, when Meng Chao touched the steel pipe, he had gathered spirit energy and, through his soles, delivered a hidden force to the bound part of the steel pipe to destroy the sturdiness of the wires binding it.

When Hong Li stepped on the steel pipe with his sturdy body that weighed nearly 150kg, two intersecting steel pipes immediately collapsed. It made him miss a step, like Meng Chao had done moments ago, and he continued falling.

But Hong Li's expression never changed. He swung his arm like a whip, and like a gibbon, he used only his pinky to hang onto a relatively sturdy steel pipe.

However, right now, Meng Chao spat. He had bitten his tongue and accumulated a mouthful of blood in his mouth. That blood now shot right to Hong Li's face.

Hong Li's expression finally changed.

For a moment, confusion and panic appeared.

Through great effort, he avoided Meng Chao's blood, but nearly stepped on a swaying wind chime because of it. When he finally regained his balance, Meng Chao had already scrambled to his feet and agilely fled to the other side of the 3D maze.

The two people were once again at their original distance.

A full minute was wasted.

A few veteran hunters who were close to Hong Li laughed, showing absolutely no respect whatsoever.

"The boy's good."

"He's not just good. When we were his age, we were far from having his abilities. It's no wonder why he managed to become the club leader of a club with two hundred thousand members when he's just in his twenties!"

"Look at the strategies he chose and how he created chances to dodge attacks as well as his mastery over the timing. They're all things you can't learn in the ivory tower. Only those who have really struggled for years in the fog and crawled out from mountains of corpses can get such... instincts to help dance at the God of Death's scythe. It's strange. Is he really a university student? Why does it feel like he's even more experienced than we are?"

"Sharkie, the ones joining the operation this time are all those from the field. I wouldn't trust any amateur joining us, but if it's this boy, I can SOMEWHAT accept him."

When he heard this, Man-eating Shark Zhou Chong nodded instinctively.

The situation was already clear. During the first minute Meng Chao had just crawled into the 3D maze and was still not used to it, yet Multi-armed Bear Hong Li was unable to catch him.

During the next two minutes, he would move with increasing ease, like a fish in water, and Hong Li would never get to capture him.

Zhou Chong cleared his throat and was just about to stop the battle simulation when Nie Chenglong raised his hand and stopped him.

“It has only been one minute.” The vice director of the abnormal beast research department smiled. “Sharkie, you didn’t limit the number of people going up, did you? Why don’t you add two more to play with him?”

Zhou Chong was stunned. “He’s your subordinate.”

“It’s precisely because he’s my subordinate that I have to be in charge of his life. At the same time, I have to be in charge of the millions of innocent lives in the lair.”

Nie Chenglong’s expression became stern, and he said methodically, “The cunning abnormal beasts and the fearsome robbers won’t adhere to rules with you lot and fight you one-on-one. I must let him know his limits!”

Chapter 476: Snake Eye and Bullet!

“Makes sense. Then, let us see the boy’s limits!”

A huntress with long and narrow eyes came forward.

Her figure was even more unique than that of Multi-armed Bear Hong Li. She was petite and dainty. Her limbs and neck were really long, and at first glance, she looked like a moving snake vine.

Snake Eye Mo Lan was a ruthless person and incredibly difficult to deal with, so she had become famous in the hunter circle many years ago.

She was known for being agile, elusive, and having ever changing tactics.

Her greatest achievement and the one she talked about in delight was when she put on a disguise and lurked in a Black-spotted Viper’s nest in the wild, then spent three days and nights with more than one hundred snake-type monsters, but was never discovered.

In the end, after the Hell Beast Black-spotted Viper laid its eggs, she acted swiftly and stole nine eggs from under its butt.

Apparently, she fled through the wild with the nine eggs without getting caught by the raging snake den.

She had run more than eighty kilometers over uneven mountains and intersecting jungles. When she returned to a human controlled forward operating base, the nine snake eggs were unharmed and not a single crack could be found.

It made clear just how extraordinary was Snake Eye Mo Lan’s speed, agility, and control over her muscles.

She was even more suited to a hunt in the 3D maze and the lair than Multi-armed Hong Li.

During the adaptive training, she had captured hunters whose cultivation realms were higher than hers multiple times.

Meng Chao moved at a high speed between the steel pipes and ensured that he was constantly at a relative distance of more than ten meters from Hong Li.

Suddenly, he heard rustling beneath him.

He looked in that direction with his peripheral vision and saw Snake Eye Mo Lan slithering up like a python with her hands and knees. Color drained from his face.

“No way. Multi-armed Bear and Snake Eye? Aren’t you overestimating me? Vice Director Nie, Big Brother Peng, Senior Zhou, you’re cheating! This is cheating!”

The two veteran hunters closed in on him from two different directions, and the difficulty as well as pressure increased by a few levels.

Meng Chao moved in a flurry of motion and started yelping.

“Over the past few days, more than one hundred robbers ran into the lair,” Nie Chenglong said gravely. “There are lost people who have fled into the lair and been lurking there for decades. We also have abnormal beasts and their puppets. Do you think that they will queue up and fight you one by one?”

“Besides, I’m not asking you to capture anyone right now. I’m just asking you to not get captured!”

Meng Chao... had nothing to say to that!

His gaze grew incredibly intense.

It was as if the steel pipes, glass, and wind chimes in front of him had turned into the alleys of the lair.

The two veteran hunters also turned into fierce beasts and zombies.

Naturally, he remembered the hundreds of strategies he learned in his previous life.

Even the weaknesses of the fearsome Multi-armed Bear and Snake Eye flashed before his eyes.

Meng Chao calmed down.

It appeared that he was fleeing upward in a panic through the 3D maze after being surrounded by the two hunters.

The further he went up the 3D maze, the more tightly packed the steel pipes were, and the tunnels between them became narrower.

No matter how much Multi-armed Bear Hong Li condensed his bones and muscles, it would be difficult for him to squeeze in.

Snake Eye Mo Lan did not have this problem. She even overtook Meng Chao and arrived above him.

“Caught you, lad!”

Mo Lan flung her left arm.

The joints of her shoulders, elbows, and wrist let out cracking sounds.

Her originally long arm extended by another half a meter, and she looked like a monster from horror movies. Her arm went to seize Meng Chao's shoulder.

Meng Chao did not avoid it.

He spun his body like a top.

With the power of the spin, he threw a punch at Mo Lan's palm.

To the veteran hunter's surprise, he had actually taken the initiative to attack.

It has to be known that while Snake Eye Mo Lan's strength was not her specialty, that was only when it was compared to her agility and senses.

In truth, five years ago, Mo Lan had already become a five-star superhuman by reaching Spirit Gaze Realm. Her maximum punching strength could send a heavy fighting vehicle weighing dozens of tons flying nearly one hundred meters and she could tear apart a Hell Beast barehanded, becoming a living example of someone who could tear apart fearsome creatures.

No matter how strong Meng Chao was, he had just become a four-star superhuman.

Was it really the best choice for him to clash fists with Mo Lan?

Bang, bang, bang, bang, bang, bang, bang, bang, bang, bang!

While everyone was puzzled, Meng Chao and Mo Lan seemed to have engaged each other in a normal exchange of a single blow.

But that one punch stirred up a series of clashes that sounded like a storm.

"It's not just one punch. They have exchanged at least dozens of punches. Every time they clash fists, they try to drag in their opponent, modify their positions, and use their strength in an attempt to send their spirit energy into the other's bodies and break their spirit energy magnetic fields so that they would lose their maglev, thereby losing their balance and falling down!"

"How exciting! It's been too long since I've seen such an interesting match!"

"Even Mo Lan has become serious. That kid really has a lot of tricks up his sleeves!"

Everyone gasped in amazement.

In the end, Mo Lan did not manage to break Meng Chao's defense and grab his throat or shoulder.

Instead, Meng Chao used his toes to grab a steel pipe and delivered a shock wave that made its components scatter. Then, like a long spear, the steel pipe went straight at her face, and she was forced to shift her attention to dodge it.

Meng Chao seized the chance to break free from the encounter, and the trio returned to their original state, where they were in a stalemate far from each other.

Two minutes were gone.

This time, before Nie Chenglong and Zhou Chong said anything, the third veteran hunter jumped into the 3D maze.

It was a middle-aged man with puffy eyes and saggy eyelids. He looked to be constantly sleepy.

But the moment he caught sight of a prey, it would not be able to escape, even if it ran off into the horizon.

Bullet Xue Rui was one of the best sharpshooters in the hunter circle.

But since it was adaptive training, he could not use a gun, of course.

However, if someone had already reached Bullet Xue Rui's level of mastery, there was no need for them to have real guns. They could even use petals and leaves to hurt others.

With an incredibly bizarre posture, Xue Rui hung upside down a steel pipe like a bat.

He clearly did not curl his toes like Meng Chao, but with just the suction force gushing out of his soles, he stuck himself to a steel pipe and used his eyes and hands to search for the best observation and shooting angle.

He flung his hands, and like a magician doing magic tricks, he brought out dozens of round steel pellets.

They were created with super alloy mixed with monster powder. They were originally supposed to be shrapnel embedded into armor-piercing shells or anti-monster grenades or mines to increase their destructibility.

But in Bullet Xue Rui's hands, they turned into tools that trained the dexterity of his fingers... and real bullets!

Whoosh! Whoosh! Whoosh!

Xue Rui instantly located Meng Chao. He curled his fingers and fired three steel pellets.

His fingers were bound by spirit energy, and it was as if they had turned into real gun barrels. They were mini railguns that sent three steel pellets forward with the power of rocket projectiles.

Meng Chao's pupils, heart, and muscles shrank to their limit at once.

When he was about to dodge, his brain naturally came up with the three steel pellets' trajectories. They were like three red lines of death that kept intersecting, clashing, and ricocheting off the 3D maze.

He immediately noticed that if he used the optimized posture to avoid the three steel pellets, one of them would ricochet off the steel pipe behind him and hit his spine, causing him to instantly lose his mobility.

This was no coincidence.

It was a trap set by Bullet Xue Rui.

Hence, he could not solve the problem by using the optimized power just because it had the shortest movement distance, allowed him to spend the least time dodging the pellets, and made him use up the least amount of energy.

Instead, he should use the one with the biggest movements that made him look really pathetic...

'Wait, that's not all there is to the trap!'

Meng Chao noticed that when Bullet Xue Rui fired the steel pellets, his fingers seemed to have trembled four times.

A special-grade sharpshooter who was above the middle rank of Heaven Realm would not do anything unnecessary during battle to interfere with their bullet trajectory.

'Xue Rui fired four steel pellets!

'Three of them traveled forward like lightning or rocket projectiles. One of them will ricochet, and it looks like an unavoidable killing move.

'But his real killing move is his fourth bullet. It's a silent steel pellet that has no presence.

'If my attention was entirely absorbed by the first three steel pellets, the fourth pellet that seems to be traveling forward slowly will suddenly accelerate because of the spirit energy contained in it and will hit my chest!'

The thoughts above actually passed in a flash and were done in 0.1 seconds.

In the next 0.1 seconds, Meng Chao pretended to have seen through the first layer of the trap and moved sideways in a rather ridiculous fashion to avoid the first three steel pellets and the ricocheting attack from one of them.

He did not dodge the fourth pellet, however. A sonic boom exploded in the air, and the pellet seemed to have hit his chest.

Meng Chao cried out and lost his balance, then fell down.

Bullet Xue Rui, Multi-armed Bear Hong Li, and Snake Eye Mo Lan shot forward.

Their expressions were quite unnatural. They showed no excitement of catching their opponent. Instead, they looked really awkward.

With their cultivation realms, experience, and fame, they fought three against one to catch Meng Chao, a young boy in his twenties who had just entered Heaven Realm. There was indeed nothing about this that they could boast about. They would just be laughed at by their friends if they ever mentioned it.

Hong Li and Mo Lan even blamed Xue Rui for being too harsh.

They were just playing with a child. Was there a need for him to fight with his full strength?

As for Xue Rui, his face turned red.

He felt a little regretful.

He never actually thought about firing the fourth steel pellet.

But for some reason, when he exchanged glances with Meng Chao in the cage-like 3D maze, this experienced, veteran hunter suddenly felt his skin crawl.

It was as if he had just run into a bloodthirsty monster in the deepest part of a bloody jungle.

Before his brain even reacted, he had instinctively controlled his nerve endings and, by sheer instinct, fired the fourth steel pellet.

He had never lost control over himself like this in his long years as a hunter.

It was as if a voice in the depths of his brain was telling him that he must use all his skills to fight against this seemingly normal boy. Otherwise, he and his companions might end up being the hunted instead!

Chapter 477: A Young Man to Be Regarded With Respect!

'In another five years... No, perhaps in just two or three years, this boy is going to be a top-class hunter stronger than us!' Xue Rui thought out of the blue.

Then, he noticed that he was sorely mistaken.

There was no need for them to wait for another two or three years. It was now.

Meng Chao's arms disappeared while he was falling.

In reality, they did not disappear. Instead, they turned into hundreds of afterimages from moving too fast. They tore through the air and turned into a gray fog around him.

Countless sparks of cold light shot out from the gray fog.

His killing intent was like bone-chilling, icy spikes. It pierced the three veteran hunters' minds, eyes, and hearts at the same time.

When a powerful gust came charging at their faces, the sound that tore through the air turned into a screech that struck their eardrums.

Meng Chao had not been struck by the fourth pellet.

He had predicted its trajectory and made his spirit energy gather at the part between his chest and shoulder. It formed a magnetic field serving as a shield and diverted as well as neutralized the pellet's destructivity.

Then, he used his muscle fibers to release more than one hundred tremors per second, evenly distributing the destructivity of the pellet to all of Black Soul.

Even though the pellet was embedded in Black Soul, it did not break his defense and affect his mobility.

Besides, he also used Bullet Xue Rui's trick and made them fall into his trap. He fired his own bullets.

With Ultimate Level Basic Gun Technique and Perfect Level Advanced Gun Technique, Meng Chao was also an ace sharpshooter.

Even though his main weapon was chain sabers, this was because he liked fighting alone and seldom had the chance to bring a large amount of guns and ammunition.

But in the virtual battlefields and his previous life, he had long since mastered the calculation of bullet trajectories and ways to control bullets.

Even if his shooting technique was not as good as that of Bullet Xue Rui on paper, he had delivered fatal shots into the heads of elves, dwarves, magicians, and even dragons in his previous life. It effectively covered the flaws in his technique and made all those who underestimated him pay a great price.

Every ace sharpshooter had a secret technique to practice the dexterity of their fingers.

Bullet Xue Rui loved using the destructive shrapnel from anti-monster grenades to practice, while Meng Chao loved using knives to do it.

When it came to harvesting monsters, he used lancet knives shaped like scalpels that were as thin as cicada wings.

Once this sort of blade was corroded by monster blood and acid, its flexibility and sturdiness would plummet, so it was a consumable that needed to be switched out often.

Meng Chao had gathered a large number of discarded blades from Superstar and polished them until they were in the shape of triangles, diamonds, circles, and others so that he could play with them between his fingers day and night or use spirit energy to have them attach to his skin. When his skin and body hair trembled, they rolled from his head to the tips of his toes, then from the tips of his toes back to his head.

This could train his senses, and it was also an interesting game.

At that moment, the power of his game was displayed to its fullest.

Meng Chao used his hands to fire dozens of blades, and this deceptive movement attracted the three people's attention.

When his hands turned into a gray fog and created a piercing sound of air being pushed through, dozens of blades rolled onto his skin in secret. They were fired by the tremors of his muscles and charged at the three veteran hunters silently.

It was the exact same strategy as what Bullet Xue Rui's had just used.

Xue Rui's expression changed.

Dense, profound, and complicated spirit tattoos appeared around his eyes and arms.

A string of pellets shot out like rain. They charged forward and stopped most of Meng Chao's blades in the air.

Their clashing "bullets" created dazzling sparks.

Xue Rui was more skilled, but he missed his chance and suffered some loss due to the "bullets". Both were tools to train the dexterity of their fingers, but his pellets were all of the same size and not that much different from each other.

Meng Chao's blades were of all shapes and sizes. When they spun at a high speed in the air, they traveled at varying speeds and in waves, so they looked really strange.

Xue Rui managed to avoid most of the blades. As for those he could not avoid, he struck them away with his pellets.

However, there were still a lot of those he missed that went flying at Snake Eye Mo Lan and Multi-armed Bear Hong Li.

Mo Lan was agile and had sharp senses. She managed to instantly realize just how terrifying Meng Chao was.

Like a startled octopus, she swung her long and frail limbs to move and dodge. The attack forced her to retreat eight meters through the complicated terrain. Only then, by a hair's breadth, she avoided all of the blades. Just a few strands of her hair fell.

Multi-armed Bear Hong Li wanted to avoid the projectiles as well, but that meant that he would inevitably knock into the wind chimes beside him or crush the glass under him. So, he decided to just growl, cross his arms, light up his spirit tattoos and form a faint golden magnetic shield in front of him.

Most of the blades were affected by the magnetic field, and their speed instantly fell to zero. They swayed in the air as if they were being toyed with by an invisible hand.

A small number of blades broke through Hong Li's defense and struck his arms, which were thicker than Meng Chao's thigh.

Hong Li's arms were like two pillars refined by metal, but they were covered in body hair that looked like steel brushes, so the blades could not cut him.

However, one final blade shot past Hong Li weakly and ricocheted off the steel pipe behind him. Then, for some strange reason, its speed increased, and it went for his neck artery from behind.

Hong Li's expression was filled with shock.

He did not expect that Meng Chao would do this.

Honestly, even if the blade cut his neck artery, with a Heaven Realm superhuman's great control over his muscles and the regeneration speed of his cells, it would not be a fatal wound. It would not even affect his fighting strength.

The only problem was, it would be very embarrassing!

He had friends he had known for around twenty years down below. Forget about not being able to catch a boy who had just entered Heaven Realm, if he even had his neck artery cut while they were fighting three against one and bled, his friends would definitely laugh until they died.

Hong Li instinctively hunched his shoulders.

To make best use of their eyes, ears, and other organs that helped to gather information to survive, humans had to evolve and form a long cervical spine. But this was not good for close-quarters combat.

Melee fighters like Hong Li not only used bulky muscles to protect their cervical spine and neck arteries, but also tried their best to push their heads into their bodies. It might not look good, but it was practical.

But that was not all. Right then, in Hong Li's heart, Meng Chao had already turned into an opponent who was of equal strength with him, but was incredibly devious. To prevent him from playing any other

tricks, such as having a second blade clashing and ricocheting off somewhere else, Hong Li decided to move half a meter to the side in an incredibly exaggerated fashion.

A mound of flesh that was nearly 150kg moved by half a meter out of the blue in a narrow space filled with wind chimes and glass, but it did not make a sound. It showed just how great Multi-armed Bear's control over his muscles was.

Unfortunately for him, his reaction fit into one of the nineteen most possible reactions that Meng Chao had predicted.

Meng Chao could generally predict the changes in his heart based on his microexpressions.

Hence, when Hong Li jumped on the steel pipe half a meter away, Meng Chao had already occupied the offensive spot above him 0.1 seconds ahead of him. He used Dragon Snake Force, the accumulative stance, to make his right arm swell to the max.

His Black Soul started ripping, as if it was about to tear.

His muscles bulged out with clear lines, and it was as if his entire arm was covered in a bulky armor.

Spirit flames gathered on his fist, and it was as if an exploding grenade was in his grasp. It delivered waves of impact that were each stronger than the last.

The fierce flames from his apocalyptic self burned like layers of waves in his eyes.

Meng Chao subconsciously released Fear Bomb, causing Multi-armed Bear Hong Li to shudder. He remembered how his ankle had been bitten by a Marsh Crocodile the first time he entered the fog and how he was nearly dragged into a bottomless marsh.

Meng Chao's Fear Bomb was a mind attack given to him by the Demonic Abyss Eye. It could activate and endlessly magnify a person's memory that they feared and did not want to face.

Hong Li felt the ankle wound that had healed more than twenty years ago start aching.

It was as if an invisible crocodile was using its saw teeth-like fangs to cut into it once more.

With the interference by the illusion, his reaction speed slowed down by another 0.1 seconds.

The two 0.1 seconds overlapped with each other. When he finally growled and delivered a heavy punch, Meng Chao had already activated his Demon Subduing Pole with additional power granted by Dragon Snake Force. While still high above, he threw his fist down with a force that could make the ground crack.

Boom!

It was as if two Tyrant Mammoths had rammed into each other at a speed of more than 200 km/h. A wave swept through everything.

When it blew into everyone's faces, they fell into a moment of shock.

If some said that Meng Chao only dared to ambush Snake Eye Mo Lan because her specialty was not strength but agility and nimbleness, then at that moment, they were surprised and shocked when they

saw him being able to fight bravely against Multi-armed Bear Hong Li, who was known for his monstrous strength in the hunter circle, because he knew that only bravery would win.

Many people were also able to see clearly that their fists had clashed into each other without any superfluous movements. Yet Meng Chao did not crumble at the moment they exchanged blows, which was what they had expected. Instead, he lasted for half a second against Multi-armed Bear Hong Li.

There were not many superhumans who were able to last for even half a second against Hong Li in all of Dragon City.

The monster known as the Multi-armed Bear had once punched a hole through two layers of armor of a main battle tank with just one punch!

Crack! Crack! Crack!

Clang! Clang! Clang!

Facing Meng Chao who had gone absolutely berserk, Multi-armed Bear Hong Li finally lost control over himself and released his most powerful spirit energy magnetic field because of the joy he felt from the fight.

The glass and mirrors around them immediately shattered, and the wind chimes started trembling madly.

Both of them knew that things were about to go bad, but they could not pull back. Because of the stimulation from each other's vitality magnetic field, the pleasure of meeting someone who was their equal rose in them, and they released an unstoppable force.

In the end, not only were all the water balloons, glass, and wind chimes destroyed by an unstoppable wave of air, even the parts connecting the steel pipes became loose.

A loud crash resounded, and the thirty meters tall 3D maze collapsed!

Chapter 478: Neural Glasses

Four of them jumped into the air at the same time and stood at the top of the ruins.

The three veteran hunters stared at Meng Chao, unable to believe their eyes.

Meanwhile, Meng Chao stared at Man-eating Shark Zhou Chong eagerly. "Senior Zhou, how long did I last?"

"Exactly... three minutes."

Zhou Chong did not hide the surprise and admiration in his voice.

When elites fought, the victor would be decided in an instant.

The three minutes were enough for the three veteran hunters' skin to get covered in cold sweat from their shock.

And if they were to really judge who won, then Meng Chao should have won by a small margin.

After all, he was the “escapee” and the three veteran hunters were the “pursuers”.

It was clear that the escapee would not care about the damages to the buildings in the lair and the injuries the innocent citizens suffered.

That was the responsibility of the pursuers.

Man-eating Shark Hong Li also realized this.

His face flushed red, then he swung his fist fiercely and composed himself with a laugh.

“Truly, you’re one of the young generation deserving of respect,” this senior from the hunter circle told Meng Chao earnestly. “Today, I lost, but I couldn’t fight to my heart’s content while trapped in that cage of a maze. If we have the chance in the future, let’s fight to our hearts’ content in the wild!”

Meng Chao smiled faintly. “If you’re interested, I’ll take up your challenge at any moment, Senior Hong.”

“That’s a promise. Also, don’t call me a senior. It makes it sound like I’m some old fart. Just call me Big Brother Hong!” Hong Li swung his arm, completely at ease. Then, he changed the topic of conversation. “But how did you get your strength? Your arms aren’t thick. Why is your maximum punching strength so scary?”

“Um?” Meng Chao stared at his arms. They were a size bigger than the average arm.

He felt that Hong Li had some misconceptions about the word “thick”, but when he saw that Hong Li’s arms were thicker than his thighs, he knew where the problem was.

At that moment, Bullet Xue Rui smiled and said, “Meng Chao’s maximum punching strength isn’t the only thing terrifying about him. Bear, trust me when I say that on a real battlefield, if Meng Chao had a gun modified by an expert and used armor-piercing bullets embedded with crystal marrows or meteor shards, his shooting technique alone would make sure that you would have no chance to cross fists with him. You’d be dead or heavily injured before you even touched him!”

“What?” Hong Li widened his eyes, but he knew that Xue Rui was not saying this out of the blue.

He blinked for a long time while repeatedly recalling what had happened earlier. Then, he was finally able to understand just how ruthless and sinister were the trajectories and strategies Meng Chao chose.

Then, he switched the scene around them to the much more complicated jungle and exchanged the discarded blades for powerful, special bullets, and the difficulty to survive made his back break out in cold sweat.

Snake Eye Mo Lan’s eyes sparkled, and right in front of the vice director of the abnormal beast research department, she started to poach the youth. “Meng Chao, among all the people I’ve seen, you’re the most suited to become a hunter and explorer. It’s too much of a waste for you to stay in the city all day to fend against the monsters’ attacks!

“As they say, offense is the best defense. If we want to prevent monsters from attacking Dragon City, it’s simple, we just need to tear down their nests.

“So, are you interested in joining a hunting squad? I have some connections in the hunter circle. With the strength you showed today, honestly, you’ll be offered at least ten million yuan as your annual salary!”

Nie Chenglong cleared his throat really loudly.

“The two robbers with the implanted chips have already fled into Dragon City. The situation might change at any moment. We must seize every second that we have,” he said sternly. “You can move out now. We can talk about the details while on the way.”

A few veteran hunters whistled.

Quite a number of them had faint smiles on their faces.

Their presences became completely different from a few seconds ago.

They were like tigers lurking deep in forests that had smelled their prey. Now, they opened their fierce eyes and all their muscles tensed up.

“Welcome to our special hunting squad.” Man-eating Shark Zhou Chong extended his hand to Meng Chao. “Go and get your equipment.”

Heaven Realm superhumans seldom used low-end, standardized equipment.

They usually had their melee weapons and long-distance firearms tailored made and created meticulously.

The strengthened exoskeletons and motorized armor that were really popular among low-grade superhumans were also seen as weapons for amateurs but shackles for elites.

There was a limit to the strength, tenacity, mobility, and even vibration frequency of the machine components.

To low-grade superhumans, the motorized armor could increase their strength and speed, but when used by Multi-armed Bear Hong Li or Snake Eye Mo Lan, after they executed a series of strategies, the motorized armor would immediately be chafed and rendered useless.

Besides, once someone reached Spirit Armor Realm, they could use their spirit energy to create a visible and impenetrable armor around them. They could even envelope their comrades who were within a circular area of around ten meters. Hence, the motorized armor was useless.

Meng Chao was like most other veteran hunters. He trusted his strength, so he did not like to use strengthened exoskeletons and machines to increase his strength.

Black Soul was a creation using the top technology in Agricultural University. It possessed power on par with heavy motorized armor, and when it came to agility and endurance, it was far ahead.

As for weapons and guns, Meng Chao also had his own personal collection. After he saved the transmigration experts and killed the Demonic Abyss Eye, he used his achievements to exchange for cultivation resources and tactical equipment. They were all masterpieces from the hearts and souls of masters. When he displayed them, they dazzled the veteran hunters.

However, there was something offered that he could not resist.

“This is known as a neural tactical data link interactor. It’s known simply as neural glasses. It’s the most advanced technology from Thundercloud Technology, but it’s still under tests. Place these two small dark chocolate-like cubes gently behind your ears and try it.”

Nie Chenglong spread his palms open and revealed two black items that looked like computer chips.

Man-eating Shark Zhou Chong and the veteran hunters all placed the neural glasses behind their ears, and brilliant light instantly shone in their eyes.

Thundercloud Technology was one of the nine great mega corporations that created the Survival Committee. It was also Dragon City’s best high-tech industry.

By using the futuristic tech from the Supernatural Tower, they created countless unbelievable electronic and spirit energy tools.

Meng Chao remembered that in his previous life, Ghost Tribe and Black Skull Training Camp had worked together with Thundercloud Technology and created all sorts of equipment suitable for ambush, infiltration, assassination, destruction, and spying.

He immediately placed the two small “dark chocolates” behind his ears.

He felt a slight pain at the base of his ear, as if mosquitoes had bitten him. The two “dark chocolates” attached to his vitality magnetic field and stuck closely to his skin.

Then, a beautiful scene appeared in front of Meng Chao.

He saw faint golden data cascading down like a waterfall, then it turned into a complicated options bar.

Behind the options bar was a complicated and incredibly detailed 3D map. When he looked at it closely, it displayed Golden Tooth Lair with golden threads.

And as his eyeballs moved and pupils shrank or dilated, the golden 3D map magnified, shrunk, or turned at an even faster and smoother pace. It was as if his brain was giving out commands to his optical nerves to make the golden 3D map change, so he could see a large amount of details about Golden Tooth Lair.

What was even more amazing was that the map did not remain unchanged. There were a lot of red and green dots on it. They gathered, spread out, and moved around. It was as if the map was a reflection of a real-time event!

He instinctively went to grab it.

But he missed.

It was only then that he registered what was going on. It was a real-time monitoring map. Through his optical nerves, it displayed a virtual image on his retina and even his cerebral cortex.

Just as he expected, he heard Man-eating Shark Zhou Chong say, “This neural tactical data link interactor turns wireless signals into neuroelectricity that is transferred into the depths of your brain, which affects your visual and auditory systems. So, you don’t need to wear real glasses or earphones, but you’ll still be

able to 'see' and 'hear' information that is one hundred times more than what we had from the tactical data links in the past.

"They might be two chips that are the size of a fingernail and look light, but they're more valuable than a fully armed armored airship.

"Also, this is still a test version. It's specifically made to handle the complex situation in the lair, which is why we're using it now. They still haven't managed to solve the problem of the interference to our nerve signals caused by too much information from the chips.

"For the time being, only those above Heaven Realm can handle the wave of information sent into the brain. Even so, those wearing it for the first time might feel dizzy and lose their sense of balance. Meng Chao, are you okay?"

Meng Chao blinked.

He gradually got used to the data waterfall.

Hundreds of scenes of him as a Ghost Tribe member using similar equipment to sneak into the Other World civilizations in his previous life showed up in his head.

He grasped the key to control the glasses.

With a single thought, a certain green dot on the virtual map magnified until it became a human shape with limbs.

He also heard complaints by his ears.

The people complaining were two gang members in the lair. They were grumbling about suddenly having to increase patrol and defense, so now they had no time for entertainment.

"This is great. With this neural-version tactical data link, we can monitor most of the areas in Golden Tooth Lair. The secrecy and accuracy of our operation has just increased by a large margin!"

Meng Chao felt like he had instantly gained the ability to see far into the distance, hear everything, and see through everything. He thought about something, and he asked, "But where does the information come from? Is it reliable?"

When they saw that Meng Chao's complexion remained the same and showed no signs of nausea or vertigo, Nie Chenglong, Zhou Chong, and Shen Yupeng gasped in amazement, and their assessment of him increased by another degree.

"With Saber Jin Wanhao's support, most of the gangs in Golden Tooth Lair have released authorization to a lot of CCTVs to us. The scenes you're seeing now might be from some secret CCTV in the lair or from the smart glasses some gang member is wearing," Nie Chenglong explained. "The tactical data links from both sides are connected together, and their eyes are now our eyes. Their ears have also become our ears!"

Chapter 479: Enter the Lair, Begin Operation!

“The people in the lair never liked working with the people from the world outside. They’re also very wary of giving up the data in the lair. In the past, the Survival Committee thought about sending a large number of drones to scan the whole lair and use the heat from the data communications to get an estimate of its inhabitants, but the people in the lair interfered with the signal,” Shen Yupeng added by the side.

“This time, the people in the lair are showing great sincerity of working with us by being willing to share a large amount of critical data with us. That’s why we must act on our main goal and not let any accidents happen. The gray industries in the lair and the lost people who have been hiding in the past few decades are not the goal of the operation this time. The Deification Capsule’s factory and the creator are our main focus.

“At the end of the day, it’s only when we completely solve the problem of monsters that we can slowly bring down the lairs and lost people. As long as monsters exist, we cannot free up our hands to get rid of the ‘tumors’.”

These words were mainly for Meng Chao.

Shen Yupeng was worried that he would be too righteous and let his sense of justice fly over the roof. He did not want to see him not caring about anything and doing his own thing when he ran into a lost person in the lair.

But Meng Chao’s mental age was much higher than his real age when he carried out missions.

In his previous life, he had worked many times with demons for the sake of survival, and in the end, he even turned into a demon.

The Extraordinary Disaster was not synonymous with justice and hope.

Meng Chao understood the logic behind distinguishing the main goal and secondary goals.

He focused on reading the brief report of the mission that had just been projected to his retina.

[Over the past three days, hundreds of malicious crimes have happened in Dragon City. At least three hundred robbers have stolen a large amount of cultivation resources and fled into Golden Tooth Lair. We suspect that they are controlled by a mastermind going by the codename of Vortex. In the depths of Golden Tooth Lair is a factory that is creating the forbidden drug, Deification Capsule.

[Due to the unique nature of Golden Tooth Lair, the first wave of fighting forces entering the lair will be formed by the veteran hunters hired by various insurance companies.

[Your main task is to work with the people in the lair and, with their guidance, search through every suspicious area. You are also to chase after the two robbers with the locating chips implanted in them to find the factory creating the Deification Capsules and the Vortex. If possible, capture them.

[Pay attention to this: Ever since we gained victory in the northern offense, Dragon City has been expanding outward, and the distance between the Supernatural Tower and the new areas is almost twice as long as in the past. If we make calculations based on that, the new surface area of Dragon City is four times larger than in the past.

[There are around twenty new areas busy with construction. A lot of construction machines, crystal refinement equipment, and experts are necessary for the development of Dragon City.

[To protect these important human and material resources in Dragon City, the Red Dragon Army, secret police, the abnormal beast research department, and even normal superhumans have been spread out. The superhumans in every square meter are now one-quarter less than before.

[In consideration of the hundreds of crimes that happened over the past few days, it's likely that this is just the start of the abnormal beasts' offense. We need a lot of manpower and weapons to guard our crystal mines, refinement factories, power plants, water treatment plants, schools, residential areas, and other important sources of income that maintain the operations of our civilization. The other capture squads might not be able to arrive on time to provide reinforcements.

[The environment inside the lair is unprecedentedly complicated. There are five or sometimes even times more people living in one square meter than outside. If you attack, it is highly likely that it will lead to a lot of deaths and casualties among innocent citizens.

[Hence, the primary mission of the capture squad is to locate the targets, the secondary mission is to investigate, and the tertiary mission is to lock down the target. Ensure that everything is under control before you execute a capture and suppression mission that must succeed immediately.

[The most ideal situation is that you force the Vortex out of Golden Tooth Lair before you kill them with force.

[The secret police and abnormal beast research department have each contacted Deity Realm superhumans as the final solution.

[But the power of Deity Realm can destroy the world. Hence, if the Deity Realm superhumans bring out their full power in Golden Tooth Lair, not only will they injure a lot of innocent citizens by accident, there's also a possibility that they will shock the lost people lurking in the lair.

[At that time, when these sinister lost people escape from the lair and flee to the alleys and streets of Dragon City, the situation will become so chaotic that we will be unable to solve it.

[We have limited time, and this is the information that we've got for the time being. The data of the operation and the summary of the mission will be renewed once every five minutes to provide you with the most accurate directions.]

Meng Chao whistled.

The neural tactical data link interactor was just too amazing. Fighting with the support of a lot of data was just awesome.

“Get ready to move out!”

Man-eating Shark Zhou Chong and the veteran hunters had finished going through their data. Everyone was now connected to the same tactical network and could even share each other's fields of vision and voices.

The logisticians from the secret police and the abnormal beast research department sent them the last replenishments—gene medicine and high-calorie nutritional fluid.

Meng Chao took the gene medicine packed in a silver-white package. It looked like a sealed metallic tube. When he held it, it was incredibly light. There was a picture of an aquatic dragon that was dark red in color, had its teeth bared, and looked really angry on the surface.

“Raging Dragon Blood?”

Meng Chao could not help but gulp.

Raging Dragon Blood was the most powerful gene medicine Dragon City had created. There was nothing that could compare to it.

The main components of this gene medicine came from the blood of Apocalyptic Beasts.

And it was not like Dragon City could kill Apocalyptic Beasts every day.

Even if they managed to kill them, it was impossible for them to extract all their blood.

There was only a limited supply of Raging Dragon Blood in the market, and it was a treasure that countless superhumans could only dream of having.

As for its use...

There was no need to mention the boring aspect of adding to one’s parameters. To make a quick explanation of it, if Meng Chao were given a vial of Raging Dragon Blood, he would actually have the guts to go and kick an Apocalyptic Dragon’s butt!

“Everyone has gotten three vials of Raging Dragon Blood? That’s too spendthrift!” Meng Chao might not have felt faint earlier, but now, he actually felt a little faint.

He felt like he had just been hit by a train called Lucky.

“We’re entering the lair to capture unidentified criminals. It’s something really dangerous, so it’ll only be worth it if they give us rewards that are high enough for the trouble.” Snake Eye Mo Lan sashayed over and grinned at Meng Chao. “It’s fine. Dragon City’s insurance companies have plenty of money, so you don’t have to be frugal for them.”

Veteran hunters were considered mercenaries, so it was only natural that they would take up the job only when it offered a great reward. The three Raging Dragon Blood vials were considered the down payment.

But Meng Chao did not care about fame and profit. His main goal for joining the operation was to protect Dragon City’s peace and the future of human civilization.

So, he immediately tugged open his shirt collar and shoved the three vials of Raging Dragon Blood deep under Black Soul. When they were stuck to his stomach and he sensed the three cold and hard vials against his skin, he smiled sincerely.

“With these three Raging Dragon Blood vials, I can contribute even more to human civilization, that’s great!”

“I have this too. Do you want it?”

Snake Eye Mo Lan handed a black mud paste that gave off an earthy scent.

A lot of the veteran hunters held a handful of mud paste and spread it evenly over their hands before they covered their faces and hands with it.

As they continued rubbing and squeezing their faces, their skin tone and even the lines of their faces changed. Some people's faces turned a little more swollen, others' corners of the eyes and lips went up or down, yet others' skin tone turned a waxy yellow or a light brown or they gained clear acne.

They all became someone completely different.

The faint killing intent that they had after surviving through countless battles and awe-inspiring presence was also suppressed to the limit.

Once they placed tattered cloaks on themselves, wore hoodies, and wide-rimmed sunglasses, they turned into gang members that could be seen everywhere in the lair.

Snake Eye Mo Lan sighed and put on the black mud as well.

Then, from a heroic huntress, she turned into a messy-looking middle-aged woman who had all her radiance robbed away by life.

Meng Chao realized that the black paste was the Disguise Gel. It was made of the slightly poisonous, unique fungi and microorganisms in the jungles to the south of Dragon City.

Just as the name implied, the Disguise Gel could stimulate and numb the muscles and nerves on a human's face to change their faces and hide their presence.

Man-eating Shark Zhou Chong and the other veteran hunters were all major celebrities with millions of fans on social media platforms and video broadcasting platforms.

The abnormal beasts might have a lot of eyes and ears spread out in the lair, so the hunters would stand out too much if they used their real faces to carry out their missions.

Meng Chao thought about it. Ever since he killed the Demonic Abyss Eye, he might be on the abnormal beasts' list. They might be sharpening their claws and waiting to kill him.

He quickly grabbed a large clump of Disguise Gel and spread it over his face and hands. He even tugged open Black Soul's collar and spread some of the gel on his throat and chest.

Along with a slight sting and itchiness, he noticed that he had turned into someone with thick lips, eyes of varying shapes, and dark skin.

Not even Bai Jiacao would be able to recognize him like that.

"Let's go!"

Man-eating Shark Zhou Chong opened the lid to a secret tunnel at a corner of the storehouse.

During the era when zombies ran wild, the storehouse had stored more than half of the food from Golden Tooth Lair, so there was a secret tunnel that connected both of them.

Meng Chao followed the veteran hunters and moved in silence through the dark secret tunnel for ten minutes. They walked past broken fences and kicked away hundreds of rats and insects before they finally saw the stairs leading up.

The stairs led to a rather small garage.

It was filled with synthetic food made of earthworm meat and monster organs. They released a strong aroma, and it stung Meng Chao's eyes a little.

There were a few people who wore huge cloaks, had hoodies on, and goggles inside the room. They hid their weapons and gazes while observing them discreetly. They should be their handlers in the lair.

Man-eating Shark Zhou Chong went forward and extended his hands into the cloak of one of the handlers.

This handler also pushed his hands under Zhou Chong's cloak.

This was a unique greeting among those in the lair.

It was the same as a handshake outside.

Of course, it would not be wrong to say that they were checking whether the other was carrying lethal weapons on them.

No, it was par for the course for the people in the lair to carry around lethal weapons. The only difference was how "lethal" they were and how many of such weapons they brought with them.

Chapter 480: Don't Be Too Harsh

Opening one's arms and letting the other person check how many weapons they carried was a form of trust and friendship in the lair.

Many of the trades, negotiations, and discussions could also be completed secretly with this gesture hidden under the cloak.

Just as Meng Chao expected, after groping about for a while, the two laughed simultaneously, pulled open their cloaks, and hugged each other in a warm embrace.

"Sharkie, you're not dead yet!" The handler used a force that could kill a tiger and struck Zhou Chong's shoulder.

"Tengu, even if you died, I wouldn't!" Zhou Chong returned it by tightening his squeeze. It could crush a spine.

This meant that they were old friends.

To hunters, the lair had a unique significance.

The most popular superhuman occupation in Dragon City was the hunter.

They could join a superhuman squad or fight alone in the wild while dancing about dangerous situations. They were not limited by anything and just used their fists, legs, weapons, passion, and smarts to earn

their living. As long as they were strong and had a bit of luck, they could become famous overnight and rise to the top. It was a free and amazing life!

The Supernatural Tower had to manage a large number of carefree hunters, so they set up the Hunter's Association. It was in charge of training, testing, categorizing hunting regions, and distributing missions. Naturally, they also regulated the different conflicts between superhuman squads. When they encountered large-scale battles or saw Apocalyptic Beasts in the city, they could even organize a few or hundreds of different superhuman squads to fight.

However, the most important task of the Hunter's Association was still to collect money.

"Superhumans might be strong, but without the Red Dragon Army providing firepower and logistic support and without the support of tens of millions of Dragon Citizens, it'd be impossible for them to survive and fight in the wild with just their own strength. So, a large portion of the hunters' gains should belong to all the Dragon Citizens."

Due to this logic, whenever a hunter killed a monster, they had to hand over one-third or half of the gains as hunting tax, special resources recollection tax, Hunter's Association management tax, Supernatural Tower construction tax, Red Dragon Army construction tax, unique national responsibility, and other taxes. The higher their cultivation realms were, the higher their tax rate was. The Deity Realm superhumans' tax rate would easily go over 70%.

Recently, Dragon City had been organizing projects to upgrade the old residential areas and to provide three nutritional meals for the youngsters. What is meant for the superhumans was that the hunters who had been fighting at the frontlines had to pay even more taxes.

Besides that, the materials of many monsters, especially the rarer Hell Beasts and Apocalyptic Beasts, were definitely unique tactical resources, which meant that the hunters could not just sell them to whoever they liked. The Supernatural Tower would buy and use them based on the needs of the departments and the projects, along with their importance.

This sort of method that monopolized the resources usually did not provide the hunters with the market price, and the hunters, who had been risking their lives, did not feel satisfied.

For the overall development of Dragon City, having superhumans pay high taxes and monopolizing resources was logical and necessary.

Human civilization was a unit whose parts couldn't be separated from one another. Without the large number of citizens and the Red Dragon Army being a powerful shield, the hunters could not possibly win against the monster civilization.

But the hunters had to risk their lives, be covered in wounds, perhaps even watch their comrades die tragically in the mouths of monsters. They might also get a lot of hidden injuries. Yet after they finally killed the monster, they had to give up half of the materials for nothing, so they felt that it was unfair. That was only logical.

As time progressed, some people decided to test their luck.

When it came to materials that were large, heavy, but quite cheap, like Demonic Halberd Pig and Iron-armored Rhinoceros' flesh, they would not care about it.

But if hunters encountered valuable materials that were smaller but worth cities, like the monsters' crystalized neurospheres, heart of blood, eyeballs, spinal bone marrow, and other parts, they would usually not report them to the Hunter's Association.

Instead, they would sneakily bring them to the black markets in the lairs in exchange for the resources they wanted.

Sometimes, they would also exchange them for betting chips in the monster coliseums in the lairs and gamble their way into oblivion.

It did not matter whether they lost or won. The most important thing was to make sure that the betting chips all came out clean, so when the Supernatural Tower assessed the superhumans next year, they would not be troubled by the huge source of income that came out of nowhere.

This gray industry that was formed by the smuggling of monster materials was one of the important economic pillars in the lair.

The Survival Committee and the Supernatural Tower knew about this trick, of course.

But if they were too harsh and decided to be stern on punishing the act of smuggling and black market trading, it would severely weaken the hunters' enthusiasm, so they would not work hard while they went off to hunt and do it in a carefree manner. The Supernatural Tower could not do anything to change human nature.

The other reason was that if the hunters did not come to trade in the black market, the gambling, eating, and alcohol industry in the lair, which was a prospering tertiary economic sector, would die.

It has to be known that most of the one million lair citizens relied on the tertiary economic sector to survive.

When the pressure from the zombies and monsters increased or the people got really miserable, they would run to the lair to release their pent up emotions. That was the only way they could continue struggling to survive in the brutal Other World.

There was no benefit to destroying the only venting channel of the citizens at the bottom of society and one that provided a few hundred thousand job positions to the current Dragon City.

Hence, as long as the hunters and gang members in the lair did not take things too far, the Survival Committee and Supernatural Tower was willing to turn a blind eye.

In truth, the government also took this into consideration when it chose which veteran hunters to send as the first batch of captors.

Man-eating Shark Zhou Chong and the rest were regulars in the lair's black market in the past, so they had close connections there. They were friends with plenty of the gang members and had pretty good teamwork when they worked together.

They finally let go of each other, and Zhou Chong asked Tengu, the handler, "What's the situation now?"

“Yesterday, Golden Tooth’s Red Brows Su Lun saw Mr. Jin’s message, he said that hundreds of vermin had run into Golden Tooth Lair. Some people have also secretly set up illegal pharmacies here. Once the vermin eat the illegal drug, they act like they’re crazy and become really strong,” Tengu said.

“Be it Golden Tooth or the other gangs, everyone hates those vermin who don’t honor the code of brotherhood, especially people who are nutty because of these illegal drugs.

“Everyone is working in society and just want to earn money, so we should work together in harmony. Yet these bastards are causing trouble in Golden Tooth Lair and are trying to destroy everyone’s livelihood. They even want to destroy the hunters’ channel to sell goods, right?”

“Besides, even Mr. Jin, who has not appeared for a long time, has personally sent his word. So, all gangs naturally mobilized their members and started a full-on dragnet investigation over all of Golden Tooth Lair.

“This is what we’re thinking: since they committed hundreds of robberies outside in one go and stole so many cultivation resources, they must want to sell them in the lair’s black market.

“If they don’t sell it, then they want to use them as raw materials to create that new Deification Capsule or whatever it’s called.

“And if they want to create large quantities of Deification Capsules, they naturally need a workshop or factory that is quite big, or at the very least, they need a fully-equipped lab.

“Based on our experiences when creating all sorts of gene medicine, during the process of creation, you will produce a lot of exhaust and liquid waste. You will also use up a lot of spirit energy.

“So, we investigated the hundreds of black markets, labs, and private workshops in the lair, no matter their size.

“We paid special attention to the areas with a cluster of private pharmacies. We’ve also been sampling the underground water there to perform analysis. In the end, we discovered three areas with underground water that contain properties similar to the Deification Capsules.”

There were plenty of mad scientists lurking in the lair, along with cultivation maniacs who tried to use gene medicine to break their limits.

The pharmacists here were more professional than what the world outside thought.

“Due to your reminder for us to not alert the enemy, we didn’t dare to search in an ostentatious manner. We also didn’t dare enter deep into these regions,” Tengu continued. “As of current, we only know that these regions belong to the Three Unmanaged Areas of each gang, because it’s where our territories overlap.

“There have always been plenty of lone wolves who don’t belong to any gangs here. At most, they form groups of two or three people and build a small underground lab or illegal workshop. We’re not certain just which illegal workshop hides your target.”

“It’s fine. You’ve already helped us out a lot by reducing the search area to this extent. Let us handle the rest!” Man-eating Shark Zhou Chong said. “Everyone, get ready. Bring out the neural tactical data link interactor and search the area to locate the two identified targets.”

Meng Chao did the same thing as the other veteran hunters: He moved his eyeballs, contracted his pupils, and focused.

As the neural data intersected with each other, the walls around the garage seemed to have become invisible. Their gazes were able to smoothly and easily see through them and check what was outside.

The layers of illegal buildings looked like wooden blocks children stacked together randomly; they stood in all directions in a mess that reached out to devour the sky. There were only small ventilation spaces that were smaller than impluviums.

The mottled buildings were covered in graffiti made with all sorts of colors. Quite a number of the graffiti was even made with neon paint that was mixed with monster blood. Under the dim light, they had an enchanting charm, as if they were monsters that were about to jump out of the walls.

To get business, practically all the buildings had neon lights and sign boards outside the buildings. It was either this or alluring strokes drawn in the shape of seductive human bodies. Some also played the bloody and exciting clashes between monsters and how they ended up having their guts ripped out.

Many teenagers in cloaks and monster masks zipped through the alleys at lightning speed on their roller skates. No one knew what they had under their cloaks. It could be smuggled materials, bloodstained betting chips, lethal weapons, or crazy illegal drugs.

Some people laughed loudly at the entrance of coliseums and tossed a small number of betting chips skyward. When the chips fell, they made tinkering sounds.

Some people wept silently by rubbish dumps. After they shed their final tear, they clenched their fists tightly, rose up with fierce gazes, and walked into the darkness.

The countless lustrous scenes had a distorted, bewitching vitality that could not be ignored.

It was the lair.