

BIOLOGICAL 211

Chapter 211: Skirmish (2)

"What is the beast doing?" Colonel Tiwana asked. "It has been observed herding the horde several times. It looks like the intelligence department and the soldiers' reports were right," the man said.

"The beast ran left and right, ensuring the mass of monsters went toward the eastern gate. This is not all; the thaids have been seen throwing stuff toward our position as soon as the Blirdoth ran towards them. A pattern has been noticed as the attacks mostly happen when the Blirdoth is nearby," he added.

"We can't redirect the 42nd Corps' attacks to it; the Yevyagits will destroy the door if we do so," Colonel Tiwana said.

A sudden shout reverberated through the air as the monsters advanced. "They are coming," a soldier said.

Indeed, the creatures were now fatally close to the walls, and it was only a matter of time before they would start climbing and reach the top. If they did so, it would be hard for the soldiers to protect the gate.

"Activate the mechas!" another officer shouted, far from Colonel Tiwana's position.

Countless soldiers then started jumping onto the humanoid devices. The mechas were three meters tall at least and were all armed with a four-meter alloy sword created with the sole purpose of quelling whatever enemy they were opposing.

The sound of metal clanging against metal reverberated through the battlefield as the soldiers began moving the vehicles into defensive positions, forming a wall-tight defense over the walls.

Their goal was clear: stop the monsters from crossing the wall and reaching the gate. Countless melee soldiers armed with shields, spears, and many other weapons, could be seen among their ranks. They flanked the humanoid weapons, blocking any possible entry into human territory.

The sight was both awe-inspiring and unsettling, as their sheer numbers seemed unmatched. It was clear that any attempt to breach the human defenses would be met with fierce resistance. The

mechas were powerful weapons, but their utility was limited to killing a greater number of low-ranked thaids and a couple of stronger ones.

At the same time, the summoners conjured some other creatures that placed themselves in front of the soldiers flanking the mechas.

At the same time, some soldiers buffed their allies with brain crystal powers that allowed them to increase physical statistics, while others decreased the thaids' ones.

"3..." "2..." "1..."

Creatures leaped and landed on the walls; they charged against the mechas with their maws open, and when they made contact with the soldiers' shields, a thunderous noise resounded.

The spear users stabbed their enemies in the head, often killing them on the spot, while the shield-bearers mustered all their strength not to be overwhelmed while protecting their comrades.

Many creatures almost went past the shields, threatening to put the army in disarray, but the timely mechas' intervention put them all in their place while the summoners' creatures devoured and bit the beasts. Despite the initial chaos, the soldiers held their ground and fought against the relentless onslaught of creatures. The battle was intense, with both sides fighting fiercely.

The soldiers were determined to protect their land while the creatures relentlessly attacked.

The mechas slashed their swords left and right, decapitating the unlucky creatures that ended up in their sword's path. Others stomped on them, crushing them all and throwing their guts and blood on the wall. Some used their rockets and lasers to kill the monsters assaulting the people on the wall.

Though it was not as easy as it seemed, many mechas started falling, too damaged to continue fighting, and the soldiers piloting them lost their lives as the vehicles got overwhelmed. Still, they did their job and killed hundreds of thousands of creatures.

At the same time, a group of Yevyagît approached the wall, heading to the eastern gate, and after having crossed the small defense, they almost reached the gate. Unfortunately, the 42nd corp was not enough to kill them all.

The Blirdoth aimed at them and killed many, reducing the firepower and compromising the situation.

"Concentrate all the remaining firepower on the last two Yevyagìts," Colonel Tiwana shouted.

The artillery redirected their aim toward the massive, giant beasts, but it was too late. The gate was in front of them.

The thaids roared and kicked the door with their powerful legs, causing the gate to shudder and creak under their force. The soldiers frantically tried to reinforce the gate with whatever they could find, but it was clear that it wouldn't hold for long.

Tiwana quickly realized the situation and frantically ordered the soldiers to concentrate their attack on the beasts, leading to countless people dying. Colonel Tiwana ordered the men and women behind the gate to retreat as their defense was useless, and the soldiers scrambled to safety.

A last kick fell on the gate, which was smashed open with a thunderous noise, and the gate finally gave way under the Yevyagìts' assault.

A massive hole appeared on it, causing tens of thousands of small thaids to rush into the city. The Yevyagìts, though, met their untimely deaths before the gate.

"We failed," Colonel Tiwana said.

He took his time to think of a solution, but nothing worked in his mind. "We have no alternative; redirect all the firepower toward the beasts approaching the door; kill as many as you can," he said with resolve. The soldiers followed his orders, firing relentlessly at the incoming creatures.

As the chaos unfolded, Colonel Tiwana couldn't help but feel a sense of impatience as the lives of the people inside the city rested on his and the other's shoulders.

Carnage erupted as the soldiers followed his orders, determined to protect the city at all costs. However, the beasts seemed impervious to their attacks, and it soon became apparent that this battle would be much more complex than they had anticipated.

"See? What did I tell you?" The Fierce Lioness's toned body contracted due to laughing.

"They could not last twenty minutes without our aid; this further proves Frant's military inadequacy," she added.

The person she was talking to was her faithful servant, Adina.

"Everything went as you predicted, ma'am," she said in a flattering tone.

"Is Rebecca looking?" Amanda asked.

"Yes, she is. She threw up a couple of times due to gore, though," Adina replied.

"She is too soft; I wonder where I went wrong with her." Amanda casually asked with a dejected look on her face.

She imparted her daughter the best training possible, supplemented her with the best medicines and pills one could ask for, and asked her to train day and night—yet she was still so weak.

Amanda added with a smile, "Call the guys and tell them to start getting ready; it won't be long before the General himself calls here." She was terrifying.

"Yes, ma'am." Adina then took a phone and dialed a number; she presumably called some Band of Giants officer to give the boss's order.

The Band of Giants' headquarters bustled with activity. Men and women alike were arming themselves to the teeth for the incoming fight.

The Fierce Lioness, seeing the horde, was sure that the eastern gate was going to be breached well before that actually happened, and she ordered her men and women to get ready; they were still in the act, though.

A booming laugh echoed inside the room. "Hahahahahahaha, what are those pricks doing?" a woman said.

"Stop being an idiot, Camille," said an annoyed middle-aged man named Ramon.

"Those idiots are dying..." he added.

Ramon's look starkly contrasted his personality; he was a mercenary with a brain crystal power that gave him weak telekinesis abilities. He was exceptionally talented but looked like a Viking with his bulky frame and long blond beard.

His battle style revolved around weapons; he controlled more than one simultaneously and used them to destroy everything in his path. He was a natural talent in the art of killing.

Camille was the polar opposite; she appeared to be a lady but behaved like a rabid dog. Swearing and cursing were her favorite activities, and she loved killing above everything else. She was a gunner, and assault rifles were her favorite weapons.

She actually had a brain crystal power that allowed her to imbue raw mana into things, so she could basically inject mana into bullets and even the laser from the rifles, making her one of the most powerful mercenaries in Etrium.

She was one of the few mercenaries who had the privilege to use guns, to be honest, all because she knew a couple of crafters back in Etrium. The government there didn't easily share those weapons with the population. Though it wasn't like guns weren't available at all since many people could manufacture them.

Her gun was special, as it had some specifically crafted explosive bullets made with Eshalt, significantly increasing the raw power that her brain crystal could produce once she imbued the mana into the weapon.

This made the subsequent explosion she produced much more potent and could seep into the thaids' mana armors. Recently, she was trying to see if it was possible to use thaids' bones since they were much more affordable than Eshalt.

Many skilled artisans and crafters joined the band of giants, which was lucky for Camille because it made it easy for her to get more ammunition. She didn't have problems from this point of view, but even for the mad dog, wasting this much of Eshalt was a pity.

Chapter 212: Mercenaries, thaids and young girls

This kind of equipment was called artifacts in Etrium and resulted from the crafters' work. Lately, Etrium crafters learned how to use thaids' body parts, but it was still a relatively new technology, and the crafters mostly used ores.

However, aside from their brain crystal powers, melee soldiers and mercenaries usually preferred to use weapons as their main attacking tools since they only had to pay for their maintenance and didn't need bullets.

On the contrary, ranged units preferred guns or weapons related to their brain crystal powers. Camille and Ramon, and almost all the members of the band of giants, were preparing themselves for an urban fight.

They were previously briefed on the fact that millions of creatures entered the city and started slaughtering the citizens still inside the city and those who could not reach a shelter on time. Still, they didn't receive any orders yet, only to prepare themselves.

But the higher-ups were confident enough that it was just a matter of time before they were asked to intervene since the police were practically useless given their low numbers. Most of the people were outside fighting the main part of the horde.

The group was only waiting for their boss's order to get into action, but it was clear that not all the glory would be theirs as most of the work was being done by the militaries, which ensured that most of the creatures did not reach the gates.

"When do you think they will call us?" Camille asked.

"I have no clue, but it is just a matter of time, according to the boss," Ramon replied.

"What makes you think so?" Camille curiously asked while cleaning her rifle.

"Do you think everyone will be able to reach the shelters on time? No. This will force them to take action, and since it is a mess out there, they will have to ask us," he replied.

"Besides, it will not take a lot of time before the monsters reach the shelters; after that, we will have to see if these buildings are as safe as they said," Ramon added.

He was not happy about people dying, but he was greedy enough to care only to a certain point; after all, why should he do his work for free? He joined the ranks of the band of giants for money.

The pair then changed into battle gear and joined the other mercenary members in the adjacent room.

"Chief," a police officer said to Mr. Grimes with a concerned look. Allan's father was stuck outside of a shelter, still breaking up fights and helping injured people. The situation was very problematic since many citizens fell or tripped, injuring themselves while escaping from their homes. It was inevitable.

"What's the problem?" he asked.

"We just received a call; a group of beasts is directed toward our position.

It won't take long before they reach this position," the officer said with a slight tint of fear in his eyes.

Allan's father then looked at his watch; it was 15:00, meaning that the troops at the eastern gate lasted about 20 minutes.

"Damn..." Allan's father replied. However, he kept his composure. <This is a problem,> he thought, but didn't say anything else.

He found his courage and then ordered his men: "Prepare a defensive perimeter and ensure that as many people as possible go inside the shelter."

"Yes, sir," the officer then took a speaker and started shouting orders to the citizens. Another police officer approached him.

"Sir," he said.

"What is it now?" Chief Grimes asked.

"There are some people saying they know you. What should I do?" the officer asked.

"Who are they?" Allan's father asked.

"They say they are called Aaron and Martin. They also stated you know them," he added.

Erik and the others, aside from Mikey and Anderson, knew that Aaron and Allan knew each other. They actually lived close to one another and were childhood friends. However, they drifted apart as they grew up, ending their friendship once Aaron became Anderson's friend.

He immediately understood who they were—his neighbors. "Let them come," he tiredly said.

The chief of police wondered where his son and wife were and was worried about their well-being, but he could not leave his position and jeopardize the lives of countless people. His heart ached, but he still had to do his job.

Soon, a couple was spotted coming toward his position: Aaron and his father, a middle-aged skinny bald man. They were caught by surprise by the whole attack and left their home in a hurry.

Aaron was not at the Red Palace to run some errands with his father, who was too old to join the army, as he was 45 when Aaron was born.

The problem was that the closest shelter was ten minutes away from their home, and they had to run there. Aaron approached Allan's father with messy hair; he was out of breath due to all the running.

"Mr. Grimes..." the young boy said while trying to catch his breath. "Hello, Aaron, pretty bad time to meet, uh?" Allan's father sarcastically replied.

"Hi, Martin," he said, addressing Aaron's father.

"Indeed..." he said while panting. "What do you need?" Mr. Grimes said.

"Sir, I just wanted to ask for your help. Can you make us go inside the shelter?" Aaron shamelessly asked. There were too many people, too old or young, to join the army, heading toward that particular shelter.

"Ah, that's why, uh? Ok, you can, but be fast." Mr. Grimes took this decision thinking about the young man and his own son's past friendship. It was unfair for the other people to queue jump, but Aaron was once an important friend of Allan, and they grew up together. He actually saw Aaron becoming a young man.

Mr. Grimes gestured for a police officer to escort the two people. "Come with me," the officer said, beckoning the duo to follow him.

Meanwhile, from a distance, a cloud of dust appeared. "What the hell is that?" an officer said. He took a pair of binoculars and looked at the cloud, and soon his face paled. He threw the binoculars onto the ground and ran to the chief. Fear emerged from his voice.

"Sir, multiple thaids are approaching!" he said. "Damn..." The chief of police took some time to think about what to do; he was put in a terrible situation that required him to be as strong as possible.

"Close the shelter's gates," he shouted.

"SIR?!" Aaron shouted, but Allan's father ignored him.

The police had already received news about the eastern gate breach, and they were also told that a group of monsters had entered and were headed in their direction. He knew it was only a matter of time before they reached the shelter, but he hoped he would have more.

Aaron heard what Mr. Grimes said, and his face lost all color. "Run, dad! We must get in!"

The pair started running toward the shelter's entrance, but they were soon stopped by a crowd of people doing the same.

"Damn!" Aaron said.

"Mr. Grimes!" he shouted.

"Mr. Grimes, help!" No word seemed to reach him, and the young man could do nothing but run away.

The police officers took their cars and created a barrier to stop the monsters; they put themselves behind them and drew their weapons, pointing at the horde of monsters now close to the shelter.

"FIRE, FIRE, FIRE!" Mr. Grimes shouted with all his might, and soon, chaos ensued.

In a safe location inside the city, a young woman was currently watching, through drones, what was happening around the city.

She was beautiful and petite, but her frame clearly showed signs of training, and despite the care and attention she gave to her own appearance, she had several calluses on her hands. The young woman also had long black hair in soft curls that fell down to her back.

She wore very elaborate clothes made of cotton and silk, which also had some embroidery on the side—a white dress ending up in a skirt reaching her knees and a pair of long black socks.

She was Rebecca, the fierce lioness' daughter.

Rebecca sat on a small chair next to a desk on which several monitors were placed, allowing her to see through the multiple drones' eyes positioned all over the city. The screens showed many different views from various locations throughout the city: rooftops, streets, parks—any notable place that her mother said to keep an eye on.

She had a focused expression as she scanned the city, her eyes darting from one screen to another. Occasionally, she would make notes on a tablet beside her, and her lips would move silently as she analyzed the information she was receiving.

One monitor, however, showed what was happening in front of the shelter where Allan's father was stationed. The young woman had a horrified look on her face as she saw the thaids approaching the place.

Strangely enough, they didn't focus on the police but on the citizens. It was with disgust and sadness that she saw people being eaten alive by ferocious beasts; others were trampled by their fellow humans, and others died trying to put up some resistance.

The police were putting up the best defense they could, but it was futile since the sheer number of monsters was too high for the police to handle them alone. However, Mr. Grimes's strenuous defense sparked something in her; how could a single man put up this much resistance without fear? How could he believe he was going to make it or that he would be able to accomplish his duty?

Though her eyes casually landed on a particular person, Aaron. She was naturally attracted by the young man, as he looked like the only one who more or less knew what to do in that situation, while all the other kids ran in fear; instead, he was keeping his calm despite the situation.

People surrounded him and his father, and he was trapped inside that human sea, forcing them to take the same direction the group was taking. Behind the fleeing crowd, a group of monsters was stalking them.

Of course, the creatures didn't take much time before reaching the tasty and fragile humans. A gory scene ensued, with people being eaten alive. The luckiest among the fleeing kids and old people actually had their heads ripped from their bodies, but others weren't that lucky since the thaids started eating them alive.

Often starting from their genitals and reaching for their innards without even sparing the bones once they were firmly held to the ground. The chief of police's valiant defense line had been useless.

Chapter 213: Sudden communication

[YELLOW PALACE'S SHELTER, TEN MINUTES BEFORE THE BREACH]

Erik was waiting inside a room with hundreds of other students; they were all from the Red Palace, meaning that they were able to fight; however, the people who remained were deemed too young, inexperienced, and untrained to join the military effort, so they had been left behind.

Aside from them, there were a couple of older men and women who still worked but had passed the sixty-year-old age and couldn't defend the city as they were deemed unfit to fight. They would have

said otherwise, but they knew deep down that they were not as strong as they used to be and that their reflexes had slowed down with age.

A lot of people let out sighs of relief when they saw that it was Erik and a bunch of other students who entered the shelter. They all knew the young man and were aware that he was stronger than most of them. However, despite knowing he was definitely stronger than them, they doubted he and the ones who came with him could provide much aid in case they were attacked.

The older people in the shelter were probably even more worried about what would happen to them in the future. Despite their relief, many in the shelter recognized their safety was still uncertain.

They had been left out of the city's defense precisely because they were inexperienced in dealing with thaids since they hadn't started their military training yet, meaning that the reality of the situation was beginning to sink in for them.

"Hello..." Erik said this to those already in the room, but no one replied. All the people were worried for themselves and their parents' well-being, so the mood was gloomy, and Erik clearly understood that.

The boy then sat on the ground.

The door to the shelter opened and closed often as more and more people came inside. In the end, around five hundred people stuck together in the massive Yellow Palace's shelter room.

Most of the fifteen-year-old kids were calm and composed, of course, without considering their worries about their families.

Luckily, they had already fought some thaids the previous week, so they had a hunch on what to do; the problem was that they didn't know what thaids they would eventually have to face, as they didn't have the assurance they could face them as they had when they went hunting the last time. However, most of them were curious about what was happening outside.

A guy asked one of the newcomers about the situation outside. However, they had been stuck at the Yellow Palace until now, so they didn't really know what was happening.

"Nothing happened for now," someone replied, clearly unaware of how bad the situation at the eastern gate really was. However, the battle could be easily heard from the middle of the city due to the explosions.

"It looks like the horde arrived in front of the city, but I can't say much since I could only hear the explosions." another said.

The shelter room was a very high-quality one; it was built in such a way as to stop sound from coming out, ultimately preventing monsters from finding survivors thanks to their hearing.

Moreover, the best defenses the Red Palace could provide were placed to protect the place, but it was clear they would be enough only to repel the weaker thaids. If something happened, the students had to rely on themselves.

Suddenly, a pretty girl turned to Erik. "Hey you, can't you go outside to see what is happening?" she said while winking at the young man.

The sudden request surprised Erik, but he did not intend to comply with it. "Hell no," he replied.

Despite having battled thaids several times, it would be foolish to head out when an attack of such magnitude was happening. It wasn't like he was scared, as he knew how to fight the monsters, but based on what his master told him and what the military shared, the beasts today were way out of his league.

The girl's face became red with anger; men usually did whatever she asked as she mesmerized them with her beauty. Outrightly contrasting her in public, no less, shamed her deeply.

Erik noticed the bulging veins on the girl's neck, but he did not care; who the hell did she think she was to ask him to risk his safety for the sake of others? Did she really believe that he would be willing to risk his life for a bunch of strangers?

The girl tried to recompose herself, and once she did, she spoke to Erik again, saying, "Look, you are clearly able to defend yourself and are probably the strongest here. Isn't it your duty to scout outside as the strongest here? Besides, why are you so scared? Didn't you participate in the past week's hunt?" The girl said.

"Didn't you participate in the hunt too? Why are you asking me to go outside when you can do it yourself?" Erik replied.

The girl's face turned ugly. "Calm down, you two; quarreling doesn't solve anything," an old man interjected. Erik recognized him as one of the clerks working on the Yellow Palace's first floor. He looked at Erik and smiled at him since he clearly recognized the young man too.

"Look, if push comes to shove, it will be us, old ladies and gentlemen, to see what is happening and protect you," he said while pointing at the other older people.

"We may have been deemed too old to fight, and I must admit that it is unusual for us to be still working, yet we had been in the army like everyone else and were pretty strong during our time. Besides, it's not like our neural links decreased. Don't worry about anything."

This calmed the students down, Erik included. He was at ease but a little anxious. He then closed his eyes and started concentrating on his hearing. He didn't know if the building's walls were enough to hide them, especially if the students kept making so much noise.

Erik was assessing the situation objectively: what to do in case of attack, what to do if a certain situation arose, and so on. He was carefully weighing all the options and considering potential outcomes to ensure he was fully prepared for any scenario that may arise.

The critical thinking and foresight he gained when he increased his intelligence would prove invaluable if the situation escalated. He could already see how valuable his increased intelligence was since he had a lot of ideas on how to escape danger.

As the young man was lost in his thoughts, a voice came from one of the speakers inside the room.

"Attention citizens, the eastern gate has been breached; I repeat, the door has been breached. Reach the closest shelter and wait to be rescued. If you are already hiding, do not leave the shelters."

"Fuck," a curse escaped from Erik's mouth.

People started becoming uneasy; something like this was unprecedented; it had never happened that the gates had been breached. This sparked a lot of debate inside the room; many thought they would die, others put their faith in the army, and others prayed for a miracle.

The tension was palpable as everyone awaited the outcome with bated breath, hoping for the best but fearing the worst.

People quickly noticed that it was the police's task to defend the citizens, but they were also aware that the sudden recruitment notices the army issued some days ago referred to them too. This meant that it was likely that very few police officers were still inside the city.

Erik's worry for his friends increased, and the young man guessed they were probably inside the Red Palace's shelter, but he found it weird since they should have been at the Yellow Palace to train with their masters.

Besides, Aaron had been exempted from training today as he had to make a short trip to the city and should still be there. He didn't know where he was, but he hoped he could reach a shelter.

"What time is it?" a young man asked. "It's 14:55," Erik replied.

"Are you telling me that the army lasted twenty minutes against a bunch of no-brain beasts?" someone said in outrage.

"Yeah, I'm exactly telling you this," Erik dejectedly said.

The situation was dire; it was just a matter of time before the creatures reached this part of the city. Erik was sure of it.

"OK, guys," the old man started talking. "It is true that you are all young, have few neural links, and didn't receive any military training. But you are Red Palace students; you are the future elites of the nation, and you must remain calm and keep thinking logically," he suddenly said.

The man was right; they weren't total newbies. "Now, relax and have faith in the army. OK?" The old man then added. "Nothing will happen to you if you stay in the shelter. Do not worry..."

What the man said made the students calm down a bit, but it wasn't enough to keep the group of rowdy teenagers under control. His tone and presence were effective for only a short period.

Erik kept his composure the whole time and started making neural links to kill time. Initially, the other students thought he was crazy as he was training in such dangerous hours, but as they saw how calm he was, they started emulating him.

The old man nodded when he saw Erik was inspiring the other kids to stay calm and spend their time productively. His evaluation of the young man increased a lot.

Martha, Amber, Floyd, Mikey, Anderson, Mikey, and Benedict were currently in the Red Palace's shelter. They were there because most of the teachers were making the students spar before the army called them to help them gain experience.

This meant that they ended up elsewhere. However, the kids were very anxious, as they were worried about their family and friends. They knew that Erik was probably inside the Yellow Palace's shelter since, as the only student under Master Niemine's care, he basically received private teachings and didn't come here to spar.

However, Anderson and Mikey were very worried about Aaron for apparent reasons. Of all the days he had to go to the city that day, didn't he hear that a thaid horde was marching toward the city? How could he be so irresponsible?

"What do you think is happening outside?" Benedict asked. To be honest, he would have gladly joined the army to fight the thaids; he was a battle junkie, after all.

"The thaids are probably flooding the city's streets right now," Amber replied.

"I'm a little bit worried," Floyd said. Do you think the shelter will be enough to repel the thaids?" he asked.

"It depends," Gwen said. She was the most logical and cynical of the bunch. "If monsters of the Leylarhad caliber attack the building, then yes, but do you imagine this place repelling a Yevyagìt? It's impossible." She added.

Without the teachers and people defending this place, the Red Palace was just another building. Humanity stood a chance against the thaids only because of brain crystal powers. Nowadays, technology was only useful as a mode of transportation.

The seven friends had to stay strong; they needed to keep their calm, and in case something happened, they had to collaborate. They knew the importance of working together and remaining level-headed, especially in moments of crisis.

Each of them brought unique skills and perspectives to the group, which made their collaboration even more valuable. Together, they faced a series of obstacles and challenges, were able to help Erik during the last week's hunt, and were all powerful students. They were sure that together they could make it.

Chapter 214: A tough situation

Becker just heard that the Yevyagìt managed to breach the eastern gate and that monsters were rushing inside the city. To have a clearer picture of the situation, he called Colonel Tiwana, who urgently needed to assess the extent of the damage and devise a plan to defend the city.

"What do you think about the situation?" Becker asked.

"It's complicated; unfortunately, the 42nd corp has not been able to kill all the Yevyagìts, as you know... I asked them to redirect their firepower to the Blirdoth," Tiwana replied.

"Did you make progress with it?" General Becker asked his friend.

The general coordinated the various teams, squads, and soldiers in this endeavor, but it was clear that he had many other people doing the same for specific tasks, places, and units.

"Not yet. It is a slippery beast..." Tiwana replied. The beast was still outside, killing people with its jaws and eating their flesh to get energy for itself. They had lost many men and women in this battle so far... And it looked like they would not be able to take out that monster anytime soon!

"Why, what is it doing?" General Becker asked, as he couldn't focus only on the beast and was looking at the general situation from his office.

"It constantly keeps moving; it even used other thaids as shields. Sometimes, it disappears from the battlefield by hiding inside the forest, only to reappear kilometers away... It is a clever beast..." Tiwana replied.

"What about the breach? Did you send someone to close it?" Becker asked.

"I've managed to assemble a small platoon to do the deed; they have been reinforced with members of the Montgomery family. This should speed things up..." Tiwana replied.

However, something lingered in the officer's mind. "Do I have permission to speak, sir?" he asked. It was weird to talk to Becker this way, but they had to act according to their ranks while on duty.

"You can."

"Sir, with all due respect, it is improbable that the 42nd corp will make anything significant below there." He was referring to the fact that it would be hard for them to kill the Blirldoth. However, a glacial silence ensued; everyone was looking at Tiwana as if he were a madman, but the truth was that he could talk to Becker that way and was not afraid of telling him what he thought.

"The aim of this 42nd corp should be to kill as many monsters as possible. We are losing a lot of precious men because we can't employ them to kill the bulk of the horde. To kill the Blirldoth, we need the fierce lioness." Tiwana added.

As much as he wanted the corp to redirect its firepower toward the horde, Becker couldn't allow it. He wanted to resort to the Fierce Lioness' powers only to keep the situation inside the city at bay, and he was actually going to ask for their help soon in that regard. However, the general looked worried; everything was complicated because of the sentient monster outside the city.

The army was able to kill all the Yevyagìts in the end, thanks to the quick-witted Colonel, but it was too late, and the monster rushed inside the city through the hole the enormous beasts made. The general hoped that as many people as possible would enter the shelters without problems, but even that wasn't probably going to end well.

"Keep doing what you are currently doing right now. I have a hunch that things will worsen soon. As for the fierce lioness, it is not her time yet. Also, provide more men to the squad that will handle the breach," Becker said, then explaining what he had in mind.

The plan was simple: use the Montgomerys to help close the hole. Place barricades strategically and use the mechas to do the heavy lifting. Becker knew there was a huge possibility that the eastern gate could have been breached, so he ordered the placement of some giant metal panels beside the door so that if something happened, they could close the hole as soon as possible.

The only problem was that thaids were rushing inside the city in droves and needed strong soldiers to protect the mechas. The Montgomery clan would be a fine addition to the team handling the gate.

The job, though, was not straightforward, as it needed the coordination of multiple groups within the group. Soon the whole platoon started moving in unison towards their objective, each member aware of their individual responsibilities and the vital role they played in the mission's success.

Communication was essential; each soldier knew they could count on their teammates to do their jobs perfectly. The soldiers going toward the breach could see countless monsters rushing in; they trembled at that view.

Their strange and deformed bodies and horrifying mouths full of teeth gave them goosebumps, but they were trained enough to keep their emotions in check. Besides, the thought that these creatures would kill their kids and parents gave them enough strength to carry on.

Despite the fear, the soldiers kept their focus and pushed forward, trusting their training and each other to overcome the daunting task ahead. They readied their weapons as they approached the breach and prepared for the intense battle that awaited them.

As soon as the soldiers reached the place, they started unleashing attacks on the creatures coming in. Summoners could call up all kinds of beasts. Some could even call up elemental creatures to help them in battle while the ranged soldiers pounded them from a safe distance with attacks.

Among the platoon's soldiers, there were even melee soldiers armed with shields and pikes; gunners were also present.

The melee soldiers were responsible for fending off any creatures that got too close, while the gunners provided support with their medium-long-range attacks. Together, they made up a formidable force that could take on just about any enemy they encountered.

The platoon's strategy was to use the summoners' beasts and elemental creatures to draw the enemy's attention while the ranged soldiers attacked from a safe distance. The melee ones would then move in to finish any remaining enemies, ensuring victory for the platoon.

The problem was the thaid number. However, from the other side of the breach, artillery, and mechas had been stationed in case something went wrong, so they had some support.

To avoid more casualties, the members of the Montgomery clan started creating earth-elevated platforms on which they got the high ground, giving their fellow soldiers an advantage against the creatures. They also placed walls and places where they could hide in case they got injured.

The Montgomery clan's plan worked, and the soldiers were able to get rid of a lot of monsters in a short amount of time. However, they knew that they couldn't sustain this position forever and needed to come up with a plan to push back the enemy back. Brute force wasn't enough.

Countless explosions could be heard, be it from brain crystal power attacks or guns; grunts and groans often resounded, coupled with the weapons' clinks and clanks and splattering sounds due to the collision between the soldier's weapons and the creatures' bodies.

Beasts rushed in from the breach, and it proved hard for the platoon to thin the number of monsters.

General Becker watched the battle ensue from a monitor. He saw his men struggling against the beasts and their numbers.

"Redirect the artillery toward the door," he told Colonel Tiwana through the radio. "Stop any creature from approaching the breach," the general ordered.

"Yes, sir."

Tiwana gave the order promptly, and the artillery was redirected toward the door. The movement ended with a sonorous click, which made the men handling the weapons giggle at the carnage they would create. However, this significantly improved the pressure on the troops.

The weapons were pointed toward the rushing monsters, and with booming sounds, they started shooting.

Explosions blasted the ground; dust and debris scattered everywhere due to the force of the blasts. This eased the pressure on the soldiers behind the door as the number of thaids entering the city reduced, and they started pushing the creatures back.

"It is working!" a soldier shouted. Soon the platoon started advancing toward the door.

The Heniate, while controlling the Blirboth, was surveying the situation. Its army successfully breached the massive human construction and finally got an access point to the city.

After activating his avatar's deadly gasses, the creature started dashing toward the eastern gate, killing anything in his path; the people on the walls saw this and made grim faces, especially the 42nd Corp, which was basically unable to kill the beast despite thousands of tries each second.

The monster dashed, evaded, and killed. Going past countless other thaids, it soon arrived at the foot of the walls. It then started climbing, and since the creature was swift, it reached the top of the short wall in a couple of seconds. Once on top of the wall, it jumped off, landing in front of a group of shield-bearers. The human defenders were startled by the sudden addition.

The monster's deadly gas started working its magic, but the humans did not die contrary to its expectations.

Having seen the creatures' deadly poison before, the army devised a strategy to neutralize it. This was thanks to a combination of shield-type brain crystal powers and wind-related ones, which protected them from the gas and, at the same time, spread it opposite the troops' direction, killing more thaids in the process.

Chapter 215: Parallell Battles

The creature saw what was happening and started swinging its paws left and right; the shield-bearers couldn't do much as they were sent flying from the impact, often falling off the wall and ending up being devoured by the thaids below.

More and more people tried to kill the beast, hoping they would be able to do something about it but regretting it in the end. Soon, the wall became a mess as the creature alone could fight against thousands of soldiers at once.

The canine horror made a sort of grin and then released more of his poisonous fog. In its mind, a big banquet was going to ensue.

"We have to stop it," someone shouted.

"Kill the beast!" The sound of bodies being ripped apart and thaids snarling, growling, and shredding could be heard throughout the battlefield.

The smell of blood was overwhelming, and the ground was slick. Clearly, this was a battle that no one would forget for a long time to come. The sight of the carnage was enough to make even the bravest warrior turn away.

They resisted only for their comrades and families. The screams of the wounded and dying filled the air, creating a haunting chorus that echoed across the battlefield. The chaos and destruction seemed never-ending, as if there was no hope for victory.

But even amid it all, the sound of soldiers rallying around one another could be heard above the din, pushing them forward to fight on. Despite the gruesome scene, there was a strange beauty to the battle. The clash of weapons and the ebb and flow of the fight created a dance of death that was both terrible and mesmerizing to watch.

It was a battle that would be remembered for generations to come, a testament to the bravery and sacrifice of those who fought on the field that day. The fight became more captivating only when a woman jumped into the fray. She was walking toward the creature with confident but, at the same time, cautious steps.

She had seen the creature's clawed paws tear people apart, and despite the army's best efforts to get rid of the poisonous gas, she saw more than one soldier turn into a liquid quickly. She was Captain Lain, who was called to fight on the walls with the military, like everybody else.

She knew she was no match for the creature, as she heard there had already been an attempt to kill it. However, she had to do something; watching her comrades die couldn't be accepted anymore.

"Emma, how much longer can you make the water shield last?" she asked.

"I can give you ten minutes max; after that, you have to fall back," the woman replied.

"Ok."

With resolute steps, Lain went forward, determined to give the beast a taste of its own blood. Unpredictable.

"I don't think you should fight it," Emma said with a concerned look.

"I will try; maybe with the help of some soldiers here, we can kill it."

"I'm ready; cast the shield," she said to Emma, who started supporting her for the next battle.

She raised her sword and lunged toward the creature, striking it with precise aim. However, her attack wasn't enough, as the beast's fur was too resistant. However, the Blirdoth could feel the weight of the attack and immediately focused on the young woman.

Without hesitation, Lain swung her sword again, and soon after, she avoided the swing of the creature's left paw. However, when the beast lunged towards Lain, she sidestepped and delivered a swift kick to its ribs, then used the move to get out of the way of another swing quickly.

A water shield kept sizzling all around her due to the Blirdoth's corrosive gasses, and a vast vapor cloud quickly enshrouded the battlefield around the two. Lain's instincts were sharp, and she knew she couldn't let her guard down even for a second, as the Blirdoth's attacks were unpredictable.

During Lain's fight against the Blirdoth, Major Fischer was sent to the breach to fight the monsters and help with the reparations. He was a good soldier with a special power from his brain crystal that let him call up two mysterious and powerful ice elementals.

No one knew why some people could make these creatures; however, it was undeniable that they were strong. Aside from this, he was an expert flail user with very high stats, meaning he could hold his ground against most creatures. He was currently fighting against some bugs; the foul creatures were circling him, but they didn't know that it was all futile.

Major Fischer took his time and swung his flail from a safe distance, smashing the thaids' heads like watermelons; this repeated itself many times. Major Fischer's skilled combat and flail made the battle against the bugs a one-sided affair. The thaids were no match for him, and he dispatched them with ease, ending their pitiful existence repeatedly.

He had a massive grin on his face as he was enjoying the battle.

"This is easier than they said," he muttered to himself. The Major spotted a creature from afar, relentlessly killing soldier after soldier and releasing fire breaths that set many soldiers ablaze. He had to do something since the thaid's presence stopped the soldiers from repairing the gate.

The Major shot forward like a missile toward the creature, which looked like a horror born from hell. It had a small alligator face and a long, sloth-like, fur-covered body, but strangely, it walked like a spider. He arrived before the creature, bolting to its position thanks to his impressive strength.

He called forth his two ice elementals, which quickly took shape on the ground and gave off a chill that made them even stronger and slowed other creatures down a lot, giving the Major an even bigger advantage.

The two summons dashed madly to the mutant and started relentlessly attacking its body, stopping it from munching on the head of some unfortunate soldier. The move worked in the Major's favor since it distracted the creature, making it turn its head to look at the two elementals. Fischer then used his flail, which he swung with all his might, striking one of the creature's eyes.

The thaid started shrieking in pain; it turned its body and head left and right in search of the source of his pain; its eyes followed the trajectory from which the attack came, but it could find nothing. Major Fischer was already elsewhere, ready to swing again at the creature.

The elemental summoner then went at it again; he swung his massive weapon at the beast's flank, probably smashing one of its ribs. The thaid let out a loud roar and charged at Major Fischer with its tusks pointed at his chest, but the quick-witted warrior dodged its attack and drove his flail into its side again, breaking another bone.

The beast, understanding its danger, turned to look at the enemy threatening its life and soon locked its eyes on it. It started rushing toward his position, again trampling the bodies of every soldier standing in its way, and arrived in front of the Major. At that moment, the two ice elementals were ready.

The special trait of these creatures was that they could use some kind of spell, in this case, ice-related. Fischer didn't join the Silverband clan since his power wasn't exactly in tune with the family's brain crystal powers. However, he wasn't less deadly than them.

The two elementals cast their spell, and a huge piece of ice the size of an obelisk shot out of the ground, threatening to kill both enemies and friends. The beast made a right-side jump and avoided the huge projectile.

"Tsk." The two elementals went at it again and started channeling mana. However, this time, the Major pumped more of the ethereal substance into them, making them stronger and able to use more mana simultaneously, allowing them to hasten their casting speed.

However, the two elementals summoned two other ice elementals of a lesser variant. They had leaner bodies and threw mainly huge ice spikes toward their enemies. These attacks could only tickle the beast, which didn't even try to dodge, enough to serve as a distraction and chip away at the enemy's life by creating shallow wounds.

The previous two ice elementals started pounding on the thaid's body like sledgehammers.

But the creature attacked with its spiked tail and pushed the other two creatures back a few meters. Fischer pumped mana into them, healing their wounds. However, healing and keeping the elementals active required a lot of mana, but this was not something that Major Fischer couldn't manage, at least for the time being.

The fight was no simple matter, but Fischer knew he could kill the beast with little effort. Besides, if things went wrong, the major only had to keep the creature at bay, give a couple of soldiers time to recover, and then kill it together. The thaid and the man looked each other in the eyes, and then Fischer made a war shout. He was going to let the fool know whom he was standing against.

Chapter 216: Joint effort

A lightning bolt darted from a soldier helping Captain Lain face the horrific Blirldoth. The woman was fighting a hard battle against the canine monstrosity, using all the techniques she learned during military training and being supported by many people.

On her left was a huge dog-like creature with brown and black fur and two big, threatening tusks that a nearby soldier had summoned. This rapidly became Lain's best ally since the soldier who summoned it was pretty strong.

The dog was fortified by Emma's shields, among which was a spell that stopped the beast's corrosive gas from killing the creature.

The dog-like summon rushed against the canine horror, biting it on its right paw. The Blirldoth tried to yank it away, but the power of its bite was strong enough to stop the vicious beast from doing anything.

While the Heniate's avatar was under assault, Lain took advantage of the situation and swung her sword at the beast. To damage it, Lain had to use a lot of mana to make the blade of her summoned

weapon sharp enough to cut through the thaid's thick and resistant fur. She did not miss, but the creature was formidable, and that small wound was nothing to it.

However, the Heniate behind the Blirdoth surged with rage; this was the first time its avatar had been hurt this way. The parasite believed it was the big boss, the forest's apex predator, and this puny human dared to bite its creature. The beast shrieked, and everyone's attention shifted to the horror for a couple of moments, proving fatal for some soldiers.

The canine horror grabbed the dog summon and started hitting its head with its free arm until it released the grip on its paw. Then it grabbed the summoned beast by its head and threw it in Lain's direction.

"Damn!" she shouted.

The dog flew through the air and crashed on the wall's concrete floor, releasing a yelping sound and making the ground tremble.

Without keeping her eyes from the Blirdoth, Lain told the nearby soldiers to keep the creature at bay. They started channeling mana and launching attacks relentlessly, sending a flood of mana into the air and changing the environment.

The Blirdoth was forced to put its arms up in defense of its head, but its fur was highly resistant, and not many brain crystal powers had enough mana to damage the creature.

"Emma, how long can you keep the shield on me and the summon last?" Lain asked with a tinge of fear on her face as the brain crystal powers' attacks kept raining on the thaid. Nothing seemed to work. The creature was almost immortal, its fur was like magic armor that couldn't be broken, and its poisonous gas was a powerful weapon.

"Not much!" Emma replied. She used a ton of mana to keep both the water shields up. Not only this, but she constantly had to regenerate it since the beast's corrosive gasses chipped away at its integrity.

<How the fuck can I kill this bitch?> Lain thought.

She understood that if she wanted to kill the creature, she needed more mana or a concussive force strong enough to knock it at least out. Lain then shouted to a mecha pilot nearby who was initially fending off some other monsters, "Quick, help me fight this bitch!"

Mechas were the best-suited ones to perform the task, as they were not alive, and the metal was pretty resistant to the corrosive gas, enough to protect the pilot for a reasonable amount of time. It was a bit of a waste to employ one to fight a thaid it couldn't kill. However, the mechas were humongous, so she calculated that they could be helpful to shields and help her distract the Blirdoth.

Clearly, their strength wasn't enough to kill the beast because its natural mana shield had a lot of the ethereal substance, which allowed it to stop most of the attacks. If things went well, maybe she would have the opportunity to kill the beast.

Lain channeled mana; she was going big this time. After she threw most of it inside her sword, she was ready. She quickly dashed behind the beast and aimed at its spine; the amount of mana was so high that the woman almost depleted it all. However, the sword became sufficiently powerful to be effective against the Heniate's avatar.

She slashed, and a nasty cut appeared on the creature's back, but that was all.

The beast survived; it wasn't cleaved in half as the woman hoped, and it soon turned around to see what had attacked it. The woman realized she needed to develop a new strategy, but her mind was blank. She stepped back, trying to make sense of what just happened, and prepared for the Blirdoth's next move.

As she backed away, the Blirdoth lunged toward her, and she scrambled to avoid its sharp teeth. Her heart racing, she knew she couldn't let fear consume her. Glancing around, she saw the carnage the creature had left behind; there were so many bodies that made it hard for her even to walk around.

"This is not good," Lain muttered under her breath, "I have no idea how I'm supposed to beat this thing." Now, the only option available was to try with concussive force, but unfortunately, no one had enough strength to kill the creature.

At the same time, a soldier nearby channeled a ton of mana through his neural links. The ground around them shimmered, and fog started spreading in the surroundings. Soon, small flashes of lightning came out of the fog as the soldier's action seemed to have triggered a reaction from the environment.

The air was now charged with electricity, and the team had to be careful not to get caught in a lightning strike.

"We're not done yet!" he yelled as the rest of the soldiers started to attack at once with all their might, hoping to overwhelm the enemy's defenses before they had a chance to respond and giving time to the soldier to complete his channelization. They were partially successful since they gave the man enough time to summon four lightning elementals that gushed out of thin air.

Their bodies were small storms; their wrists were adorned with golden bracelets, and small bolts of lightning surrounded them. The creatures had some ranged attacks, so they started bombarding the Blirdoth with everything they could; even the dog-like summon was attacking, supported by Emma's water attacks, and was biting at the creature's leg.

The pilots made their mechas advance toward the beast, and at the same time, while Lain's comrades were buying her time, she was preparing another big attack. She only needed to find the right opportunity.

After a couple of moments of waiting, Lain darted, traveling through the air with unparalleled speed. She swung her sword at the beast's paw again, hoping her mana would be enough to chop the beast's leg off. The attack landed on the canine-bear monstrosity's leg, but again, it wasn't enough. However, the beast staggered.

"Attack! Attack it now!" Lain shouted to the soldiers, who started unleashing as much power as possible over the beast.

"We need more power!" someone yelled out while unleashing mana with an impressive speed. The soldiers were all doing their best, but even if everyone was firing at once, there wasn't enough power to stop this thing. Then a booming sound echoed atop the walls, and a small cloud, big enough to shroud the creature, arose.

The battlefield was enveloped in silence. Everyone looked at the situation with bated breath. Maybe they had been successful; maybe they had killed the Blirdoth.

"Is it done?" Lain muttered.

A horrified look spread across Lain's face as soon as the dust dissipated. The creature was alive; the soldiers and the mechas did not hit the beast, which instead used the dog-summoned beast as a meat

shield. There was no trace of the summoned creature anymore, but the Heniate's avatar stood proudly.

"Let's get the hell out of here, Emma!" Lain shouted to her comrade. The Blirdoth charged at the lightning elementals while Lain, Emma, and every other soldier fled from the creature. There was nothing they could do to stop the creature.

The beast did not chase them. It was too battered to do so. All those attacks actually took a toll on it. It only wanted to eat and recuperate; for this reason, it jumped from the wall, ran toward the breached eastern gate, and went inside the city.

Chapter 217: Major Fischer (1)

Major Fischer was almost done with the Jask, the sloth-like creature behind the barrier. The fight didn't go exactly as planned, and despite a series of unexpected events, the Major remained calm and composed throughout the fight and could put the creature in check.

His training had prepared him for unpredictable situations, and he relied on his skills to adapt to the Jask's movements. The victory was just a matter of time in Major Fischer's mind.

At the same time, the soldiers had almost completed repairing the eastern gate, and only a small gap remained, which was still big enough to let some creatures pass. Nothing that the militaries couldn't solve, though.

The problem was that too many creatures had already come through the breach, as thousands of the smaller thaids were able to go through it, and now these beasts were killing people inside the city.

The situation was dire, and reinforcements were needed to help cleanse the infested areas. However, with the gate almost repaired, the military had a better chance of defending the city from further invasion.

"We can do this!" a soldier said in his best motivational speech voice before he turned back to the others.

"I don't care how exhausted you are or how much your muscles hurt right now! We need to get those gates fixed ASAP!" He pointed toward the other side of the wall, where several dozen men worked on reinforcing the damaged section using the metal sheet that had been provided.

A few meters away, there was another group working hard, trying desperately to repair some of the gate's hinges that the Yevyagits' kicks had blasted off.

It seemed impossible, given their lack of time and the constant threat of monsters, but somehow they managed to keep going despite being exhausted beyond belief. They knew what would happen should more monsters enter the city: it would be curtains for everyone.

The army did not have enough manpower to deal with the situation; they needed help, and they knew it. The mercenaries' intervention was needed since there were still many beasts trying to get through the door, and it was not easy to fend them off. However, the higher-ups hadn't called them yet for unknown reasons.

In the meantime, Major Fischer was fighting against the Jask. He avoided the claws of the creature by a hairbreadth and counterattacked with an attack of his own. Both his ice elementals channeled a lot of mana while he kept the thaid at bay, and they created a giant ice boulder that appeared in front of them and bolted through the air like a massive bullet.

The giant boulder hit the Jask right on the head, shattering its skull and killing the beast on the spot. The creature slumped on the ground with a sonorous sound and stopped moving.

"I finally made it," he said. He took a deep breath and looked around, feeling relieved that the battle was over. He knew he had put his life on the line, but he had managed to defeat the Jask and save the soldiers around. So many lives were saved because of his intervention.

The Major then went toward the soldiers at the door. Most of them were not fighting, as the few creatures who kept lingering around the gate and managed to get inside were swiftly dealt with by the soldiers. However, they were still trying to keep the thaid on the other side away from the breach, while the artillery between the gate and the wall did the same.

"How is the situation?" the Major asked. Everything seemed to be under control, but the soldiers were still on high alert as the thaid outside the wall continued to pose a threat. The artillery was proving to be effective in keeping them at bay, but it was unclear how long they could hold out.

"All clear, sir; we are almost done closing the breach, as you can see," the soldier replied.

"Good."

Suddenly, a roar reverberated through the air. It was so strong as to shake them to their very core. The soldiers immediately took up their weapons, ready for whatever was coming their way. They knew they had to be prepared for anything in this line of work.

BOOM

The soldiers turned to look at the source of the sound, and immediately, something landed on the ground with a huge noise and raised a huge dust cloud.

It was the Blirtoth who bolted through the breach, destroying half the repairs the soldier did. The beast was furious but clearly battered by previous fights.

The thaid killed three people by just landing; it crushed them to a bloody pulp, leaving gore, brain matter, and bloodied meat on the ground. It then growled menacingly at the surrounding soldiers, who immediately went into a defensive stance, channeled mana through their neural links, and readied themselves to attack the creature.

"What's this thing doing here?" a man asked as he saw the beast.

Another one commented on its look: "This thaid looks like something out of a horror movie."

As the creature looked around, its eyes glowed with a strange light. It didn't seem afraid of the soldiers' weapons. It let out a deafening roar that echoed through the battlefield, causing some of the soldiers to falter in their resolve.

The other men around him agreed with that assessment as they looked over what was left after the thaid landed. They'd been able to keep most of the creatures outside away from the breach thanks to their efforts, and now the creature destroyed everything, forcing them almost to start over.

However, Major Fischer knew how dire the situation was. The creature shouldn't have been here, as it was the goal of the 42nd corp to kill it.

He knew that most of the soldiers repairing the breach were going to die because of it, but he didn't know how many yet—he hoped no more than two or three hundred, but it was wishful thinking.

"Stay away, soldiers!" Major Fischer shouted. "What the hell are they doing outside?" he added.

He could see that the creature was battered, and his fur bore the effects of multiple brain crystal powers, but what was it going to do here? Why did it enter?

The Major glanced at the beast; judging by its state and its size, he quickly understood that it was fairly strong. Since he was currently the higher-ranking officer, the duty to stop the creature fell on him now.

Then he called the two ice elementals, and they went straight to the dog horror. However, the two were clearly not enough to fight against the creature, and the Blirdoth made a backward jump to put some distance between itself and the elementals. It then activated its poisonous mist.

Contrary to the situation on the wall, here, the poisonous mist started having its effect since there were no countermeasures available to stop the creature; the thaid shouldn't even be there. Clearly, as the fog spread in the surroundings, countless soldiers started dying, liquefied alive by the ghastly miasma released by the creature.

Soon after, panic spread among the soldiers; it was clear they couldn't do anything to kill this thaid, and more of them died in droves as the beast wreaked havoc amidst the soldiers, who tried to run away from the beast. The Blirdoth gave chase.

"Oh shit!" one soldier shouted out loud before he started liquefying, and soon after, he fell dead right next to another soldier unfortunate enough to suffer the same fate. "No way..." A third exclaimed while falling down too.

"What the hell?" Major Fischer roared in anger. He had already been instructed about the effects of this power, as this was the creature that hunted down the squads patrolling the forest. However, knowing what to expect and seeing it in the first person were two different things.

The major ordered again to his troops to fall back and hide, but he knew better than anyone else that if the beast remained, it was unlikely they would make it. They were probably going to be turned into goo by the creature's power.

To stop the monster, he pumped a huge chunk of his available mana into his ice elementals, which were still chasing the rampaging beast left and right in an attempt to stop it. With their new energy boost, they could finally reach the monster and start attacking it. As soon as they did so, though, the beasts retaliated.

Major Fischer cursed under his breath. He wasn't sure how much longer his elementals would last with the remaining amount of mana he had.

The Blirboth then started looking in the Major's direction, as it understood that it was he who was sending the two ice creatures to attack it.

"SHIT!" Fischer said, as he clearly became the beast's target.

The Blirboth was now dashing at the Major, as the Heniate behind it saw the man as another annoying bug that had to squish before it could start infecting the population.

Chapter 218: Major Fischer (2)

Major Fischer's ice elementals threw several ice spears at the Blirboth, but the monster easily dodged them. The damn beast was much more agile than he thought it would be. Fischer knew he had to develop a new strategy quickly, or the Blirboth would overpower them. He signaled his team to fall back and regroup, hoping to find a weakness in the monster's defenses.

The Blirboth dashed toward the man, who used his two summoned creatures to stop its charge. Despite Fischer's efforts, the Blirboth was too strong for his ice elementals to handle alone.

While the ice elementals did their work, Fischer jumped backward while his two creatures unleashed a torrent of ice on his enemy. The move was highly acrobatic, and for sure, only a skilled fighter would be able to make it. The Blirboth roared angrily as it shook off the ice and charged again toward Fischer.

At the same time, Fischer felt his energy decreasing due to having to maintain the two summons and give them enough mana to make them strong enough to face the creature; this took a heavy toll on his mana reserves.

Besides, he just killed a Jask, so his mana was already low, to begin with, and the fact that the creature was getting more aggressive with each passing moment further complicated the situation. He took a deep breath and focused hard on the creature.

Despite the vast number of ranged attacks the soldier threw at the monster, be it the result of BCPs, laser rifles, or other conventional weapons, the situation wasn't getting better, and no significant damage could be done.

"This is hopeless," said one of the soldiers beside him. "We need to retreat." Fischer shook his head.

Although it seemed the creature outmatched them, they needed to keep their position, at least until they had tried everything. If they ran away, the city was bound to fall into the hands of the monsters, which meant death for everyone there. They couldn't afford such an outcome.

He turned around and looked at the men and women behind the beast: most of them were wounded from various cuts and bruises sustained during their fight against the monsters, but none were seriously injured yet, aside from the ones who died. The others' morale rose slightly when he saw how determined the Major was.

The Blirdoth crashed against the elementals like a train; they were flung away by the beasts, who then charged right directly at Major Fischer. The thaid arrived in front of him and swung its paw.

The major avoided the creature's attack but was in a pinch since he constantly had to move back to avoid the beast's poisonous miasma. The gas affected the ice elementals, and a pool of water formed at their feet.

"Damn it," said Fischer. He quickly pulled his gun from the holster and began firing at the beast, only for it to dismiss the attack as if it were nothing.

Fischer's face contorted with anger when suddenly two more thaid appeared behind him, one on each side. The Major quickly turned to face the new threats, his heart racing with fear and adrenaline. He knew he had to kill them fast if he wanted to survive this encounter.

"Shit!" he shouted as he turned to kill the monsters. "I'm not going down that easily." His body moved swiftly as he used his flail to bash the two thaid's heads before turning again toward the Blirdoth coming up from behind.

As soon as the creature came close enough, Fischer's elementals barred its way using their arms. The monster tried pushing through, but Fischer quickly scrambled away and made the distance between him and the beast.

The Blirdoth increased the output of miasma it released, and the gas spread around the troops, burning the skin of the unlucky ones that stood in it for a second and killing the ones who remained for more than two.

"Help me!" a soldier shouted to his nearby comrades.

The soldiers did, trying to steer the creature away from a nearby group of soldiers. It didn't work, however. The gas got stronger, covering a lot of people except for those who managed to get out of the radius.

Chaos ensued, and all the troops diverted their attacks to the Blirboth, meaning that no one was attending the wall, and many thaid that went through the breach and into the city. Some even remained to kill the soldiers, and the situation became even messier.

In the meantime, the Blirboth kept attacking Major Fischer, and some soldiers had the idea to use their attacks to create a wind strong enough to stop the poisonous gas from killing more soldiers. The move worked, and the growth of death numbers decreased significantly.

However, despite partially neutralizing the Blirboth, more thaid kept entering through the breach, and the soldiers grew desperate. They were struggling to contain the situation as they were outnumbered and overwhelmed. They urgently needed reinforcements to prevent the city from falling into the hands of the monsters.

As the soldiers did their best to prevent more deaths, the Blirboth unleashed a flurry of attacks against Fischer. Its colossal paws came close to killing the Major a couple of times, but since his ice elementals aided him, the Major was able to save himself.

He couldn't, though, just receive the beast's attack; he had to do something. Unfortunately, the elementals could, at best, stop the Blirboth from approaching him, and his mana was almost depleted. It was with a sad heart and not without shame that the Major decided to escape that hopeless situation.

Leaving his comrades behind was not an easy decision, but he knew it was the only way to ensure his survival.

The Major channeled the rest of his available mana into the ice elementals, and these while significantly empowered, started tackling the Blirboth. At the same time, he, on the other hand, ran away from the battlefield.

It was the soldier's turn to keep the creature at bay; he did what he could. As he ran, he hoped that what he had done had been enough to give the soldiers enough time to regroup and devise a better plan to defeat the Blirboth.

Weapons and brain crystal powers" attacks continued to blow away the miasma. Strikes rained on the Blirdoth while Fischer's' elementals kept wrestling the Thaid.

The melee soldiers went into close quarters, using their weapons to try and kill the creature, and slowly everything seemed to work since the beast was now accumulating more and more wounds. They were shallow, but there were so many that, coupled with the ones the thaid got outside the barrier, it started having problems retaliating.

Despite their progress, the Blirdoth was still a formidable opponent, and the soldiers knew they couldn't let their guard down. The soldiers urged each other to keep up their efforts while searching for weaknesses in the creature's defenses.

Some of them noticed that the Blirdoth's movements were becoming slower and less coordinated, indicating that it was getting tired. They knew that this was their chance to finish the battle and defeat the creature once and for all.

The Heniate was now in a pinch. Numerous humans were encircling his avatar, the Blirdoth, slowly killing it. Taken individually, they were not much for the parasite master, but it was impossible to come out victorious in those huge numbers.

The Heniate realized that it had underestimated the humans and their ability to work together. It frantically considered how to escape the predicament, but its options were limited. However, it knew it had to act fast before its avatar, the Blirdoth, was utterly destroyed, as he lost control over the situation.

So, it made the Blirdoth charge ahead, hitting and stomping at least a dozen soldiers in the process. The soldier understood the beast was trying to get out of the encirclement and tried to stop it at all costs.

Many channeled mana and unleashed their powers again, though the beast didn't stop its charge; after all, his fur was resistant to most attacks and was as strong as iron. The Blirdoth's movements became more erratic as it tried to break free, causing chaos among the soldiers.

In a desperate move, it let out a loud roar that stunned everyone around it, giving it just enough time to make a run for it and escape the battlefield. To hide its escape, the creature let out all of its poisonous gas at full power. Most of the soldiers nearby died, and their bodies melted on the floor. Soon, only goo remained.

The Blirldoth was able to break through the enemy lines and escape thanks to its rampage, but it took a lot of damage in the process. Its once majestic fur was now burned and tattered, and its skin was full of cuts and bruises from the constant barrage of enemy attacks. As it ran away, it let out a mournful cry.

Chapter 219: Aaron (1)

Allan's father was fighting the creatures in front of the shelter, with him and at least a hundred police officers behind a makeshift barricade made of cars. The police officers were using their brain crystal powers to kill the beasts, but their numbers were too high.

Allan's father was a skilled fighter, and his presence gave the other officers a sense of security amidst the chaos. However, despite the police officers' efforts, the beasts seemed to be multiplying, and the situation was becoming direr by the minute.

The beasts that came in were not very strong; at best, they were on the low end of the spectrum, so they were not immune to bullets and laser rifles. But their sheer numbers made it difficult for the police officers to contain them. Allan's father wanted to call for backup, but there weren't enough people inside the city so they could do nothing.

The police blockade was efficient, as they were able to kill a lot of thaids; however, most of the thaids ignored the police and went directly to the group of civilians running away, of which most were kids with no fighting experience.

"We need more firepower!" one officer shouted from behind cover near some cars.

"Shoot them down!" We will have civilian casualties if we don't get rid of these things!"

Some officers ran toward the thaids and fought them in close quarters, while others kept shooting their guns and using their powers from a distance to try to stop the monsters from coming closer. The thaids were getting more aggressive, and the officers struggled to keep them at bay. The situation was becoming more dangerous by the minute, and they needed backup as soon as possible.

The defensive perimeter was still up; shouts and gunshots could be heard. There were also occasional screams coming from inside buildings when a thaid steered away from their group and chased the civilians.

A kid tried climbing over a building but lost grip halfway there, falling onto a bunch of thaids waiting for it to fall, and devouring it as soon as possible. The kid screamed until only muffled sounds could be heard; he died, eaten alive by terrifying monsters.

The scene was chilling, and the kids who saw the scene panicked and tried to gain more distance from the thaids. Some even puked or threw up because they couldn't handle what just happened. One kid got trampled underfoot after being knocked off balance during panic and fell into a crowd of other people. He was dead before anyone realized something had gone wrong.

The police kept trying to protect the civilians; however, they saw a massive thaid from afar and started losing their composure. The situation was getting out of control as more people were getting injured, and the police were struggling to maintain order.

"Concentrate your firepower on that huge bug!" someone shouted. A downpour of attacks came down on the creature, which fell lifelessly on the ground, and his fall slowed other creatures.

"Good job," Luca said.

"Look," another soldier said, pointing at a giant beetle marching toward their position.

The creature was moving fast, and the bullets weren't enough to pierce its carapace.

"Use the grenades!" Luca Grimes, Allan's father, shouted. Allan quickly grabbed a grenade and pulled the pin, aiming at the beetle's feet. The officers quickly followed the order, and a policeman opened a car's door; he picked up the case full of grenades and removed the lid.

As this was done, the police officers lunged for the small weapons, and after having aimed at the creature, they threw the grenades toward the bulk of the monsters, where the beetle was. The grenades exploded, creating a loud noise and a smoke cloud covering the area. When the smoke cleared, they saw that most other monsters had been completely obliterated.

As for the beetle, initially, it avoided most of the grenades, but the sheer number of weapons was too much, and one crippled him, destroying its leg. However, the subsequent throws exploded right next to them in the middle of the beasts' charge, sending them flying through the air and killing many of them.

The thaids' arms, antennae, eyes, and numerous other body parts ended up all over the place, including on top of the thaids that were unaffected by the blasts. After seeing how effective the grenade attack was, the policemen quickly grabbed more of them and tossed them like darts, killing more thaids in the process.

It looked almost comical watching the cops throw grenades left and right. "C'mon!" Allan's dad shouted. It was his way of boosting his colleagues' morale.

The bulk of the beasts were now awfully close to the barricade, so another police officer dashed past it and used his sword to stop more monsters from reaching the civilians. Several other officers did the same, but before being overrun by the thaids, they darted back to the cars and resumed firing at the monsters.

Finally, the wave ended, and the police successfully killed most of the thaids in front of the shelter. The problem was that many monsters went past the barricade and chased a group of fleeing civilians who couldn't reach the shelter on time. The police officers' job didn't end there.

"Prepare the cars to give chase to the thaids," Luca ordered. The chief of police was dead tired, but he had to force himself to fight since the lives of many kids and old people were in jeopardy at that moment.

The whole group then went to their cars, guns blazing. They knew that time was of the essence, and they had to act fast to catch the monsters before they could cause any more harm.

"Start the chase," Luca said to the driver. With their sirens blaring, they sped off in pursuit of the fleeing thaids.

A desolate scene flowed before them as they drove across the city's streets. The place looked like a graveyard; an incalculable number of corpses could be seen littering the streets; some of them were being munched on by thaids, while others were there waiting to be eaten but unable to move due to missing limbs.

Some dead bodies had apparent bite wounds, while others had unidentified ones. For some, it was possible to determine the cause of death, but the wounds were too grievous for the rest.

"Ah, ah, ah..." Aaron and his father were tirelessly running away from the beasts. They separated from the group of people running away and went directly inside a building to hide in their tracks.

Aaron's father had been in the military before but had never been a powerful fighter, so he didn't feel confident enough to stop the thaid's there and protect his son. The creatures had different means to catch their prey, and to find people inside buildings was not hard at all.

The duo was inside a huge white construction made of concrete. They were gasping for air, but they had to be careful with the noise they made, or else they would be discovered. While inside the building, they slowly went up the stairs; it looked like they were the only ones hiding there.

Most of the adults went out to fight while the kids and the old men and women ran to the shelters. Noises could be heard everywhere; they came from outside the buildings. Most were the victims' screams and the monsters' munching sounds. These were making Aaron progressively anxious.

After a couple of minutes of hiding and trying to assess the situation, the sound of a door being smashed reverberated through the building; it was so loud that it was actually impossible not to hear it. It looked like the creatures had found them.

Aaron and his father had no other choice but to fight. He had no idea how to solve his current crisis; however, he knew he needed his father's help to escape the predicament.

The young man and his father kept walking down the hallways, but Aaron had not been cautious enough, and he kicked a metal bucket left by mistake by someone cleaning the stairs, making a loud noise that echoed through the corridors.

Suddenly, they heard a noise coming from outside, and they knew that they were not going to be alone in the building anymore. The sound drew the attention of the creatures outside the building, but they could do nothing as probably several of them had already entered the building.

"Dad, we have to fight," Aaron said, turning to his father with a scared look.

"Fuck..." his father said.

"I'm too old for this..." They slowly went downstairs to try to find a good spot for fighting.

They kept descending until they reached the second floor of the building. The floors had very large hallways on which several reinforced doors stood closed, each one leading to apartments that might contain survivors.

"Let's go," Aaron said. His father nodded and followed him into the hallway.

Chapter 220: Aaron (2)

Aaron and his father made the first steps to the stairs with heavy hearts; they tried to be as silent as possible, but it wasn't easy, especially considering the thaid's sensitivity to noise and vibrations. Aaron's father held his hand tightly as they descended the stairs, trying not to think about what they might find at the bottom.

As they descended the stairs, Aaron couldn't help feeling a sense of unease. He had a bad feeling in the pit of his stomach, and his mind was racing with all the possible scenarios that could be waiting for them at the bottom of the stairs. Despite his fear, he knew he had to be brave for his father's sake.

He wondered if they were really doing the right thing by going downstairs, but he couldn't let his father face whatever danger may be lurking alone. Aaron took a deep breath and tightened his grip on his weapon, ready to face whatever awaited them.

They planned to make a defensive position on top of the stairs so that no creature could climb up and get an advantage in height. However, fighting in that narrow passage wasn't easy, and if things went wrong, they would be forced to fight in the hallway, significantly decreasing their advantage.

The monsters rushed to the top floors while the young man descended; Aaron and his father met the creatures after three floors. There were several giant bugs, at least thrice the size of a big dog. The creatures looked like beetles and had a big, bulky black carapace under which a pair of transparent wings could be seen. Aaron didn't know what they were, but his father, Eddie, did.

It was a thaid species called Mires.

The creatures had a double-pointed horns on their heads, mainly used to ram other beasts and kill them by impaling them. The mouth was the most grotesque part of it; not only did the creature have jagged monstrous teeth inside of it, but it also had two pincer-like appendages that were moving strangely elastic way; they looked like giant barbed tentacles but with a strange tint of solidity to them.

The bugs didn't waste time and rammed at the two men; Aaron and his father immediately used their slimes. Both had this particular BCP, but Eddie was more skilled than his son. The move successfully stopped the thaid's from attacking, and immediately, the slime started corroding the creatures. However, their carapace was hard and difficult to destroy.

Aaron watched in awe as his father's expertise with the slime became evident, but he knew they needed to find a way to penetrate the bugs' tough exterior before it was too late.

The two men started to give off more mana, and soon the bugs walking on the floor started to fall one by one. However, the sheer number of creatures made it so that for each fallen bug, another one took his place, and they used the dead thaids as stepping stones to reach the two humans.

Soon, the floor was full of bodies and slime, but this didn't prevent the creatures from attacking. A Mires managed to reach the stairs, but Aaron and his father couldn't use their slimes since it was too slow to kill the creature, and they were forced to fight in melee.

The creatures charged at Aaron, but he was ready to block their attack. He unsheathed the sword and blocked the horn while his father barely plunged the blade he took from a dead police officer's body into the creature's head. Aaron's heart was pounding as he fought for his life, but he knew he had to stay focused.

With each strike of his sword, he gained more confidence and felt like they might actually make it out alive.

In the meantime, he stood back on his feet and took a deep breath, feeling the adrenaline slowly dissipate. He glanced around to assess the situation and figure out his next move.

More and more thaids came; it looked like they wouldn't stop soon. The hallway was becoming more crowded, and it was getting harder to move around.

The thaids used the bodies of their fallen brethren to avoid the slime, and soon, the father-and-son duo was forced to use their power again. In the meantime, the bodies below started disintegrating due to the corrosive force of Eddie's and Aaron's powers.

The duo realized that they needed to find a way out of the hallway before they got overwhelmed by the increasing number of thaids. They quickly scanned their surroundings, searching for any possible escape routes.

There were only two possibilities that could potentially lead to an escape. A window, but that was dangerous since they were several floors up, and the stairs, from which the thaids were coming.

Both options weren't feasible. Their hearts raced as they realized they were trapped with no way out.

The slime also started affecting the floor, and nasty gases spread in the hallway, giving the two men problems breathing.

"Fuck!" Aaron said.

"We need to go to the upper floor and fight near the window," Eddie said.

The two released more slime and quickly ran up the stairs. In the meantime, a massive hole in the ground resulted from the slime, and most of the creatures fell down a floor on top of other bugs that now had another access point to the hallway where Aaron and Eddie were fighting.

Two beasts suddenly started chasing the two while they ran upstairs. Eddie immediately noticed and unsheathed his sword, but as he turned, he noticed that Aaron hadn't seen the beast and was going to be killed.

Eddie ran to Aaron and plunged his blade inside the beast's thorax, killing it on the spot.

However, the other opened its wings and flew toward Eddie. Aaron's face paled as his father gasped in pain.

Aaron looked behind him, and it was with horror that he saw his father's figure with a horn impaled in his heart. He was gasping for air and losing blood from his mouth.

His father just saved his life at his own expense. Eddie's heroic act of saving his son's life showed Aaron the depth of love and devotion the man had toward his child.

"DAD!" Aaron shouted out loudly. The creature was stuck inside his father's chest; it was trying in every way to escape its predicament, but it couldn't. Every movement made Aaron's father cry in agony, but Eddie wasn't done; multiple thaids were still rushing upstairs, so Eddie did the last thing he would have done for his son.

He channeled all his remaining mana with the strength he had and created a sea of corrosive slime that ended up in the hole, directly going on top of the thaids downstairs and corroding them. The

beasts wriggled in pain, and since the slime was much more potent than before, its effect was significantly faster. The remaining thaids ran away since the slime was too dangerous.

"RUN!" Eddie said this and then lost consciousness when he made no more sounds or movements. He was dead.

"DAD!" he shouted.

Aaron then dashed and plunged his blade inside the beast's head, finally taking care of the annoying bug.

However, the slime started affecting the hallway again, at first on the lower floor, then the one below, and so on, until it reached the ground but compromised the structural integrity of the building.

The young man rushed to his father again; he was lying on the stairs with a puddle of blood cascading toward the ground.

"DAD!" Aaron shouted.

The young man noticed a gaping wound in the center of his chest that was oozing blood as he observed him.

He knew that his father was dead, but he found himself unable to leave the body alone. However, the building started trembling. Due to the slime, it was starting to collapse. That was precisely why Eddie didn't initially use that much mana; he didn't want to endanger his son.

However, the situation forced him to do so, and since he was already dying, there was no reason to save mana.

"Dad..." he said amidst sobs as memories resurfaced; he recalled the time spent with him or when his father brought him to the park when he was little.

At the same time, regret and frustration took the best of him; he was enraged, and all that happened was due to Mr. Grimes, Allan's father.

"Grimes... Grimes! It's all your fault!" Aaron shouted.

A profound sentiment started spreading inside his mind—it was hatred, pure and utter hatred toward Allan's father, who suddenly decided to close the shelter's door.

"I will make you pay," he said. Then he gave another look at his father's body. However, there was no more time to waste; he had to leave the building before it collapsed.

He took a deep breath, wiped the tears from his eyes, and ran towards the exit. As he stepped out of the building, he vowed to himself to avenge his father's death, no matter what it took.