

Oh My God 481

Chapter 481: Big Brother Knife

Meng Chao looked around.

The light signals on his retina danced like fireflies.

He immediately switched to Man-eating Shark Zhou Chong, Multi-armed Bear Hong Li, Snake Eye Mo Lan, Bullet Xue Rui, and the others' fields of vision.

He minimized them to a small window and overlapped them together.

It would not interfere with his sight, but he could pay attention to his teammates at all times.

He heard the command center's voice, which was, of course, located outside the lair. "Connection is normal. Communication is clear. Begin transmitting information about the two targets."

When Meng Chao's gaze went to the two red dots, a few scenes instantly appeared beside them.

They were from the CCTVs that were recording their looks.

The two robbers who had committed atrocious robberies outside had already changed to wide, hooded cloaks commonly seen in the lair. They also wore massive sunglasses and filtration masks to cover their faces completely.

If it were not for the locating chips, it would have been difficult to differentiate them from the millions of lair citizens.

"Begin operation," Zhou Chong said. He then observed the situation for a while. "Based on how they're fleeing, it seems that while the robbers are a little alarmed, they're not running around like headless chickens. It's clear that they're searching for a place. Perhaps they have a handler. Through him or her, we might be able to find the mastermind!"

Everyone immediately took action.

They pushed open the garage door and snuck into the dark, winding alleys.

Even though their faces had completely changed, they still imitated the lair citizens and pulled their hoods down low.

Although they were not running fast, they were not slow either. They used their rich experience of hunting in forests and tracking prey to help them, and with the real-time 3D map that was constantly displayed in their vision, they soon discreetly approached the two robbers from all directions.

Despite the fact that the lair citizens were willing to share some of the authorization of the CCTVs, most of the lair areas were still sensitive topics, such as the monster coliseums, illegal gambling sites, black markets, and secret pharmacies. It was impossible for these places to have any CCTVs and tapping devices installed in them.

Even if some gang thought of ways to secretly install them, others would use high-power equipment to interfere with and destroy them.

Hence, the CCTVs were just support. There were plenty of times when the captors had to lurk in the dark and use their eyes to see whether the two robbers had any contact with other people.

This was where the value of veteran hunters came out.

The two robbers were gravely wounded and had lost a lot of blood. When they walked, they staggered a little. They could also not be bothered to pay attention as to whether there was anyone monitoring and tailing them.

The Heaven Realm superhumans focused spirit energy into their eyes and increased the functions of their retina and optic nerves, turning themselves into human telescopes.

Ace sharpshooters like Meng Chao and Bullet Xue Rui could also temporarily activate visual functions that gave them sharp vision akin to the scopes of sniper rifles, so they could find their target without a scope.

The two robbers did not notice them.

But a small problem appeared ahead of the hunters.

There was a huge monster coliseum in front of them.

And an exciting monster battle had just ended.

Nearly one thousand spectators and gamblers came out of the coliseum in a dense crowd. Some of them had not had their fun of gambling yet, while others patted their chests in satisfaction or walked full of excitement.

Plenty of them had just finished transferring their wealth in the monster coliseum.

The lucky ones who filled their pockets naturally did not want to become the targets of the unlucky souls who lost all their money and only had daggers and guns left to them.

Hence, they wore hooded cloaks that covered their faces, chips, and weapons, which instantly made them one with the crowd.

In ten seconds, the two robbers would enter the crowd.

They had locating chips in them, so the hunters were not afraid of losing them, but they were afraid that the handler would be hidden in the crowd and use the noise and collisions with other people to discreetly send them information and resources.

“Mo Lan, Xue Rui, both of you bypass the robbers and enter the crowd before them!” Zhou Chong commanded.

Snake Eye Mo Lan and Bullet Xue Rui immediately came out of the alleys and entered the crowd. They moved with the agility of loaches, but they did not cause dissatisfaction or a ruckus in the crowd. They soon got themselves in the path the robbers would definitely take.

The others kept their eyes fixed on the two robbers and the lair citizens that brushed shoulders with them, ensuring that they would not miss any tiny action.

Mo Lan and Xue Rui brushed past the two robbers.

Mo Lan even intentionally nudged one of the robbers gently.

If the handler of the robbers were really hidden here and wanted to give them information and resources by brushing their shoulders, the robbers would definitely react.

But the two robbers only hunched their bodies and obediently went in the opposite direction of the crowd. They did not even dare to look at Mo Lan, afraid that they would cause unnecessary conflict.

When the two robbers left the crowd, the hunters sighed in relief.

The two robbers bypassed the monster coliseum and arrived at a crossroad with alleys branching out of it, which made it look like a spiderweb. They stopped and observed it for a moment.

“Pay attention, their destination should be nearby,” Zhou Chong reminded them.

Just as he predicted, the two robbers went into a dark alley, and just after a few steps, they entered a small door.

The sides of the alley had the stereotypical residential buildings of the lair.

The alley was at most 1.5m wide. Forget about a heavy fighting vehicle, not even a normal sedan could enter the place.

The residential buildings originally had eight floors, but as the people continued building on top of them, the illegal floors continued stacking up until they reached a height of a building that was around thirty floors tall. To make the building steady, countless steel pipes and steel beams stretched out of it, and they were like Xs that stood between the residential buildings to support them.

The citizens also used every bit of space they could find to add steel plates between the steel beams, so the buildings that were already really large and swaying had multiple bulges that devoured the 1.5m width of space above the alley.

The people staying in the apartments on either side could shake hands through their windows or climb to another building on the other side.

Also, the buildings in the lair usually had underground components that were just as bad as the surface. They spread out everywhere like an insect’s nest.

If the buildings on the surface had twenty floors, then there were at least twelve floors below as well. Even though it was dark and humid, the rent was cheap, so there were usually more people staying in those places compared to the surface, which led to the shelters and air raid shelters built decades ago. They also led to other places, so they were like a maze.

In conclusion, this was a heaven for escapees and an absolute nightmare for captors.

There were naturally a lot of surveillance blind spots in this sort of place.

Besides, it was among the Three Unmanaged Areas between two gangs, so no one knew the internal structure of the buildings nearby.

Even if they brought out the original blueprint from decades ago, after the citizens built illegally, added layers, set up partitions, and did all sorts of simple, crude, and crazy modifications for decades, the internal structures had changed to the point that they were unrecognizable.

Zhou Chong could only ask the hunters to spread out as much as possible to monitor the entrances of the buildings around them.

Fortunately, the two robbers had locating chips and tapping devices.

It allowed the hunters to see that once they entered a building, they went to the third level of the basement. It was a facility modified from an air raid shelter.

Fortunately, they were not too far from the surface, so the signal still went to their interactors.

Even though based on the tremors from the robbers' muscles and bones, the voices they heard were a little distorted, they could still hear the general content.

First came the conversation between the two robbers.

"Is this the place?"

"That's right. The email stated very clearly that we need to bypass Bloody Claw Coliseum and enter the third alley. Then, we are to search for a graffiti of a tiger with wings on a door."

Then, they tapped the door gently.

First, they knocked on it urgently five times, waited for half a second, then knocked urgently four times, stopped again, then knocked another three times.

The door opened with a creak.

The sounds of guns cocking could be heard from inside.

The two robbers' heartbeats quickened.

"Big Brother Knife?" they asked a little nervously.

The person inside was silent for a moment. Then, a hoarse voice spoke. "You're late by a full three hours."

"The secret police has increased their guard, so we spent a lot of effort to succeed," one of the robbers defended himself. "In the end, while we were on the run, we crossed fire with the secret police, and quite a number of our friends were captured.

"We're the only ones who got knocked away by the impact. Fortunately, we landed at a blind spot of a surveillance camera by the road, so the secret police didn't notice us. We then took extra care to avoid suspicion while coming to the lair!"

"That's right!" the other robber said nervously. "Even though we're a little late, our haul is pretty good. We've gotten more than ten Nightmarish Beasts' crystalized neurospheres, one Hell Beast's active spinal cord, and one refined supreme-grade crystal. We've obtained everything that the email asked us to bring!"

“It’s not a problem of your haul,” the hoarse voice said coldly. “How am I to know that you weren’t captured by the secret police during the three hours, then betrayed your friends due to coercion and ended up as spies for the enemy?”

“That’s... There’s absolutely nothing like that, Big Brother Knife, trust me!”

“We’ve stolen so many things, the secret police would definitely not spare us! We won’t betray our friends!” the two robbers shouted.

“Then, hold this and repeat what you said just now,” the hoarse voice said.

“Is this... a lie detector?” The two robbers were stunned.

Then, there was the sound of guns cocking. “What? Is there a problem?”

“N-No.”

The two robbers obediently repeated the entire story of them fleeing to the lair after they robbed their target.

While Meng Chao listened, he thought, ‘Thank goodness Shen Yupeng chose the right strategy.’

When the two robbers were unconscious, he did a minimally invasive surgery to implant the chips inside them. The wounds blended with their other injuries.

They did not know that they had become the secret police’s spies, so the problem of them not passing the lie detector did not exist.

As expected, the lie detector did not make any sound.

The two robbers sighed in relief. “Big Brother Knife, you should trust us now, right?”

“Wait,” Big Brother Knife said. “Come and stand here. We’ll scan you to see if you’ve brought something you shouldn’t have brought.”

Chapter 482: Layers of Confusion

Meng Chao’s heart instantly leapt into his throat.

Zhou Chong whispered by his side, “It’s fine. The secret police implanted the most advanced biochemical chips in the two robbers. The raw materials were taken from crystalized neurospheres and the periosteum of the monster brain. They won’t be discovered by metal detectors.”

Just as he said, after some rustling sounds, Big Brother Knife snorted softly and said, “Come in.”

The two robbers were finally relieved. They quickly said, “Thank you, Big Brother Knife! Thank you!”

Then came the sound of a door closing and locking.

Based on the sounds, the door was very thick. Some kind of armor might have been installed in it. It had at least three locks and might have high-voltage electricity circuits and explosives in it.

Based on the title they used to refer to the man and the characteristics of the person’s voiceprint, the handler’s identity was found immediately.

[Chen Hao, former member of Poison Scorpion. He's in charge of the betting pool at the periphery of Bloody Claw Coliseum and offering loans. He's a smart and forthright person, and he has wide connections in the lair.

[A year and a half ago, he worked with someone to tamper with the betting pool so that he could gain profit, which infringed upon the profit of Poison Scorpion, and he was punished according to gang rules.

[Originally, the action of harming the interests of the gang for one's own gains should have led to his death, but someone powerful begged for mercy, so only his arm and leg were crippled. Then, he was chased out of Poison Scorpion and left to his own devices.

[Chen Hao paid for bladed limbs that give off a cold, metallic shine, then continued earning a living in the depths of the lair. That's how he came to get his nickname Big Brother Knife.

[But since he had angered Poison Scorpion and been crippled, it was impossible for him to thrive as well as before. At most, he could only wander about the Three Unmanaged Areas, which are located between the territories controlled by the gangs and take the scraps left by the gangs. He had to live at the bottom of the entire gray food chain in the lair.

[However, over the past few months, he suddenly started spending extravagantly. Quite a number of gang members saw him using a lot of money in the black market to buy monster materials worth cities. Someone also saw him treating old friends, who are all the backbones of various gangs, to meals.

[Some people suspect that Chen Hao has found someone to support him. But since his actions never infringed upon the interests of the gangs, no one was interested in digging to the bottom of things. Curiosity kills the cat in the lair, and it might even kill its entire family.]

The information was transformed into neural signals through the wireless network in ten minutes and displayed on Meng Chao and the veteran hunters' retina.

Along with it were a few blurry pictures.

Chen Hao was a middle-aged man with a thin body and a slightly hunched back. He gave off the fierce presence of a scimitar.

His gloomy gaze and the huge scimitar that replaced his entire right arm and looked like the God of Death's scythe caused him to give off an air that isolated him.

There was also a video. In it, he leaned against the corner of a wall and limped forward like a water snake.

Zhou Chong pondered over this and said, "Chen Hao had joined Poison Scorpion for more than ten years. He was originally a lackey in charge of delivering betting chips to the people at the periphery of the coliseum, but he worked his way up to become the manager of the betting pool.

"He knew a lot of people, and there were all sorts of good and bad people among them. He also knew every nook and cranny of the lair. If I were the mastermind, I would use someone influential in the lair to act in public for me."

At that moment, a new voice came from the underground room.

One of the two robbers asked, “Big Brother Knife, when are you going to take us to the boss?”

This question caused all the veteran hunters to perk up.

The boss the robbers mentioned might be the mastermind who sent them the emails, gave them the drugs and equipment, and gave them instructions to complete the entire crime.

Meng Chao’s heart raced. He knew that the boss they mentioned was likely to be the Supernatural Entity Vortex!

Big Brother Knife scoffed coldly. “What? Are you in a hurry to meet the boss?”

“Of course.”

The other robber did not hear the warning tone in Big Brother Knife’s words and said foolishly, “The boss is just too amazing. His plan helped us make the secret police run around in circles. Even though some of our friends were captured, we managed to leave so many superhumans in such a pathetic state despite our status. Even if we got shot down, it would have been worth it!

“We want to meet the boss to thank him personally and ask him what the next step of the plan is. We can’t wait to eat more Deification Capsules and fight to our hearts’ content!

“Speaking of which, when is the launching date of the next plan and where will it happen? Right now, the guard outside is very tight, and the warehouses and labs of the big companies have all increased their defense systems. It would be difficult for us to do anything for a period of time!”

“This isn’t something you should be asking. Knowing too much won’t do you any good,” Big Brother Knife said coldly. He then stopped talking for a while, but then could not help but add, “It doesn’t matter even if the guard is tight outside. Just take care of yourselves. We might have a major operation soon.”

“Soon?” The two robbers were dumbfounded.

The sharper one immediately registered what he meant and immediately said, “I get it. The boss means that we’re going to attack the targets in the lair next, right?”

“That’s right. The black markets, secret warehouses and labs of the gangs must contain a lot of cultivation resources, and among them are plenty of supreme-grade goods worth cities. You might not even find them outside. We’ll be stealing them under the boss’ commands!

“The best thing is that the gangs in the lair have always been very adverse to the outside forces infiltrating the lair. Even if we steal a lot, it’s just the bad stealing from the bad, so they won’t report this to the government!”

“But I heard that the Underground Emperor of Golden Tooth Lair is very powerful,” the other robber said hesitantly. “If we end up being captured by him, our fates will be even worse than if we were captured by the secret police.”

“Jin Wanhao is old. What Underground Emperor? He’s just an old dog who is hiding in the lair while on his dying bed. The boss is able to make the secret police run around in circles, so one measly Jin Wanhao is just a dead dog in front of him!”

The first robber slapped his chest. "Don't worry, Big Brother Knife. As long as the boss sends word, even if they want us to climb up bladed mountains, jump into pots of boiling oil, or cut Jin Wanhao to shreds, we'll do it without another word!"

Big Brother Knife was silent for a while.

No one knew whether he was shocked by the robbers' arrogance or stupidity.

In the end, he said, "Both of you, stay here. You should eat something and restore your stamina. I'll hand over the goods to the boss and send someone to treat your wounds. Once you regain your strength, you might join the operation at any moment."

"Thank you, Big Brother Knife," both of the robbers said simultaneously. "We don't care about anything. We just need Deification Capsules, a lot more of them!"

Big Brother Knife said nothing.

The soft sound of a door opening and closing came from the other side of the room.

The hunters looked at each other, and they could see the grave look in one another's gaze.

The most troublesome thing was about to happen. Vortex was indeed going to target the gangs in the lair next.

If hundreds of crimes appeared at the same time in a place like Golden Tooth Lair, there would definitely be a chain reaction. Not only would the gangs descend into chaos, the countless lost people who had been lurking for decades in the lair might make their move!

Zhou Chong spoke quickly. "The other party wants to send the monster materials the two robbers stole to the boss. It's highly likely that they're going to use it to create Deification Capsules.

"Mo Lan, Xue Rui, do your best to get close to the target and see where he sends the monster materials!"

The veteran hunters had entered the hornet nest-like underground from the different entrances of the buildings nearby.

Even if the Heaven Realm superhumans had great spatial analysis, navigation, and senses so sharp that they could detect things with their body hair, when they arrived at the dark underground that had winding paths and was as complicated as a maze, they still felt dizzy.

Fortunately, Big Brother Knife had a limp, and to hide it as well as balance himself, he intentionally wore a high-heel boot with steel plates. When he walked, he made a lot of noise, so it was easy to locate him.

Soon, Mo Lan found Chen Hao.

She did not stop. Instead, she increased her speed and brushed past him. During that instant, she set her sights on the bulges under his cloak. They had to be the outdoor survival backpacks, full of stolen goods, that the two robbers brought into the lair.

Xue Rui immediately hid in the dark and observed the direction Chen Hao took from the distance.

Chen Hao did not leave the building.

He went up a spiraling staircase that looked like a shaft to reach the third floor above ground and walked into a room.

Since the staircase was too narrow, only one person could go up and down the stairs. Neither Mo Lan nor Xue Rui dared to follow him up for fear of raising suspicion.

But based on Chen Hao's footsteps, they could take a general guess which room he went into.

"Should we force our way inside?"

Multi-armed Bear Hong Li was eager to take action.

Man-eating Shark Zhou Chong pondered this for a while, then said, "Wait. We'll observe for a little longer. The mastermind doesn't seem like someone who will hide here. This is too close to the first contact point. They're in the same building.

"Also, we never discovered any components of the Deification Capsule in the underground liquid waste in this area. The ventilation and drain systems here aren't too good, so it doesn't seem like it's a secret pharmacy.

"I suspect that this is just a transfer station. Don't alert the enemy. We'll wait and see who's going to come out from inside."

Zhou Chong was right.

Soon, there were footsteps out of the room Chen Hao entered.

But it was not one person. Nine people with roller skates and hooded cloaks and goggles jumped down from the window of the third floor. The wheels under their feet created sparks, allowing them to display the agility of apes as they traveled forward in different directions.

They looked as if they ignored gravity and were moving in all 360 degrees through the alleys.

Some people even fired grappling hooks from their wide sleeves and fixed them to the bulges on the buildings to bring themselves to the top of the buildings, which were dozens of meters tall. In the blink of an eye, they disappeared into the depths of the lair.

Meng Chao and the veteran hunters all saw it clearly. The nine roller skaters had bulky cloaks, as if they were carrying huge outdoor survival backpacks.

Chapter 483: Rat Horde, Zombies, Mutation!

"Damn it!"

All the veteran hunters cursed.

The roller bladers were couriers often seen in the lair. They were needed to deliver a large amount of betting chips, materials, crystals, and resources safely and secretly outside, because they could not be seen in public.

The owners of the goods hoped that by having the goods taken from their hands, they could remove themselves from the situation.

Rollerbladers became a job because of this.

They did not know the identities of the item deliverers or the people receiving the items. They also did not know what goods they were delivering. As long as they got the money and sent the goods, even if they were captured, they would not reveal any secrets.

“Why are there nine rollerbladers?”

“Could it be that Big Brother gathered nine bags of stolen goods and sent them all out to the mastermind?”

“Then, which rollerblader should we chase after?”

The veterans felt really troubled.

Meng Chao thought about it and said, “It’s not nine bags of stolen goods. Just now, Big Brother Knife said very clearly that the two robbers were late by a few hours, and most of the things the robbers stole were fresh monster materials. Once taken out of the storage environment, they have to be sent to the pharmacies or labs for refinement right away or they would lose their efficacy.

“So, all the stolen goods must have been sent to the mastermind the moment they entered the lair.

“Besides, the nine rollerbladers are heading off in different directions. I think that at most, one of the nine backpacks contains stolen goods. The other eight bags and eight rollerbladers are all for the sake of confusion and anti-tracking!”

“Makes sense.” Everyone’s mind raced, and they quickly reevaluated the situation.

Xue Rui nodded and said, “The other party shouldn’t have noticed us, but if the mastermind can come up with hundreds of crimes and turn third-rate vermin into well-trained, professional robbers, they must be meticulous and devious. It’s impossible for them to not take precautions and set up some anti-tracking. It’s only logical for them to do so.”

It did not take much money to hire a rollerblader to randomly move around the lair.

But the veteran hunters found it troublesome.

Man-eating Shark Zhou Chong gritted his teeth and said, “We can’t let a single one of them escape. Mo Lan, Xue Rui, and everyone else split into groups of two and follow one rollerblader each. Make sure you see where they’re going clearly, especially to whom they hand their backpacks over.

“Meng Chao, you stay and watch Big Brother Knife with me!”

They were running out of time and could not waste it looking for a better solution. When the nine rollerbladers were about to vanish, the veteran hunters looked for the most reliable partners based on the teamwork they built over the years fighting in the jungle. Then, like ghosts, they quietly went out to chase their targets.

A small sting of pain rose behind their ears, and their optical signals turned into invisible waves that were sent into their brains.

The nine rollerbladers might have been born and bred in the lair and were as agile as apes, but they could not escape from the veteran hunters' eyes, ears, and noses.

Their actions in the alleys were under tight scrutiny.

However, the hunters could not act ostentatiously in the lair this time, because it was a secret operation. There were only twenty captors, and that was including Meng Chao.

Eighteen people split up for the operation, leaving behind Meng Chao and Zhou Chong in the area, so their overall fighting strength was quite weak.

Fortunately, Zhou Chong was at Spirit Armor Realm, while Meng Chao's fighting strength was far greater than his cultivation realm implied.

They moved like lightning and shot into the building with the picture of the tiger with wings. Then, as if they had fused into the shadows, they shot up to the third floor and quietly went to the room where Big Brother Knife was.

Just when they wanted to press themselves against the wall, they heard movement inside.

The sound of the door opening stopped them.

They did not have time to hide, so they flipped down the spiral staircase at the same time and stuck themselves to the back of the stairs like two huge bats.

Zhou Chong was about to remind Meng Chao to control his breathing, heartbeat, and vitality magnetic field when he realized that he was suddenly unable to sense Meng Chao.

It was as if Meng Chao had turned into a dead person or been swallowed by a black hole.

Zhou Chong was a little stunned. He could not help but turn his head to look. Meng Chao was still by his side, alive and well.

He gasped in spite of himself, and his appraisal of the youngest Heaven Realm superhuman in Dragon City increased by a few degrees.

Big Brother Knife walked down the stairs.

His hands were empty, and he was whistling. It appeared that he was in a good mood.

He did not notice that there were two hunters less than half a meter above him.

He did not return to the room where the two robbers who had locating chips and tapping devices in them were.

Instead, he went to the first basement floor and entered the winding corridor that looked like a maze. He walked past a few homeless people who were in rags and curled up by the corridor before he went into another room.

Meng Chao and Zhou Chong appeared behind him. They snuck over and hid in the darkness of the corner.

They looked at each other with some hesitation.

"If I were the mastermind, I'd have a few hidden sentries. They'd pretend to be homeless people curled up near my lair," Meng Chao whispered.

Praise shone in Zhou Chong's eyes. He nodded and said, "That's right. The homeless man by the left looks to have sores all over his body, so he's quite disgusting at first glance. But his vitality magnetic field is strong and stable. His limbs also look really built. He should be a man with a built body.

"This sort of person can survive no matter what he does in the lair. How could he end up in the streets and in such a pathetic state?"

They did not dare to go near the room that Big Brother Knife entered.

Fortunately, they had powerful spatial modeling abilities.

By exploring and scanning the area, they could form the structure of a few floors in their heads.

They went to the door of a room on the second basement floor, which was right under the room with Big Brother Knife.

When they stuck their ears against the door to listen, they heard people moving inside. There was laughter and cusses. It seemed like they were all men with a lot of energy, and there was a large number of them.

The hunters did not want any accidents so they went to the room right above the room where Big Brother Knife was next.

This place was silent, and they could hear no breathing nor heartbeats inside.

Regardless of whether it was a normal lock or reinforced, special password-coded lock, it could not stop Heaven Realm superhumans, who were skilled in using their magnetic fields to obtain objects remotely.

Zhou Chong placed his hand gently over the keyhole, and his spirit energy flowed inside like water to suck in the lock cylinders. After searching around for a while, there was a click.

The door opened. The moment Meng Chao shot in, his senses filled the entire room like a flood; there was indeed no living being inside.

It was a small apartment.

Aside from the tiny kitchen and toilet, there were only two other rooms.

The apartment stank. Its corners were filled with household waste, and the blanket was crumpled up.

The master had to have gone off in a hurry to earn their living. They were still alive, but they would not return for the time being.

Meng Chao lay down on the floor and poured his spirit energy into his optical nerves and eardrums. Through the reinforced concrete, he could hear Big Brother Knife's hoarse voice coming from the room below.

He was talking to someone, and there was not just one of them.

There was a lot of noise in the room. It came from weapons clashing, guns being disassembled and reassembled before being loaded.

Zhou Chong knelt on one knee and widened his eyes while he stared at the floor.

His eyes slowly turned crystalline, like two super high-power searchlights, but they shone with more than seven colors.

Five-star superhumans were known to have reached the Spirit Gaze Realm. They could stimulate the mysterious functions that had been sleeping for ten thousand years in their cells, which allowed them to see invisible lights of different wavelengths and temporarily gain X-ray vision.

Zhou Chong was a six-star superhumans, so his X-ray vision was naturally much better than that of five-star superhumans.

He narrowed his eyes, and they sparkled like crackling flames. After a while, he said, "Aside from Big Brother Knife, there are twenty-seven people inside. Six of them are badly injured, eight are lightly injured, but they have been treated, so it won't be of any consequence for the time being.

"Their vitality magnetic fields are very active, to the point that it's abnormal. They seem to have taken in a large amount of drugs that will drain their lives but forcibly increase their fighting strength.

"Also, they're carrying a lot of guns, along with dangerous objects like crystal bombs and explosives."

"They're the robbers who committed major crimes over the past few days outside and have fled into the lair," Meng Chao whispered.

The robbers were all goons, so they were not that valuable.

Both of them then placed their hopes on the veteran hunters who were chasing the nine rollerbladers and might still bring good news.

They wondered what Big Brother Knife told the nine rollerbladers, because they did not seem to be in a hurry to look for the person in charge of receiving the package. They just kept strolling around the streets of the lair and intentionally often went to the narrow, cramped streets or those with a lot of people.

The veteran hunters had to keep an eye out on the rollerbladers and the person who might receive the package from them.

But they also had to be on guard of hidden sentries who might have taken the guise of homeless people, drunkards, or prostitutes.

This high-intensity lurking and tracking wasted quite a lot of mental stamina and patience. Even Heaven Realm superhumans found it exhausting.

At that moment, the veteran hunters received news from the outside world.

Nie Chenglong, vice director of the abnormal beast research department, said in a grave voice, "Let me update you on something.

"Ten minutes ago, the southern part's New South Orchard Village, the northern part's North Sea Home, and the western part's Golden Eagle Apartment, which are all large residential areas with more than ten thousand people, were overrun by a rat horde.

"While fighting against the rats, many of the citizens noticed quite a number of rat-type monsters having red tentacles growing out of their bodies after being resurrected in an even more terrifying state. They had turned into undead.

"We highly suspect that the three rat hordes were intentionally released by the abnormal beasts, and aside from being infected with Blood Flower spores, the rat-type monsters might also be carrying an even newer mutated zombie virus.

"Many of the citizens have been scratched or bitten during the fight.

"A large number of rat-type monsters have also fled outside the residential areas. The worst case scenario would be that in less than half an hour, a new zombie crisis will explode.

"So, much of our manpower has been mobilized to New South Orchard Village, North Sea Home, and Golden Eagle Apartment.

"Look at the map. The three large residential areas are located in the western, southern, and northern parts of Dragon City. They're all very far away from the lair. In other words, the enemy is intentionally dispersing our forces, but we have no other choice. For the citizens' safety and their wealth, we can only be led around the nose.

"Since they've decided to lure us away, something is definitely going to happen in the lair, you must be careful!"

Before Nie Chenglong's voice faded away, Meng Chao saw something shocking through the eighteen veteran hunters' sights!

Chapter 484: Lightning Fast Attack!

The nine rollerbladers moved around the maze for a long time before they stopped practically together.

Three of them stopped at a gambling site, monster coliseum, and illegal black market, which were places that had a lot of people. Good and bad people were there, and the atmosphere was foul. Someone might appear at any moment to take their backpacks.

Another three stopped at alleys with really narrow entrances. These areas would only be able to accommodate two people inside. The air above the alleys was sealed shut by illegal buildings, so they could not monitor them from above or tail them.

The last three shot into buildings that looked like mazes.

Then, thick, black smoke gushed out of the nine people at the same time.

Smoke bombs!

The large outdoor survival backpacks they carried contained a large amount of smoke bombs.

The slightly corrosive and poisonous black smoke gushed out like a monster baring its teeth. It instantly covered a circular area of ten meters.

Violent coughs and surprised shouts immediately rose from around the rollerbladers who had stopped at densely populated areas.

The gamblers at the gambling site, the spectators in the coliseum, and the guests in the black market all panicked like headless chickens.

They pushed and shoved against each other, falling over one another, and everything became a mess. More than one hundred hooded people collided into each other, and it was difficult to tell just who were the rollerbladers the veteran hunters had been following.

The rollerbladers who stopped outside the narrow alleys used the smoke bombs to lock down the entire alley. Then, they charged into them at high speed.

If the veteran hunters wanted to chase after them, they had to charge through the smoke.

But no one knew the situation behind the smoke, and it was highly likely that they would be discovered the moment they rushed out.

The last three rollerbladers detonated the smoke bombs in the three buildings.

Humans compressed the spaces in there to the maximum. A container-sized space could have dozens of citizens inside. When suffocating smoke spread out in this sort of place, it was basically a disaster.

Quite a number of residents coughed violently and cried. While they cursed, they swung their arms and escaped from within the buildings.

During their haste, they did not look for the people who released the smoke bombs. The rollerbladers had already bent their backs and vanished behind them.

“Bastards!”

Man-eating Shark Zhou Chong was shocked and angry. He did not expect that the other party would be so cunning.

This was definitely not Big Brother Knife’s plan, but the Vortex’s meticulous scheme.

“After them!” Zhou Chong narrowed his eyes. “Don’t let a single one escape!”

Multi-armed Bear Hong Li, Snake Eye Mo Lan, Bullet Xue Rui, and the other veteran hunters could no longer care about hiding or disguising themselves. They activated their vitality magnetic fields to the max.

Their eyes sparkled brightly, and their auditory as well as olfactory nerves were strengthened ten times in an instant. It was enough for them to find the finest scents left by the rollerbladers in the air.

They were like hunting dogs with bloodshot eyes. They parted the crowds, went into the smoke, and shot into the buildings.

Meng Chao watched the eighteen scenes at the same time.

Four of the veteran hunters located their targets once more.

The feeling of unease grew even more prominent in Meng Chao's heart.

He felt that something had gone wrong.

Or rather, this method gave him a sense of déjà vu.

In his previous life, he used a similar method to distinguish and shake off his pursuers.

He did not have the time to think. "Senior Zhou, something's not right.

"The nine rollerbladers' backpacks probably are just smoke bombs; they don't have any resources in them. Big Brother Knife didn't ask the rollerbladers to go to the mastermind. This is all just an anti-tracking method!"

Zhou Chong was a little taken aback. "What?"

"Since Big Brother Knife took such great pains and sent nine rollerbladers, it means that he can't believe the two late robbers completely. If that's the case, why is there a need for him to send the resources to the true mastermind's address?" Meng Chao quickly said.

"If I were the mastermind, I'd ask Big Brother Knife to set up a few anti-tracking plans, like this one. I'd intentionally send nine rollerblades with smoke bombs to head to nine fake addresses before I have them suddenly release smoke bombs and leave at a high speed.

"Then, I'd place a few observers at the corners nearby or at the highest spots to see whether there is anyone chasing after them regardless of the cost. The hunters' attention will be entirely on the rollerbladers, so it'll be impossible for them to scan all the drunkards, gamblers, and homeless people by the roadside.

"If there were no pursuers and I became certain that there is no one after the nine rollerbladers, I'd send the tenth one with the real goods. It wouldn't take much time, but I'd be much safer!

"After all, if any one of the nine rollerbladers has a pursuer, that means that Big Brother Knife's tracks were exposed and there's something wrong with the two robbers who arrived late!"

Zhou Chong's pupils shrank to the size of pins.

With an expression of disbelief, he stared at Meng Chao for five seconds.

Then, he pushed down on the neural signal receiver behind his ear with gritted teeth. "All hunters, pay attention. Stop your movements! I repeat, stop your movements! Stop following the targets!"

His words instantly echoed in all of the veteran hunters' eardrums.

But he was a step too late.

Multi-armed Bear Hong Li had already broken through the smoke and entered the alley.

The rollerblader he had been following had not run away. Instead, he squatted behind the smoke and stared at him fixedly.

Hong Li wanted to pretend to be a normal lair citizen.

But it was just too strange for a normal citizen to have rushed inside instead of running away when there was such pungent smoke in the alley.

Besides, Hong Li was built, and his bone structure was bizarre. His arms were thicker than Meng Chao's thighs, and his bulky muscles filled out the cloak, so the wide hooded cloak looked like skin-tight clothes on him. It formed an inverted triangle on him. His was the perfect figure of a built man, and he could not hide the presence of a powerful person.

"We've been discovered!"

Meng Chao and Zhou Chong cursed at the same time.

The atmosphere in the room beneath them also became tense. They could sense it through the reinforced concrete under their feet.

Crack, crack, crack, crack.

The sound of guns being loaded came from beneath.

Some people also started making a fuss. Uncontrollable power that was like a wild beast's exploded from their bodies.

'Big Brother Knife knows that someone went after the rollerbladers he sent out!'

Meng Chao and Zhou Chong exchanged a glance. They instantly knew what the other intended to do.

They had no other choice. They had to force their way into the robbers' den.

Bang!

Zhou Chong smashed his fist against the floor.

The spirit energy magnetic field of a Heaven Realm superhuman was like a super heavy pile driver. It instantly destroyed the floor that was almost half a meter thick.

The reinforced concrete shattered into hundreds of crushed stones that spilled down on the thirty or so robbers beneath them.

The powder blinded the robbers, then the stones crashed into their heads, making them bleed. They sank into temporary confusion.

Meng Chao jumped down on the robbers like a falcon.

While he was still in the air, his right arm swelled up. His wrist, elbow, and shoulder let out cracking sounds, as if his bones were exploding. Every explosive sound was like a wave, and it gathered on his fist layer by layer.

This was the Ripple Force at the peak of its strength.

Bang!

The first punch landed heavily on the chest of a robber who had a double-barrelled shotgun, and the man's thorax was gone. His chest caved in, and his heart, lungs, and other organs were reduced to a pulp before gushing out of his mouth and nose. He died on the spot.

Crack!

Before Meng Chao pulled his fist back, he had already swung his right leg, turning it into an axe that could split metal open, and it slammed into the second robber's waist.

The destructive force was like an ordnance penetrator. It crushed the robber's heavy bulletproof vest and strengthened porcelain pieces inside, then reduced the robber's spine to powder, causing his upper and lower body to fold together. Before the man could unfold himself, he stopped breathing.

There were around thirty robbers.

Some of them might have taken Deification Capsules beforehand and temporarily gained the power of Spirit Tattoo Realm, but Meng Chao must end the fight quickly to prevent the robbers from acting desperately and harming the innocents.

Hence, he had to use the most ruthless methods.

Just as he expected, while he instantly killed two robbers, the third robber pounced on him from the back and locked his neck in a tight grip. This robber had already taken the Deification Capsule and was acting like a lunatic.

Meng Chao's spine let out cracking sounds, as if he was crushed by a super high power capstan.

The robber behind him growled like an animal, and his pores released a powerful, burnt stench.

Meng Chao gnashed his teeth together and grabbed the robber's arm. He yanked it first, then gripped it tightly to crush the robber's wrists.

But before the robber could even scream in pain, strange flames gushed out from his orifices, wounds, and pores.

Apparently, to fight against Meng Chao, who was at Heaven Realm, he had instantly drained all his vitality, and his body temperature had far surpassed the boiling point of a human body. Before Meng Chao could kill him at lightning speed, he burnt himself to death.

Most of the robbers had already taken the Deification Capsule.

Some of them even decided to not care about the costs and took in two to three times the dose above their limits.

Their muscles swelled up, their skin was torn, and fur and scales resembling those of wild beasts grew from their wounds. Their eyeballs turned red, yellow, or gained enrapturing light.

Their killing instincts completely suppressed their rationality. Even though they saw that their companion had just burst into flames, they still threw all caution to the wind and growled as they pounced on Meng Chao and Zhou Chong.

Some of the robbers even decided to risk it all and brought out crystal bombs tied together in their backpacks. They attempted to activate them and throw them at the two superhumans.

If so many crystal bombs exploded indoors, even if they did not manage to kill the two Heaven Realm superhumans, they would still cause the swaying building to collapse, because the weight of the ten or so illegal floors had long since made it unstable. It would definitely be unable to bear the explosion.

Meng Chao sucked in a sharp breath and threw a bunch of scattered sparks from his left hand.

They were more than ten discarded harvesting blades that were polished until they were as thin as a cicada's wings. They drew strange arcs in the air and sliced past three robbers' wrists and fingers, cutting off their tendons and ligaments completely. The crystal bombs dropped to the floor with a terrifying thud.

Chapter 485: The Monster Horde Is Prepared to Attack!

Fortunately, Meng Chao was half a second faster than the three robbers, and they were unable to activate the crystal bombs in time.

And before they could bring out new crystal bombs, Meng Chao moved like a tornado. He attacked and reduced them to a pulp.

By then, Man-eating Shark Zhou Chong had defeated more than ten robbers.

When a superhuman at the peak of Heaven Realm activated his vitality magnetic field fully, it was the same as creating a domain where they were supreme. If the people in it were much weaker, they would not be able to fight back at all.

Zhou Chong was even more ruthless than Meng Chao. The robbers he sent flying were usually torn to shreds, and their severed limbs had terrifying wounds. There were huge saw teeth marks at the severed parts, which made it look like the robbers were attacked by a shark. That was how the Man-eating Shark gained his fearsome name.

Soon, the robbers' lives inside and outside the room were taken by the duo.

Only Big Brother Knife, Chen Hao was left.

At the moment he saw the ceiling collapse, he made his decision and ran to the window to escape through there.

Unfortunately, one of his legs and arms was missing. Even though he had machine prosthetics, they suffered interference from the spirit energy magnetic field released by Man-eating Shark Zhou Chong. The joints released cracking sounds as the gears got stuck together. They did not work properly and ended up as a burden.

When Chen Hao arrived at the window in a limp and climbed up, Meng Chao finished fighting.

When he jumped out, Meng Chao brought out his chain sabers and bound his good leg. The chilling blade dug deep into his inner thigh and dragged him back. He crashed onto the floor.

Zhou Chong ran over to remind Meng Chao to search for whether this person had any weapons that he could use in desperation or whether he had any secret communicators on him, but Meng Chao was much more experienced than Zhou Chong thought. His hands turned into two gray lights as he searched Big Brother Knife.

He found a poisoned dagger, two mini bombs the size of fingernails that could be used to break shackles or locks, a vial of highly corrosive acid, and a communicator that was hidden in place of his missing molar. He could transmit information by knocking his teeth together.

Naturally, there were also three Deification Capsules.

However, Big Brother Knife was different from the stupid robbers. He loved his life a lot, so he did not readily use that illegal drug that would drain his life.

When he saw that all the tools that could save his life were discovered, Big Brother Knife looked dejected and slumped down on the floor.

Zhou Chong looked around. When he saw that all the robbers were curled up like dead dogs, he sighed in relief.

Now that things had progressed to this state, all they could do was report the situation to the command center.

“They’re even more wary than we expected. Thank goodness Meng Chao thought quick, so we got to capture Chen Hao,” Zhou Chong said. “Give us some time. We’ll definitely make him tell us about the mastermind.”

“Alright, but do it quick,” Nie Chenglong replied. “The situation has changed again. Aside from the three large residential areas I told you about, we’ve also discovered signs of the zombie virus and Blood Flower spores causing havoc in other places in the east, west, and north, including a few large developing areas in Shattered Starlake.

“Signs of a monster horde invasion have also been discovered in the crystal mining areas and smelting plants that had large amounts of resources invested in them. We aren’t yet sure what level of danger the beast horde poses and whether there are any Hell Beasts and even Apocalyptic Beasts serving as garrisons for the normal monsters.

“But during such a critical moment, there’s no way that it’s a coincidence that monster hordes appeared in three different directions.

“The crystal mines and smelting plants are important construction projects of this year and next year. They are also facilities that we cannot be missing in our strategy to completely level the monsters’ nests. They cannot be destroyed by the monster hordes.

“So, aside from the Red Dragon Army issuing the highest level of alarm, a large batch of high-end fighting power and even the peak forces of Deity Realm have left the main city area to head to the various crystal mines and smelting plants.

“If the situation in the lair goes completely out of control during this moment and the flames of fire burn in the heart of the city, things will become very troublesome!”

Once Nie Chenglong finished speaking, he sent a few videos from the new developing areas and crystal mines outside the city to the veteran hunters’ retinas through the neural tactical data link interactor.

Over the last year, Dragon City had been somewhat extreme as it colonized the areas around it.

To occupy the tactically important places that had a lot of spirit energy, ley lines underground, and a lot of minerals, many of the forward operating bases entered the wild like fangs of a beast piercing into flesh. But the areas were surrounded by fog. Not only did it block their field of vision, the spirit energy interference could also easily affect the superhumans’ fighting strength.

Ten years ago, Dragon Citizens would have never dared to invest a large amount of resources into such places and start up a large-scale construction.

But during the Raging Waves Battle and the series of battles after it, the strongest of humanity killed more than ten Apocalyptic Beasts in one go. As for Hell Beasts, they killed so many of them that they could not count. Dozens of nests belonging to the kings of beasts were uprooted. Plenty of fierce beasts had to form packs and move deeper into Monster Mountain Range. They even began to flee the moment they saw the dust stirred up by the humans’ fighting vehicles.

Dragon Citizens had not seen a real monster horde for a long time.

Their counterattack had been going on smoothly, so many people became arrogant, and they even said overbearing things like, “Humans are born to be surrounded by creatures worshipping us.”

Be it the mega corporations or the unlicensed pathfinding teams, all of them rushed outside the city to occupy their own territories. Even though the Survival Committee and Supernatural Tower had warned them plenty of times to control and protect the supply lines and not expand recklessly but according to the overall plan of Dragon City, the people faced the possibility of getting 300% profit. Even the helpless normal citizens had the courage to provoke monsters with such a prize, much less the superhumans who were ambitious, wanted to rise to power in one go, build their own success, and even leave behind their names in history.

Everyone fought for their territories, and no one listened to the Supernatural Tower, because anyone who did would lose the chance to obtain a large amount of cultivation resources and be under everyone else’s control. They would then never be able to get to the legendary Deity Realm. This was something every superhuman and every force created by superhumans was unable to tolerate.

Ambition like that was a double-edged sword.

The good side was that the superhumans who were driven by ambition had expanded Dragon City’s occupied territory three times its original size within a short year.

The bad side was that now that Dragon City was three times bigger than before, it had finally reached the limits of its expansion capacity. It would not even be a stretch to say that it had unknowingly gone over the limits of its expansion capacity. Now, it was once again in the situation it faced during the northern offense. It had to be on guard on every front, and it had a shortage of fighting power. The main

city area was in an awkward situation where it had weak spots everywhere in its defenses. If being truthful, though, it was even worse than before.

After all, at that time, Dragon City had only one supply line leading to the north, and it was connected to the important facilities in Shattered Starlake, Graveyard Forest, and Raging Waves.

Now, new developing areas and mining dredgers the size of Shattered Starlake were everywhere.

It was only at this moment that Dragon Citizens noticed that they seemed to have leapt too far and sprained their legs.

Unfortunately, it was too late.

The shadows of monsters had already appeared in the fog around the forward operating bases and new developing areas.

Even though they were hidden by the fog and the humans could not see the monster species and their numbers, based on the repeating and bone-chilling howls, there were plenty of them.

For the moment, the monsters were mobilizing their forces and gathering strength.

Once they charged out of the fog like a tidal wave, they would give the harshest test to humanity's defense line, which had now become much longer.

Of course, the number of powerful fighters and the average strength of superhumans in Dragon City had increased by a large degree after benefiting from the large amount of resources they gained from expanding madly. They might be able to stop the monster invasion coming from all directions.

After all, the complicated defense that had penetrated several kilometers into the fog had killed the elites of the monster civilization, so the monsters were spent. This defense line might actually be good enough for human civilization's next step in the war.

But this meant that a trench warfare was about to start at the perimeter of Dragon City, and it would last for days, weeks, or perhaps even months. It would continue day and night, and blood would spill.

Human civilization and monster civilization would have to stake everything they had.

At such a crucial moment, there was definitely a huge decrease in the number of high-end fighting power and soldiers that could be sent into the lair.

Meng Chao and Zhou Chong understood the gravity of the situation.

They also realized that the monster hordes the enemy mobilized at the perimeter of the city, the zombie viruses and Blood Flower spores that were projected into Dragon City, and the Deification Capsule cases in the lair were definitely connected.

They had to figure out the truth of the Deification Capsules as soon as possible and control the situation in the lair.

No matter what, chaos could not erupt in the lair.

With this thought in mind, Man-eating Shark Zhou Chong's eyes became fierce. With a murderous look, he walked to Big Brother Knife, Chen Hao.

"Senior Zhou, let me try."

Meng Chao expressionlessly blocked Zhou Chong.

There were professionals for everything. Zhou Chong might be the best hunter there was, but his prey in the past had always been monsters.

If they did not have any unique kinks, hunters would definitely not interrogate or torture monsters.

But based on the memories Meng Chao had as a Ghost Tribe member, he often had to get information from various intelligent races in the Other World.

Meng Chao believed that Chen Hao's mouth was definitely not as tightly sealed as those of the dwarves, who were hot-tempered and stubborn.

Crack!

Meng Chao did not ask any questions. He just crushed Chen Hao's ankle.

Chen Hao only had his right leg left unharmed.

At that moment, his sole was bent to a bizarre 90 degrees. White, fragmented bones jutted out of the bloody wound.

He was in so much pain that his face turned stark pale and he could not hold back the piercing scream bubbling in his throat.

Meng Chao struck his chest and nearly crushed his lungs. It forced the scream back into his throat.

Cold sweat broke out on Zhou Chong's skin. He twitched neurotically, which showed that he was enduring unbearable pain.

There was no mercy on Meng Chao's face.

Of course, he would not show any other emotion, either.

Instead, he stomped on the area around one inch above the wound on Chen Hao's ankle.

Chapter 486: Evil People Would Have Other Evil People Giving Them Pain

Crack!

Chen Hao's sole was originally bent at a 90 degrees angle from his calf.

Once Meng Chao stomped on him a second time, that 90 degrees turned to 180 degrees. It was completely folded together.

Chen Hao's eyes rolled back into his sockets. He was about to faint from the pain.

Meng Chao increased his strength. He spun the tips of his toes and went back and forth the broken bone that jutted out of Chen Hao's wound. It became even more fragmented than before.

Chen Hao screamed, feeling like his calf had been stuffed into a grinder. But no matter how much it grinded his calf, it would not leave his bone. The pain caused his world to spin, and he could not faint.

Even Man-eating Shark Zhou Chong felt his heart thunder in fear as he watched from the side. He wanted to say something, but could not despite being known for being ruthless.

“It’s fine, Senior Zhou, trust me.” While Meng Chao was handing out the torture, he spoke without turning his head back. “It’s just as you know, aside from being an Ultimate Style martial artist, I’m also an experienced harvester. Over the past two years, I’ve harvested more than one thousand monsters. I have to cut up at least three monsters every day, so I have their biological structures imprinted in my head.

“I can dissect a Tyrant Mammoth that is as large as a fort into pieces the size of fingernail in half an hour and take the flesh off its bones without harming its most fragile periosteum. All the bones can still be pieced together to form a complete specimen.

“I can also peel the core tissue of some monsters’ brains from their ear canals.

“Compared to smaller monsters, the biological structure of humans is simple, especially when I don’t have to care about making sure that the limbs and organs remain undamaged. So, you don’t need to worry that I will kill him.

“I assure you, even if I crush every bone in his body, he will remain conscious and tell us what we need to know.”

Meng Chao moved his sole to the area above Chen Hao’s knee.

But Chen Hao was already terrified out of his mind. When he saw Meng Chao’s expressionless face, he acted as if he had seen the most hideous demon from the depths of hell. He screamed, “I’ll tell you! I’ll tell you everything!”

Meng Chao ignored him and stomped down.

Chen Hao’s knee was instantly shattered. His calf curled up, and his sole, which had suffered from a comminuted fracture, hung down limp. It swayed around and tugged at his nerves, causing him so much pain that he cried. His teeth clattered, and he nearly bit through his tongue.

Meng Chao crouched down and spoke to Chen Hao calmly. “Careful with your tongue. That’s the only reason we’re keeping you alive.”

Then, he groped about his hip bones, shoulder blades, and the joints in his arm as if he was testing just how much maximum weight his bones and joints could endure.

After groping about for some time, Meng Chao grabbed Chen Hao’s shoulder and slowly dug his fingers into his flesh. He said slowly, “After your leg is broken, you can get it amputated, and after you get a spirit energy-powered mechanical prosthetic or a spirit energy-powered chassis with continuous tracks, you can still move around.

“But if your arms are broken, that will be troublesome. Right now, the spirit energy-powered mechanical prosthetics still can’t completely imitate the functions of the human arm and fingers.

“And if I break your spine and pelvis inch by inch, you will live your entire life like a lump of mud. You will curl up in a corner of the lair while covered in your own excrement, and people will step all over you.”

Chen Hao’s eyes went wide when he heard this.

If it were not for his optical nerves keeping his eyeballs in place, they would have popped out of their eye sockets.

“I’ll tell you!” he wailed. “Just ask me! What do you want to know?! Just ask me!”

Meng Chao did not stop just because the man was crying and begging for mercy.

His fingers continued digging into his shoulder blades inch by inch like metal pliers. Cracking sounds came from Chen Hao’s shoulder blades, and countless fine cracks appeared on his bone.

“Who is your boss, where is he?” Meng Chao asked.

“I don’t know— No! I’m not lying to you! I really don’t know! I’ve only ever contacted him through emails!” Chen Hao was in so much pain that he was almost in shock, but he did not dare to faint. He quickly said, “Two months— No, three months ago, I suddenly received an email from the boss. He said that he prepared a present for me in the storage cupboard in Black Bone’s black market.

“He wanted me to help him do something simple, and it was just an investigation about wanted criminals hiding in the lair. If it’s possible, I was to contact them. Also, I was to look for some rollerbladers and deliver some resources. Those are all my fields of expertise.

“I ran to the black market and looked into the storage cupboard mentioned in the mail. It was a bag full of high-purity crystals, which are the hard currency in the lair.

“With money, everything is easy. I helped him look for a group of criminals and lost people who have been hiding in the lair for years. But I only told the boss their pseudonyms, the places they frequented, and their accounts in the deep web forums. I did not need to do any follow up later on.

“When he saw that I was doing things well, the boss asked me to look for the next batch of people and deliver some goods to them. They were all Deification Pills. But I didn’t need to do this myself. I have plenty of friends, so I could get things done with just one word.

“Then, over the past few days, the boss asked me to prepare a few strongholds in the lair to help him receive the people who flee here from outside. I was to deliver the resources they brought in from outside to the boss in exchange for Deification Capsules, weapons and ammunition.

“Some of them might have high tolerance toward the Deification Capsules and not easily killed by the side effects. The boss asked me to send them to the depths of the lair, where someone would receive them.

“In any case, I’m just an insignificant lackey. Right from the start to the end, I’ve never met the boss. I’ve only received remote instructions and don’t know anything— No! I know something! Don’t kill me! I’ve told you everything! Don’t kill me!”

Chen Hao was so scared that he became incoherent.

“Where did you send the raw materials and the robbers who have really good tolerance toward the Deification Capsules?” Meng Chao tossed another question.

Crack!

Before Chen Hao could answer, a light pop came from his shoulder blade.

A sharp, broken bone pierced his flesh and jutted out.

But Meng Chao did not stop.

It seemed like before he could hear all the answers from Chen Hao, he would crush all of his bones.

Chen Hao was scared out of his wits and spoke faster than before. “Everywhere! I sent them to downtown areas with a lot of people moving around, or alleys that are one-way paths and provide no places to hide. The rollerbladers are the ones who send the stuff over. The people who receive the goods are another batch of rollerbladers that I don’t know. I suspect that they pass the goods to a few more batches of their kind. No one knows where the people and goods finally lead to!”

This was as expected, and it was a highly effective anti-tracking method.

Meng Chao did not suspect that Chen Hao was lying.

But he still crushed Chen Hao’s second shoulder blade and asked, “Do you know whether your boss has other lackeys like you?”

“I don’t— No, I know!” Chen Hao hesitated for a moment before he spoke. “The boss doesn’t want us to know his true identity. He doesn’t like it when we ask for information among ourselves either. But I think he has a few more lackeys like me in the lair.

“I know that there is someone who is not loved by his family and is in a similar condition as me. A few months ago, he suddenly started spending lavishly. I met him a few times in the gambling sites and the black market. He even wanted to come up and talk to me. It seemed like he wanted to ask me whether I was working for the boss.

“That person was too flashy, so I thought he would definitely be unable to live for long, and as expected, before long, he disappeared. No one knows whether he was killed because someone eyed his money or because he angered the boss.

“In any case, I heard that recently, many wanted criminals and lost people who have been lurking for years have become restless, and plenty of them aren’t among those I contacted.

“The robbers are the same. I read online that there have been hundreds of robberies over the past few days in Dragon City, but I only managed around one hundred. It would have been impossible for me to handle all of them.”

Meng Chao thought for a moment and asked, “You should have delivered the most recent batch of raw materials. Where did your boss ask you to send them?”

“I don’t know— I mean, I don’t know for the time being.” Chen Hao’s face turned from stark pale to waxy yellow, and he spoke in a choked voice. “Once I make sure that my area is safe, as the boss asks, I will send him a message, and he will tell the address where he will receive the goods.”

“Did you tell the boss that there’s something wrong with the two robbers who came late just now?” Meng Chao asked.

“No. I didn’t have time. I hired nine rollerbladers and had them bring some smoke bombs while going around the streets. I told them to detonate them at certain periods of time, then hide in dark corners to observe,” Chen Hao answered in a quivering voice.

“If someone acted abnormally or made them feel uncomfortable, they were to immediately notify me. In the end, right after one of them contacted me, you rushed down.”

“Did your boss teach you this or did you think of it on your own?”

“The boss told me.”

“Then, your boss might know that we’re already in the lair and have captured you. You’re useless now,” Meng Chao said.

“No! It’s not that way!” Chen Hao hastily shouted. “The boss taught me the method, but the routes the nine rollerbladers take are set by me, because I’m more familiar with the environment in the lair. I know in which places it’s easier to shake off or discover pursuers. The boss has never asked me about the routes before, so he doesn’t know them!”

Meng Chao narrowed his eyes and observed Chen Hao’s microexpressions for a while.

Then, he turned his head around to discuss with Zhou Chong.

It was only then that he handed Chen Hao’s communicator back to him and said, “Send a message to your boss and say that the last batch of robbers and raw materials is safe. Then, ask him where you’re supposed to send them to.”

Chen Hao trembled as he tapped on the communicator.

Meng Chao continued holding his shoulder blade, which brought him sharp pain.

Almost at the moment the email was sent, there was a reply from the boss.

There were only three words in it.

“Leprosy Village?” Meng Chao looked at the old and bizarre name. He was a little taken aback. “Is there a place like this in the lair?”

Chapter 487: Leprosy Village

Leprosy was born from mycobacterium leprae. It was a chronic infection that had long since been extinguished on Earth.

But when Earthlings transmigrated to the Other World, a lot of the viruses on Earth were stimulated by the environment of the Other World and mutated into dozens or even hundreds of subtypes, as if they went through the Big Bang.

Many of Earth's viruses also fused bizarrely with the viruses of the Other World and gave birth to the zombie virus that was known as the king of all viruses.

There were more than one hundred subtypes of zombie virus, but not all of them were fatal.

However, most of them would eat the human body and leave them disfigured and deformed. They were even more terrifying than the lepers from ancient times.

Some zombie virus subtypes would even activate the gene fragments that had been lying dormant for millions of years in the depths of human cells and humans would show all sorts of atavism symptoms.

They would grow scales, feathers, fangs, and claws. Their senses would become sharper, but their brains would shrink at a rapid pace, and slowly, they would become monsters in human skin.

This process was known as monsterification.

Among the one hundred or so subtypes, only one subtype would not affect a human's normal state, emotions, and logical thinking.

Instead, it would completely change the mitochondrias' shapes and functions in the human cells. They would directly absorb, store, and release spirit energy. Because of it, humans awakened to supernatural powers and became superhumans.

From this angle, only one person from among one hundred zombie virus infectees was lucky enough to become a superhuman.

The remaining ninety-nine unlucky souls ended up as neither human nor monster, even if they did not die.

Decades ago when societal order had collapsed and everything was bloody, dark, and savage, infectees were not welcomed.

There was no need to even mention the people who turned completely into zombies after the virus exploded in their bodies. What welcomed them was only weapons and bullets.

But even if someone showed lighter symptoms and displayed a certain degree of emotion and rationality, they were still not accepted by the other forces of power because of their deformed and ugly appearances.

In truth, most of the infectees were not that infectious.

Or rather, after the first ten years of brutal elimination, the Earthlings with low immune systems had all died and those who were lucky enough to survive had immune systems that were ten times stronger than of people on Earth Realm, even though they looked like any other average person. They were not easily infected by the zombie virus.

But logic and rationality never had a place before fear.

The survivors who had suffered through the zombies and watched their friends die under their claws needed a channel to vent their fear.

Besides, most of the infectees usually were disfigured and were deformed. They could not help to fend off the zombies and monsters nor build tall walls or dig shelters to expand the shelter.

If they joined any group, they would only waste food and reduce the chances of survival for the normal people in the group.

The brutal laws of survival forced the healthy and normal survivors to chase the lightly infected people with deformed appearances out of their shelters and make them survive on their own.

The lightly infected men and women had no choice. They could only rely on each other and struggle to survive.

Their settlement was known as Leprosy Village. It bore the same meaning as the leprosy villages in history.

It was incredibly difficult to survive in the Other World.

Even the healthy adults with all their limbs intact and armed to the teeth might not be able to fend off the zombies and monsters' attacks.

Most of the leprosy villages containing the lightly infected people were destroyed by zombies and monsters within a year after they were built. No one knew if anyone there survived.

This could be considered a black smudge in the brutal history of Dragon City over the past half a century.

Many of the young adults and teenagers who were born during the golden age after Dragon City regained its order once the Survival Committee and Supernatural Tower were built had no idea about the existence of the lightly infected people and the leprosy villages.

Even Meng Chao did not expect that there would still be lightly infected men and women in the lair.

"The citizens of Leprosy Village aren't all zombie virus infectees," Chen Hao explained through the pain. "After all, it has been around forty years since the zombie crisis. The first batch of infectees is long dead.

"But they left behind a lot of descendants, and they're all strange, hideous-looking people. If they ran out, they would definitely be looked down upon by normal people.

"In the past, their parents fled to the depths of the lair to live like dogs because normal people would not accept them. As time passed, they grew used to this lifestyle and did not want to go out to bring contempt on themselves.

"Of course, a normal person won't run to Leprosy Village if they have nothing to do there. But those people should not be infectious. After all, they're the second generation and third generation carriers. The virus would have become weaker a long time ago.

"Besides, even though the descendants of the infectees are deformed and hideous, for the sake of survival, they will do anything. They have some tricks that only they can do due to their mutations, and the gangs often hire them to do dirty work that they don't want to do or that isn't easy to do.

“Also, Leprosy Village has its own black market, martial arts lab, and weapons modification workshop. Leprosy Village has always brought out a lot of weapons that are deviant and really unstable, but powerful, as well as gene medicine that is really effective but has great side effects. No one knows what’s going on there, but no one is willing to go into Leprosy Village to investigate, either.

“In any case, Leprosy Village is the most guarded and dangerous place in the lair. Many people outside say that the lair is Dragon City’s toilet. If that’s the case, Leprosy Village is the septic tank under the toilet.

“The descendants of the infectees are very averse to normal, healthy people, and they have strong animosity to superhumans. Perhaps it’s because you turned into dazzling, superior, powerful fighters while they ended up as people with disfigured limbs even though you were all infected with the zombie virus.

“Fortunately, these people know just how strong the outside world is, so they don’t come out readily. If they do, they wrap themselves up tightly and don’t reveal even an inch of skin that could scare others.

“I think, a long time ago, Saber Jin Wanhao came out to represent Golden Tooth Lair and made an agreement with Leprosy Village. Neither side would bother each other, and the gangs in the lair would not cut off the paths of survival for Leprosy Village. Meanwhile, Leprosy Village would not cause any trouble in the lair. I think that’s what happened.”

Chen Hao was worried that if he were slightly slower, Meng Chao would break a few more of his bones.

He told Meng Chao everything, from the things that he should and things that he should not.

Meng Chao told Chen Hao to show the location of Leprosy Village on the map.

He examined it closely with Zhou Chong and noticed that it was located at the center of the lair, within the territory of the gangs.

Components similar to the Deification Capsule were also discovered in the underground drain of nearby regions.

“Are the mastermind and the pharmacy creating the Deification Capsules both hidden in Leprosy Village?”

Meng Chao and Zhou Chong looked at each other. They felt that this possibility was high.

“The boss only mentioned Leprosy Village.”

Meng Chao thought about it and asked, “Leprosy Village is huge. How do you send the goods inside?”

“There is a circle of buildings at the perimeter of Leprosy Village. All the windows are shut tight, and there is a deep drain around it. All sorts of household waste is piled up in it, and it’s swimming in liquid waste from various companies and labs.

“As time went on, it began to stink and got very sticky. It also became highly corrosive, like a swamp. The gangs set up high-power voltage nets on our side of the drain. There are also anti-aircraft machine guns around it, because they’re worried that the descendants of the infected will sneak out,” Chen Hao explained.

“There’s only one way out of the Leprosy Village, and that’s through a small bridge over the drain. There is an empty expanse by the side of the bridge, which can be considered a black market. It’s for the people in Leprosy Village to make trades with the people outside and do some shady business.

“When lair citizens say that they visit Leprosy Village, they’re really just going to the black market. If anything is to be delivered into Leprosy Village, the rollerbladers put it in the storage cupboard of the black market.”

Meng Chao and Zhou Chong discussed with each other and delivered the information to the command center.

“The target might be hiding in the lair’s Leprosy Village,” Zhou Chao said through gritted teeth. “We have to be prepared to sneak into Leprosy Village to capture the target. The greatest problem right now is that we know nothing about the village.

“We don’t know the building structures, the distribution of firepower, how many people there are inside, their attitude to the Survival Committee as well as toward us, whether there are wanted criminals and lost people in hiding lying low there, and whether there are high-end fighting powers that are above Heaven Realm among them!

“If it were a normal area in the lair, we could use the neural tactical data link interactor to get all the information as well as call for support from the gangs. Then, we’d be able to handle it with the capture squad that we currently have.

“I don’t have any confidence handling Leprosy Village when it’s shrouded in mystery. I can’t even promise that we won’t cause major casualties.

“Command Center, please send reinforcements immediately to aid us in this operation!”

The command center was silent for a while, then Nie Chenglong’s slightly tired and resigned voice appeared. “Captain Zhou, we’re gathering reinforcements... but you have to be prepared for the possibility of fighting against the enemy before reinforcements arrive.”

Man-eating Shark Zhou Chong’s eyes went wide. “What do you mean?”

“Monster hordes have appeared.” Nie Chenglong’s voice was incredibly grave. “Three minutes ago, huge monster hordes appeared simultaneously at more than ten frontlines around Dragon City. The monster civilization has launched another war-level offense after the Raging Waves Battle!”

“What?!”

Meng Chao, Zhou Chong, and all the veteran hunters were stunned.

Through the neural data link, the images of dozens of forward operating bases, crystal mining sites, smelting plants, and developing lands were projected on their retina.

In an instant, they saw a raging sea of blood and fierce flames spreading far and wide!

Chapter 488: Fight! The Real Monster Civilization!

Hidden in a col surrounded by dense trees more than forty kilometers to the east of Dragon City was a wolframite mine. Among all the mines Dragon Citizens had discovered, it had the highest number of ores, and they were of the highest quality.

Wolframite alloy was an important raw material necessary to create armor-piercing shells.

And in an environment where sophisticated electronic equipment suffered from high failure rate and there were no satellite networks beyond the ozone layer to provide navigation, armor-piercing shells became the most important spear of humanity's steel army. It could even be said to be their only spear.

In the past, due to a lack of large quantities of wolframite ore, the humans were not able to produce a lot of armor-piercing shells.

In the face of the fierce monster hordes, they either had to use normal bullets to launch attacks that would not harm them or use incredibly valuable super-alloy to create cold weapons and use their blood and courage to make up for the lack of ammunition.

The super large wolframite mine could turn things completely around and allow the steel army to show its true might.

Hence, even though the path between the mine and Dragon City was filled with uneven and winding mountain paths, which made it incredibly difficult for Dragon Citizens to send supplies, they still insisted on investing a lot of resources to set up a modern base that was a combination of a mining site, smelting site, and production plant.

At that moment, the lonesome base faced its greatest challenge.

In the beginning, only one Demonic Halberd Pig had calmly walked out of the fog and stood on a rock with its wide, red-rimmed eyes while staring at the human base.

Then, the ground trembled. The fog was torn apart, and squirming shadows crawled out of the cracks underground like dark clouds. They gathered together to form a black wave that swept toward the lonesome human industrial base.

Demonic Halberd Pigs, Iron-armored Rhinoceroses, Unihorn Raging Fangs... All sorts of monsters with the greatest charging power formed cavalry units, and as they thundered against the ground, they became faster and faster. They formed an arrow that could break any armor.

Behind the cavalry were demonic shadows that were as big as mountains.

They were five Tyrant Mammoths. They activated Rampaging War Song at the same time, and their bloodthirsty spirit energy magnetic waves overlapped with each other before descending on the monsters' heads, which turned the normal monsters like Demonic Halberd Pigs into killing machines that brought fear to people.

BANG, BANG, BANG, BANG, BANG, BANG, BANG!

The automatic battle fortresses around the human base released burning flames.

Hundreds of fire pillars shot forward like burning, spike-covered whips. They surrounded and tore through the dozens of Demonic Halberd Pigs at the frontmost row.

The remaining monsters became even more frenzied and bold. The monster horde used numbers to overrun the battle fortresses.

Among deafening explosions, dozens of battle fortresses turned into terrifying fireballs.

They could do nothing to defend the base, so the people in the base chose to activate the self-destruct system from a remote distance, so the impact waves and flames that were thousands of degrees Celsius would cover the death zone in corpses and blood.

But that only won them a few minutes of time.

Soon, the Red Dragon Army soldiers and superhumans stationed in the industrial base were forced to cock their guns, draw their weapons, activate their spirit energy, burn their wills, and face the monsters' fangs and howls!

The swamp area more than fifty kilometers away to the south of Dragon City was filled with jungles and miasma, so humans had never focused their attention on conquering the place.

But half a year ago, an exploration team accidentally discovered a large Brilliant Light Stone mine, and soon, a few mega corporations invested in the place.

Brilliant Light Stones were not crystals suited for cultivation, but they could release powerful electricity at a steady pace.

Dragon City had always faced a shortage of electricity. Otherwise, it would not have stuck solar panels all over the walls of the buildings in the city.

Even so, it still experienced power outages once every few days.

It was not a major problem if the residential apartments suffered from power outages, but if they were invaded during a power outage, the railguns, high voltage grids, and super high-power searchlights would be rendered useless and spell everyone's death.

And in the major development Dragon City planned for the next five years, it wanted to expand the city area by at least twice the city's original size.

It also wanted to build more than ten brand new heavy industrial bases.

The deficit in electricity reached a stunning figure, and it became the most fatal problem that limited the development of Dragon City.

The Brilliant Light Stone could effectively solve the problem of Dragon City's electricity deficiency.

It, then, became a tactical stronghold that they had to defend at all costs.

But now, countless rats, venomous snakes, and lizards crawled out of the swamps and jungles next to the Brilliant Light Stone mine.

As the saying went, evil lurked together.

An endless rat horde and a group of snakes from the swamp stretched out like a rolling carpet. They intersected and squirmed, hissed, as well as slithered forward, becoming the worst nightmare for the defenders.

The rat horde and snake horde came in waves.

There were a few herbivorous monsters in their paths, but before they could flee, they were drowned out by the monster horde. In an instant, they were reduced to skeletons.

This scene caused the defenders to feel chills down their spines.

They could only use their fastest speed to throw all their napalm bombs at the enemy.

The bombs were filled with napalm, which should have made it the best weapon to handle pests.

But the rats and snakes before them seemed to have gone through special modifications. Their life force was far stronger than that of normal rat-type monsters and snake-type monsters.

Their pelts and scales might have begun to burn, but they did not slow down.

From a black monster horde, they turned into magma that flowed everywhere. Soon, like cannonballs tearing down walls, they rushed into the human base.

In the west of Dragon City was a water source with an abundant supply of water. It also had an environment that was blessed by nature, so nearly one hundred types of etherealized plants could be planted there.

If it were to be developed into a large plantation, then all of Dragon Citizens would be able to eat green foods filled with spirit energy.

It would give immeasurable benefits to the growth of teenagers and young adults and increase their chances of awakening to supernatural abilities.

At that moment, a large swarm of insects swept through the crops humans had planted through much effort. They ate all the shoots that the botanists had spent long hours cultivating in the labs until there was nothing left.

The etherealized botanists rushed out of the defense circle with aching hearts and tried their hardest to snatch the shoots back, but they were surrounded by the insect swarm. They were captured and swept up into the air. When they landed on the ground again, they had already been reduced to bloody skeletons.

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

The humans' anti-air machine guns fired nonstop.

Almost one thousand raging lines of fire shot forward and nearly tore the sky into shreds.

But using machine gun bullets to fight insect-type monsters dancing in the air was literally using anti-air machine guns to hit mosquitoes.

It did not mean that there were no results. The insects who were torn to shreds and fell down soon piled up into mountains.

But no matter how many insect-type monsters died, the number and density of the insect swarm did not seem to lessen.

Shattered Starlake was in the north of Dragon City.

It was a new area that Dragon City had started developing first. It also had the largest amount of investments and the most tactical significance.

It would not be an exaggeration to say that Dragon Citizens staked their future on this new city area.

At that moment, the people who had been working hard planting and constructing in Shattered Starlake might not have seen the monsters directly, but they had already heard the roars that ripped through the skies.

They came from the most terrifying king of Monster Mountain Range, the tyrant of all Apocalypse Beasts—the Crystalline Nine-headed Dragon!

The skies above Raging Waves had been silent for an entire year, but now, red clouds that looked like they were bleeding slowly spun around and turned into burning waves.

They then shifted into a whirlpool. It spun faster with each passing moment, as if it had turned into a dimensional tunnel that led straight to the bottom of hell.

The Crystalline Nine-headed Dragon walked down the path of revenge and stepped out of hell to descend from the skies!

Meng Chao and the veteran hunters who were carrying out the mission in the lair watched everything silently.

The venom from the monsters burned their retinas, causing their eyes to turn bloodshot. They were all veterans who had been fighting for most of their lives in the wild.

But aside from Meng Chao, who had seen devastating scenes that looked like they came straight from hell, none of them had ever seen something like this.

And it was not the end.

When the monster hordes launched their attacks from all sides, the three large residential areas with many citizens had zombies and the undead appear among them.

Even though there were not many of them, the city had to mobilize a large amount of manpower and resources and work with extreme caution when handling the situation. Otherwise, they could trigger a chain reaction as swift as an avalanche. If the number of zombies and the undead reached the thousands, it would be as difficult as nailing jelly to a tree to control it.

“How could this happen?” Man-eating Shark Zhou Chong was a little dumbfounded, even though he had been fighting against monsters his entire life. “The monster hordes are so large, and there are so many

Apocalyptic Beasts taking action at the same time. It's like they're acting like humans and are launching a pitched battle."

"That's the difference between monsters and the monster civilization."

Meng Chao sighed.

The monster civilization had finally completed its metamorphosis and become one of the most terrifying enemies Dragon City had faced in his previous life.

Even if a single monster had superior intelligence, due to the limitations of its habitat, it would never understand strategies, tactics, alliances, and social structures.

The Apocalyptic Beasts might be powerful, but they did not have clear goals when they attacked Dragon City. Usually, they only attacked when they were provoked or sought revenge. Or they were just venting their abundant killing intent.

This sort of Apocalyptic Beast could easily be dealt with by five or more Deity Realm superhumans waiting for it patiently. They would gather their strengths together and attack it. Even if it had the power to bring an apocalypse, it would still die with hatred in its mind.

But now, the monsters had their own civilization. They might even have ranks and social structures as well. Even if their individual strengths had not changed compared to the past and they had also lost a lot of habitats filled with spirit energy, so their fighting strength dropped a little, the moment they learned how to fight together, it was enough to put humans in a terrible fix. They could not attend to everything.

Besides, Meng Chao believed that the monster civilization's strategy was definitely not just limited to attacking from all sides. It also wanted to attack the center by blowing up Dragon City's toilet —Golden Tooth Lair!

When this thought came to him, Meng Chao began speaking like a machine gun. "Vice Director Nie, the monster civilization chose to attack now, of all times, when Dragon City has just gone through many robberies and when the Deification Capsules appeared. This is definitely not a coincidence!

"Trust me, the lair is definitely the most important segment of the monster civilization's plan. I have great suspicions that the offense the monsters launched at the perimeter isn't as fierce as it seems. At the very least, some of the offenses are just an empty show of strength!

"Golden Tooth Lair is one of the areas the monster civilization truly wants to hit!"

Chapter 489: The Other World War That Was About to Come

Instead of having all ten fingers hurt, it would be better to have one finger severed. This was a simple logic, and Meng Chao believed that the monster civilization understood it.

Over the two years, Dragon City had been expanding rapidly, so its supply line had become longer and their soldiers spread out, since the number of tactical strongholds they needed to defend had increased ten times.

But they also occupied a lot of blessed lands filled with spirit energy. They had chased quite a lot of monsters out of their habitats and nests, so a few main monster species had taken a huge blow.

Meng Chao believed that the monster civilization did not have the strength to attack Dragon City from the four cardinal directions.

If the monster civilization really had such terrifying strength, there would have been no need for them to wait until now. During the Noble Descent Hotel ambush, they could have just gathered together a monster horde that filled the earth and leveled Dragon City to the ground.

The monster civilization could only have three targets at best.

The other seemingly fierce monster hordes were all feints.

It was all so that they could lock down the human soldiers and peak fighting power in place, so the monster civilization could break their main targets.

Nie Chenglong agreed with Meng Chao's thoughts.

But it was meaningless. Even if they knew that 90% of the enemy's attacks were feints, since the main army of the monster civilization and the Apocalyptic Beasts were hidden in the fog, they could not tell just which offense was a feint and which was the real deal.

They needed to clash fists and launch a full-scale war against each other before everything would be revealed.

However, Dragon City faced a fatal problem when it came to mobilizing its high-end fighting power.

Most of those people—especially from the five-star Heaven Realm superhumans to those ranked above Deity Realm—were bound to the mega corporations.

Sky Pillar, Universe, Soaring Dragon, Thundercloud... These mega corporations controlled Dragon City and provided endless cultivation resources to their powerful fighters to ensure that they could maintain and upgrade their cultivation realms. They also created good cultivation, research, and business environments.

The creators of the mega corporations were all Deity Realm superhumans. Most of the shares of the companies were held by the powerful, so the powerful and the companies were two sides of the same coin.

The mega corporations had invested an astronomical amount of resources into the new industrial bases and crystal mining sites.

Hence, the powerful fighters who belonged to these industries and had shares in the company naturally had to defend their territory. After all, their money, lives, and hopes of continuing to advance up the cultivation realms were all in there.

And the relationship between the mega corporations had always been delicate. They worked together, but they were also competitors.

Take Sky Pillar Corporation and Universe Corporation as an example.

They were both giants in the mining, crystal, and metal smelting industries, which had been fighting overtly and covertly for decades.

Two years ago, two mine exploration teams from the corporations had even killed each other under Raging Waves. Even the third generation member of Universe Corporation, Shen Yulong, had almost been killed by Lu Siya, a third generation member of Sky Pillar Corporation.

This matter had been completely wiped out by the massive explosion from the Red Radiance Jade mine, but those within the field knew what happened.

However, they had no proof and there was also the interference from the crystals and bewitchment from the abnormal beast, so everything could be explained and the corporations decided not to dig deep into it.

In that sort of situation, it was very difficult to convince a Deity Realm superhuman from Sky Pillar Corporation to ignore the enemies right in front of them and go off to provide reinforcements for Universe Corporation's defense line.

It was the same with the remaining seven mega corporations.

The peerless fighters were definitely not petty, selfish people.

If someone could prove that the enemy in front of them was just a feint and the comrades to their sides were the real targets, no matter what sort of grudges they had in the past when they fought over resources, they would set aside their differences and face the enemy together.

The problem was, how could they prove that they were facing feints and the other party was the real target of the monster civilization?

One slight error in judgment could lead to an astronomical amount of resources going down the drain. The corporate empires built for decades would shatter, and the elites would no longer be able to get a sufficient amount of resources to maintain their cultivation realms. No one could bear such a consequence.

It has to be known that the Deity Realm superhumans were no longer the heroes of the past who could fight alone with nothing to worry about.

All of them had families behind them, were worth billions, taught countless disciples under their names, owned large companies, and held countless people's lives and money with their absolute might!

All sorts of reasons made the Deity Realm superhumans unable to fight together.

The research department knew the monster civilization's scheme, but they could only let everyone be stuck in their territories like nails.

The attackers could choose the time, location, and method of offense however they liked, but the defenders could only be hit and counter whenever they were attacked.

This was a chronic illness that could not be avoided in any war since ancient times, and it was in no way new.

Dragon City was the only one to blame for expanding in an extreme manner for two years.

But Meng Chao knew that they had no other choice.

In his previous life, due to their tragic defeat at the northern offense, they were forced to choose another path. They shrank their defense line and defended like cowards while taking approximately three years to rest and recuperate. That was the only way they could regain their ability to colonize the world around them.

But during those three years, the monster civilization expanded like crazy and occupied most of the blessed lands that were filled with spirit energy and used them effectively. Their number of soldiers increased ten times, and Dragon City's civilization suffered a terrible blow during the last stage of the Monster War. Many of their top fighters died, and even Battle God Lei Zongchao, whom the Dragon Citizens regarded as a legend, was lost in the final battle.

Reality showed that hiding like cowards and going about the war steadily would only lead to death.

Besides, no one knew better than Meng Chao that if Dragon City's civilization wanted to rule over the Other World, they would not just face the monster civilization, but a myriad of other races!

Based on his previous life's experience, when Earthlings and the monsters were fighting like crazy in the fog shrouded Monster Mountain Range, the war of epic proportions that was worthy of being written into war poems was brewing in the vast land of the Other World.

The humans of the Other World, elves, dwarves, giants, vampires, dragons, demons, orcs, the extraordinary beings who stood above the heavens and lurked in the depths of the abyss had formed two camps that were diametrically opposed to each other and would not stop fighting until the other side died. Conflict was about to erupt at any moment, and one single spark was all that was needed for the destructive flames to sweep through all of the Other World.

This would be an unprecedented, destructive war.

The strength, intensity, scale, and brutality surpassed all of the world wars on Earth.

In Meng Chao's previous life, Dragon City's civilization was dragged down by the monster civilization for too long, and they were already too late when they entered the Other World's war.

Besides, they were heavily injured and "bleeding". Dragon City's civilization could not control its own fate and could only end up as the chess piece for the Other World's extraordinary beings.

They could also not figure out the relationship between the races of the Other World. They lacked crucial information about the war, so they made a lot of wrong choices.

In the end, as the foot soldiers of the losing side, they were inevitably the first to be cast aside.

Even so, during their most glorious moments, Dragon Citizens fought fiercely as representatives of Earth's civilization and gained themselves the nickname of the Extraordinary Disaster.

Meng Chao believed that as long as they managed to win the Monster War two or three years ahead of time, Dragon City's civilization would still be at full health when its people rushed out of Monster Mountain Range, and their top fighters, including Battle God Lei Zongchao, would remain alive.

Then, with the information he had from his previous life's memories regarding the direction of the war, the conflict between the Other World races, their weaknesses, hidden powerful fighters, treasures, and other things, he could help Dragon City's civilization form alliances and handle the war smoothly.

Then, from chess pieces, they could become the players. From there, they could reap the most benefits from the war that destroyed the world. They could overtake the extraordinary beings and stand above them, thus be in control of their own destiny as well as the entire Other World's destiny!

After all, he only started to grow up during the Other World's war in his previous life.

Compared to quietly harvesting monsters and enduring the hardships of life as a normal citizen, Meng Chao preferred the exciting times of being a special agent of the Ghost Tribe and wandering among the races of the Other World.

His memories of the Other World's war were much clearer and more useful compared to the memory fragments of the Monster War.

But the basis of all this was that Dragon City had to gather a lot of resources within a short amount of time and end the Monster War.

Then, they would be able to make it in time before the war broke out and get the chance to steal from others during their times of crisis.

Hence, if Meng Chao were to set the plans for the expansion of Dragon City, he would make them expand even more extremely and frenziedly.

There was no perfect strategy that ensured no losses. Not on Earth, and not in the Other World.

If they wanted to occupy the largest territory within the shortest amount of time, get lots of resources, and complete primitive accumulation as soon as possible, they had to face the problem of their defense lines becoming longer, their forces being spread out thinly, and no fronts being able to care for each other.

Dragon Citizens had no other choice. They had to brace themselves and get through it.

On one side was heaven, and on the other side was hell.

Once they lived through this wave of offense by the monster civilization, the mining sites, plantations, and heavy industrial bases would be able to produce even greater resources. After being refined by the flames of war, more Dragon Citizens would also awaken to supernatural abilities and become superhumans who could control their own destinies.

The advantages of Dragon City's civilization would become greater, like a rolling snowball, and the monster civilization, who had suffered a major setback right when it was born, would not be as strong as it was in his previous life.

Meng Chao was confident that the monster civilization would not have the chance to launch another savage attack like this.

If they could not make it... they would face the same end as in his previous life.

There were Deity Realm superhumans guarding the frontlines at the perimeter, so there was no need to worry about them for the time being.

Meng Chao clenched his fists. He was determined to do whatever it took to complete his mission and stop Vortex's scheme in the lair.

Man-eating Shark Zhou Chong and the other veteran hunters understood the unprecedented gravity of the situation; it was not the time to complain or negotiate. Compared to Golden Tooth Lair, the tactical resources around Dragon City were in greater need of being defended by their top fighters.

"Understood, we'll find the mastermind," Zhou Chong said firmly. "We will not allow our enemies to have the chance to cause trouble in the heart of Dragon City at such a crucial time!"

"Please, Captain Zhou, Meng Chao, everyone." Nie Chenglong paused for a while. "Remember, the mission has changed. This is no longer a capture mission. It's a real battle. I will take full responsibility for all of your actions."

Chapter 490: Full Lock Down

The veteran hunters instantly understood what Nie Chenglong meant.

If it were a capture mission, they would have to prioritize safety and make sure to avoid collateral damage. Under many situations, they would have to hold back for fear of hurting innocents, so their actions would be limited.

They had previously set up a glass maze in the command center and ran through simulations repeatedly because they did not want to hurt innocents.

But now, the capture mission had been changed to a real battle.

This meant that they were given the privilege of using unlimited firepower. They could now kill their enemies without regard for the cost. They had to achieve successes with any means necessary.

Even if it meant that the lair would go up in flames, that would be fine.

Nie Chenglong would endorse their actions in the name of the vice director of the abnormal beast research department, even if it meant that he would be known as a butcher and executioner.

It was brutal, but it was war.

Nie Chenglong continued, "Right now, the entire city is in a state of emergency. Even the lair has to mobilize all its citizens.

"The gangs in the lair are usually wary of external forces moving in, but now, they've also heard the news about the monster invasion, and they know that the lair might end up as an important tactical target of the monster civilization. They're very anxious and are willing to work with us.

"Captain Zhou, I will connect the terminals of the people in charge of the gangs to our tactical data link network. You can send them orders directly, including Golden Tooth Lair's second-in-command, Red Brows Sun Lun. All the powerful fighters in the lair will work unconditionally with your hunting squad."

At some point in time, Nie Chenglong had upgraded Zhou Chong's capture squad to a hunting squad.

Fortunately, they had always been hunters.

This sort of simple, crude mission that allowed them to fight at full force without caring about anything else suited their tastes more.

Aside from Saber Jin Wanhao, they had never heard about any super first-class elites who had reached Deity Realm among the gangs in the lair.

After all, Deity Realm superhumans could do whatever they wanted wherever they went. There was no need for them to stay in a messy place like the lair.

But there were still a few superhumans who relied on the resources from the black market and the deviant methods from the illegal labs to reach Heaven Realm. They were the backbones of their gangs.

As the people who obtained vested interest from the underground rules in the lair and were their protectors, they would definitely not watch as the abnormal beasts wreaked havoc on their turf and destroyed their homes.

With the full support from the gangs, the squad no longer had a shortage of manpower. The hunting squad led by Zhou Chong could now focus on its role of a sharp weapon.

This was a rare piece of good news.

Zhou Chong, Meng Chao, and the veteran hunters sighed in relief.

“Also...” Nie Chenglong hesitated for a moment. “Be careful. If you notice that the target is too strong and might threaten your safety, do not hesitate. Retreat immediately. We will carry out Plan B if that’s the case.”

“Plan B?” Zhou Chong was slightly stunned.

“Lock down Golden Tooth Lair,” Nie Chenglong said. “With the manpower that we can mobilize from the research department and the secret police, it’s impossible for us to enter Golden Tooth Lair and completely control the situation, not when it has nearly one million people in it.

“But if it’s just to set up a defense line around Golden Tooth Lair and prevent the monsters inside from escaping, we can do it. Of course, this is something we’ll do only if we have no other choice. If it’s possible, we still wish that you can obtain victory!”

Zhou Chong and Meng Chao looked at each other and could detect what Nie Chenglong was implying.

Golden Tooth Lair was as complicated as a maze, and plenty of large-scale destructive weapons, illegal gene medicine, wanted criminals, and lost people were hidden in it. It could turn into the most brutal slaughterhouse at any moment, so even if they threw a few ten thousand soldiers inside, it would still be difficult for them to completely control the situation.

Once Golden Tooth Lair became chaotic, the only possible solution would be to lock down the exterior and slowly send soldiers inside to solve the problem after the battles at the perimeter were over.

But if they locked down Golden Tooth Lair, what would happen to the citizens inside?

Meng Chao forced himself to cast aside that thought.

Then, under Zhou Chong's command, he stuffed a tracker and locating chip into a backpack that was full of raw materials.

Then, based on the instructions in the email sent by the Supernatural Entity Vortex, they handed the backpack to a rollerblader who knew nothing and sent him to the entrance of Leprosy Village.

At that moment, a few gang members who were armed to the teeth and had fierce expressions arrived at the entrance of the building after receiving orders from Man-eating Shark Zhou Chong.

Gangs were just a term used by the people after it became popular a long time ago.

In truth, they were legal clubs registered in related departments, like the Ping Pong Club, Gym Club, Martial Arts Research Club, and so on.

These clubs' members were naturally all good citizens who obeyed the law. Their love for Dragon City and human civilization was no different from that of the citizens outside.

Meng Chao could see the fearless spirit of "I will kill whoever dares to infringe on my interests, no matter if they're Gods of Heaven or Apocalyptic Beasts" in their resolute gazes and determined expressions.

So, he happily handed Big Brother Knife for them to handle.

He also asked them to remind Chen Hao every five minutes that he was to work together with them in the operation, because it was the only way for him to live.

As for how they were to "remind" him... It put Chen Hao in so much pain that he screamed for his parents, and even the ruthless gang members sucked in sharp breaths when they saw it.

Once they were certain that Chen Hao would not dare to say anything stupid or do anything stupid, Meng Chao, Zhou Chong, and the veteran hunters quickly snuck toward Leprosy Village from different directions.

On their way, the command center renewed their mission.

It had officially changed from a capture mission to a control, lock down and kill mission.

It also stated that the abnormal beast's goal might be to use the Deification Capsules to deal major damage to Golden Tooth Lair, which would cause chaos and attract human attention, restrain Dragon City's precious fighting power and high-end fighting force. This would then support the monster civilization's offense in Dragon City's perimeter.

And aside from an unknown number of Deification Capsules that could temporarily turn normal people into superhumans, the enemy had also gathered a lot of wanted criminals and lost people lurking in the lair.

These superhumans were the trash and losers among superhumans. It was highly likely that they would be tempted by the abnormal beast and willingly join the monster civilization's side.

To the hunter squad, capturing or killing the mastermind was naturally the best outcome.

If they could not do that, they would go for the second best and destroy the pharmacy creating the Deification Capsules.

The large quantities of raw materials that the robbers had stolen over the two days would already have been transferred to the pharmacy, so it could craft millions of Deification Capsules at any moment to create more than ten thousand people with awakened supernatural abilities. The newly-made monsters, who had no rationality or humanity, would make the situation in the lair go completely out of control, and order would be destroyed.

“This is the newest mission. Do whatever it takes to locate and destroy the Deification Capsule pharmacy, understand?” Zhou Chong hissed into the communication channel.

“Understood!”

“No problem!”

“This sort of mission is the one that suits my taste!”

Very soon, the veteran hunters seeped into the depths of the lair and approached Leprosy Village. They found the highest vantage points based on the 3D map.

Meng Chao and Zhou Chong climbed on a residential building not far away from Leprosy Village. It was tilted to the side, and the roof was filled with all sorts of things.

From there, they could monitor the only path leading into Leprosy Village—the bridge over the rotten drain.

They could also turn their heads around and see quite a number of regions and streets in the lair.

Meng Chao gathered spirit energy into his eyes, and circles of light appeared around his pupils. He continuously adjusted his focus and paid attention to the different fields of vision from the other veteran hunters. Like that, he could see the village from all 360 degrees.

The regions around Leprosy Village were still calm, as if news about the monster invasion had yet to reach the place.

But the places separated by buildings and away from Leprosy Village were already restless.

Quite a number of burly men with bulky bodies under hooded cloaks showed up in more than ten streets. Their bodies were built, and their expressions filled with murderous intent. They quietly drew closer to Leprosy Village and cut off all the possible paths that could lead to the outside world.

They were all gang members.

Many of the burly men were pushing heavy machine guns and even anti-monster artillery with wheels underneath to places that were one street away from Leprosy Village.

Some of them pulled off their hoods and carried rocket launchers, type 89 grenade dischargers, M79 grenade launchers, and whatnot. They were all standard weapons.

“What are they doing?” Meng Chao was amazed by the amount of weapons they brought.

“Providing us with reinforcements!” Zhou Chong said matter-of-factly.

“Reinforcements? Is there a need for them to go so over the top?” Meng Chao said. “Why do I feel like these guys are so filled with murderous intent that they’re going to level the entire Leprosy Village without caring about anything else?”

“If we can ascertain that the Deification Capsule pharmacy is hidden in Leprosy Village, they will,” Zhou Chong said. “Once the Deification Capsule, zombie viruses, Blood Flower spores, and whatnot spill out of Leprosy Village, the gangs will be the first ones affected, so they’re even more eager to take care of this than we are.”

Meng Chao had so many things to say that he did not know what he wanted to say anymore.

Zhou Chong could see his hesitation, and he frowned a little before he said, “What? Are you worried that our operation will hurt the innocents? That’s unlike you when you were interrogating Chen Hao? Get rid of that useless kindness. This is a war. The slightest hesitation will bring about your own death, your comrades’ deaths, and even ten times to one hundred times the deaths of other innocents.

“I know that most of the villagers in Leprosy Village are innocent, but aren’t the millions of Dragon Citizens innocent too?”

“Besides, if we don’t destroy the Deification Capsule pharmacy as soon as possible and kill the mastermind, they might cause irreparable damage and chaos to the city.

“At that time, the villagers in Leprosy Village will be at the center of the chaos and they won’t survive either way!”

Meng Chao sucked in a deep breath.

He remembered the fire that killed more than one hundred thousand citizens in Golden Tooth Lair.

He knew that Zhou Chong was right.

The wound-covered, blood-soaked soul that returned from the apocalypse placed a spike-covered armor on Meng Chao’s brain, and his eyes became clear and sharp once more.