

48 Hours 1151

Chapter 1151: The Elimination Method

"You don't know why the explosion happened?" Besnova demanded.

"I told you that the safety test was designed by Chief Engineer Fomin. I'm only responsible for submitting its procedure to the Institute of Hydropower Engineering and the Nuclear Safety Committee," Breuhanov said as he glanced at Zhang Heng. He appeared very nervous, haunted by thoughts that Zhang Heng would cut off another of his fingers if he was unsatisfied with his answer.

"What did the Institute of Hydropower Engineering and the Nuclear Energy Safety Committee reply to you?"

"I didn't receive any reply from them."

Seeing that Besnova was about to get angry again, Breuhanov hurriedly added, "You can't blame me for that! They're very busy... I don't know how long they'll have to wait for the reply, and the reactor is about to be shut down for maintenance. If we miss this time, we'll have to wait until the next cycle before we can carry out the test. We've done this several times before, and we haven't encountered any problems."

After Breuhanov finished, he saw Zhang Heng, Master Kui, and Coconut whispering to each other. They even glanced at him from time to time, which gave him goosebumps. Thus, he took the initiative to plead. "I know I've made a mistake, so I'll go back to Moscow with you. I only hope that you'll let me say goodbye to my family."

"Who's taking you to Moscow?" Angered by Breuhanov's words, Besnova laughed.

However, after that, her expression changed and she said to Breuhanov with a straight face, "The cause of the accident has not been found out yet. We will not go back. Don't mention to anyone else that we came to look for you, understand?"

"Understood. Understood." Breuhanov nodded repeatedly.

"The others I'm talking about also include the expert group and the committee members after that."

"Of course." Breuhanov almost patted his chest.

"Your secretary?"

"I'll take care of it. I'll make sure she keeps her mouth shut."

"Your finger?"

"I was too worried about the accident at the nuclear power plant, so I cut myself while cutting an apple." Clearly, Breuhanov understood. However, his excuse was too ridiculous, and Besnova was speechless.

After that, Zhang Heng left Master Kui behind to look after Breuhanov, and he took Besnova and Coconut to look for Fomin, who was next door.

Unlike Bryuhanov, the tactful and worldly-looking factory manager, Fomin possessed a square face, sharp corners, deep eyes, and a pleasant voice. Sounding a baritone singer, he was clearly usually very efficient in his work.

But now, he was the first person in the nuclear power plant to collapse. Zhang Heng and the others could hear him shouting, "Where else can I find water?! Where else can I find water?"

Apparently, the chief engineer was having a headache over how to carry out the orders of the higher-ups to continue supplying water to the reactor, even though there was no longer a need for water there.

Zhang Heng and the others said nothing. They pushed the door open and walked in. After that, Fomin received the same treatment as Bryuhanov, and he was pressed on the table by Zhang Heng.

So far, the players had already talked to the four people on the list, but they still hadn't received any system notifications, so only Fomin was left at the top of the list.

According to Dyatlov, Bryuhanov, and the others, the safety experiment that triggered the reactor explosion was designed by Fomin, so he was obviously responsible. Fomin must have realized this, which was why he had become so stressed.

Like Bryuhanov, he insisted on blowing up the water tank instead of the reactor, because only then could he possibly survive the current crisis.

Thus, he spent most of the morning figuring out how to fill the reactor with water. After the water in the spare water tank was used up, he even contacted the fire department and asked them to bring more water over with fire trucks.

Zhang Heng and the others returned to the nuclear power plant. Although they were led by Vorobyov, they were still exposed to some radiation along the way. Normally, it wouldn't be that serious, but because they were already at the scene of the explosion, and now had absorbed a good amount of radiation at close range, Coconut didn't look too good either. After entering Fomin's office, she threw up in the trash can for a while.

However, when she raised her head and looked at Fomin, her eyes were filled with hope. Fomin felt his hair stand on end under her gaze. He didn't understand why this strange woman was looking at him like she was her savior.

The chief engineer had no idea what to do with the current situation. Furthermore, his mental pressure had reached a critical point. As long as Zhang Heng exerted a little pressure on him, he wouldn't even need to do anything before explaining everything honestly.

However, after a round of questioning, Fomin repeatedly stated that he didn't understand why the explosion had happened. He insisted that there was nothing wrong with the design of his test. Even after Zhang Heng stabbed the knife into Fomin's thigh and he wailed in pain, he still couldn't figure out what went wrong with the safety test. He only blamed everything on the two who were on duty last night.

In the end, Zhang Heng only released his grip when he realized that he could not ask any more questions. By then, Fomin was completely paralyzed on the table. Snot and tears were streaming down his face.

On the other side, Coconut looked exhausted. She sat on the sofa in her office and covered her face with her hands. No one knew what she was thinking.

The office fell into a strange silence.

Coconut spent a full six to seven minutes to barely suppress the disappointment in her heart. She opened her mouth again. "Did we just ask all the people we can ask but still fail to complete the main mission? What should we do next? Who else should we look for, the designer of the nuclear power plant? What should we do if he doesn't have any effect? Have we been heading in the wrong direction from the start?"

Coconut's tone was filled with frustration and entirely devoid of faith. As the names on the list were removed one by one, the remaining ones were either not easy to find, or the ones who seemed to have less responsibility. Coconut's mood became more and more irritable. She was the most exposed among the players, and if nothing went wrong, she had the least amount of game time left. She could even feel an invisible hand slowly strangling her neck harder by the second.

"I can console you that our mission is almost complete, but you're also a player, so you should know very well that we're still in the investigation stage. We can't rule out other possibilities, so we can only choose the most likely path and go down to take a look," Zhang Heng said. "We can't get any more clues from the nuclear power plant. Let's go and meet up with the others first. Tell them about the situation here, and then we'll discuss what to do next."

Chapter 1152: The Next Step

It was already 12:20 p.m. when the players regrouped.

Almost 11 hours had passed since the explosion, and Zhang Heng had already questioned everyone involved in the accident at the nuclear power plant. He finally understood why Pripjat had waited for more than 30 hours to organize an evacuation, but the main mission that the players were most concerned about still seemed a little silent.

It wasn't just Coconut. The other players couldn't help but mutter to themselves.

"We've already seen Dyatlov, Akimov, Toptunov, Bryuhanov, and Fomin, but none of them triggered the main mission completion prompt. Could it be that the explosion really had nothing to do with them?" Mouse asked as he raised his finger.

"There's definitely something wrong with Fomin and Bryuhanov," Zhang Heng said. "They started the safety experiment without obtaining the approval, something Bryuhanov had said himself.. It's hard to tell about the others, but the two leaders definitely won't be escaping."

He had just finished changing his clothes and threw the work clothes he had worn to the nuclear power plant into the dustbin at the side.

The doctor also added, "The main mission this time is to find the key people, but actually, it didn't say how many there were. Previously, we misunderstood and felt that we should find the person with the

greatest responsibility. But could it be possible that we actually need to find all the parties involved in this accident in order to complete the mission?"

"If that's the case, then we're in big trouble." Master Kui frowned. "We don't even have an exact number of people, so how do we know if someone is missing? We don't even know how many we've found or how many we're missing."

"Who else is on the list?" the maintenance man asked.

"Uh, the designer of the nuclear power plant, or more accurately, the designer of the graphite-moderated boiling water reactor. But the problem is we don't know who he is, and he doesn't look like he in Pripjat either," Mouse said.

He seemed a little flustered now. Previously, everyone expressed their opinions and worked together to perfect the list of suspects. However, in reality, they focussed most of their attention on the first few names on the list. Never had they thought that things would develop to this stage.

As the first names were eliminated one by one, the remaining names were all unlikely, and finding them would be very troublesome.

Under normal circumstances, it would have been fine. At most, everyone would do a little investigation. However, what the players in this dungeon lacked the most was time.

Although the players were still in an okay condition, Coconut notwithstanding, according to the doctor, this was probably a temporary illusion. They were beside the reactor when it exploded, so they must have absorbed a lot of radiation. The radiation had destroyed their DNA, causing the cells to be unable to continue to replicate usually. Once these cells complete their life cycle, what awaited them next would be death.

And in the doctor's words, that was probably the most painful and cruel death of all known methods.

"What should we do? Are we going to Moscow next?" the young man asked. "But when we arrive in Moscow, where should we start looking?"

"I asked Bryuhanov. The Chernobyl Nuclear Power Plant was designed by the Institute of Hydroelectric Engineering. The first group of experts after the explosion included people from the Institute of Hydroelectric Engineering. The deputy director of Nuclear Power Plant Safety, V. S. Kowitz, was the one who came," Zhang Heng said. "He should know who designed the RBMK."

"That's great," Mouse sighed.

All the players heaved a sigh of relief. It was not that they did not want to go to Moscow. In fact, considering Pripjat's current radiation situation, no one wanted to stay here any longer. However, based on past gaming experience, main storyline quests rarely required crossing cities to complete. Moreover, it was easy to leave Pripjat. When that time arrived, it would not be so easy to return.

In another 20 hours, after Moscow realized what had happened in Chernobyl, the military completely overtook the place. Everyone living there would be forcibly evacuated, and it was bound to become an empty city.

In fact, everyone had already seen the empty buses entering Pripyat one after another in the morning. The roads near the nuclear power plant were also guarded by the militia. In addition, militia groups from other places were gathering at the Yanov station.

It might sound hard to believe.

Apparently, after the accident at Chernobyl, the first people to realize the danger were not experts led by Bryuhanov and Fomin, but Pripyat militia, who first took over the site from the fire brigade. They then began to block the road to the nuclear power plant, especially the favorite fishing sites.

They even set up a temporary emergency command center, quickly mobilized under the leadership of the Deputy Minister of the Interior, Hennadii Vasilievich Berdov, which was why when the evacuation decision was made, it was carried out so quickly.

Berdov arrived at the scene of the explosion around 5 a.m. By 7, 1,000 people from the Ministry of Interior had already arrived at the location of the accident. Berdov then contacted the transport department in Kiev, asking them to provide 1,100 vehicles for possible evacuation later.

Unfortunately, although the deputy minister smelled danger, he still did not know how dangerous the invisible opponent he was facing was. Thus, the 1,000 internal affairs militia present, like the firemen, did not take any protective measures. They were exposed to a great deal of radiation for a long time. Still, because they guarded the dangerous area, the danger was significantly reduced, or rather, greatly reducing the risk of others entering the nuclear power plant. Of course, this also caused some trouble for the players in their search for Fomin and Bryuhanov.

Ultimately, after receiving the news that the reactor was safe and sound from Fomin and Bryuhanov, Pripyat's DW Office did not issue an evacuation order. They even refuted the rumors that first secretary A. S. Kamanyuk was still waiting for the decision from the higher-ups.

However, the condition in the hospital couldn't be hidden. In the morning, people were still relatively optimistic and went to work and school as usual, but as noon arrived, more and more people felt unwell. As they coughed away, rumors and gossip of all manner began to spread.

When Zhang Heng and the other two came out of the nuclear power plant, they could see that the pedestrians on the road back to Pripyat had obviously become serious and worried. Some had even left Pripyat without waiting for official notice, by themselves or by train.

Chapter 1153: Hope

No matter what, the players finally had a plan of action for the next step.

The reality was, no matter what kind of disaster, hope was humanity's most advantageous weapon.

After finding a new direction, everyone, including Coconut, temporarily calmed down. Then, everyone began to discuss how to get close to Kovitz.

According to Bryuhanov, the expert group had arrived in Kiev an hour and a half ago. Factoring in the time on the road, they should have reached Pripyat by now. However, they did not know how they got there. Did they take a train, a car, or a ship?

Moreover, they did not know where they would go after they arrived and how their schedule for the day should be arranged. The players, however, knew where the expert group would be staying at night—the Pripyat Hotel, which was the only hotel in town. With a pleasant environment and good service, it was usually employed to receive tourists from all over the world.

Besnova was certain that if the expert group stayed in Pripyat, they would definitely stay in that hotel.

“This will save us a lot of trouble. We can just wait at the hotel,” Kui said. “When the time comes, we can let Besnova take a look at which room Kovitz is in. If we’re lucky, we won’t even have to alert the others.”

Her suggestion was also agreed upon by all the players. Hence, the maintenance crew started to drive toward the Pripyat Hotel. Everyone seemed to have regained their energy.

However, Zhang Heng knew very well that this energy was only temporary. Once he received an unsatisfactory answer from Kovitz, Coconut and many people’s emotions would probably be crushed.

Unlike the people of this era, Zhang Heng and his group of players were very clear about the horrors of nuclear radiation.

In a sense, mankind’s true understanding of the crisis actually came from the disaster. Perhaps only an intuitive incident as such could attract everyone’s attention and vigilance.

The Chernobyl accident was like a heavy punch into everyone’s stomachs, not only the ordinary people who knew nothing about nuclear physics but even the engineers and workers who worked at the nuclear power plant. Before this, thanks to their 30 odd years’ smooth path of nuclear utilization, complacency and paralysis somewhat took over everyone. Thus, when disaster really struck, many people lost their sense of danger.

This was also an important reason why, in the eyes of many people in the future, people seemed to be a little slow in dealing with this matter. To put it bluntly, both Soviets or the United States had never dealt with a situation where a reactor core exploded. So until now, 11 hours after the explosion, multitudes of people were completely oblivious to the enormity of the situation they were faced with.

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Just as the players rushed to the hotel, on the other side, the group of experts from Moscow had finally arrived from Kiev by car. Some headed directly to the nuclear power plant, where they spoke to Bryuhanov and Fomin in the bunker to understand the situation, while others headed to the Ministry of Internal Affairs to find an MI-6 helicopter. They also found a photography agency and binoculars, intending to fly above the reactor to see what was going on.

When the helicopter approached the reactor, they were completely stunned by the scene below.

The original position of the reactor was now completely in ruins. The drum separator had long left the place where it was supposed to be, and even the pipes below had been ripped out. The gathering pipes stretched out from the external wall of the auxiliary system, proudly pointing to the sky. Crushed stones

and black graphite were strewn everywhere, and the reactor core was glowing with a blue luster. The air was also filled with a strong metallic smell.

The amazing thing was that in this terrible mess, the water tank of the emergency control system that Bryuhanov and Fomin had reported didn't seem to have suffered much damage. The wall that it was on was still standing there.

The experts on the plane were also a little dumbfounded. The situation at the scene was far too different from the information they had received. On the way here, they were already thinking about how to repair the damaged part of the reactor as quickly as they could, reconnecting the reactor to the grid to generate electricity.

But now, even the most optimistic person would not think that reactor No.4 reactor could continue generating electricity.

The experts led the helicopter in a hover over the right side of the reactor before asking the cameraman to capture the scene under their feet. Everyone's heart and eyes were beating wildly.

Even without a measuring instrument, they could sense how powerful the radiation was, especially when they looked at the ruins of the reactor. They could see the deep red color below. Those on the helicopter instantly knew what that meant, but they said nothing because the prospects of that would be simply too horrifying.

It would condemn not only the Chernobyl nuclear power plant to its doom but also the 50,000 residents of Pripyat. Ukraine, Belarus, and even further would be affected. In fact, they were only flying near the reactor, and they were exposed to an insane amount of radiation. Only because they were responsible for the investigation did the experts not let the helicopter land immediately.

However, when they saw Bryuhanov and Fomin in the bunker, they did not expect them to still continue clenching their teeth, insisting that the water tank had exploded and that the reactor was safe and sound.

Bryuhanov and Fomin had already figured out that they had no way out, no matter how much they tried to shun responsibility for the reactor exploding. As the main person in charge of the nuclear power plant, they could not escape responsibility, and the only way to survive now was to drag the experts sent by the committee down with them. Then, they would figure out how to cover up this big lie.

The experts who had seen the reactor were speechless. They looked at Bryuhanov and Fomin with a hint of sympathy, thinking that the two of them must've gone completely crazy.

However, after all, the first group was only responsible for investigating the accident and a solution. They did not have the right to directly command and issue orders, even though everyone who saw the situation of the reactor felt that they should immediately evacuate the nearby residents.

However, they still waited for the members of the accident committee to arrive on the second plane, especially Boris Yevdojimovic Scherbina, the vice-chairman of the Council of Ministers. He also happened to be the first person to be in charge of handling the Chernobyl accident this time.

He had been promoting the construction of nuclear energy in Second World War for all these years. Previously, Bryuhanov had proposed that he should evacuate the residents of Pripyat, but he had

rejected it without hesitation. Having arrived in Pripjat around nine at night, he rushed to the meeting room without taking a breather.

"How's the situation?" Scherbina rubbed his sore thigh and sat on a chair in the conference room.

"It's awful. The reactor has been completely destroyed. I propose that we should evacuate the residents of Pripjat immediately," Marlin, the person in charge of the Soviet special investigation commission said with a solemn voice.

Chapter 1154: The Grand Pripjat Hotel

At the Grand Pripjat Hotel, the players had already arrived before the accident committee.

As usual, Besonova arranged a room with the front desk.

Master Kui and Besnova shared a room, mainly so the latter could be supervised. The doctor shared a room with Mouse, Zhang Heng shared a room with the maintenance man, and the last two were Coconut and the young man.

However, after the young man received the key, he pulled the repairman to a corner. After half a minute, the key in his hand had been changed to a room with Zhang Heng.

At the same time, Zhang Heng also received his own key. At the same time, the system notification rang in his ears.

[Ding! Successfully checked into the Pripjat Hotel. Game points: +3. Please check the relevant information on the character panel...]

Even though the atmosphere in the dungeon was tense, the game points were still hidden and distributed as usual.

Zhang Heng looked around. Other than the server and the server who were busy changing keys, the others' expressions also changed. They had obviously received the system notification.

Furthermore, most of the players were already used to the method of obtaining points. Previously, they had witnessed the explosion of the Chernobyl nuclear power plant but hadn't received any points. Now, they had just randomly checked into a room and received 3 points.

Zhang Heng's gaze turned around and finally landed on the young man in the uniform. The latter strolled quickly towards him.

"Idol." The young man waved the key in his hand and said excitedly, "We can live together now."

"How did you convince the maintenance worker to exchange rooms with you?"

"I promised to pay him 1 point when I get out."

"40,000 yuan just to share a room with me?" Zhang Heng raised his eyebrows.

"My family is doing well. I have two office buildings for rent, so this amount of money is nothing," the young man said nonchalantly. "You haven't seen those little girls who chase after celebrities outside. In supporting their favorite traffic celebrities, they even bought goods worth hundreds of thousands of

yuan. If 40,000 yuan was enough for them to stay with their idol for a night, they would definitely fight over it.”

“Unfortunately, I’m not a celebrity,” Zhang Heng said.

“The name Simon is enough to overshadow all celebrities in the player world. And I’m not the only one paying attention to you, my idol.” The youth in uniform blinked and then looked around, lowering his voice, “Before this dungeon, I just received a piece of gossip. February Siege, leader of the Arc of Light guild, is also secretly investigating you. It’s said that he has also mobilized large funds within the guild. I wonder what he’s up to.”

“Hmm...” Zhang Heng frowned.

He did not expect February Siege to target him as well. Previously, he had some friction with one of the three big guilds, Arc of Light, because of Shen Xixi, but he did not reveal his identity. This time, February Siege paid attention to him, most likely because of this proxy war. Speaking of which, the person who suffered the most losses on the rankings was probably Arc of Light. Although initially, they had successfully dominated the rankings, who would have thought that in the end, it would be him and Beta that would’ve to ruin it.

However, if February Siege wanted to kill him because of such a thing, it would seem like they were making too much of a fuss. Therefore, Zhang Heng could not guess what Arc of Light was thinking. However, he still nodded as a gesture of thanks to the youth who provided him with the information.

The latter patted his chest. “It’s no big deal. I have long disliked those guys from the three major guilds on the forums. If I find out that their people are up to something, I will definitely inform you immediately. So, you see... my idol, should we add each other on WeChat or QQ so we can contact each other more easily?” The youth rubbed his hands in glee.

“I’m sorry, I don’t like to be disturbed,” Zhang Heng bluntly rejected. “If you want to find me, you can send me a private message on the forum. My ID is Saturn V.”

“Roger that. All experts have their own personalities.” The young man gave him a thumbs-up as if he knew what he was talking about. Initially, he did not have much hope of getting Zhang Heng’s phone number or QQ. The only reason he asked was so that he could play a few games first. He was already very satisfied with Zhang Heng’s Forum ID. This meant that he could look at Simon’s posts and replies in silence.

“I often hang out on the forum, so I’m very well-informed,” the youth added. “I can see many posts that were deleted not long after they were posted. If you want to know anything, you can come to me.”

“Okay, okay.”

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After the players received the keys to their room, they did not rush upstairs but first assigned the order of duty.

Of course, they would not forget the purpose of staying here. They needed to know when the experts from the committee would come to the hotel. However, this job did not require too many people. They

only needed to leave one person in the lobby to watch the door while the rest could go back to their rooms and wait.

Thus, everyone arranged a shift. Everyone stayed downstairs for two hours, and after that, the next person was replaced. Taking into account Coconut's current condition, the players removed her from the duty roster.

The first person to stay on duty was the maintenance worker. After that, the rest of the group took the elevator to the sixth floor, where the guest rooms were, and returned to their respective rooms.

The players had been in a hurry since the moment they entered the dungeon. Previously, they wanted to escape the Chernobyl Nuclear Power Plant that had an accident as quickly as they could. Then, in an attempt to quickly complete the main mission and investigate the cause of the accident, they had been running around for more than ten hours. Only now did they have some time to rest.

At least, before Kovitz arrived at the hotel, they had nothing else to do but wait.

Before leaving the elevator, the doctor reminded the players to stay alert and open the windows. They had to be careful of the radiation outside. Then, the players separated in the corridor. The young man found the room where Zhang Heng and Kovitz stayed and inserted the key into the keyhole.

When he opened the door, he saw a spacious guest room.

Although the furniture was old and looked like it was from the 1980s or 1990s, everything looked fresh and new. Just like Pripjat, the hotel hadn't been built for long and had only just opened for business; however, the facilities were perfect, and the environment was beautiful. This also reflected the ambitions of Pripjat's builders and managers.

Not only did they aspire for Pripjat to become an atomic city, but they also wanted it to become a famous tourist attraction. The large amusement park had been built early on, and the second hotel had been approved and was about to start construction. If not for the sudden nuclear accident, this beautiful town might be just crowded with tourists in many years.

Chapter 1155: Speculation

As soon as the young man entered the room, he tossed the bag in his hand onto the sofa. He walked over to the wine rack and grabbed a bottle of vodka and two wine glasses.

"Would you like to try some authentic Soviet vodka?"

"No," Zhang Heng said as he walked over to the window. He first checked if it was closed before picking a shaded spot near the door and moved a chair to sit there.

On the other side, the young man had already poured half a glass of vodka for himself. He took a sip and commended, "Yes, it simply tastes perfect. Even though I've never tasted authentic vodka before, I don't know what authentic vodka tastes like. Are you sure you don't want a glass, my idol? At least you can be disinfected. After all, according to the doctor, the cells in our bodies have probably become abnormal."

"Vodka can't cure your radiation sickness," Zhang Heng said calmly.

“Alright, it’s just a Soviet joke.” The uniformed youth scratched his head. He could see that Zhang Heng didn’t seem to have any interest in chatting now, so he didn’t bother him anymore and returned to enjoying the vodka he had just got.

Having calmed down, Zhang Heng finally had the chance to check his character interface.

Name: Zhang Heng

Gender: Male

Age: 20

Player number: 07958

Number of rounds played: 9

Current game points: 216

Items: Sheath (B), Infinite building blocks (B), Pestilence Bone Bow (B), Earthly Scales (C), Heart of Kreis (D), Filter Lens (D), Parris’ Arrow (D), Lucky Rabbit’s Foot (E), Oath Rings (F), Pinball Soda (F)

Skills: Knife Lv. 4, Sailing Lv. 3, Shooting Lv. 3, Assassin Lv. 3, Lego Assembly Lv. 3, Language proficiency Lv. 2 (Nine languages at daily communication standard), Archery Lv. 2, Field Survival Lv. 2, Driving skills Lv. 2, Modification and Maintenance Lv. 2, Aerospace Lv. 2, Geek Lv. 2, Criminal Investigation Lv. 2, Make-Up Lv. 2, Cowboy Lv. 2, Piano Lv. 1, Skiing Lv. 1, Rock Climbing Lv. 1, Herbbalogy Lv. 1

Evaluation: this player has inherited part of Shadow Power, is proficient in nine languages, and possesses incredible knife skills. As an opponent, you would not want him to touch any knife in battle. He is also a Lego master and a spear expert, an assassin lurking in the shadows, a cowboy with superb skills, excellent detective and camouflage abilities, and possesses slightly better luck than ordinary people and a higher chance of encountering enemies. He is the emissary of Plague, armed with fierce blades, has excellent sailing experience, is proficient at bows and arrows, can drive cars, fly airplanes, spacecraft, and other vehicles, and adapts well to wild environments. He has a rich reserve of skills, keeps promises, and bursts with fantastic strength at critical moments. In addition, he is also a pinball soda fan. All in all, he is a nearly perfect player.

This time, Zhang Heng slightly adjusted the item he carried with him in the dungeon. Death Illusion had been used by Fan Meinan not long ago, and in its place was the new Earthly Scale that he had obtained. Other than its practical effects, this item’s biggest advantage was that it did not take up any space and was directly hidden inside his body. Other than that, Zhang Heng also brought along Pinball Soda.

In addition, after going through the last round of the dungeon, his skills had also undergone some changes. Although his language proficiency was still at level 2, it had increased to nine languages. This meant that the Finnish he had been studying before had also reached the level of daily communication. His Lego assembly skill had also been upgraded from level 2 to 3.

It was a significant upgrade, of course. This was because the skill had been stuck at level 2 for quite some time, and even though Zhang Heng didn’t delve into it intentionally after leaving the Lego dungeon, he still managed to achieve a breakthrough in the bodyguard dungeon because he had used it many times.

This was the fifth level 3 skill he was possessing. The evaluation that followed had also been updated accordingly. Zhang Heng was already familiar with the previous content, where the comment of the pinball soda fan at the back was probably because he brought along the corresponding item. The focus was actually on the last half of the sentence.

This was also a summary of the character. Before this, Zhang Heng's description was stated as "rarely seen among players" and had not been updated much. It was only until this dungeon that this half of the sentence finally changed, to "almost perfect gamer."

Zhang Heng wondered if there were other players who had received such a comment.

On the other side, the young man in the uniform was silent for a while before he could not help but ask, "Idol, what are you thinking about?"

"I'm thinking about who the god behind this dungeon is," Zhang Heng replied.

The young man nodded. "Indeed. There has been a saying among the players that there is a god behind every dungeon. They will set up obstacles in the dungeon to screen out the agents that fit their needs. This dungeon is related to Chernobyl, which means... the god of disaster is behind it? Or the god of nuclear energy, if there is such a thing. Hmm... is there any meaning in finding out the owner of this dungeon?"

"Most of the time, there is no meaning to it," Zhang Heng said. "But we don't have any other clues at the moment. I'm just saying, don't take it to heart."

"How can you not take it to heart? You're Simon, the number one player among players. You've cleared many dungeons by yourself. If it were anyone else, it would be fine, but you definitely wouldn't be shooting off your mouth. Did you find something?"

The youth in uniform seemed interested.

"No, any investigation will start with a lot of assumptions. Most of these assumptions will be quickly eliminated as the investigation progresses," Zhang Heng said. "Don't think too highly of me. The information I have now is basically the same as yours."

"You're being too modest, idol," the young man in the uniform said unhappily. "Two games and you're already number one on the leaderboard. I don't know who else can do it other than you. Unlike the others, I've always believed that you can help us clear this dungeon."

"Yeah, maybe I'm overthinking things. After all, this is just a normal dungeon, so the difficulty shouldn't be that high. When we find Kovitz, we should be able to recreate the nuclear accident. Hopefully, we will successfully complete the main storyline mission by then," Zhang Heng said. "I'll take a nap first. I'll probably be busy at night."

"Hurry up and go to sleep, my idol. Don't worry, I'll wake you up if anything happens."

The youth raised the wine glass in his hand. Since he was going to be the maintenance man's next shift and couldn't rest immediately, he volunteered to be the alarm.

Chapter 1156: An Unexpected Situation

Zhang Heng slept until around 8 pm. The sky outside the window had darkened, and the traffic on the street downstairs had also increased significantly. Almost all of the cars were heading out of the city. Forming a long line, the road was completely choked, not to mention the steady stream of cars joining in along the way.

Although there was no official evacuation announcement, more and more people chose to leave Pripjat. In fact, the school had already announced the suspension of classes in the afternoon, and students were required to stay indoors. However, the hotel had just sent people to check room by room, and all hotel services, including the restaurant, were not affected.

However, the seven players did not dare to eat the freshly baked bread and sausages. Even though they looked delicious, Zhang Heng and the others still chose to eat canned food in the packaging. They only used the hotel's kettle to boil two bottles of mineral water to drink.

8:40 pm.

Zhang Heng took over from the previous doctor on duty and sat in the lobby of the Pripjat Hotel. He took out a newspaper, but in reality, he observed the people coming in and out of the door.

According to the hotel receptionist, the current Pripjat Hotel was at more than half of its occupancy rate. Guests mainly came for travel and business, including a small number of foreign guests who came to admire the modern atomic city.

It could be seen that the guests were also worried about the current situation. Some were already considering whether to leave early, but some decided to stay.

At around 10:15, Zhang Heng saw a group of people walk in from outside. There were more than 20 of them, and each of them was dressed in a suit. Some of them were even dressed in military uniforms. They escorted a short but agile man into the hotel.

When the waiter saw them, he quickly went up to welcome them. However, before he could say anything, he was interrupted by the short man in the middle. He waved his hand impatiently, and the waiter immediately became silent, not daring to say anything else. He quickly led them to a restaurant at the side.

It seemed that the head chef had been informed in advance and had already prepared the meal. However, it had been a while, and the temperature had dropped. Most importantly, there was already a lot of radioactive dust on the surface, but the group of people did not seem to notice. After they had prepared their own food, they found a place and started wolfing it down. There was almost no conversation during the whole process. It was clear that they were all worried, and many of them looked exhausted.

Zhang Heng knew that he had finally met the right person.

Although he had never met the people from the committee, the clothes and behavior of the group in front of him, other than the committee members and experts who had just arrived in Pripjat, seemed out of place. The short man in the middle, if nothing else, was the chairman of the accident committee, Shelbina.

According to Bryuhanov, the short man was a serious and stuffy man with a strong sense of control. Whenever he gave an order, there was no room for negotiation. This was why Bryukhanov was so afraid of him. Even now, the Chernobyl nuclear power plant director was still insisting that the water tank had exploded.

However, the experts who had arrived first realized how serious the situation was. After dinner, they split up. Shcherbina and the other two took the elevator, but the rest did not return to their rooms. Instead, they turned around and left the hotel.

Zhang Heng hesitated for half a second before standing from his seat. He picked up the newspaper and followed Shcherbina.

If everything went as planned, the people who left would return to work. Shcherbina and the other two would probably take a break first. However, when they entered the elevator, Zhang Heng saw him press the button for the top floor.

Zhang Heng chose the lower floor. When the elevator arrived, he left the elevator with the newspaper in hand. He took three steps to ensure that the people in the elevator could no longer see his position. Then, he immediately sped up and ran to the safety corridor, following the stairs to the top floor of the hotel.

Zhang Heng poked his head out to look in the direction of the corridor. Shcherbina and the other two had just walked out. However, they did not go to any rooms. Instead, they went up the fire escape to the rooftop of the hotel. There, a helicopter was already waiting for them.

Although Shcherbina had been persuaded by the experts at the previous meeting to agree to the evacuation, he still wanted to see for himself the real situation of the reactor.

Zhang Heng didn't expect the committee to have a quick dinner upon their return to the hotel after such a long trip. They didn't even return to their rooms to rest before they went back to their own work. However, Zhang Heng wasn't in a hurry. He knew that those people would come back to sleep sooner or later. Furthermore, they had gotten the keys to their rooms while they were eating and had asked the waiter to carry their luggage to their rooms. In other words, he could already find Kovitz's room from the waiter.

Therefore, Zhang Heng went to Coconut's room. He was about to ask her to continue translating and discuss with Besnova how to get the room number. He didn't expect that he'd receive no response after knocking on the door.

Zhang Heng frowned. Among the players, only Coconut and the maintenance worker lived alone. He couldn't rule out the possibility that she was sleeping and didn't hear the knocking at the door. Therefore, Zhang Heng emboldened himself, but the door next door opened first. The maintenance guy poked his head out and asked, "What's wrong?"

"There's no movement in Coconut's room," Zhang Heng said.

"What a troublesome woman. Should I call the uniformed boy to open the door?" the maintenance guy muttered. He had a deep impression of the lively iron wire of the boy.

“No need. This kind of lock is very simple. I can open it too,” Zhang Heng said. He had checked the door lock the first time he checked in, and he was very familiar with opening it now. However, before he entered the room, Zhang Heng still shouted, “We’re in.”

After saying that, he pushed the door open. However, just as he stepped into the room, he smelled the sour smell of vomit.

Zhang Heng took out a mask and put it on. When he entered the room, he saw the Coconut lying on the floor. Her face was now completely red. Zhang Heng touched her forehead and realized that it was frighteningly hot. She was probably suffering from a high fever and had fainted from it. Perhaps the only fortunate thing was that she hadn’t eaten much previously, which prevented her from dying from choking on her own vomit.

Zhang Heng turned to look at the stunned maintenance worker behind him. “What are you still standing there for? Go get the doctor!”

Chapter 1157: First Member Reduction

As the players had previously visited Pripyat’s medical center, the doctor took this opportunity to collect a batch of medicines that might come as useful. Not only were there anti-radiation medicines like potassium iodide, but there were also some anti-inflammatory drugs and tranquilizers. Now, these medicines had finally come in handy.

About 20 minutes later, the sweating doctor came out of the room, leaving only Kui and Besnova to take care of Coconut.

“How is she?” Zhang Heng asked.

“Not very optimistic.” The doctor took a cigarette from the repairman’s hand and took two puffs. “The deterioration of her body is faster than I expected. Her body temperature is around 38 to 39 now. Hair loss, ulcers, body swelling... but these are all minor. The real problem is that the radiation is destroying her immune system. After that, any kind of bacteria floating in the air could be fatal to her.”

The doctor paused for a moment before asking Zhang Heng, “Did you come into contact with any radioactive sources when you returned this time?”

“There was radiation everywhere at the nuclear power plant, but we met someone from the Ministry of Civil Defense there. He had a detector in his hand, so we followed him. We tried our best to avoid places with high levels of radiation.”

“Is that so? That could be because the amount of radiation accumulated in her body before was already very high. In short, her current condition is very bad. I just thought of a way for her to have some physical cooling, and I also applied some ointment on her festering wound, but this is only to relieve her a little. From the doctor’s point of view, I suggest that we send her to the hospital because, considering the development of her condition, she needs a sterile ward and, if necessary, a bone marrow transplant. This won’t save her life, but it will allow her to live a little longer. If we’re lucky, she might be able to live until we complete the main mission.”

“Wait a minute,” the maintenance man said. “We have to send her to the hospital? But who will be the next interpreter with the Ukrainian woman?”

“Given Coconut’s current condition, we might be able to have a chat with her and ask her to lend us the other earring. We’ll return it to her after completing the main mission,” Zhang Heng said. He then turned to ask the doctor. “Is she conscious now? Can she speak?”

The doctor nodded. “She’s still conscious, but her lips have festered and her skin has fallen off. It’ll probably be very painful for, so if you want to talk, make it really brief.”

At that moment, the uniformed boy interjected, “We... will become like this in the future?”

He also came out of the room after hearing the commotion, and when he saw Zhang Heng and the others standing in the corridor, he asked curiously.

“Yes, it’s very possible, but logically speaking, it shouldn’t have developed so quickly.” The doctor’s expression became unprecedentedly grave. “I don’t know if it’s because of the design of the dungeon or some other reason, but I estimated that we still had a week to move out. But now, it seems that I was a little too optimistic. We need to complete the main mission as soon as possible.”

“You don’t have to tell me. I’ve been dreaming of leaving this place,” the maintenance man grumbled.

Zhang Heng didn’t say anything else. Just as he was about to walk into the room, he saw Master Kui walking out. Not only that, she was holding an earring in her hand.

“You’ve already gotten it? So fast!” The maintenance man exclaimed in surprise. “We were just discussing this matter. How did you convince that self-saboteur to hand over the earring? And isn’t it in her stomach? How did you get it out?”

“What are you thinking? How could it be in her stomach?” the doctor asked. “Coconut kept vomiting. If the earring had been in her stomach, it would have thrown it up a long time ago. Even if she didn’t, it would have gone into the sewer along with the feces. This item is so important to her, so how could she have swallowed it in one gulp? She only used a small trick and showed her attitude in the car.”

“You saw it, but you didn’t tell us?” The repairman asked unhappily. However, when he looked at the faces of Zhang Heng and the young man, he realized that there was no change in their expressions. The repairman was stunned, “No way. Am I the only one who doesn’t know? But didn’t you agree to her request back then?”

The repairman was asking Zhang Heng.

“Yes, she was very emotional at the time, and I just needed an interpreter. It doesn’t matter who the interpreter is, so there’s no need to provoke her anymore,” Zhang Heng explained.

On the other side, the uniformed young man also consoled the maintenance man. “Even if you say that you’re the only one who doesn’t know, that’s not the full extent of it. Mouse probably didn’t notice it either, but I think he likes Coconut a little, or maybe his hormones have dulled his brain.”

“...”

“In any case, Coconut now understands that she can’t continue to act as the team’s translator due to her physical condition. She’s not an unreasonable person, so she agreed to lend her Whispers to us for now,” Master Kui said. “However, there’s a condition. Among all the players, she only trusts Mouse, so

she hopes that the Whispers can be placed in Mouse's hands. Of course, since she has already handed them over, there's nothing she can do if we disagree."

"I have no objections," Zhang Heng said. "Like I said before, I just need a translator. It doesn't matter who becomes the translator."

"I support my idol unconditionally," the young man said quickly. Then, the doctor nodded in agreement.

The maintenance worker looked at the crowd and muttered, "What, do I look like a bad person? "I just don't like her defensive attitude towards other players. This is not a one-man team dungeon. At least before the main storyline quest is completed, everyone should stick together and stop suspecting each other, right?"

"You're right." the youth nodded. "So in order to resolve the small unhappiness between the two of you, I'll have to trouble you to make a trip and send her to the hospital."

"I want to send her. Why?"

"Of course it's because the car keys are with you. Don't worry. I, Mouse and Besnova will go with you. At least, I've helped her with the admission procedures."

The doctor also said at this time, "You'd better go there as soon as possible. Pripjat Medical Center doesn't have much experience in treating radiation diseases. I reckon that they will gather the injured together and send them to a big hospital in Moscow. The medical resources there will be better, whether it's the professional doctors or sterile wards. If there's enough time, Coconut would be able to catch the flight."

"What a bother," said the maintenance man. But in the end, he gave in and went downstairs to start the car.

Chapter 1158: Intruders

Kovitz felt physically and mentally exhausted.

Even before dawn, almost all of the first experts who arrived were woken up by the phone. They hurriedly dressed and rushed to gather at the airport. On the way, they studied the report submitted by Bryuhanov and Fomin, discussing how to restore the power supply to the nuclear power plant as soon as possible.

However, when they arrived at the scene of the explosion, they realized that the severity of the problem was far greater than they had imagined. The previous plans were all based on the reactor being safe and sound. Now, they were all useless, so they had to collect information and find new solutions.

Before Scherbina arrived, the experts had argued for a long time about how to put out the fire in the reactor. After that, they waited for him to take a helicopter to the reactor to inspect it before returning to the DW office and continuing the previous debate.

Water was the most commonly used fire-fighting material. However, water could not put out the nuclear fire. Instead, it would only accelerate the pollution of the surrounding area after it evaporated. In the end, the scientists decided to use sand to put out the fire. However, getting the sand into the

reactor was also a troublesome problem. It was not until around 3 am that Scherbina found the air force general in Kiev to borrow pilots and helicopters that could carry out the mission from the latter.

Due to the lack of manpower, some people had to stay behind to help transport the sand, including a few deputy ministers. Kovitz got lucky, though, managing to get himself a few hours of rest. He dragged his tired body back to the hotel.

After opening the door lock with his key, he did not even have the strength to brush his teeth and wash his face. He just wanted to lie on the bed and sleep.

However, the next moment, something cold pressed against his throat, causing him to shiver uncontrollably. He instantly became a little more awake.

Kovitz then heard the sound of the door closing behind him. After about half a second, the light in his room lit up. Kovitz saw a woman sitting on the sofa.

“Hello, Deputy Director.”

“Who are you people? Why are you in our room?” Kovitz asked with a trembling voice.

“It doesn’t matter who we are. The important thing is that we don’t mean you any harm,” Besnova said. She was wearing a gas mask, so Kovitz couldn’t see her face.

In reality, this was also to protect Besnova. After the mission was completed, the players would leave this place, so it didn’t matter if they would be targeted. Besnova, however, was a native of this dungeon, so if her identity was exposed, dealing with her wouldn’t be too difficult with the power Kovitz yielded.

Besnova understood this, so she was very grateful when she heard Zhang Heng asking her to put on the mask. Furthermore, with her previous experience, she was becoming more and more adept at this kind of thing.

At least now, from Kovitz’s point of view, he would never believe that the woman in his room was just a nurse.

“Then why did you sneak into my room?”

Kovitz did not seem to believe Besnova’s words, especially considering how Zhang Heng’s knife was still at his throat.

“We just want to ask you for a small favor,” Besnova continued.

“Do you want money? I’m in a hurry this time, so I only brought around 100 rubles. If it’s not enough, you can take my watch too,” Kovitz said as he took off the watch on his wrist.

“No, keep the watch. We just want to ask you a few questions about Chernobyl.”

Kovitz’s body trembled slightly when she heard the name. “Chernobyl? Who are you people? Why do you care about Chernobyl?”

“You just need to answer our questions truthfully. We have the same goal as you. We all want to find out about this accident,” Besnova said.

After a pause, she continued, "You are the deputy director of the Institute of Hydropower Engineering in charge of nuclear power plant safety. As far as I know, the Institute of Hydropower Engineering was responsible for the overall design of the nuclear power plant."

"That's right." These things were not very secret, so Kovitz did not deny it.

"So the design of the Chernobyl Nuclear Power Plant was also done by you guys?"

"Uh, yes, but strictly speaking, this design was done before I became the director of the design department of the Nuclear Power Plant." Kovitz wiped the sweat on his forehead. "I was still doing hydropower designs at that time."

"Then, according to what you know, were there any omissions in this design?" Besnova continued to ask.

"Omissions?"

"Oh, of course, but such things are inevitable. I mean, design is one thing, but when the nuclear power plant is actually operating, it's another thing. We're a little behind in the treatment of radioactive waste, and now it seems the pipelines are buried a little densely, not separated..."

"Mr. Deputy Director, I'm not asking about such a small problem, but a design flaw that could cause an explosion of the nuclear power plant," Besnova interrupted Kovitz.

"A flaw that could cause an explosion at the nuclear power plant?" Kovitz's mouth was wide open. It was obvious that his surprise was not faked. "Do you think that the explosion at Chernobyl's reactor No. 4 could be due to a design flaw?"

After a long while, the deputy director squeezed out six words from his mouth. "This is too ridiculous!"

"The Chernobyl Nuclear Power Plant was built in 1970 and put into operation in 1977. It has been nine years since then, and it has been safe and sound until now. How could it be a design problem? The workers on duty that night must've not followed the safety manual, causing improper operation. I'm not the only one who thinks so. The other members of the expert group also think the same. Unfortunately, we heard that they were very exposed to radiation, so we couldn't ask them in person."

Seeing that Besnova did not seem to believe him, Kovitz added, "I know what you're thinking, but I'm not saying this to shun responsibility. The RBMK reactor is found everywhere in the Soviet Union. You can take a look around. Their performance has always been good."

Besnova made no comment and continued to ask, "Who is the designer?"

"What?"

"The RBMK reactor that you mentioned. Who designed it?"

"It's academician Dorezali."

"Dorezali? Where can we find him? Moscow?"

A strange expression appeared on Kovitz's face when he heard that.

“Academician Dollezhal led the design of the RBMK reactor in 1947, then built the first Soviet nuclear power plant. But now... he is no longer there.”

Chapter 1159: Everyone Has Their Opinions

“What do you mean, he’s gone?”

“He has... passed away,” Kovitz said.

After a long period of silence, Besnova spoke again.

“Then where else can we find people who know about reactor design?”

“We actually have many people who know about reactor design, but if you’re looking for people who can find fatal flaws in reactor design, I’m sorry. As far as I know... there really isn’t such a person. Our duty is to provide the overall design for the construction of the nuclear power plant, and at the same time, take responsibility for the safety of the plant after it is completed. If we really find a design problem, we will definitely correct it at the first moment,” Kovitz said.

After a pause, he added, “Of course, the accident this time is extremely serious. There will definitely be more in-depth investigations after that. At that time, there may be a reassessment of the risks in the design. However, we need to first get the computer in the control room and study the various parameters recorded on it before the explosion so that we can recreate the situation of the reactor at that time.”

“How long will it take?”

“It’s hard to say. At this stage, our focus is still on dealing with the accident, including evacuating the crowd and putting out the fire in the reactor. The investigation of the cause of the accident will be done later.” Kovitz noticed that his kidnappers seemed particularly concerned about the design of the reactor. After giving it a bit of thought, he reluctantly gave a timeframe. “At the very least, it will take a or two months.”

“A month or two?” Mouse, who had taken over Coconut’s job as a translator, inhaled sharply when he heard that. With a look of despair, he said, “One or two months. When the results of the investigation are out, how many of us will still be alive?”

Kovitz felt the emotions of the intruder on his right hand fluctuate violently. After he said the last sentence, the intruder’s breathing had immediately hastened. However, unable to understand what the intruder was saying, he could only stand there in confusion.

Then something hit the back of his head. Kovitz’s vision went black, and he fell to the ground.

Then Zhang Heng opened the door. Other than Coconut, sent to the hospital, all the other players came to Kovitz’s room five minutes later.

Zhang Heng gave a brief introduction of the latest intelligence he had received from the deputy director.

“This is the situation,” he then said.

As expected, almost all the expressions of the players changed when they heard this.

“Are we walking into a dead end?” the maintenance man asked.

“That’s not necessarily the case. The dungeon doesn’t have an unsolvable situation,” Zhang Heng said. “Either our direction was wrong from the beginning, or we left something behind.”

“Could it be that this dungeon is actually testing who can live the longest after such radiation exposure?” The doctor frowned.

“It’s hard to say for the others, but if that’s the case, then Coconut is dead for sure,” said the youth in uniform.

“Will we still be alive after two months?” Master Kui asked the doctor.

“I don’t know. As I said, everyone’s physical condition is different, so their survival time will also differ accordingly,” said the doctor. “Moreover, Coconut’s body is deteriorating rapidly. To be honest, it has already exceeded my expectations, so it’s hard to estimate how the others would do.”

“Then what should we do?” Mouse was already in a daze. He stuttered in a panic, “Do we really have to wait for two months? What if the investigation results are out in two months, but the main mission is still not completed?”

“It’s definitely impossible to just wait. We have to try heading in another direction,” Master Kui said.

“Wait, do you mean that we still have to stay here?” the maintenance man objected. “You heard what the doctor said. This dungeon might be a competition to see who can live longer in the radiation. We’ve already absorbed obscene amounts of radiation from the explosion, and now the whole town is contaminated. Don’t you think that leaving this place is the wisest choice?”

“If you can’t complete the main storyline mission, it doesn’t matter how far you run. Where can you run to?” Master Kui asked in return.

“But the problem is that we don’t even know what the main storyline quest is!” The repairman said, “From the beginning of the explosion until now, we’ve been continuously absorbing radiation without thinking about it. We even returned to the vicinity of the nuclear power plant. In the end, what did we get? The main storyline quest hasn’t moved at all.”

“This is why we have to stay in Pripjat,” Master Kui said. “You’re also a player, so you should know very well that very few quests are completed outside the initial city.”

“But in less than ten hours, the entire city will be evacuated!” The maintenance worker said. “The residents here will be forcibly evacuated, and the injured will be sent to Moscow. So what if we stay? By then, this place will become a ghost town!!! We won’t be able to find anything.”

“Well, although I can’t bear the pain of running around, I have to admit that what he said makes sense,” the uniformed youth said. “After the evacuation, all we can do is wander around the city. Other than absorbing the radiation, it doesn’t seem to be of any use. We might as well leave.”

“Have you ever thought that the so-called key people might not be the ones who caused the Chernobyl accident, but the key people who will provide disaster relief later?” Master Kui interjected.

“That’s possible.” The boy nodded.

The maintenance man was displeased. “Whose side are you on?”

“I’m not on anyone’s side. I’ll listen to whoever makes sense. Of course, I’ll still listen to Simon in the end because what he said must be the most reasonable theory so far.” The boy shrugged.

“In short, if we want to find the key figure in the disaster relief, we need to continue staying in Pripjat,” Kui added.

“This is just conjecture, just like what the doctors and I have guessed. This dungeon is a competition to see who can live the longest after radiation exposure,” the maintenance man said.

“You’re right, but I’m different from you guys. Rather than waiting passively, I prefer to be the master of my own fate,” Master Kui said. “I’ll stay.”

“Then, I choose to leave this godforsaken place immediately.” The maintenance man did not budge an inch as he swept his gaze across the other players. “Is there anyone who wants to leave with me? We can drive ourselves out of here before the evacuation. We first head to Kiev, then find a way to board a plane from there and fly as far as we can from this contaminated city.”

“Save it. You won’t be getting anywhere without an interpreter,” Master Kui said calmly. “Even if the investigation report comes out in two months and you’re still alive, what can you do? If you can’t even understand it, why are you looking for key figures?”

“The Soviet Union is a massive place. I don’t believe that we can’t even find a single English interpreter,” the maintenance man said.

“Brothers, we’re splitting up now. Are we taking sides?” the uniformed boy spread his hands. “We haven’t reached that stage, have we?”

Chapter 1160: Disagreements

“I’m not trying to split up. I’m just giving my opinion,” the maintenance man said. “Since we don’t know what the main mission is, why don’t we each choose a direction and do our own thing to increase the chances of completing the mission?”

“What an excellent plan: finding yourself a safe place to hide while letting us investigate and risk radiation. If we complete the main mission, you can leave with us. If we go in the wrong direction, you can continue to wait until the official investigation results are out,” Master Kui said coldly.

“That’s right, that’s what I thought,” the maintenance man admitted generously, “But I didn’t stop you guys from leaving with me. And after leaving, I didn’t do nothing like you said. I just chose to ensure my own safety before thinking about the next step.”

The doctor hesitated for a moment and said, “From my professional point of view, the latter’s plan is indeed safer.”

“You’re just afraid. After seeing Coconut’s condition, you’re just worried you’ll become like that,” Kui spat.

“Who wouldn’t be?” the maintenance man defended. “We’re facing nuclear radiation in this dungeon. Think about its name: the Invisible Killer. We’re facing an enemy that we simply cannot defeat. The most important thing is to try our best to save our lives.”

“I’ll stay behind and help you guys with the translation,” Mouse said to Master Kui. “We can’t wait for the official report. The sooner we complete the main mission, the better Coconut’s chances of surviving.”

When he finished speaking, the eyes of all the players turned to Zhang Heng.

Only Simon remained silent.

Simon was the most famous of all the players. Even though Zhang Heng did not admit it, after entering the dungeon, he did assume the role of leader of the temporary party. Furthermore, he had a fanboy willing to kill the youth, the latter already expressing his unconditional support for Zhang Heng’s decision. In other words, one vote for Zhang Heng was equivalent to two votes.

However, Zhang Heng’s mind did not seem to be on the argument between Master Kui and the maintenance man. He stood in front of the glass window and looked out at the night sky. No one knew what he was thinking.

Just as the maintenance man and the others were about to lose their patience, Zhang Heng said, “I will stay here.”

Master Kui, Mouse, and the others heaved a sigh of relief when they heard this.

“Of course, it’s up to you whether you want to leave or stay. If anyone wants to leave Pripjat, I won’t stop them,” Zhang Heng continued. “But from a personal point of view, I don’t recommend that anyone leave.”

“Why?” The repairman was stunned. He had already made up his mind to leave. Zhang Heng’s decision didn’t affect him, but he found it hard to ignore the latter’s suggestion. After all, Simon was the number one player in the game. The repairman wouldn’t be surprised if he discovered something that no one else had.

However, Zhang Heng didn’t have any intention of explaining himself. He only asked, “Is there anything else?”

“No, there’s nothing else.”

“Then that’s it.”

This also marked the end of that night’s argument. The repairman and doctor looked at each other and left the room together. After that, Master Kui and Mouse walked to the door. Kui said, “I’ll see you in my room in 15 minutes. Let’s discuss what to do next.”

“Okay, but let’s delay the time. How about an hour later?” Zhang Heng said.

“No problem. We can also use this time to pack our things. After tonight, we probably won’t be able to stay at the Pripjat Hotel anymore.”

After saying that, Master Kui and Mouse walked out of the room. Finally, only Zhang Heng and the young man were left. The young man's face immediately revealed an expression of discovery. He rubbed his hands together and said excitedly, "Idol, did you discover something?"

"I told you not to think too much of me. I'm just like the other players, still trying to figure out the main storyline mission," Zhang Heng said. He pointed out the window. "Do you see it?"

"What?" The young man walked to the window and looked down.

At this time, Pripyat was still in a deep sleep. The streets looked deserted, and even the most dedicated shops were not open yet. However, on the street opposite the hotel, a group of people dressed like militia was following a sprinkler truck to do the sanitization work.

"We need their clothes," Zhang Heng said. "Once the official evacuation order is issued, we'll have to change our identities to stay in this city."

"Do you want me to go get their clothes?"

"Can you do that?"

"There are exactly four drivers and the people behind them. I can handle two at a time."

"Yes, I can handle the other two," Zhang Heng said. "Let's go. They're about to leave this place."

To avoid alerting the receptionist, the two of them jumped out of the empty room on the second floor and landed on the floor. Then, Zhang Heng and the young man put on their gas masks. One was to isolate themselves from the radiation dust outside. At the same time, they also covered their faces.

Before leaving the room, the young man grabbed a bottle of vodka from the bar counter. He held the bottle and walked toward the sprinkler with his head lowered.

One of the three militiamen behind noticed the sudden appearance of the uninvited guest. He said something to the young man and gestured for him to leave. He was probably trying to persuade the young man to go home.

However, the latter seemed to have not heard the militiaman's words and continued to walk towards the four of them with his head down. He even quickened his pace when they were less than fifty meters away.

Although the militia felt that the newcomer was a little strange, they did not think too much about it. After all, there were four of them on their side, and there was only one on the other side. No matter how they looked at it, it did not pose a threat to them. Moreover, when the uniformed youth walked into the militiamen, they also saw the wine bottle in his hand.

This seemed to explain the youth's abnormal behavior. Thus, a militiaman walked up and wanted to ask if the battle uniform youth needed help. However, when he was almost in front of the uniformed youth, he felt that something was wrong. He couldn't tell what was wrong either until the two of them were less than half a meter apart.

The militia realized what was wrong. Although the other party looked drunk, there was surprisingly no smell of alcohol on his body. However, just as he was about to warn his companions behind him, the

beheading youth had already made his move. At this moment, he was no longer drunk. He directly threw the wine bottle in his hand at the head of the militia in front of him. The latter was smashed to the ground.

This sudden scene also made the two companions behind him stare blankly.