

Oh My God 531

Chapter 531: Luring the Prey

Wild Wolf's hair stood on end, and even the fangs at the corners of his lips became sharper and even more monstrous than a moment ago. His eyes were so bloodshot that they looked like they were about to start bleeding.

"Are you sure?" he asked in a quivering voice.

"I didn't see Ms. Mulian's corpse, but I heard someone say they saw it," Bai Shan said. "After the explosion, Ms. Mulian went to set up a medical tent near the ruins and started helping the people there.

"But the explosion caused chain reactions, so secondary explosions and secondary collapses kept happening. The insufficient response from the chemical substances and the crystals released poisonous smoke, causing the environment around the ruins to be incredibly bad. Even though Ms. Mulian has amazing healing powers, if she was exposed to flames and poisonous smoke for too long, her organs would also deteriorate.

"Also, someone personally saw Tsunami Wan Zhuiyun running madly around the ruins, and he's an infamous wanted criminal with a bounty issued on his head by the Supernatural Tower. Behind him was a group of secret police in motorized armor. The two sides just crashed into everything. They didn't care about the bystanders' lives at all.

"Perhaps their actions caused even worse explosions and collapses... and they accidentally injured Ms. Mulian."

"Wild Wolf, Pearl is right," Zhang Tie said gravely. "After I heard news about the old village chief's death, I immediately people to look for Ms. Mulian, and we agreed that once they find her, they'll immediately send a signal flare into the sky.

"But they have been searching for a long time, but still haven't fired the signal.

"Logically speaking, if Ms. Mulian set up a medical tent and raised the Ford's manglietia flag, countless injured villagers would have flocked to her, so it wouldn't be hard to find her.

"Could it be that she's really..."

Wild Wolf sucked in a deep breath.

Loud booming sounds came from his body, as if his bones were growing in an abnormal fashion and were about to tear through his flesh and blood to form bone armor.

"I want to see her, dead or alive," he hissed.

"Wild Wolf, the problem right now isn't whether Ms. Mulian is really dead or not. News of her death has already spread out," Bai Shan said. "You should know better than anyone just what sort of status Ms. Mulian has in the people's hearts. Many of the older generation in the village treat her like their own daughter, and many children and young adults look at her like she's a Goddess sent to save those who are suffering.

“The old village chief’s death has already angered many villagers.

“Now, the people learned about Ms. Mulian’s death, and that’s basically the same as them receiving the news about their beloved daughter or idolized Goddess’ death. It doesn’t matter whether her death is accidental or not, it just made all the villagers livid.

“What is the government doing? After they gained victory in the northern offense, didn’t Dragon City say that it’s going to launch tactical counterattacks, achieve victory on every front, and expand its territory? Didn’t the superhumans and Red Dragon Army say that they’re very strong?

“Let’s forget the fact that they have been ignoring us for the past few decades, but why are they refusing to help us even when Leprosy Village is about to be wiped out? Aren’t we Dragon Citizens as well? Haven’t we been helping Dragon City progress? Are we destined to be cast aside?

“While I was on my way back, I heard many villagers say these sorts of things.

“Also, when I went to the bridge just now, I noticed that many villagers wanted to cross the river of trash and escape to the world outside, but they were chased back by the gang members defending the other side of the river.

“I can tell that the gang members are very nervous. They’re worried that the ones who fled from Leprosy Village carry the zombie virus, Blood Flower spores, or the Deification Capsules. They might even be worried that they’re brainwashed by the monsters and are their puppets.

“For the time being, not many have fled outside. The gangs can still control the situation, which is why they’re using their fists and weapons to chase the villagers back.

“But I’m really worried. As the flames of battle grow and the news of the village head’s and Ms. Mulian’s death reaches everyone, more villagers will try to run outside regardless of the cost.

“The river of trash that separates Leprosy Village and the outside world is just around eight meters wide. It won’t stop anyone from crossing.

“At that time, the gang members defending the other side of the river will be even more tense. The slightest spark of conflict will cause them to fire indiscriminately with their heavy weapons, and it’ll be too late for us to turn back anymore!”

“Wild Wolf, I agree with Pearl.” Zhang Tie swung his fist. “We don’t have any ill will toward the outside world, but we can’t just watch as the outside world occupies the high spots and stations fatal guns aimed at our people. They’ll kill us all at any moment they want!”

“You’re right,” Wild Wolf hissed. “I must go and talk with the leader of the secret police so that I understand the Survival Committee’s stance toward Leprosy Village. Do they want us to persevere for a while or have they really cast us aside? Do they think that the entire village has been ‘polluted’ by the monsters and want to destroy all the monsters, viruses, wanted criminals, Deification Capsules, and the village?!”

“About that...” Bai Shan put on a strange expression and spoke in a puzzled manner. “I just saw those secret police officers in motorized armor flying outside Leprosy Village in a hurry.”

“What?!”

Wild Wolf and Zhang Tie looked at each other before they looked into the distance.

A moment ago, the sounds of fighting between the secret police and the wanted criminals were still loud. It had sounded like they were the amalgamations of main battle tanks and supersonic fighter jets that caused the entire village to tremble.

But at some point in time, the roaring from the secret police's motorized armor had disappeared without a trace!

"No!" Zhang Tie widened his eyes and cried out. "The secret police must have lost too many people in the battle in our village, but was still unable to kill all the monsters and puppets. That's why they chose to retreat for the time being.

"When they come back, they will definitely bring a lot of weapons of mass destruction and level all the monsters, their puppets, and the entire village to the ground!"

"Wild Wolf!" Zhang Tie and Bai Shan, the left and right hands of Wild Wolf, took one step forward simultaneously and stared at him with an intense gaze. "Stop hesitating. You have to make your decision now and help the villagers figure out a way to survive!"

Wild Wolf licked his sharp fangs.

His power was going out of control, and his teeth actually left behind a long wound on his tongue.

The sweet taste of blood spread over his tongue, and red seemed to be spreading through his vision.

Wild Wolf sucked in a deep breath and was about to give his orders when he suddenly froze and looked at the perimeter of a forgery not too far in the distance. He looked a little puzzled.

Wild Wolf pointed at the walls of a unique weapon forgery and asked his generals, "What's that?"

Zhang Tie and Bai Shan looked at each other at a loss. They were confused as well.

The trio saw fireworks.

A ball of purple and brilliant red exploded in the air, and countless sparks flew out while crackling in the sky.

There were no fireworks in Leprosy Village.

Surviving itself was a task that drained the villagers. They couldn't afford the lavish hobby of lighting up fireworks.

But even if someone got fireworks from the world outside, they would definitely not light them up at this moment.

Besides, these fireworks were especially brilliant, bright, and did not disappear even after a long time had passed. It did not look like normal fireworks, but something an expert who had deep knowledge about monsters and crystals had processed and created.

When it was lit in front of Wild Wolf, it was as if it was beckoning him, telling him "I'm here, come and look for me!"

A spark lit up in Wild Wolf's eyes.

He jumped down from the balcony dozens of meters high and ran to the place where the fireworks were lit.

Zhang Tie and Bai Shan could not stop him. They looked at each other and jumped down as well.

When they landed, Wild Wolf had already caught a boy by his neck. He was like an eagle holding a chick in its claws and tossed him to a corner of the courtyard.

Wild Wolf stared at the boy with a silver left eye and a sharp fang protruding from a corner of his lips, just like his own.

"Big Brother Wild Wolf?" The boy felt his world spin from the fall, but he did not care about the pain. He started shouting excitedly. "It's really you! You're the legendary Wild Wolf! Oh, thank goodness. Ms. Mulian can be saved now!"

Zhang Tie and Bai Shan were both shocked.

Wild Wolf's eyes sparkled. He took half a step forward and lifted the boy again before he asked in a grim voice, "What did you say? Who are you? Where is Ms. Mulian?"

"I'm A'ji. I worked with Boss Feng, he's Three Fingers Feng. Unfortunately, he kicked the bucket and was reduced to a pulp by the building!" A'ji rambled. "I was lucky and barely escaped my death. While I was running away, I ran into Ms. Mulian. She asked me to look for you, Big Brother Wild Wolf!"

"Speak clearly! How is Ms. Mulian now?! Why didn't she come here personally?! Why did she ask you to find me?!" Wild Wolf asked excitedly.

"Ms. Mulian is injured. I think she healed too many villagers and was affected by the explosion. I didn't see it myself, so I don't know what happened. I just know that she's injured heavily and can't walk," A'ji said seriously. "But I was saved by Ms. Mulian before, and I know that she's the kindest person in the village. She needs help right now, so I couldn't just stand by and do nothing. That's why I struck my chest and told Ms. Mulian—"

"Enough, you can tell me the other things later. Just tell me where Ms. Mulian is right now!" When Wild Wolf heard that Su Mulian was still alive but was heavily injured and could not move, he became anxious.

"Well..."

A'ji looked around like he had something to say, but was hesitating.

"What's going on?" Wild Wolf narrowed his eyes.

A'ji craned his neck and did his best to draw close to Wild Wolf's ear. He whispered at a volume that only Wild Wolf, Zhang Tie, and Bai Shan could hear him. "Big Brother Wild Wolf, Ms. Mulian told me to say these things only to you and the people you trust the most.

"Ms. Mulian said that she didn't run into an accident, but was attacked intentionally.

“She also said that she discovered the enemy’s scheme. You should not trust the people who call themselves the secret police.

“Right now, she trusts no one aside from you and doesn’t dare to show up in the streets. She’s hiding and waiting for the Wild Wolves to help her. Then, she will personally tell you the truth.”

Chapter 532: The Dying Meng Chao

Wild Wolf, Zhang Tie, and Bai Shan were all shocked.

All three of them sank into deep thought, and their expressions were gloomy.

“Where is Ms. Mulian?” Wild Wolf asked grimly. “Don’t be scared. We’ll go and save her right now.”

“Razor Street has a weapons shop that specializes in making all sorts of poisoned daggers. It’s very famous in Leprosy Village,” A’Ji said. “Ms. Mulian was heavily injured when she crawled underground through the manhole cover at the entrance of the shop. She couldn’t have gotten far, so she should be around there.”

Wild Wolf, Zhang Tie, and Bai Shan looked at each other. They immediately said, “Summon the men. We’ll go and save Ms. Mulian now!”

“Wait.” Zhang Tie sized up A’Ji and frowned. “I feel like this brat has the face of a bad guy. He doesn’t look like a good person to me. Wild Wolf, you must be careful that there isn’t a scheme behind this. Why don’t I bring someone to investigate the place first?”

“What?!” A’Ji looked like he had just been humiliated greatly. He jumped up, patted his chest, and said, “I-I might have been working for Boss Feng and stealing a lot of things on a daily basis, but Ms. Mulian is the Goddess I idolize! I won’t joke around when it comes to her life! Big Brother Wild Wolf, trust me, I wasn’t lying to you. Ms. Mulian is really under the dagger shop on Razor Street. Please, save her! Otherwise, it’ll be too late!”

Bai Shan thought about it for a while and said warily, “Wild Wolf, we must save Ms. Mulian. Even if we set aside your relationship with her, we must still do everything we can to save her to stabilize the emotions of the villagers.

“But Zhang Tie’s worries are logical as well. Right now, the situation in Leprosy Village is very complicated. The old village chief is dead, and we’re not certain whether Ms. Mulian is still alive. You’re the pillar of strength in everyone’s hearts. If something happens to you, Leprosy Village will be without a leader and we’ll all die.

“I know that you’re worried and want to personally save her, so why don’t you bring a few well-armed men with you so that you can be on guard against surprises?”

Wild Wolf pondered over this for a while before he accepted Bai Shan’s suggestion.

He carefully chose a few dozen elite Wild Wolves and had them all wear secondhand motorized armor they had gained through a lot of trouble. Then, he brought Strong Arm Zhang Tie and Pearl Bai Shan toward Razor Street under A’Ji’s lead.

Choosing the elites and arming them had wasted a lot of time. When they arrived at Razor Street, half an hour had already passed.

Right when they reached the entrance of the street, they heard a deafening explosion from the end of the street, and practically half of the street collapsed.

“No!” The trio’s expressions changed. “The underground spirit energy pipes and drains have exploded!”

This place was not far away from the ruins of the major crystal bomb explosion and was shrouded in smoke. Flames roared, and poisonous smog danced around like the tentacles of an Apocalyptic Beast.

The flames flowed in streams in the underground and continued spreading. It was not strange for them to detonate the spirit energy pipes and drains.

“Ms. Mulian!” A’Ji screamed, and his face went pale.

Wild Wolf could no longer hold back. He quickly went to the smoke-shrouded and burning ruins with Zhang Tie, Bai Shan, and the other Wild Wolves. They began searching and fumbling around in the dark.

The underground tunnel system in Leprosy Village was so complicated that it was like a 3D spider web.

Even a local would find themselves easily lost in there if they were careless.

Besides, right then, the space above and below the tunnels was a mess because of the explosions. The collapse had distorted the original space.

The smoke was also thick enough to block people’s gazes.

Even if they brought with them high-powered searchlights, they could only see their fingers.

The light was swallowed up by darkness right away.

The group split up and searched. The distance between them grew larger and larger.

Aside from A’Ji, who was kept in a tight grip by Wild Wolf, Strong Arm Zhang Tie and Pearl Bai Shan had left the group at some point and were moving forward in the dark by themselves.

Soon, Pearl Bai Shan heard faint moans under her feet.

She narrowed her eyes and carefully deciphered the direction of the moans.

Then, she bent her back and moved through a collapsed beam. She then crawled into a triangular space formed by two collapsed walls before jumping a flight of stairs that was broken in half.

When she turned her head around to look, all she saw was darkness. She could not see Wild Wolf, the others, or the searchlights. She could not hear their voices either.

Of course, the Wild Wolves could not hear her voice either.

It was only then that Bai Shan started scanning the area.

She saw a dying person crushed under a collapsed corner of ruins. He was a bloody mess.

But based on the weak moans, this person was not Ms. Mulian. It was a man.

“Who are you?”

Bai Shan moved forward. With the help of the searchlight, she carefully observed the terrifying wound on the man’s body.

His broken bones tore through his flesh, and blood flowed all over the ground. His heartbeat and breathing were incredibly weak and chaotic. He did not seem like he would be able to live for long.

“Save... Save me...” the man said weakly, “I’m Meng Chao. I’m a good person... Help me tell Wild Wolves...”

“Meng Chao?” Bai Shan said. “I’ve heard your name before. I’m part of the Wild Wolves.”

As she spoke, she placed a hand on Meng Chao’s wrist to get a reading of his pulse and the strength of his vitality magnetic field.

“Oh, thank goodness... Save me. I was attacked.” Meng Chao widened his eyes, and the light of hope shone in his gaze. “Give me a medical injection. I need a medical injection!”

“Alright, I’ll give you an injection now,” Bai Shan said. “But Wild Wolves came here to search for the old village chief’s granddaughter, Ms. Mulian. She’s heavily injured and should be hiding nearby. Why are you here as well?”

“Ms. Mulian...” Meng Chao’s gaze suddenly became dim. He looked away, as if he did not dare to look at Bai Shan in the eye. He remained quiet for a long time before he answered dejectedly, “I was with Ms. Mulian just now. I... I wanted to save her, but...”

“But what?!”

Bai Shan instantly tightened her grip around Meng Chao’s wrist. Her hands were so strong that they were like a pair of burning metal chopsticks stabbing into beancurd. She nearly crushed Meng Chao’s wrist bone as she raised her voice. “Where is Ms. Mulian?!”

“Right... Right here,” Meng Chao said in a quivering voice.

He shut his eyes. His expression was one of great pain, as if he was filled with regret.

Bai Shan cast the searchlight on the other side of the rock that crushed Meng Chao.

She found half of a burnt corpse among the shattered reinforced concrete.

By the looks of it, she was first devoured by the flames caused by crystal and chemical substances.

Then, the shockwaves from the explosion and collapsing building destroyed her until she was beyond recognition.

Pearl could not see any traces of Ms. Mulian.

“That’s impossible!”

Bai Shan was so shocked that she suddenly flew into a rage. She hit a block of the reinforced concrete, and the third eye on her forehead shone with a light that made her look like a fierce demon.

She said fiercely, "This isn't Ms. Mulian! Tell me! Where is the real Ms. Mulian?!"

Meng Chao's face was covered in blood and grime, and he could not hide the shock and puzzlement. "I don't... I don't want this to be the real Ms. Mulian either. After all, her death would make the entire situation even more complicated.

"But I don't know why this happened. Our hiding spot should have been a well-kept secret.

"I just know that Ms. Mulian's death wasn't an accident. It was not caused by the chain explosions and collapses brought by the streams of fire. It's the monster and the so-called secret police who did it!

"Those people aren't real secret police! Trust me, they're all puppets of monsters! You have to believe me!"

Meng Chao seemed to be in a state of delirium, as if he was about to die. He even started waving his abnormally twisted arm around.

With the searchlight, Bai Shan could see that he was holding something in his hand.

It was a half-burnt wooden bracelet.

A half of a blooming Ford's magientia could be seen on the remaining part.

Bai Shan knew that it was a gift Wild Wolf had given Ms. Mulian on her sixteenth birthday.

From that day onwards, Ms. Mulian always wore that bracelet.

"Help me tell Wild Wolf, the monsters have a major scheme..." Meng Chao's eyes were glazed over. He mumbled, "Ms. Mulian told me everything she knew, and with the information I have... Hurry, tell Wild Wolf... Otherwise... it'll be too late..."

Bai Shan held Meng Chao's flailing wrist and removed the burnt wood bracelet.

She weighed it on her palm before she put it into her pocket. Then, she calmly brought out something from her pocket.

She leaned down and whispered into Meng Chao's ear, "Alright. Don't worry. I'll give you a medical injection first. I'll bring Wild Wolf over to save you later."

After that, she gently and discreetly brought out a dagger that looked like a large embroidery needle to pierce Meng Chao's heart.

When the dagger sank half an inch into Meng Chao's heart, he snapped up as if he was shocked by electricity. His muscles shrank, and he screamed.

It was as if a powerful desire to survive had stimulated him, and the last bit of strength was squeezed out from his cells. He started struggling violently in the face of death.

Bai Shan frowned a little. She was about to summon her strength and push down, but since the ruins were already very unstable and they were surrounded by swaying debris, Meng Chao's struggles caused a chain reaction. With a loud rumble, a large area of shattered reinforced concrete fell on them.

Bai Shan was immediately blinded by dust while dodging the falling reinforced concrete.

In a short while, the dust settled.

When she had come in, Meng Chao was a bloody mess and dying on the floor. Half of his body had been crushed under the debris, and he could not even move. But somehow, he had broken free and found brand new energy within himself. He scrambled to his feet and fled deeper into the ruins.

Chapter 533: Resurrection

Bai Shan's mind went empty.

She did not have time to think. She instinctively brandished her dagger and chased after him.

But against her expectations, Meng Chao seemed like he still had one last breath left. He jumped around and dashing left and right. No matter what, he just would not die!

There were a few times when Bai Shan's dagger cut into his skin, but aside from making his already bloody skin become even bloodier, it did nothing to stop this loach-like monster from moving around.

Her surroundings were also working against her.

While Meng Chao ran around, he crashed into the swaying broken walls.

The building continued collapsing. The falling walls constantly blocked Bai Shan's sight and path.

She watched as Meng Chao shook his hips one wall away from her, but she just could not get close to him and stab his heart.

The short five minutes of "tag" agitated Bai Shan. Her eyes became bloodshot, and she only had one thought in her mind, 'I have to kill this guy and silence him. Otherwise, it's all over!'

Fortunately, no matter how agile Meng Chao was, the blood that gushed out of his wounds left behind a bloody trail.

Even if Bai Shan lost sight of him time and again, she could catch up to him just by following the foul smell of his blood.

Besides, in time, Meng Chao reached his limit and was about to keel over and die.

When he moved through the ruins, his skin was scraped by the sharp rebars and broken stones, so his wounds became even more terrifying and he started moving slower.

Finally, Bai Shan caught up to Meng Chao.

A black wall stood in front of them.

It was a dead end.

Meng Chao seemed to be in despair. He shouted and ran toward the wall.

Bai Shan scoffed coldly. Her dagger turned into a flash of white lightning that went straight for Meng Chao's heart from the back.

"AH!"

Meng Chao let out a shrill scream the moment the dagger struck his back.

Bang!

He crashed into the wall.

The wall was very brittle from the shockwaves created by the spirit energy burning underground. When he crashed into it at full force, it fell into pieces.

Meng Chao instantly fell behind the wall, and around eight rays of light rushed out from there. They flashed on Bai Shan.

She narrowed her eyes and saw Wild Wolf, Zhang Tie, A'Ji, and five other Wild Wolves staring at her in shock.

Her eyelids twitched, but her expression remained calm. Her mind raced as she quickly thought of a logical explanation.

Meng Chao landed beside Wild Wolf's feet and did not move.

Bai Shan's dagger was near his heart.

Wild Wolf stared at Bai Shan, then at Meng Chao. He knelt down on one knee and pressed down on Meng Chao's neck artery with two fingers before he counted silently for a few seconds.

After that, he inspected the stab wound created by the dagger before he shook his head and said in puzzlement, "He's dead. Bai Shan, what happened? Who is he and why was he here? Why did you kill him?"

Bai Shan was silent for a while before grief appeared on her face. She sobbed and said, "I don't know. I only know that this person killed Ms. Mulian."

"What?!" Everyone was shocked.

A'Ji was especially shocked.

"You saw it personally?" Wild Wolf's voice quivered. He could not believe nor accept it.

"Yeah. I saw it with my own eyes." Bai Shan sucked in a deep breath and continued speaking in a quivering voice. "After splitting up with all of you, I heard a very faint cry for help. It sounded like Ms. Mulian's voice.

"When I went toward the voice, I found Ms. Mulian. She was badly burned and was leaning against a wall. This guy must have found out that Ms. Mulian wasn't dead and came to kill her.

"I didn't hesitate. I wanted to save her.

"But he's very cunning. When he noticed me, he tossed a grenade and completely destroyed the corner where Ms. Mulian was resting. She exploded right there and then and got buried under the debris. She's definitely dead.

"I... I couldn't save Ms. Mulian in time. I could only grab this at the final moment."

She opened her palm and handed over Ms. Mulian's bracelet.

Wild Wolf took the bracelet with a trembling hand.

He had created the wood bracelet and it should have been so light that it was almost weightless, but this built man looked like he could not hold it. He had to use two hands to lift up the bracelet.

"You... Bai Shan, did you really see this man kill Ms. Mulian?" Wild Wolf's voice had become hoarse.

Bai Shan hesitated for a moment.

"Yes," she stated firmly. "At that time, half of Ms. Mulian's face was burned, but the remaining half of her face was still clean. When I directed the searchlight on her, I recognized her. I could tell that it was Ms. Mulian, and she was badly wounded."

"Sh-She was blasted to pieces by this man and buried under the reinforced concrete?" Wild Wolf shut his eyes as if he could not imagine such a brutal scene.

When he clenched his fists, they let out cracking sounds. Wisps of smoke came out from his palms as if he was holding two pieces of burning metal. It showed that he was so angry that he was about to explode.

"Wild Wolf, stop asking these questions." Bai Shan sighed. "Trust me. Ms. Mulian died without pain. Once we get through this obstacle, we will come back to recover her body so that she can rest.

"The dead are already dead. What's important is the people who are still alive. Both the old village chief and Ms. Mulian treated us and all the other villagers as their family. I believe that their spirits in heaven would want you to focus on taking the rest of our family out of this place!"

"That's right. I do indeed need to focus so we can make our way out of this." Wild Wolf opened his eyes, and the capillaries in his eyes broke, which made his eyes bloodshot. "But who is he? Who told him to kill Ms. Mulian?" he asked.

"I don't know who he is," Bai Shan said after thinking for a moment. "Give me some time. I will definitely figure out his identity. At that time, the mastermind and their scheme will be made clear!"

"Looks like the entire scheme is already clear."

Wild Wolf let out a long sigh.

When he looked at Bai Shan, indescribable grief and disappointment appeared in his eyes.

Zhang Tie, A'Ji, and the other Wild Wolves also stared at Bai Shan with extremely strange gazes.

The blood vessels in Zhang Tie's arms became filled with raging blood, and the killing intent gushing out of him became stronger.

While Bai Shan and Wild Wolf were talking with each other, he and the other Wild Wolves had already discreetly spread out around Bai Shan to seal up every possible escape route she could take.

Even though the streams of fire in the distance were still burning, Bai Shan sensed that the temperature in the area had dropped by dozens of degrees Celsius.

It was as if she was locked in a cold storage or an ancient tomb sealed under ice.

She took half a step backwards and stuttered, “W-Wild Wolf, what’s the meaning of this?”

“What do you think it is?”

Wild Wolf took half a step forward, and a beast-like murderous intent fixed on his right hand woman.

“Bai Shan, why did you lie to me?”

“I didn’t!” Bai Shan could not understand what went wrong. Her eyes sparkled as she looked around, and in the end, her gaze landed on the shifty-eyed A’Ji. Her eyes went wide and she said fiercely, “Wild Wolf, it doesn’t matter what the boy said, it was all a lie! Why would you trust this boy who came out of nowhere and not your childhood friend!”

“Yeah, Pearl Bai Shan. You, me, and Strong Arm Zhang Tie grew up together and are childhood friends.” Tears welled up in Wild Wolf’s eyes, and he looked even sadder. “That’s why, I really don’t understand why you would lie to me!”

“I—”

Bai Shan wanted to continue defending herself when she heard a strange cough.

She fell silent.

Her eyeballs looked like they were about to pop out of their eye sockets, including the pearl-like eye on her forehead.

She saw something unbelievable. It seemed to be straight out of a nightmare.

She had smeared poison on her dagger, so it could definitely kill its prey once the blade sank into flesh. But right then, Meng Chao, whose heart was pierced by her dagger, started spasming by Wild Wolf’s feet and began coughing.

Then, his bones let out cracking sounds. His limbs had gotten twisted from the reinforced concrete that had collapsed on him, but now, the broken parts relocated and he looked as good as new.

While he coughed softly, he slowly fiddled around with his wounds, and the seemingly fatal and terrifying wounds were all “torn” off!

Bai Shan was dumbfounded.

Then, she saw Meng Chao revealing brand new, unmarked flesh beneath the fake injuries.

His skin shone with a metallic light, and the bulging muscles seemed to contain explosive strength. He looked like a hungry panther!

Meng Chao held a medical gel in his hands and washed away the blood and grime off his face. When he revealed his true face, his sharp gaze made Bai Shan look away. There was no trace of him being heavily injured and dying.

Clang!

He had controlled the muscles and bones on his back to keep a tight hold of the poisoned dagger. It now fell to the ground.

Bai Shan's heart also fell to the ground with the dagger.

Meng Chao grinned, revealing snow white sharp teeth.

He extended a finger to Bai Shan and said seriously, "I'm giving you one more chance. Did you really see me kill Ms. Mulian with your own eyes?"

Bai Shan felt as if there was thunder roaring in her head.

Her thoughts were a complete mess now, and she could only instinctively struggle on the spot. "Wild Wolf, trust me. I really saw him kill Ms. Mulian, that's why I chased after him. I don't know any of the things he told you behind my back, so don't trust him either!"

The moment she said this, the temperature underground fell by several more degrees Celsius.

Everyone's gazes on Bai Shan turned even stranger.

A'Ji could not hold back anymore. He started giggling.

"Wh-What?" Bai Shan felt a sense of foreboding again.

Then, she saw something that was even more unbelievable than Meng Chao's "resurrection".

Su Mulian's slightly pale face appeared from the darkness behind Wild Wolf. When she looked at Bai Shan, her eyes contained indescribable grief and aloofness.

Chapter 534: The Truth Revealed

Bai Shan understood everything at that moment.

She opened her mouth to defend herself, but all words sounded like weak and useless excuses even to her own ears.

When she turned her head around to look, she saw that the dark tunnel behind her was already buried under the collapsed ruins.

She had reached a dead-end and had nowhere to run anymore.

She could only lean against a slanting wall and stare at Meng Chao in a daze.

"You suspected me right from the start." Bai Shan's face was as pale as death, but she did not seem to be regretting anything. She was just puzzled. "Why?"

"From the moment we stepped in Leprosy Village, we were led around the nose by the enemy. The fake Deification Capsule pharmacy, the super crystal bomb, the exchange of roles between hunters and the hunted, and the fake secret police formed by former Reaper Squad members. The linked traps caught us all by surprise," Meng Chao explained calmly.

“All this made me certain of one thing, and was that the tentacles of the monster had already penetrated the higher ranks of Leprosy Village. IT was the best way for it to monitor and guide our actions.

“And based on what I know, Leprosy Village has been gradually taken over by Wild Wolf. Aside from the old village chief, Wild Wolf has the most prestige in Leprosy Village and holds a lot of power.

“If the monster wanted to hide from Wild Wolf’s eyes to get a large amount of resources into Leprosy Village, secretly set up the Deification Capsule pharmacy, and hide a large group of wanted criminals and former Reaper Squad members, it would need the help from the most trusted person beside Wild Wolf.

“Wild Wolf has two right-hand men. One of them specializes in strength and the other in wit. They’re Strong Arm Zhang Tie and you, Pearl Bai Shan.

“Among the two of you, you’re in charge of gathering information for Wild Wolves and communicating with the gangs in the lair. Compared to Wild Wolf’s top general, Strong Arm Zhang Tie, you’d be more beneficial for the monsters as an inside person.

“Of course, this suspicion alone wasn’t enough for us to set up this trap to test you. After all, we only had one chance, and if the monster didn’t make you join its side but had Strong Arm Zhang Tie or some other member of Wild Wolves, then our test would end up being a stupid move and we’d alert the enemy.

“But coincidentally, Ms. Mulian and I were chased down by the former Reaper Squad members. We used the complicated terrain and the dark environment to escape and kill the two men.

“Honestly, the enemy had an advantage in numbers. If they had effectively communicated with each other and had a tactical data link helping them, they would have been able to kill us.

“Unfortunately for them, the monster used signal interference that blocked all frequencies to make sure that all communications in Leprosy Village and the lair were cut off.

“Hence, not only have communications between the villagers and the gangs as well as communications between the gangs and the outside world cut off, even the monster’s communication with its claws was cut off.

“So I suddenly thought of something. I could use this advantage where everyone’s information wasn’t up to date to find the true puppet of the monsters lurking beside Wild Wolf.

“Since you planned the scheme, you must have expected that the internet would be crippled. That’s why you’d definitely prepare a communication method that didn’t require the internet or any modern, high-tech equipment to deliver information. You just needed physical contact.

“So, I had A’Ji go to you and tell you where Ms. Mulian was.

“Meanwhile, I followed A’Ji while hiding in the dark and watched everyone beside Wild Wolf. I observed all of you to see whether you would send any messages.”

“What?!”

Since everything had happened in a flash, Wild Wolf, Zhang Tie, and the other Wild Wolves did not know about Meng Chao's plan.

It was only then that they learned that when A'Ji released the fireworks, Meng Chao was already hiding nearby.

Wild Wolf, Zhang Tie, and Bai Shan were all superhumans who were stronger than the average superhuman because of the supernatural powers they gained through genetic mutation.

Even so, they had not sensed Meng Chao's presence at all.

At that moment, they could not help but be shocked, and their backs were covered in cold sweat.

"That's impossible!" Bai Shan cried out in a hoarse voice. "Wild Wolves have tight defenses. At that time, we were also on high alert. How did you manage to sneak in without us noticing?"

"As long as I don't want anyone noticing me, then no one will notice me. Even if they did, I could make sure that they wouldn't see anything," Meng Chao said faintly. "I suspected seven people beside Wild Wolf... Fine, I suspected Wild Wolf as well, so I suspected eight people. Of course, my main focus was you, Pearl Bai Shan.

"I paid close attention to my eight targets to see whether they would get in contact with other people and whether those people would leave Wild Wolves at the fastest speed to send information elsewhere."

"I did not do anything of the kind," Bai Shan hissed. "Ever since your A'Ji appeared, I've been following Wild Wolf. Even when I mobilized forces, there were countless eyes watching me. It was impossible for me to send information!"

"Yeah, you didn't look for a person to send information. You looked for this thing."

Meng Chao brought out a mouse from behind him. He was holding it by the tail with two fingers. The mouse was no bigger than a thumb.

It had no fur and its skin was wrinkly, like that of a mut. It also had a pair of defected, protruding ears. It looked hilarious.

Its eyes moved around with a panicked light nonstop. It was clear that it possessed more intelligence than a normal rodent-type monster.

There were two steel needles on its spine. There was a small, exquisite, metal tube attached to it.

Meng Chao opened the tube and brought out a small letter that was rolled up tightly and as thin as a cicada's wing.

"Cable and wireless networks are communication methods created by humans over the past few centuries." Meng Chao handed the mouse and letter to Wild Wolf while looking at Bai Shan. "During the thousands of years before the phone and wireless internet, humans used animals to pass information through point-to-point physical contact.

"It might be an ancient and clumsy method, but it was rather reliable, no?"

“Naturally, in such a polluted environment, you couldn’t use messenger pigeons. They’re too big and would stick out like a sore thumb. They would also get easily confused by the smoke and smog and fall from the sky.

“But with the monster civilization’s biochemical technology, they could modify some relatively smart pest-type monsters to use them as tiny messengers. They would be the best communication method for when the internet is completely dead.”

Bai Shan stared at the mouse in Wild Wolf’s hands. She wanted to snatch it from him, but she knew that it was useless. She looked dejected and had nothing to say.

Meng Chao smiled and said, “I’m guessing that this is the last method of communication that the monsters gave you. Usually, there’s no need for you to use it.

“After all, your scheme had seemed flawless, and if I hadn’t escaped from the explosion with more than 50% of my fighting strength and hadn’t coincidentally saved Ms. Mulian, no one would have known the truth. You should have been able to carry out your scheme without a hitch.

“Unfortunately, my existence threw a wrench into your plans during the most critical moment.

“You couldn’t let Ms. Mulian live. As long as lived, Wild Wolf would not fly off into a rage, and the order in Leprosy Village wouldn’t go completely out of control.

“But now, not only was Ms. Mulian still alive, she had also found out a shocking secret related to your scheme.

“When you heard the news, it was the same as you suffering a shock so great it’s as if thunder had roared in your head. Naturally, you notified the puppets hidden in the dark about Ms. Mulian’s hiding place so that they would kill her before Wild Wolf could reach her.

“Unfortunately, you didn’t expect that there would be a pair of eyes trained on your every move. The moment you released the mouse, I found it and caught it.”

Bai Shan’s lips trembled. She forced herself to say, “But what proof do you have that I released the mouse?”

“Yeah, it’s hard for me to prove that you released the mouse, and I believe that the handwriting on the paper is very different from your usual handwriting. You could easily deny it. As long as there was a 1% reason to doubt, Wild Wolf would not believe an outsider like me and suspect you, since you’re his childhood friend,” Meng Chao said. “The key to solving the mystery wasn’t just figuring out that you’re the mole, but also finding undeniable proof.

“So, we needed to put up an act.

“You used the excuse that you must ensure Wild Wolf’s safety and mobilized a large force. You even armed them and dilly-dallied for a long time before you went out. It was just to delay everyone and create a chance for the monster’s puppets to kill Ms. Mulian.

“But the monster’s puppets didn’t receive your letter. All the time you stalled gave me the chance to carefully set up my trap.

“When you finally arrived at the entrance of Razor Street, you heard the explosion at the end of the street. I have a feeling that you sighed in relief at that time, thinking that the monster’s puppets had succeeded.

“What you did not know was that I detonated the crystal bombs buried underground and created these ruins to mislead you.

“What happened next is even simpler.

“I’m a harvester. I’ve seen thousands of wounds in all shapes and sizes, I can naturally use monster blood and flesh to make wounds look real.

“As for that half of the burnt corpse you found, it’s a former Reaper Squad member I killed. Her figure was pretty similar to that of Ms. Mulian.

“Once she was covered in flames caused by crystal powder and chemical substances, she was naturally burned beyond recognition.

“Besides, I’ve already predicted all of your thoughts so that you would believe the wrong thing. I also showed you Ms. Mulian’s bracelet, so it was impossible for you to suspect what I said. You didn’t have the time to think about it deeper anyway.

“And when you found me, the real Ms. Mulian went to Wild Wolf and the others and told them everything.

“Then, everyone waited here quietly for your ‘act’. I didn’t need to say anything. I just needed to comfortably lie here and pretend to be a corpse. You honestly told them everything without any prompting.

“That’s the entire story. Now, do you still have anything you want to say to defend yourself?”

Chapter 535: My Mother Turned Into Fireworks

Once Meng Chao finished speaking, the underground space sank into dead silence.

After a long time, Bai Shan sighed wearily and smiled bitterly. “It would have been better if I didn’t attack you. Then, you wouldn’t have been able to prove anything.”

“That’s impossible,” Meng Chao said. “If I had been uninjured, you would have weighed the pros and cons and chosen not to attack. You’d have held yourself back.

“That’s why I meticulously pretended to be dying, as if I’d be a goner if you just stabbed me. How could you possibly resist such temptation?”

“You didn’t know what exactly Ms. Mulian had told me and what I would tell if I ran into Wild Wolf. In that sort of situation, the safest and simplest choice was to kill me to silence me.”

Bai Shan thought about it and said, “Indeed, I could only kill you to silence you. But I shouldn’t have acted based on what I thought was the best excuse and told Wild Wolf that I saw you killing Ms. Mulian.

“If I had made my statement a little more ambiguous, perhaps I wouldn’t have exposed myself so soon.”

“That’s impossible. If you hadn’t seen me killing Ms. Mulian, would there have been a need for you to chase me for my life?” Meng Chao said. “Let’s say that you had run into me doing some shady deal in secret. If so, you should have captured me alive and interrogated me for everything I knew, including Ms. Mulian’s whereabouts, not trying to kill me with every move you made.

“Don’t worry. I’ve planned out every detail carefully. No matter what, you wouldn’t have been able to offer an explanation that could allow you to get out of this situation.”

Bai Shan sighed and smiled bitterly. “Meng Chao... Meng Chao, as expected of the superhuman who has been growing in power the fastest over the past two years. It’s no wonder why those people told me that while Man-eating Shark Zhou Chong has the highest cultivation realm in the hunting squad sent into Leprosy Village to destroy the Deification Capsule pharmacy, the one who is the most difficult to deal with might be you, even though you just entered Heaven Realm.

“I was told not to underestimate you, and if I saw you, I had to do everything in my power to kill you. I did as told, but I still fell into your trap.”

Meng Chao’s eyes sparkled intensely. “Are you admitting that you’re working together with the robbers outside, the ones who created the Deification Capsules, and the ones who disguised themselves as secret police?”

“Things have already progressed to this state. Does it matter if I admit it or not?” Bai Shan smiled sadly.

“Why?” Wild Wolf’s eyes seemed to have turned into two burning crystals. He took a heavy step forward and hissed, “Bai Shan, why did you betray me, Wild Wolves, and all of Leprosy Village? Did you know that the monsters might be behind those robbers?!”

“I didn’t know in the beginning,” Bai Shan said airily. “I managed to figure it out later, but it didn’t matter anymore.”

“Didn’t matter?” Wild Wolf was so angry that he laughed. “Bai Shan, we knew each other for decades, but right now, it’s like this is the first time I finally saw your true self. So, to you, being the claw of the monsters is something that doesn’t matter?”

Bai Shan spoke calmly, as if she was a walking corpse. “Then, tell me, why can’t we become the claws of monsters? Even if monsters really occupied Dragon City, what would it matter?”

“Monsters eat people. Once monsters completely occupy Dragon City, they will eat all humans. Isn’t that something you’re supposed to be concerned about?!” Meng Chao could not help but shout.

He just could not understand Bai Shan’s thoughts.

Could it be that the Vortex’s mind attacks were already so strong that they would twist and destroy a person’s rationality while letting them retain a perfectly calm and normal appearance?

“Yes. Monsters have to eat. Being swallowed by a huge mouth and having your flesh as well as bones ground to dust must be pretty bad.” Bai Shan smiled, then cast a dark gaze at Wild Wolf. Suddenly, she asked something seemingly unrelated, “Wild Wolf, do you remember my mother?”

Wild Wolf, Zhang Tie, Meng Chao, A’Ji, Ms. Mulian, the Wild Wolves, and everyone else were stunned.

Bai Shan looked lost. Her gaze was no longer focused. She seemed to have traveled to the past and was lost in a memory from a long time ago. She mumbled, “My mother was like most of the adults in Leprosy Village. She worked in an illegal workshop creating unique weapons. Every day, she had to handle monster materials and crystals that were highly radioactive, polluted, and poisonous.

“Since we’re born with a third eye on our foreheads, we can see light and colors normal people can’t see. We can tell the slight differences in different monster bodily fluids and choose the strongest acid and poison.

“So, my mother was sent to the poison refinement workshop. Her duty was to carefully smear the monsters’ poisonous bodily fluids into the runic symbol groves carved into weapons and ammunition. She had to make sure that it was done evenly before coating other layers of poison so that the weapon’s damage would be maximized.

“It was a very dangerous and painful job.

“The stronger the poison and acid is, the more permeable it is. No matter how many layers of protective clothes and how many layers of gloves you wear, the poison will still permeate through the molecules of the cloth and invade your blood, muscles, nerves, and bones.

“Besides, to ensure the quality of the poison refinement, my mother had to retain the agility of her fingers. That meant that she couldn’t wear gloves that gave the best protection since they were the thickest and clumsiest in the market.

“Sometimes, the workshop received major deals that demanded really high quality. My mother couldn’t wear gloves during those times and had to work barehanded, like she was doing embroidery.

“The long and hard work made poison accumulate in my mother’s body nonstop. It was like billions of maggots that ate through her body.

“My mother was a quiet person, or rather, she was tormented so much by the task of surviving that she was barely breathing. She did not have much interest in talking and laughing.

“Since I could remember, there were three sounds that I heard from my mother—coughing, moaning, and knocking that came from her using her fists to tap her joints. Oh, there was also a fourth. It’s the cracking that came from her joints.

“My mother told me that human joints are like the gears of machines. If they go rusty and can’t move, they might become better if you knock them a little with a hammer.

“I couldn’t understand it when I was young, and I really thought that my mother was some superhuman machine. She could do everything.

“Unfortunately, you can’t get rid of the rust with just a hammer alone, much less make a rusty machine as shiny as a new one.

“No matter how much my mother coughed, moaned, and used her fists to tap her joints, her body didn’t recover and she just kept deteriorating.

“Slowly, my mother’s teeth fell off. Her dental nerves were exposed, and just swallowing her saliva hurt her so much that she cried.

“Later, her spine failed her as well. Her back kept bending lower. Every day, it would lower by a few degrees. From a tall and beautiful woman, she turned into a hunchbacked monster that looked like a prawn.

“I was terrified for my mother when she was in this state, but she smiled and comforted me that she was fine. She even said that in her current state, it was easier for her to lean over the table and work. She could continue smearing poison on more weapons.

“Some time later, her eyes failed her as well.

“The visual power of our third eye is 300% times stronger than that of normal people. Our vision, range, and ability to decipher color is stronger than that of many superhumans.

“But as she worked for an extended period of time in an environment full of poison, her third eye got corroded, and it looked like it had a layer of white film covering it. Her vision became increasingly blurry, and even when she was walking home, she often knocked into things, which left her body badly bruised.

“Once she got really weak, she could not get enough food and medicine. At that time, Ms. Mulian had yet to grow up and awaken to her amazing healing abilities, so no one was around to help relieve my mother of her pain. She never recovered from her bruises, and they turned from green to purple, and from purple to black. At that time, even if she was my mother, I thought she looked really ugly.

“In the end, in the morning she lost her sight, she opened her eyes wide one final time and groped around blindly to reach the illegal workshop she had been working in her entire life.

“What happened next was something she could do even without her eyes.

“She found a whole pot of monster poison used to coat weapons and bullets, opened the lid, and drank everything.

“She died just like the countless other villagers who couldn’t endure the torture anymore. There were six other adults from the same illegal workshop who died like her that year.

“This is something unremarkable.

“The only thing that left a deep impression on me was that when we cremated my mother, we noticed that her bones had a phosphorus color that reminded us of crystals. They let out cracking sounds and released colorful sparks. My mother was ugly when she was alive, but when she died, she turned into beautiful fireworks.

“In truth, the fatal properties contained in all sorts of bodily fluids from monsters and crystal powder had stuffed my mother’s bones full long ago. In the superhumans’ lingo, my mother’s bones could be called spirit bones, right? Ha! Haha!”

Bai Shan curled up her lips and released a broken and sad laughter.

“Bai Shan, I know that you’re pained over your mother’s death, and you were never able to overcome your grief even after so many years,” Wild Wolf said gravely. “But what does that have to do with you joining the monsters’ side?”

“Ever since my mother turned into fireworks and died, I’ve been contemplating two questions.”

All three of Bai Shan's eyes remained fixed on one spot. She said in a dazed fashion, "My mother worked daily in the illegal workshop and was continuously corroded by poison and acid. Slowly, her flesh, blood, nerves, bones, and organs were eaten away. Here's my first question, Wild Wolf. Is having your body slowly rot away worse than being swallowed in one bite by a monster?"

"That's..." Wild Wolf fell silent.

Bai Shan smiled and said, "If your answer isn't rotting away for decades, seeing that your children have no hope in changing their fates and would die in the same way as you did a few years later, then, right from the start, if a monster snuck into Leprosy Village and killed my mother instantly, wouldn't it have relieved my mother of her pain?"

"If that's really the case, tell me, should I hate the monster or should I thank it?"

Chapter 536: The Monsters' Puzzlement

"Of course you have to hate the monsters! They're the ones who caused all this!" Meng Chao could not help but retort loudly. "Monster Mountain Range surrounds Dragon City, causing us to have an unprecedented lack of space and resources. The frontlines constantly need to use a lot of resources as well so that the normal citizens don't have to live such difficult lives!"

"Pearl Bai Shan, if you really want to seek vengeance for your mother's misfortune, you should be venting your rage on monsters! I don't understand why you would be willing to join the monsters' side when we're supposed to be eternal enemies with them!"

"Yeah, the monsters created everything. Monsters are the source of pain, poverty, and unfairness in Dragon City. They're the source of all our problems. That's what the old village chief told us as well."

Bai Shan smiled. "The children in the village have always listened to the old village chief's teachings. He said that humans and monsters are engaged in a long war, and this war has used up most of our resources, which is why all Dragon Citizens are suffering."

"Not only are the villagers suffering, most of the people in the lair are not living good lives either. It's the same for the normal citizens outside. Perhaps a handful of superhumans are able to live good lives, but that's because they risked their lives to fight against monsters to earn those 'good' lives."

"Survival has always been this difficult. We can only grit our teeth and endure it. One of these days, humans will completely destroy monsters, and at that time, we will enjoy good lives that will never end."

"Originally, all the children believed in the old village chief's words."

"After all, he was suffering just like us. He didn't eat an extra can of earthworm meat or drink an extra ladle of water. For the sake of Leprosy Village's survival, he offered up practically everything he had. Why would he lie to us?"

"Wild Wolf, Zhang Tie, and I snuck out in the past to the monster coliseums controlled by the gangs to watch the performances."

"While the fights between monsters were really exciting, the normal people's lives were just like what the old village chief said. They were only slightly better than us in Leprosy Village, and they didn't live much better lives. Even those gang members who seemed to be flaunting their powers were only able

to survive by fighting with everything they had, just like Leprosy Village. There was no difference in essence.

“So, I thought, the normal citizens outside must be living the same way, right?”

“If that was the case, even if my mother died in such a horrible and sad way, I would still be willing to listen to the old village chief and endure quietly. I’d grit my teeth and along with the lair citizens and normal citizens outside eagerly hope for the day humans won against the monsters so that we could enjoy good lives forever.

“Heh. But suddenly, one day, we had the internet.

“At that time, I started growing up slowly, and through genetic mutation, I awakened to supernatural abilities. I worked together with the Wild Wolves for the old village chief, and I remember very clearly that the old village chief was very hesitant as to whether we should connect Leprosy Village to the high-speed internet in Dragon City. I could sense his worries. It was as if he believed that the internet would destroy Leprosy Village.

“But as the situation in Dragon City gradually stabilized, spirit energy magnetic field interference grew weaker, and more signal stations were set up in the world outside. Even if the old village chief didn’t take any initiative, many villagers privately used all sorts of methods to connect to the internet and start searching through the astonishing amounts of information to seek the truth.

“I was one of them.

“Even up to this day, I still remember the first day I went online.

“It was as if... a shining door to a new world had opened slowly in front of me, and it was a door that was ten thousand meters tall and more than one thousand meters long.

“Endless information instantly drowned me, and I personally saw just how the world outside the lair looked like.

“The normal people’s lives were just like what the old village chief said. They lived slightly better lives than the lair citizens, but not much better. It was still within the boundaries of my imagination. I could understand and accept it.

“But I also saw the lives of the superhumans.

“More accurately speaking, I saw the descendants of elites who created the nine great mega corporations, nine great cultivation families, those who set up the Survival Committee, and those who controlled Dragon City. I saw the lives of those superhumans who stand above us.

“There was a cultivation video filmed by someone powerful to teach others how to summon strength.

“The shooting location was his mansion; it was a mansion in Dragon City No.1.

“Since the cultivation method was also related to a nutritious meal, the superhuman brought the camera out of his cultivation room. He then moved through the entire mansion to the kitchen.

"In my shock, I saw just how lavish the superhuman's mansion was in Dragon City No.1 and just how big his living space was. His kitchen and storage room was filled with piles of food, and even the pet dog he reared was fed until it was fat and looked satisfied.

"That fat dog lay by its master's feet and seemed sated as well as carefree. It had an expression I've never seen on any villager!

"Wild Wolf, Zhang Tie, do you remember me sharing the video to you at that time? Once you finished watching it, you said nothing, but when you trained later on, you trained with even more frenzy. Day and night, you tortured yourself and the cultivation machines. You were so fierce that it looked like you wanted to eat the cultivation cabins and would not even spit out the screws.

"By the looks of it, you were the same as me. You were filled with puzzlement and anger in your hearts, but you didn't know where you could find answers for your questions and where you should vent your anger.

"Meng Chao, you come from the outside world, so you might have a hard time understanding our feelings. It's a feeling of your entire world shattering with a bang.

"I couldn't accept this reality, so I searched for more information online, wanting to understand more about those superhumans who stand above us.

"The more I did, the more shocked I became.

"In truth, the giants who have the most power in Dragon City are known as the nine great mega corporations, and the nine great cultivation families who control these nine great mega corporations are the real masters of Dragon City.

"Dragon City No.1 doesn't even have the best mansions in Dragon City. The superhuman who filmed the cultivation video isn't one of the core members of the nine great cultivation families either.

"The real masters of Dragon City are all living in places filled with spirit energy. They build mansions and manors over there to enjoy everything inside.

"While the villagers, lair citizens, and Dragon Citizens are quietly suffering the pain of surviving and doing everything they can to live, this group can dress in lavish clothes, are swathed in luxury, act carefree, and obtain power and authority as if it's their God given right to do so.

"As humans and as Earthlings, our individual differences are so big! I once saw a graduation prom video from a private school that belonged to the nine great cultivation families. The boys and girls there were beautiful and at the height of their youth. All of them looked like princes and princesses. I watched them laugh and dance, and it didn't look like they were living in the Other World that's surrounded by monsters. It looked like they were living in the peaceful Earth filled with bright sunlight!

"In a daze, I wondered, could it be that the days when we won against monsters and could enjoy good lives forever have already arrived?

"However, when I removed the helmet computer and looked around, all I saw was a sky shrouded in exhaust smoke, streets filled with smog, and workshops releasing piercing noises. I also saw strangely-shaped bodies and deformed, hideous faces.

“In the past, I had never thought that there was anything wrong with the villagers. After all, I’ve seen them since I was young. Everyone looked like this, and it was the same for my mother and me.

“So, I didn’t understand why the outside world despised us so much, and I felt sad. The lair citizens were also covered in dirt, so they didn’t look that much better than us. What right did they have to look down on us?

“Then, I saw those children from rich families, and I finally understood that this is how a real Earthling should look. I finally understood just how ugly my mother, the people around me, and I look. We’re basically deformed monsters.

“If I were someone from a rich family, I’d also look down on us.

“So, I finally understood everything.

“The old village chief mentioned that we’d enjoy good lives forever, but those days have already arrived. Unfortunately, they only arrived for those rich people. Heh! Hehe!”

Bai Shan started laughing strangely again.

That laughter was like a dagger that was laced with poison by her mother, and it stabbed into Wild Wolf, Zhang Tie, A’Ji, Ms. Mulian, and the other Wild Wolves’ hearts.

They felt the same as Bai Shan.

Perhaps they were not as resentful and extreme as Bai Shan, but they were as puzzled as she was.

“Meng Chao, you come from the outside world, and you’re smart. I heard that you have quite a lot of mega corporations supporting you, and you’re ambitious as well. You want to turn Superstar into the next mega corporation, right? I wonder, can you answer my question for me?” Bai Shan said.

“Didn’t you just say that all of our tragedies are created by monsters? The war between humans and monsters has made us waste most of our resources, which is why we can’t change our lifestyles for the time being. We can only solve our problems once we win against the monsters.

“But the Monster War hasn’t ended yet, and we have just turned to tactical counterattacks. So why is it that today— No, why is it that since a long time ago, the rich superhumans from the nine great mega corporations have owned huge houses, eaten lavish meals, and lived luxurious lives?

“If the resources they used to enjoy their lives were used to change the environment and working conditions in the lair and Leprosy Village, wouldn’t countless people be saved? Or at the very least, wouldn’t their suffering be reduced?

“I’m not asking them to sell their mansions and manors, then offer up all their wealth. If they would just keep one less pet, the resources they saved could feed a child in the village, couldn’t they? This is a very simple mathematical problem. Even an elementary school kid can solve it. So why is it that they’re unwilling to do so?

“If the powerful people controlling Dragon City were willing to pay attention to the work conditions in the lair and the village and give some of the resources they used for their lavish lives to the weapon forgeries in the village, wouldn’t my mother not have died so early or been in so much pain?

“Meng Chao, since you exposed me, I don’t intend to live. Even if you don’t kill me, I’ll be too ashamed to face everyone, but before I die, I really want to know the answer to these questions. So, tell me. Is my mother’s death and the tragedy that happened in Leprosy Village were really caused just by the monsters?”

Chapter 537: Spirit Snake Venom Blade

When Meng Chao revealed Bai Shan’s real colors, he spoke endlessly like a running stream, but when he heard her question before she was going to be killed, he fell silent and did not say anything.

It was not because he could not think of anything to defend himself.

It was not as if Bai Shan’s question was flawless and a logical reason for her to end up as the monsters’ claw.

Instead, it was because Bai Shan’s experiences cut into Meng Chao’s brain like a dagger, causing him to face a question he had been unwilling to face since he returned to the past.

‘In my previous life, Dragon City charged to its own apocalypse under the lead of the mega corporations.

‘Now that I returned from the past, how should I face Sky Pillar, Universe, Soaring Dragon, Thundercloud, and the other five mega corporations as well as the nine great cultivation families and peerless elites behind them?’

In the past, Meng Chao used the excuse that he was still young and weak, that his cultivation realm was low, that he did not have clear memories of the past, and that the threat of the monster civilization hanging above Dragon City like a roaring thundercloud was too much.

He could not get in touch with the mega corporations and the peerless elites, and he had to focus on dealing with the monsters. Because of that, he could only ignore the nine giants who controlled Dragon City.

But once they won the northern offense and the Monster War gradually started on the path to another ending, they were about to win the pitched battle and send the monster civilization to eventual perishment. At most, the enemy would be able to struggle for a few more hours.

Meng Chao had improved by leaps and bounds through multiple encounters with death and became one of the leading forces of the Golden Era in Dragon City. He could no longer ignore the situation and delude himself.

However, asking him to provide an answer as well as solve the problem with the mega corporations right then was still too much. It was still beyond his power.

Bai Shan misunderstood his silence.

“Do you want to say that those rich people are born with the right to enjoy everything, because all the enjoyment in their lives is given to them by their fathers, grandfathers, and the peerless elites risking their lives to fight?” She smiled coldly. “But the powerful aren’t the only ones fighting. Everyone living in Dragon City is doing everything they can to live.

“My mother hunched in the illegal workshop and squinted at her work while she smeared poison on the blades and bullets. She worked to the point where her teeth, bones, nerves, and flesh corroded and she died a miserable death.

“There are also plenty of villagers who ended up as garbage bugs because they had to look for resources that couldn’t even be considered as a snack in the leftovers thrown away by the outside world. While doing it, they faced corrosion and pollution and bacteria and microorganisms growing in the trash that could infect them with all sorts of diseases.

“A number of villagers help the outside world test brand new weapons and cultivation methods. The side effects from that are as powerful as the power they contain. The slightest carelessness can cause spirit energy deviation, while the crystals in the weapons sometimes explode and blow them to pieces.

“The work we did and the suffering we went through is in no way inferior to what the superhumans face in the wild. Besides, the weapons they swing and the bullets they fire are created by us, who offered up our precious lives to make them. So why is it that we can’t enjoy the same lives as they do?

“Fine. I know that there is a different degree to the contributions we make. The contribution of killing an Apocalyptic Beast is clearly much greater than what my mother could offer, despite the fact that she had to rot away after being corroded by poison in the illegal forgery.

“But we’re not greedy. We don’t want to live in huge mansions, eat delicious food, enjoy the most modern medical technology or gene medicine, or live carefree, hope-filled lives.

“We’ve never thought about enjoying such lavish lives before. We just want to live normal lives that give us the slightest bit of dignity and safety. We want to feel like real humans. That would be enough for us.

“We’re all Dragon Citizens. We’re all humans who transmigrated from Earth. We should have to face the problem of resources and monster invasions together, so why is it that some people can live lavish lives in palaces and wear nice clothes while others can only curl up in places that are like rats’ nests, tapping away at joints that are as bloated as balls, and quietly endure the pain of poison invading their nerves and bones? Is that fair?”

Meng Chao was quiet for a long time. In the end, he could only heave a long sigh and say, “I think I can understand why you ended up joining the monsters.”

“No. You don’t understand. You’re from the outside, so you would never understand,” Bai Shan retorted coldly.

“If it was just that bit of unfairness and those mega corporations ignoring us, those peerless elites as well as the rich people not knowing our existence and only caring about enjoying their lives, I might be resentful, full of pain, and may even give up on hope, but after that, I would accept my fate. It’s my own fault that I was born here and not in a rich family, right?”

“I wouldn’t end up joining the monsters and fighting against those high-and-mighty, important people. I would still not go over those moral limits.

“However, as I gained a deeper understanding of the outside world and the nine great mega corporations through the internet, as I worked with Zhang Tie and helped Wild Wolf continue expanding

Wild Wolves' sphere of influence, and as we slowly took over Leprosy Village, I finally discovered something that I had never dreamed of.

"Meng Chao, have you heard about Spirit Snake Venom Blade?"

Meng Chao instinctively nodded.

Once Dragon City transmigrated to the Other World, humans had modified and created more than ten thousand weapons to fight against the zombies, monsters, and the horrible environment. Most of them were strange-looking weapons developed through great imagination, but in real battles, it was found that they looked good on paper but were just fanciful illusions.

However, there was a batch of weapons that withstood the most brutal battlefields and the most vicious monsters. They became well-known masterpieces and the best in the market.

Spirit Snake Venom Blade was the best representative of the batch.

This saber had runic symbols carved on it and crystals embedded in it. Poison was also hidden deep in the runic symbols, which could be activated through the crystals released by spirit energy. It was a beginner-level spirit energy weapon created by Sky Pillar Corporation.

It had started off as a company mining crystals and refining metals, but just like the other eight of the nine great mega corporations, after accumulating enough wealth through their main business, Sky Pillar Corporation immediately extended its claws to the other important territories related to Dragon City's survival.

The current and future Dragon City were at war. Weapons production and crystal mining were both important industries.

Sky Pillar Corporation had a firm grip over the high-grade crystals and rare metals. It slowly developed outstanding smelting, creation, and processing technologies. It was, thus, only natural for them to venture into the weapons development field as well. Spirit Snake Venom Blade was a hit product that the weapons forgery under Sky Pillar Corporation focused on creating during the early days of the transmigration.

The formula to create the unique alloy for Spirit Snake Venom Blade was Sky Pillar Corporation's secret up to this date.

This alloy could ensure the hardness, durability, and malleability of the metal while it remained like a wooden block and a sponge. There were a lot of gaps between the particles, allowing it to be able to absorb and retain acid and poison.

As long as they used Sky Pillar Corporation's unique liquid injection technology, which was basically sci-fi technology at that time, the saber was able to absorb acid and poison. When it was used to kill monsters, aside from dealing physical damage, the saber would double down by adding corrosive damage. It could even deal triple damage via also adding poison, so its damage would be 300% higher than of a normal weapon!

No one could resist the temptation of delivering three times the normal damage.

Countless superhumans sought Spirit Snake Venom Blade like bees going after honey.

During the first few years, Spirit Snake Venom Blade was a limited product. People even had to pay twice the price if they bought it off the hands of scalpers.

Sky Pillar Corporation relied on Spirit Snake Venom Blade to set up a brand called Spirit Snake, which helped them smoothly join the market of weapons forging. Soon, they gained a steady foothold in the territory.

By now, the weapons developers under Sky Pillar Corporation had developed dozens of light and heavy weapons. They had even started developing motorized armor and light self-thinking fighting vehicles. This territory became the second pillar holding the corporation alongside crystal mining and refinement.

‘Oh, that’s right.’

Meng Chao looked at his feet. Suddenly, he noticed that the dagger Bai Shan had kept close to her heart and used to ambush him was the newest product of the Spirit Snake Venom Blade. It was a lightweight dagger—Phantom Snake.

However, Meng Chao could not understand why Bai Shan would suddenly mention Spirit Snake Venom Blade.

“My mother produced Spirit Snake Venom Blades.” Bai Shan sucked in a deep breath and spoke calmly. “She died slowly of poison because she worked day and night to produce Spirit Snake Venom Blades.”

“...!” Meng Chao instinctively thought that it was impossible.

Whether the daily growth of the mega corporations was good or bad for Dragon City’s future was a debatable thing, but it was certain that Sky Pillar Corporation was a mega corporation with a huge business. It paid great attention to its image, the benefits of its workers, the production environment, and the process of production.

Many top students who graduated from the ace courses in the famous universities and awakened to supernatural abilities racked their brains on how to join the mega corporations.

Veteran hunters like Man-eating Shark Zhou Chong would rather work for an insurance company under a mega corporation than join the secret police or the abnormal beast research department.

All of them did it because they wanted the high salary, great benefits, great working environment, and the responsibility these mega corporations held to provide their employees with continuous education. They would not have to worry about anything if they worked there!

This was especially the case within Sky Pillar Corporation.

Meng Chao was quite close to Lu Siya. Through her, he had a general understanding of how Sky Pillar Corporation operated.

This was especially the case last year. He had worked with Soul Break Saber Luo Wu and Luo Hai to produce Surging Lightning. After the Broken Star Club promoted it, the sales surged up, and they were gradually unable to keep up with productions.

Many industries took a fancy to Surging Lightning’s brand and extended olive branches to work with them.

Among them were the weapons manufacturers from Sky Pillar Corporation.

Meng Chao, Luo Wu, and Luo Hai went to observe Sky Pillar Corporation's weapons development center.

The research tower itself reached the clouds, and the workshops were all clean. The variety of food offered in the employees' cafeteria was also enough to make Meng Chao broaden his horizons, and his stomach was filled to the brim during that trip.

Once he filled his stomach, he could not help but sigh. As expected of one of the nine pillars supporting Dragon City!

He just could not imagine Sky Pillar Corporation's Spirit Snake Venom Blades being produced in the dirty, disorderly, and horrible workshops of Leprosy Village, especially since they were the hit products of the weapons development department.

Chapter 538: They're the Monsters!

"It took me a lot of time to understand this secret." Bai Shan smiled coldly. "The development of Spirit Snake Venom Blade, the packaging, and part of the production process is indeed done in Sky Pillar Corporation's weapons development center, but when it comes to the parts that are related to injecting highly-polluted, radioactive, and corrosive substances into the weapons, Sky Pillar Corporation send the work out to other people, since it's hard to use automated machines to do the work and the substances used are very harmful to the workers.

"Naturally, Sky Pillar Corporation would not deliver these highly dangerous parts to Leprosy Village's illegal workshops directly.

"What they usually do is choose a forgery located outside. It has to have perfect facilities and a relatively good working environment.

"Then, this forgery will send a deal to the gangs in the lair. Those deals will then end up in the illegal workshops of Leprosy Village.

"Because of it, through multiple subcontractors, Sky Pillar Corporation is not responsible for the illegal workshops in Leprosy Village, even if they're the ones to take the deals in the end.

"Even if the workers in our workshops die after being exposed to acid, poison, and highly radioactive crystal powder every day, it has nothing to do with them.

"Even if they have the responsibility to monitor things, the only thing they monitor is the first subcontractor.

"And in the process of subcontracting the deals, even if there are really illegal procedures, the ones who are responsible for them are the gangs, so Sky Pillar Corporation remains clean."

This was something Meng Chao had never heard or thought of before, but based on Wild Wolf and Zhang Tie's expressions, it wasn't anything new to them.

"This isn't just Sky Pillar Corporation. All the nine great mega corporations are doing this," Bai Shan said. "Leprosy Village suffers from overexposure to radioactive substances and pollution and uses people's

lives to create deadliest weapons. These weapons are then delivered outside by the gangs and brought to the nine great mega corporations through the subcontractors.

“Then, their brands are stuck on the weapons and packaged beautifully. Once that’s finished, they ask peerless elites or super newbies like you, Meng Chao, to help them promote the weapons.

“This allows them to squeeze out an astonishing amount of profit, and 90% of that profit ends up in the hands of the mega corporations. As for the pitiful bugs who gave up their health and lives to create them, we at most get only 1%.

“After I discovered this secret that is not exactly a secret, I looked at the promotions made by the nine great mega corporations, and I found them really ironic and disgusting.

“It’s especially the case for Sky Pillar Corporation.

“It claims to be the largest mining company in Dragon City and the first to help humans understand the value of crystals and use them. It’s the supporting pillar of Dragon City.

“The creator of the corporation is also one of the creators of the Survival Committee. He’s a peerless elite who stands at the same ranks as Battle God Lei Zongchao. He’s a hero admired by countless people and the guardian god of the entire civilization!

“Recently, Sky Pillar Corporation also invested a lot of money to promote their ‘model superhuman’—Lu Siya.

“I’ve watched a lot of her promotional videos.

“Sometimes, she acts heroically in the wild to kill monsters. Sometimes, she does voluntary work in the city and serves the citizens. Sometimes, she focuses on reading the documents about the Survival Committee to understand the spirit of superhumans being the weapons of human civilization and how she should make her blood flow for the weak.

“These promotional videos occasionally show up on our internet terminals in the form of pop-ups. After a while, a number of children in Leprosy Village began to treat Lu Siya as a real hero and think that Sky Pillar Corporation is the savior and guardian god of our civilization.

“Oh, I almost forgot. Meng Chao, you contributed to this as well. After all, you worked together with Lu Siya to destroy quite a number of the monsters’ schemes!

“In all honesty, the promotional videos are shot pretty well. The promotional slogans are very bewitching as well.

“Unfortunately, every time I see Lu Siya’s face shining with a just and determined light while she heroically says something like superhumans are the weapons of human civilization and the blood of the strong should flow for the weak, I can’t help but think about whether she knows that an important factor behind how her corporation could become rich, why she could get so many valuable resources, and why she could become this so-called ‘model superhuman’ is the blood, sweat, and tears of the villagers and their shining bones!”

Meng Chao was silent for a while. “I’m sorry, I really didn’t know that life in the lair is like this.”

“Even if you didn’t, Lu Siya definitely knew,” Bai Shan said. “But even if Lu Siya didn’t know, her father, grandfather, Sky Pillar Corporation’s creator, and heir definitely knows. Why have they never thought about changing the lair or changing the living environment of Leprosy Village and the villagers’ lives?”

“Golden Tooth Lair is a tumor buried deep in Dragon City. Trust me, the Survival Committee has been thinking about solving the problem of the lairs, but the Monster War is raging like a bushfire now, and our resources...”

Meng Chao instinctively wanted to defend the government, but halfway into his second sentence, he could no longer continue.

And just as he expected, Bai Shan smirked coldly again. “At the end of the day, the people ruling over the weak have the resources to live lavish lives, cultivate, colonize the land, set up new cities, and help their corporations expand. But when it comes to changing the lairs, they lack resources?”

“It would be one thing if they didn’t know what was happening in the lair. But if they know and choose to ignore it, then it’s another matter. If they know, choose to ignore it, and even use the brutal environment in the lair to gain profit, then it’s a whole other matter entirely, and it is the worst.

“Now that I’ve said so much, I can finally voice the second question that has been plaguing me for more than ten years.

“I’ve always wanted to ask the old village chief this question, but before I could ask him, he died.

“Meng Chao, both you and the old village chief tell me that the monsters are the source of all our pain and suffering, and as long as we win the Monster War, all our problems will be solved.

“But I clearly remember that when Leprosy Village was built, we didn’t face any threat from monsters!

“We were at the later stage of the zombie crisis at that time. The monsters were only vague shadows lurking deep in the fog. Occasionally, some of them would wander into Dragon City, but since they were alone and isolated, they weren’t much of a threat.

“Logically, if the ‘source of all our pain and suffering’ was not around, Dragon City should have been as peaceful as paradise, right?”

“But why is it that at that time, Dragon City was a lawless, bloody jungle, and it didn’t even have the most basic order, law, and morals? Our fathers and grandfathers didn’t die after they were infected by the zombie virus, and they didn’t go completely mad either. But those pitiful souls were looked down upon, humiliated, hurt, and chased away. They had to go to places with the worst living environments in Dragon City and set up Leprosy Village!

“If Leprosy Village is the source of our tragedies, then shouldn’t it have been monsters that chased us here? Aren’t those who have been sucking out our lives and oppressing us monsters?”

Bai Shan was hysterical.

Her third eye turned from a perfect, flawless pearl into a burning, bloody diamond.

“I’m sorry, Meng Chao, perhaps it’s perfectly logical to you that humans and monsters are mortal enemies, but I just can’t find any reason in me to hate monsters.” Bai Shan regained her strange

calmness and spoke faintly. "Over the last few decades, Leprosy Village was attacked by monsters and some people were killed.

"But the number of people who died under the fangs and claws of monsters is much smaller compared to the number of people who were oppressed by the mega corporations and slowly tortured to death by their bad working environment and living conditions.

"And the second cause of death is far more painful and despairing than being swallowed whole by a monster.

"It was like that for my mother. In my eyes, monsters have to pay 10% responsibility for what happened to her, while Sky Pillar Corporation has to take up the remaining 90%.

"To me... No, I should say that to many of the villagers, those creatures lurking in Monster Mountain Range are no different from the creatures sitting in the mega corporations. They're all monsters. If I had to find a difference, then one of them is hiding under human skin, while the other doesn't bother with hiding its real, hideous face. That's all.

"So, tell me, is it really that unbelievable for me to join the monsters' side?"

"Bai Shan, all the villagers in Leprosy Village are like you. They don't like the outside world, especially the mega corporations," Wild Wolf said grimly. "We set up Wild Wolves because we swore that we would use our own hands to seize back what is rightfully ours!

"But no matter how much we hate and despise the mega corporations, it doesn't mean that we should work with monsters.

"Even if the monsters in Monster Mountain Range and the owners of the mega corporations are 'monsters', just as you said, if we're unwilling to be slaves to one of them, then we shouldn't be willing to join the other side either.

"If we really want to fight, we should fight against the two monsters at the same time!"

"You make it sound so simple, Wild Wolf. When it comes to bold words, it's always easy to voice them, isn't it?" Bai Shan retorted coldly. "In the past, I really loved listening to your bold words and watching you filled with passion and hope. I believed that we could rely on our own strength to create a brand new beautiful Leprosy Village.

"But the more I came into contact with the outside world and the better I understood just how huge and terrifying the mega corporations are, the more obvious it became that our grand plans were just fancy dreams.

"After generations of genetic filtration and elimination, Leprosy Village has quite a number of mutated people whose fighting strength is quite strong. We even gained supernatural powers through another method.

"After gathering these people together, the current Wild Wolves look pretty strong and can fight against the second-class gangs in the lair.

"I don't doubt that with your ability and with Leprosy Village's continuously evolving fighting strength, before long, Wild Wolves would surpass Golden Tooth and become the strongest gang in the lair.

“But what will happen then? Do you think that after you become the strongest gang in the lair, you will be able to break the order of the nine great mega corporations ruling over Dragon City?”

Chapter 539: Dying With You

Wild Wolf, Zhang Tie, and the other Wild Wolves could not answer Bai Shan’s question.

Even Meng Chao knew that it was impossible.

While the gangs in the lair looked wild and were at the top of the gray food chain, in truth, they were supported and kept in place by the nine mega corporations. Their means of survival were held by the mega corporations.

When Meng Chao first entered Golden Tooth Lair, Lu Siya led the way to Poison Scorpion, which was supported by Sky Pillar Corporation.

Poison Scorpion was even more respectful to Lu Siya than if she were a real princess.

“The gangs are just the puppets and tools of the mega corporations. They help the mega corporations do the dirty, tiring, and shady work that they can’t do. When someone needs to assume responsibility, they will jump out on their own and be the scapegoats.” Bai Shan continued laughing coldly. “Even the gang leader of the strongest gang in the lair, Saber Jin Wanhao the Underground Emperor of Dragon City, is a loyal dog kept by the mega corporations.

“Dragon City has plenty of Deity Realm superhumans who have the world at their beck and call. They also have an astronomical amount of tactical resources, so do you really think that if they wanted to completely solve the problems in the lair, the gangs and the Underground Emperor would be able to stop them?”

“But why should the Deity Realm superhumans in control of the mega corporations want to solve the problems in the lair?”

“Without the gangs, who would help the bright, beautiful, noble superhumans, heroes, guardian gods, and saviors do their dirty, tiring, and shady work? How could they get cheap consumables like the villagers who are useful but it won’t matter even if all of them died?”

“Even if Wild Wolves really surpassed Golden Tooth and became the strongest gang in the lair, it’d be impossible for it to challenge the nine great mega corporations outside the lair.

“We only have two choices in front of us. Either we become untameable so those Deity Realm superhumans from the mega corporations will come to break us or kill us, or we bend our backs and become another dog of the mega corporations.

“Admit it, Wild Wolf, the current Dragon City is ruled by Deity Realm superhumans and mega corporations. If we don’t bring in external power and just rely on ourselves, it’ll be impossible for us to turn over this unfair order!”

“And this external power is the monsters?” Wild Wolf asked grimly. “Bai Shan, do you know that you’re inviting the enemy into your own home?!”

“I know, but we have no other choice,” Bai Shan said calmly. “Usually, inviting the enemy into your own home is a really stupid move, but what if there is already an enemy in your home?”

“What if this enemy has been living in your home for decades and has been sucking your blood, eating your flesh, swallowing your bones, and sticking your flesh on its own body so that it can pretend to be noble, righteous, and even say that it’s the master of your home and it’s the one protecting the safety of your home so no predators from outside can invade us?”

“Then, it also says that you must reward its efforts so that it will continue protecting your home. It’ll say that it’s completely logical and right for it to continue eating you, or at least, that it has no other choice. So, it will continue eating you for eternity. What if that is what is happening?”

“Since my mother and countless villagers have been killed and eaten by the enemy in our home, the ending wouldn’t be that terrible even if I invited another enemy or brought all the predators inside.”

“Aren’t you afraid that Leprosy Village will be completely destroyed in that chaotic storm?!” Wild Wolf asked sternly.

“If the so-called order is to have the villagers continue tolerating the oppression of the mega corporations and be continuously hurt, have their rights encroached upon, and be enslaved until their shining bones are reduced to ashes without making a single sound, then who said that chaos is definitely evil?”

“So, I’m looking forward to the arrival of chaos. It would be the best if Leprosy Village— No, the lair... No, all of Dragon City ended up in chaos. It’s only this way that the mega corporations and the highly intelligent monsters would both be heavily injured and we’d have the chance to counterattack.”

“Have you ever thought about how many people would die in that chaos?” Wild Wolf gritted his teeth. “All the villagers might die!”

“So? Look at us. Look at the villagers. Instead of living like ugly, deformed, walking corpses and dying silently, is all of us dying at once really that difficult to accept? If my mother did not take up the responsibility to care for her children, I believe that she would have chosen to end her life much earlier.”

Bai Shan smiled even brighter, and her eyes shone with a burning light. “I see two paths ahead of me, and they lead to two different futures.

“The first is that all of Dragon Citizens, including the villagers, will be squeezed out to the last drop of blood so that the nine mega corporations could win against the monsters. Then, the mega corporations’ rule will become even more stable, and the rich people controlling the mega corporations will become even richer and stronger.

“Now, a Deity Realm superhuman can already fight against one hundred or one thousand normal people. At that time, the truly powerful who have surpassed Deity Realm will be able to fight against ten thousand, one thousand thousand, or even one million normal people!

“In that sort of future, no one will be able to fight against the rule of the truly powerful. Only those truly powerful and their mega corporations would be able to define what is just, evil, order, chaos, loyalty, betrayal, morals, and civilization. In the meantime, we and our descendants would have to curl up in

illegal workshops filled with smog and polluted water. We would end up as gears made of flesh and blood in the roaring production lines of the mega corporations.

“At that time, there will no longer be anything like the monsters who can challenge their rule. We will never be able to enjoy good lives. The only thing that will come to us is the apocalypse.

“The second future has certain traitors of human civilization joining the monsters and dragging human civilization back. Once the monsters won and killed all the peerless elites as well as destroyed the mega corporations, all Dragon Citizens, regardless of whether they’re the rich people dressed in pretty clothes from the mega corporations that above everyone else or the most lowly deformed from Leprosy Village, will face the only thing that is fair in the world—death.

“Let me tell you something, even if you gave me a chance to choose again... No, even if you gave me ten or one hundred chances, I would choose the second future every time, without hesitation!”

“Bai Shan, you’ve... really gone mad.” Wild Wolf’s voice trembled.

“Perhaps. But I was born in the mad Other World. No one can stop themselves from going mad here.”

Bai Shan seemed to have thought of something very interesting, and she said with a smile, “Did you know? When those people came to me with the Deification Capsules and said all sorts of exaggerated things to tempt me, I didn’t hear a single thing. I was not interested in how the Deification Capsules could make normal people temporarily gain supernatural abilities and stand above superhumans or whatever it is.

“The only thing I was interested in was that the Deification Capsules could activate the genes that have been sleeping for billions of years in the depths of human cells and allow humans to show partial signs of atavism, so they would gain all sorts of strange and hideous appearances.

“I was thinking of spraying Deification Capsule liquid all over Dragon City.

“I want all Dragon Citizens who claim themselves to be healthy, normal humans to end up as ugly as us and taste the pain the villagers had been feeling for decades.

“If thousands of Dragon Citizens turned ugly, at that time, all of us would be no different from each other and we could finally walk out with our heads held high and bask in the brightest rays of sunlight, right?”

“Even if I could only be under the sun for one second and Dragon City would be destroyed by monsters the next second, it wouldn’t matter.

“After all, before this, we’ve never basked under the sun for even a second!”

Bai Shan was like a demon born from the eternal flames in hell and giggled with joy.

Wild Wolf sighed and said, “Bai Shan, looks like you’ve been overcome by hate.

“The old village chief told us many times that we can hate the gangs and the mega corporations, but we’re not to let our hatred control us. Otherwise, our judgment and actions will just lead to greater tragedies.

“If you still remember how the old village chief took care of us in the past and helped us awaken to supernatural abilities, if you still remember all the people in Leprosy Village and the children whose fates should not have been decided by your hate, if you still remember the oath we swore when we set up Wild Wolves in the past, then tell us where your comrades are.

“Your comrades are the robbers who created the Deification Capsules. Where are they hiding, and what is their next step? Where is the abnormal beast hiding behind them? Tell me, Bai Shan! Tell me!”

“It’s useless...” Bai Shan’s eyes refocused, and she looked like she was laughing and crying at the same time. “First, we have always been contacting each other through single-line communication. Those people are cunning and have a lot of hiding places. They often change spots, and I don’t know where they are.

“Second, even if you went to stop them now, it’d be too late. They should have already carried out the next step.”

Wild Wolf’s pupils shrank rapidly. “What? How did they know—”

“How did they know that I’m already exposed?” Bai Shan smiled and turned her gaze to Meng Chao. “Did you actually think that once you captured the mouse I used to send messages, you could stop all lines of communication and your job would be done?”

“You should know that no information is also an important piece of information in certain situations, right?”

“I made a promise with those people that I will send a mouse to them at set periods of time, even if everything was going smoothly.

“That mouse doesn’t have any metal tubes, so naturally, it doesn’t have any messages on it. At first glance, it’s a mouse you can meet everywhere in the lair. It’s just that its ears are a little larger, and the edges of those ears are deformed.

“In truth, the deformity at the edges of its ears is a specially designed barcode that cannot be imitated and is one of a kind. As long as they see this mouse, those people will know that I’m safe and will continue with their next course of action according to the original plan.

“Now that they didn’t see any new mice for a long time, they must know that I’ve been captured and might tell you everything, so they will immediately change the plan and the rhythm to carry it out.”

Chapter 540: The Best Ending

Boom! BOOOM!

As if to verify Bai Shan’s words, an explosion roared in a distance.

The people in the darkness felt like they were in a broken submarine that was sinking thousands of meters into the ocean. They felt the shockwave pushing and crashing into them from all directions.

“Where did the explosion come from?” Wild Wolf’s expression changed, and he hissed, “Bai Shan, tell me, what is your next target?!”

"I don't know. But even if I knew, it'd be too late now." Bai Shan smiled and stared deeply at her old leader. "Wild Wolf, no one knows me better than you do. You're a person who appears to be ruthless, extreme, and can make snap decisions, but deep in your heart, when you think about leading Leprosy Village to fight against the nine great mega corporations and the current order in Dragon City, you become hesitant and irresolute.

"But it makes sense. No matter who it is, those who want to fight against giants like the mega corporations and the peerless elites behind them must think carefully before doing anything.

"It's fine, though. If you can't make up your mind, I'll help you.

"Right now, Dragon City is engaged in a pitched battle that will decide its fate. As long as the monsters and mega corporations are both badly injured, Dragon City will return to the chaotic era from decades ago, when order was torn down and no law could be seen.

"But things are different from decades ago. This time, the ugly deformed and the descendants of the zombie virus carriers already possess great power. We're no longer pigs waiting for slaughter.

"This chaos is our best chance to rise to power. We might even be able to set up a brand new order that might be one hundred times fairer than what exists now."

As she spoke, her voice started to go softer.

The third eye on her forehead had shined with a pearl-like light, but it turned into a red diamond throughout her speech. Then, wisps of gray smoke came out of it and it turned into a frozen stone.

"Bai Shan!" Wild Wolf's eyes went wide, and he went forward to grab her shoulders.

Clang!

Another Spirit Snake Venom Blade fell on the ground, and it had Bai Shan's cold blood.

When it touched the poison smeared all over the dagger, it turned black and looked really sticky.

Bai Shan's speech was only meant to distract everyone. She had hid her right hand behind herself, then used a dagger to stab her waist, which destroyed her organs.

Her flesh was torn, and poison entered her bones. Pain traveled straight into her soul.

But her expression remained as calm as ever. Her eyelashes did not even flutter.

Hence, the people did not notice it immediately.

"Bai Shan..." Wild Wolf held her in his arms, and his facial muscles twisted for a long time, but he still could not find a suitable expression. He could only say, "Must you use this method to obtain this ending?"

"What else was I supposed to do?" Bai Shan's face was stark pale, and her voice was wispy. "Are we supposed to continue enduring everything while waiting eagerly for humans to win the Monster War so that the mega corporations will share resources with us? Will those rich people really offer up their mansions, cars, and valuable treasures to the dirty and smelly deformed children in Leprosy Village?"

“Two years ago, when we obtained full victory in the northern offense, our hopes were dashed once.

“At that time, when we learned that we won the northern offense, Leprosy Village cheered and danced, just like the rest of Dragon City.

“Everyone thought that the large amount of resources from the northern offense would definitely be used to modify the lair and Leprosy Village, change our living environment, treat our ailments and get rid of our suffering, as well as give our descendants the hope to cultivate and improve.

“But against our hopes, most of the resources harvested from Shattered Starlake to Raging Waves flowed into the pockets of the mega corporations. Before we even buried our last warrior’s corpse, the mega corporations had already divided more than 90% of the profit from the northern offense like they were cutting up a pie.

“Now that the mega corporations had gained more resources, they could develop their corporations in various fields and set up more bases and developing lands around Dragon City to get even more resources. It helped them become even stronger and larger.

“The rich people get ten times the number of cultivation resources now and keep on getting stronger. From people who could fight against one hundred people they turned into those who can fight against one thousand people. There are now even fewer people who can challenge their status.

“But what about us? Did the lives of the villagers change even in the slightest?”

“Wild Wolf, help me out. My voice isn’t loud enough, so he might be unable to hear it clearly. Help me ask Meng Chao. Tell him to answer with a clean conscience. He just mentioned that all the suffering Leprosy Village faced from the harsh conditions of the war and the lack of resources.

“Then, when we really win the Monster War, will his close comrade, Lu Siya, the model superhuman promoted by the mega corporations, help us with everything she has and live the same lives as us?”

Wild Wolf did not ask.

Meng Chao heard her, but he did not answer the question.

And Bai Shan never had any hope that Meng Chao would answer her question.

“This is a good ending for me. I’m serious.” Bai Shan smiled. “From the moment I took this step, I’ve imagined all sorts of endings for myself.

“I’ve thought about being exposed like now and being condemned by everyone, as well as having my reputation destroyed.

“I’ve also thought about really siding with the enemy and asking the monsters to destroy Dragon City so that the mega corporations would face the apocalypse with Leprosy Village and treat us all fairly.

“Of course, the best ending would have been that the monsters and mega corporations would both be severely wounded. Dragon City’s order would then be destroyed once more, and while many of Leprosy Village’s people would be dead, we would have the advantage of our genes mutating swifter and an immunity toward most zombie viruses. Most of the elites in Wild Wolves would also survive, so we would rise to power during the chaos to become the new masters of Dragon City!

“Heh. All these endings were good, and I would accept all of them happily, except for one.”

“What is it?” Wild Wolf asked gravely.

“I could accept all endings but rotting to death like my mother while working for the production line of an illegal forgery.”

Bai Shan smiled.

She started turning black, as if she was burned by invisible flames.

Her head and arm fell limp on the ground, and she breathed her last. Her eyes became fixed on one spot at the same time.

Wild Wolf held her silently for a long time.

Chaotic footsteps and noise came from outside. Several Wild Wolves ran over in a panic.

“This is bad, Wild Wolf! The food can warehouse and clean water warehouse exploded simultaneously, and everything within a circular area of hundreds of meters is burning!”

Meng Chao brought A’Ji and Ms. Mulian to the surface with the rest of the Wild Wolves. Then, they saw two huge pillars of smoke rising to the sky hundreds of meters away from the Deification Capsule pharmacy that had exploded in the morning. They were both a few streets away.

Roaring flames licked at the smoke pillars, burning the dark clouds that covered the sky red.

There were three smoke pillars in total right now, and they were like the bars of a huge cage that shot down from above. Anyone who saw them felt panic.

Even though they were hundreds of meters away and had skyscrapers separating them, waves of heat still swept toward them.

The heatwaves brought with them dust, the powder from lots of low-quality crystals, and shards from monster materials. They were like red, green, yellow, gray, black, and purple snowflakes that danced in the air as they descended from the sky.

The villagers huddled up in the streets were shocked and terrified. They looked alarmed.

Ms. Mulian told Meng Chao that since the village had a bad environment, a severe lack of resources, and pretty bad pollution, it was a pure heavy industry village and could not produce its own food and clean, drinkable water.

All the food, drinkable water, gene medicine, high-calorie nutritional fluid, and other daily necessities had to be transported to them by the gangs.

This was why the villagers had to take up deals with harsh conditions and work all sorts of highly dangerous jobs day and night.

The villagers were poor, so the amount of food they stored in their houses could not even last them seven days.

Since it was not easy for them to store drinkable water, they had even less of it than food.

Most of the tactical resources were stored in two huge warehouses. This was a habit they had retained since the zombie crisis.

A shocking explosion had first happened in the morning.

Then, the “secret police” and “wanted criminals” started fighting fiercely in Leprosy Village, destroying dozens of buildings in the process.

Countless villagers lost their homes. Their food and water supply were also buried under the depths of the ruins.

Now, even their most important food, drinkable water, and tactical resource warehouses exploded and went up in flames. The flames were also still growing at rapid speeds.

This meant that Leprosy Village was driven to the point of having almost no water and food.

“Zhang Tie, what’s the situation?”

Even though the situation was becoming worse, Wild Wolf became calmer.

Or rather, from the moment Bai Shan died in his arms, something in his mind had plunged into complete darkness.

“It can’t get any worse!” Zhang Tie and a few Wild Wolves rushed over. The scorched Wild Wolves exchanged information and said, “The explosion seems to have happened within the two warehouses. The first explosion destroyed 80% of our storage, so many villagers gathered together to save the remaining 20%. At that time, the second explosion happened, causing countless casualties.

“Now, the flames of the explosion have not been extinguished, and morale among the villagers is at an all-time low. The news that Leprosy Village has no food and water and has been fully locked down has spread like wildfire. Everyone feels lost and doesn’t know what to do next. There are some people who are now filled with hatred toward the secret police from outside and believe that they brought all these disasters on us. They also believe that they would destroy all of Leprosy Village to capture the wanted criminals and monsters!

“Wild Wolf, make your decision. Right now, we know that it’s the monsters and not the secret police who caused all this, but no matter what, we have to survive!

“Leprosy Village’s destruction is right around the corner. We don’t have food, medicine, and water. The flames and smog are continuously wreaking havoc in the village. Before long, the entire village will be completely engulfed in flames. We have to run away!”