

48 Hours 1191

Chapter 1191: What A Pity

"I admit that I'm not naturally interested in rules. I only care about getting the results I want. As for the methods and the trouble it will bring, that has never been my focus." Loki spread his hands, "It's my fault for always having the power to ignore the rules."

The little boy nodded. "God of pranks and lies, you'll be a good character to play Texas hold'em. Let's play when you're free."

"I don't lay eggs like to a hen, and even if I win, you'll suspect me of cheating, right?" Loki said as he opened the fridge and found a bottle of beer. But because the power had been out in the city for a while, the beer had long warmed to room temperature.

The little boy reached out and Loki handed him the beer. When he took it back, the beer was already emitting cold air, and a layer of fine water droplets had even formed on the glass bottle.

"Cool!" Loki whistled. "Did you change the code of this beer bottle in the background just now? When will I learn this trick of yours? I don't have to show my face in the dungeon, and you set it as a gatekeeper boss."

"I'm not targeting you. It's just that your power is too strong for this dungeon. You need to make numerical adjustments. Only in this way can the game be balanced," the little boy said expressionlessly.

"Balanced?" Loki's face showed a half-smile, "I'm not the only one in this dungeon with a data overflow, right? You're ignoring the guy with the cheating device, and you're still talking about balance? Don't tell me you don't know anything about the underhanded tricks of Kronos."

"We reached an agreement at the beginning of the game. Every God will bestow an ability on the agent they value. All the actions of Kronos and his agent up to now are within the rules of the game," the little boy said with a serious expression.

"Rubbish!" Loki looked disdainful. He opened his beer and took a sip, "In the words of the white-haired man downstairs, I can smell the PY from ten miles away. You turned a blind eye to it because Kronos helped you build the game's time system."

The little boy didn't deny it. "Not only Kronos, but many other people contributed to the process. That's why we set up the organizing committee to manage these game worlds. Without their help, I wouldn't have been able to create so many realistic and charming worlds. Speaking of which, I once invited you to help design the main storyline mission, but you didn't accept it."

"I'm a busy man, so I don't have the time. and aren't you worried that I'll mess up your beloved game world?" Loki pretended.

"I can give you a certain amount of free space to unleash your creativity. In the end, I'll handle it. I'm confident that nothing will go wrong," the little boy said. "I know what you're worried about. I can also persuade the other members of the organizing committee to try to accept you. Of course, in view of your unpleasant past, it will be difficult to wipe your slate clean. But at least it's not a problem to

maintain a cooperative state in this matter. You can also use this as an opportunity to repair your relationship with them.”

Loki was angered by the boy’s words. However, the boy’s final promise lit his eyes up. He seemed tempted. Just as he was about to agree, however, his expression changed and he grinned. “I refuse. Do you really think I care about what other gods think of me?”

The little boy was not surprised. “What a pity,” he simply said.

“No, it’s not.” Loki scratched his chin. “If you hadn’t appeared here tonight, I wouldn’t have known that you had your eyes on him.”

“I only appeared here because I received a major error report.”

“Tsk, Tsk, Tsk. What did I just say? Don’t compare eggs with hens. I won’t compare Texas hold’em with you, so you’d better not lie in front of the god of lies.”

Loki grinned, but his smile stopped halfway through.

“Damn it, how long has it been? My second incarnation was killed too!”

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Zhang Heng silently memorized a few murals on the wall, turned to leave, but he stopped the next moment.

He walked to the only furniture in the room and reached out to pick up the kerosene lamp. Almost at the same time, a system notification sounded in his ear.

[Discovered game item—Old Kerosene Lamp (Unappraised)]

Zhang Heng felt that the kerosene lamp was placed too deliberately. It happened to be at the golden dividing point of the entire room. Of course, if it wasn’t for his keen observation and sense of space, he would probably only have noticed it after measuring it step by step with a ruler.

However, Zhang Heng was able to observe the lamp’s position with his naked eye. Thus, on his way back, he picked up a game item, the kerosene lamp, and examined it. However, he couldn’t find anything special about it. The item was still in its unappraised state, and Zhang Heng hadn’t seen it used before, so he couldn’t figure out its use. Thus, he had no choice but to put it into his backpack.

Then, he left the hut and went to the haystack. It was then that he noticed the footprints on the ground.

Because of Sauk’s weird personality, she had almost no contact with the people in the village. She lived alone in a corner of the village, so the footprints on the ground were all left by her alone. It was very convenient to chase after her, where Zhang Heng could tell from a glance which of them were fresh.

The footprints that had just been left stretched all the way to the forest behind them, also the direction of Sauk’s escape.

Zhang Heng chased after them with his rifle. The forest at night was quiet. Only the scattered moonlight fell on the ground. The huge shadows of the trees covered most of the area, making the view very bad.

However, this didn't affect Zhang Heng—he was wearing the [Filter Lens], thus he could see everything around him.

With this D-grade item, he did not have to worry about being ambushed by Sauk. In addition to the time he had spent in the hut, Zhang Heng did not slow down. He ran to the two pine trees that were about to stick together, however, Zhang Heng suddenly stopped in his tracks.

At this moment, Sauk was holding her hunting rifle and hiding behind a rock 50 meters away.. He pricked up his ears as if he was waiting for something.

Chapter 1192: The Spectator

Sauk tried her best to suppress the sound of her breathing. There was a reason why she had chosen to escape to this place.

50 meters away, she had personally dug the bear trap. The pit was four meters deep, six meters long, and three meters wide, and there was also a sharpened wooden stake at the bottom.

Only a thin wooden board in the middle could be used to walk. Sauk had attached soil to the board so that it couldn't be seen from the outside. If Zhang Heng followed her footsteps, he would be doomed if he made the wrong step, and even if he didn't, it would be useless to traverse the thin wooden board.

Since the wooden board had been carefully selected by Sauk, it could bear her weight. With Zhang Heng's weight, however, it would definitely break, which meant that Zhang Heng would still fall into the trap, and he would end up gutted.

As if to prove Sauk's hypothesis, the next moment, she really heard the sound of the wooden board breaking. Something had fallen into the trap!

A hint of excitement flashed across Sauk's cold, vicious eyes. However, she wasn't in a hurry. Instead, she stuck her head out from behind the rock and quickly looked outside to ensure that she didn't see Zhang Heng anywhere nearby. At that moment, her heart calmed.

Holding her shotgun, she approached the trap one step at a time. She checked her harvest, but all she saw was a rock.

Sauk's face filled with shock. At the same time, a bad feeling rose in her heart. However, it was already too late. A figure silently jumped down from the tree behind her.

Zhang Heng didn't even shoot. He merely kicked the hawk into the trap that it had dug herself.

The latter's chest, arms, and neck were pierced by the sharp wooden stakes. She died a miserable death.

The next moment, the other players in the wheat field received a system notification.

[Successfully killed one Loki avatar. Remaining avatars: 3. Loki's strength has been reduced by 20%. Obtained 20 points. Please check the relevant information on the character interface...]

Up until now, Zhang Heng had already killed two Loki avatars. Each time he lost one, Loki's strength would be reduced by 10%. In other words, once he killed five of Loki's avatars, his opponent would only have 50% of his strength left.

Of course, Loki at 50% of his strength was still not easy to deal with, but it was at least much better than facing Loki in his full form. Thus, Zhang Heng remained dissatisfied even after he'd killed Sauk. He simply packed up and returned to the helicopter, moving toward the location of Loki's next incarnation.

The murals in Sauk's room also pointed him in the right direction. However, before that, Zhang Heng had to find a safe place to send the wounded Kui.

"Let's go to the medical center. The bullet in her body needs to be removed immediately," the doctor suggested. "The people in the town evacuated in a hurry, so there should be beds, medicine, operating theatre, and medical equipment. I can work on her there."

"Okay."

Zhang Heng flew the chopper to the hospital. Coincidentally, the third avatar he was looking for happened to be there.

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Loki wore an ugly expression on his face. After all, anyone who suddenly lost 20% of their strength would be very unhappy. Even in the game, he could not help but complain, "What kind of stupid rule is this? I can only watch as my avatars get wiped out one by one. And then it's my turn?"

The boy shook his head. "It was you who changed the main storyline mission to killing you halfway. The organizing committee once warned the gods of the dungeons not to go down on their own, especially to participate in the main storyline mission. You see, this is the meaning of the existence of the rules."

"Tsk. Your long speech sounds like an excuse to protect the player with the number 07958. interesting. Even you are interested in him?" Loki wasn't angry, rubbing his hands in excitement instead. "Then the next thing will be even more interesting."

"What exactly do you want to do?" Little boy frowned and said warily. He finally put down the chess piece in his hand and looked at the god of lies and trickery.

"Don't worry, I'm just here to have some fun. You know me, I just can't stay idle. When I saw that old bastard Kronos being so sneaky, I couldn't help but want to deal some damage... well, I can't consider it damage. Maybe one day, that Zhang Heng will thank me. Besides, didn't you spend so much effort to gather all the agents together just to see who is more powerful? To resolve the dispute among the gods and to get a cut of the cake of the new market? What a cliché method. You have no intention at all."

"So?"

"So I'll do you a favor and help you share some of the workload. It's a very simple thing, to begin with, and there's no need to make it so complicated. It's divided into one round, two rounds, three rounds, and so on..."

Loki looked as if he was saying, "I just want to criticize this complicated and lengthy bureaucratic system."

However, he said with conviction instead, "There's no need to serve desserts anymore. Just bring the main dishes to the table and get the carnival started!"

The little boy's face darkened. He finally stood up from the ground. Standing at only 1.4 meters tall, his shadow filled the entire room when he stood up. And under the intense pressure, even Loki looked three centimeters shorter.

That indifferent smile, however, still remained on the latter's face. A figure wearing a hood and a sleeve sword on his arm quietly moved behind him from the kitchen, and in the direction of the bedroom, the real Kratos also walked out with his Leviathan ax on his back.

Loki whistled.

"The welcoming effect is not bad."

The little boy said calmly, "It is said that Odin once tied you up with your son's intestines and let poisonous snakes continuously spit venom on your face. And I can keep you in my game world forever without these things."

"I don't doubt that. You're the most powerful new god at the moment, and there's no doubt that you can do whatever you want to me, but I also believe that you won't," Loki said with a smile, "Don't forget that I'm also the boss guarding this dungeon. Without me, the players won't have any monsters to fight. You Can't send your muscular man and assassin to replace me, right? Although it's not impossible, it's like dipping lychee in sesame oil. It stinks, okay?"

"Other than that..." Loki paused, smiled even more happily, and spread his hands, "... it's useless even if you force me to stay. What should have happened will still happen. By the way, even you know about the game organizing committee by the gods. Don't tell me you think I'm still working alone?"

"Although my ally isn't in the best mental state, he's a very hardworking and good person. He's basically done all the preparatory work. As for me, I've only helped him a little during this period of time. I mainly used my smart brain to formulate and perfect his plan. However, the next part isn't something that I can control.. I'm just a spectator that brought his own stool and melon seeds."

Chapter 1193: The Vortex

Zhang Heng parked the helicopter beside the Pripyat River. Next to it was the outlet of the nuclear power plant.

The cooling water would first flow through the steam turbine's pre-heat exchanger, taking away a portion of the heat before being discharged into the Pripyat River.

Because the water there was relatively warm and rich in microorganisms, it attracted a lot of fish. Previously, when the players escaped from the nuclear power plant, they saw a few anglers fishing here.

Of course, due to their slow reaction, they failed to leave in time, resulting in them absorbing a lot of radiation. They were bedridden in the hospital now, and they weren't in the best condition. If given another chance, they probably would not choose to stand here and continue watching the expensive show.

Zhang Heng used the portable radiation meter to measure the radiation value in the water. It was about 3.4 to 3.5 roentgen. This was a very high dose, almost approaching the limit of the portable radiation meter. Fortunately, the players did not have to worry about the consequences of the radiation.

After the main mission update especially, Zhang Heng had decided to kill Loki within 12 hours, so what he had to do was to keep his body in peak condition in that duration. After going through the parallel dungeon, he had a good grasp of the radiation level and knew that he could go into the water.

Thus, he did not hesitate to take off his clothes.

This was where the Loki Salmon Avatar was depicted in the murals. In Norse mythology, Loki's avatar was Loki himself after he instigated Hodel, the blind God of Darkness, to kill Bader with Mistletoe. Not only did he not restrain himself, but he even went to the banquet to provoke the gods. In the end, he was chased by the Asgardian gods and had no choice but to turn into a salmon and jump into the river, trying to cheat his way out.

However, his trick was eventually seen through by the gods. The Asgardian gods' method of dealing with him was simple. They placed a large net upstream and pulled it all the way down, clearing out all the rocks in the river. In the end, Loki had nowhere to run. He could only jump out and be caught by Thor.

However, myths were myths, after all. The Asgardian gods had the ability to make that huge fishing net, and at the same time, they could cover the entire lake. However, in reality, Zhang Heng had no place to look for such a large net. Even if he found it, he would not be able to use it. Furthermore, Loki's incarnation wasn't the only fish in the Pripyat River.

There was a reason why this place was regarded as a holy fishing ground by anglers. Fortunately, although the Pripyat River was filled with fish, there weren't any salmon. It would have been too illegal otherwise.

However, it wasn't easy to find a salmon in such a large body of water. What was even more difficult was finding a way to catch it. There was no need to think about fishing rods—no matter how one looked at it, the salmon Loki transformed into wouldn't be stupid enough to bite the bait on the hook. Using a fishing net was simply unrealistic. Even using electric fish sounded a little more reliable. However, putting aside how Zhang Heng was going to find electric fish, the Pripyat River was very deep in this part. If the salmon Loki had transformed into was hiding at the bottom, there was an 80% chance that they would not be able to electrify it even if there were tools.

Most players would have given up by now, but since Zhang Heng had flown the helicopter over, he had already thought about how to find Loki's avatar in the river.

After taking off his clothes, he jumped into the river without taking anything with him.

There was no cooling water discharged into the river, probably because reactor No. 4 had exploded. The river wasn't as warm as he had imagined, but the fatty acids in it were still abundantly rich. The water was light brown, meaning these fatty acids were now highly effective coagulants, transporting radioactive particles and fission fragments further away.

Zhang Heng put on his [Filter Lens] and continually submerged himself until he finally stopped about five meters from the bottom of the river.

Returning to the water made him feel extremely relaxed, like he was lying on his own couch in his living room.

However, Zhang Heng did not allow himself to be immersed in the comfortable atmosphere. He did not forget his purpose in coming down, especially since the Pripyat River was still filled with radioactive particles and danger was everywhere. Having that in mind, Zhang Heng decided to finish up as quickly as possible.

The next moment, he closed his eyes and stretched out his hands, one on the left and the other on the right. Slowly but firmly, he clenched his fists. Following his movement, the speed of the surrounding water started to increase.

At the same time, about ten meters away from Zhang Heng, the swirling water formed two vortexes.

These were the things that Zhang Heng used to deal with the Loki salmon incarnation. A natural automatic fishing machine, the faster the vortex spun, the more it stirred up the originally calm Pripyat River. The suction force caused by the vortex began to pull on the surrounding aquatic creatures, and as the whirlpool grew larger, the nearby fish were sucked into it. It was like riding a roller coaster, to which this was an endless version. They were being tossed around until they were dizzy.

Zhang Heng did not stop until the two whirlpools were more than seven meters in diameter. This was almost his limit. He started to feel that the whirlpool was getting harder and harder to control, and the surrounding water was crazily pulling on his body. The whirlpools were now seven meters in diameter, and the area of attraction became even larger. Even Zhang Heng did not dare to remove one of the whirlpools, lest he be sucked into the other one.

Carefully maintaining his balance, Zhang Heng started to move in the river. This time, the aquatic animals in the nearby waters were all in trouble— whether foraging for food or staying put, even those hidden in the corners and crevices of the rocks were mercilessly sucked into the vortex, forcing the magic of love to circle around them.

As Zhang Heng moved, he observed the nearby movements, and not long after, he saw a large fish with a blue head but a red body. It had sensed the danger before the whirlpool had even approached and tried to leave in advance... and it had almost succeeded.

However, because the area covered by the two whirlpools was too large, it could not escape with all its might. Its movements slowed down under the pull of the current. That said, it was indeed one of the few underwater creatures that could contend with the whirlpool, actually managing to pull away from it slowly.

Unfortunately, it was immediately targeted by Zhang Heng. As Zhang Heng began to move toward it, it was eventually unable to escape from the powerful suction force of the vortex. It was mercilessly sucked into the vortex and spun around with the other fishes in it, it spun faster and faster, but the process did not last long.. Soon, the water around it disappeared.

Chapter 1194: David and Goliath

The red salmon perked up again, realizing that it had finally escaped. It wanted to continue running for its life, but when it moved its fins and tail, it found its body out of its control as though it was drunk.

At first, the red salmon thought it had been running in circles for too long and that its sense of balance had been lost. However, it soon discovered that it wasn't the case. The other fish around it that hadn't been completely knocked out were all running for their lives in a panic. It was the only one that remained where it was. The real reason for that was the turbulence that had bound it there.

Then, a hand grabbed onto its body. The red salmon struggled desperately because it saw that the human had actually no intention of bringing it to shore. Instead, he held onto it with one hand, and with the other, directly untied the small knife that he was wearing on his calf.

In the next moment, the doctors and others at Pripjat Medical Center received another system notification.

[Successfully killed one Loki Avatar. Remaining avatars: 1. Loki's strength has been reduced by 40%. Obtained 20 points. You can check the relevant information on the character interface...]

The doctor, Master Kui, and the others looked at each other. After a long while, it was Mouse who spoke first. Sighing, he said, "This is too fast. Only half of the 12 hours have passed. Loki only has one avatar left."

"Could this be the strength of the number one player?" It hadn't been long since Master Kui's surgery, and the anesthetic hadn't worn off completely. She still looked a little tired. "I've also experienced many dungeons, but none of them are like this one. From the beginning to end, it's been like a pendant."

"It should be said that fortunately, we met Simon in this dungeon, or else we would have been in trouble." Mouse's heart was still filled with fear, "You have to know that the god behind this instance dungeon is Loki. Although we can't beat the Avengers, it should be more than enough to deal with us."

After he finished speaking, he realized that Master Kui and the doctor did not agree. They looked at each other instead.

"What?" Mouse couldn't understand.

"Did you notice it too?" The doctor smiled bitterly, "The difficulty of this dungeon is obviously abnormal, and everyone should have received a system notification before. If nothing went wrong, Loki must've secretly changed the difficulty of the dungeon, which is why the subsequent restrictions appeared. Although Loki's reputation among the gods has never been good, I still have self-awareness. To be honest, I don't think I'm worth to be played by him like this."

"Me too," Master Kui nodded. "I... I hid something from you guys when I first entered the dungeon. In fact, I'm also an agent, and the god behind me and Loki had some small conflicts. When I first saw Loki, I did suspect that he was coming for me, but when his identity was exposed by Simon, he didn't even look at me. I could feel that all his attention was focused on Simon."

"You mean... Loki was actually coming for Simon?" Mouse was not stupid. After Master Kui and the doctor spoke, he quickly realized something. "So this time, we got unlucky, and got caught in the middle of a fight between gods?"

"It seems so," the Doctor said helplessly. "Who do you think will win in the end? Simon or Loki?"

"Of course, we hope Simon will win. After all, whether we can leave this dungeon alive depends on him," Master Kui reminded.

"But this time, the famous Loki is on the other side." Mouse's face still showed some worry. Although Simon had been praised as the number one expert by many people, he was still a player, and Loki was a god. He also happened to be the infamous god of lies and trickery that was full of legendary colors.

"So we can't just sit and watch the show. We have to find a way to help Simon," said Kui. Although she was severely wounded, had just undergone surgery, and her body extremely weak, she didn't seem to feel that her dungeon trip was over just like that. Instead, something seemed to be burning in her eyes.

"Uh, I'm not against helping. After all, this is our dungeon, but... can ordinary players like us really help in this kind of celestial game?" Mouse said hesitantly, "Don't drag Simon down instead."

"You should all have heard the story of David killing Goliath with a stone. So, those who slay dragons don't necessarily have to be heroes."

"But David was the King of Israel. He should be considered a hero," Mouse muttered softly.

"It's fine as long as you understand what I'm talking about. Don't dwell on such details," Master Kui waved her uninjured hand and grunted impatiently.

The doctor did not doubt Master Kui's determination, and he simply frowned. "From a doctor's point of view, I still have to say that your current physical condition is unable to withstand an intense battle. No, that might not be appropriate. To be more precise, as long as you exercise a little, the wound might split open."

"I told you before, right? I'm a surrogate, and every surrogate has a supernatural ability," Master Kui said. "I just haven't used my ability yet. Besides, the god behind me and Loki have a small score to settle."

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After killing the red salmon, Zhang Heng returned to the riverbank. He put on his clothes and looked at the time.

He had successfully killed four targets by now. With only one left, he would be able to finish off all of Loki's incarnations. When the final battle came, Loki would only have half his strength left.

However, Zhang Heng would run into a bit of trouble with the last target: The white mare, Loki's last incarnation and the only one whose location was uncertain.

The mural on the wall about the white mare described the scene where it first encountered Zhang Heng in the parallel dungeon.

After killing Sauk, Zhang Heng flew there in a helicopter. Unfortunately, he didn't get anything. Earlier, in the town of Pripyat, Zhang Heng drove the doctor, Master Kui, and the others Pripyat Hotel and encountered the white mare again.

In Norse mythology, the story of the white mare was also very interesting. Legend had it that during a battle, the city wall of Asgard was razed to the ground. The gods were unable to resist the attack of the old enemy giants, and just as they suspected, a craftsman came to the outside of the city and offered them a deal. He said that he could repair the city wall in six months at the cost of the gods' sun and moon, and the goddess Freya as his wife.

The gods thought that it was impossible for the craftsman to repair the city wall within this period, and they wanted to pay for the fruits of his labor. So they agreed to the deal at Loki's instigation. But they didn't expect the craftsman to find a stallion to help, and the progress of the construction was very fast. Seeing that the restoration work was about to be completed within the construction period, the gods began to complain about Loki. But Loki wasn't in a hurry. He turned into a white mare before the city wall was repaired and lured the workman's stallion away.

After that, he got pregnant and was left with a pony, which was later Odin's mount, Sleipnir.

Chapter 1195: The Final Incarnation

In the game dungeon, Loki's white mare appeared and left very suddenly.

Even with Zhang Heng's perception, he had no idea where Loki had come from or where he had run off to. Thus, he had given up on catching up to the white mare a long time ago.

Furthermore, it was different from the situation when he was dealing with the red salmon. On land, Zhang Heng couldn't control the water flow, so he could only try to use his gun and bow to deal with the white mare.

However, with the white mare's mysterious and unpredictable movements, Zhang Heng had to maintain his bow or shooting posture. The white mare would've disappeared from his sight otherwise.

Of course, this didn't mean that Zhang Heng was utterly helpless against the white mare. He simply hadn't found the key to deal with it yet.

Zhang Heng now regretted not bringing the [White Horse's Crown] into the dungeon. With that item, he could summon the White Horse Knight's mount. Perhaps it could compete with Loki's white mare, but he could only bring a limited number of items each time, so he had to choose from among them. The [White Horse's Crown] was not that adaptable, and being a C-grade item, it could only be used three times.

With Zhang Heng's current strength, it was almost impossible for the normal dungeon to force him to use the [White Horse's Crown]. That was why he did not bring this item with him.

There was no point in dwelling on this matter anymore, so Zhang Heng shifted his attention back to the present. He recalled the story between Loki and the blacksmith, especially the details.

The mare that Loki had transformed into finally led the blacksmith's stallion, Swaddill Farley, into the forest. This was also in line with the scene when the two first met. Zhang Heng had seen the white mare by the stream in the woods.

So the question now was, why did the white mare come to town when the two had recently met? What did the two encounters have in common?

Zhang Heng's expression changed when he thought of this.

In Norse mythology, the white mare Loki transformed into was equivalent to a seducer. It suddenly appeared at the critical period of the construction and lured the artisan's stallion, Svaldil Farley, away.

Of course, there was no stallion in this dungeon. In fact, according to what the hostess had said, not many families in Pripyat and the surrounding area had horses.

Then, the white mare's appearance was obviously not to attract the stallion. Zhang Heng had met the white mare twice. The time, place, and people around him were all different. The only similarity was that he had driven a car.

Considering that the stallion, Svaldil Farley's role in the myth was to carry the stones used to build the city for the craftsmen, it was a function that had indeed been replaced by a car in modern society.

So was a car the key to attracting the white mare?

And it was not just a car. Zhang Heng had driven a car more than once in the dungeon. However, the number of times he had seen the white mare could be counted in one hand. This meant that there should be some additional conditions.

Taking Svaldil Farley as a reference, the biggest characteristic of this stallion was not only its speed but also its strength. This was because it could drag a boat full of stones yet walk like a bird, never getting tired.

Previously, when the hostess returned to the countryside, Zhang Heng's Lada was filled with gifts she had bought for her grandparents, brother, and sister-in-law. After all, she had earned quite a lot of money from Zhang Heng, and of course, she wanted her family to have a better life. Not long ago, when they went to the hotel, there were five people in the car who were quite heavy, but since Zhang Heng had driven fiercely before he met the white mare, the speed trigger condition should be fulfilled.

Was it acceleration by weight?

Zhang Heng thought about it and decided to find a car to try again. This time, he decided to find an SUV—a Lada Niva.

Produced by Volga, the Soviet Union's largest car manufacturer, its first generation was released in 1977. It featured a full-time four-wheel-drive system and was considered quite powerful for its time, capable of handling extreme weather and road conditions. Upon its release, it sold like hotcakes, not to mention export to China. It was a vehicle that bore the proud symbol of socialist industrial might. Of course, with the collapse of the Soviet Union, the fate of the Volga car factory took a turn for the worse, almost to the point of bankruptcy.

However, the Lada Niva was still very popular at the moment. A car was hard to come by. Zhang Heng had to walk around half the city before he found one outside the gate of the youth palace.

The car's original owner should have left in a hurry with the convoy a few days ago, abandoning the vehicle in this abandoned city forever.

Zhang Heng did not have the keys, but that did not pose a problem. Car locks in this era were easy to jack, after all. Of course, in order to save time, Zhang Heng eventually chose a simpler and more violent method. He directly smashed the car window with a stone, reached into the car, and opened the door. Then, he started the engine by connecting the wires.

Zhang Heng drove the newly acquired Lada Niva all the way to the “October” hotel. This was the second hotel under construction in the town. The rapid development of Pripjat attracted increasing numbers of tourists, and the Pripjat Grand Hotel that had been built previously was already unable to meet demand. Thus, the Pripjat city government decided to build a second hotel. However, after the explosion of reactor No. 4, the hotel was destined never to be completed.

Fortunately, Zhang Heng did not come here to stay. He parked the SUV beside a pile of bricks at the construction site and loaded them into the car to increase its weight. He didn't carry too much, roughly estimating the weight of the bricks he had used to drive to the countryside and drive the players to the hotel. He chose a middle value and placed bricks of the same weight at the back of the car.

After doing all this, the body of the Lada Niva slightly sank.

He returned to the driver's seat and restarted the car. The engine roared to life, seemingly showing off the muscles of the steel beast.

Zhang Heng drove the SUV to the main road of Pripjat's city center. Because Soviet city leaders believed that the city would develop rapidly and be filled with cars soon, they had planned the streets to be very spacious at the beginning of the construction. In addition, few people were in the city now, so it was very suitable for racing.

Zhang Heng removed the annoying door on the left side of the car. He held the steering wheel with one hand and the [Pestilence Bone Bow] with the other. As for the [Paris' Arrow], he bit it in his mouth with his teeth.. After making all the preparations, Zhang Heng stepped on the accelerator.

Chapter 1196: Death By Collision

The Lada Niva sped forward. As Zhang Heng cycled through the gears, the SUV's wheels spun ever faster.

The wind blew into the doorless driver's seat. Zhang Heng looked at the numbers on the dashboard. He was doing about 100 kilometers per hour, and he had already engaged fifth gear, but since the white mare still didn't appear, he continued stepping on the gas until it got to 120 kilometers per hour.

This was also the highest speed Zhang Hen reached when he drove the doctor, Mouse, and the others to the Pripjat Hotel not long ago. However, this time, the white mare was still nowhere to be found.

With the help of the [Filter Lens], Zhang Heng could clearly see his surroundings. There would be occasional eyes peeking at the road in the isolated buildings, but before the SUV could reach them, they would scatter in all directions.

Zhang Heng had no other choice but to continue speeding up. Fortunately, this car was in better condition than the other cars he had driven before. He could feel that the engine had not reached its limit, even though the needle was already close to the far right of the speedometer.

140 kilometers per hour.

Considering the additional load on the car, the Lada had basically nothing left to hold back. As a driver, Zhang Heng could also feel that it wasn't impossible if he continued to speed up, but he would face the risk of a cylinder explosion.

Therefore, Zhang Heng chose to maintain this relatively safe speed. Compared to the previous two speeds, he should have reached the speed limit this time. Next, it was time to test whether his previous deduction was accurate.

The Niva sped down the main road in front of the Youth Palace.

At this time, the sky was already turning white, and the darkness was receding like the tide. This seemed to prove that the Earth would still spin normally the next day no matter what happened. Even though Pripjat was now empty, that did not stop the sun from spreading its rays over the vast and lonely land 149.6 million kilometers away.

The first ray of sunlight broke the clouds.

At the end of the horizon, a white mare had started its four hooves and charged toward Zhang Heng.

It ran at an unbelievable speed, arriving in front of Zhang Heng in the blink of an eye. Furthermore, it did not show any signs of slowing down. It seemed like it was planning to use its body of flesh and blood to ram a steel creation of a human.

The combined speed of both parties was conservatively estimated to be over 400 kilometers per hour. If they were to collide at this speed, the white mare would almost certainly die. As for the probability of Zhang Heng surviving... it was probably not that optimistic.

Thus, this was a deadly collision worthy of its name.

At this time, Zhang Heng was no longer in a hurry to slow down. Even if he could kill the white mare right now, he would not avoid this collision. He had also considered using drift to prevent it like last time, but a telephone pole and a bus parked on the roadside on the left and right sides of the white mare.

Zhang Heng did some quick calculations and realized that it would be very difficult for him to completely avoid the white mare. Therefore, he realized that it was not a coincidence that the white mare chose this time to charge at him. Even though the charge was a suicide mission, the white mare was only an incarnation of Loki.

To kill him at the cost of sacrificing an incarnation—Loki would have no reason to refuse this deal.

Many thoughts flashed through Zhang Heng's mind at that moment. The next moment, he slipped the Niva into a drift. With a series of dazzling maneuvers, Zhang Heng accurately controlled the front of the car to avoid the white mare's impact, and at the same time, avoiding the telephone pole on the right side. Unfortunately, this was also the limit of his technology.

Due to the lack of space, the car's rear end was eventually grazed, causing the high-speed vehicle to lose control. First, it crashed into a trash can and a curb, and then it rolled six times in a row, rolling far away. It fell to the ground, and the bricks stacked by the backseat were also thrown out.

This time, the white mare did not leave immediately. Instead, she put away her hooves and stood in place quietly. She looked at the off-road vehicle that was overturned not far away as if wanting to know the driver's fate inside.

For this reason, she even took two more steps forward, looking forward to seeing the driver seriously injured, bleeding non-stop, and even dying on the spot. However, when she really walked in front of the wrecked SUV, she was surprised to find that there was no one in the driver's seat.

At almost the same time, an arrow that looked quite old flew out from the other side of the street. This arrow completely defied the laws of physics, drawing a strange arc in the air and accurately hitting the white mare's ear.

The white mare raised its front hooves, let out a mournful cry, and turned around, trying to escape.

However, after being shot, it seemed to have lost its ability to appear and disappear like before. It only ran two steps like an ordinary horse, and its body was still swaying. Golden blood flowed down its left ear and dripped on the ground.

Unfortunately, it only managed to run a few steps before it was hit by another arrow. The second arrow hit its hind legs, turning it into a cripple. The horse had also become slower. Thus, following the trajectory of the arrow, it finally saw where the enemy was.

At this moment, Zhang Heng was standing on the utility pole that the SUV had crashed into. Like a king looking down from the city wall, a pair of shadow wings spread out from his back, the wings that saved Zhang Heng from that tragic accident.

After realizing that the Niva was out of control, Zhang Heng decided to abandon the car immediately. He used the shadow wings to cancel out the terrifying impact speed and arrived at where he was standing.

However, Zhang Heng did not stand there for long. Seeing that the white horse had lost its movement speed, he flapped his wings again and dived down from the sky. At the same time, he pulled out the [Hidden Scabbard] from his waist and cut it down!

The sharp blade cut into the back of the white mare's neck without hesitation, like a hot knife stabbing into butter.

When both of Zhang Heng's feet landed on the ground, the white mare staggered past him. From the look in its eyes, it seemed that it was still glad that it had escaped this disaster.

Even though the white mare did not know how it had miraculously survived that slash, there were indeed no wounds on its body.

It continued to run forward, but the humans behind it did not chase after it this time.. The horse did not understand why Zhang Heng was so merciful until it ran another seven or eight steps when its head fell off its neck just like that.

Chapter 1197: Meeting Loki Again

[Successfully killed one Loki Avatar. Remaining avatars: 0. Loki's strength has been reduced by 50%. Obtained 20 points. Head to the character interface to view relevant information...]

[Congratulations, all five avatars have been killed. Loki's strength has been further reduced by 10%. Additional 200 points have been obtained. Head to the character interface to view relevant information...]

1

After Zhang Heng beheaded the white mare, he received two more system notifications.

The first was expected. Loki's strength had been reduced by half. The second was a hidden reward. After he killed the last avatar, the 200 points would be secondary. At the same time, Loki's strength had been reduced by another 10%, so, in other words, Loki only had 40% of his strength left.

He had become unprecedentedly weak.

On the other hand, Zhang Heng's body had been affected by the radiation he had absorbed over the past few days, but his condition was not serious at the moment. He still maintained about 90% of his combat strength, and since his Shadow Wings had been used against the white mare, it would take 24 hours to be used again. In other words, there was no hope for him in the battle after that.

Other than that, Zhang Heng was in fair physical and mental condition. Even though he had gone through a few battles earlier, he wasn't injured. Having only used up some of his energy, it took him two hours to recover, and he also replenished himself with food and water.

After he was fully prepared, Zhang Heng began his final battle journey.

Less than three hours were left in the 12-hour countdown, but Zhang Heng did not go to the medical center to meet up with the doctor, Master Kui, and the others.

Because the three of them were not in good health and Master Kui had been shot and injured, he could do little to help. In addition, this dungeon was an undeserved disaster for them, and since he inadvertently caught up in Loki's arrangements for Zhang Heng, he did not plan to ask them to join the final battle.

Alone, he drove a newly-found car on the quiet roads of Pripjat.

The system had modified the main mission to restrict Loki's movements to the city. In other words, the god of lies and pranks could not leave Pripjat, and after the 12-hour countdown ended, Loki would be forced to stay in a building in the city.

However, Zhang Heng did not want to wait until the 12-hour period was over before looking for Loki. This gave Loki time to choose a location for the final battle and then make arrangements.

Although the name of the god of lies and pranks had always been well-known, and when Mouse and the others heard that the god behind this dungeon was Loki, their expressions changed drastically. In reality, Loki's battle record was as deceiving as his own.

Sure, he could gain an advantage when facing most of his enemies; there was almost no positive description of Loki's battles in the entire Nordic mythology.

When facing a powerful opponent, Loki usually lied to deceive the opponent or use tricks to defeat the target. There was only one enemy who indeed died at his hands, and that was his brother, who bore a famous name, Heimdall.

Those who had watched Marvel's "Thor" series should have some impression of this name. Heimdall was the guard of the Rainbow Bridge, the God of Dawn, Son of the Nine Mothers, and the Guardian of the Gods. His gaze could pierce through the darkness, and whether day or night, he could see everything within 300 miles.

Zhang Heng even suspected that the [Filter Lens] in his hand was the work of Heimdall. Other than that, Heimdall could also hear the sound of vegetation and hair growing. Completely tireless, and with him guarding the Rainbow Bridge, he would immediately blow his horn and summon the gods once he found traces of giants.

Heimdall was Loki's mortal enemy. The two had already formed a grudge before the twilight of the gods, and they had perished together during the twilight of the gods. It seemed that Loki's combat strength was on the same level as Heimdall, the guardian of the gods.

But people who knew the process of the battle didn't think so. Not long after the two exchanged blows, Heimdall seized an opening and chopped off Loki's head, but it unexpectedly bounced back up after falling to the ground. He bit the dagger and stabbed Heimdall in the stomach before both of them died.

Although the ending was the same, Loki still relied on his little tricks and risked his life to kill Heimdall.

Thus, Zhang Heng estimated that Loki's powers shouldn't be too strong in Nordic mythology. He should be in the lower echelon. In addition, the system had cut the god's strength by 60%, so Zhang Heng wasn't worried about Loki confronting him head-on. On the contrary, he really needed to be wary of the small movements behind Loki's back.

If it was not a last resort, Zhang Heng did not want to wait until 12 hours had passed before fighting Loki. This was his plan from the beginning. Therefore, as soon as he recovered his strength, he began to search for Loki's whereabouts.

Zhang Heng searched in the direction where Loki had escaped for the last time. Fortunately, although Pripyat was a city recognized by Ukraine, it only had 50,000 people, and it wasn't too large. In addition, after the evacuation, the place was basically deserted, making it more convenient for Zhang Heng to search.

However, Zhang Heng still didn't expect to find Loki in less than half an hour.

The latter wasn't hiding at all. He brought a sofa out of nowhere and sat in the middle of the road as though waiting for Zhang Heng to arrive.

Zhang Heng did not stand on ceremony. He stepped on the accelerator and sent the sofa flying. Unfortunately, Loki, who was on the sofa, snapped his fingers before he was hit and appeared on the other side of the road, his face filled with helplessness.

Zhang Heng also stepped on the brake, but he did not turn off the engine. Instead, he shifted into park, pushed open the car door, and got out.

“Congratulations, player. After a not-so-hard battle, you have cleared all the minions and the five mini-bosses of this dungeon. You have come before the great god of lies and pranks, Loki. Tremble, mortal, for points have been increased by 100,000. You can check the relevant information on the character panel...”

Loki imitated the voice of the system, “Isn’t that how you put it? You like this game, don’t you, Zhang Heng? It was these rounds that turned you into the current you. Oh, by the way, I forgot to congratulate you on winning first place in the proxy war dungeon.. I hope it’s not too late to send my blessings.”

Chapter 1198: Why Me?

Zhang Heng ignored Loki’s blessings and frowned. “What did you do to me? How did you get me into your dungeon?”

“Hey, don’t you have a better question? I’m the god of lies and pranks. These things are a piece of cake for me,” Loki said proudly while puffing out his chest.

Unfortunately for him, Zhang Heng ignored his nonsense and took the [Pestilence Bone Bow] from his back.

Seeing that Zhang Heng was ready to attack again, Loki could only say helplessly, “Stop, stop, stop. Even if we’re going to attack later, we should at least listen to what the other party has to say first. I’m sitting here waiting for you at the risk of radiation poisoning and getting hit by a car.”

“You’re the god of lies and pranks. Is there even a need to listen to a word you say?” Zhang Heng raised his eyebrows.

“I’m the god of lies and pranks, but I’m not always lying.” Loki spread his hands, “You’ve also read the Nordic myths, so you should know that I’ve done some good things in there. Although the Asgardian gods hate me, many have received my favor. It’s only because I’m the son of a giant that they’ve never really treated me as one of their own. This is really a sad story. It’s heartbreaking, really”

“So you dragged me into your pocket dimension to tell me about the discrimination the Asgardian gods have shown you and the unfair treatment you’ve suffered?” Zhang Heng asked calmly. “I suggest you look for that yellow-haired man on Twitter. He has spent his whole life fighting for the cause of eliminating racial discrimination and has achieved remarkable results. He might be interested in this matter of yours.”

“No, I’m listing these old stories and digging my own wounds for you to see. I just want to tell you that we are actually the same kind of people,” Loki said emotionally. “The same kind of people who have no one to rely on and are treated as outliers. I don’t know who to believe...”

“I don’t have a tragic story like yours. My family is very good to me, and I have many friends. Thank you.”

“You only say that because you know nothing about what’s going to happen.” Loki licked his lips, “I know that you don’t believe me because of my past reputation. It’s okay, you don’t have to. You just have to ask yourself. I dare to bet that somewhere in the depths of your heart, you must have also wondered why Kronos could be so good to you. Not only did he choose you to be his agent, but he was also willing to use most of his divine power to make that little cheating device for you. Are you his illegitimate son, or his old lover?”

“Or are you really willing to believe his nonsense about guardian angels?”

“Get to the point.” Zhang Heng was unmoved.

“The point is that Kronos has designs on you, and there are people around you... who have designs on you. No matter which side they belong to, they all want something from you... Forgive me for being blunt, but it looks like your situation isn’t too good. Brother, when I was in Asgard, everyone didn’t like me either, but I’ve always been the one to plot against others, and very few people have been able to plot against me. So, compared to you, it looks like I was in a better situation.”

“What’s your plan, then?”

“What?” Loki blinked with innocence.

“You just said that everyone who approaches me has a plan for me. Then you must have a plan for approaching me,” Zhang Heng said.

“Of course.” Loki didn’t try to deny it. Instead, he admitted it openly. He whistled happily, “I’m also one of the people who sneakily approached you. It’s just that my purpose is different from others. There’s an instinct in my body, and it’s this instinct that has led me here.”

“Your instinct is to wreak havoc everywhere?”

Loki pretended not to hear him and continued, “First, I must apologize to you. Your previous guess was right. I did tamper with your body and pulled you into my game, but rest assured that this won’t happen again, because even if it’s me, it’s not without a price. Besides, some guy who hates me seems to have patched up this loophole.

“And the reason why I chose this way to meet you is to avoid Kronos and prevent that old schemer from playing any time tricks. I want to have a simple face-to-face chat with you, that’s all. If you want, I’ll also prepare coffee, beer, tea... oh, and some cookies I just baked myself. They’re very cute. I’ve got kittens, puppies, and pandas. If you want, you can have a few.”

As he spoke, Loki pulled out a plate of biscuits from a bag by the side of the road.

Zhang Heng didn’t reach for it, and asked instead, “What do you call this?” “Do you call this a simple face-to-face conversation? You chose an active ID on the forum that’s interested in me. You disguised yourself as the player behind the ID to get close to me. You lowered my guard and stayed by my side. If you really want to talk, you could have revealed your identity when we first entered the dungeon, instead of waiting until our identities were exposed.

“Not to mention, during this period of time, you even secretly stuffed the graphite from the core of reactor No. 4 into the bodies of others.

“Just before we left for the Pripjat Hotel last night, you stuffed a piece of graphite into your travel bag for food, but I threw it away.”

Loki gave his most innocent look. “There’s nothing I can do. The main mission of the dungeon is like this. I need to let you absorb as much radiation as possible while you’re not carrying it, and you have to find me before your condition deteriorates. This is the rule of the dungeon. Even I can’t violate it and reveal my identity to you in advance. Speaking of which, you really are vigilant. I’m already so close to you, and this dungeon is a one-on-one mode, yet you’re still on guard against me. I didn’t even get the chance to find you,” Loki commended.

“Is that so? But I see that you’ve quite happily changed the main storyline mission of the dungeon.”

Zhang Heng mercilessly exposed Loki’s lie.

“Who said that? Didn’t I just roll over? I didn’t expect that guy to come personally.” Loki sighed, “And I really never meant you any harm. I just took this rare opportunity to make a keener observation of you.”

“Then what about the incident that happened in the abandoned subway line? Your agent led us to the territory of Jemengarde. You want that python to kill me, right?” Zhang Heng asked.

“I admit that the idea is tempting, but the real reason is that I want to see if you can wake my son up.”

“Why me?” Zhang Heng’s expression changed.

“Because no one is more suitable to represent the end of the world than you,” Loki smiled.

Chapter 1199: The New Apocalypse

“I represent the apocalypse?” Zhang Heng frowned. “I’m just a mortal. Why would I have anything to do with the apocalypse? And speaking of the apocalypse, the twilight of the gods should be related to you.”

“The twilight of the gods is only the apocalypse of the Nordic Gods,” Loki said. “I have to admit... Hmm... from more than 2,000 years ago, that war was quite grand and magnificent. The Bards sang about it, and many famous people wrote many beautiful poems to mourn the fall of the gods. They sang about Thor and Odin’s battle heroism, the Asgardian gods’ valor, and indomitable spirit... blah, blah, blah. You can blame me for that, but unfortunately, they’re too old.”

“What do you mean?”

“I’m not targeting those older brothers. Really, I quite like some of them. I even collected some of their bones and made some furniture out of them as souvenirs. But with the productivity of that era, the craziest thing you could imagine was a red-haired, bearded, muscular drunkard who hammered from east to west with a big hammer. And what was his mount?—two goat-drawn chariots, two ridiculous and comical goats!”

Loki repeated, “Do you understand what I mean? This was the limit of the imagination of the people at that time, and now, you can pick any person, and he can say a hundred cooler and more awesome things than this. You have Ferrari’s, Long March 5, and not to mention the sky carriers... But we can’t blame them, their material conditions limit their imagination, and those poor guys have done their best.

“Whether it’s the twilight of the gods or the judgment of the apocalypse, all these doomsday stories, these elegant poems, they... how should I put it? They’re like a peerless beauty, unable to resist the erosion of time. They’re no longer in line with their once-mighty reputation, just like us old things.”

As Loki spoke, he took out another bottle of champagne from God knew where, uncorked it, and said to Zhang Heng, “Want a glass?”

Zhang Heng shook his head. “I need to stay sober before I kill you. I don’t plan on drinking.”

“Alright, then I’ll drink a small glass myself. Leave the rest here. I’ll drink it after you kill me.” Loki was very reasonable. He poured himself a glass and drank it in one gulp. Then, he raised the glass.

“Here’s to the good old days.”

Zhang Heng was unmoved.

“Speaking of which, some of us should thank television, comics, online novels, or more specifically, Marvel, Netflix, Sony... After the reprocessing by modern creators, some of the old stories have come back to life. I happen to be also one of the beneficiaries. Although I want nothing to do with that idiot with the hammer, and by the way, in Nordic mythology, I’m actually Odin’s brother, not Thor’s, but I guess no one cares about that kind of thing.

“All in all, I’ve recovered quite a bit of my strength. It’s is a good thing. It means that humans are still unable to escape lies and deceit,” said Loki, “But most of the old Gods didn’t have a good life. It’s not too much to describe them as struggling to survive. In order to recruit a believer, they had to use all their strength. But as I said, few people nowadays would think that a guy riding two goats is more handsome than a guy waving money, driving a Lamborghini. In contrast, a group of new Gods had risen. They were young and powerful.

“The god of media, the god of luxury, the god of the second dimension, the god of air-conditioning... Sometimes I don’t understand humans either. Some of them believe that air-conditioning is mankind’s greatest invention for summer, and air-conditioning saved their lives. Compared to us, the new gods have a more flexible way of absorbing faith. They don’t have to pray, they don’t have to sacrifice, and they don’t even care if their believers have respect for them. This was unimaginable in the past. Those old antiques would punish those blasphemers for some trivial matter, but now, who the f*ck would think of the god of air-conditioning in the winter, and at the same time, the simplify the ceremony?

“A lot of old guys have complained to me that the threshold has been lowered. Some time ago, I met a guy on the road. He owns a few websites that everyone likes. One of them is called P Station. His believers are all over the world; they have all kinds of people. He also gains believers in a very crude and violent way. The old gods can not imagine it at all. All you need to do is to post one of those small videos that he provides online and complete the ritual.

“He is simply the Einstein of the gods, a complete genius. From the day he was born, his followers have been growing rapidly. Moreover, they are incredibly sticky. Basically, as long as you log on to his website and become his follower, you will never be able to leave him. You will only provide him with endless faith. This thing is even more effective than the most stringent blood oath.

“However, new gods have their own troubles as well. Most have powerful divine power, but they lost the killing and fighting instinct of the old gods. Take the gods of Asgard as an example. When we were born, we faced all kinds of enemies. We had a mortal enemy, the giant tribe. There was also a civil war between the god tribes. At one point, we were on the verge of extinction. Later, at the dusk of the gods, we really died in battle... we basically never had peace. Every period of time was filled with blood. We fought against strong enemies or each other. If you couldn’t fight, you would be killed.

“However, the new gods in modern society are not like this. Other than a few who have the ability to fight, most of them are the younger brothers that I mentioned above who open websites. They are very good at collecting beliefs, but they do not know how to fight at all. In addition, many old gods think that they only have faith in their eyes and have abandoned the dignity and honor that a god should have. Moreover, their various actions have seriously disrupted the market, so many old gods view them as a cancer in the industry.

“But just as I said before, there are some unusual creatures among the new gods. I have to say that humans have never let me down on the road of courting death. This time, they have actually played a new trick on me—fear. It has always been the most primitive and purest human instinct. They have also developed many forms of entertainment to deal with fear, but most of them are just small things until they set their sights on the apocalypse. As I have said, whether it is the apocalypse or the twilight of the gods, they are all antiques that can not keep up with the trend of the times.. Humans have long lost their fear of the inferno painted by the pathetic imagination of their predecessors. They want to create new fears, thus, the exciting and magnificent new apocalypse of the 21st Century!”

Chapter 1200: Good News

“Have you noticed the problem?” Loki asked. “Let’s summarize all we know so far. The old gods were competitive and brave, and their combat techniques were outstanding, but they were too old. Even the god of time himself could not resist the erosion of time. The new gods were very powerful, and their methods of gaining faith were flexible and varied. But deep down, they were like a group of hippies from the new era. Don’t expect them to go to the battlefield.

“Then, with a pat on the head, the humans created another guy, giving him something that other new gods didn’t have. Not only did he have the genes to kill, but also the seeds to destroy. Imagine this new guy feeding on fear, spreading crazily through the new media and the Internet, like a virus replicating itself. His way of collecting beliefs was as flexible as a new god. He didn’t even need to show up, and you didn’t even need to know his name. He was just lurking in the movies and novels you saw, playing games. When you felt fear, Congratulations, you had become his follower, providing him with endless nourishment.

“His original creator even considered that as time passed, his creation might return to the old ways of the old gods and fall behind the times, so he used a lot of white space in his depiction. Such things are like creating an engine, but you didn’t set a speed limit, so what you need to do next is to step on the accelerator hard and let the speed continue to increase. Soon you will experience the feeling of being as fast as lightning.

“If someone was willing to step on the brakes at this time, they might be able to avoid the tragedy of the car being destroyed. Unfortunately, after a period of time, when people noticed the excellent performance of the car, no one wanted it to stop. Instead, everyone wanted to sit on it and step on the accelerator.

“This is the tragedy of the internet era. When a hot topic appears, people will spontaneously chase after it and hype it up. However, these people do not actually know the consequences of their actions. The thing they worship and feed is an unprecedented monster. This is different from the ancient gods and the new gods. Moreover, the most terrible thing is that its original creator gave it the attribute of destruction.

“Of course, in most people’s minds, they were just having fun with this. It’s like an unconscious collective carnival, but unfortunately, the guy at the center of the carnival doesn’t think so. He’s still faithfully fulfilling his mission—to bring an unprecedented apocalypse to this world that many have been looking forward to.

“With every increase in its power, we will be one step closer to this predetermined ending.” After saying that, Loki took another sip of champagne, a hint of tipsiness materializing on his face.

Unfortunately, Zhang Heng, who sat across him, did not react much after hearing that. He only said lightly, “Good story. If you don’t go to Qidian to start serialization, it will be the loss to all the readers.”

“You think I’m lying to you?”

“I don’t know, and I don’t care. At this stage, my mission is to kill you and complete the main mission of this dungeon. We’ll talk about the rest later,” Zhang Heng said as he pulled out [Paris’ Arrow] from the quiver behind him and nocked it on the bowstring. At least on the surface, Rocky could not tell that Zhang Heng’s emotions had changed because of what he had just said.

“Tsk, tsk. I almost forgot. You don’t have much feeling left, do you?” Loki did not panic when Zhang Heng pointed his bow at him. Instead, he rubbed his chin with interest. “Don’t you want to know what will happen when you lose all your feelings?”

“I actually have some good news for you.” Zhang Heng did not answer Loki’s question. Instead, he said, “Even if there is a new apocalypse, you don’t have to worry because you won’t be around then.”

“I’m glad that your sense of humor is still intact.” Loki’s eyes flashed. “Otherwise, I might not like you as much as I do...”

Before he could finish, Zhang Heng released the bowstring, and [Parris’ Arrow] shot toward Loki. Zhang Heng aimed at Rocky’s heart, but the arrow drew an arc halfway through, turning toward Loki’s neck.

In the end, the god of lies and pranks just stood there calmly, not moving at all. It wasn’t until [Parris’ Arrow] flew in front of him and was about to pierce his neck that he smiled and suddenly stretched out his hand, catching the flying arrow aiming at him.

“Paris Arrow, grade D. It’s used to hit the target’s weakness after leaving the bowstring. It’s a very useful small item. Many people are confused by its grade, but if used well, it’s not inferior to a top-tier C-grade item. However, it also has a weakness. Although it has its own weakness to aim at, its lethality is no

different from an ordinary arrow,” Loki said unhurriedly. “Also, do you like what I just did? This is something I learned from “The Avengers.”

Zhang Heng didn’t answer because he had already taken out a new arrow from his quiver. This time, he shot out four arrows in one shot, each one with an interval so short it was as if they were connected. At the same time, there was a slight change in the angle, it enveloped Loki’s body, giving him no room to escape.

“Good archery,” Loki praised. This time, he didn’t dare to use his hands to receive it. He snapped his fingers and disappeared from the spot.

When he reappeared, he was already standing behind Zhang Heng. However, before he could say a few more dirty words, his expression suddenly changed. It was because Zhang Heng had already turned around, as though he had been waiting there in advance, pointing his bow and arrow at him.

Then, arrows rained down.

Did he predict the direction of his teleportation? Loki was also amazed by Zhang Heng’s sense of smell on the battlefield. This time, he was almost hit by the arrow before he could snap his fingers. Fortunately, at the last moment, he snapped his fingers and moved his body to dodge the arrow. However, the embarrassing scene reminded him of some bad memories.

Previously at the Pripjat Hotel, he was forced to roll around like a marble after Zhang Heng exposed his identity. This time, he finally gained some face. However, even if he grabbed [Parris’ Arrow] with one hand, he still did not dare to be careless, even if Zhang Heng only shot him with the ordinary arrows he got from the shop.

But Loki recognized the bow in Zhang Heng’s hand—the [Pestilence Bone Bow], belonging to the White Horse Knight, one of the Four Horsemen of the Apocalypse. This B-grade bone bow was also a reminder of the fate of the White Horse Knight.. If he didn’t want to go in the direction of Pestilence’s fate, he needed to keep his spirits up at all times.