

## **Ad Infinitum 941**

### Chapter 941: Disadvantageous

Du Heng originally hoped to hide the matter regarding the nuclear bomb to the end. After all, Door of Scorching, Last Man, and Shadow of Distortion only wanted to maintain the status quo and not make rash changes. They had no intention of sacrificing themselves to end this disaster.

If they really knew that Master Zhuang wanted to end all of this, including their lives, there was a high chance that they wouldn't stop Arbiter of Fate or might even turn on him.

Even a rabbit would bite when cornered!

In order to ensure the success of the plan, Du Heng had been hiding his true intentions. For this reason, he didn't hesitate to hide things from Kalendarium like Shadow of Distortion. Who knew that the Arbiter of Fate would expose him at the critical moment?

As his expression changed slightly, he shouted, "Listen to me..."

Arbiter of Fate—who wasn't far from this room—immediately interrupted Master Zhuang. "Quick, block your hearing! You'll know what the truth is by paying attention to the core research area now."

Master Zhuang's Thought Implantation could already achieve his goal when acting on Awakened below the New World without any verbal help. However, it definitely couldn't do the same for the Kalendarium; he needed to put in his full efforts for success.

As the Arbiter of Fate's voice echoed in different rooms, Pangu Biology's Big Boss continued speaking to Du Heng. "President, in order not to be discovered by you, I did choose not to directly pay attention to that team. However, this doesn't mean that I don't care and only wish to sleep. I've been getting Pangu Biology's intelligence personnel everywhere to gather information on whatever happened wherever the team passed and report it to me. This includes the Salvation Army's loss of a nuclear warhead.

"Although you had handled many of the details and there was no way to find any clues if an investigation was really carried out, I couldn't help but make some connections when I put the two matters of 'that team passing by' and 'a nuclear warhead went missing.'

“President, sometimes, the best solution is to be stupid.”

Du Heng sighed and said, “What if you’re wrong?”

The Arbiter of Fate’s voice carried a hint of a smile. “Even if I’m wrong, I can at least take the opportunity to distract Dufftiel and the others.”

This was a matter that was all pros, no cons. If she guessed correctly, she could quickly disintegrate the will to fight of the Kalendarium in Master Zhuang’s camp. If she guessed wrong, it wouldn’t be much different from the previous situation. It might even create an opportunity.

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Du Heng sighed and said, “As expected of my good assistant.”

To him, this was a little troublesome. If Door of Scorching and the others confirmed the situation and gave up on stopping the rest or even turned on him, Du Heng would be in deep trouble.

Even if he was the leader of all Kalendarium and had control over the New World, it didn’t mean that his split personalities could resist each Kalendaria one-on-one. He couldn’t even manage five against one or ten against one.

His personalities could only form groups and split into several batches. They each occupied a room and used their privilege to slow down the advance of Arbiter of Fate and the other Kalendarium.

As for whether he could block every attacker, he wasn’t sure either.

Besides, his personality wasn’t monolithic; otherwise, it wouldn’t be called a price. At least one-third of his personalities didn’t want to die at all!

Among the remaining two-thirds were a group of snakes and rats, each having their extremes.

Du Heng had barely managed to prevent the destruction plan from being destroyed and interfered with by himself.

His personality that enjoyed being a teacher—which was the softest and most persistent in ending this disaster—had been loitering around the Ashlands all these years. Apart from wanting to regain his ‘childhood,’ he was also doing his best to set this matter into motion.

Du Heng and Xiaochong’s bodies were close to holographic projections that were used to carry their consciousness. With the help of powerful Matter Interference, Subconscious Thought, and other abilities, they acted like living humans that could eat, drink, and touch.

I can only hope that my other arrangements work...?Du Heng looked down at Shang Jianyao, who wore a distorted expression.

The personalities floating around Shang Jianyao had changed compared to before.

The time they spent in pain decreased, and the time they spent being fine and well extended. This meant that their independence had increased further.

Among them, the ones who valued relationships and claimed to be righteous took advantage of the reduced influence of his brain development to pay attention to Pangu Biology’s internal affairs. They transmitted their powers through the barrier to the words in the recording pen and helped locate everyone from the second to the sixth floor.

Among them, the second floor was the Energy Zone, the third and fourth floors were the Secret Research Zone, and the fifth floor was the Management Zone. These were all critical areas; there would be no lack of Mind Corridor-level Awakened.

The radio station was on the sixth floor. Shang Jianyao’s intention was to use this opportunity to help Long Yuehong and Bai Chen clear out the enemies around them and reduce the difficulty of their subsequent evacuation.

As for the lowest level, Shang Jianyao chose to give up when he considered that it might agitate Big Boss and cause unnecessary trouble.

Apart from the people on the six floors, Shang Jianyao ‘distributed’ his remaining power in the first broadcast to the Security Department. The focus was on the middle and high-ranking offices, the patrolling troops, and the employees guarding the doors.

Unfortunately, he had yet to become a Kalendaria. Otherwise, he wouldn't have only affected so 'few' people.

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Pangu Biology, underground building, radio station.

The team of Security Department employees stopped outside and questioned the gatekeeper.

"Have you seen a young man with a mechanical arm and a woman?" asked the leader.

The old man's heart tightened as he honestly replied, "Yes, they just entered a few minutes ago. Was there anything wrong with them?"

Can it be that their D8 and D7 ranks were faked?

"Who were they looking for?" asked the team leader.

The radio station wasn't large, but it wasn't small either. It would be a waste of time to search directly without asking where the target was.

"Th-they were looking for Feng Yunying." The old man—who hadn't encountered such a situation for countless years—stammered. "From the Bedtime Music program team."

His memories of the Security Department's aggressive search scene were still stuck at the beginning of the New Calendar.

The team immediately walked past the old man and into the radio station.

Just as they were about to get someone to lead the way, the loudspeaker on the ceiling emitted static. Right on the heels of that, a slightly deep male voice sounded. "I have something very serious to tell you. Big Boss is a Kalendaria, Arbiter of Fate. The board of directors are called shepherds because we're 'Her' flock."

Ah??All the members of the internal team and the radio station's employees looked up at the loudspeaker closest to them.

“What are they talking about?” Most of these people didn't even know what a Kalendaria was.

In the Management Zone, Director Su Yu suddenly jumped up from his seat, sweating profusely. He thought for a moment and shouted to his subordinates outside the door, “Everyone, quickly stuff your ears!”

He relied on the fact that he was close to the New World and was at a very high level to effectively resist the effects of Thought Guidance or Thought Implantation. He was in no rush to stuff his ears, wanting to hear what the person holding the radio hostage wanted to say—no, what he wanted to do.

Of course, Su Yu didn't dare to be careless. He raised his hands and stretched them toward his ears, planning to immediately pretend to be deaf if anything went wrong.

At the same time, the radio continued the broadcast. “The Kalendarium take human consciousness as a feast. This is the origin of the Heartless disease. Our role is to become Big Boss's food.”

Uh...?Su Yu's hands that were reaching for his ears slowed down. His thick eyebrows furrowed, and his expression was one of surprise and bewilderment.

Almost everyone on this floor was the same. Only a few people blocked their ears in time, including the board of directors and vice-president—Ji Ze—who had sensed the anomaly in advance.

“Everyone, danger is imminent. The Heartless disease will erupt en masse again. You guys have to take the opportunity to escape the underground building; escape Big Boss's control.”

Shang Jianyao's voice echoed in the Secret Research Zone through the radio, turning the researchers' expressions from confusion to fear.

Many Awakened here were caught off-guard and were affected. They put down their work and rushed to the different elevators.

“Work hard. Dawn is right in front of us!”

The Security Department employees guarding the underground building's entrance cast their gazes at the door at the same time. They then rushed over and prepared to open it.

“Quickly escape!” With the last word spat out, the affected people accelerated as if they had heard gunshots.

Employees in places like the Production Zone, Research Zone, and Indoor Ecosystem Zone listened to the radio, half-confused and puzzled.

At this moment, many of them saw the Security Department employees patrolling the area run toward the elevator with weapons in hand.

“This...” If not for the company's immense authority, the ordinary employees might've already chosen to follow.

In the radio station, Long Yuehong and Bai Chen—who had confirmed that Shang Jianyao's recording had been played once—left the control room.

They first untied the technician. This fellow had already been affected and ran away without looking back.

Bai Chen then pinched Hou Yi's philtrum in a bid to wake her up.

Upon seeing Hou Yi slowly wake up, the two of them couldn't be bothered to explain anything to the radio host. They rushed out of the recording studio and went straight to the nearest elevator. After all, the other party could get the answer after listening to the radio a second time.

They had to find their families as soon as possible and protect them as they fled the underground building.

Thud! Thud! Thud!?

The two of them quickly arrived at the nearby elevator lobby. It was already filled with people, and Shang Jianyao—who was on the radio—was still trying his best to persuade them.

At this moment, an elevator came up and arrived on this floor.

The elevator door opened, and two employees—a man and a woman—were inside. They were Awakened who had come to confirm if Long Yuehong and Bai Chen's trip to the radio station was normal.

Considering the possible situation at the radio station, the two of them wore earplugs from the beginning.

Upon seeing the dense crowd rush to the elevator, they were momentarily shocked. What's going on?

At the same time, the male Awakened saw Long Yuehong at the elevator entrance with his nearly two-meter-tall height.

He recognized the mechanical arm!

Chapter 942: In the Midst of the Disaster (1)

The male Awakened immediately searched for his target's companion, but the elevator lobby was filled with people. How could he tell who was who?

Most importantly, he wasn't familiar with the two targets at all. He had only seen their photos and information at the last minute and knew some of their characteristics.

Compared to the iconic mechanical arm that was still eye-catching even with a sleeve covering it, being a little short was nothing that stood out in the crowd. This was common among the older generation who hadn't had genetic enhancement universalized. In the current situation, it was easy to be blocked by others.

Seeing that the target was about to leave the elevator lobby and find another path, the male Awakened didn't dare to be negligent and immediately used his ability.

Long Yuehong's head grew heavy, and his eyelids turned heavy. He fell asleep and collapsed to the side.

Forced Sleep!

When Bai Chen saw this, not only did she not reach out to help up her husband and think of a way to wake him up, but she even moved her eyebrows and distanced herself from the crowd.

With a thud, Long Yuehong fell to the ground.

Nobody around him came to check on him; all they could think about was escaping the underground building as soon as possible. For them to circle Long Yuehong and not step on his body was already a showcase of their civic-mindedness.

Seeing a large number of employees rush to the elevator, the two Awakened spent a Herculean effort to squeeze out. This was also the reason why the male Awakened had to forcefully control his target. Otherwise, the other party would've long fled by the time they walked out of the elevator lobby.

When they arrived beside Long Yuehong, the two of them looked around warily, searching for the target's female companion. But although a group had just taken the elevator, the place was still filled with employees. Without knowing the target, it was a fool's dream if they wanted to discover Bai Chen immediately.

The two Awakened retracted their gazes and looked at each other. They shook their heads, indicating that they had gained nothing.

"Pull the target to an empty spot," the tall male Awakened said.

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The area around the elevator lobby was too chaotic, and people were coming and going. If the two of them weren't careful, they would be ambushed!

According to the information, the target's female companion had a biological prosthetic limb transplanted.



The female Awakened revealed a puzzled expression and pointed at her ear. She wore earplugs, so she couldn't hear what her companion was saying.

The tall male Awakened came to his senses and didn't repeat himself. He squatted down and planned on carrying Long Yuehong, using his actions to tell his companions what to do.

At this moment, he felt dizzy as an obvious pressure acted on his chest. As his heart tightened, he vomited. His limbs turned numb, and his vision turned blurry.

In his vision, his female companion had a similar reaction.

Oh no, we're attacked! The tall male Awakened staggered as he tried to stand up and search for the attacker, but he failed.

According to his judgment, the sneak attack on the two of them shouldn't have just happened. It had already been acting on them in secret for a while, but it had only fully erupted now.

In a moment of desperation, the tall male Awakened ignored the fact that he was surrounded by company employees and planned to use Forced Sleep on everyone. However, it was too late.

His and the female Awakened's vision turned black as they fainted.

Only then did Bai Chen squeeze out of the crowd and rush to Long Yuehong's side.

Subsonic Attack!

She had deliberately distanced herself and ignored Long Yuehong in order to hide herself and quietly finish off the enemy with Subsonic Attack using the merfolk-like biological prosthetic limb!

As for whether this would affect the other employees, she didn't care.

Under Bai Chen's external stimulus, Long Yuehong woke up.

“There’s an Awakened!” he subconsciously shouted.

“I’ve knocked them out,” Bai Chen replied concisely. “Let’s go to the other elevator lobbies. The more remote, the better. Let’s head up while there’s still time and few people fleeing.”

Otherwise, more and more employees would want to take the elevator as time passed. Most people would have to wait for car after car as the broadcast continued. This could result in something happening with time.

Such a ‘jam’ was undoubtedly crazier than Pangu Biology’s daily rush hour. Even if the underground building had multiple elevator lobbies that could be used normally, there would definitely be situations where force, squeezing, and so on happened.

“Alright!” Long Yuehong thought for a moment and said, “Let’s go to the 495th floor first.”

That was where his parents lived.

Although Shang Jianyao had promised to focus on Long Dayong, Gu Hong, Long Zhigu, and Long Aihong’s workplace and school during the second round of the broadcast, and he would also include their neighbors on the 495th floor—with Long Yuehong’s grandparents, and other relatives on the ‘special care list’—Long Yuehong was still worried.

He was afraid that his parents would be unable to bear leaving the bottles and jars at home despite being affected and having the intention to escape the underground building. If they insisted on returning to pack their belongings before leaving, it might make them miss an opportunity.

They needed Bai Chen and him to protect them in order to escape safely.

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Vortex-shaped building, core research zone.

Jiang Baimian was focused on the indicator lights in the experiment capsule. Once a successful notification appeared, she would immediately open the transparent cover, lift Shang Jianyao up, and carry him on her back.

At this moment, she suddenly felt a little dizzy. This was like a precursor to the Heartless disease, but it wasn't that intense.

Jiang Baimian looked around warily and discovered that the flashing lights on the surrounding machines had frozen. The howling winds in the hall became stronger.

#### Chapter 943: In the Midst of the Disaster (2)

In Master Zhuang's room filled with machines.

The abnormally angry voice of Shadow of Distortion sounded in Du Heng's ears: "We gave you so much support, but you actually want to drag us to our deaths!"

This wasn't just his question; it also belonged to Door of Scorching and Last Man.

Du Heng sighed when he heard that. "Garland, we actually died decades ago. The ones alive now are only devils that exist through our consciousness. I don't want to eventually degenerate completely and lose what's left of me as a human.

"I've been wrong for a long time and have been wrong many times. I can't continue this mistake. Let's rest in peace together."

Nobody listened to him because all the Kalendarium blocked their hearing.

As Shadow of Distortion, Last Man, and Door of Scorching either retreated or rebelled, the rooms leading to the core area of the New World opened.

Dozens of Du Heng used their privilege to turn different rooms into mazes to slow down the Kalendarium.

Arbiter of Fate Zhao Danlin wore a crown and a robe embedded with flowers and leaves. She seemed to have transformed into the legendary goddess of Chu, quickly passing through different intersections along the ground and walls as she headed for her destination.

Suddenly, a faint light lit up in front of her.

Green colors quickly filled the area, and a golden Buddha appeared in her eyes.

She raised her eyebrows and said, “Li Hui, are you repeatedly switching sides?”

The Buddha gave a Buddhist proclamation. “Amitabha. I’m only helping you so that you can gather here and weaken your ability to influence the outside world, preventing you from escaping in the chaos.”

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This voice sounded in Arbiter of Fate’s heart.

Reverse use of his Mind Reading!

“You want to die too?” Arbiter of Fate asked in a deep voice.

The Buddha sighed and said, “The more I read the Buddhist scriptures, the more I regret my original joy and my abject way of living over the years. In order to not let the new Awakened affect the Ashlands, I made my believers choose to give up their physical bodies and bind them to me. If I don’t enter hell, who will?”

“Patron, death is joy!”

Seeing that she couldn’t convince him, Arbiter of Fate immediately used ‘Halting Consciousness,’ an upgrade from Cardiac Arrest.

Almost at the same time, a solemn voice echoed around Subhuti Li Hui.

Consciousness Deprivation!

The two Kalendarium lost consciousness at the same time, but they quickly woke up.

Arbiter of Fate didn't hesitate and immediately used the location she had pinpointed in Pangu Biology and End Year City to extract a portion of human consciousness to replenish herself.

She didn't absorb them all because the capacity of her pool was limited; it would only be a waste if she absorbed too much. Moreover, there was still a tough battle ahead, so she had to use them sparingly to maintain her optimal state.

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In the radio station on the sixth floor of Pangu Biology's underground building.

When Hou Yi completely woke up, there was nobody there. Only the recording kept replaying.

"Big Boss is the Kalendaria, Arbiter of Fate. She established Pangu Biology only to rear us and feed on our consciousness?" Hou Yi listened to the broadcast and gradually 'believed' in this matter.

But halfway through the recording, before Shang Jianyao could finish telling them to escape the underground building, the broadcast stopped. The supercomputer, Omega, finally received an order to block the broadcasting circuits.

When Hou Yi heard the voice stop, she hurriedly left the recording studio and rushed to the radio station's exit. Suddenly, she saw a few turbid-eyed and hunched Heartless biting at human flesh.

Hou Yi took a silent breath and quietly retreated to the radio station.

On the 495th floor.

The moment they returned, Long Yuehong and Bai Chen headed straight for Zone C, Room 11.

Against the tide of people heading to the elevator lobby, the two ran very quickly and returned to the door.

"What's going on?" Gu Hong stood there with a puzzled expression. Her terrified heart calmed down when she saw her son and daughter-in-law rush over.

The broadcast had already stopped.

Long Yuehong blurted out, “You didn’t go to work?”

Gu Hong shook her head and replied blankly, “I wasn’t feeling well in the morning, so I applied for time off and didn’t go. I just came back from the hospital.”

She shook the medicine bag in her hand.

Just came back from the hospital...? Long Yuehong was abnormally glad that he and Bai Chen were cautious and came home to confirm the situation.

Before the broadcast was cut off, Shang Jianyao’s recording played a total of five rounds, affecting perhaps 100,000 employees. But in their plan, only a small number of people in the hospital area would be implanted with the thoughts, hoping that these people would result in others escaping.

It wasn’t targeted at everyone. Therefore, Gu Hong slipped through the cracks.

Long Yuehong made a prompt decision and didn’t waste his breath. “Mom, let’s quickly escape to the surface!”

“T-this will result in punishment, right?” Gu Hong was very worried.

Bai Chen pointed at the few employees running past them and said, “Everyone is fleeing. The law can’t punish everyone!”

The flustered Gu Hong was convinced. Just as she was about to follow her son and daughter-in-law to the nearest elevator lobby, she saw a familiar figure from the corner of her eye—Long Dayong!

Long Yuehong’s father was running home.

“Dad, you didn’t escape?” Long Yuehong asked in surprise.

Long Dayong heaved a sigh of relief when he saw Gu Hong. "I was planning on fleeing with them, but I recalled that your mother might still be at home!"

Gu Hong's heart immediately warmed, and her eyes turned moist.

Long Yuehong waved his hand and said, "Let's go!"

#### Chapter 944: In the Midst of the Disaster (3)

Long Yuehong and Bai Chen led their parents to the nearest elevator lobby in Zone C.

As it was office hours, there was basically nobody in the residential area other than children, students, teachers, and retired employees. After a few batches of people running away, it was quiet everywhere. It was so empty that it was like the scene outside the Rec Center during a year-end performance.

When she passed by the Rec Center, Bai Chen glanced at the Order Supervisory Office beside her and turned to Long Yuehong. "Let's go in and see if there are any weapons."

Other than their mechanical arms and biological prosthetic limbs, the two of them didn't have a single gun or bullet on them.

In a situation where the mechanical arm couldn't be removed, Pangu Biology requested Long Yuehong to hand over bullets, poison, hypnotizing gas, and other items to minimize the might of his mechanical arm.

Of course, as the high-performance batteries involved the normal operation of the mechanical arm, Long Yuehong could still use functions like condensing energy to fire lasers.

"Alright." Considering that he didn't know what he would encounter next and that a slight delay shouldn't affect them much, Long Yuehong didn't hesitate to respond to Bai Chen's suggestion.

They brought Long Dayong and Gu Hong into the Order Supervisory Office on this floor.

The Order Supervisory here had fled, and the spare weapons were left in the room.

A locked cabinet was ripped open by Long Yuehong, and inside were a few Ice Moss pistols and many boxes of 9mm bullets.

Bai Chen and Long Yuehong each took one and gave one each to Long Dayong and Gu Hong.

“We don’t know how to use it...” Gu Hong was in a difficult position.

They had learned how to fire live bullets in school, but it had been so many years.

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“At least it can deter others,” Bai Chen replied as she stuffed the bullets into her pocket.

Long Dayong also comforted his wife. “I still have some impression on how to use it.”

The family of four equipped their weapons and ran to the nearest elevator lobby without any further delay.

At this moment, several employees were waiting there with anxious expressions.

Long Yuehong looked around and heaved a sigh of relief when he realized that there were no children or students.

In their plan, the students from the various schools and the children who were still being taken care of by their elders at home were the ones who received the second and third rounds of special attention. Their sequence was second only to Long Yuehong, Jiang Baimian’s family, relatives, friends, and the few relatives survived by Shang Jianyao’s parents.

Of course, Shang Jianyao couldn’t tell who was young and who was still studying through his senses. He could only blanket everyone in the corresponding area. This way, minors could receive the care of teachers and elders while fleeing.

From the looks of it, the Old Task Force’s plan had gone quite smoothly.



The elevator lobby was extremely quiet; nobody spoke.

The elevators quickly went up and over without stopping. This was a special design for Pangu Biology's morning and evening peak hours—when the elevator was full, it wouldn't open midway.

Gulp...?Someone gulped, appearing nervous and anxious.

“Why aren't there any elevators?” A male employee from the Supplies Allocation Market on this floor lost control and growled.

He hadn't been affected physically during the five rounds of broadcast, but he had heard what Shang Jianyao had said clearly. Now that the students, Order Supervisory, and the children-carrying elderly had fled, he finally couldn't hold back his suspicion and fear. He rushed to the nearest elevator lobby with a few colleagues.

However, the elevators were filled with people as they skipped their floor. They didn't stop for them at all.

With this growl, the silence was broken. Some people clamored about going to the other elevator lobbies to try their luck, while others relied on their youth and planned on taking the safe passage to the tenth or twentieth floor to take a look at the situation.

At this moment, a female employee from the Supplies Allocation Market said with a trembling voice, “Why don't we press the ‘down’ button? Nobody should be taking the elevator down at this time.”

From the jump in the floor numbers, she discovered that when an elevator went up, it stopped at the Factory Zone and the Indoor Ecosystem Zone. As for those that went downward, it reached places like the Research Zone. After all, almost everyone was thinking of escaping the underground building.

The others were stunned at first, but after pondering for a few seconds, they realized that this method was feasible. To them, the delay was only the time needed to take the elevator to the Research Zone, the Factory Zone, and pick up any people until the elevator was full on the way up. This was probably better than bitterly waiting here.

One choice was waiting in torment for an unknown hope, while the other choice allowed them to see a viable path to the surface, so they didn't need to think too much about which to choose.

But at this moment, an elevator stopped on the 495th floor.

Everyone present revealed looks of surprise as they rushed over.

With a soft clang, the carriage door opened, and the four passengers inside were revealed to Long Yuehong and the others.

Their bodies were slightly hunched, and their eyes were turbid and bloodshot—they were all Heartless.

The moment they saw normal humans, these Heartless immediately attacked.

Several employees from the Supplies Allocation Market couldn't react in time and stood there, stunned.

Bang! Bang! Bang! Bang!

Gunshots rang out four times and accurately hit every Heartless in the head, causing their brains to splatter.

The one who lunged the most ferociously collapsed on the female employee who had just spoken, scaring her into letting out a scream. Thankfully, she didn't suffer any substantial damage.

Long Yuehong and Bai Chen had shot twice each.

Chapter 945: In the Midst of the Disaster (4)

With what they had experienced, this number of Heartless was just child's play.

Without a word, Long Yuehong walked past the employees and arrived at the elevator door, dragging out the Heartless corpses.

They were still wearing their work clothes.

After taking a look at the corpses, Long Yuehong held the door open and said to Bai Chen and his parents, "Hurry!"

The few employees from the Supplies Allocation Market came to their senses and didn't dare to snatch a spot from the Long family of four. They allowed them to enter the elevator.

"You guys come in too," Long Yuehong said to the employees after his parents were in.

Several employees in the Supplies Allocation Market kept quiet out of fear. They lowered their heads slightly, entered the elevator, and stood against the wall.

Bai Chen then pressed the button that led to the 649th floor.

The 650th floor required swiping an electronic card with the necessary clearance. Currently, one could only reach the 649th floor before using the emergency access.

Although there were definitely roadblocks and guards in the emergency access, the latter had probably fled long ago. The former had most likely been overturned or destroyed by the batches of people who had fled to the surface.

The carriage door quickly closed, and the elevator began to move upward. It only stopped at the fifth floor before it was full.

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In Master Zhuang's mind world.

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Eidolon Nun, Dawn, Mandara, and the other Kalendarium were rushing toward the core area filled with machines. However, they traveled for a long time and passed room after room, but they didn't see their destination. It was as if they were walking in circles.

Eidolon Nun—who had been keeping herself in the dark the entire time—felt vigilant as she shouted sternly, “Shattered Mirror, is that you?”

A voice with a hint of sorrow replied, “It’s me.”

“You want to kill yourself too?” Dawn’s voice was ethereal like a dream.

In their senses, Shattered Mirror’s consciousness alternated between left and right, disappearing and splitting into many. Clearly, none of them were real.

Shattered Mirror sighed softly. “I’ve long wanted to kill myself. When I was young, I would feel heartbroken for a long time if my pet rabbits were to die, much less kill one person after another with my own hands.

“I could only numb myself by saying, ‘everything is a dream; why so serious?’ I haven’t tried ending my life because the president told me that we have to atone for our previous mistakes and end this calamity completely. Now, this opportunity has finally arrived.

The voice of Shattered Mirror came from all directions, making it impossible to figure out where she was hiding.

...

In the room where the supercomputer—Omega—was located, on the lowest floor of the underground building.

An electronic voice sounded: “Director Ji, nearly one-third of the employees have fled the company. Please make up your mind as soon as possible.”

As an AI, Omega didn’t have the authority to do certain things while Ji Ze was still alive. If Ji Ze died and there was no designated operator, it could deal with the situation according to the situation.

The number one-ranking vice president of Pangu Biology, Ji Ze, pushed his gold-rimmed glasses up his nose and fell silent for a few seconds.

“My orders are for the elevators to stop...”

As the broadcast had stopped, he didn't block his ears any further.

Just as Ji Ze finished speaking, he suddenly frowned. He felt intense pain in his heart!

Ji Ze collapsed to the ground, and his gradually blurring vision saw a familiar figure walk in. That was a board director, Su Yu, who was in charge of the Security Department.

“Why...” The dying Ji Ze could only say one word. Then, he lost his life.

Su Yu—who was wearing gray camouflage—looked down at his colleague and sneered. “Were you asking why?”

His expression gradually turned solemn and stern. “I later blocked my ears but had some doubts about the broadcast, so I sneaked here to investigate. Who knew that it would really be true? You and Big Boss really treat everyone as livestock.”

He then cast his gaze at the side door and laughed self-deprecatingly. “I know it's impossible for me to survive in front of the Kalendaria, but my old team leader told me on the first day I joined the Security Department that our mission was to protect everyone. If there's anyone to blame, it's myself for rising up the ranks of the Security Department!”

As Su Yu spoke, he took out a high-performance grenade he had obtained from somewhere, removed the pin, and threw it at the supercomputer, Omega.

His primary goal was to destroy this AI that could interrupt the elevators' operations!

Omega didn't have a weapon system to begin with, and it didn't have the time to summon other guards. It could only 'watch' the grenade fly at it.

It didn't show any emotion and only reminded Su Yu, “If I'm destroyed...”

Boom!

A violent explosion wrecked the supercomputer, and the remnants of ‘Omega’ echoed through the area’s loudspeaker: “The self-destruct sequence for the entire underground building has begun. In ten minutes, this place will become a sealed tomb.”

Su Yu—who had rolled to avoid the blast—was stunned for a moment and didn’t speak for a long time. When Omega’s voice subsided, he looked down at the parts scattered everywhere and chuckled. “This is good too. I’ll do my best and leave it up to fate. At least I bought everyone an additional ten minutes.”

Su Yu didn’t make the best use of his time to escape. Instead, he walked to the side room’s door and sat cross-legged with his back to it and his face facing out.

He appeared as though he was protecting Big Boss, who was inside.

#### Chapter 946: Weak Heart

“The self-destruct sequence has begun. This building will be completely sealed in ten minutes. All units, please evacuate in an orderly manner.”

Long Yuehong and the others had just come out of the elevator when they heard the halted broadcast make this announcement.

The few Supplies Allocation Market employees—who had originally been skeptical of Shang Jianyao’s words and had only chosen to follow the crowd—were completely flustered, shocked, and terrified.

“There’s still time,” Long Yuehong said simply and ran toward the emergency access to the 650th floor.

According to his estimates, if everything went smoothly, they could reach the surface in five minutes via the emergency access. When the time came, the underground area wouldn’t affect them no matter how sealed or self-destructive it was.

Thud! Thud! Thud!

Long Yuehong led the way with Gu Hong and Long Dayong behind him. Bai Chen was two steps behind and was in charge of dealing with other accidents.

The employees of the Supplies Allocation Market seemed to have found someone to count on. They were no longer as terrified and began running.

There was more than one emergency access in the underground building; at least half of the elevator lobbies corresponded to one. Long Yuehong and the others only ran a few steps before entering the stairwell and heading up.

The various barricades here had been destroyed. They easily and smoothly arrived at the 650th floor.

If not for the self-destruct countdown echoing in their ears, everyone present would've heaved a sigh of relief.

The emergency access on the 650th floor was concentrated on the other side. It wasn't connected to the ones below, so they had to pass through a long aisle peppered by many metal doors to reach it. Fortunately, the escape of the Security Department employees allowed these metal doors to open by themselves without needing any force.

Long Yuehong led his parents, wife, and the employees from the Supplies Allocation Market as they ran without stopping.

“Countdown: Nine minutes...”

“Countdown: Eight minutes...”

The countdown sounded again and again, making Long Dayong and Gu Hong—who usually didn't exercise much—fill themselves with adrenaline as they ran steadily. They didn't dare slow down as they panted heavily.

It was only because they weren't considered old and had undergone immature genetic enhancement that they managed to last this long after such an intense dash.

“Countdown: Seven minutes...”

“Countdown: Six minutes...”

Long Yuehong found it odder as he ran.

Logically speaking, with their speed, they should've long arrived on the other side of the 650th floor and begun searching for an emergency access that had its barricades destroyed or hadn't been permanently sealed.

Furthermore, it was such a straight path. They weren't Jiang Baimian, so how could they get lost?

Long Yuehong's heart palpitated as he stopped. He raised his right hand and signaled for his parents and the others to rest. At the same time, he shouted, “The underground building is about to be sealed. Do you want to die here?”

He suspected that they had encountered an unaffected Awakened in the Shattered Mirror domain who remained loyal to the company.

However, nobody answered him.

At this moment, Bai Chen reminded him, “Write on the wall!”

That's right!? Long Yuehong came to a realization.

The only reason the Awakened wasn't affected by Shang Jianyao and wasn't shocked by the self-destruct countdown was that he had stuffed his ears in advance.

As for the worst-case scenario of encountering a Superior Heartless, Long Yuehong was temporarily unwilling to think about it.

With a snap, he flicked out a knife from his mechanical arm and swiped it across the wall. “The building is about to be sealed. Just listen to your surroundings!”



After about 20 seconds, an invisible layer of glass seemed to shatter in front of Long Yuehong and the others. They then saw the other side of the 650th floor.

They saw many figures running in their spots, and they saw a person running deep into the area.

Phew...?Long Yuehong heaved a sigh of relief and called out to his parents and wife. "Continue!"

There were only a little more than four minutes left!

The group ran again, heading straight for the nearest emergency access. However, this place was permanently sealed.

They could only change to another one.

After three attempts, Long Yuehong finally saw a destroyed roadblock. The fact that the roadblock was destroyed meant that this path was likely clear!

"Countdown: Three minutes..." As Long Yuehong was delighted, the cold electronic voice sounded again.

He quickly cheered his parents on. "The surface is just upstairs!"

Hope rose in everyone's hearts as they crazily headed up the stairs.

This emergency access was rather long, about three stories tall.

Footsteps sounded incessantly.

Long Yuehong finally saw a platform. At the end of the platform was a silver-black metal door.

"Phew." He panted and said to the people following behind, "We'll be safe once we're outside!"

This gave strength to many people whose legs had gone limp.

Long Yuehong protected his parents and ran to the open door with Bai Chen. Outside was the parking lot.

“Countdown: Two minutes...”

At this moment, Long Yuehong suddenly became weak-minded and was filled with doubts about whether he could escape. Does the underground building’s lockdown really only refer to the underground area and not the surface? If it’s the latter, it will take at least five minutes to enter the Ashlands from here. There’s not enough time...

Even if we can break into the cars, we don’t have the keys...

Little White knows how to hotwire cars, but I wonder if it’s too late...

Even if Big Boss and the New World powerhouses are indeed held back, will the numerous Mind Corridor-level Awakened in the company really allow us to do as we wish? Besides, the company has been operating in the building for decades. It’s unknown how many more setups there are!

These questions were like bullets shooting at Long Yuehong’s heart, pushing him toward a mental breakdown. He no longer had the will to advance.

It wasn’t only him; Bai Chen, Long Dayong, and Gu Hong also had similar reactions. They stopped with collapsed expressions and panted heavily.

The Supplies Allocation Market employees and some of the people who had been affected by the illusion were the same.

Only one-third of the people were unaffected. They ran out the metal door not far in front of Long Yuehong and entered the parking lot.

Weak Heart—an Awakened ability in the Master Zhuang domain!

Long Yuehong turned around and saw two figures walking over from the other side of the platform.

One had his ears stuffed, and his eyes were turbid. He wore neat black clothes, and his body was slightly hunched. He was in his fifties.

The other figure was wrapped in a Chameleon-type bionic artificial intelligence armor.

Superior Heartless...? Long Yuehong's heart sank as he felt greater despair.

There wasn't much time left to begin with, and now they had even encountered the interception of Superior Heartless. The road ahead was bleak.

No, there was no hope at all!

The weak-minded Long Yuehong couldn't help but cry, and his vision turned blurry. He seemed to hear the footsteps of death.

Gu Hong broke down. Long Dayong squatted down and covered his face.

Even Bai Chen—who had always been determined—had moist eyes at this moment, and her face revealed two emotions: depression and pain.

The Superior Heartless wearing the bionic artificial intelligence armor walked over. He grabbed an employee from the Supplies Allocation Market and suddenly bit his neck.

Blood splattered.

Long Yuehong stared blankly at this scene as if he could see his outcome.

“Countdown: 59 seconds...”

“58...”

“57...”

Another group of people ran up this emergency access. Behind them was a large number of ferocious Heartless.

It's over, it's over...?

Long Yuehong's willpower shattered like porcelain that had been smashed by a hammer. He seemed to be able to see the deaths of himself, Bai Chen, and his parents.

Either their necks were snapped, their hearts were dug out and ripped to shreds, or they were sealed in the underground building and died from the subsequent explosions, toxic gasses, flooding, suffocation, or mental breakdowns.

These scenes appeared in Long Yuehong's imagination one after another. This was accompanied by the Pangu Biology employees' screams brought about by the Heartless's hunt. It made the weak-minded him want to end his life to prevent him from witnessing his parents and Bai Chen's tragic fate.

"30..."

"29..."

A large group of escapees was hunted by the Heartless in various ways. Some people were lucky enough to bypass Long Yuehong and the others and rush into the parking lot.

This almost snapped the nerves in Long Yuehong's mind.

The fear of death and the tragic state of his family constantly struck his heart, gradually producing echoes in his heart. No, I don't want to see such a thing...

I don't want to see Daddy, Mommy, and Bai Chen die like this...

I'm afraid of death, but I'm more afraid of seeing the people I love die tragically!

"12..."

“11...”

“10...”

The moment the number '10' jumped into Long Yuehong's mind, he had an illusion that his nerves had snapped. He completely broke down.

Some people completely gave up after a complete breakdown, while others would take extreme actions that they usually wouldn't do. This was affected by one's personality and the growth brought about by their experiences in life. The latter exacted a greater influence.

“9...”

Long Yuehong suddenly moved as if Weak Heart no longer affected him. With bloodshot eyes, he ran to the side, grabbed his parents' clothes with both hands, and lifted them up.

“8...”

“7...”

Long Yuehong first exerted strength with his mechanical arm and threw Gu Hong out the door and into the parking lot. He then twisted his waist and exerted strength with his entire body, throwing Long Dayong in the same direction.

“6...”

Long Yuehong ran back to Bai Chen's side.

“5...”

He lifted Bai Chen by the waist with his mechanical arm and suddenly threw her out the door.

“Run!” Long Yuehong shouted.

“4...”

Bai Chen flew in the air, filled with grief and surprise.

At the same time, Long Yuehong turned around and faced the Superior Heartless—who was carrying out a massacre.

“3...”

Long Yuehong ran over and raised his arm. He wanted to quickly finish off the Heartless who was still affecting his parents and Bai Chen.

At this moment, he was no longer weak-minded, hesitant, or afraid. His heart was extremely calm, and there was only the enemy in his eyes.

My name is Long Yuehong. I'm only 1.75 meters tall after genetic enhancement. My looks are average, and my grades are average...

Chapter 947: Everyone's Battlefield

“2...”

A red laser shot out of Long Yuehong's hand.

The Superior Heartless had lost his intelligence and didn't expect anyone to be able to escape Weak Heart's influence. Therefore, he failed to react in time. By the time he saw the red light, his head had already been penetrated.

No matter how fast he was, he couldn't be faster than the speed of light!

A burn mark appeared on his forehead, and milky-white matter gurgled within as blood surged.

The Superior Heartless swayed and fell to the side with a blank expression.

The enemy wearing the Chameleon bionic artificial intelligence armor switched targets and circled toward Long Yuehong.

“1...”

Bai Chen landed on the ground. Her expression was filled with grief, but her eyes became abnormally firm.

Without the Superior Heartless’s constant influence, the remaining ‘weak-mindedness’ couldn’t completely suppress her will. She turned around, ran two steps, and suddenly stomped her feet, jumping into the air.

Boom!

The entire underground building clearly shook as dust fell from above, accompanied by heavy boulders that came plummeting.

Bai Chen had just jumped through the open door and returned to the emergency access when the area behind her was completely sealed off by the falling boulders and the collapsed structure.

She didn’t show any horror or despair. She rolled on the ground and stabilized herself before a relieved and happy smile appeared on her face. She then saw Long Yuehong dealing with the enemy wearing the Chameleon bionic artificial intelligence armor.

The Heartless horde rushing up from below was hunting normal people. There weren’t many survivors left.

Bai Chen immediately raised her left arm and stretched out her palm. She couldn’t be bothered to pick up the Ice Moss pistol that had fallen to the ground.

Long Yuehong couldn’t aim at the enemy wearing the Chameleon bionic artificial intelligence armor, and most of the functions of his mechanical arm were useless after his return to the company. He could only rely on his relatively rich combat experience to constantly move and search for an opportunity.

However, more and more Heartless began to approach.

At this moment, he saw the enemy clearly slow down. His head swayed a few times as if he were very dizzy.

Without thinking too much, Long Yuehong seized the opportunity to fire the laser again.

The red beam of light easily penetrated the Chameleon-type bionic artificial intelligence armor and penetrated the target's head.

Badump!

The enemy fell to the ground.

Long Yuehong subconsciously turned his head and saw Bai Chen—who had just bent down to pick up the Ice Moss pistol. He was shocked, angry, and pained. “Why did you return?”

Bai Chen threw him an Ice Moss and walked over. She stretched out her right palm and held his left hand.

She faced the Heartless running over and whispered, “We’ll be together forever! I won’t run away alone again! If we die, we die together!”

Bang! Bang! Bang!

She fired accurately with her left hand, killing three Heartless in a row.

Long Yuehong fell silent for a moment before tightly gripping Bai Chen’s palm. He roared softly, “We’ll be together forever!”

Boom!

The collapse of the underground building seemed to have begun as more and more debris and dust fell.



Dozens of Heartless rushed toward Long Yuehong and Bai Chen without any fear.

...

Underground building, sixth floor.

Before the countdown began, Hou Yi tried to escape again and again. However, the Heartless either sent her scurrying back to the radio station, or she failed to get an elevator.

With only two to three minutes left, she gave up in despair. Even if she could take the elevator, she wouldn't be able to escape to the surface area in time.

Hou Yi returned to the radio station like a zombie.

At this moment, the countdown was counting down to the second.

Hou Yi looked around, and only two images surfaced in her mind: The first was her home, and the second was the recording studio where she had invested the most passion and effort.

The former couldn't be returned; there was no time. The latter was not far ahead.

Hou Yi subconsciously strode into the recording room.

It's good to die here...

?Her tears gushed uncontrollably.

The building began to shake slightly.

She paced around the recording studio, wanting to memorize every detail here and bring it to the netherworld. As she walked, she entered the operations room and saw that the machines here were still operating.

Hou Yi was stunned for a moment before walking over.

...

In the parking lot of the underground building.

Long Dayong and Gu Hong watched helplessly as the boulders fell. Some things collapsed, blocking their son and daughter-in-law from their line of sight.

After a brief moment of confusion, Gu Hong stood up in tears and rushed over.

Long Dayong hugged her. “We can’t do it alone. We have to go out and get help!”

There was a hint of urgency and choking in his voice. He had yet to lose his mind regarding this matter.

This was the first time Gu Hong had encountered such a situation. She had no idea what to do and could only choose to trust her husband. After all, this sounded reasonable.

Even if the building was sealed, only the entrance and exit would collapse—it wouldn’t be completely destroyed. As long as someone had machinery, there was still a chance to cut through the rocks and iron doors to save them!

Gu Hong and Long Dayong turned around and ran to the parking lot.

After running a few steps, they encountered a Security Department field employee who was on leave. He had escaped through another emergency access.

He opened a car door and thought of a way to turn on the engine. His wife sat in the passenger seat with their child.

Upon seeing Long Dayong and Gu Hong, the Security Department employee hesitated. He looked back at the empty backseat and said to Gu Hong and Long Dayong, “Quick, get in the car. We have to get out quickly!”

“Thank you, thank you.” Long Dayong and Gu Hong only knew how to respond at this moment.

They quickly opened the door and sat in the backseat.

The car immediately started, and it didn't take long for them to rush out of the building and arrive in the Ashlands amidst the quaking ground.

Golden and pure sunlight stabbed at them, making Long Dayong and Gu Hong close their eyes involuntarily. Fortunately, they didn't permanently live in the dark, so it didn't take them long to recover.

Just as the two of them pushed open the door and alighted, they heard a surprised shout. "Dad! Mom!"

Gu Hong and Long Dayong turned their heads and saw Long Zhigu and Long Aihong standing among the dense crowd by the side of the road.

Their tears flowed down as their vision turned blurry.

At this moment, the radio at the underground building's entrance sounded. The familiar, slightly childlike, sweet voice echoed in the survivors' ears again: "Hello, everyone. I'm Newspoint broadcaster, Hou Yi.

"There's only one piece of news today: In order to resist the Kalendaria's rearing and a tomorrow without the Heartless disease, all the company's employees chose to unite and flee to the surface.

"Many people failed and died, but many people successfully left the underground building.

"Everyone, everyone who is out, it's a long road ahead. Take care.

"You have to live well on our behalf and establish another Pangu Biology without Kalendarium or shepherds.

"You guys have to live well!

“The building has begun to collapse. This episode of Newspoint shall end here. Thank you for all the love...”

Boom!

A dull sound came from the ground, and the entire mountain seemed to shake.

The employees near the door were in tears.

...

In the vortex-like building, in the core research area.

Jiang Baimian felt increasingly dizzy. She felt like her soul was being extracted and dragged out bit by bit.

If this continues, I won't be able to last more than a few minutes...? Jiang Baimian tried her best to hold in her pain as she stared at the experiment capsule's indicator lights.

Her instincts told her to distance herself from this area as soon as possible.

She had already experienced an abnormally long wait.

After a while, just as Jiang Baimian couldn't help but raise her hand and attempt to massage her temples, she touched the military exoskeleton's helmet. The experiment capsule's indicator light switched to blue and stopped blinking.

Jiang Baimian quickly looked into the experiment capsule and saw that the warping on Shang Jianyao's face had eased at some point in time. The pain had vanished.

Success?? Jiang Baimian was delighted. She quickly switched off the experiment capsule and opened the transparent cover.

Suddenly, her vision turned pitch-black. Then, countless glimmers appeared, illuminating her vision and Shang Jianyao's figure in gray camouflage.

Without needing her to take the initiative to make contact with his consciousness, Shang Jianyao established a connection with her.

"You succeeded?" Jiang Baimian blurted out a question.

Shang Jianyao nodded. "Teacher Du Heng is giving me the privileges."

Without waiting for Jiang Baimian to ask again, he quickly said, "The situation in the New World has changed again. Teacher Du Heng's intention to end the disaster has been seen through by Big Boss. Shadow of Distortion rebelled on the spot, and Door of Scorching and Last Man chose to retreat. Our forces have become abnormally weak.

"Although Subhuti and Shattered Mirror are spies planted by Teacher Du Heng and have officially returned to join the battle, the overall situation is still in Big Boss and the others' favor. Even with me, it will probably only delay our defeat.

"We will do our best to give you time to escape the Eighth Research Institute and create an opportunity for you to detonate the nuclear bomb. That opportunity might be fleeting, so you have to seize it.

"Yes, once you are outside, keep issuing the detonation signal until it succeeds."

Shang Jianyao said a bunch in one breath. He seemed to have thought through his words for a while.

Jiang Baimian fell silent for a moment before saying with a sad expression, "Alright."

She then opened her mouth again. "You..."

She didn't continue, and her eyes flickered.

Shang Jianyao looked at her for a second, took two steps forward, spread his arms, leaned forward, and hugged her.

Jiang Baimian was a little stunned.

Shang Jianyao hugged her for a few seconds before letting go and taking two steps back. He looked into Jiang Baimian's eyes, slowly raised his right hand, pressed it to his left chest, and solemnly said, "For all of humanity!"

With that said, he turned around and disappeared from Jiang Baimian's line of sight without looking back.

Chapter 948: Courage to Change the World (1)

Jiang Baimian's consciousness returned to her body, and tears had unknowingly slid down her face.

She closed her eyes and bent down without stopping.

She picked Shang Jianyao up and carried him on her back. She then identified her bearings and ran toward the only exit.

...

In the green room in Master Zhuang's mind world.

Shadow of Distortion, Winst Garland, had also entered. In place of the Arbiter of Fate, he ran toward the golden Buddha from time to time.

Whether Subhuti used Consciousness Deprivation or the Six Realms of Rebirth and Existence, Shadow of Distortion wasn't affected because the other party wasn't aiming at him at all.

This was his ability—Error Judgment!

Under the New World, this was called Human Rubberbanding. Now, even Awakened abilities would barely ‘miss’ him!

In a few flashes, Shadow of Distortion appeared above the golden Buddha. He held a conjured two-handed sword and suddenly slashed down.

Almost at the same time, Subhuti—who was still held back by Arbiter of Fate—turned his body and let the two-handed sword fall from his face.

Clairvoyance—this was the Subhuti domain’s Clairvoyance ability!

Seizing the opportunity when Shadow of Distortion’s attack missed, Subhuti faced him and used Mind Reading in reverse.

This time, Shadow of Distortion couldn’t dodge. A snake suddenly appeared in his mind—a twisting, squirming snake.

Shadow of Distortion immediately screamed. He couldn’t be bothered to determine his direction and ran out of the room, heading somewhere.

Subhuti didn’t have time to deal another blow to Shadow of Distortion because the Arbiter of Fate had attacked again.

Halting Consciousness!

Consciousness Deprivation!

The two of them fought for a moment and fainted at the same time, but they quickly woke up.

Arbiter of Fate had once again extracted human consciousness from Pangu Biology. Unlike before—where she could distinguish people in detail—she focused her coverage on the underground building’s 600th floor and above. This way, she could obtain sustenance to replenish her energy and maintain her optimal state. She could also convert a large number of Heartless who occupied the terrain advantage to stop the traitors from escaping the company.

If not for the fact that she had entered Master Zhuang's mind world and that her ability to influence the outside world had decreased to a very low level, she definitely would've started at the underground building's exit and not let a single employee leave 'alive!'

The Arbiter of Fate's aura instantly returned to its previous level, and Subhuti was clearly much weaker.

Looking at the golden Buddha, Arbiter of Fate smiled and said, "I'll just keep using such a clumsy method to fight you. I can constantly replenish myself, but can you? If you extract human consciousness and the monks' mental strength to replenish yourself, how can you have the cheek to mention feeling more regretful the more you read the Buddhist scriptures?"

Subhuti fell silent.

At this moment, his figure flashed and disappeared. Right on the heels of that, Subhuti appeared in another direction.

In the spot where he had been sitting cross-legged, a ball of fog was dense like a dream. This was Dawn's Forced Sleep.

Subhuti's voice echoed. "Dawn, weren't you with Shattered Mirror?"

As the enemy they faced wasn't Master Zhuang, Dawn had already regained his hearing.

In the dreamy fog, a beam of morning light lit up and said, "Shattered Mirror can't trap so many Kalendarium. Only Mandara and I escaped."

...

Eidolon Nun warily walked forward, worried that what she saw and encountered wasn't an illusion but reality. That would result in her being ambushed.

To Shattered Mirror, it was best for her to deal with an opponent so vigilant because her goal was only to stall for time. The more vigilant the other party was, the more time they would waste in the illusion.



Elsewhere, Golden Scale was already blindfolded. Otherwise, he definitely would've broken down from anger at the extremely asymmetrical items conjured by Shattered Mirror.

Even so, he was filled with anger because he could sense that Shattered Mirror's consciousness—which was flickering from left to right—was no longer a lump but an irregular shape.

“Damn it!” Golden Scale roared.

...

Monitor Jiang Xiaoyue walked past the rooms.

Different Master Zhuangs were doing different things. Some of them played games, and some were focused on scientific research. They could no longer focus on stopping the enemy.

Sense Control!

Du Heng's voice echoed in these rooms. “I know that your price is arrogance. I didn't expect you to listen to my instructions, but I thought you would be arrogant and unwilling to join them.”

Monitor Jiang Xiaoyue didn't respond. She had long blocked her hearing.

Behind her, Truth—who was wearing a floral shirt and beach shorts—successfully walked forward using the passage created by this Kalendaria. From time to time, he would use his memories to help Monitor and himself eliminate the effects of abilities like Corny Person, Literary Hipster, and Weak Heart.

They walked slowly and steadily, an act that showed sufficient respect for Master Zhuang.

...

Just as Double Sun Brian Stanley entered the next room, he saw Shang Jianyao in a gray camouflage uniform.

He knew that this fellow was also in the Master Zhuang domain, so he didn't dare to be negligent and immediately blocked his hearing.

## Chapter 949: Courage to Change the World (2)

However, Shang Jianyao didn't say a word and began dancing.

Radio workout!

The blond-haired, blue-eyed Brian—who was more than 1.8 meters tall—was stunned for a moment before instinctively pointing out, “Your actions aren't exactly right.”

“Not being exactly right means it's right! Otherwise, how could I attract your attention?” Shang Jianyao muttered softly.

Double Sun was just about to make the other party forget a portion of his domain's abilities when he suddenly froze. Why should I attack this person? What am I doing here?

...

These thoughts surfaced in his mind, and he didn't know what to do next.

In another room, as soon as Mandara—who was wrapped in flowers—entered, she saw red banners. On those banners were the words: “We warmly welcome the greatest Kalendaria, Madam Mandara, for coming to provide us guidance.”

“You have a special bearing. You're the most charming of all the Kalendarium.”

“I've read the papers you wrote back then. I didn't understand them at all, but I was deeply shocked.”

“...”

Mandara Sylvie listened and looked around, unwilling to leave.

...

In the small city called the Second Research Zone.

Jiang Baimian—who was wearing a military exoskeleton—carried Shang Jianyao on her back and followed the strategy of walking in a straight line before circling around to search for an exit.

She jumped over walls and buildings whenever she encountered them and quickly ran hundreds of meters. But when she thought about how it would take at least ten minutes to return to the tunnel entrance or even longer, she felt a little uncertain and worried.

After entering the tunnel, it's much more difficult to leave the Eighth Research Institute than to walk through this city. It's indoors, and we're still in the mountain's belly. There are also many forks in the road. Apart from taking it slow, thinking it through, and executing, there's no good solution. Furthermore, even if I do so, the number of times I'll get lost is most likely more than two...?Jiang Baimian's thoughts raced as she analyzed the current situation.

According to her judgment, if she wanted to escape from the small nuclear warhead's blast radius and protect herself, she had to return to the hidden spot where the jeep was parked.

It would definitely take at least half an hour.

Even if she really had half an hour, Jiang Baimian didn't have much confidence.

This was one of the best situations. At her worst, she might not even complete her journey for hours.

Jiang Baimian's expression changed as Shang Jianyao's words surfaced in her mind: "...the overall situation is still in Big Boss and the others' favor. Even with me, it will probably only delay our defeat.

"We will do our best to give you time to escape the Eighth Research Institute and create an opportunity for you to detonate the nuclear bomb.

“That opportunity might be fleeting, so you have to seize it.”

At this thought, Jiang Baimian couldn't help but mutter to herself, “Will there really be a chance? Can you guys really last more than half an hour?”

...

Once, twice, thrice. The Arbiter of Fate used the most stupid method to seek a head-on confrontation with Subhuti.

Subhuti naturally didn't dare to do so again. Ignoring the fact that his expenditure couldn't be replenished, just Dawn's covetous gaze made him afraid to make any rash attempts.

If he really lost consciousness temporarily, Dawn definitely wouldn't miss the opportunity and would definitely pull him into Forced Sleep. That way, he wouldn't even have the possibility of resisting the alternation of Forced Sleep and Halting Consciousness.

He didn't care about his consciousness dissipating and his complete death. He was only afraid that it would affect the plan to end this disaster.

Upon seeing that his consciousness had weakened to less than one-third of his usual self, Subhuti could only reveal his trump card in advance.

In his Pure Lands, the monks heard his grand and solemn voice: “The great calamity has arrived. Those who are willing to sacrifice their lives for humanity, provide me your mental strength.”

Most of the monks were mentally prepared and raised their palms. “Buddha is merciful.”

They transformed into rays of light and entered Subhuti's golden body like moths to a flame.

Subhuti's aura skyrocketed, returning to the level it was when he first appeared.

Arbiter of Fate wasn't depressed because of this. She extracted human consciousness from Pangu Biology's underground building and End Year City again.

She wasn't afraid of exhaustion! Furthermore, the pace of the battle between the two parties was getting faster and faster. As long as Subhuti didn't have any other trump cards, she was confident that she could exhaust this Kalendaria in ten minutes and seriously injure him, preventing him from affecting her again.

In the other rooms, Eidolon Nun and Golden Scale—who were steadily advancing—broke through one illusion after another. Although they had yet to injure Shattered Mirror, they had already exhausted the other party greatly. Furthermore, they had sufficient replenishment.

Similarly, while Double Sun forgot what to do, Mandara blindfolded herself to prevent herself from being affected by the text used by people in the Master Zhuang domain. She then went in a straight line according to the coordinates of the central room.

She didn't mind expending her energy crossing walls if there weren't any doors.

In the Ashlands, a large number of humans became Heartless. It was chaos.

Only Master Zhuang—who controlled the New World's privileges—didn't find it difficult to stop Monitor Jiang Xiaoyue and the unprivileged Truth.

Shang Jianyao had only joined the battle later, so he didn't expend much energy. He took the time to return to the central room and said to Master Zhuang, “Teacher Du Heng, do you still have any trump cards—no, backup? We can't continue like this. In 15 minutes tops—no, ten minutes—we will be completely defeated.”

Chapter 950: Courage to Change the World (3)

Du Heng smiled bitterly. “How can there be a bunch of trump cards that others don't know of? Do you think of them as fools? My trump card was originally you.

“Under normal circumstances, we can rely on Door of Scorching, Last Man, and Shadow of Distortion to stall for time. At the critical moment, we can get Subhuti and Shattered Mirror to turn against them. Coupled with my strength and privilege, it's enough to buy the maximum amount of time.

“To prevent any accidents, I also added you. I made it sound serious, but I actually gave you a chance of survival. If things had really developed as I expected, you wouldn’t have needed to join the battle. You could’ve seized the opportunity to escape and return to the Ashlands.

“Who knew that half of my plan would go bust from the beginning? Fortunately, you were there to keep an eye on it.

“You, me, along with Shattered Mirror and Subhuti, can also stall them for a while with the control over the New World. The possibility of ending this disaster is still very high. However, I didn’t expect them to be so cold-blooded and cruel to this extent. They don’t rely on intelligence or the application of their abilities. They purely fight a battle of attrition, causing the situation to deteriorate so quickly.”

At this point, Du Heng paused. “I can switch personalities and steel my heart to exhaust myself against them. After all, it’s impossible for there to be no casualties in this battle. I’ll be satisfied as long as I can save most people. But I believe Subhuti, Shattered Mirror, and you won’t do so. I can’t stall for long alone.

“If the situation really worsens to that extent, most of my personalities might rebel, making it impossible for things to turn around.”

Shang Jianyao fell silent for a moment as a devilish voice in his heart said: “I can do it too.” However, this was quickly suppressed by most Shang Jianyaos.

He then asked, “What about Wu Meng and Future? Can they be used?”

Du Heng shook his head. “Wu Meng only obtained some privileges for himself that barely manage to protect himself. He’s waiting outside now to see if there’s a chance for him to benefit from this.”

“Use your privilege to exchange the room where he’s imprisoned for Truth and company’s path of advance?” Shang Jianyao suggested.

Du Heng shook his head again. “Then, he will only choose to cooperate with the Arbiter of Fate and the others.

“As for Future, it’s not an Awakened and can’t participate in this battle. Besides, I have other things for it to do—the kind that eliminates latent dangers.”

Shang Jianyao thought of something else and said in pain, “Why doesn’t that nuclear warhead have a timed detonation function?”

“It’s useless. If the electromagnetic environment doesn’t return to normal and we don’t have the upper hand, they can cancel it even if it’s on a timer.” Du Heng sighed.

“What should we do?” Shang Jianyao revealed a troubled expression.

After a brief silence, a machine in the room exploded.

On the other side, the door turned dark as if a faint female figure was hidden inside—Eidolon Nun!

“Not good!” Du Heng’s expression turned solemn and serious. “Shattered Mirror can’t last any longer!”

Compared to Subhuti, who had monks to supplement him, Shattered Mirror—who had never told her religion about such matters—had always been holding out.

The remaining lights on the machines in the room flickered violently, giving off the feeling that they were about to explode.

Arbiter of Fate and the other Kalendarium—who were still entangled with Subhuti, Shang Jianyao, and Master Zhuang—smiled.

A smile of victory.

At this moment, Shang Jianyao suddenly exclaimed.

...

The entrance to the core research area in the vortex-like building.

A pair of military boots suddenly appeared. These belonged to Jiang Baimian.

She was back here again.

There were obvious tears around her eyes under the visor, but there was a faint smile on her lips.

Jiang Baimian carried Shang Jianyao on her back, walked to the experiment capsule, and put him down. She then extended her mind and touched Shang Jianyao's consciousness.

This time, Jiang Baimian didn't only see Shang Jianyao after the familiar darkness and faint light. She also saw various blinking lights and a door that looked like it was about to collapse.

During the consciousness exchange, she didn't 'wear' the military exoskeleton and smiled at Shang Jianyao. "How sad. I got lost and found myself back at the machine."

Shang Jianyao was stunned for a moment before shouting loudly, "Liar!"

Jiang Baimian restrained her smile and asked seriously, "Can you guys restore the core research area's electromagnetic environment to normal for a minute?"

Shang Jianyao blurted out, "Yes, but I refuse."

Jiang Baimian looked at him and said seriously, "This is an order!"

Shang Jianyao fell silent. After a few seconds, he replied loudly with reddened eyes, "Yes, Team Leader!"

Jiang Baimian smiled in satisfaction.

...

In the New World's central room, Du Heng also sensed Jiang Baimian's return. He looked at Shang Jianyao in surprise.

Shang Jianyao nodded at him solemnly and said, "One minute."



“Alright.” Du Heng smiled in relief.

He had originally planned on using his privilege to make one last gamble. Now, he showed no hesitation.

The entire New World suddenly shrank, turning into layers of barriers that enveloped Arbiter of Fate and the other Kalendarium. This made them like mosquitoes in amber.

Du Heng split into many and transformed into black figures that swam through the transparent barrier, blocking the attacks from Arbiter of Fate and the other Kalendarium and preventing their powers from seeping out.

It was definitely impossible for him to do it alone. Shang Jianyao also had many honest, evil-abhorring, and calm, rational selves. He also flew across the barrier in the form of a black figure.

Using the fact that he hadn't expended that much energy, he fought Mandara, Arbiter of Fate, and the other Kalendarium one after another.