

48 Hours 1091

Chapter 1091: The Endless Tunnel

Seeing Zhang Heng and Fan Meinan's reaction, Ma Lu became a little shaken himself.

However, he still found it hard to accept these surreal things. The concept of an endless tunnel sounded utter ridiculous.

However, he did see Zhang Heng pick up the one-dollar coin from the ground. Logically speaking, no one had entered this tunnel since it was abandoned 50 years ago, and at that time, this one-dollar coin hadn't even been designed yet. This indicated that the coin had been tossed not too long ago.

Of course, there was another possibility, and that was the two people who had jumped off the platform earlier. Thinking of this, Ma Lu's eyes lit up again. He felt that he had found the only possible explanation. He, however, did not understand why Zhang Heng would lie about this matter. After contacting the other party, he insisted on listening to him talk about the rumors here. Zhang Heng appeared to be deliberately turning the atmosphere into a scary one.

It was only then that Ma Lu remembered that he actually did not know the identities of Zhang Heng and Fan Meinan. Previously, he did not care much about this matter. After all, as long as one was not a newcomer in the workplace, they would know that it was better to avoid unnecessary trouble. Zhang Heng and Fan Meinan were arranged by the higher-ups to participate in the rescue operation, and Ma Lu had always been very polite to the two of them.

But now, he couldn't help but feel a little apprehensive about Zhang Heng and Fan Meinan's true identities. They had been behaving from the start, and their focus was different from that of ordinary people. What surprised him more was what happened next. Ma Lu saw Zhang Heng put the large backpack he had been carrying on the ground.

He opened the zipper on the top and took out a longbow from inside.

Although the bow was wrapped in white cloth, Ma Lu instinctively felt a chill. When Zhang Heng untied the white cloth and revealed the authentic appearance of the bow, Ma Lu inhaled sharply.

It was the first time he had seen such a cool-looking longbow. The body of the bow looked like it was made of bones. It had a pale white luster that was unique to bone stubble. Coupled with its ferocious appearance, it reeked of ominous tellings.

Since he already had a bow, it was impossible he didn't have arrows.

Ma Lu then saw Zhang Heng pull out an arrow pouch from his bag. He took out an antique-looking arrow from it and placed it on the white bone bow.

When the arrow was pointed at Ma Lu, he felt all his blood rushing to the top of his head. For some reason, he felt like he had nowhere to hide. Fortunately, Zhang Heng opened his mouth and asked politely, "Ma Lu, can you give me some space? Move aside, please."

Ma Lu was frozen solid for a good half-minute before he finally reacted and hurriedly moved away.

Zhang Heng actually didn't know if this method would work. Now that the three of them were trapped in this endless tunnel, they couldn't communicate with the outside world and couldn't use their navigation. If they continued to walk like this, the end result would be similar to the fate suffered by those who disappeared more than 50 years ago.

Therefore, Zhang Heng had no choice but to do something about it. He studied the items on his body and realized that the most likely one to come in handy in this situation was the Paris Arrow.

This arrow featured a capability of automatically hitting the target's weakness after it left the bow.

On the surface, this characteristic did not seem to help the three of them in their current predicament. However, during the battle against Zavilcha, Zhang Heng had used the Paris Arrow to find out the real body of the monster.

It was also at that time that he discovered that the Paris Arrow also had a certain navigation bonus. Of course, this bonus wasn't that easy to activate. Previously, when Zhang Heng used the Paris Arrow, the target must be within his line of sight, or at least within his line of sight before the arrow left the bow.

In other words, if Zhang Heng could not see the enemy, he could not use the arrow to track them. However, there were exceptions. When he was dealing with Zavilcha, for instance, Zhang Heng had aimed at the melted wall. The Paris Arrow, however, led him to Zavilcha's real body in the library.

In other words, whether ventriloquist or puppet, it would be recognized as a part of the real body, which triggered its weakness attribute. However, Zhang Heng was not sure how great its range was.

He wasn't even sure if what they were experiencing was an illusion or something else. Zhang Heng only decided to use the Paris Arrow to try out its effects here. If it didn't work, he would consider other options.

In order to observe the landing point and direction of the Paris Arrow, Zhang Heng didn't fully draw the bow. When he released his finger, the arrow left the bowstring and flew forward without hesitation.

Fan Meinan observed the trajectory of the arrow with her flashlight nervously. In the end, he realized that the Paris Arrow was flying straight forward. There was nothing out of the ordinary about its trajectory, then, and when its kinetic energy was exhausted, it was pulled down to the ground by gravity.

Did it fail?

Zhang Heng walked to the spot where the arrow had landed and picked up the Paris arrow from the ground. After hesitating for a moment, he did not put it back into his travel bag. Instead, he put it back on the Pestilence Bone Bow and raised it. This time, Zhang Heng did not point the darkness in front of him but aimed directly at the wall to his right.

Ma Lu blinked. He had no idea what Zhang Heng was trying to do. It was already strange enough that he had shot an arrow into the darkness for no apparent reason, but now, he was targeting the wall of the tunnel. Perhaps he hoped that this arrow could make a hole in the wall and lead everyone out of here.

Just as these thoughts ran through Ma Lu's mind, Zhang Heng loosened his grip on the arrow. The arrow on the white bone bow flew out again, but then Ma Lu saw something that almost made his eyes pop

out of their sockets—just before the arrow was about to hit the wall, it suddenly turned around for no reason and continued to fly forward, landing about 30 meters away.

What the heck was that?! This time, Ma Lu was genuinely shocked. If the one-dollar coin from before could be explained, he really couldn't explain what was happening before him. This arrow that completely defied physics caused his back to be soaked by streams of cold sweat.

Zhang Heng, too, was a little surprised, never expecting the Paris Arrow to have really worked. Before it flew forward, it was because the target was really in front of it. After that, Zhang Heng changed direction, and the Paris arrow automatically corrected its trajectory. Zhang Heng continued to work hard, repeating the action of shooting and picking up the arrows. He paid special attention to keeping the arrow in his field of vision every time.

In the end, after about fifteen minutes, the three of them actually walked out of the tunnel and saw another platform.

Chapter 1092: The Strange Sound of the Station

Ma Lu finally heaved a sigh of relief when he saw the platform. The main thing was that what had taken place tonight was indeed a little too bizarre.

Whether it was the two people that jumped off the platform and disappeared, the ridiculously long tunnel, the dollar coin Zhang Heng picked up along the way, or the extremely retro equipment that he was wearing now... all were unheard of by Ma Lu.

Coupled with Zhang Heng's conclusion that he had fallen into a loop, even an atheist like Ma Lu couldn't help but feel a little shaken. It was not until he saw the platform that his heart rate, which had been rising, gradually slowed down.

This time, Ma Lu was careful. He first looked at the platform in front of him. He was sure that this platform was not the same as the one they had come down from, even though the shape and appearance of the two were almost identical, but upon careful inspection, he could still see some differences.

First of all, there was no iron ladder above this platform that could go to the tunnel above their heads. Secondly, there was no pile of construction waste on the platform this time, which made it seem mainly empty. Moreover, miraculously, there was no dust on the ground. Instead, it was shining as if something was constantly rubbing against it. However, Ma Lu was disappointed that he did not see the two missing people on the platform.

He glanced at the dark tunnel entrance not far away and hesitated, which was rare. It was mainly because the previous stretch of road was too long, and Ma Lu did not know if the tunnel would be as long as the previous one.

When he led the search team, he never expected the missing person to come here. He was not well-prepared, and he did not bring any food or water. After shouting for so long, he was thirsty, and even if they did find the missing person, they would still have to walk a long way before they could return. After some thought, Ma Lu had no choice but to adjust his original plan. He suggested it to Zhang Heng and Han Lu.

"The situation seems a little out of our control. Let's go back and tell the higher-ups about what's happened here."

However, to his surprise, Zhang Heng shook his head and insisted that they would not leave until they found the missing person. Then, Zhang Heng looked at him and added, "I advise you not to turn back."

"Why?" Ma Lu was confused.

However, Zhang Heng found it to explain. The tunnel they walked through was obviously problematic, and all who entered would fall into a certain repeating loop. Zhang Heng did not know if Cheng Sihan and Beta were also trapped in this cycle. Although he could use the Paris Arrow to get out, it was impossible for him to return to the platform he had just arrived at.

No matter what caused the anomaly, it was at this end of the tunnel and not the first platform. The Paris Arrow could lead him here, but not to his starting point.

In other words, Zhang Heng and Fan Meinan had no other choice. Whether they wanted to find the missing Cheng Sihan or return to the surface, they had to find the owner of this place first.

Hearing no explanation from Zhang Heng, Ma Lu pursued the matter no further. No matter how slow he was, he could still sense that something was wrong with the situation here. Although he still did not quite believe in this loop idea, he also felt that it was better not to act alone at a time like this.

"Should we continue forward like this then?" Ma Lu illuminated the tunnel ahead with his long flashlight. It was still dark there, and it was impossible to see where it led to.

"No." Zhang Heng pointed at the platform beside him. "Let's go up."

The last Paris Arrow landed in the direction of the platform, which meant that the thing should be hidden in this station and not the tunnel ahead.

As Zhang Heng spoke, he climbed up the platform easily and retrieved the Paris Arrow. Then, he reached out to Fan Meinan, wanting to pull her up as well. However, at that moment, a rumbling sound came from above his head. It sounded like thunder, shaking the entire station to its core!

"Is it an earthquake?!" Ma Lu's heart tightened.

However, the tremors only happened once, but then there was an even stranger noise. It was as if something was dragging a train across the ground.

Just hearing the sound made Ma Lu instinctively fearful. Fortunately, the sound quickly disappeared, and after about half a minute, the station returned to normal.

Having just come back to his senses, Ma Lu realized that Zhang Heng had pulled back his Pestilence Bone Bow. He knelt with one knee on the ground and aimed at the stairway.

"What was that thing just now?" Ma Lu's heart rate rose again. He had believed that after witnessing so many strange things, nothing could scare him anymore. He now realized that he was still too optimistic.

"I don't know," Zhang Heng said. "But it's obviously a big thing." He paused and added, "Let's go. We'd better follow it."

“Are you serious?” Ma Lu was shocked by Zhang Heng’s next plan. His voice was already so scary, but Zhang Heng still wanted to see the real thing? For the first time, Ma Lu began to doubt whether it was a wise decision to follow the two of them down here.

Zhang Heng, on the other hand, was very considerate. He even said, “If you’re worried, you can stay on this platform and wait for us to come back. Just don’t wander off.”

Before Ma Lu could reply, he heard a rustling sound again, but it was a very soft one this time, like something brushing against a piece of paper. If it hadn’t been for the silence in this godforsaken place, Ma Lu might not have been able to hear it.

He could barely tell that the sound came from the tunnel ahead. Therefore, Ma Lu turned his flashlight over and saw a black figure crawling out of the tunnel entrance.

With the light from the flashlight, Ma Lu could tell that it was a small snake. It was probably a very common brocade snake. It was not poisonous and was about a meter long. It slithered swiftly with its forked tongue constantly probing the air in front of it. When the flashlight shone on it, its body stiffened, it stopped moving.

Ma Lu did not usually like snakes, but looking at this tiny one, he felt that it was somewhat delicate and pretty.

The main reason was that he really did not know how things would turn out based on the strange atmosphere tonight. Terrified that something unknown would crawl out of the tunnel, his heart could bear no more stimulation. This was also the first other creature they had seen in this seemingly forgotten world. Ma Lu could not help but feel a sense of familiarity in his heart.

However, the small silk snake opposite him did not seem to think so. It did not stay stiff for long before it coiled up and put on a vigilant look.

Chapter 1093: Colossus

The small snake tried its best to straighten its neck, attempting to give itself a more menacing countenance.

This was also the most common posture of serpent-like creatures when encountering an enemy. However, because it wasn’t that large and wasn’t poisonous, it was just a bluff no matter how much it changed its posture.

From the expression on Ma Lu’s face, it could be seen that he did not take the small snake’s threat seriously. However, his ease only lasted for a few seconds, and then he heard a rustling sound.

If the rustling sound before was like someone shaking a piece of white paper, now it was like tens of thousands of pieces of white paper being shaken together. The sound was not loud, but when it gathered together, it made one’s hair stand on end.

Ma Lu felt all the blood in his body freeze, especially when he saw the scene in the tunnel through the light of the flashlight.

He saw that the walls and the ground of the tunnel were now crawling with densely packed snakes. Not only were they snakes, but they were pit vipers, pythons, cobras, water snakes... Ma Lu had never seen

so many snakes in his entire life. It was as if he had walked into a snake museum. Moreover, many of these snakes had different habitats and living environments. He did not know how they gathered in this abandoned subway line from all over the world.

And how would they hunt and obtain food when so many snakes lived together?

But this was obviously not the time for this because those snakes were already scrambling toward the tunnel entrance as if supporting the small snake. Moreover, they did not stop after crawling out of the tunnel. Very soon, they crept towards the three of them again.

“What do we do now?” Ma Lu was so anxious that his forehead was covered in a cold sweat.

He didn’t really care if it was a single serpent, but there was clearly a wave of snakes in front of him. There was no lack of venomous snakes either, not to mention the larger pythons. As long as they were bitten by the former, considering the length of the tunnel. Ma Lu didn’t think that he would be able to walk to the surface to receive treatment. As for pythons, they were even scarier. These snakes could even swallow water buffaloes. They either gorged on their prey until they overate or died from overeating. It had always been the rule for pythons to hunt.

Zhang Heng didn’t immediately answer Ma Lu’s question. Instead, he reached out to pull Fan Meinan up the platform. He then said to Ma Lu, “Looks like you have no choice but to follow us upstairs.”

Ma Lu instinctively resisted when he thought about the loud rumbling and the dragging sound that followed. Reason told him that it was better to stay away from that thing, but compared to the snake tide that was right in front of him, the unknown threat was still further away.

It might be dangerous to go up, but staying here was definitely a dead end. Therefore, Ma Lu didn’t need to hesitate to know what to do. He buried his head in Zhang Heng and Fan Meinan’s heels and ran up the stairs.

The three moved as fast as they could. Since the platform itself was of a certain height, the first batch of snakes couldn’t climb up for the time being, and the three of them had already reached the stairs. However, Ma Lu didn’t expect Zhang Heng to stop after running a few steps.

Ma Lu wanted to ask what had happened, but he soon saw the situation in front of him. Something was blocking the exit of the stairs. It was huge, and it had gray skin. Looking like an elephant lying on the ground, it had to be some sort of creature.

Ma Lu thought there must be something wrong with his eyes. He was looking at an elephant in a subway station that had been abandoned for fifty years.

Typically, he would have tried to figure out what was going on, but he hadn’t forgotten that he was running for his life. Without saying anything, Zhang Heng and Fan Meinan turned around and ran toward another staircase.

However, unlike this staircase, the other staircase was closer to the snake tide. Now that some of the snakes had climbed onto the platform, the three of them had no choice but to speed up.

Ma Lu was originally at the back of the group, but he turned around and ran in front. Of course, if Zhang Heng really released his maximum speed, he would surpass Ma Lu very quickly. However, to ensure the well-being of Fan Meinan beside him, not only did he not move faster, but he deliberately slowed down.

Even so, Fan Meinan still found it very difficult to keep up with him. Compared to the last time they met, she was in a way worse condition. Having walked through a very long tunnel, Fan Meinan had used up quite a bit of her energy, and she was panting heavily after just two steps.

Zhang Heng simply took off his Pestilence Bone Bow and squatted down in front of her. "Get on my back."

Fan Meinan knew that this was not the time to be unreasonable. Without hesitation, she climbed onto Zhang Heng's back and took the Pestilence Bone Bow from Zhang Heng's hand without hesitations.

With this delay, Ma Lu had pulled the two of them about twenty meters away.

He took the lead and rushed up another flight of stairs right before the sea of snakes converged completely. He ran toward the second floor, but when he turned around, he realized that Zhang Heng and Fan Meinan were no longer behind him.

Ma Lu's heart sank. He thought that he had been abandoned, but he soon saw Zhang Heng running toward them with Fan Meinan on his back. However, there were already a lot of snakes climbing up the stairs in front of them and were about to lose their footing.

Therefore, Ma Lu started to worry about the two of them again. However, he could only stare at them from above. There was nothing he could do,

On the other hand, Zhang Heng's face showed no signs of panic.

Zhang Heng held the travel bag in one hand and used the other hand to pull out the Hidden Scabbard from his waist.

With a flash of a knife, a soldering iron head in front of him was cut into two pieces. Zhang Heng stepped on the body of the soldering iron head and ran up the stairs. The Hidden Scabbard in his hand did not stop. Soon, he cut off another tiger snake that tried to attack him.

At the same time, Zhang Heng found the second landing spot and stepped on it with his sneakers. The surrounding snakes started to move, but before they could do anything, they were already cut into two.

Zhang Heng then danced the Hidden Scabbard into a light screen to protect himself and Fan Meinan. He blocked the snakes that were about to attack them while clearing the path for himself.

In Ma Lu's eyes, Zhang Heng was like a meat grinder. He had killed countless snakes along the way, and no snakes could get close to him and Fan Meinan. Even the snakes that tried to attack him from behind were easily decapitated by him.

Finally, Zhang Heng carried Fan Meinan on his back and met up with Ma Lu again. The three of them arrived at the second floor of the station and saw the thing blocking another staircase. However, they realized that it was not an elephant at all, it was a humongous sperm whale!

Chapter 1094: Desperate Snaketide

The only thing more ridiculous than an elephant appearing in a station was a sperm whale.

If he hadn't seen it with his own eyes, Ma Lu would've never believed that such a massive beast that thrived in the vast oceans would be stranded in an abandoned underground railway station. The sperm whale in front of him was actually still alive, probably a little dispirited after leaving the ocean. Lying on the ground, it had little strength to struggle anymore.

Ma Lu recalled the rumbling sound he had heard earlier, as well as the earthquake that disappeared as suddenly as it appeared. Now, it seemed that it wasn't an earthquake but something else that had thrown this huge whale here. Weighing in at over 60 tons, the colossal mammal fell to the ground, causing the entire station to tremble.

The size and weight of a whale far exceeded that of any other land creature. Ma Lu didn't dare to think about how big the thing that had dragged it here should be.

Zhang Heng also noticed the sperm whale, but he didn't have the time to deal with it at the moment. Even though the three of them had run up to the second floor, they weren't out of danger yet. The most important thing now was to keep a distance from the snaketide.

Zhang Heng looked around the second floor. On his left and right, two tunnels laid side by side. These should correspond to the four entrances and exits of the subway station, but the tunnels in different directions were quite a distance apart. Zhang Heng had already made the wrong choice once before, so he wasn't in a hurry this time. He calmed himself down and thought carefully for a moment.

In the end, he chose the two tunnels on his right because the thing that had thrown the sperm whale on the second floor had left in that direction. Zhang Heng heard the loud dragging noises from that direction; even though that thing was probably more dangerous than the snake tide, at least it proved that this path could be taken.

However, just as the three of them were about to reach that place, they saw a despairing scene. They saw another dense mass of black shadows surging out from the two passageways.

"How could this be?!" Ma Lu felt unstable as he felt the world around him spinning wildly.

They didn't know how to deal with the snake tide behind them, much less expect a new wave of enemies. Moreover, the three of them were caught in the middle of the two waves of snake tide so that they couldn't advance or retreat.

Ma Lu had never been in such a desperate situation before. He looked around at the densely packed snakes as if going to drown the entire station. Ma Lu really couldn't imagine what the three of them could do to survive such a situation.

Just as he was about to give up and resign himself to fate, he heard Zhang Heng say to him, "What are you waiting for? This way."

Ma Lu saw Zhang Heng run to a pillar, put fan Meinan on his back, and then open his travel bag. So, Ma Lu also rushed over. He had hoped that Zhang Heng's travel bag would contain some killer weapon; in the end, all he saw was Zhang Heng pouring out a pile of Lego parts.

"..."

Ma Lu didn't know what to say. The last thing he expected to see was Zhang Heng in the mood to play with Lego blocks at a time like this, especially after knowing that a few snakes were approaching.

Zhang Heng, however, acted as if he didn't see them. He continued to focus on the Lego blocks in his hands. It wasn't until the snakes were less than half a meter away from Ma Lu that Zhang Heng pulled out his Hidden Scabbard again. With a single slash, the snakes were decapitated.

Ma Lu, however, was not optimistic. Compared to the swarm of snakes in front of him, the ones that Zhang Heng had dealt with were just a drop in the bucket. Furthermore, Zhang Heng dealt with the snakes that were already swarming over him with one hand while his other was still piecing together the blocks.

Ma Lu really did not know what kind of magical attraction those blocks had. They were making Zhang Heng completely disregard his life.

As the number of snakes in front of them increased, it started to become impossible for Zhang Heng to defend himself with a single blade. Fan Meinan and Ma Lu had no choice but to join in the battle, but they did not have any weapons in their hands and could only use their shoes to kick the snakes away. Fortunately, Zhang Heng chose a good spot. The three of them had their backs against the stone pillars, so they only needed to deal with the enemies on three sides. They did not need to guard their backs anymore.

However, the situation was only temporary. As more and more snakes crawled out from the two tunnels not far away, it was getting harder and harder for the three of them to see the space around them.

"Buy me two minutes," Zhang Heng said to Fan Meinan without raising his head.

"Okay." Fan Meinan wasted no time and pulled out a piece of chocolate from her pocket. Even though her special ability had disappeared, she still had a few game items on her. This piece of chocolate was one of them, and it was just the right item for this situation. Previously, she was pinching it when she was lying on Zhang Heng's back. However, Zhang Heng had told her that she didn't need any help for the time being, so she put it back into her pocket.

Now, Fan Meinan broke off a piece of chocolate the size of a fingernail and threw it into the group of snakes. Then, all the snakes started to go crazy. They completely forgot about the three and swarmed toward the chocolate. A snake that had almost reached the feet of the three of them was in a hurry to turn around and snatch the piece of chocolate. Unfortunately, they were too late.

The piece of chocolate was swallowed by a corn snake as soon as it landed on the ground. However, before it could savor the taste of the chocolate, another green bamboo snake beside it bit into its body. Due to the protection of the scales, however, the bamboo green snake was unable to bite the corn snake's flesh. However, its angry action seemed to have pushed some buttons.

Then, the companion next to the corn snake seemed to have suddenly woken up and rushed to bite it... not long after, the corn snake was completely eaten up. Not even a bone was left. The snakes regained their calm, too, turning around again to slither towards the three of them.

Fan Meinan did the same thing again. She broke off another piece of chocolate and threw it over, causing the snakes to fight for the food again. The good news was that every time she threw the

chocolate, it would buy the three of them about 20 seconds of safety. The bad news was that the bar of chocolate in her hand was getting smaller and smaller.

Until she threw out the last piece of chocolate, the group of snakes experienced another period of restlessness. Fan Meinan wanted to throw the chocolate again but found only some residue left in the tin foil.

Fan Meinan threw the remaining residue and the tin foil into the distance, but the snakes didn't seem so obsessed, probably because there was not so much chocolate this time. After the tin foil was swallowed by a snake, the snakes next to it did not attack it anymore. Instead, they surrounded the three people from all directions.

Chapter 1095: T-148

Fan Meinan subconsciously took half a step back. She had no way of stopping the snake swarm after using up that piece of chocolate. Although she still had two items on her, they weren't of much use at a time like this. Ma Lu, on the other hand, was an ordinary person, and she couldn't count on him. In fact, it was impressive enough that he hadn't been scared shitless already.

Fortunately, Zhang Heng's voice came from behind them.

"Alright, leave the rest to me."

Ma Lu turned around and realized that the pile of Lego bricks in front of Zhang Heng had disappeared. In its place were two metal canisters that were as tall as a person. They were connected to each other and had a pressure monitor and safety valve on top. At the bottom was a hose connected to something that looked like a flamethrower.

Now, the nozzle was in Zhang Heng's hand.

After Ma Lu and Fan Meinan retreated behind him, Zhang Heng pulled the trigger and a terrifying pillar of fire shot out the muzzle. The terrifying, over-60 meter-long inferno engulfed almost everything in front of it. Wherever the flames passed, many snakes were directly roasted. Some were even burnt to charcoal, and the air was filled with the smell of burnt flesh.

When Zhang Heng finished his first flame injection, there were almost no other living creatures within 25 meters of them.

The T-148 flamethrower was manufactured by the Italian company TIRENA. First appearing in the 1980s, it was used to deal with a large number of enemies and strong fortifications. In other words, it was a piece of equipment that was used on the battlefield to gnaw on the toughest bones. It was an extremely powerful weapon, not to mention that Zhang Heng had also expanded its fuel capacity.

The standard T-148 flamethrower could shoot up to 18 times, while the "plus" version that Zhang Heng had assembled with Lego and Infinite Building Blocks could be used at least 30 times. When he pressed the trigger, Ma Lu, who was a meter behind him, could also feel an astonishing heatwave, causing his hair to curl involuntarily.

What surprised Ma Lu more was that he had no idea where Zhang Heng got this set of equipment. Just a few minutes ago, Zhang Heng had been lying on the ground playing with his pack of building blocks.

However, too many unbelievable things had happened that night, and Ma Lu was already somewhat numbed by it. He knew that even if he opened his mouth, Zhang Heng might not be willing to explain it to him.

After burning at least a few hundred snakes in one go, Zhang Heng put down the airbrush and picked up the Hidden Scabbard by his feet. He started to deal with the new batch of snakes that were crawling toward them. With a swing of his knife, the few snakes quickly followed in the footsteps of their companions, and when the snakes behind them gathered again and increased in number, Zhang Heng picked up the airbrush again.

After repeating this a few times, the whole station looked as if it had been roasted in a furnace. Although there were still snakes slithering out of the tunnel, it was unknown if it was because they were completely terrified of the corpses of their compatriots, or because they did not like high temperatures that fewer and fewer snakes were coming toward them.

On the contrary, the body of the sperm whale was already crawling with all kinds of snakes, densely packed together. These snakes were constantly eating the whale's flesh, as though enjoying a feast. In addition, there were also snakes crawling into its head through its pores.

"This is..." Ma Lu too was attracted by this cruel scene. He even temporarily forgot that they weren't completely out of danger yet.

"That's right. This sperm whale is here because something wanted to feed the snakes in this place," Zhang Heng said lightly as he casually cut off a ring snake that was trying to crawl to his feet.

He then dusted it with the T-148. He could basically confirm that although the snakes in front of him were a mixture of different species, some even endangered or declared extinct, they were essentially just ordinary snakes with no mutation.

As for why the three of them were targeted by the serpents, it wasn't because someone was behind the scenes, secretly controlling the swarm, or if the group of snakes really wanted to support the small snake. It was purely because the three of them were unlucky. They just happened to be at the dinner time of the snake group and were mistaken for food along with the sperm whale.

"Who? No, what kind of thing feeds a whale to a snake?" Ma Lu was shocked.

He only asked this question subconsciously because he had already asked Zhang Heng once during the earthquake. Zhang Heng did not know what they were up against, so Ma Lu didn't expect to get an answer.

However, Zhang Heng actually answered him this time.

"I can roughly guess whose territory we are in."

"Who?" Fan Meinan raised his eyebrows.

"You've been Loki's agent for some time, so you should have done some research on him. You know that besides his wife, Sigurn, Loki also had three children with the female giant, Angelboda. These three children are much more famous than his and Sigurn's two children."

“The earth-shaking monster Fenrir, the earthly Python Jemengard, and the goddess of death, Hela. They’re similar to the Four Horsemen of the Apocalypse. When they appear, it means the end of the world is nigh!” Fan Meinan replied fluently before a look of realization appeared on his face. “We met Jemengard?”

Jemengard, the second child of Loki and the female giant Angelboda, was Fenrir’s younger brother, Hela’s older brother, Thor’s sworn enemy, and the rumored Python with a huge body. As soon as Jemengard was born, he was regarded as a major threat to Asgard by the main god Odin. It was a disaster that would befall Asgard.

Therefore, Odin threw him into the bottomless sea of the mortal world when he was young. When he grew up, his body became bigger and bigger. He stretched his body and bit his tail, enveloping the entire mortal world, therefore, he was also known as the giant snake that surrounded the atrium.

In the twilight of the gods, Jemengard met his mortal enemy Thor. A fierce battle broke out between the two of them. In the end, Thor hit Jemengard’s head with his hammer, and Jemengard injected the venom into Thor’s body. The two eventually died together.

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“I should have thought of it earlier. The Ouroboros itself means both the beginning and the end. It has the meaning of an endless cycle. That’s why we were trapped in that endless tunnel. There were also those construction workers who suffered from strange diseases. They must have been unknowingly poisoned by Jemengard’s poison. It was also Jemengard who brought this sperm whale, which was originally roaming in the deep sea, here to feed the snakes in the tunnel,” Zhang Heng said.

Chapter 1096: Song of the Whale

While Zhang Heng and Fan Meinan were talking, Ma Lu didn’t say a word. But now, he couldn’t hold it in anymore. “I’m sorry, but what you said about Loki and the female giant are all code names, right?”

Middle-aged men like Ma Lu, who had grown and young children, were mostly busy earning money to support their families. They didn’t have much free time left, and their usual entertainment was very simple. They just watched football with their brothers and friends and drank a few bottles of beer. He didn’t go to the cinema or read any novels, so he didn’t know much about mythology, especially western mythology.

Therefore, the names that Zhang Heng mentioned were unfamiliar to him, but he could tell that the characters in the story were not ordinary people, especially people like Thor. It was just like the folk legends of thunder and lightning that he had heard when he was young.

Now that Zhang Heng and Fan Meinan were discussing the monsters in the legends, Ma Lu could not help but feel a sense of absurdity.

Zhang Heng did not explain in detail. He only said, “You just have to treat our opponent as a giant snake.”

“How big is the giant snake?”

“I don’t know yet, but it’s definitely not as big as the legend says,” Zhang Heng consoled.

Yemengarde was also known as the giant snake that circled the atrium.

However, if it was really as big as the one recorded in Norse mythology, its body should circle the Earth once. This was obviously not possible. In fact, the supernatural creatures Zhang Heng had seen so far were not as powerful as the original story. Otherwise, even ten Avengers would not be able to save any of them.

However, to drag a sperm whale to the station... this Yeomengard was definitely not small. Furthermore, based on the rumors that Ma Lu had told him about the abandoned subway line, it was already certain that this Yeomengard could also spew poisonous fog, as the legends said. In addition, it seemed to be able to control people's minds to a certain extent.

The worker that went missing more than 50 years ago was summoned into the tunnel by Nightmare Gad. The Endless Tunnel that the three of them had just passed through also had a certain hallucinogenic attribute. Other than that, there was also the group of snakes that it reared.

If these snakes were randomly picked out, even the most poisonous of poisonous snakes wouldn't cause much trouble. Even an ordinary person like Ma Lu would be able to deal with them as long as they paid attention. However, with such a large group of snakes charging at them—if Zhang Heng did not have the Infinite Building Block, he would have probably died before he even saw the real thing.

However, the current situation was not entirely a bad thing for him. Although Zhang Heng had arrived at dinner time of the snakes, the snakes had also arrived at Zhang Heng's Barbecue Party.

Zhang Heng did not have any intention of saving fuel. After all, the T-148 in his hand would turn into Lego building blocks again in an hour. Thus, when he saw that the snakes had given up on attacking them and were gradually moving away from the high-temperature area, he did not plan to let them go. He asked Ma Lu to assist him in dragging the two oil cylinders forward by about 50 meters and arrived in front of the sperm whale.

The latter was now like the piece of chocolate that Fan Meinan had thrown out, firmly attracting the snakes. Its huge body was crawling with colorful snakes. Almost no skin was exposed, making it look like a tall snake mountain, where tens upon tens of thousands of snakes crawled on it. It was indescribably bizarre.

For some reason, its originally hard and rough skin had become as soft as jelly, allowing the poisonous snakes with only two fangs to devour its flesh and blood with ease.

Zhang Heng's approach to the sperm whale also caused a commotion among the snakes. Therefore, some of the snakes that couldn't squeeze onto the whale's back wanted to find another place to eat, but what awaited them was the sharp blade of the Hidden Scabbard.

Ma Lu also noticed that not only was Zhang Heng's knife skills outstanding, but when he used the Tang knife-like weapon to slash at the snakes, it was like cutting butter with a hot knife. He easily sliced the target in half without any resistance—some of the snakes did not even realize that their heads had been cut open. They continued to crawl forward until their heads fell to the ground after another two steps.

Just as Ma Lu was marveling at the sharpness of the Hidden Scabbard, Zhang Heng, who was in front of him, let out a soft exclamation of surprise.

Zhang Heng walked closer and realized that the sperm whale, which had been reduced to a group of snakes for lunch, was not completely dead. Its eyeballs had been eaten long ago. However, the two bloody holes were still slightly undulating, and there was a steady flow of blood flowing out of them. It was as if it was crying for its own fate.

Zhang Heng stopped in his tracks and raised the T-148 in his hand. “Looks like you’re not willing to be eaten just like that. In that case, let me send you on your way.” With that, he pulled the trigger of the spray gun again, the thick pillar of fire mercilessly charged toward the dying sperm whale.

Feeling the heatwave from behind, the snakes that were still eating started to feel uneasy. There was even a commotion. Some of the snakes stopped their mouths and stood up in alert. However, in the face of the oncoming fire, this instinctive action did not work.

Soon, the snakes were engulfed by flames. Because the body of the sperm whale was too big, Zhang Heng even turned the muzzle a few times to ensure that the fire burned every inch of the whale’s skin.

The fuel used by the T-148 was extremely flammable, and the whale’s body was rich in blubber. All Zhang Heng had to do was light it up. Under the burning pillar of fire, the whale quickly turned into a huge candle. Even though Zhang Heng had moved the flamethrower, the flames on its body did not go out. Instead, they burned brighter and brighter.

However, the sperm whale did not show any signs of pain. In fact, it even let out a whale’s cry in the midst of the raging flames.

This was the first time Ma Lu had heard a whale’s cry, and it was at a subway station. No one would believe it even if they heard it.

The voice sounded melodious and low as if coming from the depths of the deep ocean. It contained a faint sense of loneliness. However, Ma Lu did not know if it was his own misconception—he detected a hint of undetectable joy from the loneliness. It was as if the sperm whale assassin hadn’t reached the end of its life but had returned to the deep sea and swam freely in the ocean.

Zhang Heng also heard the whale’s cry, but his hands didn’t stop moving. He continued to burn the open space around the giant whale with a pillar of fire. There were still many snakes that hadn’t been able to climb up the sperm whale’s body before. If nothing went wrong, they might have to face off against Yermenga in the future. Zhang Heng didn’t want to face a sea of snakes at that time, so he used this opportunity to clear out the monsters before the boss battle.

Chapter 1097: Peach Flavor

In the end, Zhang Heng was unable to finish the fuel in the two oil cylinders.

Because the station was almost surrounded by thick smoke and fire, the reinforced concrete built the station didn’t burn easily. The station had also been abandoned before it was used, and since it wasn’t renovated, no combustible materials had been installed either. However, as the sperm whale was set ablaze, the situation began to change, and with the corpses of the snakes on the ground, the fire gradually grew.

Nonetheless, at the moment, most of the snakes had been dealt with by Zhang Heng. There were still a few hundred that escaped the net, but they wouldn't be causing much of a stir. As a result, the three of them retreated into the tunnel not far away with the T-148.

Until then, Ma Lu was still in a daze. He looked as though he could not believe that the three of them had really survived the snake tide. When he saw the sea of serpents twenty minutes ago, Ma Lu thought that he was dead for sure. In the end, not only did they survive, but with the tool of an arsonist in front of him, Ma Lu's confidence had greatly increased.

Even though Zhang Heng said there was still a huge snake waiting for them, from Ma Lu's point of view, no matter how big the snake was, it would not withstand such a ferocious artificial flamethrower. As long as there was still fuel in the tanks, they would be invincible. However, Zhang Heng, who was beside him, was not as optimistic.

Yeomengard was not the first supernatural creature that Zhang Heng had dealt with. Zhang Heng did not forget that when he first became the agent of the elder in the Tang suit, they worked together to kill the monster called Moresby. The latter turned out to be the totem of a tribe called the Arkoz in Papua New Guinea. After the Arkoz was destroyed, Moresby was basically forgotten by the world.

However, that battle was still filled with peril. Even if the Tang-suited elder borrowed a tool suspected to be the spear of fate, it was still only a narrow victory. Of course, Zhang Heng was still an ordinary person at that time and didn't have as many skills and top-tier tools as he used to. The old man was the main damage dealer in that battle, so Zhang Heng was just a bystander.

Then, he met the Slavic mythological creature Zavilcha. He could control the wall to attack, but Zhang Heng found his real body and used time freeze to kill him. However, the previous battle had been tough, and these were only small characters that were almost forgotten by the world.

The most powerful enemy Zhang Heng had encountered so far was Pestilence, one of the Four Horsemen of the Apocalypse. He had been sent to the resuscitation room with just a light touch, and his heart had stopped beating for a moment. Pestilence, however, was also the one who had died the most unjustly among his many opponents. Until now, Zhang Heng still had not fully figured out how he killed the White Knight.

However, after that incident, Zhang Heng was certain that he was hiding some secrets. After going through the alien dungeon and the trip to the island, he had unlocked a part of his power. However, it was still far from the level of fighting Pestilence.

Zhang Heng did not like the feeling of fate being out of control. Furthermore, this time, the enemy he was facing was not some minor character, a Midgardian snake, as famous as the White Horse Knight. Like the giant monster that appeared in the twilight of the gods in the final chapter of Norse mythology, Yemengard's name was also widespread. Even to this day, its presence could still be seen in several literary and film productions.

Therefore, the following battle would not be easy either. Zhang Heng did not choose to chase after the giant snake immediately, even though he could guess that Cheng Sihan, who had entered first, would not be in a good situation right now. He did not know whether she was alive or dead, but since they were already so far behind, Cheng Sihan probably did not mind waiting a little longer.

Zhang Heng used this time to make some preparations, the main reason being waiting for the one-hour usage time of the Infinite Building Block to pass. Then, under Ma Lu's completely befuddled stare, he dismantled the T-148 that had turned back into Lego building blocks.

It wasn't that Zhang Heng hadn't considered using the T-148 to deal with the Nightmare Gad directly or that he could further assemble some heavy weapons with greater single-point lethality, such as an RPG-29 rocket launcher, an anti-material sniper rifle, or even portable anti-air missiles. In the end, he gave up on this tempting idea.

Because no one knew how effective these modern weapons would be against supernatural creatures, especially when dealing with a mythological behemoth like the Nightmare Gad, Zhang Heng wouldn't be surprised if the giant snake's skin could withstand fire or even missile attacks.

Thus, the T-148 might not be as effective in the following battles as before. But, on the contrary, the Hidden Scabbard, Pestilence Bone Bow, and Parris Arrow on his body were easier to deal damage to.

Of course, the safer method was to use modern weapons to launch long-range attacks on Nightmare Gad first. Then, if the effects were not enough, he would switch to other tools to fight. However, the Infinite Building Block required an hour to deplete each time it was used. Only then could it be reassembled into something else.

Zhang Heng didn't think that Nightmare Gad would give him that much time. Furthermore, as someone who had read Norse mythology, Zhang Heng held a deep impression of Thor's death.

Although Thor used his own hammer to kill Nightmare Gad in the end, he himself had died from inhaling too much poisonous fog during the battle. Zhang Heng had to be prepared for this, and after some thought, he decided to put the Lego bricks into a gas mask and put it in his travel bag. However, he didn't rush to insert the Infinite Building Block.

"How's your condition? Can you still walk?" Zhang Heng asked Fan Mei.

The latter was leaning against the wall, taking the time to close her eyes and recover her lost energy. Hearing that, she opened her eyes and nodded. However, Zhang Heng could tell that Fan Meinan wasn't in a current condition.

The loss of energy was secondary. The three of them had been on the abandoned subway line for quite some time. During that time, they had not replenished themselves with any food or water. In addition, Zhang Heng had just lit a huge fire, causing the temperature at the station to rise continuously. This caused Fan Meinan to appear slightly dehydrated. In reality, it was not just her; Ma Lu's mouth was also blistered with dried and cracked skin.

However, Ma Lu was in generally better health, so he was fine.

"Wait for me for a while," Zhang Heng said to the two of them. Then, without waiting for Fan Meinan to answer, he stood up and walked back to the hall on the second floor. Zhang Heng walked back with a large bag of snake corpses that hadn't been roasted due to the smoke.

He first used the remaining Lego blocks to make a bottle of mineral water. He inserted the Infinite Building Block and poured in the water. If the water were drunk, it would turn back Lego bricks in an hour.

Then, Zhang Heng used a knife to cut open the snake's body. He took out the bile and squeezed it into the bottle. He repeated this action until the bottle was filled with bile.

"Don't tell me you're going to let me drink this." Fan Meinan's expression changed slightly when he saw the bottle of bile. "Although I'm thirsty, I'm not that thirsty."

"Don't worry, I'll add some seasoning for you," Zhang Heng said as he took out a small bottle cap from his bag and placed it on the bottle. The next moment, a miracle happened, the bottle of bile, which looked suspiciously rich, turned into a pink soda.

"You're in luck. This time, it should be peach-flavored."

Chapter 1098: Death, Underground Cave

[Name: Pinball Soda]

[Quality: F]

[Effect: When this cap is placed on any container, the liquid within can be turned into a pinball soda with a random taste.]

After Zhang Heng obtained this F-grade item, he tried it out a few times and realized that the taste of the soda was indeed very random. It was not just normal soda like the apple and strawberry that had appeared on the market before. Some weren't very common, such as durian and bitter melon. There was nothing wrong with drinking them, just that it tasted neither good nor bad.

After giving Fan Meinan the drink, Zhang Heng made two more bottles for Ma Lu and himself.

Ma Lu's bottle was slightly overturned, and it was tomato-flavored. Zhang Heng received a bottle of sea salt-flavored soda. The trio waited for a while more until the Infinite Building Block's cooldown was over before they set off again.

Fan Meinan's face had regained some color, but from the sweat on her forehead, it could be seen that she was not at ease. This was also the day she worked out the most since her illness had worsened. However, she gritted her teeth and did not complain.

The tunnel was not long, and it was supposed to lead to the surface, but the end had been sealed by cement. Even though Ma Lu had already predicted this outcome, this subway line had been abandoned for decades, and other than the platform they came down from, it wasn't easy to find a direct path to the outside world. When he saw it with his own eyes, he was still a little disappointed.

However, his eyes soon turned to the huge hole in the ground in front of him. Ma Lu was sure that this hole was not in the original plan. The last thing any designer with a brain would do was dig a trap for the transiting passengers in the exit tunnel of the subway station.

Furthermore, the shape of the hole didn't seem to be regular. It didn't look like it had been dug by a machine. Instead, it looked like something had broken through the concrete structure and drilled out from underneath.

Ma Lu found it hard to imagine what creature could actually breakthrough a few meters of solid concrete. What kind of terrifying power was that? While he was trying his best not to let his imagination

run wild, Zhang Heng and Fan Meinan were already standing by the side of the tunnel. Zhang Heng shone his flashlight down.

It was clear that the tunnel was very steep. It was almost 70 degrees from the ground's surface, and one could not see the bottom. The bottom side was quite smooth, making it look like a huge slide.

Zhang Heng thought of the ground on the platform that he had seen before. It was the same as this hole. There was no dust there, and it was shining. Now that he thought about it, it was probably the result of the snakes crawling over it.

Zhang Heng used the Hidden Scabbard to cut out a fist-sized stone and threw it into the hole. Not long after, he heard the sound of the stone falling to the ground. He estimated the depth of the hole to be about 30 meters, meaning it was definitely not possible to jump down just like that. Fortunately, it was only smooth on the bottom side. The two sides of the stone wall were full of potholes, so it should be easy to climb down from there.

However, to be on the safe side, Zhang Heng, who had Lv1 rock climbing skills, decided to give it a try himself. Zhang Heng first stepped on a protruding piece of cement stone. He loosened his grip on the wall after he steadied himself and moved his other foot to another climbing point.

Everything had gone smoothly up to this point, and Zhang Heng did not encounter any trouble.

However, just as he moved his last arm away from the hole and was about to continue to extend his leg downward, an accident happened. The place where Zhang Heng's other foot was standing suddenly collapsed, and immediately, the support point on Zhang Heng's left hand also shattered from within.

Based on Zhang Heng's climbing experience, the places he had chosen were all excellent. Furthermore, considering the sturdiness of the cement, logically speaking, it should not be able to withstand such a small amount of strength.

However, now was obviously not the time to dwell on such things. Amidst Fan Meinan and Ma Lu's exclamations, Zhang Heng's had already started to fall. However, there was not much panic on his face, even though he was not wearing any safety ropes.

Zhang Heng had his own way of coping. As he fell, he took a deep breath and pulled out the Hidden Scabbard from his waist. Then, he thrust it forcefully into the cement wall above his head.

The result was out of his expectations. The resistance from the blade was not as strong as he had imagined. Of course, this was due to the sharpness of the Hidden Scabbard. However, the main reason was that the cement wall did not have the hardness that it should have. Zhang Heng immediately realized something when he connected it to the previously broken support point.

Yemengarde clearly had some method to corrode the target and change its internal structure on a molecular level. Not only the cement wall in front of him but also the sperm whale that had been reduced to food for the snakes. Its body had also become extremely soft, like a large blob of jelly. It could only be eaten by the snakes.

As the Hidden Scabbard was inserted into the wall, Zhang Heng's fall gradually came to a stop. Then, he reached out to grab a new support point.

Zhang Heng tried it out. In fact, as long as he didn't focus all his weight on one support point like before, the situation where the support point suddenly shattered wouldn't happen again.

As he stabilized his body, Fan Meinan's concerned voice came from above. "How are you? Are you hurt?"

"I'm fine," Zhang Heng immediately reported. Then he paused and continued, "But it looks like both of you won't be able to climb down."

"It's okay. We can find another way down. Or you can use LEGO blocks to help us build a ladder."

"Actually, I have a better suggestion," Zhang Heng said.

"What is it?"

"How about the two of you stay up there? I've already cleared out the snakes nearby. There shouldn't be any danger up there for the time being."

"Then, you're going to deal with Nightmare Gad Alone?" Fan Meinan frowned. "Are you worried that we'll become a burden to you? I can still be of use. Have you forgotten that I was the one who bought you time to deal with the snake tide?"

Ma Lu opened his mouth to say something, but after thinking about it, he realized that he had not been of much help, so he could only shut his mouth again.

"..."

"No, I'm just more used to fighting alone," Zhang Heng explained patiently.

He knew that with Fan Meinan's personality, he would not let him face Nightmare Gad alone. Moreover, Fan Meinan was probably not trying to be brave when he said he could help him. Fan Meinan had once said that even though she had lost the power that Loki had given her, she still had three game items on her. Other than the piece of chocolate that she had used previously, she should still have two props in her hands. However, Zhang Heng did not want Fan Meinan to get involved in the subsequent battles. With Fan Meinan's current condition, it would be too difficult for her to handle such a high-intensity battle.

Zhang Heng's original plan was to walk a little further and find a safe place to knock Fan Meinan out so that Ma Lu could take care of her. However, with this hole in the ground, he could stop Fan Meinan from walking any further.

Chapter 1099: Vanishing From the Face of the Earth

Zhang Heng climbed down the uneven wall toward the bottom of the pit. As he had to maintain his weight balance during the climb, he couldn't move too quickly. The 30-meter-distance wasn't too great either, and he quickly reached the bottom of the pit. After taking a quick look at his surroundings to ensure no danger, he waved his flashlight upward.

This was the signal that Zhang Heng and Ma Lu had agreed on. When Ma Lu saw the light from the flashlight, he knew that Zhang Heng had landed safely. He then tossed his bag down.

Zhang Heng heard the sound of falling from the top of his head. He moved aside and waited for a muffled sound before his bag fell to the ground beside his feet.

Zhang Heng picked up his bag and dusted it off. Only then did he start to look at his surroundings carefully.

In front of him was an underground pit with a diameter of about 60 meters. Other than the tunnel he came down from; there was no other entrance. However, there was a pool in the middle, but strangely, there was no sound of water coming from the surroundings. The entire pool was unusually quiet. Not even a single ripple was visible on the surface of the water.

Zhang Heng shone his flashlight down, but he could only vaguely see the outline of a huge shadow.

Due to the distance and the lack of light, Zhang Heng was able to make out what that thing was. Hence, he took out his Filter Lens. This time, however, the Filter Lens that had worked so well before failed as well. It did not allow Zhang Heng to see the true face of the thing below.

However, to be on the safe side, Zhang Heng made preparations in advance for the battle.

After the incident with the island, he had accidentally gained the ability to breathe underwater and control water flow. Now, he did not need any oxygen equipment to stay underwater for a long time and controlling the flow of water allowed him to move faster, or he could use the flow of water to disrupt the enemy's movements.

Even the best diver in the world could not move underwater as freely as he did now. However, Zhang Heng knew very well that if he were to compare it to the legendary nightmare that had always lived at the bottom of the deep sea, his underwater ability would not be able to gain many advantages.

Furthermore, his primary offensive weapons, be it Hidden Scabbard or Pestilence Bone Bow or the Parris Arrow were all equipment that needed to be placed on land for maximum effectiveness. Therefore, Zhang Heng preferred to place the main battlefield on the ground.

Therefore, the first thing Zhang Heng needed to do was lure Gad's nightmare out of the pool.

Since there was no one else around, Zhang Heng took off all his clothes and placed them in the corner of the pit along with the props in his bag. These were not professional diving suits. They could not maintain his body temperature after entering the water; the loose clothes would increase his resistance in the water and slow his movement speed.

Even though this wasn't a great distance—considering the opponent he was facing this time, any small difference could affect his life and death. In the end, Zhang Heng only chose to bring a Hidden Scabbard to protect himself.

In any case, if everything went as planned, he would soon come out of the pool. He hid the Pestilence Bone Bow and Paris Arrow behind a rock closest to the pool so he could retrieve them as soon as he came ashore.

After that, Zhang Heng returned to the pool and tested the temperature of the water with his foot. He realized that the water wasn't as cold as he had imagined, and he did not feel any discomfort after waiting for a while. Thus, Zhang Heng completely submerged his body into the water.

Tying the Hidden Scabbard around his waist, he controlled the flow of the water to allow himself to sink toward the shadow below. Zhang Heng was unsure if it was just his imagination, but after jumping into the pool, he didn't feel as nervous as before the great battle. On the contrary, when the water surrounded him, he felt a vague sense of familiarity. Zhang Heng could also feel slight changes in his body. Ever since he returned from the island, he had become more and more fond of water.

This reminded him of the huge astrolabe-like dome in the palace on the island. The half-man, half-fish creatures wanted to use him for some kind of ritual, but he interrupted them halfway and escape. Zhang Heng, however, knew that something had already begun.

In fact, after returning, Zhang Heng had dreamed of the underwater ruins several times. In the dream, he had crossed the underwater tunnel alone and returned to the underwater palace. He raised his head to look at the dome.

The stars were rotating continuously there as if responding to a certain desire in his heart.

.....

Zhang Heng collected his thoughts and pulled himself together from his memories. He had already dived about ten meters, but there was still some distance between him and the shadow. The shadow did not react. It was as if he did not realize that an uninvited guest had arrived at his house.

Therefore, Zhang Heng intentionally increased his diving speed to avoid attracting the other party's attention. He soon realized he was wasting time.

As the depth grew, Zhang Heng was finally able to see what the thing at the bottom of the pool looked like.

It was a huge snakehead almost the size of the pool! It had a pair of cunning and evil eyes, sharp teeth, and a net-shaped grayscale. Its mouth was wide open, and it maintained its hunting posture as if it was going to jump up from the bottom of the pool in the next moment and swallow the prey on top.

When Zhang Heng first saw it, he was shocked as well. He thought that ye Mengadde was waiting for him to fall into the trap and almost controlled the current to send him ashore. However, after he rose five meters, he realized that the snakehead below showed no reaction. It was still eager to pounce, so Zhang Heng stopped again.

After a moment of hesitation, Zhang Heng pulled out his Hidden Scabbard and tried to slow himself down again. This time, he finally saw the real face of the snakehead.

It was not a living thing at all, but a stone statue!

However, the extremely realistic carving gave off a lifelike feeling, especially when its two red eyes were directly inlaid with rubies. If Zhang Heng hadn't seen it with his own eyes, it would have been hard to believe that there was such a large ruby in the world. Its diameter was more than two meters, and it gave off an indescribable feeling of evil luster under the water.

Zhang Heng slightly increased his speed of diving. Allowing himself to get close to the stone carving snakehead.

Only by standing in front of it could one realize how outstanding its carving skills were. It was not inferior to the masterpiece of any artist in the world. However, when Zhang Heng saw that his gaze had shifted away from the snakehead and looked around the bottom of the pool, there was no sign of its owner.

If everything went according to plan, it would return to the pool after dragging the sperm whale to the station. Unless it simply disappeared into thin air, it should still be here.

Chapter 1100: The Red Island

Zhang Heng spent some time searching the bottom of the pool once more to confirm that Jermaine Gardner was indeed not here. Just like the pit above, there was no other entrance or exit to the pool.

Thus, Zhang Heng shifted his gaze to the head of the stone carving snake. This time, Zhang Heng was no longer attracted by the pair of ruby eyes. He no longer paid attention to the lifelike carving techniques, focussing his gaze instead on the mouth of the snake.

Zhang Heng's heart skipped a beat. He suddenly understood what this stone carving was used for.

It was not an underwater sculpture of a work of art but a door!

The entrance to this door was in the snake's mouth, which was wide open.

However, even if an ordinary person realized this, it would probably be difficult for them to overcome the fear in their heart and really swim into the snake's mouth. This was especially so when coupled with the outstanding knife skills of this stone carving, not to mention the pressure that the snake's mouth was exerting.

However, Zhang Heng did not have such concerns. Ever since he joined the game, he had been losing his emotions, especially when it came to fear. It had been a long time since Zhang Heng had experienced what fear felt like.

Before entering the snake's mouth, he carefully examined the stone carving. After confirming that there were no traps or traps on it, he grabbed the Hidden Scabbard and swam in.

What greeted Zhang Heng was darkness.

Since the Filter Lens couldn't be used, Zhang Heng could only illuminate a small distance in front of him with his flashlight. Furthermore, the moment he entered the snake's mouth, he was sucked into a turbulent flow.

This surprised Zhang Heng as well. The pool didn't seem to have any fluctuations from the outside, and during his descent, he didn't encounter natural currents other than the ones he had created himself. With Zhang Heng's current control and perception, he could clearly feel that the pool was completely stagnant.

However, after entering the snake's mouth, it was as if he entered another world. The current suddenly became faster, and it was apparent that there was more than one. Zhang Heng felt as if his body was being pulled by countless hands.

He tried to control the current to counteract the impact and stabilize his body. However, thanks to the irregular current, the variance, and the power in each force, the only thing that remained was that there was no sign of it appearing or disappearing. Zhang Heng himself found it difficult to shake off the influence of the water thoroughly, so he could only try not to crash into the walls around him.

He did not know how much time had passed, but he was carried along by the flow of water until a hole appeared in front of him, which ended the exciting roller coaster ride.

Zhang Heng noticed that the flow of water around him slowly slowed down until it disappeared, and he even saw a glimmer of light he hadn't seen in a long time.

Had he already returned to the outside world from the abandoned subway line?

If he had known that he would be able to leave here, Zhang Heng would have asked Fan Meinan and Ma Lu to come down as well. Even though they both couldn't breathe underwater as he could, Zhang Heng could easily make a diving suit with the Infinite Building Block around. Thus, he brought the two of them out one by one. Of course, it wasn't too late. He could turn around and pick them up.

However, since he was already here, Zhang Heng decided to explore the surroundings first. At least he knew where he was now. He looked at the starfish in his hand. It had been about 15 minutes since he had entered the snake's mouth. By multiplying the speed of the current, he could calculate how much distance he had traveled. The environment he was in now was different from before; it was very spacious.

This way, Zhang Heng could lock onto the reservoir or the river near the station.

But then, Zhang Heng was stunned because he noticed the figure approaching him not far away.

This was the first time he had seen a living creature after entering the tunnel. The one swimming toward him was a fish, a very common one at that. However, according to Zhang Heng's common sense, this fish should not be here.

—because it was a clownfish.

The clownfish got its name from the white stripes on its face, much like a Beijing Opera clown. However, the problem was that it was a tropical saltwater fish, and it could not survive in freshwater.

Could this clownfish be an illusion created by Yemengarde? Zhang Heng swam forward for a while, but he saw more saltwater fish. Other than that, there were corals and sea anemones. This further confirmed that he was indeed in the ocean.

However, just 15 minutes ago, he was still in the underground pit of the abandoned subway line, at least 200 kilometers away from the nearest coastline. Zhang Heng noticed that this place did not look like any coast that he was familiar with. At the moment, Zhang Heng was a little confused about where he was.

He brought himself out of the water by controlling the current and saw a red island in the direction of his right hand. It was about six to seven kilometers away. This distance was not a problem for Zhang Heng. However, he was not in a hurry to leave.

The current situation had deviated from his previous plan. Zhang Heng had originally entered the pool to lure Yemengard ashore to deal with him. Unexpectedly, he did not even see Yemengard's shadow under the pool. Instead, he inexplicably came to this ocean.

If everything went according to plan, the small island in front of him should be Yemengard's nest.

Zhang Heng now had two choices. He could either go to the island and fight Yemengard or return to the pool and wait for Yemengard to reappear. The advantage of the latter was that Zhang Heng could try to ambush Yemengard once. With the Pestilence Bone Bow and Paris Arrow in hand, he still had a considerable success rate in ambushing Yemengard.

Zhang Heng quickly ruled out the latter option. Based on his information, Yemengard went to the abandoned subway line to feed the snakes there. Snakes in the wild could eat a second meal every ten days or half a month after one meal.

That said, Zhang Heng, Fan Meinan, and Ma Lu could not wait that long. Even though Zhang Heng had solved drinking water, he did not have any good ideas for eating. He couldn't be eating snake for every meal, right? So, the earlier the war started, the better the situation would turn out for the three of them.

Instead of rushing onto the island, Zhang Heng didn't rush onto the island. He first turned back to the pond and took the clothes and props that he had left there. Then, he followed the flow of the water back to the ocean. After another half an hour, Zhang Heng finally stepped onto the red island.

Before sunset, Zhang Heng spread his clothes and arrows on the rocks beside the island to dry them in the sun. Only when there was almost no water on them did he put on his clothes properly and end his celestial state.

While he was drying his clothes, Zhang Heng also started to observe the island. The entire island looked extremely desolate. There were no animals or plants on it, only red soil.