

48 Hours 1121

Chapter 1121: Directions

After Zhang Heng went back to school for a shower and haircut at a nearby saloon, he discovered that he had received a WeChat friend request.

He initially thought it would be a tea girl or a fairy dance, so he intended to reject it directly. However, after seeing the name of the comment, he changed his mind and accepted it.

It didn't take long for the other party to greet him first.

—Hi.

Zhang Heng replied politely with a “Hi” as well.

—I hope I'm not disturbing you. I've calculated the time. It should be in the afternoon on your side, right? The last time you said you would come around in July, and it's about time now. So, do you have a specific itinerary on your side?

The person who added Zhang Heng's WeChat was none other than Songjia, the female translator he had previously found on the travel website. The latter had reached an initial hiring intention with him, responsible for providing Zhang Heng with translation and guide work for his upcoming trip to Greenland.

Zhang Heng typed,

—Do you frequent WeChat too? Yes, I'm already preparing to set off. For the time being, I can't completely confirm the schedule, but I plan to hire you for a month. I'll decide where to go during this month. Even if it's not a month, in the end, I'll still pay you for the month.

—Is that so?

The other side replied with three words. Zhang Heng could feel Songjia hesitating. Even though Greenland was her hometown, she was only a female student after all. She had to spend a month with another male stranger, and considering she didn't know the exact schedule, she naturally couldn't help but mutter.

Zhang Heng didn't rush her. He waited for her to make a decision.

After about half a minute, Songjia's battle of ideas finally came to an end. She still found it hard to reject Zhang Heng's generous offer, so she replied,

—WeChat was recommended to me by a previous employer. I also wanted easier communication with my employer, and at the same time, opening a window to learn more about your country. If it's inconvenient to tell me the details of your trip, can you give me a rough idea of the purpose of your visit to Greenland? Is it for business, pleasure, or property purchase?

—Scientific exploration

Zhang Heng replied.

—Oh, you're here to study glaciers, right? How many people are on your team? There are also research teams from other countries here. Do you want me to introduce them to you?

Song Jia seemed to have misunderstood something. After hearing Zhang Heng's answer, not only did she heave a sigh of relief, but her enthusiasm seemed to increase. After all, researchers were a relatively high-quality group, so it would be safer and less troublesome to receive them.

—I don't have a team, and I'm not going to study glaciers. However, my expedition does have some relationship with glaciers.

—Is it climate?

—No.

Song Jia could tell that Zhang Heng was reluctant to dwell on this topic, so she asked no more questions.

—A scientific expedition? Okay, I understand. I'll make some preparations in this regard. We'll talk about the specifics when we meet.

—Okay.

Zhang Heng ended the conversation with Song Jia, and he headed to look through her WeChat moments.

Songjia had probably started using WeChat a year and a half ago. Other than communicating with her employer in advance, she had probably kept in touch with many people. From time to time, she would post some scenery or selfies on her WeChat moments. They all looked quite normal; they also matched her student status.

Every photo had a date on WeChat, which ruled out the possibility of a rush job. However, Zhang Heng still did not completely ignore his vigilance because many people were eyeing him now. There was no need to mention Chronos or Justitia. The bartenders and even Loki seemed to be very interested in him.

These individuals were by no means easy to deal with, and at this level, many of the usual criteria were no longer applicable. Zhang Heng had no choice but to raise his guard. Songja was his chosen translator, and so far, although nothing seemed out of the ordinary, Zhang Heng wasn't about to blindly trust them just like that.

However, this matter could wait until he arrived in Greenland. For now, he still had to settle the issue of the first sum of money that he had to pay to Furou.

Zhang Heng glanced at the starfish. There was still some time before dinner, so he decided to go to the library to sit for a while. He found a book related to glacier exploration and flipped through it. At the same time, he also sorted out the rewards from the previous dungeon.

The agent war dungeon itself did not have any items or points that could be obtained. Therefore, for normal players, it was basically impossible to learn new skills. However, due to Zhang Heng's own dungeon's time extension effect, he still had to improve himself even after completing the main storyline mission.

However, as he continued to clear the game after game, the skill system on his body became more and more perfect. There was probably no one in the world who had more skills than him. He had dabbled in everything from languages to driving machines, combat techniques, make-up, reasoning, and even art appreciation.

Compared to the vast science and civilization of mankind, his current knowledge was only a small part. There were still endless fields to explore. However, the improvement in his strength was becoming less and less obvious.

This was also the law of development. To put it in layman's terms, Zhang Heng had reached an impasse. Although he could still improve himself in the future, the marginal returns were decreasing.

Therefore, Zhang Heng spent a lot of time thinking about his next step in the bodyguard dungeon.

Feng Zi, who was bored, also gave him some suggestions from the perspective of a bystander.

She pointed at him. "You're the strongest person I've ever seen. There's no one like you, and you almost have no weaknesses. Even the memory-encoded clone soldiers of Morgan's Emergency Response Team are no match for you. Your reaction, judgment, combat skills, and analytical ability are among the best in the world. However, due to the limitations of the human body, you're almost touching the ceiling of combat power."

"So, are you going to suggest that I undergo the next step of body modification?" Zhang Heng opened a can of beer and took a sip.

"No." Feng Zi took the can of beer from a certain person's hand and sat down beside him. "I suggest that you... consider training your spirit."

"I am training my spirit," Zhang Heng said.

In the end, in the capital dungeon, if he didn't train his spirit and gain an epiphany from the final battle with Secretary-General Okita, his knife skills wouldn't have been able to break through to Lv 4. In reality, any combat technique had to be trained to the extreme. Basically, it was the unification of the spirit and the body. This was probably what the ancients called the unification of ten thousand techniques.

However, Zhang Heng didn't care as much about training his spirit as he did about his skills. After all, this sort of thing sounded very mysterious. It was far less intuitive and practical than the changes in skill levels. In addition, Zhang Heng was also different from ordinary people; he had lost most of his emotions, so he was naturally resistant to all kinds of negative emotions. As a result, he did not even need to train or study to be able to maintain his composure in times of crisis.

This way, the mental training would not be of much use to him.

However, Feng Zi seemed to be particularly persistent on this matter. He took a sip of his beer and said, "Haven't you ever thought about finding those lost emotions one day? Have you ever thought about how to fight in that state?"

Chapter 1122: Yi Yuan Villa

Zhang Heng never thought that he'd ever regained those lost feelings. By now, he was getting more and more used to the current state of almost no emotional fluctuations.

Although this had caused him to lose a lot of happiness, under this state, his analysis, observation, and crisis dealing ability had indeed improved to a certain extent. This could even be considered as his second cheat other than the time freeze.

Think about it. In the event of sudden danger, many people might be unable to react in time due to fear, or at least not in the first place. However, Zhang Heng did not have such a problem. Emotional stability helped him maintain stable control of his body. His thinking processes could be quickly completed, thus enabling him to take the most rational response. Therefore, it could only be said that there were pros and cons to everything.

Of course, if he had a choice, Zhang Heng still hoped that he could regain his lost feelings.

Although this might weaken his strength on a combat level, Zhang Heng still felt that he could truly be a complete version of himself only by having feelings.

Especially after going through the bodyguard dungeon, Zhang Heng also began to think about the existence of the self. For example, for the residents of the new Shanghai 0297, every time they went through a recode, it was equivalent to killing themselves. Although everyone was constantly upgrading, they had also completely lost themselves in the countless iterations of the version.

This was perhaps why Feng Zi suggested that Zhang Heng focussed on his mental training as his next step.

“After knowing the truth, what I’m most afraid of is that one day, someone will use a similar memory coding method to secretly change my memory. I hope that someone finds a way to recover all the deleted memories, and at the same time, identify the fake memories in my head. “I know this may sound like a fantasy, but if there’s anyone around me who can do this, it’s you,” Feng Zi said as she looked into Zhang Heng’s eyes.

“...”

Zhang Heng still remembered the conversation they had. It was also from that day that he began to devote more time to mental training. He had a ready-made method of training, and it was the mantra of the Small Mountain Bright Heart that he had obtained from the moribund capital dungeon.

When he had first come into contact with the Small Mountain Bright Heart, Zhang Heng had actually not paid much attention to it. This was because it was a small sect that lived up to its name. Even when Xiao Shan Qian’s father was still alive, it was not very famous. It could not be compared to the likes of the Big Stone Divine Shadow Stream, the Beichen Single Blade, or the Fragrant Divine Path, all famous large sects.

They did not leave behind any traces in history, which was unsurprising. Without Zhang Heng, Small Mountain Bright Heart would have been basically cut off by Xiao Shan Qian’s generation.

This was not without reason. Xiao Shan’s school of thought focused on seeing the heart clearly, and the blade moved according to the heart. It did not have much to offer in terms of blade techniques, and it emphasized the training of the state of mind. However, the state of mind was too intangible. It was difficult to describe.

Zhang Heng only realized the importance of the state of mind, or rather, the training of the mind, after he reached Lv 3 in blade techniques. In addition, at that time, he had been playing around in the capital, so he had seen many schools. There were even fewer things that could be seen after he learned from the various schools. On the other hand, he gained new insights when he looked at the Yama Heart stream.

Even after he successfully advanced to Lv 4, his mental training still basically followed the method of Yama Heart stream. However, because there was no way for him to advance after Level 4, Zhang Heng gradually slacked off on his training in knife techniques.

It was only when Feng Zi mentioned him that he started to pay more attention to it. He continued to use this method to train his mind. Although he didn't find the method to fight against memory encoding as Feng Zi had hoped, the unity and coordination between his body and mind had indeed improved. It was just that this kind of thing wouldn't be displayed in the form of numerical values on the character interface.

However, Zhang Heng had a feeling that he would use this period of training sooner or later.

Zhang Heng summarized the results of the previous dungeon. He looked at the time and registered the book on Glacier Exploration. Then, he walked out of the library and drove his Polo to the address that Han Lu had given him.

Yi Yuan villa was located at the edge of the second ring road, in an unremarkable alley. However, after entering, Zhang Heng realized that it was quite big inside. Furthermore, when he parked his car in the parking lot on the side., he realized that other than his polo, there were basically luxury cars worth more than 600,000 to 700,000 yuan inside. Among them was Han Lu's Model S.

When the parking lot security guard saw Zhang Heng's Polo, he deliberately double-checked to ensure that he had not come to the wrong place. Zhang Heng didn't overthink it. As usual, he calmly found an empty parking space, parking his Polo between an A8 and a Panamera. Then, under the guidance of the waiter, he walked into a restaurant nearby.

The owner of Yi Yuan Villa rented the nearby eight courtyard houses and redesigned them to be private kitchens. Located in a very hidden spot, there were no advertisements, except for small-scale recommendations from customers. There was no lobby inside, but only private rooms. This was because those who came to Yi Yuan Villa for dinner mainly were business people, and through this, privacy was guaranteed.

The waiter directly led Zhang Heng into the private room that Han Lu had reserved.

It was a large private room that could seat more than a dozen people, but Han Lu was the only one inside. She was on the phone at the moment, and when she saw Zhang Heng, she nodded. After talking for about two minutes, she hung up.

"You're here."

"Yes."

Zhang Heng pulled out a chair, but then Han Lu said, "Why are you sitting so far away from me? Are you afraid that I'll eat you?"

Han Lu paused and continued, "Business here is usually good. You need to book at least a week in advance. The large private room I booked at that time was originally to entertain a group of guests from Macau, but there was an accident over there later. However, I've already paid the deposit, so I thought of getting you to join me for a meal."

"Thank you." Zhang Heng found a seat next to Han Lu and sat down.

Han Lu was as swift and decisive as usual. She didn't waste any time and went straight to the point after the waiter left, "I thought there wouldn't be any more problems for you. You've been helping me for so long. With that country island and the Dreamland of Death the last time... you've already saved me twice. It's finally my turn to help you this time."

Speaking of serious matters, Han Lu's expression turned serious, "I'm an investor. I rarely leave large amounts of money lying around, so I don't have much liquid capital on hand. Fortunately, I'm preparing to invest in a project. I have around 20 million in cash that I can take out immediately. Other than that, I still have some fixed assets, shares, and miscellaneous things. I can take out a portion of it to find a bank loan. The number hovers around 100 to 150 million. You Don't have to worry about the interest. I can help you pay it back. Also, I've been in this circle for so long, so I still have some friends. How much do you want first?" Han Lu said.

"In the early stages, I want to ask for one billion, but I can split it into three batches. The first batch will be 500 million," Zhang Heng said after some thought. "Is it difficult?"

"In my experience, raising money can be difficult, or not difficult at all. The key is to see how you raise it," Han Lu said.

Chapter 1123: Greed

"If you want to obtain 500 million just by borrowing, it won't be easy even for me. Everyone knows how difficult it is to get back any lent money. Besides, from what you said, 500 million is only the initial capital." Han Lu picked up the teapot on the table and poured Zhang Heng a cup of Biluochun. "How much more do you plan to ask for later?"

"I'm not sure yet, but the total amount is likely to reach eight billion," Zhang Heng frankly told Han Lu.

An ordinary person might have been paralyzed with fear when they heard this number, but Han Lu was a well-known venture capitalist after all. It wasn't like she hadn't seen an enormous amount of financing when she was still working at an international investment bank. Thus, when she heard this, she didn't show too much of a surprised expression. She only said, "Looks like you've already thought about how to repay that large sum."

"Yes, I do have a preliminary plan, but I'm not absolutely sure. Furthermore, I've been quite busy recently, so I can't take care of this matter for the time being," Zhang Heng said.

When Zhang Heng commissioned D4 to post the transaction, he had naturally thought about how he would be able to fork out such a large sum of money. B-grade items were only used as collateral, and Zhang Heng did not intend to use B-grade items to complete the final payment unless absolutely necessary.

However, forking out 8 billion yuan was definitely no easy task, even for the likes of Zhang Heng. Even though he had the time freeze ability, it was impossible for him to sneak into the bank vault without anyone noticing. The severe consequences of such a matter were also worth considering. It was almost inevitable that the police would intervene, attracting large-scale public attention. Furthermore, this was out of line with his usual style.

Therefore, Zhang Heng did not overthink it and passed on this method. Then, he turned his gaze elsewhere.

The Black Sail dungeon was the longest one he had ever experienced. At the beginning of the dungeon, he was intercepted by a pirate ship and boarded the pirate ship of Edward “Blackbeard” Teach. He followed the latter to Nassau, a legendary pirate kingdom that eventually became the King of the Seven Seas. It witnessed the final glory of piracy in the 18th century.

Over the past ten years, Zhang Heng had become friends with many famous pirate captains in history or fought with them. As a result, he learned of numerous secrets, including the whereabouts of some of the pirate treasures.

Because of his involvement, the fate of some of the pirates had changed, and the final location of the treasure might have changed as well. However, it was not easy for the pirates to choose the treasure’s location, and after considering all the factors, Zhang Heng believed that there were still some treasures that remained in his memory.

In addition, Zhang Heng still had the route of a Spanish treasure ship and the sunken ship’s location. The latter was known as the shiniest pearl in the treasure-hunting world, with initial value estimates of the treasure on the ship to be worth over 13 billion yuan, even though Colombia had announced not long ago that they had found the Spanish treasure ship.

Nonetheless, Zhang Heng also browsed through the news from that year and found that the sunken ship announced by Colombia was not on the route of the Spanish treasure ship. Moreover, Colombia had not organized any salvage operations until now, thus causing Zhang Heng to be inclined to think that this was just a publicity stunt. The actual Spanish treasure ship was still somewhere in the ocean, sleeping with the treasure ship, waiting for the day that it was discovered.

If he could find the treasure ship, Zhang Heng could basically solve funding once and for all. However, this wasn’t such a simple matter. In the Black Sail instance, Zhang Heng had participated in the attack on the Spanish treasure ship, meaning it was very likely that the location of the treasure ship would be affected to a certain extent. Therefore, he probably needed to follow the route of the ship to search again. Considering that almost 300 years had passed, and he had to take into account the ocean currents and wind direction, this was not an easy task.

In addition, transporting the treasure after finding it was also a big problem. If it was not appropriately resolved, the issue might escalate into an international dispute. However, compared to moving the bank vault directly, the impact would be much smaller. Furthermore, it could also be controlled within a specific range.

However, even if everything went smoothly, Zhang Heng would not get 8 billion in a short span of three months. This was also the reason why he had asked Han Lu to raise the money first.

And Han Lu did not disappoint.

“If you want to borrow such a large sum of money, even with my guarantee, it is impossible because no one would lend such a sum to someone they don’t know or understand. However...” Han Lu paused.

“...It’s different when it comes to investment. Capital will always chase after profit. As long as there are good investment projects, you don’t even need to ask. Naturally, countless people will rack their brains to give you money.”

“But I don’t seem to have any valuable investment projects in my hands.” Zhang Heng frowned.

“It doesn’t matter. As long as you can convince the capital market that your projects have a profitable future, you can still receive an endless stream of funds,” Han Lu said, “And I happen to be the person who is best at this kind of thing. However, investors nowadays are not fools. The era where you can raise funds purely by telling stories has passed.”

“Then what should we rely on? Fine products?”

“No, we should rely on telling better stories,” Han Lu said while fluttering her eyes. “Your luck is not bad. This just so happens to be an era where traffic is king. Initially, only veteran companies would dare to use loss-making strategies to seize the market and rely on burning money to defeat their opponents. But now, almost all of the emerging companies have become unusually bold and aggressive. No one gives a damn about the profit margins of unicorns. That was something from the last century. As long as the churned-out data was good enough and the prospects were attractive enough, they would naturally find investors to inflate the valuations, finally entering the secondary market continuously. Everyone gets something like this.

“Fine, I’ll get to the point. The point is that the current environment is very conducive to what we’re going to do next. The more money we burn, the easier it will be for you to hide the final flow of funds. So, what we need now is a convincing story. This might be difficult for others, but for you, I don’t think it’s a problem.” Han Lu’s face revealed a sly smile.

On the other side, Zhang Heng had already guessed her intention. He raised his eyebrows and said, “You want me to take out a prop to sell?”

“That’s right. Currently, the market favors science and technology. I’ve been looking for a suitable project, and it’s time for the other investors to experience the charm of black technology. I’ll be taking the angel’s wheel.. Eighty million in exchange for 10% of the shares. Isn’t my offer a little too greedy?”

Chapter 1124: Investors

Zhang Heng already knew what Han Lu was planning to do.

From the very beginning, the latter did not plan to raise funds through loan help. Instead, she aimed at her old profession, preparing to make money directly from the capital market.

Zhang Heng even suspected that this was not the first time Han Lu was thinking about this. This probably had something to do with her professional habits. When she came into contact with new things, she would subconsciously think about the investment value and development prospects. After Han Lu survived the death dream incident, Zhang Heng also opened a new door for her. He allowed her see the gold hidden behind the door.

Ordinary people might only be able to make a small amount of money by using the characteristics of game items in their daily lives, but for Han Lu, who was an investor, this was an out-and-out gold mine. As long as it was properly operated, this was a return of tens or even hundreds of times. After all, nowadays, ppt could be used to build cars, and Han Lu had the real thing in her hands. Naturally, she could tell the story better.

Unfortunately, after Han Lu tried twice, she found that Zhang Heng did not seem interested in making money. In addition, she had already been saved by Zhang Heng twice, so she was too embarrassed to ask for more money.

In the end, she did not expect Zhang Heng to deliver himself to her. When she heard that Zhang Heng needed a large sum of cash, Han Lu was not surprised. Instead, she was happy. At the same time, she also threw out the financing plan she had been planning for a long time.

Han Lu, on the other hand, was very calm and straightforward, "I've been thinking about this for some time, and this business is only for us. It's a perfect match. You have a tool with supernatural powers that can break through current technology, and I'm a professional investor. I know how to maximize the use of the tools that you provide to raise funds. You want to keep a low profile as much as possible and not let others know about the existence of the tools, and I'm the same. If magic can be seen through, it's not worth much."

"Here's what I'm going to do. You give me a game item, and I'll get some experts in the field to package it into a new science with a theory that's complex enough that testing will be difficult. Well, to make it as realistic as possible, it's not going to be over the top, but it's going to be a big hit in the capital markets, and it's going to be a big hit for all investors."

"This requires a certain degree of control. No one is more suitable than me. Furthermore, I'm well-known in the investment circle. With me leading the round, it's equivalent to endorsing your project. After that, I can help you handle the next few rounds of financing. If you trust me enough and don't want to show up at all, I can even find someone to replace you."

Zhang Heng thought about it and asked, "Will there be enough time for financing?"

After all, the amount of money he needed was not small, and time was tight.

"No problem," Han Lu said confidently, "Investors are the most impatient creatures. Back then, JD.com spent 20 years in the capital market, but it took them less than three years to finish. Moreover, the market value now exceeds their value. The capital market will only be more anxious than you. Moreover, with me around, I will help you speed up the financing process. You don't need to worry about these things. All you need to do is to give me a suitable item."

Because there was a limit to the number of items a person could bring along, and in order to cover the recasting cost of the Hidden Scabbard, Zhang Heng had previously converted all the unused items into points. Therefore, he did not have too many items on him right now.

First of all, those B-grade items could be eliminated first. Since Han Lu needed to attract investors and demonstrate to them, then this item would basically have to leave Zhang Heng's side for a long time. Furthermore, the three B-grade items he had on him, namely Pestilence Bone Bow and Hidden

Scabbard, were purely weapon-type equipment. Obviously, they were not suitable. He could not let Han Lu show everyone how to spread the plague on a large scale, right.

The Infinite Building Block, on the other hand, was a little too high-tech. It was completely beyond the scope of the current scientific explanation. Entering the scope of magic, it would be difficult to come up with any theories.

Among the remaining items, the Filter Lens was actually the one that could meet Han Lu's requirements the most. It was already shocking enough just to advertise the automatic light supplement function. At the same time, it did not seem to be too far away from the current scientific system. The commercial prospects were vast, and once mass-produced, it would have an unimaginable market. No investor would be unmoved by it.

However, the story of the Filter Lens was difficult to continue. This was because Han Lu only had one lens from the beginning to the end. She could not even take out a second sample. If this continued, investors would definitely have doubts.

In comparison, the Marble Soft Drink was much better. As long as Han Lu found someone to build a machine that looked very scary, then place it on the machine's mechanical arm, she could find a few bottles that were large enough to produce a continuous stream of various flavors of pinball soda. The cost was low, but the prospects were not as enticing as the Filter Lens, she might be unable to raise the funds that Zhang Heng needed in the limited time.

There was another problem with the Pinball Soda. It was not found initially by Zhang Heng, but as a part of the payment that 1810 and the others granted him when they invited him to help solve the Sphinx incident. In other words, he wasn't the only one who knew about the Pinball Soda's effects.

If Han Lu's project became popular, it was very likely that someone would link him to the project. Zhang Heng didn't want to cause trouble for himself, and more importantly, he didn't want to cause Han Lu trouble. Therefore, if there was a condition, he still hoped that he could choose from the items he had brought from the dungeon.

However, he did not seem to have any particularly suitable items on hand.

However, Zhang Heng was not in a hurry. He still had a piece of newly obtained golden scale that was currently being appraised. In addition, he was about to enter the next round of the regular dungeon. There was still a high chance that he would obtain a new item there. If it really did not work out, he could still use the trading firm to purchase some unappraised equipment and gamble on his luck.

Zhang Heng then went through the general financing process with Han Lu and listed the timing of each financing. Zhang Heng also gave Han Lu D4's contact information so she could transfer the money to the other party.

After everything was done, Han Lu had the waiter open a bottle of red wine and raise the wine glass in her hand. It could be seen that she was very excited tonight because she knew that she was already standing in front of the mine. The next step was to mine the countless gold below. "To celebrate our cooperation! From today onwards, I am also your investor."

Chapter 1125: The Invisible Enemy

In order to make time for his upcoming Greenland trip, Zhang Heng didn't have much rest this time. After meeting Han Lu to discuss the financing, he returned to the game's checkpoint the next day.

At this time, the school was basically on vacation. The number of students in the bar had obviously increased, and the air was filled with the scent of hormones. Zhang Heng squeezed through the crowd and came to the iron ladder. He showed the player number on his arm before he walked up.

When he pushed the door open, he saw the bartender sitting behind the bar counter, as usual, paddling and playing NS. When she saw Zhang Heng, she raised her eyes slightly. "You're here?"

"Yes."

The two acted as if the incident on the Red Island had never happened. From the beginning to the end, Zhang Heng had never questioned why the bartender was there, and the latter had no intention of explaining at all.

However, after the monster in front of her was killed, the bartender finally put down the game console in her hand and stood up again. She took out a tulle tree box from under the bar counter and pushed it in front of Zhang Heng.

"Your new item has been appraised."

Zhang Heng opened it and saw the golden scales inside. On top of that, there was a card with the appraised result on it.

[Name: Earthly Scale]

[Quality: C]

[Effect: The wearer would absorb the earthly scale into his body. When required, the user will receive a large increase in strength. However, after using it, there will be some side effects, mainly being exhaustion. After resting, the wearer can recover.]

The effect of the Earthly Scale was very simple and direct. It was the most commonly seen strength-enhancing equipment in RPG games, in line with Jemengard's positioning. However, it had to be said that such a rough attribute enhancement was best for practical use.

Whether it was in combat or in special circumstances, this item had strategic significance. However, after looking at the effect's attributes, Zhang Heng still had some objections to the description.

"What does it mean by incorporating it into the body? I'm not a snake, fish, or any other scaly animal. I Can't let this scale grow on my body, can I?" Zhang Heng asked.

"That's easy," the bartender said. "Show me your chest."

Zhang Heng took off his T-shirt. The bartender's gaze wandered over his chest and abdominal muscles. She whistled and stopped at his heart. "Let's do it here. This scale can also provide some protection for your heart."

After saying that, she used the scale to cut open the skin on Zhang Heng's left chest. The wound was very shallow, so even if the scale was placed on top of it, it would not penetrate more than a millimeter.

However, the next moment, something miraculous happened, the golden scale seemed to come to life, and it actually began to burrow into Zhang Heng's chest.

The whole process lasted for about a minute. In the end, the golden scale completely sank into Zhang Heng's body, and he could no longer see it from the outside. During this period, Zhang Heng did not feel any pain.

Another half a minute passed, and even the wound disappeared.

The bartender clapped her hands. "Alright, when you're using it, hit your chest three times and recite Jemengard's name in Luenwen."

After saying that, the bartender demonstrated the pronunciation twice for Zhang Heng to remember.

Zhang Heng knew that Luenwen was a language used by the Nordic Germanic race, but it was later replaced by Latin and gradually died out. However, now that it was discovered, some people began to use Luenwen for divination.

After Zhang Heng received the Earthly Scale, he was about to head to the booth when he was stopped by the bartender.

"Wait, there's one more thing for you."

"Hmm?" Zhang Heng was a little surprised when he heard this. This time, he only had one more item to be appraised by the bartender. It was the Earthly Scale on his body.

"The first round of the proxy war has ended. The top 50 people get a small gift. Have you forgotten?" The bartender said as she took out another box from behind the bar counter.

Zhang Heng had really forgotten about it. He didn't expect the game organizing committee to be so efficient. The first round of the proxy war had just ended two days ago, and the gift had already arrived.

Zhang Heng looked at the size of the box and asked, "What's inside?"

"It just came this afternoon. To be honest, I don't know either." The bartender was also very curious.

Hence, Zhang Heng directly opened the package in front of her. In the end, he saw a brand-new PS4 Pro inside.

"..."

"Is this a game item?" Zhang Heng asked the bartender.

"No, this is just an ordinary game console," the bartender said. She looked a little deflated, and she pulled herself back behind the bar counter. "This doesn't have any supernatural powers attached to it, but the organizing committee has said before that the top 50 gifts are only for commemorative purposes. This thing is worth at least 2,000 to 3,000 yuan. If you don't want it, you can just drop it on salted fish."

"Then I'll leave this thing with you for now. I'll take it with me when I leave." Zhang Heng handed the PS4 Pro back to the bartender. He finally reached the booth he frequented, then set a time as usual and lay down.

As the alarm rang, the familiar feeling of dizziness assaulted him again.

[Player identification...]

[Authentication passed. Random 10th dungeon drawing for player 07958...]

[Draw complete—current dungeon is “Invisible Killer”]

“They’re like stars in the sky, shining all day long! We should spread them all over the country. They’re extremely safe—M.A. Stircovic.”

[Mission objective: Find the key person]

[Mode: Single Player Cooperative]

[Time flow: 1440 (One hour in the real world is equivalent to 60 days in the game. There is no specific time limit for this round. After completing the mission, you can return to the real world)]

Friendly Reminder, the game will officially start in five seconds. Please get ready.

The dungeon’s name and introduction were unprecedentedly abstract. Almost no valuable information was given, but Zhang Heng could still smell something unusual from the strange dungeon time.

This was the first time he had seen a dungeon with no time limit. This meant that the players could stay in the dungeon as long as they wanted. It was practically an official benefit. This was because almost all the players knew the importance of game time. Not only would increasing game time increase the success rate of the main mission, but it would also allow them to fully train their skills. However, Zhang Heng did not think that things would be that simple.

Chapter 1126: Single Player Cooperative

Other than the bonus game time, Zhang Heng also noticed that this time’s dungeon was in a single-player cooperative mode.

This was a mode that he had never experienced before, but he had had a better understanding of the various mechanisms since the start of the game. He knew that all single-players were in single-player mode, with the suffix representing the relationship with other players.

For example, he had experienced two single-player competitive dungeons before, so he and other players were competitors in the dungeon. This time, the single-player mode seemed more inclined to allow players to work together to clear the dungeon, which seemed to further reduce the game’s difficulty.

Zhang Heng could not dig out any more helpful information from the background notifications for the time being. He would only know the details after entering the dungeon.

The five-second countdown did not take long, and Zhang Heng’s vision soon returned to normal.

He realized that he was standing in a relatively small room. There were two machines on his left. About the height of a person, some unknown numbers were displayed on them. Other than that, there were also two chairs and six other people in the room.

The small room was obviously not expecting so many guests, so it was a little cramped.

The seven people in the room looked at each other with a hint of wariness.

Zhang Heng did not know what the others were looking at. Anyway, what he saw were six foreign men and women wearing white clothes and white hats. Some were short, and all of them were white. There were four men and two women.

They were all staring at each other.

After about half a minute, a man in his twenties with dark eyes and brown hair asked carefully, "Players?"

His voice was shallow and deliberately vague. At first glance, it sounded like an unconscious moan from someone who had caught a bad cold. In addition, he was a foreigner with a tall and red nose who spoke in Chinese, which was rather comical.

However, he did not expect to hear the others chime in.

"Player!"

"Me too!"

"..."

Since this dungeon was a collaborative one, at least the players in the same dungeon had the same goal. Although it could not be ruled out that some people with ulterior motives wanted to kill and steal, however, before that, everyone had to at least see the light of dawn. Therefore, the players had a relatively peaceful relationship. This was why the dark-eyed, brown-haired young man was willing to be the first to reveal his identity.

After him, Zhang Heng and the rest also revealed their identities.

There was no mirror here, so Zhang Heng did not know his actual appearance. However, his basic skin color and height could still be seen. Like the other six players, he was now a white male, probably not even thirty years old. He had a thick stubble.

In order to fully guarantee the privacy of the players, the game organizing committee would adjust the appearance and body shape of every player in the dungeon that had other players. Previously, Zhang Heng had also changed his appearance in the Apollo project dungeon; therefore, he was not surprised by the current situation.

A blonde girl wearing glasses and looking a little weak suggested, "Since it's a collaborative dungeon, we'll have to work together if we want to clear it. Why don't we introduce ourselves first so that we can get to know each other better? It'll be easier for us to work together later. It doesn't have to be too complicated. Just tell us your code name and what you're good at."

"Sure." The young man with dark eyes and brown hair was the quickest to respond. He said straightforwardly, "My code name is young man Zhanfu. My specialty is electronic intrusion and helicopter piloting."

The blonde girl nodded. "Young man Zhanfu. Why does this name sound so familiar to me? I feel like I've heard it somewhere before."

Young man Zhanfu's face turned red when he heard that. "I... I like the water player forum. Usually, if I have nothing to do, I'll always hang up my account. I've left comments under many posts."

"No wonder." The blonde girl understood suddenly. "Now that you mention it, I also remember. You're Simon's fan, right? In the post about Simon, I saw you and the people from the three big guilds scolding each other. You single-handedly scolded four people on the opposite side. You scolded them for a total of five pages."

"I'm ashamed. I'm still too young. I can't control my hands. My account often receives the small black room set meal." The youth said this, but there was no shame on his face. It was clear that he was proud of his one versus four.., in the end, he was proud of the glorious battle record of the four people running away with their heads held high.

Following that, the blonde girl introduced herself, "My code name is Master Kui. I'm good at the directional explosion, Latin, and Jeet Kune Do."

When her code name was revealed, spirits were shaken. There was nothing they could do. The main thing was that Master Kui's muscular image was too deeply rooted in people's hearts, utterly incompatible with her blonde hair and blue eyes. In addition, her skills were also very fierce. Not only did she practice Jeet Kune Do, but she also used directional explosion. Everyone could not help but take a second look at her.

"Doctor, skills are the same as surgical medicine. If everyone accidentally loses a limb, I can help everyone reattach it as elegantly as long as conditions allow," a tall, thin, and gentle-looking man was the third to speak. However, his humor couldn't relax the atmosphere.

It was mainly because of the unknown dungeon that everyone was still on guard when they first entered. Hearing him mention the broken limb, they could not bring themselves to laugh.

Three of them started, and the rest of the people also exchanged code names and skills that they were good at. Of course, many people would hide something from them. After all, no one would reveal all their trump cards the moment they entered,

"Simon, detective, vehicle piloting, and knife skills..."

When it was Zhang Heng's turn, he casually picked a few skills to talk about.

When he finished, he realized that the room was silent.

Those two simple words seemed to have some kind of magic, causing everyone to stop what they were doing simultaneously. As for the young man, his mouth was wide open. He looked as if he could swallow two pancakes and two sesame paste pancakes in one gulp.

After a long while, he regained his speaking ability and subconsciously asked again, "Who are you?!"

"Simon."

“Oh my God, I actually met the number one god in the national server in a single row!!! You’re Simon, you’re really Simon?!” The young man gushed in excitement. “Does this mean that I can totally win this time?!”

The expressions on the other players’ faces were also different. If one were to talk about who was the most popular in the player circle, nine out of ten people would say Simon. He overpowered the three big guilds and the mysterious beta, obtaining the highest score in the first round of the proxy war. Thus, the critical point was that Simon only used two games, which was ridiculous compared to the others.

Chapter 1127: Open Door

No one had expected to encounter the legendary Simon in this dungeon, not to mention in the collaborative dungeon mode. When they realized what was happening, their faces were filled with the same joy that beheaded the youth.

Indeed, this dungeon had the number one player, Simon, presiding over it. This was equivalent to reduce the dungeon’s difficulty significantly. In addition to the nearly unlimited game time, no one could think of any reason for their side to roll over. In addition, they did not have to worry about being robbed by influential players when the dungeon was almost over. Since Simon could offer a reward of 200,000 points, it was unlikely that he would take a fancy to the three melons on them.

From the looks of it, they had hit the jackpot in this dungeon. The nervous expressions on everyone’s faces relaxed, and some of them even began to chat happily.

Zhang Heng was not in the best mood. The conditions of this dungeon were unbelievably relaxed, but because of that, it gave off a strange aura, primarily when related to its name—the invisible killer. It was inevitable that bad premonitions about unknown danger waiting for them ahead would surface.

Thus, after introducing himself, Zhang Heng immediately began to study the room they were in. There were no windows, but only a door. Furthermore, it was locked from the outside. They could not open it from the inside, and they could not see what was happening outside. However, they could hear the sounds coming from the outside, including the whirring of the machines and the sound of water flowing through the pumps. Coupled with the two seemingly sophisticated machines in the room, they could deduce that they were currently in a factory.

Meanwhile, the other players didn’t idle around. Even though they were lucky enough to bump into Simon this time, they wouldn’t be pulling this off if they really wanted to survive. In fact, in this day and age, very few players dared to play single-player mode, one that had a way higher risk. Not only did they have to deal with all sorts of complicated environments, but they also had to face competition from other players. If they were not careful, they might get into trouble. If they really wanted to play, it would be more convenient to play as a team.

Therefore, although the atmosphere had become relaxed, everyone did not really idle around. On the contrary, they had a tacit understanding to spread out and collect clues on their own.

The young man with the code name Mouse took off the white hat on his head and pinched it twice. “Does the white clothes we wear hint that our professions in this pocket dimension are all doctors?”

“Well, not necessarily,” the Doctor said. “The white coat was indeed invented by a 19th-century surgeon named Liszt. The founder of modern microbiology, Louis Pasteur, once put forth a theory that microbes were the main cause of human and animal diseases. Liszt heard Pasteur’s theory and began to advocate for doctors to wear white coats because it was difficult to hide dirt and was more hygienic.

“However, as more and more people accepted the existence of microorganisms, some researchers and workers on special occasions also started to wear white coats. Everyone mainly valued the relatively hygienic characteristics of white coats, and although compared to modern protective clothing, white coats were actually not very hygienic.

“Finally, to answer your question, I don’t think we carry the identities of doctors in this dungeon because I don’t smell the familiar scent from this coat.”

On the other side, a player with the code name of repairman was squatting on the ground, studying the two machines in front of him. After the doctor finished speaking, he said, “These things are ancient.”

“Is that so? But I think they are quite new,” Kuiye said.

“I’m not talking about their age, but the manufacturing date. It seems to be something from the last century.”

“This means that our dungeon was in the 20th century?!” The doctor raised his eyebrows. “It seems we are in good luck. In the 20th century, the greatest danger to humanity was the first and second world wars. Could war this Invisible Killer?”

“Correction, war is still visible,” Mouse said. “What is invisible should be human greed.”

“But we don’t look like we’re in a war,” another girl, Coconut, said. “Besides numbers, there are letters on the machine. It doesn’t look like English. Do you know what those words are?”

“Latin is ruled out,” Master Kui said.

“Rule out French and Japanese too,” added the Doctor.

“It doesn’t look like Italian or Spanish either...”

“It’s Russian,” Zhang Heng, who had been silent all the while, said.

“God... have you learned Russian before?” The young man’s eyes lit up. “It’s rumored on the forums that you have a near-complete skill reserve. One person is equal to a small party of players, so when you play the game, you will always be in a single row, and you won’t form a party with other players.”

“No, I haven’t learned Russian either.” Zhang Heng shook his head, “If I could understand what the words meant, I would have known where we are by now. “In fact, I used the same elimination method as you. In addition, with our appearance, I think we are now in Russia, or more accurately, in Soviet territory.”

“Cold War background?” The boy began to rack his brain. “Could we be a group of scientists that America has sent to infiltrate some secret Soviet factory to steal research data?”

“If that’s the case, then the main mission—to find the key people—matches,” Master Kui said, “What we need to do is to find the person who has the core information to complete this mission. It sounds quite simple.”

“Yes, during the Cold War, was there anything that the Americans coveted in the Soviet Union?”

“There’s a lot. Space technology such as artificial satellites, armed technology such as missiles and airplanes, and heavy industry technology. The key is that none of us understand Russian. After we get out, we need to find a translator first.” Someone had already started to plan their next move.

However, because Simon was there, everyone only made suggestions. Then, they all turned their eyes to Zhang Heng as if hoping that he would make the decision. Undoubtedly, Zhang Heng did not stand on ceremony.

“Since there’s no time limit for this game, let’s leave this place first before we make any plans.”

For some reason, as Zhang Heng listened to the sound of machines and water pumps outside, he felt that dwelling in this place for a long time wasn’t the best idea.

“No problem, I’ll open the door,” the youth volunteered.

Even though the players were locked inside the room, a mere door was not enough to stop them. The youth took out a piece of wire from his pocket. When he held the wire in his hand, it felt like it had come alive. The tip of the wire was probing around, and the youth hoped that would put his face on it.

“Stop fooling around. I was hoping you would do something serious,” the young man reprimanded. “Open the door for me..” With that, he stuck the piece of wire through the crack in the door.

Chapter 1128: “Factory Workshop”

The wire reached out from the gap of the door. It first twisted left and right a few times, looking rather excited, like a dog that had gone out to have fun. However, it did not forget what it wanted to do, soon looking for the keyhole.

The people in the room heard the sound of the front of the wire scratching the door. After about half a minute, the wire seemed to have found the position of the door lock. After going in and fiddling around inside for a while, with a click, the door that was locked from the inside was finally opened again. The young man was quite pleased with himself as he put the iron wire back into his pocket.

He was about to push the door open when he was stopped by the repairman. “We don’t know what’s going on outside. Should we discuss what to do if we encounter a battle later?”

“What’s there to be afraid of? We have Simon on our side,” the young man said confidently. “No matter what enemies are outside, we’ll just trample them.”

Zhang Heng initially thought that the repair union would refute him, but the latter actually nodded in agreement. “That makes sense.”

“...”

Fortunately, Master Kui was more reliable. With a frown, he said, "Don't be silly. If you want to chase after a star, you should wait until you get out." After a pause, he turned to Zhang Heng and said, "I didn't mean to offend you."

"No, you're right," Zhang Heng said as he took his Pestilence Bone Bow off his back.

With him leading the way, everyone else was ready for battle. Zhang Heng nodded at the young man before he pushed the door open.

The young man was obviously a veteran. Even though he claimed that Simon was the best in the world, he knew that he had to worry about his own life. After he pushed the door open, he immediately moved to the side.

Zhang Heng stood on the left side of the door. After he opened the door, he raised the Pestilence Bow and aimed directly in front of him. He saw a small balcony, where a man dressed like them was there. He wore a white coat, and at that moment, was looking down, as if checking the equipment below.

He heard the sound of the door opening, and he raised his head to look in the direction of the seven people.

Many thoughts flashed through Zhang Heng's mind at that moment, but in the end, the man who had rushed to the balcony turned his gaze to the front and quietly put the [plague bone bow] behind him, then, he heard the man across from him open his mouth and shout something at him.

Zhang Heng didn't understand Russian, but from his expression, he could tell that the man wasn't calling for a guard or anyone else. He was just a little surprised at why he was there.

"What do we do? Do we go out?" the young man asked in a low voice.

"Yes, three people should go out first to check on the situation. Leave four people in the room," Zhang Heng said.

After that, he, Zhanfu, and Master Kui walked out of the small room. Finally, they could see more of the outside world.

This was indeed the common factory layout. Surrounded by concrete walls, iron frames, and some machinery as far as the eye could see, the most intriguing part was at the bottom of the factory. There was a huge round lid, with a diameter of about 15 meters. The amazing thing was that the lid wasn't in a piece but divided into small cubes. There were about 2,000 pieces of those cubes. This number was calculated from the rows and columns on the side. In addition, some of the cubes were painted with different colors, and others with numbers on them.

"What is that?" the youth asked.

"I don't know. Is it some kind of maze?" Master Kui guessed.

Those stainless-steel cubes looked like the cubes in the Huarong Road game they had played before, and it was inevitable Master Kui would have such thoughts. Besides that, he also noticed that on the left side, opposite the balcony, there was also an office. Through the glass window, he could see the two workers inside, and these were all the people in the factory.

Without the guards that the players were worried about, they didn't even run into any decent armed forces. The seven of them seemed to be continuing their good luck from when they first entered the game.

"Is that all you have?" the youth in the uniform said eagerly. "Give me three minutes, and I can take them all down."

"I'll only need two and a half," Master Kui said calmly.

"How is that possible? They are quite far away from each other," the young man in the zhanfu said indignantly. "It takes a lot of time just to run there. But then again, it seems that we are indeed in the production workshop of the factory. No wonder there are no security guards... but why don't I see a few workers? Is the productivity of 20th-century Soviet Union really so high?"

While the two of them were talking in low voices, the man on the balcony opposite them shouted a few more words. The three fake foreigners in white clothes across from them wouldn't say anything other than "woola." Of course, they couldn't give him any answers either, so the man on the balcony shouted a few times, but no one paid attention to him. Thus, he had no choice but to walk over.

"I'll take him down. You go deal with the two in the office." Master Kui began to assign tasks.

"Why?" The teenager was quite dissatisfied with this arrangement. "The office needs to run a few steps, okay? And who knows if there's an alarm button inside. If you miss and alert the people inside, I'll be the one to blame."

"What else? Don't you want to move these little fish and shrimp? Do you want your idol Simon to do it?"

"Of course not. I'm the one who's going," the young man said. After a while, he came back to his senses. "Wait a minute, aren't we supposed to assign tasks to each other?"

"You're really annoying," Master Kui said impatiently. "If I ask you to do something, why don't we switch places? Do you have a way to control that guy so that he doesn't make any noise and alert the two people behind the glass window?"

The young man was speechless. In the end, he had no choice but to look to Zhang Heng for help. Eventually, he found that Zhang Heng had been staring at the big metal lid below.

"Is there a problem?" the young man asked.

"Oh, I'm wondering what this workshop is for," Zhang Heng said.

"What is it for? Speaking of which, it does seem to be a problem," the young man asked curiously. "Although this place also has a few machines, why are they all installed against the wall? The empty space in the middle only has a large manhole cover. Could the production line be below?"

All of a sudden, a tremor came from beneath his feet. Immediately after, the entire "factory workshop" started to shake as well. The three of them discovered that the metal cubes underground suddenly started to move, jumping up and down like the lid of a pot that was lifted by boiling steam.

At first, there were only a few cubes, but soon, almost all of the cubes were running up and down crazily. The round lid now looked like a distorted human face.

Chapter 1129: Explosion

“What the hell?” The youth in the Zhanfu was shocked by the sudden vibration. “Is this a normal childbirth process?”

He still had a sliver of hope in his heart, but in the end, he saw the man who was initially walking towards them on the balcony suddenly stop in his tracks. The expression on his face became incomparably terrified as if he had seen an incomparably terrifying scene. Then, ignoring them, he rushed toward the spiral staircase.

“I don’t think it’s a good idea to stay here any longer,” Master Kui said with a severe expression.

Although she had just entered the dungeon and hadn’t figured out what the factory was for, she could tell that something terrible was about to happen.

“Follow him,” Zhang Heng said.

With that, he took a step forward, and the players in the room followed behind him as they ran toward the helix.

As the players ran, they looked down at their feet, only to find that not only were the cubes jumping more and more. Even the insulation boards around them were bent by the impact, it was as if a terrifying demon was sealed under the round lid, and the latter was about to break free from its cage, bringing forth disaster to the human world.

Without Zhang Heng’s warning, everyone realized the danger and quickened their pace. They rushed down the spiral staircase and came to a passage about ten meters above the ground.

The group had just come out of the room, so they were familiar with the “factory.” In fact, they didn’t know where to run to for safety. Under such circumstances, they had few options. The safest option was to follow the man on the balcony. No matter what, the latter was a serious factory employee. He wouldn’t do something like that to himself... right?

However, to be honest, everyone wasn’t too sure. Moreover, they had lost sight of their target as soon as they entered the tunnel. Fortunately, they heard the sound of the door opening from the left side. Judging from the sound, the door should be quite heavy. The man on the balcony seemed to be struggling a little.

At the same time, they heard the sound of air behind them. Something that looked like a safety valve was opened, releasing a stream of white steam. It seemed to have relieved some of the pressure on the large manhole cover, but it didn’t take long before the valve broke, and the noise under the circular manhole cover grew even louder.

The group didn’t dare to delay any longer. They rushed to the left. There, the man standing on the balcony had already opened a safety door that looked like a bank vault, squeezing his body through it,

Zhang Heng was the first to arrive, but he wasn’t in a hurry to squeeze in. Instead, he pulled the door open a little more, so that at least two people could pass through, greatly reducing the group’s travel time.

After that, Zhang Heng, the engineer, and the young man worked together to close the safety door. However, not long after they closed the door, they heard a loud bang from the other side.

The entire “factory” shook.

“Did something explode down there?” the young man asked nervously as he continued to run. “I was so nervous just now. It was too close a call...”

However, before he could finish his sentence, he heard an even more terrifying explosion. This time, it wasn't the plant that shook, but it felt as if an earthquake before the end of the world. Unable to even stand properly, the youth was directly jolted to the ground. He saw that the wall to his right had a few cracks, to the point the steel bars inside were revealed. The lamppost above his head had also been jolted down.

The air was filled with a thick haze of dust.

The young man's ears rang. After a while, he regained his hearing. He shook his dizzy head and asked, “Is everyone okay?”

The players responded one by one. There was a safety door separating them. At the same time, they ran a distance forward. At least, the terrifying explosion did not directly affect them, therefore, there was no loss of players in the party.

Zhang Heng's attention was now on the man who had been standing on the balcony not too far away. Although the man had fallen, he did not seem to be in any danger. However, there was no joy on his face, the fear becoming even more intense. He muttered a single word repeatedly. Then, he got up from the ground and staggered toward the corridor in front of him.

Zhang Heng didn't know what that word meant until a long time later.

“What do we do now? Do we continue to follow?” the repairman said as he dusted off his clothes.

“There's no need,” Coconut said. “From the looks of it, that guy is probably going to inform the others. He'll probably call for the factory's security or something. If we go up there, there's an 80% chance that we'll be exposed. Even if we don't, there's a high chance that we'll be dragged to the fire rescue or something. Of course, I'll still follow the leader's orders.”

Previously, when Zhang Heng revealed his code name, it attracted a wave of gasps. However, other than the fanboy, the other players still treated Zhang Heng with more respect than trust. After all, they didn't have much interaction with Simon before, only knowing that he was strong enough. They knew nothing about his character and moral standards. Furthermore, they couldn't rule out the possibility that Zhang Heng was using Simon's name to cause trouble.

Therefore, even though most of the players were very polite to Zhang Heng on the surface, they were still wary of him in private. They would listen to Zhang Heng's arrangements as long as it really went against their plans. However, after Zhang Heng's action of pushing open the safety door, everyone could at least confirm that he was not the kind of person who was completely selfish and did not care about the lives of others.

This also made many players have a good impression of Zhang Heng. People like Coconut had already started to view Zhang Heng as the leader of this team. They were no longer the kind of rag-tag gang that would randomly pull people on the road. Everyone had their own ulterior motive.

Zhang Heng looked ahead. At the end of the corridor, about a hundred meters away, there was a room that looked like some control room. The man who had been standing on the balcony earlier had run there.

Zhang Heng also went there to take a look. He should be able to gather some clues related to the two explosions earlier. Unfortunately, none of the seven players who participated in the game knew Russian. Even if the clues were right in front of their eyes, they probably wouldn't be able to see it, leaving Zhang Heng to merely say, "Let's leave this place first."

The players didn't have any objections when they heard that. The earlier explosion had shattered the glass in the corridor. Glass shards were scattered all over. It looked like a mess, but from here, they could see what was below. Not only were the floor filled with rubble, but there were also glowing objects that looked like burning charcoal. There was also the distant door.

"Good news! At least we'll be able to leave this damned place soon," Mouse said. "I'm almost choking to death from the smoke and dust here. Also, what is that smell? Why does my mouth have a metallic taste?"

Chapter 1130: Chernobyl

Mouse's words changed the doctor's expression drastically.

In fact, it wasn't just Mouse. Almost all the players could taste a metallic taste in their mouths. Other than that, they could also smell the strong smell of ozone. Many people's temples were tense, their eyelids were stinging, and their chests burning.

However, this dungeon was basically filled with experienced players. It wasn't the first time they had faced danger, so no one would make a fuss over such a small matter. Moreover, there had just been an explosion here, and many places were still burning. Of course, no one expected the air quality to be good, but thoughts toward the possibility of some chemicals burning began to materialize.

Until the doctor said one word, "Nuclear radiation!!!"

"Huh?" Master Kui frowned.

"We are suffering the effects of high-intensity radiation poisoning. No, to be more precise, we are still in the midst of intense radiation!" The doctor looked extremely nervous. His voice could not help but tremble.

"How are you so sure?"

"Radioactive iodine. Radioactive iodine produced by nuclear radiation has a metallic taste. In the recent Fukushima nuclear accident, many of the interviewees mentioned that they had tasted metal when they were exposed to radiation."

"Wait, we're in 20th century Soviet Union. The plot of this game shouldn't be..."

Although Mouse did not say the name in the end, it was no longer important, because all the players present knew what he was going to say.

Chernobyl!

The worst nightmare of hundreds of thousands of people, the worst and most terrifying nuclear accident in human history. The first international nuclear accident was defined as a level seven accident, and the other level seven nuclear accident was the Fukushima nuclear accident in 2011. At the most dangerous time of the Chernobyl nuclear accident, it almost pushed the entire European continent into the abyss.

“We are at Chernobyl!!!” The repairman’s expression also darkened. “This ozone smell is the smell of air ionized by high-energy nuclear radiation, just like during a thunderstorm. We Are Here, April 25th, 1986, or the 26th. I can’t remember, but we are here! This is Chernobyl’s reactor No.4, the one that exploded just now.”

While he was talking, two more explosions came from the other side of the metal door. However, this time, the explosion was not as violent as the previous one. The corridor only shook a little.

Mouse was completely dumbfounded. “We were exposed to nuclear radiation just now? And it was at the center of the explosion. Are we going to die soon?”

“I heard that the radiation level of Chernobyl’s No.4 reactor after the explosion was 30,000 roentgens per hour.” The maintenance worker’s face turned extremely pale. “No living creature can withstand such a high level of radiation.”

“The situation is not that bad. 30,000 roentgens should be the total amount of radiation. The specific amount of radiation will vary greatly depending on the region. Although we are very close to the reactor, we were inside the building when the explosion happened.” The doctor gradually calmed down at this time, and he continued to explain. “Although the concrete can not help us completely isolate the radiation, it can indeed help me resist a considerable portion of the radiation. If we die, we are definitely dead, but we should still have some time.”

“How long?”

“I can’t say exactly how long, but it has something to do with everyone’s physical condition,” the doctor said. “A few days, a few weeks, a few months. If we’re lucky, we might live for a few years... of course, there are also people who will die in a few hours. We don’t have any equipment, so we can’t detect the current radiation level. But we can be sure that the sooner we leave this place, the better.”

“No wonder this dungeon is called the invisible killer, and there’s no time limit for the quest.” Coconut gave off a messed up expression.

Right now, everyone felt as if there was a time bomb embedded in their hearts. The numbers on the dial were ticking, representing their remaining lives. No one knew when the needle would return to zero.

Just a few minutes ago, most people had thought that this would be an easy and enjoyable experience-grinding trip. With Simon leading the team, it did not matter who their opponent was. However, no one had expected the situation to turn for the worse in an instant.

They were about to face an invisible and deadly enemy. Under such circumstances, no matter how powerful Simon was, he could not do anything against such an enemy. Therefore, the players were no longer as relaxed and cheerful as before. However, even though their morale was low, the players still accepted reality in the shortest time possible.

Zhang Heng asked the doctor, "Is there any way to extend our survival time?"

"I'll try to explain our current situation in simple terms. Nuclear radiation from nuclear fission reactions, or more accurately, ionizing radiation, includes all kinds of rays, such as alpha rays, beta rays, gamma rays, x rays, and neutrons. These rays can be roughly divided into two categories. One is a high-speed particle flow dominated by alpha rays, beta rays, and neutrons, and the other is a high-energy electromagnetic wave like x rays and gamma rays."

The doctor sped up his speech, "Regardless of whether it's the high-speed particle flow or the high-energy electromagnetic waves, the most fundamental cause of damage to the human body is the transfer of energy.

"Matter is made up of atoms, and our bodies are no exception. The energy carried by the high-energy electromagnetic waves will be absorbed by the atoms after entering the body, and then released in the form of kinetic energy, thus destroying the structure of the molecules. The high-speed particle flow is even more powerful because the mass can directly break the molecular bonds.

"The cuticles and proteins are fine. Even if they are destroyed, they can gradually recover. However, the most fatal thing is that the DNA is destroyed. This is because the genetic information carried by the DNA is guiding the activities of all the cells in the human body. If the DNA is destroyed, it will cause our cells to malfunction.

"Unfortunately, even with our technology in the 21st century, there is nothing we can do about this kind of damage on the molecular level. Therefore, the treatment in the hospital can only help you to alleviate some of the pain or prolong your life through equipment, but..."

"But what?"

"We can't do anything about the external radiation. We can only try to avoid places with high radiation values, but we can still find ways to reduce the internal radiation. The metallic taste we're tasting now comes from iodine 131. Iodine 131 will enter our bodies through breathing and food. Eventually, it will accumulate in the thyroid. To solve this problem, we can inject some iodine in advance," the doctor said. "It's like going to a restaurant and booking the table in advance, so next I suggest we go to the hospital and get some iodine pills, which should help."