

## Crossing 381

### Chapter 381: General Ling!

From the time they had discovered the aerial invasion till now, two hours had elapsed unknowingly. The night was still very dark, and the enemy still had not been able to break through the defensive line of the ground forces. Meanwhile, the enemies who had just appeared had not made much impact due to the desperate resistance from all the special-class mecha of the Federation forces. The battle was once again mired in a deadlock.

The commander of the ground forces had grown numb in the face of wave after wave of casualty reports. He went from deep heartache to unfeeling numbness, because he himself had no idea whether he would share the same fate as many of these warriors, sacrificed in the battle on this planet ...

“Look, what’s that up above ...?” A staff officer suddenly cried out in surprise. He was the one tasked with monitoring the battlefield, and right now, his eyes were riveted on the large screen on the wall of the command centre.

At this cry, the commander quickly raised his head from the mass of reports before him, and his eyes immediately noticed two radiant mecha almost bright enough to dazzle his eyes in the air above the dormitory district. That familiar form caused him to lose control and shout, “Godd\*mmmit! They actually dare to violate the terms of the joint declaration!”

Right then, on the battlefield, almost everyone had noticed the two mecha hovering in the air. The mecha’s outer forms were just too large and bright — it was practically impossible to miss them. It was like someone had hit the pause button on the initially fierce battlefield; both sides stopped fighting in unplanned unison.

Imperial mecha were forbidden from appearing in regular battlefields, but now two had inexplicably appeared in the airspace above planet Newline. They stood tall and proud as they looked down on the battlefield below.

When the enemy fighters saw the emblem on the chests of the two imperial mecha, they instantly emitted an earth-shattering cheer. In contrast, the defensive troops of planet Newline, all of the Federation warriors including the academy instructors, were swamped by an emotion that felt a lot like despair.

Tang Yu had just destroyed an ace mecha when he heard the horrified gasps of the other instructors around him. And right after that, the entire battlefield descended into a kind of cold stillness. Bewildered, he lifted his head, and when he saw the two mecha hovering in the air, his pupils contracted, and his hands which had been busy operating his mecha stiffened ...

Tang Yu reflexively shot a glance at the dormitory district — he could almost see what the final fate of the people remaining here would be already. He suddenly thought of something and swiftly checked the location of his pet disciple Qiao Ting. Unexpectedly, he found that the other had already departed the range of the dormitory district and was heading into the depths of the military academy.

Tang Yu could not help but feel both shocked and delighted. Shocked that Qiao Ting had not obeyed his orders, acting on his own to leave the protected area ... if anything had happened, he would not have been able to rush over in time to help. Delighted because, even though Qiao Ting had disobeyed him, he had made a fortuitous mistake in leaving the dormitory district. Perhaps this way, he may have a chance of surviving.

Yes, Tang Yu did not believe that they would be able to survive the attacks of an imperial operator. It was foreseeable that anyone who remained in the dormitory district, whether it were soldiers or instructors, or even those students under the protection of the beam shield, would be unable to escape death in the end.

Having no other recourse, Tang Yu's gaze turned cold as he made an instant decision. He would lead all the instructors here and try their best to hold these two imperial mecha here as long as possible, giving Qiao Ting's group more time to run away.

The two imperial mecha saw that the entire battlefield had frozen for several seconds at their emergence, becoming deathly silent, and their hearts were filled with pride and satisfaction. They stared with cool disinterest down at the people below — the Huaxian ground forces and the ace operators in their ranks were like nothing more than ants in the imperial mecha's eyes.

At this moment, one of the imperial mecha asked the other tonelessly, "What have you found?"

"I see two batches of baby catfish 1 trying to meet up, hehe ..." the other imperial mecha suddenly cackled.

"Is it the target?" The imperial mecha who had first spoken could not help but raise an eyebrow, somewhat surprised. He did not expect to be so lucky, discovering their target right from the get-go.

"Most probably 2. Those baby catfish are all trainee mecha of the academy. Two of them are even ace trainee mecha. They should be the two targets central command has assigned to us. Parker, I'll leave this end to you. I'll go handle those little catfish, and once I'm done, we can return." The other imperial mecha could not help but lick his lips in anticipation. Compared to being a humanoid cannon without any need for skill or technique, he still much preferred teasing baby catfish and having some fun.

"Don't go overboard." The imperial mecha which had first spoken could not help but warn the other. It seemed like the two imperial mecha had a good relationship.

"Chill, chill. When have I not completed a mission?" replied the other imperial mecha. Immediately after, he had operated his mecha to disappear into the night sky ...

Tang Yu, who had been closely observing the two imperial mecha all this time, saw one of them abruptly disappear and his heart clenched. "Where did he go?"

Before he could search for the other's tracks, the remaining imperial mecha suddenly drew a giant cylindrical weapon almost as tall as the mecha itself from behind it. Tang Yu's face changed drastically at the sight and he shouted, "Dodge!"

As an elite ace, Tang Yu had very comprehensive knowledge of the imperial mecha he would be using once he advanced. The weapon the opponent had brought out was precisely the most powerful and horrifying beam energy weapon imperial mecha had — Line of Oblivion! As long as one was hit by the

weapon, even an imperial mecha of the same level would only be able to survive by exhausting all of its power on its King Shield. Any mecha below imperial mecha absolutely could not survive a blow from this weapon. The only way to escape was to leave the attack range of the Line of Oblivion, which was why Tang Yu had immediately yelled out for his side to run.

“Boom!” The round cylinder in the imperial mecha’s hands suddenly shot out a violet-black beam. At the moment it discharged, even a mecha as powerful as the imperial mecha could not keep its balance — the entire mecha was sent flying backwards; it was clear to see how powerful the kickback of this cannon was.

Thanks to Tang Yu’s warning, all the Federation mecha in the air swiftly flew out of the trajectory of the beam. Still, even so, several mecha who did not react fast enough were grazed by the violet-black beam. Even this tiny bit of contact was enough for the power contained by the beam to blow these mecha apart, turning them into hunks of debris before being vaporized to disappear without a trace into the air.

This one shot of the imperial mecha’s cannon had been targeting the armoured ground forces fighting against the enemy mecha. Just one shot, and a circular black space appeared right in the centre of the neat rectangular formation of the armoured troops. Those troops standing within the circle had been swallowed by a wave of black, similarly disappearing without a trace ...

“This is too horrific. We have no way of resisting this!” At the sight, one of the staff officers in ground command was unable to take the pressure and collapsed to his knees, wailing. Although imperial mecha were unable to determine the outcome of a battlefield outright like god-class mecha, the ground forces of the Federation which were already at a disadvantage just had no spare energy to resist against the enemy mecha anymore after receiving this devastating blow.

This spineless behaviour of the staff officer would normally have drawn the scorn and rebuke of others, but everyone in the command centre had been shocked dumb by this strike. The command centre was extraordinarily silent, desperation and despair spreading out like a shroud.

The imperial mecha saw that he had managed to wipe out almost one-sixth of the armoured ground forces with just one shot and nodded in satisfaction. “Truly impressive. This is the true value of us imperial operators ...”

After saying that, the imperial operator stabilised his mecha and raised the cylinder once more. This time, he was aiming for the area several li behind the armoured troops, the radiantly shining dormitory district ...

“What a great target!” The imperial operator licked in his lips excitedly. As long as he utterly destroyed that area, their mission would be half-completed. How funny that these Huaxians, thinking they were so smart, had created such a district-wide beam shield. This saved him a lot of effort, allowing him to find the target he wanted to hit so easily. It was just so bloody convenient.

Tang Yu, who had just led the instructors to evade the trajectory of the beam, saw where the cylinder was aimed at and could not help but cry, “Stop! Bastard!” He operated his mecha over in an attempt to prevent the attack, but it was already too late. The opponent pulled the trigger and another violet-black beam shot out from the cylinder ...

“Boom!” The violet-black beam struck the beam shield of the dormitory district without mercy. The beam shield shattered instantly, but the beam was not weakened significantly. In the next moment, it blasted its way into the dormitory district. Many buildings were immediately consumed by the violet-black beam, and one-tenth of the initially lovely and tranquil dormitory district was gone.

Witnessing this, tears formed in Tang Yu’s fierce gaze. Right when the beam struck its target, he could almost see the cadets inside being vaporised in the spray of dust and ash, and his heart twisted with anguish.

“Ain’t this place big ...” The imperial mecha grumbled, before once again lifting its cylinder to aim at the dormitory district, preparing to fire the second round of the Line of Oblivion.

“Stop, godd\*mmit!” Tang Yu became frenzied. Without hesitation, he made his mecha leap towards the imperial mecha. Even though he knew this was suicidal, he just could not stand idly by and watch as the children died here ...

“How impudent!” The imperial mecha saw an ace mecha charging like a reckless fool at him, trying to stop him from firing the Line of Oblivion. Sneering, he pulled the trigger, sending another violet-black beam shooting out of the cannon to barrel towards Tang Yu’s mecha ...

“Major Tang Yu!” the instructors all shouted in horror. Everyone there knew that as soon as the Line of Oblivion hit, Tang Yu was very unlikely to survive. Just as the violet-black beam was about to consume Tang Yu’s mecha whole ...

With a loud “boom!” the violet-black beam was abruptly stopped in its tracks by a powerful wave of energy. The beam then quickly dissipated, and amazingly, Tang Yu’s mecha reappeared completely undamaged. What in the world had happened?

Even Tang Yu himself was equally stunned and confused. He had charged forwards, ready to sacrifice himself, hoping that he could exhaust as much of the power behind the Line of Oblivion’s attack as possible so that the dormitory district below would receive less damage. Unexpectedly, in that split second before he would have been struck by the attack, a pale blue beam had suddenly come from a distance to intercept the Line of Oblivion, saving him.

He instinctively looked in the direction where the pale blue beam had come from. In the night sky above, a mecha was flying here at high speed. A few seconds later, the mecha appeared before everyone’s eyes ...

Tang Yu teared up when he saw this mecha. Like a bullied child who had finally caught sight of a dependable adult, he could not help but cry out, “General Ling!”

Tang Yu had shouted this through his mecha’s loudspeakers, so everyone on the battlefield heard this cry loud and clear!

Chapter 382: Daddy is Here!

The words ‘General Ling’ reverberated like thunder across the entire battlefield, jolting everyone’s hearts. The two sides which had been at each other’s throats abruptly stopped fighting, looking up at the mecha which had appeared so unexpectedly.

This mecha was much bigger and grander than the imperial mecha. The imperial mecha, which was already one size bigger than regular mecha, was just like a petite maiden, appearing extremely feeble in comparison. It possessed a classic and simple outer form unlike other mecha. The blazing phoenix totem on its chest and the five stars symbolizing its nationality emblazoned on its right arm could be clearly seen by everyone present.

All of this stirred up everyone on the battlefield. The warriors of the Huaxia Federation were shouting in excitement, uncoordinated chants of 'General Ling' slowly merging into a unified chorus ... they were suffused with joy, and there were even many warriors who had tears streaming down their faces as they cheered.

In contrast, the flames of arrogance stoked by the reinforcement of the imperial operator were instantly dampened. Some mecha operators were even so terrified that they began to retreat — it was clear to see how nerve-wracking the emergence of this mecha was to them.

If it could be said that the battlefield had previously been plunged into silence by the appearance of the two imperial mecha, then the appearance of this mecha had caused the entire battle to freeze. The enemies, in particular, were scared stiff.

This was because everyone knew the identity behind this mecha who had suddenly descended upon the battlefield to block the imperial mecha's horrific attack. He was one of the twelve god-class operators of the Federation, the god-class operator termed to be the strongest in the future — he was one of the ten great generals of the Huaxia Federation, Ling Xiao!

Ling Xiao's reputation did not only echo throughout Huaxia; he was an awe-inspiring existence across the whole world. The enemies knew very well that the moment they made any wrong move, Ling Xiao would definitely eliminate them in a heartbeat. Against such an ultimate weapon, they had no chance of victory.

In the ground command centre, the commander there gave himself a hard slap as soon as he saw Ling Xiao suddenly appear. The sharp pain woke him up, and he began laughing wildly even as his eyes began to redden. Mumbling to himself, he said, "General Ling has really come. He's here, he's here ... victory will inevitably be ours, the Huaxia Federation's!" That final phrase was shouted at top volume. It was clear to see how much he had struggled and suffered in the battle thus far. And now, he could finally let it all out.

This cry of his jolted all the other staff in the command centre out of their stunned stupor. They immediately began to dance and cheer — within the span of a few short minutes, they had risen from the pits of despair to having hope again. Several officers with weaker hearts even slumped to the ground, unable to get up in the interim as they both cried and laughed in relief.

Rushing onto the scene, Ling Xiao's gaze had turned instantly to where Ling Lan lived on campus. When he saw thick clouds of smoke billowing from the dormitory district and the chaos and destruction within it, his gaze turned cold as he realised he had still been a step too late.

Ling Xiao's heart was filled with frustration and anxiety; he did not know whether his daughter was alright. Though typically calm, he finally could not suppress the killing intent in his heart. Without

hesitation, he raised the gun in his hands and aimed it at the imperial mecha who had caused this terrible scene.

He absolutely would not allow this imperial mecha who may have harmed his precious daughter to escape his grasp. He would make the other pay the price in blood!

“Ling Xiao, you cannot do this.” The imperial operator sensed a great threat; he knew that the other’s killing intent had been invoked. Once one entered the imperial realm, they would be able to sense an opponent’s killing intent.

The imperial operator knew very well that he was no match for a god-class operator. Against a god-class operator, other than rivals of the same rank, the only other way to deal with them was to rely on a considerable number of fearless imperial operators to employ mutual destruction methods ... perhaps then there would still be some chance of injuring the other. Take a good look — that’s only to injure, not destroy. At their level, no miraculous cross-level upset was possible.

“If you kill me, you’ll violate the international joint declaration,” barked the imperial operator.

“Since the moment you first chose to open fire and shoot, you have already lost the right to say that to me,” replied Ling Xiao coldly. Anyone who dared touch his daughter should be prepared to die.

Ling Xiao pulled the trigger without hesitation, and a pale blue beam shot out from the muzzle of the gun, heading straight for the opponent’s mecha.

The imperial operator instantly kicked his mecha into flash evasion. In the blink of an eye, the imperial mecha had already dashed several hundred metres from his original location. Everyone on the ground saw the imperial mecha evade the beam Ling Xiao had shot. However, just as the Federation warriors were about to sigh and the enemy cheer, the very next second, everything changed. Everyone stared in silent stupefaction at the imperial mecha, unable to make any sound.

The right arm of the imperial mecha which had already flashed a hundred or so metres away had actually been destroyed. That massive Line of Oblivion which had been hoisted on his right shoulder slipped due to the loss of support to crash heavily into the ground, making a loud crash.

What in the world had happened? Very soon, some of the mecha operators with quick minds quickly realised that the imperial mecha’s right arm must have been destroyed by that beam Ling Xiao had shot. But, how had the beam which had already been evaded still manage to strike the imperial mecha’s arm?

Almost everyone was unable to figure it out, completely baffled, because they did not believe that their eyes could have been mistaken. Only Tang Yu’s gaze flashed, a trace of confusion on his brow despite having some vague flash of comprehension that he just could not put words to.

Only the imperial operator who had been shot knew exactly how he had been hit. When the opponent had fired, he had used the highest form of shooting skill — Temporal Shadow!

Temporal Shadow was actually a form of illusion — that is, the speed and the beam of light seen by the attacker were in fact all fake. In other words, when Ling Xiao had shot, the opponent had already fallen victim to a kind of misperception; this was an ability that only god-class operators could possess. The imperial operator only understood because he had once received some guidance from a god-class

operator in his own country. The imperial operator felt that he might have already been hit even before he evaded — it's just that he had only noticed it after he evaded.

This was a god-class operator — he had no way to resist! The imperial operator finally experienced the same helplessness ace operators felt when they faced him ... Before he could regain his mental balance, a dark shadow had already appeared in front of him.

Pow pow pow pow! Four beams of cold light flashed by and in the next second, the imperial mecha's sole remaining left arm had been sliced cleanly off. The final blow of the sword pierced mercilessly through the imperial mecha's cockpit. With Ling Xiao's capabilities, he could certainly have finished off the opponent in one blow. However, it would be hard to quell Ling Xiao's rage with just one blow ...

The imperial mecha, who had strutted around proudly, terrorizing the entire battlefield, was eliminated so efficiently — everyone present at the scene was gobsmacked. Although they had always known that god-class mecha were ultimate weapons of the human world, that was after all just a legend. Many warriors would never witness a god-class mecha operator in battle all their lives, and so they would never truly comprehend what that description truly meant. Right then, after truly seeing a god-class operator in action, they finally understood why only god-class mecha were called the ultimate weapons of the human world ... the imperial mecha which had so frightened them was nothing before the god-class mecha. Like any other mecha before a god-class mecha, its existence was at the level of an ant.

Ling Xiao's rage was not appeased by destroying one imperial mecha; in the next moment, he had already appeared in the air above the armoured troops.

"Activate Divine Punishment system!" His own daughter's life hung in the balance because of these intruders. Ling Xiao's heart was surging with killing intent — without hesitation, he unleashed the god-class mecha's most fearsome weapon, the Divine Punishment system.

"Command received by , Divine Punishment activated!" In less than a second, twelve beautiful wings unfurled from god-class mecha 's back — the wings absorbed energy rapidly, reaching its peak level in the blink of an eye.

"Fire!" Ling Xiao said icily as he pressed the trigger in his hands without mercy. Twelve beams of light swept towards the enemy formations held off by the armoured troops, leaving white spots in everyone's vision for several seconds ... when the light faded and everyone's vision returned to normal, twelve lanes of white space had been carved into the ground. In the spaces, there was no longer any sign of mecha, not even debris — it was as if the mecha had been instantly vaporized.

This devastating firepower once again drove the point home on why god-class mecha were called the ultimate weapons of the human world — nothing could stand in the way of this power.

One round of Divine Punishment had almost wiped out half of the enemy mecha; the entire enemy camp suddenly appeared so empty and insubstantial. Ling Xiao's rage was only slightly alleviated; ending his attack, he once more teleported to hover in the air and decisively took charge of the general military-wide commlink and ordered, "All forces, attack! Clear the battlefield!" Since they dared to invade, then they should be prepared to die — Ling Xiao had never intended for any of these enemies to leave the planet alive.

“Yes, sir!” At Ling Xiao’s command, all of the Huaxian soldiers responded spiritedly. They had been lifted from despair to hope over the course of a few minutes, and had now seen the budding fruit of victory from the heights of hope. Right then, they were fully motivated — the frustration from fighting at a disadvantage, completely overpowered, had finally disappeared. All of the warriors were bursting with energy, leaping towards those remaining enemy mecha like a pack of hungry wolves ...

While everyone charged at the remaining enemies, only Tang Yu flew towards Ling Xiao, shouting, “General Ling, there is still one more imperial mecha. He has already infiltrated the military academy ...”

Ling Xiao had already been planning to go check on Ling Lan in the dormitory district. Hearing what Tang Yu said, his heart clenched — for the other imperial mecha to let go of the obvious battle merits here to secretly infiltrate the school, what exactly was the other after?

Ling Xiao had the same thought as Ling Lan. The very first thing that came to mind was — could it be that his daughter’s actions at the Swift Dragon base had been exposed? However, Ling Xiao very quickly eliminated this possibility. Although he had been staying at the military academy for the past period of time, he had still remained well-informed of the situation on the outside. There had been no sign at all that the Caesar Empire had sensed anything new ...

Suddenly, Ling Xiao’s face shifted subtly, and in the very next second, he had vanished from Tang Yu’s sight. Only his words echoed in the air, “Leave it to me!”

Ling Xiao unstintingly expended his mecha’s power to utilize the Divine Wind system. Just a moment before, he had received a message from his daughter. The message consisted of only a set of coordinates, along with one word: Help!

Ling Xiao was consumed with worry and rage — he could almost guarantee that that last bloody imperial mecha must be at those coordinates!

“Lan-er, hold on for another 5 seconds. Daddy will be there soon~!” Ling Xiao was very confident that he would definitely be able to rush to the scene within 5 seconds using the Divine Wind system. However, he also knew that, up against an imperial mecha, 5 seconds could very well already decide whether his daughter would live or die ...

Chapter 383: A Game!

After the other imperial mecha abruptly left the dormitory district, it arrived at an area several kilometres away several seconds later, where it then intercepted the Thunder King’s gang which had been sneaking away from the dormitory district.

Seeing this enemy imperial mecha which had suddenly appeared before them, even the confident Thunder King Qiao Ting instantly lost his composure. His first reaction was to lead his team members to run in a desperate bid for escape.

“What a bunch of limp eggs!” said the imperial operator scornfully. He looked towards the distance — on the escape path this group had chosen, a team of eight mecha was heading right towards them in this direction ...

“Perhaps, I can play a fun game.” A creepy smile emerged on the imperial operator’s lips; this was his favourite game.

Having come to some decision, the imperial operator did not choose to destroy the Thunder King’s group directly. Instead, he tailed them like an unshakeable shadow, slowly yet surely. At the same time, he enforced signal interference onto this sector, making it impossible for the two mecha teams to discover each other’s presence beforehand with their radars ...

“Eh?” The imperial operator suddenly cried out in surprise. He had noticed the eight mecha rushing here suddenly stop — could it be that they had sensed something? The imperial operator immediately denied this possibility, because the interference function of an imperial mecha was unable to be cracked by mecha other than god-class mecha.

“How troublesome!” The other party’s subsequent actions puzzled the imperial mecha and soured his mood. He could not help but curse and mutter under his breath before disappearing in a flash.

Running for their lives, at the brink of despair, the Thunder King’s group suddenly found that the imperial mecha chasing after them all this while had suddenly vanished. Unable to help themselves, all of the mecha fell to their knees — the only one who managed to stay on his feet was the Thunder King ...

“He’s letting us go?” Qiao Ting asked disbelievingly. Had that butcher’s knife hanging high above their heads truly just gone away? The Thunder King really wondered if he was dreaming.

“That person is gone. He must have decided to let us go,” answered one of his team members, panting. He was very grateful to keep his life — when they had been running earlier with the imperial mecha hot on their tail, he had really thought that they were all done for.

“Boss, while that person is away, let us quickly leave this place!” Another member was still extremely frightened. Even though his stamina was almost depleted by their desperate dash for survival earlier, he still felt that it was better to leave this dangerous location as soon as they could.

“Then, where should we go? We have no idea where the enemy has gone. What if we just happen to choose the same direction that person is heading towards? Isn’t that just asking for trouble?” Yet another member glanced at his radar and saw that everything was empty on it. This meant that there were no other mecha within a ten-kilometre radius of them, making it seem as if this spot was very safe. However, the more things appeared this way, the harder it felt for him to make a decision.

“Let’s just go back to the dormitory district. There are Federation troops there, and Instructor Tang Yu is there too.” Someone suggested that they head back from whence they came. In their minds, Instructor Tang Yu was the strongest — perhaps he could protect them. Besides, there was both power and safety in numbers.

“No, I believe that it would be even more dangerous there. Didn’t you see how all the enemies focused their attacks there? I’m wondering whether that imperial mecha has gone over to reinforce the forces at the dormitory district. If he has really gone there, even if Instructor Tang Yu is there, he won’t be able to handle it,” said Qiao Ting with a bitter smile. Even though Instructor Tang Yu was a king of aces, against an imperial operator, he was equally vulnerable.

Of course, although Qiao Ting did not want to go back for the reason he had mentioned, there was still another reason for his resistance. He had domineeringly led his group of twelve away earlier because he had wanted to earn battle merits and establish himself — if he ran back now with his tail between his legs, Qiao Ting felt that it would be just too great a loss of face. He did not want to go back and become the butt of jokes for those three members who had refused to come with him.

“Yes, the regiment commander is right.” The member most supportive of Qiao Ting once again jumped out to back Qiao Ting’s decision.

“It’s better for us to continue moving forwards in this direction. If the imperial operator was planning to head this way anyway, I really can’t figure out why he would choose to disappear on his own. Wouldn’t it have made more sense to keep following us?” Qiao Ting bit out, then finally chose to continue with his previous course.

Qiao Ting’s words were undoubtedly logical. Moreover, he was also the regiment commander, so even if some of the members had some reservations, they could only tag along since the majority agreed with their leader ...

Meanwhile, on Ling Lan’s end, her team had been charging at high speed towards the dormitory district when she suddenly stopped. As soon as Ling Lan stopped, without her having to say a word, the rest of her team members tacitly stopped moving as well. They silently spread out around Ling Lan — highly used to working together, they knew what to do. They believed that their team leader would not have stopped for no reason; he must have noticed something.

Ling Lan had stopped because, inside her mindspace, Little Four had suddenly shouted a warning that there was an enemy ahead and that this enemy was actually an imperial mecha!

This news stunned Ling Lan. She immediately chose to stop her mecha, turning in her mind to ask Little Four what exactly was going on.

Little Four was also very distressed. Hands wrapped around his head, he said in disbelief, “I also can’t figure it out. Doesn’t this world have a joint declaration that mecha above ace level are not allowed to appear on a battlefield?”

“Boss, we better change directions and run! The other has most likely already noticed us ...” Little Four had some shielding ability, but he was not confident that his shielding would work as flawlessly against an imperial mecha. He immediately suggested that his boss temporarily run away to avoid the enemy.

“Okay!” replied Ling Lan decisively. She signalled for her team members to follow her, turning 90 degrees left in a swift escape ...

Backtracking along their original route, they would certainly bump into the unidentified enemy — Ling Lan naturally did not want to take the risk. Also, if they turned right instead, they would indirectly shorten the distance between them and the imperial mecha — Ling Lan did not want to chance it. Only by turning left and heading up could they put as much distance as they could between them and the imperial mecha.

However, Ling Lan’s team had not even flown this way for 10 seconds when Little Four yelled out, “He’s found us! He has given up on his original prey and is rushing towards us ... estimated time of arrival, 10

seconds!” This final phrase was said with a whine, because Little Four really could not think of any way for them to escape from the demonic clutches of the imperial operator.

Ling Lan gritted her teeth at those words, once again putting the brakes on her rapid sprint. She abruptly turned her head around to shout, “Prepare to fight!”

This cry of Ling Lan’s instantly caused her well-trained team to stop and turn around like Ling Lan to get ready to face the enemy. At the same time, they took the weapons hanging on their backs into their hands.

Just when they had finished doing all this, in the night sky above them, a huge mecha appeared out of thin air. Its glorious and lovely chassis made everyone’s face change. Familiar with mecha of every level, they naturally recognised that this was an imperial mecha.

At the same time, they also understood now why Boss Lan had asked them to prepare for battle. Before an imperial operator, it was utterly impossible to escape by running. As such, they might as well choose to fight — even if they died, they would at least die with some dignity.

“How interesting, actually able to choose death so calmly ...” Seeing how this group made a completely different decision from the previous group, the imperial mecha was exhilarated. The more he saw how brave and upstanding they were, the more he felt like abusing them. He wanted to see what these people would choose to do in the face of death — would they heroically leap to their death, or would they betray their principles to live?

“I will give you all one chance to live. Go back to the path you all were using previously, and you will encounter a group of people with 13 mecha. As long as you all kill everyone in the other group, I’ll let you all go!” The imperial mecha suddenly turned on its external speakers to tell Ling Lan’s team.

Ling Lan’s gaze narrowed. “If I’m not mistaken, that group must be from our side. You want to see us fight amongst ourselves?”

Applause rang out from the other’s speakers, and the imperial operator’s sinister voice quickly followed, “You’re very smart! Yes, indeed, I really want to see you all fighting and killing each other. And this just so happens to be your only chance to survive. Refuse, and the outcome for both your teams is death, though you will all just die at my hands.”

“Of course, you can also choose to sacrifice yourself. Lead your team to meet the other group and commit suicide, and I can also let those people go,” suggested the imperial operator with a smile. He was just like Satan, spreading the seeds of temptation which you could not refuse.

Ling Lan fell silent. All of a sudden, she did not know how to choose — the opponent had given her a reason she could not refuse. Just as Ling Lan hesitated, Little Four’s despairing face was suddenly painted with pleasant surprise. He shouted loudly, “Boss, Daddy’s here!”

“I agree!” Ling Lan’s heart surged with joy as she replied decisively. Ling Lan was neither planning to kill the other team to survive, nor was she planning to lead her team to kill themselves. She was only trying her best to drag things out. Since she knew a saviour had come, it would really be too stupid to die here out of carelessness.

As Ling Lan replied, she did not forget to command Little Four inside the mindscape, “Little Four, quickly think of a way to send dad a message so he can come save us!”

“The other team is heading here right now. I’ll give you all 10 seconds. If you all still have not met up with them after 10 seconds, I will destroy all of you, because you are all trash unworthy of playing this game.” The imperial operator did not do as Ling Lan wished and give her more time — instead, he gave Ling Lan’s team yet another rule to follow, giving them no choice but to work hard.

“I’ll begin the count now ... 1 ...” The imperial operator did not give Ling Lan’s team any more time to prepare, beginning to count the moment he finished issuing his newest rule. When Ling Lan heard ‘1’, she was the first to turn her mecha and rush back in their original direction.

No matter what the situation would be like 10 seconds later, she needed to make full use of these 10 seconds to do as the other had said. Her only hope was that Little Four could make contact with her father as soon as possible ...

Seeing their boss charging out like a ferocious tiger, Ling Lan’s team responded swiftly. All of them also operated their mecha to follow after their boss ...

“What a bunch of obedient children! Things are gonna be fun now!” The imperial operator licked his lips in excitement at the sight, cackling maliciously. A second later, that grand and lovely imperial mecha once again vanished from the sky, leaving no trace behind.

Chapter 384: Little Four’s Mistake!

“Movement!” Qiao Ting’s group, which was rushing towards Ling Lan’s group, suddenly felt vibrations coming from below their feet.

Everyone became nervous — because their radars were still blank, they had no idea what exactly was behind these vibrations.

The vibrations were gentle at the start, but several seconds later, they became more and more intense. Qiao Ting’s group knew that something was about to appear before them soon.

“Godd\*mmmit, our radar scanning functions have all stopped working.” Only now did Qiao Ting’s team realise this fact. However, they did not know that this was a result of the imperial operator blocking all the signals within this sector. If Ling Lan had not possessed the oddball Little Four, she too would have been just like Qiao Ting’s team, completely oblivious to the others’ presence till they actually bumped into them.

“Prepare to fight!” Qiao Ting instantly gave his orders. No matter what appeared, preparing to fight would never be wrong. Of course, Qiao Ting could be certain that it definitely was not that imperial operator who was creating such an intense vibration. Ruling out the threat of that imperial operator, Qiao Ting behaved calmly and rationally.

“Yes, Regiment Commander!” Qiao Ting’s composure calmed the rest of his team down as well. They all drew the weapons from their backs, preparing to meet these unexpected enemies. Of course, it was also possible that the comers were friendlies, but having been frightened by the imperial operator previously, their nerves were taut and they did not dare to take things lightly.

As the point man of the team, the mecha standing right at the front was the first to see the outer forms of the newcomers. Pleasant surprise flashed through his eyes and he hurriedly reported on his team commlink, "The outer form of the mecha has been confirmed to be trainee mecha from the academy. Level: advanced, 5 mecha! Oh, another has appeared, and that mecha is — an ace mecha!"

When the other team members heard that the other party was operating advanced trainee mecha of the academy, their hearts settled. However, when the point man added that last bit in a tone a whole octave higher, everyone was stupefied ...

This was because everyone knew that, in the entire military academy, only their regiment commander, Thunder King Qiao Ting of Leiting, was qualified to operate ace mecha. They had not heard of any other person in the academy capable of piloting ace mecha so far. Could it be that the one piloting it was an instructor?

That was their first thought, but this notion was quickly overturned. All of the ace level instructors in the academy had their own personal ace mecha — they would never choose to pilot this type of ace trainee mecha which was obviously weaker than military-use ace mecha on all fronts.

Could it be that the person inside was operating it beyond their true level? Excluding operation by an instructor, this was the only other possibility they could think of. However, after observing that ace mecha's movements, they once again ruled out this speculation. That ace mecha's movements were natural, without any sense of stiffness or choppiness. This meant that the operator inside was operating it with ease, and this was absolutely not something someone operating across levels could do. Cross-level operation was very taxing and difficult — every step would drain a tremendous amount of the operator's mental strength and physical stamina. As such, it would be impossible for the mecha's movements to seem so smooth and natural.

Before Qiao Ting's team could come up with a reasonable explanation, the two sides were finally facing each other in the blink of an eye. About 100 metres or so away, the other party suddenly stopped, and the six mecha faced them from that distance without approaching any closer.

Just as Qiao Ting was about to initiate conversation and ask the other group some questions, a ripple appeared in the air above them, and that missing imperial mecha once again appeared before Qiao Ting's group.

Seeing this familiar imperial mecha, the faces of Qiao Ting's group instantly turned pale. Even Qiao Ting could not help but feel his heart drop, yelling internally that they were all done for. Who could have guessed that they were still unable to escape from the enemy's demonic clutches in the end? Could it be that they were really about to die here today?

As Qiao Ting and the others could not help but be swamped with despair, the imperial operator hovering in the air suddenly spoke, "Both teams, Listen well. As long as you can kill everyone in the other team, then you will have earned the right to continue living. Otherwise, I will personally take action, and at that time, no one from either team will be spared."

Qiao Ting's pupils contracted at these words. He had not expected the imperial mecha to have brought the other team over here because he wanted to see them fight among themselves. Although he was

unsure who exactly was piloting the other ace trainee mecha, there was no doubt that the members of that team were cadets just like them.

The two teams were originally trustworthy comrades from the same side who could entrust their backs to each other, but now they were being forced to fight each other to the death ...

Did he really have to kill them? Qiao Ting's heart was conflicted — if there was any hope of surviving, of course he did not want to die. He believed that his team of 13 would definitely be able to obtain victory against the other's group of 6, because aside from the one ace mecha, the other 5 in the other group were only advanced mecha. Meanwhile, on Leiting's side, other than his own ace mecha, the others were all special-class mecha. Whether it was in terms of numbers or level of mecha, his team had the absolute upper hand.

But for the sake of survival, were they really going to kill their own schoolmates, their future comrades? Qiao Ting shivered violently. He could not imagine staining his hands with the blood of companions. If he truly did so, how would he be any different from an inhuman beast?

"There are things a person must do, and there are things a person must never do!" "Since you've already decided to be a mecha operator, you must be prepared to sacrifice yourself." Instructor Tang Yu's austere voice rang out suddenly in his mind's ear, and Qiao Ting jolted to awareness.

Yes, if they really did as the imperial operator said and chose to fight to the death among themselves just to survive, even if they were fortunate enough to survive in the end, their beliefs and principles would have been ruthlessly crushed in the process.

Qiao Ting's gaze turned from confusion to clarity, from hesitation to determination ... finally, after several seconds of silence, Qiao Ting spoke up to say, "I refuse!" Although Qiao Ting was extremely proud and self-assured, and loved to be in control — a genius who could stoop to some dirty means in order to achieve his objectives — he would never trade a comrade's life in order to ensure his own survival.

Qiao Ting's resolute refusal made a trace of admiration flash across Ling Lan's eyes. His refusal was equivalent to giving up on his own life. No matter how one looked at the situation, Qiao Ting's side was sure to win if the two teams fought.

Qiao Ting's words made the members of his team cry out in shock, but they very quickly settled down again. Perhaps the imperial operator's suggestion had indeed caused the hearts of some of Qiao Ting's members to waver, but when Qiao Ting firmly refused, though they felt a little disappointed, they were mostly more relieved.

If Qiao Ting had chosen to kill the other team, it might really have been possible for all of them to survive, but they would certainly have been mentally and spiritually tormented after the fact. They may even have had to worry whether, one day in the future, Qiao Ting might also sell them out for his own benefit.

Qiao Ting's words caused the imperial operator's eyes to turn cold. Furious, he raised the gun in his hand and aimed it at Qiao Ting, sneering as he said, "You actually dare to refuse me?! I am very angry. In that case, let me start with you!" That said, he pulled the trigger and a powerful beam was fired from the muzzle.

Seeing this, Qiao Ting quickly operated his mecha to evade, but the speed of the other's attack was extremely fast. This speed greatly exceeded the shooting speed of an ace mecha's beam gun, taking Qiao Ting slightly off-guard. Despite trying his best to dodge, he still only managed to move the vital points of his mecha out of the danger zone. Just as the shot looked like it would hit Qiao Ting's left leg, a whirling giant metal sword suddenly appeared before him, perfectly placed to block that beam attack.

There was a loud 'boom' and the giant sword clattered to the ground. At this time, the giant sword no longer looked anything like a giant sword. Though the giant sword, which was several times sturdier than the outer shell of a mecha, had managed to block that beam, the immense power behind it had still melted the giant sword down into a large metal block. Some tiny holes could even be seen in the metal block.

The power of the beam finally dissipated, and Qiao Ting looked down fearfully at the giant metal sword which had fallen at his feet ... oh, no, now, it could only be called a large metal block; only the two ends retained some impression of being a sword. He knew that if not for the abrupt appearance of this giant sword, that attack just now would definitely have damaged his mecha. If he was truly unlucky, the attack may even have endangered his life.

Qiao Ting could not help but look towards the other trainee ace mecha with gratitude in his eyes. The other's actions had also made his stance clear — he too did not want to fight and kill schoolmates and companions.

Sure enough, Qiao Ting received a communications request from the other immediately after. Although Qiao Ting did not know how the other managed to connect to his team's commlink, it was all unimportant as long as they could communicate and confirm their partnership in fighting against the enemy.

Ling Lan briefly explained the situation to Qiao Ting, and after confirming their partnership, she turned anxiously to ask Little Four whether he had managed to contact her father.

In the mindscape, Little Four was similarly anxious, his back drenched with sweat. Knowing that his and Boss Lan's life were at stake, Little Four, who should not have known what nervousness was, actually could not control his own emotions. The core chip which gave him life once again entered a high-temperature state ...

"Boss, I'm still unsuccessful. The security procedures of the god-class mecha are too powerful; I cannot infiltrate the other's mainframe anytime soon," replied Little Four quickly, wiping away the sweat on his forehead.

"All you have to do is send a distress message to dad!" When Ling Lan heard what he said, her initially sweaty forehead instantly beaded up with even more sweat. Who knew that Little Four would make such a mistake at this critical moment, actually choosing such a difficult path. Just think, the mecha her dad was operating was a god-class mecha — if the mainframe procedures of a god-class mecha were so easy to crack, would it still be a god-class mecha?

Ling Lan's words caused Little Four to freeze, abruptly realising what a stupid thing he had been trying to do. Yes, didn't he just have to send their coordinates and the news that they were in danger over to daddy? There really was no need to actually talk to the other ...

Little Four had tried to hack into and take over the other mecha out of habit to connect to the other's commlink and communicate directly; he had completely overlooked the fact that he could have just sent a message over to Ling Xiao to ask for help ...

"Boss, I'll send the message immediately." Little Four did not dare to meet Ling Lan's eyes in his shame and frustration. Boss must definitely be annoyed with him now — why had he been so stupid? Little Four's heart was a plain of darkness — the initially bright and lovely future looked so dark and lifeless all of a sudden. He might be kicked off his number one follower's throne by Boss because of this.

Chapter 385: Immortal Bird Ling Xiao!

Even though Little Four was in low spirits, he still sent their coordinates and the word 'HELP' over to Ling Xiao. Then, he notified Ling Lan before he fell silent.

Little Four was self-reflecting — ever since he had experienced so-called human emotions, he had no longer acted like before under his initial settings and procedures, where he served the host he was contracted to according to the rules set by the learning space. Many times, even though he was meant to obtain his host's agreement before acting, he had still chosen to decide things on his own.

In the past, it was fortunate that there had been no great problems, but this most recent mistake — just because he skipped asking his boss first, he ended up doing a stupid thing, delaying any rescue they could receive — could have ended up killing his boss ... Little Four was truly racked with guilt. He decided that from now on, he would check in with his boss more often; he could not continue acting recklessly anymore.

As Ling Lan wrapped up her conversation with Little Four, the imperial operator, having seen his attack interrupted by Ling Lan's giant sword, was instantly in a horrible mood.

"Damn, actually daring to fight back? Die!" Enraged, the imperial operator once again raised the gun in his hands, but this time, he was aiming at Ling Lan. Compared to Qiao Ting, he now hated this person who had ruined his attack even more. He felt as if his pride as an imperial operator had been violated — he needed to kill the other to let everyone know that the pride of an imperial operator should never be violated.

"Attack together!" Ling Lan naturally would not just wait around to be killed; she chose to defend by attacking. Among everyone on the field, only she and Qiao Ting could perhaps offer some resistance; sending anyone else would be a death sentence. Thus, this cry of hers was directed at Qiao Ting.

When he was up against a terrifying imperial operator on his own, Qiao Ting was perhaps at a loss due to the power gap, becoming a sitting duck due to overwhelming fear and despair. But now, with an allied peer beside him to fight alongside him, the proud Qiao Ting would never allow himself to lose against the other.

After calling out to Qiao Ting, Ling Lan instantly charged over. Her speed was very fast — she was almost by the imperial mecha's side in the blink of an eye. Even though her giant sword was gone, she still had a beam saber, which she swung viciously at the other.

On the other side, Qiao Ting leapt up at almost the same time, revving his engines to shoot up into the sky. The two beam guns on his back suddenly appeared in his mecha's hands, and Qiao Ting pulled on the triggers in a frenzy. Countless beams poured out of the two guns in an instant, raining down like a meteor shower at the imperial operator.

Facing the foolish resistance of the two, the imperial operator started laughing at the apex of his rage. "Petty tricks! You're just asking for death!" The initially hovering mecha suddenly disappeared only to appear again 30 metres away in the next second, easily resolving Ling Lan's and Qiao Ting's combined attack.

Not only that, his disappearance caused all of Qiao Ting's beam attacks to fly towards Ling Lan. Seeing his own attacks about to hit a companion by mistake, in his great horror, Qiao Ting cried out hoarsely, "Dodge!"

"What a dumb pig of a teammate!" Li Lanfeng, who was seated beside Ling Lan, could not help but grouch. Firing long-range attacks against an imperial operator specialising in long-range attacks; Qiao Ting's brain must definitely have become scrambled from being shot at.

Ling Lan said nothing; seeing the rain of beams heading for them, she did not panic. Calmly, she operated her mecha into some quick evasion manoeuvres, at the same time turning the power on her mecha's beam shield up to its maximum setting. As long as the same weak spot was not hit again, being at the same level, her ace mecha's beam shield would still be able to block these beam attacks.

Of course, Ling Lan did not plan on getting hit if she could help it. If she were hit, even if her mecha would be fine, its power would be greatly drained. And because Ling Lan had been continuously battling, her ace mecha's power was already running low. Therefore, she had no choice but to be careful and use the remaining power sparingly.

Ling Lan's mecha actually left a trail of shadow in the air from moving so quickly — the beams hurtling at her passed through the afterimages to fall to the ground, blasting dust and dirt into the air.

Just as Ling Lan evaded the shots, Qiao Ting did not even have the time to breathe a sigh of relief before the imperial operator's attacks had come swiftly and silently.

It turned out that after the imperial operator had shifted 30 metres away, both Ling Lan and Qiao Ting was now within his shooting range. Seeing those two small fishes occupied with each other, the imperial operator slyly raised the beam gun in his hands and pulled the trigger twice in quick succession.

He wanted to finish off these two small fishes in one go — he, who was an expert in long-range attacks to begin with, was a master at changing the direction of his shots without having to pause.

Ling Lan and Qiao Ting suddenly felt a deep chill penetrate their very bones — this was a danger alarm that only ace operators possessed. The both of them knew that the most dangerous moment was upon them ...

Ling Lan quickly located where the danger was coming from — perhaps spurred by the life-or-death situation, the speed of Ling Lan's fingers once again exploded forth, becoming so quick that her fingers were no longer visible. Li Lanfeng felt as if even his eyes could no longer keep up ...

Ling Lan's mecha began to spin — due to the extreme speed, many layers of afterimages of the mecha appeared. This scene flabbergasted the twelve Leiting mecha, because they knew this was the most advanced of ace mecha evasion techniques — Shadow Slip! Even Qiao Ting could not pull off this technique perfectly, unable to execute it with such precision and accuracy.

Meanwhile, Qiao Ting swiftly moved his mecha back, raising the two guns in his hands to shoot frenziedly at that beam heading straight for him. Here, Qiao Ting's long-range accuracy was on full display. Even though his mecha was retreating at high speed, every shot from both his left and right hand struck true. When the beam was only 10 metres or so from him, it was finally completely neutralised by the beam attacks of his two guns ...

Ling Lan's evasion was effective as well. The beam heading for her brushed through one of the afterimages of her mecha to hit the ground, instantly blasting a 10-metre wide ditch into the ground. It was clear to see how powerful the beam had been — even an ace mecha would not have fared well against it.

Looking at the responses of the two, although Ling Lan's method seemed to be more dangerous, in truth, Qiao Ting had had a harder time of it than Ling Lan. Because in that instant, to ensure that every single shot of his guns would strike the enemy's beam, Qiao Ting's mental and physical focus had been raised to their limits. Thus, as soon as he cancelled out the enemy's beam attack with the power of his own attacks, his entire body was already drenched with sweat, and he could feel that his two arms were stiff and numb.

Seeing how both his attacks had been successfully evaded by these two insignificant small fries before him, the imperial operator was almost dizzy with anger. He felt that this was a disgrace! Thus, he drew another gun from behind him. This gun's muzzle was wider than his first gun, and its rear end where the energy block should be inserted was also two to three times thicker.

When Ling Lan and Qiao Ting saw this gun, their faces changed drastically. They knew what it was — it was the most powerful long-range weapon with the largest attack scope imperial mecha possessed. When it was fired, its beams would present in the shape of a fan. Against this weapon, neither Ling Lan's evasion technique, Shadow Slip, nor Qiao Ting's power neutralization approach would work. That was because those two methods were ineffective against this type of area-of-effect weapons.

What worried Ling Lan even more was that no one knew exactly where the beams fired by this gun would go. The unknown and uncertain quality of this weapon not only put Ling Lan and Qiao Ting in great danger, it also drew the spectating members of their two teams into danger as well.

After the imperial operator brought out this weapon, a cruel smile bloomed on his lips. Right now, he no longer had any mind to play around — he only wanted to annihilate all of these cadets; only then would his bellyful of rage be appeased.

"Go to hell!" The imperial operator pulled on his trigger forcefully, firing not just once but many times. Due to the high speed, those beams actually merged into a semicircle, which charged relentlessly towards Ling Lan and Qiao Ting, as well as the other team members below them.

"Dodge!" Ling Lan and Qiao Ting shouted almost simultaneously. Compared to Qiao Ting, Ling Lan was even more anxious. After all, Qi Long and the others of her team were only piloting advanced mecha —

even if they were merely brushed by these power beams, they would certainly lose their lives in the destruction of their mecha. The power behind this imperial mecha's weapon was just too strong — even an ace mecha, using all of the power at its disposal, would probably only be able to withstand one of its beam attacks, not to mention advanced mecha which were considerably weaker than ace mecha.

Everyone was evading as best as they could, but the level gap of the mecha still put quite a number of the boys into a desperate situation. Ling Lan flew with all her might towards the advanced mecha closest to her — she could not save everyone, so she could only focus on saving the member closest to her.

It could not be denied that Ling Lan's heart was tinged with regret right now. If she had known that the enemy this time was so formidable, perhaps she should have just made everyone hide within the air raid shelter ...

There was a loud 'boom' as a pale blue beam abruptly intervened, striking those scattered beams and causing them to dissipate instantly. Not only that, the power behind the pale blue beam was not whittled much by the exchange, continuing to fly through the air to hit the ground, where it then carved out a ditch of about 50 metres. Several team members close to that spot — whether it was from Ling Lan's team or the Leiting Mecha Clan — were sent tumbling by the violent tremors caused by the beam striking the ground. Those whose control skills were a little weaker were even sent flying by the aftershock.

Seeing his sure-kill attack being ruined by a measly little beam, the imperial operator's face changed. He turned to seek the source of the attack and saw a ripple appear in an initially empty bit of space in the air, and then, a large and simplistic mecha was revealed.

Behind its back, twelve majestic wings were spread out gloriously, beautiful and dazzling. A fiery red phoenix was dancing in flames on its chest, marking the operator's identity, and the golden five-star emblem on its right arm declared which nation he hailed from ...

This unbelievably familiar mecha caused the imperial operator's heart to turn cold. All top-class operators had a dossier with detailed information on all of the god-class operators of every nation. The outer appearance of this mecha and the totem on its chest ... he would never mistake it. From the country designated as the Huaxia Federation, the presumed strongest god-class operator for the next 100 years — the Immortal Bird Ling Xiao!

The imperial operator was petrified, and other than Ling Lan, everyone else in Ling Lan's team and all of Qiao Ting's group were similarly stunned.

Chapter 386: Li Lanfeng's Illness?

Li Lanfeng, who was sitting beside Ling Lan, looked at that magnificent giant mecha in the night sky in dazed shock, unable to react for a long moment. Reflexively, he clutched Ling Lan's arm and stammered, "Ling ... Ling ... G-General Ling Xiao!"

Seeing her father appear like a deity before her at this most critical moment to rescue everyone, Ling Lan was similarly overwhelmed with gratitude and excitement. At the same time, she was also extremely proud. See, see, this was her father! In every child's heart, their father should be the greatest. Despite having lived two lives, Ling Lan was no exception to this young daughter mentality.

However, when Li Lanfeng clutched her arm, all of Ling Lan's excitement and proud happiness fled. She frowned slightly, glancing at the large hand on her arm. Say, she really did not like others touching her body ...

Ling Lan's cold gaze swept harshly over Li Lanfeng, rife with warning, hoping that Li Lanfeng would move away his disturbing hand.

Li Lanfeng may have been too overwhelmed with emotion; typically extremely observant, he was now unbelievably dense and slow. He did not notice the great distaste in Ling Lan's eyes and continued to grip Ling Lan's arm as he gushed, "That's General Ling Xiao! He's one of our Federation's twelve god-class operators, and also the publicly acknowledged strongest god-class operator in the world. He's the mecha operator I idolise the most ... who could have guessed that General Ling Xiao would actually show up here to save us? I must be dreaming ... Rabbit, Rabbit, I'm too excited ..."

Li Lanfeng could only repeat how excited he was non-stop to the rabbit; this moronic behaviour left Ling Lan speechless. She once again peered at that large hand on her arm and then looked at the dreamy expression on Li Lanfeng's face and his obviously fanatic behaviour ... alright, in view of how much the other adored her father, she would tolerate this!

While Ling Lan was bitterly enduring Li Lanfeng's endless fanboy chatter about General Ling Xiao's greatness, on the outside, Ling Lan's team and the Leiting group were all watching that majestic mecha hovering in the air with emotional faces. Some of them were so moved that they made mistakes in their control, causing their mecha to lose balance and stumble and fall.

However, all this were just trivial things. Everyone knew that the arrival of the god-class operator General Ling Xiao meant that they were all safe now. Well, with the exception of that grandstanding imperial mecha who had been trying to toy with them.

The imperial operator was currently staring in panic at Ling Xiao's mecha; he knew he was in danger now. An imperial mecha was indeed much stronger than an ace mecha, able to bully and kill an ace mecha without too much trouble, but this only applied to ace mecha. Against a god-class mecha, his fate was exactly like if an ace mecha was up against him — there was no room at all for resistance.

When he saw Ling Xiao's mecha once again raise the beam gun in his hands emotionlessly, his expression changed drastically and he immediately activated his external speakers to shout, "Immortal Bird Ling Xiao, please do not take action. As long as you let me go, I will immediately retreat from this battle."

"Let you go? When you were fighting against these cadets, did you ever think of letting them go?" replied Ling Xiao icily. Even though Ling Xiao's reply sounded even and impassive, Ling Lan could still hear the deep rage embedded within it. That mild-mannered and kind father of hers who did not seem to understand the meaning of anger could actually lose his temper like this?

Ling Lan was very intelligent — she quickly figured out why Ling Xiao had become so angry. It was all because of her! Everyone had their own personal buttons which should never be pressed, and one of Ling Xiao's buttons was her, Ling Lan.

What a fearsome daughter-con! Even as Ling Lan sighed at the realization, a warm current flowed gently through her heart. The corners of her lips suddenly quirked upwards, cracking her typically frozen and emotionless face, and this curve was spreading wider and wider ...

Li Lanfeng's full attention had been on Ling Xiao, but when he felt the cold aura by his side suddenly turn warm, he turned around in confusion. Thus, he happened to see that once in a blue moon warm smile of Ling Lan's, and the sight was like an arrow to his heart.

"Thump! Thump! Thump!" Li Lanfeng's heart pounded heavily within his ribcage. He reflexively pressed a hand to his chest — could it be that his illness was acting up again? Ever since he had listened to the rabbit seven years ago and begun working hard on his basics, his body had been gradually getting better. The intense pain where he felt as if his heart was about to burst had also slowly lessened until it no longer acted up at all from four years ago. But today, why did he once again have that same sort of feeling?

Could it be that this was an underlying problem that would flare up when his stamina was depleted? After thinking it over long and hard, Li Lanfeng could only come up with this possibility. He hurriedly closed his eyes, no longer daring to look, repeatedly telling himself that he needed to be calm and not get too worked up. Li Lanfeng still remembered that every time his illness flared up, he would always rely on self-abuse to distract himself from the pain coming from deep within him. However, he did not want the rabbit to see this side of him. Although he knew that the rabbit would not look down on him for it, he still did not want to appear weak before the rabbit ...

Very soon, his heart stopped its wild and fierce beating, slowly calming back down. Only when his emotions had settled completely did Li Lanfeng open his eyes. His forehead was already coated in sweat — just that brief occurrence had been enough to scare Li Lanfeng greatly.

By now, Ling Lan had returned to her usual demeanour. When a change had come over Li Lanfeng, Ling Lan had immediately sensed it. She had instantly turned to retrieve a restorative agent, but when she saw that Li Lanfeng seemed to have it under control, she decided to wait and observe a little longer; no matter how good a medicinal agent was, ingesting too much of it would result in a certain degree of drug tolerance. Ling Lan did not wish for her companions to overuse medicinal agents and meet a tragic end because they were unable to achieve adequate recovery during critical moments later on.

When she saw that Li Lanfeng's condition was slowly recovering, Ling Lan relaxed. However, she was once again reminded of Li Lanfeng's fragile physical constitution. She made up her mind that, once the battle on planet Newline was over, the first thing she needed to do was to improve Li Lanfeng's physique. She could not allow her team to have a member with a frail and sickly body.

While Li Lanfeng had almost gotten himself into trouble on their end, on the outside the imperial mecha had been rendered speechless by Ling Xiao's question. Ling Xiao had never considered letting this executioner who had almost harmed his daughter go, and so was not planning to hear any explanations the other could provide. He had barely finished stating his question when he pulled the trigger in his hands without any hesitation. A powerful beam of pale blue light was fired from the muzzle of the beam gun, shooting straight for the imperial operator.

The imperial operator was startled and quickly operated his mecha to evade. At the same time, he turned on his communicator to try and contact his companion, wanting to call the other over to help.

However, when his mecha's computer provided feedback that the other party was unreachable, the imperial operator knew that he was in deep trouble.

Ling Xiao was not at all surprised that this attack of his was successfully evaded by the enemy. He had not intended for this shot to kill the enemy to begin with; instead, he had been trying to get the opponent to move further away from his darling daughter's mecha.

Although there were two ace trainee mecha below, knowing his daughter well, Ling Xiao naturally knew that his daughter was most definitely piloting that close combat mecha. And that mecha just so happened to be within the attack range of that imperial mecha. Even as confident as he was, in this kind of scenario, Ling Xiao's first decision was to first save his daughter from any danger — killing the enemy could wait 1 .

At this thought, Ling Xiao could not help but shake his head in silence. If he could help it, he would have wanted his precious daughter to choose a safer long-range attack mecha. With the addition of their Divine Command Sect's spiritual power control, that mecha could definitely become a horrifying mobile attack bastion. Its formidable firepower would guarantee that other mecha would not be able to get close to it, ensuring its survival ability on the battlefield. Although this choice was off the track of becoming a god-class operator, Ling Xiao had never intended for Ling Lan to become a god-class operator anyway. This was not only because Ling Lan was a girl — physical constitution pretty much made it impossible for a girl to become a god-class operator — but more because Ling Xiao knew very well just how much pain and suffering was involved in ascending to god-class status. He could not bear for his daughter to experience it.

This shot of Ling Xiao's had indeed achieved his objective. The imperial operator had no clue that the Federation's strongest god-class operator would value an ace mecha below them so highly — if he had known of Ling Lan's identity, he would definitely have risked great injury to obtain Ling Lan as a hostage no matter what.

However, other than Ling Lan's original team members who already knew of Ling Lan's and Ling Xiao's relationship, most outsiders did not know anything about this. This once again let Ling Lan sail through a crisis safely.

The imperial operator's retreat put more distance between him and Ling Lan, and Ling Xiao's mecha once again disappeared, only to immediately appear before Ling Lan's mecha. 's large body completely obscured Ling Lan's mecha behind it, and only at this moment did Ling Xiao's heart finally settle.

"You can still move, right?" asked Ling Xiao all of a sudden.

"Of course, even another fight would be fine, as long as no such monster like an imperial mecha appears," Ling Lan knew that this question was directed at her, so she instantly replied.

Ling Lan's answer obviously did not hold much awe or deference, which caused Li Lanfeng in the same mecha to be stunned once more. He stared blankly at Ling Lan, wondering how Ling Lan could use this type of attitude in responding to General Ling Xiao.

"Monster? To use this term on an imperial mecha, you think too highly of him." It was unexpected for the generally mild-mannered Ling Xiao to spout this kind of sharp and mocking words. "Let me show you how, before a god-class mecha, all other mecha are ants."

His words had barely faded when Ling Xiao suddenly disappeared from before Ling Lan and he reappeared almost instantaneously beside the imperial mecha. This was the god-class mecha's Divine Wind system in action, truly achieving theoretical instant teleportation.

The god-class mecha was a multi-faceted mecha. In other words, it was a legendary mecha whose long-range ability and close-range ability were equally optimized. Compared to the other god-class mecha which were geared more towards close combat, was more balanced on all fronts. This was also why was renowned to be the strongest god-class mecha.

Thus, Ling Xiao not only had great long-range attack capabilities, he was equally formidable in close-range combat. There was a gleam of cold light, and one of the imperial mecha's arms was sliced right off. It fell to the ground heavily, creating a shallow ditch with its impact.

"Hmm? Your evasion technique is not bad." Ling Xiao was rather surprised. He had originally intended for this sword to directly pierce the other's cockpit. He was well aware that it was completely impossible for a normal imperial mecha to escape his attack with his speed. Unexpectedly, the opponent's evasive manoeuvres had exceeded the theoretical limits of imperial mecha.

#### Chapter 387: Unfilial Daughter!

Although the imperial operator had managed to pull a distance away from Ling Xiao and evaded Ling Xiao's sure-kill hit, he was still so nervous that his head was covered in sweat. Earlier, he had thought he was going to die for sure — Ling Xiao's speed had just been too fast; he could not keep up with the other's pace at all. But right at that border of life-or-death, his anchored spiritual power had miraculously loosened and he had undergone a breakthrough. At the moment when the sword would hit him, he had managed to increase his mecha's speed by several times, dodging that sure-kill hit with the barest of margins.

However, he was still a little too late. Even though he had avoided his vital points from being hit, he was unable to avoid the attack completely. In the end, he lost the left arm of his mecha, but the imperial operator was already very satisfied with this outcome. After all, he had still managed to survive the attack of a god-class operator.

Still, the imperial operator was not foolish enough to believe that he could fight toe-to-toe with a god-class operator just because he had achieved a breakthrough in his spiritual power. Even though this breakthrough had elevated his mecha control skills by another level, making it so that he could wield all aspects of his imperial mecha even better than before, at the heart of it, he was still just an imperial operator. He had not advanced to god-class, and no matter how strong an imperial operator became, he would still be no match for a god-class operator ...

Thus, there was only one word in his mind — "RUN"! Only by successfully escaping from this god-class operator's hands would he have any future to speak of. This unforeseen improvement in his abilities made him even more eager to find a way to save himself ...

Of course, these notions merely passed through the imperial operator's mind in a split second. In the eyes of the spectators, as soon as the imperial mecha's arm had been efficiently chopped off by Ling Xiao, the imperial mecha had instantly chosen to turn and run, flying off at top speed in an attempt to

escape. The imperial mecha seemed to be desperate to run away — he pulled out all the stops on his engines, and his mecha actually shot away like a beam of light, instantly escaping over a kilometre away.

The imperial mecha's flustered demeanour as he escaped shocked Ling Lan's and Qiao Ting's teams greatly. Just think — not too long ago, before Ling Xiao had arrived, how arrogant and haughty the imperial operator had been towards them, treating them as if they were merely a group of ants whose lives were his to snuff out as he wished. Unexpectedly, the imperial mecha who had frightened them so much was actually so pathetic once he was up against General Ling Xiao, only managing to resist for one round before turning tail to run.

Everyone stared fervently at the grand and mighty mecha of Ling Xiao's hovering in the air. When would they be able to reach the level of General Ling Xiao, able to scare the wits out of the enemy just by showing his face?

Qiao Ting's emotions were running high — he could not help but clench his fists. Having been called the second Ling Xiao all this while, would he be as great as General Ling Xiao in the future and become the thirteenth god-class operator of the Federation?

"I will definitely succeed!" Qiao Ting vowed to himself in silence, a glimmer of ambition passing through his eyes.

Seeing the imperial mecha choose to run away in the end, Ling Xiao could not help but snort, his eyes brimming with cold intention. If anyone could see Ling Xiao's expression now, they would certainly be shocked that the always gentle and mild-mannered General Ling Xiao could have such fearsome killing intent. Ling Xiao was not a saint — the moment the opponent's butcher knife had ever threatened the life of his darling daughter, Ling Xiao had never even considered letting him leave with his life.

The air beside Ling Xiao's mecha twisted once more and the massive mecha actually disappeared mysteriously right before the crowd's eyes. In the midst of everyone's bewilderment, Ling Xiao's mecha had already appeared a kilometre or so away to block off the imperial mecha's escape route.

With all of its engines engaged at maximum power, the imperial mecha's speed was already at the limits of an imperial mecha. Three seconds later, the mecha had already gotten several kilometres away from where Ling Xiao was. On his mecha's screens, there was no sign of Ling Xiao's massive mecha in pursuit. The imperial operator's anxious heart finally settled somewhat. Did this mean that he had already managed to escape?

However, before he left planet Newline for good, the imperial operator would not believe he was truly safe yet. The Divine Wind system of god-class mecha was a heaven-defying existence — if he did not run far enough, he would be easily caught up to by the god-class mecha using its Divine Wind system.

The imperial operator did not slow down his speed, instead pushing his mecha's engines desperately to continue powering forwards. At the same time, he did not forget to send an emergency alert to his companion, the other imperial operator remaining at the dormitory district, to tell him that Ling Xiao was here and to retreat quickly and stop bothering with those Federation troops. The imperial operator knew well that the appearance of a god-class operator meant that they had no chance of winning this battle anymore. He believed that the Empire's commander-in-chief would also agree with their decision; several thousand ace operators were not as important as one imperial operator.

Right then, this imperial operator did not know that his companion had already died by Ling Xiao's hand, that this alert he just sent would never ever be received by the other.

Just then, directly ahead of the imperial mecha, the air suddenly warped to suddenly reveal a large mecha in his path. The other's appearance was too sudden, and the imperial mecha was travelling at its top speed — the ten or so metres between them was not enough for the imperial operator to make any adjustments to his controls to alter his flight path. He could only watch helplessly as his mecha barrelled straight towards Ling Xiao's mecha.

"Bastard!" The imperial mecha knew that a collision was inevitable. A ruthless light appeared in his eyes, and he quickly turned his mecha's beam shield up to its maximum defence setting. Instead of decreasing the power of his engines, he revved them even higher, pushing his mecha's speed another notch higher to send his mecha hurtling towards Ling Xiao like a terrible metal missile.

At the last moment, the dire situation made the imperial mecha decide on an internecine outcome — even if he died, he would bring Ling Xiao along with him!

The opponent's decision merely caused a trace of derision to appear in Ling Xiao's eyes. He did not dodge, only stating calmly, "Divine Shield system!"

received his command and instantly activated the Divine Shield system. The already radiant and beautiful mecha was suddenly covered by a pale blue light all over its body, instantly illuminating the darkness of the night even further ...

A tremendous 'boom' rang out as the two mecha collided head on! The intense shockwaves caused by the collision could even be felt by Ling Lan and the other cadets several kilometres away. On the screens of their mecha, the image of the two mecha colliding was played faithfully. Even though their speed was incomparable to that of a god-class mecha, the capture function of their cameras was still extremely powerful, recording this thrilling scene with great precision.

This scene caused everyone's expression to change drastically. Despite knowing in their hearts that General Ling Xiao was sure to be fine, they could not help but worry whether General Ling Xiao would sustain some injuries due to this devastating collision.

Perhaps the heavens wanted to test the hearts of these cadets even further, for before their initial worry could subside, the imperial mecha abruptly exploded. Boom boom boom! Consecutive explosions rang out and the entire night sky was instantly a blanket of smoke. Ling Lan and the rest could only see several fireballs continuing to burn within the thick smoke, which then swiftly plummeted from the skies to crash heavily into the ground.

Some of the fireballs crashed on dry grass, and very soon, the ground was aflame. From a tiny ember, the flames grew till it was a roaring blaze wreathed in thick smoke, where it then finally began to spread rapidly across the ground ...

However, right then, no one was paying any attention to the situation on the ground. Ling Lan and the rest were staring anxiously out into the air, waiting for the smoke of that imperial mecha's self-destruction to dissipate. Finally, General Ling Xiao's once again emerged before the group. The mecha hovered in the air, steady and immovable. The bright blue glow surrounding its outer shell was

completely unchanged, and the twelve wings behind it were just as radiant and eye-catching as they were at the start.

All this proved that the impact of an imperial mecha's intentional collision and the force from its self-destruction was not enough to cause any damage to a god-class mecha! Everyone present could not help but be astounded at the sight — as expected of the acknowledged strongest ultimate weapon of the human world. Imperial mecha one level lower than it was nothing before it.

“So this is god-class mecha!” They all looked at the god-class mecha with impassioned eyes. All their awe and exclamations were finally condensed into this one sentence. ‘s monstrous power had been deeply reflected in their hearts; it became their lifelong goal from this point onwards.

Very soon, Ling Xiao operated his mecha to return to Ling Lan. He slowly descended to the ground, looking down at the mecha his daughter was piloting as he did so, and his heart twinged in pain.

The outer shell of the ace mecha Ling Lan was piloting was currently covered in scars. These battle scars proved that his baby daughter had experienced several battles already within this period of time. His precious daughter who should have grown up wilfully beneath his wings, had to act like a man because of him and rely on her own skills to seek survival on the cruel battlefield ...

This was all because of his incompetence as a father! If only he had not fallen for that trap 16 years ago, then his precious daughter would not have had to live such a hard life. For the first time, Ling Xiao registered deeply that he had done something wrong. He even imagined what if he had rushed here only to find that his daughter had already met some great misfortune ... Ling Xiao could not help but shudder. He absolutely could not allow such a thing to happen, or else he would never be able to forgive himself for the rest of his life.

“General Ling Xiao, so glad to meet you!” Ling Xiao's silence made Ling Lan feel rather awkward, and she also did not want to have an emotional father-daughter reunion right here on this brutal battlefield, so she took the initiative to set the scene.

“General Ling Xiao?!” The way Ling Lan had addressed him caused all of the self-remonstrations deep in Ling Xiao's heart to scatter. He felt his teeth and gums aching, wishing dearly that he could grind them against something ... was he only going to hear his daughter call him ‘General Ling Xiao’ after rushing here over several hundred thousand li? This unfilial daughter!

Is it so difficult to call me ‘daddy’ just once? Ling Xiao forcibly suppressed the urge to blurt out this question with much effort, stiffly turning it into a different question. “Hn, can you still continue to fight?” He could not bear to push his daughter; after all, he was the one who owed his daughter, having been absent for 16 years of her life. The time before them was still long — one day, he would have his baby daughter willingly call him ‘daddy’! Ling Xiao vowed silently to himself.

“Of course!” Ling Xiao's question made Ling Lan sigh in relief. She had really been worried that Ling Xiao would be displeased with her form of address and expose their relationship ... alright, Ling Lan was still somewhat unaccustomed to having such an awesome and impressive dad. Sometimes, when a father was too outstanding, it was a lot of pressure on the child.

Chapter 388: Weak!

Ling Lan's team members who knew about General Ling Xiao's relationship with their boss also knew that this father-son pair was rather strange in their interactions. They definitely did not give off the typical intimate feeling other father-son pairs did. Therefore, the members were not too surprised by their boss's impassive reaction.

Meanwhile, Li Lanfeng and Li Shiyu had no clue about Ling Lan and Ling Xiao's relationship. Even though they were rather surprised at how Ling Lan could keep so calm in the presence of the military's idol General Ling Xiao, when they considered how Ling Lan was perpetually cold and unemotional, they no longer thought anything of it. They just took it as a personality issue of Ling Lan and did not suspect anything else.

Ling Lan's calm and toneless response was followed by a beat of silence — Ling Xiao suddenly did not know what kind of attitude he should use when treating his baby daughter now. If he used the tone of a superior speaking to a subordinate, even if he could bear to do so, if his wife Lan Luofeng found out, he would definitely meet no good end ... if he acted a little more intimate, he wondered whether this would irritate his daughter, because his daughter's behaviour indicated that she did not want to reveal their relationship and expose her identity.

Ling Xiao once again felt it profoundly — it was truly very difficult to be a satisfactory father for a daughter 1 ...

Right at that moment, Qiao Ting on the other end had also operated his mecha over, bringing his faction members in tow. He came up to stand beside Ling Lan and said excitedly, "General Ling Xiao, hello. I am a 4th-year cadet of the First Men's Military Academy, Qiao Ting. It's nice to meet you." His words were similar in meaning to Ling Lan's greeting at the start, but compared to Ling Lan's cold indifference, Qiao Ting's tone of voice was obviously much warmer and more excited.

Ling Xiao turned his head to look at this ace trainee mecha who had come forwards uninvited. He knew that this must be one of the outstanding students of the military academy — mind you, for a 4th-year cadet to have already advanced to ace operator status was extremely rare, as rare as phoenix feathers and qilin horns. And so, he operated his mecha to give Qiao Ting a nod in response.

This attitude of Ling Xiao's was exceedingly normal. Even though Qiao Ting was an outstanding cadet, Ling Xiao had seen more than his fair share of this type of talent. At his current level, Qiao Ting was not yet able to gain Ling Xiao's acknowledgement. As one of the twelve god-class operators of the Federation, one of the ten great generals, Ling Xiao's standards were undoubtedly very high.

However, having a comparison, Qiao Ting did not think so. They were both cadets piloting trainee mecha, but Ling Xiao's attitude when treating the other ace operator was obviously warmer. This made Qiao Ting feel a little unhappy; he felt he was being treated coldly. In the military academy, the instructors had high hopes for him and the other students gathered around him like stars around the moon. Thus, he naturally felt that he had the right to garner the same treatment as the other ace operator ...

Ling Xiao naturally knew nothing of these little thoughts running through Qiao Ting's mind. Right then, his daughter was the only thing he could see. If not for the strangers around, Ling Xiao would have directly pried Ling Lan's mecha open so that he could see for himself that his daughter was truly safe and unharmed. However, Ling Xiao was after all Ling Xiao. He knew that in this situation, he could not do

as he wished. In order to find out his daughter's true condition, Ling Xiao decided to put a swift end to the battle.

Thus, he said, "After regrouping, head for the dormitory district immediately!" That said, Ling Xiao's giant mecha once again disappeared from the group's sight, leaving no trace behind. If not for the roaring flames left behind by the fall of the imperial mecha, everyone could have imagined that General Ling Xiao's presence here had merely been a wishful dream.

Seeing Ling Xiao leave, Ling Lan let out a mental sigh of relief. At this time, Little Four finally leapt out from the little black room he had been confined to and shouted indignantly, "Boss, you're a coward! Not even daring to call out 'daddy'! I look down on you!" It turned out that Ling Lan was afraid that Little Four would be too excited at seeing Ling Xiao and affect her emotional balance, and so had shut Little Four up in that little black room when Ling Xiao had approached her.

Ling Lan said helplessly, "This is a battlefield. It's not appropriate for me to call him that here."

"I'm not listening, not listening! You're just afraid and cowardly! Are you ashamed of having Ling Xiao as your daddy?" Little Four covered his ears, showing that he would not accept any of Ling Lan's explanations. Instead, he continued to question Ling Lan with an even angrier tone.

"How could I be ashamed of that? I'm very proud to be Ling Xiao's daughter! I'm just more afraid that I'll disgrace Ling Xiao," Ling Lan told Little Four bitterly, her expression a little lost.

The reason why she could accept the virtual world Ling Xiao was that she understood that that Ling Xiao was fake — it was only a remnant spiritual imprint. Thus, she could let her emotions run free and call the other 'daddy' without reservations, and the other's reaction was just as she had expected, immensely happy and content. And that was all — things ended there, and there was no future to worry about.

But now things were different. The present Ling Xiao was a real person. He had feelings, he possessed all seven emotions and six desires — he might accept her now with his selfless fatherly love, but he could also become disappointed in the future, and become angry and hate her ... Ling Lan was afraid that once she accepted Ling Xiao, she would become weak and start hoping for even more.

Over these past 16 years, in order to support the burden of the entire Ling family on her shoulders, Ling Lan had already learned how to be strong and independent, accustomed to handling everything on her own. Ling Xiao's return changed everything she had already gotten used to, and this made Ling Lan somewhat panicked.

What flustered Ling Lan even more was Ling Xiao's full berth of fatherly love. He displayed it so obviously, and the enthusiasm and intensity of it were so distinctly different from her father's demeanour in her previous life; her past father's eyes had always been full of fatigue and weariness. This was another reason why Ling Lan had been avoiding the issue, unable to examine her true emotions too closely.

Yes, it wasn't that Ling Lan did not want to accept Ling Xiao; she was just afraid that one day in the future, those love-filled eyes of Ling Xiao would also end up filled with distaste and weariness ... Ling Lan did not want to experience that kind of hurt ever again. It was just as Little Four had said — weak, she pushed away Ling Xiao's overflowing fatherly love again and again, even though she knew that her response would hurt Ling Xiao a little.

“Like this, can I become a daughter Ling Xiao would be satisfied with?” Ling Lan asked Little Four with a sad smile. Already trained to be a cold-blooded and ruthless killer by the learning space, she could no longer be that soft and gentle, sweet and adorable little girl in Ling Xiao’s mind’s eye.

Little Four was taken aback by Ling Lan’s question, and then his entire face collapsed into a deep frown. He found that what his boss had said was not wrong. Already used to seeing his boss’s cold, fierce, and domineering demeanour, Little Four really could not imagine her acting like a petite and sweet young miss instead. Thus, Little Four consoled her with a face full of regret, “Boss, my condolences!”

Ling Lan wordlessly flicked Little Four’s forehead and then ignored Little Four’s woeful eyes of condemnation. Somewhat dejectedly, she said, “I can only take things one step at a time. If ...” She did not finish her sentence. One day, if she managed to overcome the barriers in her heart, perhaps she would be able to call Ling Xiao ‘daddy’.

Ling Lan very quickly gathered her emotions. Turning to check on her team, after she found that they were all unharmed, she moved to lead her team back to the dormitory district. Ling Lan knew well that her father must have already gone ahead to wrap things up there.

Just then, Qiao Ting, who had similarly finished settling matters with his team, called out to her, “Please wait!”

“Something the matter?” Ling Lan paused and turned her head to ask. At the critical moment, Qiao Ting did not choose to abandon his companions and subordinates — this had turned Ling Lan’s impression of Qiao Ting favourable.

“May I ask, which year and specialization you are from?” Qiao Ting really wanted to know who this other ace operator was. Who exactly was this person who had also managed to advance to ace operator like him?

Qiao Ting’s question caused Ling Lan to quirk a brow, but she did not answer.

Ling Lan’s silence made Qiao Ting even more unhappy. His frustration and disappointment at being treated coldly by Ling Xiao rushed to his head and he found himself blurting out, “Do you know General Ling Xiao?” Or else why would General Ling Xiao treat you so warmly yet treat me with such cold indifference? This was the only reason Qiao Ting could come up with during this short period of time.

Ling Lan could not help but laugh at his question. No matter how cool she had tried to play it, Ling Xiao’s behaviour had still raised some flags. For some reason, Ling Lan suddenly felt really happy — though initially she had not planned on answering, her good mood prompted her to ask in return, “Could it be that you don’t know General Ling Xiao?”

Ling Lan’s question rendered Qiao Ting instantly speechless. Mind you, in the Federation, aside from those newborn children who knew nothing, as long as one was a mentally aware Huaxian, there was no way one did not know General Ling Xiao. As such, Qiao Ting’s previous question was a rather silly one.

Qiao Ting was just about to change the phrasing of his question when he heard Ling Lan say evenly, “General Ling Xiao ordered us to head to the dormitory district immediately. I think that, General Ling Xiao probably would not want us to dawdle.”

Ling Lan's words caused Qiao Ting's heart to clench in fright. He swallowed his questions and looked searchingly at the ace trainee mecha before him for a moment before turning to order his faction members to head swiftly for the dormitory district.

Watching the disappearing figures of Qiao Ting's group, Li Lanfeng, who had been silent all this while, asked, "Rabbit, are we leaving it like this?" Qiao Ting's previous overbearing and impolite behaviour had seriously ruffled Li Lanfeng's feathers — though of course this was also because Li Lanfeng already had some negative bias against Qiao Ting to begin with, so all of Qiao Ting's improper behaviour was magnified endlessly in his eyes.

"We'll clash again in the future. Leiting will not forget the grudge established this year. In at most two years' time, they will challenge us again." A smirk appeared on Ling Lan's lips. Qiao Ting's refusal to act against his companions had indeed improved Ling Lan's opinion of him, but she also deeply disliked the inherently overbearing and haughty side of him.

It should be said that Ling Lan had also cultivated a robust air of dominance from her training in the learning space. However, her dominance was deeply embedded in her bones and was not waved about on the outside. As such, regarding Qiao Ting who was equally dominant, she naturally felt slightly repelled — this was perhaps the logic behind the theory of keeping kings away from each other 2 .

Ling Lan's words made Li Lanfeng recall that time a while back when the New Cadet Regiment had gone up against Leiting in an arena battle. He knew that Leiting would definitely enact their plan for revenge when the time was right, and so he said, "When it's time for the mecha fight, count me in."

Ling Lan was surprised. "Aren't you part of Wuji?"

Li Lanfeng chuckled and said, "We're just collaborators. Wuji will not be comfortable letting us external allies join them." Just like Zhao Jun, who was also excluded from the group. Li Lanfeng rubbed his jaw as he suddenly thought, ' Perhaps next year, he could also lure Zhao Jun over ... 3 '

Zhao Jun, who was currently hiding in the dormitory district, suddenly felt a chill run down his spine. He anxiously checked his surroundings, but other than cadets, he could only see more cadets. There was no sign of any danger at all. He scratched his head in confusion, unsure where that sense of danger had come from ...

Chapter 389: Li Yinfei!

By the time Ling Lan and the others arrived at the dormitory district, the entire battlefield had already entered the end stages of clean-up. Ling Xiao, hovering in the air, was like a large mountain to the invaders, pressing down on them till they could not even breathe. On top of that, if anyone tried anything, a beam from Ling Xiao would strike them down mercilessly, killing them instantly.

This type of combat power had sapped away all the fight in the intruders. The only reason why they had not put down their weapons and surrendered yet was that they still held on to that last thread of hope in their hearts. They were praying that their fleet in space would descend on planet Newline to shoot Ling Xiao down and rescue them.

Of course, they were disappointed in the end, because the ground forces sent them the images captured by their satellite after their signal communications were restored. These images showed them that their last hope was currently under attack on all sides, surrounded by the four Federation fleets which had come to provide reinforcements, unable to even protect itself. Thus, they stopped hoping for a miracle, put down their weapons, and surrendered to become prisoners of the Huaxia Federation.

Without the help of a starship, mecha of imperial level and below had no way of breaking free of gravity by themselves to return to space. 1 Therefore, if they did not surrender, their final outcome would be to die here on the battlefield. Not everyone could view death with equanimity. Thus, when the first person laid down his weapon, everyone else followed suit, which finally marked the end of this battle sparked by an air invasion.

The ground forces very quickly took the prisoners who had surrendered into custody, and then they began clearing up the battlefield as they searched for any survivors. Meanwhile, after a brief period of panic and chaos, the dormitory district also began their own rescue efforts under the lead of the instructors. That shot by the imperial operator had caused a great number of casualties among the cadets. For a time, the entire military academy was plunged into a sad and depressing atmosphere.

The fighting on the ground had come to an end, but the fighting in space was still in full swing. The four fleets had arrived so quickly at planet Newline all because of Ling Xiao.

As Ling Xiao had piloted to rush towards planet Newline, he had also sent out a request for assistance to the four large fleets. Although Ling Xiao had not known for sure back then what exactly was going on on planet Newline, with how Ling Lan had notified him, Ling Xiao believed that the situation on planet Newline must already be very bad. At first, Ling Xiao had suspected that the horrifying demon beasts around planet Newline had begun to rampage, so he had wanted to let the four large fleets help evacuate the cadets from the planet to ensure their safety.

This was truly a stroke of luck — as soon as Ling Xiao arrived in the space of planet Newline, he noticed countless unidentified starships and immediately knew that this must be an invasion. Ling Xiao thought of the four fleets on their way, and since he was also very worried about his daughter's safety, he decided to ignore these starships, sneaking by right under their noses to fly into planet Newline. It had to be said that god-class mecha were indeed truly frightening. They were able to completely conceal their own signals and images, preventing them from being picked up by the radars of many starships; thus, he was able to sneak into planet Newline completely undetected.

The final outcome was that the enemy starship fleet was totally annihilated under the combined attack of the four Federation fleets. Even though some of the starships managed to escape from the blockade to run from the planet Newline sector, they were chased down in a frenzy by the four large fleets.

It had to be said that the invasion of planet Newline, which was an attempt to kill off the Federation's future seeds of hope, had utterly crossed the line of all of the upper echelons of the Federation. Whether it be the government or the military, no matter which faction they were from, they all issued the kill order. Even though the factions harboured all sorts of conflicts of interests, they still shared the common goal of protecting the future of the Federation. Therefore, everyone chose the same way of handling things, and that was to use bloody means to keep the surrounding countries in line via fear, telling them that the Huaxia Federation was not as easy to provoke as they thought.

In the end, this invasion ended with the complete annihilation of the intruders. However, the casualties of planet Newline were severe enough to shock the Federation government and the military. Over half of the ground forces were sacrificed in the battle, and almost all of the various mecha squads were crippled by their losses as well. What saddened them even more was that out of a hundred thousand cadets, eight thousand had died in this battle. These cadets had all been excellent seedlings for the various military positions in the future, but before they could even debut on the battlefield, they had already lost their wings here in the military academy. This was their fault as the older generation.

For such a large fleet to have infiltrated the Federation deep enough to seek out and come to planet Newline, there was no doubt that something must have gone wrong with some departments within the Federation. The price paid in blood spurred the government and the military to no longer take things easy — the president and the three grand marshals of the military signed a joint order to clean out the spies and secret agents hiding within the ranks. Even some parasites who had disregarded national interests for their own personal gain were also cleared out in the process.

This operation was called Operation Bloodstain. The severity of the methods employed left those spies and secret agents fortunate enough to escape discovery frightened and jumping at shadows, not daring to act any further in the interim. This allowed the Federation to have unusual smooth-sailing in the subsequent battles for revenge, and the Federation quickly harvested the fruits of triumph in battle.

Of course, regarding Ling Xiao's appearance at planet Newline, military headquarters had many questions. After all, Ling Xiao should have been busy establishing the 23rd Division several thousand light-years away — why had he appeared at planet Newline at that time? However, Ling Xiao's appearance had been extremely timely, and his command to gather the four large fleets had also been extremely accurate. This had salvaged the situation, preventing the Federation from a loss of at least five generations of potential talent.

This result was a great relief and comfort to the president and the three grand marshals of the Federation; as such, the feat certainly qualified as extraordinary merit. However, they still summoned Ling Xiao back for an inquiry. When they found out that Ling Xiao had snuck into the military academy undercover out of worry for how his son was getting along in the school, they all burst out into laughter.

They laughed at Ling Xiao for being overly attached to his son, but were also very glad that Ling Xiao had rushed over to planet Newline because of that. The president and the three great marshals were well aware that if Ling Xiao had not been there, this invasion would definitely have ended up in favour of the enemy. At that time, what they would have received would have been news of the complete annihilation of the First Men's Military Academy. And the result of this outcome would inevitably have been their resignation, for only that would be able to extinguish the rage of the people.

Still, even with Ling Xiao's involvement, the casualties among the cadets had reached as high as eight thousand ... Luckily, the government's crisis unit was very efficient, adeptly turning the public's focus onto the enemy, with especial emphasis on the several thousand prisoners they had captured. When they found out that many nations had participated in this air invasion, there was an immediate public outcry. The voices of anti-war sentiment instantly vanished without a trace, and the public enlistment rate which had been steadily declining by the year increased by leaps and bounds within that month.

The president and the military were instantly relieved. Subsequently, in order to pacify the angry public, the president and the three great marshals finally came to a consensus — they gave the order to launch a full offensive on the Duolan Alliance, which was the weakest nation among the members of the invading enemy alliance the Federation had been able to identify through their investigation.

Perhaps afraid that the Federation would expose their doings and affect their grand image of being a supreme nation, the Dosa Empire 2 unexpectedly kept their silence in the face of the Huaxia Federation's attack on Duolan. Meanwhile, though the Huaxia Federation clearly knew that the primary culprit was the Dosa Empire, out of fear that the entire human world would be once again dragged into a world war as soon as their two nations clashed, the Huaxia Federation chose once more to endure this slight, determined to extract their pound of flesh from Dosa's accomplices instead.

Just when the Federation retaliated against Duolan, "Tranquil Night", a requiem for the innocent cadets who had died in the battle, spread rapidly from within the virtual world. Perhaps because the lyrics resonated with the sorrow in the hearts of the cadets and those family members who had lost someone in the battle, and also due to its sad melody which carried undertones of strength and resilience, the singer of said song instantly became the favourite singer of the academy cadets ...

Without support from the Dosa Empire, and without internal spies to leak the military tactics of the Federation, the Federation's attack on Duolan proceeded smoothly. One month later, the Duolan Alliance was utterly razed and Duolan was officially claimed as Federation territory. This victory caused the Federation to descend into wild celebration, and the lingering grief from the air invasion was significantly eased.

In the meantime, after a month's time, not only was the rage of the military and the public slowly subsiding, within the restored First Men's Military Academy, the initial grief and rage suffusing the campus were slowly fading back to calm. The anger, fright, and worry in every students' eyes were also gradually settling into calm as well, and smiles began to appear on the cadets' faces again.

"Boss, great news! Great news!" Early in the morning, Xie Yi flew down the stairs with a face full of excitement. He should have just gotten up and must not have taken the time to wash up, for his entire appearance was extremely dishevelled. Xie Yi did not notice Ling Lan scrunch up her brow slightly at his appearance as he shouted at her loudly in excitement over the breakfast table.

Ling Lan was unimpressed by his fervour. She lifted the white napkin by her side to dab at her lips before setting it down on the table. Only then did she look up to glance sharply at him.

At his boss's cold and fierce gaze and expression, Xie Yi instantly woke up from his buzzing excitement. He swiftly lowered his head, no longer daring to make such a fuss.

Witnessing Xie Yi being shut down, Qi Long, who was sitting at one side, began to snicker. Han Jijun wordlessly nudged him, reminding him to leave Xie Yi some face, while Luo Lang threw a cold glance over at Xie Yi like Ling Lan had — whatever Boss disliked, he disliked as well.

As for Lin Zhong-qing, he did not raise his head but continued to focus on his breakfast. It had nothing to do with him after all; Xie Yi had brought this all on himself. Fine, when it was just them on their own,

Ling Lan's team was not as united and loving as they appeared outside. Whenever there was a chance, the members would absolutely step on each other while they were down.

"Tell me then, what exactly is this great news that has gotten you so excited," said Ling Lan calmly when she saw that Xie Yi had been sufficiently cowed.

Hearing this, Xie Yi knew that his boss was not truly angry, and his interrupted enthusiasm reared up once again. "Boss, Li Yinfei is coming to our school!"

"Li Yinfei?" Ling Lan's brow furrowed. Who was this again ?

"What?! Li Yinfei is coming? Is that for real?" Before Ling Lan could recall who this person was, Qi Long had already exclaimed in excitement, "Xie Yi, how did you find out about this?"

"Just now I went onto the academy forums, and the moment I logged on, I saw this news. Everyone is excited by it right now." Sensing a fellow fan, Xie Yi's excitement was further amplified.

Han Jijyun and Luo Lang shared a look, also unable to recall at that moment who this Li Yinfei was that had Qi Long and Xie Yi so excited.

Beside them, Lin Zhong-qing set down his chopsticks and said softly, "Tranquil Night!"

"Ah, it's her?!" Luo Lang cried out instantly. Just recently, he had also been very obsessed with this song.

Chapter 390: Decadent Voice!

Han Jijyun also came to a realisation. It had to be said that 'Tranquil Night' was indeed a divine song — its singer, Li Yinfei, had instantly ascended from being an unknown singer to soulful diva. Her rise had truly been meteoric. Even more admirable was the fact that she had purely intended to sing a requiem to comfort the souls of the fallen, and thus had never revealed her true face to the public. She was only known by her voice for now.

"Why did she suddenly choose to come to our school?" Han Jijyun was also extremely curious about Li Yinfei.

Xie Yi replied, "A while back, wasn't the Federation citizens clamouring for Li Yinfei to show her face? Due to public pressure, Li Yinfei's management company finally chose the First Men's Military Academy as the performance venue for the debut of Li Yinfei's true appearance. That's why, the ninth day of the next month is the time when Li Yinfei will take the stage in person at the military academy. We'll be the first men to ever see her true face ...!" Xie Yi could not hold back his excitement at this point and began to howl like a wolf.

His words received Qi Long's hearty agreement. So, in no mood to continue eating, Qi Long left his half-eaten breakfast to run upstairs to log into the virtual world and started looking up any news he could on Li Yinfei.

Qi Long and the others' conversation enlightened the initially befuddled Ling Lan. She had heard 'Tranquil Night' before, and it was indeed an excellent song. Little Four had once analysed it before, and had come to the conclusion that the singer must be someone with an awakened innate talent. The talent she had awakened should be Decadent Voice — it could make it much easier for her to bring the

audience into the emotional realm of any song she sang — so Li Yinfei's success was to be expected. Of course, both the melody and lyrics of the song were equally worthy of being considered classic. The combination of these multiple factors culminated in the legend of Li Yinfei.

“What a bunch of green youths,” sighed Ling Lan mentally. Although ‘Tranquil Night’ was indeed extremely mellifluous and touching under the accentuation of Li Yinfei's Decadent Voice, as Ling Lan's spiritual power was extremely strong, she was not as affected and was not as crazy and obsessed with the song as Qi Long and the rest.

Very soon, under Qi Long, Xie Yi, and the others' eager anticipation, Li Yinfei's first live concert officially opened at the academy's stadium. Qi Long and Xie Yi made an executive decision — without notifying their boss, they bought tickets for the entire team. It should be known that Ling Lan had no interest at all in going to the concert with a bunch of men to idolise a female singer ...

Of course, after Qi Long and Xie Yi did such a stupid thing, they were also afraid that their boss would settle the score with them later. Thus, they cunningly argued that this was a team activity for Ling Lan's team, and that the both of them would sponsor the funds for it. As the boss, Ling Lan needed to take the lead and participate as well so that she did not hurt the team members' fragile little hearts.

Ling Lan thought about it and found that she had nothing much to do on that day; furthermore, she had yet to see what a live concert in this world was like. Out of curiosity, she agreed to lead the team to experience the concert in person.

It had to be said that Qi Long and Xie Yi had carried out their plan well. Heaven knows what methods they used, but they had actually managed to obtain great seats in the fifth row right in front of the stage. Meanwhile, the few rows before them were taken up by the top ranking people of the various major factions in the academy. Thunder King Qiao Ting of the Leiting Mecha Clan had also shown up and was seated in the second row.

As for the first row, it was of course filled up by the top brass of the academy along with the instructors. Li Yinfei's decision to hold her first live concert at the military academy was extremely welcomed by the administrators. After all, everyone knew that the song ‘Tranquil Night’ had been specially produced for the innocent cadets who had died in the invasion. Li Yinfei's choice to hold the concert here showed her respect for the First Men's Military Academy.

Ling Lan had just taken a seat when Li Lanfeng, who had been following right behind her all this while, reacted the swiftest, immediately snatching one of the seats beside Ling Lan. Luo Lang was not to be outdone. Although he was a step slower, he still managed to snatch the other seat beside Ling Lan. Thus, the two of them were like the door gods Heng and Ha 1 , securely framing Ling Lan on the left and right.

Although Qi Long and the rest also wanted to sit beside Ling Lan, being a beat slower than Li Lanfeng and Luo Lang, they could only rub their noses in resignation at this result and sulkily choose some other place to sit.

Only Li Shiyu and Chang Xinyuan were trailing behind the team with morose faces. The both of them were obsessed with research and had no interest in whatever so-called singer. They felt that, instead of being so idle as to come here and waste time, they might as well have stayed in their own labs and continued to work on their own topics of research.

However, Ling Lan had said that this was a clan event and no one was allowed to be absent. Hence, the two of them had no choice but to compromise and pry themselves out of their labs for this excursion. Still, even so, brimming with reluctance, they had naturally dragged their feet till they were at the very rear of the team. Only after everyone had taken a seat did they settle down in the two outermost empty seats. However, they were soon engrossed in their own research again. Even though they had left their labs and the environment here was indeed rather terrible, this would not affect their calculations of certain formulae ...

The whole audience waited eagerly for Li Yinfei to take the stage. Finally, the time came and all the lights turned dim. Everyone involuntarily began to scream and cheer in loud fervour, because they all knew that the concert was about to officially begin ...

'On one particular tranquil night' ... a clear voice softly crooned in the large stadium. With no lights, in a shroud of darkness, this voice sank even more deeply into everyone's souls. The initially passionate cheers began to decrease in volume, until the scene was finally completely silent. Led by the singing, all of the cadets were brought back to that night once more, that intense and violent battle, and the helplessness they had felt at the time once again descended upon them. The entire venue became still and silent — everyone was silently mourning their innocent schoolmates and companions who had died that night ...

"Listening to Li Yinfei sing live, it's even clearer how powerful the other's Decadent Voice is." Little Four finally could not help but emerge to say. He had never seen such a powerful manifestation of innate talent powers before; it was actually able to control the emotions of the entire audience of forty to fifty thousand people.

"It is indeed very powerful. There's really no way to defend against this Decadent Voice!" Although Ling Lan knew the other was using an innate talent, she still felt that Li Yinfei's singing was very beautiful, making her unwilling to resist. This feeling made Ling Lan frown silently. If someone used this type of ability to try and influence her decisions, would she fall for it?

"Because Decadent Voice is not an attack-type ability, she belongs to the natural series of power users. As long as the user has no evil intentions, no one would bother defending against it." Little Four was pulling up all the relevant information in his databases as he explained, "Just like your leopard. He also has a similar type of innate talent, which will cause others to unconsciously think well of him. As long as he doesn't have any evil intentions against you, everything's fine."

Little Four's words made Ling Lan turn reflexively to look at Li Lanfeng, only for her to find that Li Lanfeng's brow was tightly furrowed, as if he didn't really like Li Yinfei's singing. What was up with that? Ling Lan was extremely puzzled. Mind you, even Li Shiyu and Chang Xinyuan who had been mired in their research at the start had been involuntarily pulled out of their research the moment Li Yinfei had started to sing. They were now just as enraptured by the singer's Decadent Voice as the others.

Ling Lan's puzzlement was immediately picked up by Little Four. He too felt it was rather strange, so he began searching manically through his databases again. Three seconds later, he finally found a so-called research hypothesis. "Boss, according to the databases, similar innate talents might repel each other. Li Yinfei's Decadent Voice and your leopard's innate talent might be somewhat different, but their final

manifestations are extremely similar. Could it be that their innate talents have this sort of mutually repelling nature?"

"Highly probable. Well, that's fine. At least if we ever meet this kind of person again, there will be someone on the team who can keep a clear mind." Ling Lan believed this was a good thing. She did not want to have her emotions affected without clear reason, to the extent that she might even change her decisions unwisely. At this point, Ling Lan suddenly recalled when her dad had first laid eyes on the leopard. The corners of her lips curved involuntarily, and there was a trace of laughter in her eyes.

No matter how powerful one's innate talent was, there would always be someone who would not be taken in by it. Li Lanfeng's innate talent made others relax their guard unconsciously around him and feel like getting closer to him, but this innate talent was utterly useless against her dad Ling Xiao, and even had a reverse effect. Compared to the others, like Li Shiyu and the rest of her team, her dad was able to treat them kindly and agreeably. However, when it came to Li Lanfeng, her dad's face had been an icy tundra, and he had completely ignored Li Lanfeng. This hurt Li Lanfeng considerably, unsure what he had done to displease General Ling Xiao ...

Could it be that her dad also had a similar awakened innate talent as the leopard? So the two of them sensed some mutual rejection? Considering the fact that her dad was a national idol, Ling Lan felt that this hypothesis was very likely to be true ...

Right then, Ling Lan could not know that Ling Xiao did not like Li Lanfeng purely because Li Lanfeng had crawled out from Ling Lan's mecha at the time they had first met. No father would not react well to a boy who had randomly appeared by his daughter's side and seemed intimate with her.

"Actually, this type of ability only carries a hint of suggestion. It won't really cause any dramatic influential effect. Otherwise, the Federation government would not just let these singers and performers with these innate talents move around freely. It's clear to see that the government considers these people safe 2 ." Little Four used the facts to inform his boss that the powers of these individuals were not as formidable as she thought they were.

"War will always bring great harm, and these innate talent users can help console the sorrow of the masses. The Federation needs them." Little Four's explanation let Ling Lan come to an understanding immediately. She knew why the government would promote these singers and performers — they could skilfully dampen the public's anti-war sentiments. It should be said that the methods of the Federation government in this time was already very sophisticated. It made full use of every person in its reach, making it so that everyone served the machinations of war.

At the end of the lovely yet mournful 'Tranquil Night', the cadets were still immersed in their emotions when, suddenly, a lamp lit up in the centre of the stage, and a graceful silhouette slowly rose from a platform in the centre. It went without saying that this was the singer everyone had been waiting for, Li Yinfei. Everyone was instantly shaken out of their stupor and began to scream and shout uncontrollably. The initially calm cadets reverted to their original age at this time, becoming wild and fanatical.

"Thank you, everyone, for coming to see my concert. I'm very happy. I had originally only wanted to give the souls of those innocent cadets who had died some peace and comfort, which is why I composed this song 'Tranquil Night'. I never expected this song to be so loved by you all. I'm grateful for the support and attention. Next, I would like to dedicate a new song of mine to all of you — 'Never Give In!'"

Li Yinfei's voice was extremely lovely, soft and gentle with a trace of warmth running through it. Even a sad song like 'Tranquil Night' still held that share of irrepressible warmth despite its deep sorrow. Of course, right then, without the sad tone from the first song in her voice, the warmth in Li Yinfei's voice was all the more apparent.