

Super Gene II : Evolution - Chapter 11 - Chapter 11: Chapter 11: Control the Enemy with One Finger

Everyone knew that Mr. Lin Xiangdong was very strong, but without using his Base Mutation power and without the defensive abilities of an Alloy Body, how could a mere flesh and blood body withstand an attack of Alloy Level strength?

Was he planning to overcome the Supersonic Gunman with speed? That seemed even more impossible, as the Supersonic Gunman was a top-tier speed-type Alloy Creature, with an attack speed that was unrivaled at the Alloy Level.

Facing the Supersonic Gunman and claiming he did not need to use Base Mutation power, they could not think of any other word to describe Mr. Lin Xiangdong apart from arrogant.

Only Ye knew that Lin Shen did not refuse to use his Base Mutation power, he simply did not have the ability to do so.

Ye had already prepared to forcibly intervene when he suddenly caught Lin Shen's eyes. The determination in them made Ye momentarily stunned.

“Since Mr. Lin is so confident, Mr. Qi, why don't you indulge him? Let's not delay Mr. Lin's performance,” Wang Tian'er said with a glint of murderous intent in his eyes.

Lin Xiangdong was strong, but his recklessness in not using his Base Mutation power meant his flesh and blood body still had the chance to be killed, and this might be a perfect opportunity.

Qi Shuheng clearly understood what Wang Tian'er meant and said with a smile, “Since Mr. Lin insists, I can only obey.”

At Qi Shuheng's command, the cold mechanical palm of the Supersonic Gunman moved like lightning, and in an instant, he drew his pistol from his waist.

Fast... It was so incredibly fast...

The spectators only saw a blur before the Supersonic Gunman had already drawn his pistol; they did not catch how it was drawn at all.

“So fast!” While they were still marveling at the speed of the Supersonic Gunman, they witnessed an even more astonishing scene.

The Supersonic Gunman's speed had already shocked them, but in that brief moment of drawing his weapon, Mr. Lin Xiangdong, who stood across from the Supersonic Gunman a meter away and wore an Evil Ghost mask, truly appeared like an invisible, haunting specter, instantly flashing in front of the Supersonic Gunman.

The Supersonic Gunman had just raised his pistol when Mr. Lin Xiangdong's finger pointed just below the chest armor of the Supersonic Gunman, one inch away.

"How is that possible!" Qi Shuheng, Wang Tian'er, and even Ye, all felt incredulous, their eyes widening to the limit.

This speed had surpassed the speed limit of the Alloy Level. How on earth was it achieved?

Ye found it incomprehensible as well; how could Lin Shen, without Base Mutation, possess such speed?

"Could it be... Could it be that Lin Shen actually completed his Base Mutation long ago... and even advanced to the Alloy Level... He is a hidden trump card of the Lin Family..." The more Ye thought about it, the more he felt that this was the only possibility; otherwise, it was very hard to explain how Lin Shen could have such speed, a speed that a person without Base Mutation should not have.

The scene seemed to freeze there, with Lin Shen's finger pointing at the abdomen of the Supersonic Gunman, whose arm hung at an awkward angle. His pistol pointed at Lin Shen as if just pulling the trigger could pierce through Lin Shen's body, yet nothing happened.

Qi Shuheng, seeing that the Supersonic Gunman was not knocked back, thought it was because Lin Xiangdong had not used any Base Mutation power and had only used a finger, so the strength was not enough to severely damage the Supersonic Gunman; he felt a surge of joy.

Their agreement was to subdue the Supersonic Gunman with a single strike, and since the Supersonic Gunman was not pushed back, even though the speed was indeed shocking, it meant that he had won this bet.

"Mr. Lin, not a good... intention..." Qi Shuheng began to speak with a smile, but his expression changed repeatedly and became very ugly; he was unable to finish his sentence.

Lin Shen slowly retracted his finger, not even glancing at the Supersonic Gunman. He turned around, hands behind his back, walking away. The Supersonic Gunman remained frozen in place, unresponsive to any of Qi Shuheng's commands.

"Numb... numb... Oh, Mr. Tian... This is just too cool..."

"I heard long ago that Mr. Lin Xiangdong was unbeatable among his peers, and indeed the rumors were no exaggeration."

"This isn't just unbeatable, it's a total crush, isn't it? Without mutating, he's faster than the top speed-type Base Variant Creatures. Could he have already reached the legendary Crystal Base Level?"

"Such a strong person, shame about the looks."

“How do you know Mr. Lin Xiangdong doesn’t look good?”

“If he was handsome, why would he wear a mask? Obviously, there’s something wrong with his looks.”

“You know nothing. I’ve seen Mr. Lin Xiangdong with my own eyes, and he is truly handsome.”

“Then why does he wear a mask?”

“Women, long on hair, short on insight. He wears a mask because he’s too handsome; that’s why he has no choice but to wear one.”

“Now I’m even more confused.”

“Haven’t you heard about the ancient general who was too handsome, unable to intimidate his enemies on the battlefield, so he had to wear a mask like an evil ghost whenever he went to war? Mr. Lin Xiangdong is the same.”

“So that’s it... I really want to see what Mr. Lin Xiangdong looks like...”

No matter what the others said, Lin Shen did not utter a word, afraid that as soon as he opened his mouth, he would groan in pain, possibly revealing an expression of agony.

The body of an alloy creature was just too hard; even though the acupoint sealing was done at a relative weak spot, it felt no different from jabbing a finger into steel at full force. Lin Shen wondered if his finger was broken and could only pretend nothing was amiss.

While everyone was discussing, Lin Shen had already walked back to the stands and came before Qi Shuheng, extending his hand towards him.

“Are you going to do it yourself, or should I help you?” Qi Shuheng wanted to say something but was abruptly interrupted by Lin Shen.

“I, Qi Shuheng, am a man of my word. This belongs to you now, Mr. Lin.” Qi Shuheng hesitated for a moment, remembering Mr. Lin Xiangdong’s terrifying speed and the still immobile Supersonic Gunman, he ultimately decided not to say anything more, pulling a blue metal key from his pocket and handing it over to Lin Shen.

Every base variant creature has its corresponding base mutation key. The person in possession of the base mutation key becomes the master of the base variant creature, gaining its absolute loyalty. A base variant creature can only be called a base mutation pet once it offers up its base mutation key.

It’s almost impossible for an adult base variant creature to offer its base mutation key to a human, which is why most base mutation pets are raised from the Base Mutation Egg stage.

Once a base variant creature has offered up its base mutation key, its mastership is no longer up to the creature itself to decide.

Lin Shen took the key without further acknowledgment of Qi Shuheng and walked straight to the Supersonic Gunman, who had been subjected to acupoint sealing. He inserted the key into the key slot on the gunman's waist.

The next second, the Supersonic Gunman's body underwent a transformation, the metal on its surface began to flow and shrink continuously, and a moment later, it contracted into a chicken egg-sized blue metal capsule, with the key still inserted at one end.

Lin Shen pocketed the pet capsule and the key, then returned to sit in his place in the stands, twiddling with the pet capsule that displayed the information of the Supersonic Gunman. Only someone with the corresponding base mutation key could access this information.

Supersonic Gunman: Alloy Creature.

Strength: 11.6

Speed: 19.7

Hardness: 9.5

Toughness: 17.6

Base Change Talent: Quick Draw, Rapid Fire.

Super Gene II : Evolution - Chapter 12 - Chapter 12: Chapter 12 Gourd Mountain

The attribute limit of Alloy Creatures is 20, and the Supersonic Gunman's speed is already very close to that limit. There are indeed a few exceptional Supersonic Gunmen that reach the full twenty points of speed, this one just falls short by a little, but it's not far off.

The hardness and strength of the Supersonic Gunman are relatively low among Alloy Creatures, particularly hardness, which is less than ten. Some Steel-bodied Creatures can also achieve such a hardness level.

However, this Supersonic Gunman possesses two Base Change Talents, and the compatibility with these talents is also very high, which is very good.

Theoretically, the limit for Steel-bodied Creatures is one Base Change Talent, for Alloy Creatures the limit is two Base Change Talents, and for Crystal-based Creatures the limit is three Base Change Talents.

But that's just the maximum. In reality, many Alloy pets only have one Base Change Talent, and there are also numerous pets whose Base Change Talents completely mismatch their abilities.

Overall, the value of this Supersonic Gunman should be quite high. In a place like Dark Bird Base, trading it for a property set should pose no problem.

Perhaps due to Lin Shen's astounding performance, or maybe because the Lin Family's reputation is quite excellent, several Mutators decided right at the scene to sign contracts with the Lin Family, the most among the three parties.

Unfortunately, Wei Wufu still showed no intention, it seems he has no plans to join any faction for now.

In fact, even if Wei Wufu wanted to sign with the Lin Family now, it would be difficult for them.

With Mr. Lin Zongzheng and Lin Xiangdong around, signing an Alloy Mutator isn't an issue, but now that both are absent, signing an Alloy Mutator with unknown origins is also a problem for the Lin Family.

Afterwards, Lin Shen barely spoke; it was all Ye who was busy.

Qi Shuheng and Wang Tian'er also lost interest in speaking with Lin Shen, instead engaging enthusiastically with Bai Shenfei, definitely aimed at ingratiating themselves with her. It was clear they had an interest in courting Bai Shenfei, and his identity remained unmentioned by Xiangdong.

"What exactly is the Goddess Consort doing at Dark Bird Base?" Lin Shen felt a bit of a headache. If not for the unexpected variable that was the Goddess Consort, today's matter would have been perfectly resolved; now it left an unresolved issue.

After the recruitment meeting concluded, as Lin Shen stood to leave, the Goddess Consort naturally followed. It seemed she would not easily give up without clarifying Lin Shen's identity.

"Junior sister, it has been so long since we've seen each other, we should have a good chat. If you don't mind, how about dining at my place?" Lin Shen said with a smile.

"Alright," Bai Shenfei agreed, seeing that Lin Shen was willingly cooperating.

Of course, Lin Shen wouldn't take the Goddess Consort to his own place but instead took her to the residence of Xiangdong, arranging for her to rest in the living room.

“Who are you, really?” Bai Shenfei didn’t show any intention to sit, staring at Lin Shen as she asked.

“Who I am, whether I am Xiangdong or not, is that important to you?” Lin Shen asked slowly in return.

“It’s important,” Bai Shenfei replied directly.

“What’s important to you? Is it the person Xiangdong, or what this person can do for you? If it’s the former, you may rest assured. If it’s the latter, feel free to say. If it’s within my capabilities, I definitely won’t shirk it,” Lin Shen said, unable to see Bai Shenfei’s expression due to the mosaic covering it.

“Has Xiangdong gone to Gourd Mountain?” Bai Shenfei suddenly dropped this question.

Lin Shen was pondering what Gourd Mountain might be, inadvertently allowing his gaze to become a momentary blur of confusion.

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“It seems you don’t know anything at all.” Bai Shenfei, who had been staring into Lin Shen’s eyes, immediately sensed something and spoke with a hint of disappointment before turning to leave.

Watching Bai Shenfei depart, Lin Shen felt extremely perplexed, wondering why she suddenly wanted to leave.

Lin Shen turned to look at Ye behind him only to find Ye wearing a very strange expression, which alarmed him: “Ye, tell me the truth, did the Third and Fourth Brothers really go to that Gourd Mountain?”

Ye’s face showed complex emotions as he pondered for a long while before he seemed to make a decision and said, “Originally, Mr. Lin Zongzheng and Fourth Brother didn’t want you to know about this matter, but now that things have become complicated and outsiders know about Gourd Mountain, it’s not good to keep it from you any longer.”

“What exactly is Gourd Mountain? Is it somewhere near our base? Why have I never heard of this mountain? What are the Third and Fourth Brothers doing there?” Lin Shen couldn’t help but feel anxious, as this situation seemed more troublesome than he had imagined.

“Of course you haven’t heard of it, because that place was named on the spot by Second Brother, so very few people know the name ‘Gourd Mountain,’” Ye sighed.

“A name from Second Brother?” Lin Shen was taken aback.

The Second Brother of the Lin Family, named Lin Yin, possessed the best cultivation talent within the Lin Family. It was from Lin Yin that the tradition of addressing the Lin brothers with the respectful 'Mr.' began.

One could say that it was Lin Yin who had single-handedly supported the crumbling, nearly fallen Lin Family.

Even more, Lin Yin was one of the few at Dark Bird Base who had advanced to the Crystal Base Level, but just as he was at the height of his power, he disappeared on an outing to hunt Base Variant Creatures.

When Lin Yin disappeared, Lin Shen was not even ten years old. To him, Lin Yin was almost like a father.

With their parents having passed away early, and with a gap of more than twenty years between them, Lin Yin's influence on Lin Shen was nearly that of a father's. The saying 'an elder brother is like a father' probably explained their relationship.

So many years had passed that the memory of that robust figure had begun to blur, and even the features of Lin Yin's face were becoming hard to recall.

However, Lin Shen still remembered that Lin Yin was very good to him, often taking him out to play and buying him tasty treats and fun toys.

Lin Shen's love for playing could be attributed to half of it being spoiled out of him by Lin Yin.

"The place where Second Brother disappeared... It couldn't have been Gourd Mountain, could it?" Lin Shen asked, frowning.

Ye nodded, "Young Fifth Brother is indeed astute. The last place Second Brother went before he disappeared was Gourd Mountain, and after that, he never returned."

"Did the Third and Fourth Brothers discover some clues about Second Brother, and that's why they went to Gourd Mountain?" Lin Shen mused.

"That's part of it," Ye paused for a moment and, not waiting for Lin Shen to ask further, continued, "Mr. Lin Zongzheng and Fourth Brother said their main reason for going to Gourd Mountain was to obtain a Base Mutation Egg for your transformation process."

Lin Shen was slightly startled to hear this. With his strength, he was actually ready for the Base Mutation transformation a while ago. The Third and Fourth Brothers had always been persuading him to delay the transformation, and it turned out, they were preparing a Base Mutation Egg for his transformation.

The only way to complete the transition from human to Mutator was by extracting a special substance from the body of a Base Variant Creature and using this substance to transform oneself until the process was complete, and one became a Mutator.

This special substance could come from a Base Variant Creature or from a Base Mutation Egg but doing the transformation undoubtedly required a Base Mutation Egg, and the quality of this egg could, to some extent, affect the quality of the Steel Body one would possess after Base Mutation.

Super Gene II : Evolution - Chapter 13 - Chapter 13: Chapter 13 Mutation Point

However, Lin Shen did not quite understand why completing the first Base Mutation only required a Steel Mutant Egg. Even if they had an Alloy Egg or a Crystal Mutation Egg, they could not be used.

Too advanced Base Mutation Eggs could cause the Mutating human to completely metallize, turning into a lifeless statue.

Base Mutation is a very magical and dangerous process. Only the right amount of energy can allow humans of flesh and blood to possess the foundation of steel, and this process is even more bizarre and strange than a caterpillar's complete metamorphosis into a butterfly.

Was it necessary to venture into such a perilous place for a Steel Mutant Egg? With the Lin Family's strength, purchasing a top-quality Steel Mutant Egg should not pose any pressure.

Seeming to perceive the confusion in Lin Shen's heart, Ye explained, "Generally, a top-quality Steel Mutant Egg only has one Attribute reaching the full value of ten points. It's already very rare to find one with two Attributes at full value. Mr. Lin Zongzheng and his brother wanted to find you an egg with at least three or even four Attributes at full value, which is why they went to Gourd Mountain."

Ye gave a bitter smile and then continued, "If they had known earlier that you, Lin Shen, had already completed the Base Mutation, there wouldn't have been any need to go to Gourd Mountain."

Lin Shen could sense a touch of blame from Ye, who thought that having already completed the Base Mutation, he had not informed Mr. Lin Zongzheng and his brother, leading them on an unnecessary adventure.

But, Lin Shen was at a loss to explain how a human who had not undergone Base Mutation could disable the Supersonic Gunman with a single strike?

“How did they know that Gourd Mountain had that kind of Base Mutation Egg?” Lin Shen felt something was still amiss.

“Because Gourd Mountain is actually a Mutation Point,” Ye said slowly.

Hearing the words “Mutation Point,” Lin Shen’s eyes widened in horror as he exclaimed, “There’s a Mutation Point near us?”

More than two hundred years ago, Base Variant Creatures began appearing around the world, not all at once but starting in some special locations. These places then slowly radiated outwards, and the initial locations where Base Variant Creatures appeared came to be known as Mutation Points.

The Base Variant Creatures near a Mutation Point are not only numerous but may also include terrifying high-level Base Variant Creatures.

Once, a base with over a hundred Crystal Base Level Mutators tried to raid the outskirts of a Mutation Point to plunder resources. This disturbed an incredibly terrifying Base Variant Creature inside, resulting in the annihilation of all Mutators who went to the Mutation Point. Furthermore, the Base Variant Creature flew to a nearby human base and destroyed it, causing countless deaths and injuries.

Since then, the construction of bases typically involves deliberately avoiding locations near Mutation Points.

Lin Shen had not expected that there would be a Mutation Point near the Dark Bird Base and had not heard of any terrifying high-level Base Variant Creatures appearing in the vicinity over the years.

“No wonder someone as capable as my second brother could get trapped inside.” Lin Shen felt annoyed. If Mr. Lin Zongzheng and his brother truly got trapped while seeking a Base Mutation Egg for him, Lin Shen feared he would never be at peace for the rest of his life.

“Ye, do you know the location of Gourd Mountain?” Lin Shen asked.

“Lin Shen, don’t ask about that. I can’t possibly let you go to Gourd Mountain. Even if Mr. Lin Zongzheng and his brother are dead, they wouldn’t want you to risk it,” Ye immediately shook his head.

“Then send someone to check the situation at Gourd Mountain,” Lin Shen pondered.

“No, Mr. Lin Zongzheng and his brother would rather risk themselves to keep the secret of Gourd Mountain than expose it. If we send people now and the secret is revealed, their efforts would be in vain,” Ye rejected Lin Shen’s proposal once more.

“Ye, since my second brother came up with the name Gourd Mountain and no outsiders know it, why does Bai Shenfei know this name?” Lin Shen pondered for a moment and then suddenly looked up and asked Ye.

Ye said gravely, “That’s what I wanted to mention. It’s unlikely that Lin Xiangdong would have divulged information about Gourd Mountain. Qi Shuheng and Wang Tian’er also acted strangely today. They seemed very certain that Mr. Lin Zongzheng was not in the base; otherwise, they wouldn’t have probed so openly and repeatedly.”

“You mean?” Lin Shen pondered but did not continue.

“We may have a traitor among us,” Ye’s expression darkened.

“How many people knew that Lin Xiangdong went to Gourd Mountain with Mr. Lin Zongzheng?” Lin Shen asked.

“Aside from me, no one knew Mr. Lin Zongzheng and Lin Xiangdong went to Gourd Mountain. The only ones aware that Lin Xiangdong went out are those four guys. There may be many who could guess that Lin Xiangdong possibly went out,” Ye speculated.

Ye spoke of four fellows who, aside from Ye himself, were the most trusted by Lin Xiangdong—all Alloy Mutators.

“Ye, among those four, who do you think could be a traitor?” Lin Shen also knew those four people; they were the confidants of Lin Xiangdong. They had followed Lin Xiangdong through life and death for many years, shared life-and-death friendships, and had made plenty of enemies from the Qi and Wang families. It seemed highly unlikely for any of them to be traitors.

“They have followed Mr. Lin Zongzheng for so many years; he has saved their lives, and they have saved his. To say that there is a traitor among them, I truly cannot bring myself to believe it. Moreover, these years they followed him, they’ve made plenty of enemies from the Qi and Wang families. It’s really hard to believe they would defect to those families.”

“That’s exactly what’s frightening,” Lin Shen sighed. “Ye, now, you are the only person I can trust.”

“Lin Shen, rest assured, I will root out the traitor. If it is indeed one of those four, I will personally carve out their heart to see if it is black,” Ye said fiercely.

“Investigate this quietly, without raising any alarms. Even if you find out, don’t act rashly. Let’s wait for the return of Mr. Lin Zongzheng and Mr. Lin Xiangdong to decide,” Lin Shen instructed.

“What if... I’m just saying what if... what if Mr. Lin Zongzheng and Mr. Lin Zongzheng really are trapped and can’t come back?”

“There’s no ‘what if’; they must return,” Lin Shen affirmed.

“Right, Mr. Lin Zongzheng and Mr. Lin Xiangdong are extraordinary individuals who have faced all sorts of tumultuous situations. Like before, they will surely return safely,” Ye paused before adding, “Thankfully, Lin Shen, now that you are an Alloy Mutator, you are the backbone of the Lin Family. Even if something unexpected happens to Mr. Lin Zongzheng and Mr. Lin Xiangdong, I will risk my life to help you uphold the family business.”

Lin Shen glanced at Ye, then nodded. “Ye, I’m counting on you to uncover that traitor first.”

“Rest easy, Lin Shen. I will start investigating right away,” Ye stated as he headed out.

Watching Ye leave, Lin Shen removed the mask from his face and muttered with a furrowed brow, “This Ye, his words subtly coax me to embark on a rescue mission to Gourd Mountain. I hope I’m overthinking it.”

Naturally, Lin Shen was very keen on going to Gourd Mountain, but he truly lacked the strength to do so; going would be tantamount to sending himself to his death.

Acupoint Sealing was indeed powerful, but it required the ability to hit the target at close range, and Seven Steps of Conflict was only effective when the opponent used a gun. Only a few Base Variant Creatures used guns, so his going would be no different than committing suicide.

“To be of help, I need to ensure first that I don’t become a burden.” After some deep thought, Lin Shen quickly left Lin Xiangdong’s residence and returned to his own.

Back at his place, Lin Shen approached the incubation chamber and observed the three Base Mutation Eggs inside, lost in thought.

“In a little more than a day, the Steel Tail Scorpion should be able to hatch. I’ll see how things go before deciding,” Lin Shen felt that these Base Mutation Eggs with Super-Base Evolutionary Seed ought to possess exceptional attributes.

If the Steel Tail Scorpion hatches with outstanding attributes, he would proceed with the Base Mutation using either the Dark Iron Swallow or the Hundred-Refined Steel Beast’s Mutation Egg.

“What exactly is the Super-Base Evolutionary Seed?” Lin Shen couldn’t help but think again of Goddess Consort Bai.

Goddess Consort Bai, a human, remarkably possessed the Super-Base Evolutionary Seed, which was quite inconceivable.

Lin Shen yearned for the Fire Seed within Goddess Consort Bai. If that seed harbored heaven-defying capabilities, his resources for heading to Gourd Mountain would increase significantly.

Yet, up to this point, Lin Shen still hadn't figured out how exactly the Fire Seed had transferred to him.

In practice, simply by sharing a sleep with a Base Mutation Egg that possessed a Fire Seed, he could acquire its abilities.

The problem was that Goddess Consort Bai was a person, and moreover a woman. He surely couldn't expect a woman he'd only just met to share a night's sleep with him, could he?

If money could resolve the issue, Lin Shen was willing to exchange his entire savings for a night's sleep with Goddess Consort Bai, but clearly, that was impractical.

"So you're the Lin Shen who Brother Lin often mentioned, the youngest Lin member skilled in all manner of merriment and leisure," a woman's voice suddenly resounded behind Lin Shen.

Lin Shen turned around and saw a mosaic of a human figure sitting on his sofa. Aside from Goddess Consort Bai, there could be no second person.

Super Gene II : Evolution - Chapter 14 - Chapter 14: Chapter 14 A Possibility

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Lin Shen had already considered such a possibility and had been very careful; additionally, the Lin Family's large courtyard was guarded by many Mutators, including some of Alloy Level.

Bai Shenfei was still able to arrive in Lin Shen's room unnoticed, even sitting behind him without anyone realizing it. This wasn't something Lin Shen could prevent just by being cautious; it was a real and substantial difference in strength.

"Sister Bai has taken such great pains to find me, surely you aren't here to ask me for advice on indulging in life's pleasures?" With things as they were, Lin Shen decided to be frank.

"I remember Brother Lin once said that you are a full ten years younger than him, so it is indeed appropriate for you to call me 'sister'." Bai Shenfei nodded slightly and said, "In fact, at the recruitment meeting, I had already guessed your identity. The reason I left later was another matter. Do you know what that reason is?"

"I really don't know that, I'll have to trouble Sister Bai to enlighten me." Lin Shen's eyes flashed slightly as if he had thought of something, but in the end chose to remain silent.

Bai Shenfei smiled and said, "You do know; you've thought of it but chose not to speak. It seems you're different from what Brother Lin said about you; you're not only versed in indulging in life's pleasures."

After a pause, Bai Shenfei continued, "The Mutator who followed you today is called Ye, isn't that right? While Brother Lin was training at the Sea Corn Base, it was Ye who took care of his daily needs. I've seen him a few times as well."

Lin Shen just looked at Bai Shenfei without saying anything. Bai Shenfei was right; he had already guessed that what she wanted to talk about was Ye.

However, from Lin Shen's standpoint, there were things he couldn't and didn't want to say.

"Ye has a problem," Bai Shenfei stated bluntly.

"What's wrong with Ye?" Lin Shen asked calmly, neither confirming nor denying.

"When I brought up Gourd Mountain, his expression was off," said Bai Shenfei.

"People always say a woman's intuition is the most accurate; if Sister Bai feels that Ye's expression is off, then it must surely be the case," said Lin Shen.

"Brother Lin said you were the most clever and never used foul language. I didn't believe it at first, but now I do. You insult people without even a single curse word; indeed, you don't need to swear," Bai Shenfei said without being angered, just speaking indifferently, "I will ask you three questions, and you can choose to answer or not. After these three questions, if you still think Ye has no problem, then we'll consider it my intuition."

"I will not evade any question that I can answer," Lin Shen said.

"The first question, has he encouraged you to go to Gourd Mountain?" asked Bai Shenfei.

"No," Lin Shen shook his head.

"The second question, do you think he has encouraged you to go to Gourd Mountain?" Bai Shenfei asked again.

The second question seemed repetitive of the first, but Lin Shen hesitated, not answering as readily as he had the first.

Bai Shenfei appeared to have received the answer she wanted without waiting for Lin Shen's response and continued, "Was it his idea for you to impersonate Brother Lin at the recruitment conference?"

Lin Shen did not answer immediately this question either.

It was not that he wanted to conceal the truth, but Bai Shenfei's question had triggered some of Lin Shen's previous doubts, prompting him to reconsider the events of the past two days once again.

After asking the three questions, Bai Shenfei did not press Lin Shen for answers and sat on the sofa, looking at him with interest.

Before the recruitment conference, although Lin Shen had been preparing for any emergencies, that was just as a precaution.

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Under normal circumstances, Ye should have helped him resolve most of the issues, but in reality, Ye did far less than Lin Shen had expected.

These actions could be explained by Ye's reluctance to deepen the Qi and Wang families' suspicions.

However, later on, Ye's sometimes intentional and sometimes unintentional acts indeed raised suspicions that he was leading Lin Shen to Gourd Mountain.

Ye had been an old servant of the Lin Family, having been with them since Lin Xiangdong's younger days and having taken care of the fourth brother for so many years, Lin Shen didn't want to suspect him, but the current situation of the Lin Family forced Lin Shen to think more.

Still, Lin Shen couldn't understand if Ye wanted him to go to Gourd Mountain, why he didn't just take the opportunity at the very beginning? Why make such a big detour?

“He doesn't know where Gourd Mountain is,” Bai Shenfei suddenly said, as if she had seen through Lin Shen's inner thoughts.

Bai Shenfei's words instantly connected all the dots for Lin Shen.

If Ye didn't know the location of Gourd Mountain, then the person in the Lin Family most likely to know would only be Lin Shen himself.

That made sense. If Ye did have some scheme, the big detour he took was just to find out whether Lin Shen knew the location of Gourd Mountain or not.

“Bai, all that you're saying is still just speculation,” Lin Shen said. Although he had begun to suspect, he wouldn't deny Ye, who had lived and died for the Lin Family for so many years, just because of a few words from Bai Shenfei, an outsider.

“I know where Gourd Mountain is,” Bai Shenfei said, speaking sparingly, yet each sentence seemed to strike at the heart of the matter.

Surprised, Lin Shen looked at Bai Shenfei with some disbelief, “You know where Gourd Mountain is?”

If even Ye didn’t know the location of Gourd Mountain, how could Bai Shenfei possibly know?

“Of course, I know,” Bai Shenfei said calmly: “The reason I came to Dark Bird Base was at Lin’s request. If he couldn’t return after the recruitment assembly, I was to protect you and take you to Gourd Mountain.”

“If the fourth brother wanted me to go to Gourd Mountain, why didn’t he and the third brother just take me with them when they went? Instead, after something happened, they had you take me to Gourd Mountain?” Lin Shen felt that it didn’t quite make sense.

“He didn’t take you to Gourd Mountain because he didn’t know you had already undergone Base Mutation, and that you had reached Alloy Level. Even I was surprised by that; Lin clearly said you had not undergone Base Mutation.” Bai Shenfei stared at Lin Shen with curiosity, “You brothers have been together for so many years, you’ve reached such a degree of Mutation, yet someone as astute as Lin is completely unaware. How did you manage that?”

Lin Shen smiled wryly to himself; he hadn’t undergone Base Mutation at all, so Lin Xiangdong could not have possibly noticed.

“Bai, why does the fourth brother want you to escort me to Gourd Mountain? If it was for the purpose of attaining a top-quality Base Mutation Egg, do you think it’s still necessary for me to go now?” Lin Shen continued to probe, still not quite believing Bai Shenfei.

“Who told you that Lin was going to Gourd Mountain to find you a top-quality Base Mutation Egg?” As soon as Bai Shenfei spoke, she seemed to realize the answer and continued, “If it was Ye who told you this, then we can be even more certain that something is wrong with him.”

“The fourth brother went to Gourd Mountain not to find me a top-quality Base Mutation Egg?” Lin Shen asked with a slight shock.

“Of course not, even if Lin didn’t know that you hadn’t undergone Base Mutation, searching for a Base Mutation Egg for you would only require a Steel Level one. Perhaps it makes some sense for a Crystal Base Level top-quality Base Mutation Egg, but there is absolutely no need to risk life and limb at a place like Gourd Mountain for a Steel Level top-quality Base Mutation Egg,” Bai Shenfei declared emphatically.

“Then why go to Gourd Mountain? And why should I go to Gourd Mountain?” Lin Shen couldn’t suppress his curiosity.

“For a possibility, a possibility that might make you the strongest man under the stars,” Bai Shenfei slowly said, enunciating each word.

Super Gene II : Evolution - Chapter 15 - Chapter 15: Chapter 15 The Key to the Path of the Strong

Lin Shen stared at Bai Shenfei for a long time without speaking. He didn't quite believe what Bai Shenfei had said.

If there were such things inside Gourd Mountain, why would Bai Shenfei give him the opportunity? Just because he's the brother of Bai Shenfei's senior?

Even assuming that Bai Shenfei was really like what Lin Xiangdong said, his little fangirl, it wouldn't be possible for her to relinquish such an opportunity just based on a request from Lin Xiangdong, right?

Moreover, the reality was very different from what Lin Xiangdong had described; Bai Shenfei was not at all the "little fangirl" he had claimed.

"You don't believe me?" Bai Shenfei interpreted the unusual look in Lin Shen's eyes.

"Whether I believe you or not isn't important." After a pause, Lin Shen sincerely said, "A long time ago, my siblings and I had an agreement that they would carry the glory of the Lin Family, and I would only be responsible for continuing the family's bloodline. Rather than becoming the strongest man under the starry sky, I'd much prefer to see the Lin Family bloodline carried on, especially under these circumstances."

"It's too late," Bai Shenfei listened quietly until Lin Shen finished, then suddenly let out a sigh.

"What's too late?" Lin Shen was taken aback, not understanding the meaning behind Bai Shenfei's abrupt statement.

"If you had said this before I went to the Qi and King families, you could have stayed at the base, but now it's too late," Bai Shenfei said helplessly.

"Why?" Lin Shen still didn't understand what Bai Shenfei meant.

"I already have an agreement with the Qi and King families to take them to Gourd Mountain," Bai Shenfei said.

"You're taking them to Gourd Mountain, what does that have to do with me?" Lin Shen frowned.

"If you hadn't attended the recruitment conference and hadn't displayed such strong abilities, it naturally wouldn't have anything to do with you. But now it's different. Do you think the Qi and King families, with all their elites in action, would leave you behind at the base?" Bai Shenfei spoke.

Lin Shen's expression changed slightly. Just like the Lin Family was on guard against the Qi and King families, they were guarding against the Lin Family as well.

With the other two families' elites fully deployed, there's no way they would leave Lin Shen, impersonating Lin Xiangdong, at the base. Even if they had to coerce him, they would definitely bring him along.

Now Lin Shen had no way to explain that he wasn't Lin Xiangdong. Even if he could make them believe that he wasn't Lin Xiangdong, he couldn't explain his method of overpowering the Supersonic Gunman in a single strike, which would only make the Qi and King families warier and might even lead them to team up and first get control over the Lin Family.

If one thought more sinisterly, it was very possible that the Qi and King families already knew he wasn't Lin Xiangdong and even his impersonation of Lin Xiangdong could be a conspiracy fabricated by the Qi and King families.

It was simply a pretext to take Lin Shen down and forcibly bring him to Gourd Mountain.

After all, Gourd Mountain was originally discovered by the Lin Family, and Mr. Lin Yin, Mr. Lin Zongzheng, and the fourth elder had all gone to Gourd Mountain. If the Lin Family plotted anything, they could also take Lin Shen as a hostage.

But they had not expected Lin Shen to possess such a terrifying power, which made it even less likely for them to leave him at the base.

"Bai, if my fourth brother really asked you to escort me into Gourd Mountain, why did you then tell the Qi and King families about Gourd Mountain?" Lin Shen stared at Bai Shenfei and asked.

"That was also Lin's arrangement," Bai Shenfei seemed to have no intention of explaining in detail.

Lin Shen studied Bai Shenfei for a long time because his view of her expressions and eyes were obscured by the pixelation.

After a while, Lin Shen sighed and said, "It seems like I have no choice but to go this time. Bai, I have only one last question. If there's such a chance in Gourd Mountain that can make someone the strongest man under the starry sky, why don't you want it for yourself?"

"You remembered incorrectly. I said the strongest man under the starry sky, not the strongest under the starry sky. Obtaining that thing is just a possibility; there's a big difference between potentially becoming wealthy and being wealthy from the start," Bai Shenfei's tone was calm yet decidedly firm.

It was clear what Bai Shenfei meant; even if Lin Shen got the thing from Gourd Mountain, he would just possibly become the strongest man, while she, Bai Shenfei, was already stronger than the strongest man, the true strongest under the starry sky.

“Bai, you really are confident. If I haven’t misunderstood, you already have that thing, right?” Lin Shen said.

“If there was no confidence, there would be no need to embark on this evolutionary path,” Bai Shenfei said lightly. “Do you plan to go to Gourd Mountain as Lin Xiangdong or as Lin Shen?”

“The Qi and King families don’t know that my fourth brother went to Gourd Mountain?” Lin Shen looked at Bai Shenfei with skepticism.

Bai Shenfei didn’t tell the Qi and King families that both the third elder and fourth elder had gone to Gourd Mountain; there’s no way they’d send all their elites to follow Bai Shenfei to Gourd Mountain without such knowledge.

“All I know is that Lin and your third brother have gone to Gourd Mountain, and that’s what I told them. I don’t know anything else,” Bai Shenfei seemed to imply something more in her words.

After a brief moment of thought, Lin Shen grasped the deeper meaning in her words.

The Qi and King families already knew that Lin Xiangdong had gone to Gourd Mountain, but they were unsure whether he had returned; theoretically, they couldn’t be certain if the person at the recruitment conference was Lin Xiangdong, unless they knew from the beginning that Lin Shen was impersonating Lin Xiangdong.

“Then I will assume the identity of my fourth brother, and I ask Bai to help conceal it for me,” Lin Shen considered before speaking.

Bai Shenfei laughed upon hearing this, “You want to test Ye?”

“You’re overthinking it, Bai,” Lin Shen neither admitted nor denied.

“This is your family’s affair. I am only responsible for escorting you into Gourd Mountain,” Bai Shenfei did not say more.

“Then I must inconvenience you, Bai. In public, I can only call you ‘junior sister,’” Lin Shen said.

“It’s just a title, no matter. Prepare yourself. I have already arranged with the Qi and Wang families, and we are set to depart for Gourd Mountain the day after tomorrow,” Bai Shenfei stated, then rose and left the room, vanishing in a blink like a ghost.

“Who was it that immediately turned hostile upon hearing the title ‘Little Feifei’?” Lin Shen mused internally, but aloud, he questioned, “What exactly is in Gourd Mountain that has the Qi and Wang families so convinced?”

“It’s not that they trust me. Even without me, knowing the news, they would still go. It’s just that now they are afraid I will go first, so they must cooperate with me. As for what’s inside Gourd Mountain, only by seeing it will we know what it is. The thing at each Mutation Point is different. What’s certain is that this thing is the key to the path of the strong. With it, you have the chance to become a true powerhouse,” Bai Shenfei explained before walking out of the room and disappearing, swift as a specter.

“The day after tomorrow, huh? I hope it’s not too late,” Lin Shen glanced at the incubation pod where the three Base Mutation Eggs stripped of the Fire Seed remained still.

After a moment of thought, Lin Shen went to the study, took out paper and pen, and wrote a letter.

Dear Sister:

In the twenty-one years since I was born, though I have not had the joy of being doted on by our parents, I have never felt a moment of loss or unease. You have given me all the most beautiful fantasies of a mother and sister, to the extent that even I feel overly spoiled.

Heaven has been overly kind to me, perhaps exhausting the good fortune of ten lifetimes, allowing me to be your brother in this life.

I believe my second, third, and fourth brothers have all felt the same, being your brother is the proudest thing in our lives.

However, as your brother, there is one thing I am very, very dissatisfied with.

You have given us the best of everything but kept nothing for yourself, still alone to this day to take care of us. Do you want us to be cursed as ‘supportive brother demons’ by others?

Sister, you are too kind and too selfish, self-centered to the point of not even giving us the chance to offer our support. Your brothers have grown up; they too want to experience the joy of providing for loved ones.

The three older brothers can still use me as a test subject, but whom can I use as one?

I heard from my fourth brother that there was once an outstanding man who wanted to join hands with you in partnership, but ultimately, because you couldn’t let go of us, he ended up worlds apart from you.

This is where you are wrong, sister. Do you think your brothers are so incompetent that they cannot even care for themselves?

If there is an afterlife, I hope not to be your brother again because I no longer deserve to receive so much from you.

If there is an afterlife, I hope to be your older brother so that I can return all your doting tenfold.

Sister, by the time you read this letter, I should have already left.

Don't worry, and don't be sad. Give me some time to find some connections below so that we can be siblings in the next life.

Promise me, for the rest of your time, live for yourself. Don't make me owe even more, or I won't be able to pay it back in the next life.

That man, if you still like him, go find him, don't save your brother's face, sleep with him.

Sister, I'll wait for you in the next life—your most beloved little brother, Lin Shen.

After putting the written letter into an envelope and placing it into an iron biscuit box, Lin Shen remembered how his elder sister used to fill this iron box with his favorite things.

If Lin Shen himself couldn't come back this time, his elder sister should be able to find the letter upon returning to the base.

If he could return, he would destroy this letter immediately, not even leaving the ashes behind.

About embarking on an adventure to Gourd Mountain, deep down, Lin Shen wasn't so adverse to the idea; it was only because of the initial promise that made him reluctant to venture out of the base.

Yet there was some urge inside him—denying his interest in what Gourd Mountain held was utterly deceiving himself.

Returning the iron box to its usual place, Lin Shen was lost in thought when suddenly he heard a 'crack' from within the incubation pod.