

## **M Factory 161**

### Chapter 161: A different kind of arm

At noon the next day, ever since the lunch bentos had been passed out, Ding Yin had already been somewhat absent minded.

Today the wind was reported to be Category 5.

This wind speed could cause some tree shaking, as well as some waves on the water.

Normally winds under Category 5 shouldn't affect filming, but those two film arms that anxiously waited for the wind to die down almost gave everyone a heart attack.

My god, it was as if they were swing dancing. If the camera crew didn't retract it back in time, it would've definitely snapped right now.

As to get to the bottom of why the wind was suddenly picking up here, Ding Yin specially asked two engineers from Zhongyun's weather station to come explain this area scientifically.

Of course, all of this still wasn't what was making Ding Yin absent minded. Yesterday, he finally found out that there was a company in the country that had skills miles ahead of the ones used in regular film arms.

He happily made a door call, yet was utterly rejected by the other party. It was almost as if making film arms for them was an embarrassment to their technical prowess.

Normally this deal was pretty much over right then and there, but what was coincidental was that this President Ye was actually one of Xue Ningong's old classmate.

And then this President Ye didn't even bother to mention a price before he promised that two film arms would be ready for him the next day.

This huge difference had Ding Yin deeply hurt.

It was also this that made Ding Yin really want to see just how different these film arms from Monster Heavy Industry were from the regular ones available on the public market.

"Director, could it be just like an aluminum rod like thing that needs us to hold and ran around with?" This cameraman was called Fu Xiangqing, a winner of the best photography award.

"What can any company make in just one day's time?"

"Why are you asking me? But I still wait with anticipation." Ding Yin kept looking towards the gap in the distance. It was the gate to the lake, but for some unknown reason the lake dried up, so the local government blew the gate open to make it easier for the local farmers.

This gate only had two uses, but the ability to let traffic through was why he keep on looking.

15 minutes before the scheduled start time, a white, seven seater Honda blazed through the gap.

On the body of the Honda was the badge of Zhongyun's weather station, and very clearly this wasn't what Ding Yin was waiting for.

After the quick settling of dust, the people from the weather station began to unload all kinds of equipment from the car. Stuff like the mobile weather station, wind sensors, weather balloons, and so on, were all unloaded to try to unravel the mystery behind the strange wind within the lake.

This was a strange wind phenomenon because the wind speed inside wasn't high. For example, the forecasted Category 5 winds, due to the surrounding hills, were at most Category 4. But the wind at higher altitudes was shockingly high, just 50 meters up it was already Category 6 winds.

Don't underestimate this small difference whatsoever, as a Category 4 wind would only bring you comfort, but Category 6 could easily blow umbrellas away.

The two engineers from the weather station ran off to test the wind with their attendants. Ding Yin also didn't bother to wait as he again started to film those scenes that didn't require the following arm. Yet, just as he was about to begin, a Benz G-65 with two flatbed trailers behind it drove in.

Upon seeing the newcomers, Ding Yin's eyes lit up with both anticipation and nervousness as he hurriedly got out of his director's chair.

Because on top of each of the trailer beds was a folded, silvery white, square shaped equipment. Very clearly this was the custom wind resistant film arm the Monster Heavy Industry made for them.

"It's here, it's here." Ding Yin hurriedly called for the cameramen as they went forth to welcome the owner who didn't want to accept this task.

Xue Ninggong also ran out from her camper. For convenience's sake, she was still dressed up in her spacesuit costume even during breaks.

This was a set of tight fitting leather clothing. On the surface of the suit was lots of white futuristic looking armor pieces.

With one glance, it would appear that she was into those things which couldn't be mentioned.

Having driven through the dirt road and having reached the filming site, Ye Qing immediately picked out Xue Ninggong from the gathered crowd.

Clearly the costume designers for the movie didn't possess the skills to create those tight fitting metal spacesuits, which was why they had resorted to metal paint and plastic pieces. This would obviously be able to fool the eyes of the average joe, but for professionals like Ye Qing it was so easy to spot that it was just like taking candy from a baby.

"Hello, welcome President Ye." Ding Yin warmly welcomed Ye Qing: "I appreciate the effort you have put in to complete this sudden order on your busy schedule."

"Xue Ninggong's my old classmate, I can't not help here." Ye Qing nodded: "Director, you should've mentioned this sooner."

"This space suit of yours is very beautiful." Having finished with Ding Yin, Ye Qing turned around to jokingly praise Xue Ninggong.

Xue Ninggong waved her arms around and the imitation plastic armor showed just how fake it was.

“There’ll be special effects touch up in the last stages of production.” Xue Ninggong graciously accepted Ye Qing’s joke: “Originally what we wanted was some lightweight metal armor suit, but what our contactors made was armor similar to those used by 19th century heavy cavalry.”

“This was the film arms you made for us? Seems very high tech.” Xue Ninggong didn’t have much makeup on and had a very common hairstyle. It seemed like she wanted to portray the character as a rustic alien beauty.

Xue Ninggong walked up next to the trailer beds and stood on her tiptoes as she stared at those silvery white squares.

From their outer appearance, they didn’t look like traditional film arms in any way.

Rather, they looked like lifters.

The film site had cranes already installed for moving heavy pieces, hence in no time, the two new ‘film Arms’ were both anchored into giant bases and the arm sections were being attached 10 meters at a time.

From the many of the cast and crew that came to watch, Ye Qing was even able to recognize and name several of the female stars.

As for those male ones, they were automatically ignored.

This was also one of the reason why he made this personal trip. One, to see all these stars. Second, to watch the never before seen film production procedures. And finally, to see the ‘famous’ spaceship.

Yet no matter where Ye Qing looked, he couldn’t find a traces of the spaceship, leaving him completely disappointed.

“President Ye, are you sure these really are film arms?” Disregarding everything traditional about film arms, Ding Yin still couldn’t believe what was in front of him even after circling it multiple times: “Why doesn’t it have any cables?”

“Because there’s no use for something so outdated.” Ye Qing still had questions to ask: “Director, where is the spaceship?”

Ding Yin was clearly embarrassed. The film crew had always used cable supported film arms, which had now been called outdated. Even the spacesuit had been made fun of, yet now he was pouring even more salt on the wound. (SALTTTT!)

“Err..... no..... there’ll be no ship.” Ding Yin pointed to the specifically cleared piece of land and embarrassingly said: “That’s the land used for the landed spaceship, but sadly we don’t possess the same skills as Hollywood to create life size models.”

“The spaceship will be completely CGed.”

“.....” What else could Ye Qing say? What else could he expect from the domestic movie industry.

“President, so the price for these pieces of equipment?” Ding Yin quickly switched topics: “And what about their operations? Please excuse my ignorance, because we are used to using the traditional cable operated film arms.”

“We can discuss money later.” Ye Qing waved: “Our first thing should be to test the ability and functionality of these two arms.”

“No stop!”

A sudden yell, gave everyone near the arms a big scare.

The one who cried out was one of the engineers sent over to analyze data on the geography here from the weather station.

“Don’t test these arms under any circumstances.”

“Why?” Ding Yin asked out of suspicion.

“Because there are problems with the geography here. As soon as southern winds gust, they’ll form a vortex above here.” The specialist commented seriously: “Right now it’s gusting at Category 6 winds above us and it’ll continue to grow. Don’t mention 80 meters, even if it’s 20 meters, as long as it’s raised up, it’ll be mercilessly ripped apart.”

Chapter 162: Dancing with the wind

With every season comes winds from different directions.

Northwestern winds were quite common during winter, but they were also a sign of harvesting season.

Southern winds easily gust during summer.

And right now the weather specialist was saying that southern winds were feeding the growth of this mid air vortex.

Then doesn’t that mean that they could forget about filming those big scenes for the entire summer?

“I think everyone understands the weather conditions in canyons.” This specialist continued to explain: “The conditions here are quite similar. The outside wind is easily able to get in through the blown up gap, but because this here used to be a lake hence a big temperature difference here. Which is why the incoming warm winds will rise and feed the growing vortex.

“These conditions will only exist during summer, and their strength won’t be that great. As long as you don’t create something tall, there shouldn’t be any problems.”

“How can that be?” Ding Yin had his entire career stacked on this movie: “Are there any solutions to this?”

“Yeah, it’s as simple as fill the gap up.”

Everyone looked back at the giant gaping hole, then felt just how ridiculous this idea was. You might as well as build an entire studio with that much money.

"If it's just Category 6 winds, then I feel there shouldn't be a problem." Ye Qing seeing all these frowning faces, found them to be quite laughable: "Didn't you guys want wind resistant film arms?"

"Category 6 winds are quite common. If it can't even stand these winds, then how can it be called wind resistant?"

"Hehe ~" The specialist turned to look at Ye Qing with a look that said just how inexperienced he was: "This is a growing vortex, not regular canyon winds."

"But that's still Category 6 winds, which clearly doesn't have Category 8 strength."

Ye Qing turned to look at the surroundings, which just had some leaves spinning in the air: "Of course, I'm not doubting your professional suggestions."

"Weather and manufacturing are two different studies, and manufacturing just so happens to be my specialty. I've already said my product works under Category 6 winds, so it definitely can."

"I said you guys can't, and I mean it." This specialist was set in his views: "An 80 meter long arm, do you know how much wind force it needs to face?"

"I can guarantee that before long after you've extended the arms, it and the base will definitely be picked up by the winds and tossed around like ragdolls."

"Hehe ~ Young people nowadays are willing to say anything for quick bucks."

At this moment, the other people that went to collect data all returned, and upon hearing about the rise of 80 meter long arms, they all indicated how laughable it was.

Ding Yin was stuck between a rock and a hard place. He felt that Monster Heavy Industry had the power to back their words, but these weather specialist had already said their points, so he couldn't not listen.

"Director, I feel like there's some boasting here. Before, even that well know domestic film arms maker failed in making something useable. Yet they only spent a day....." The manager of the camera team, Fu Xiangqing, having gotten used to the traditional ways, was naturally against change.

"I personally favour Monster Heavy Industry."

Of course, they haven't paid for the arms yet, so technically the two arms still belonged to Ye Qing, which was why Ding Yin wanted to see Ye Qing's opinion.

"How can you jump to conclusions without seeing it?" Xue Ninggong was completely unhappy. Between the weather station and Ye Qing, she naturally sided with Ye Qing.

"We're jumping to conclusions?" The two specialist waved the data in their hands: "It'll definitely be blown over. This is all calculated."

"How about this."

"It has always been said that actions speak louder than words, so how about we test its wind resistance."

Ye Qing, without proving himself, completely looked like one of those youngster who would say anything to earn money.

“Of course for safety purposes, we’ll assemble the arms far enough away from the film site.”

“You’re not even caring for profit, so what else can we say?” The two specialist smiled: “We’re just speaking out of safety. Now that the safety problem has been solved, do what you like.”

Hearing that Ye Qing wanted to do testing, Ding Yin immediately threw himself into the chaos with directing the cranes on where to place the arms, and having the camera team come and set up the electric cables and cameras.

Above them right now was the ever growing Category 6 vortex. This kind of limit testing had everyone excited. Even the two from the weather station stayed to watch the testing, as well as Ye Qing’s humiliation.

Additionally, they even came to the conclusion before anything began that this test would fail 100%, so if they left now, it would make them look too suspicious.

Very quickly, the preparations were completed, even a camera had been connected to this auto stabilized film arm.

The giant base of the film arm had also been anchored. Steel plates had been placed to increase its weight, and pillars have been driven into the ground.

There were no cables, and it also didn’t have the top to bottom shrink sections like a fishing rod. Rather, it has eight identical, silvery white, light alloy sections.

Ye Qing also didn’t need to prove anything by standing below it. After everything had been connected to the base, Ye Qing pressed the raise and auto stabilize buttons, and slowly walked away.

Seeing Ye Qing walk away, the film crew all looked on at this never before seen kind of film arm with hesitation and nervousness.

Ding Yin sat beside the monitoring system and stared right at the picture feed.

Whether or not the pictures was shaking, he could immediately tell from experience.

The first to raise was the very front section of the arm.

It had the thickness of a man’s wrist. At the very front of it was a film camera, which was connected to a ball connector like section on the arm.

Standing up straight, just like a flag pole.

Then the second section began to stand up, immediately sending the camera to 20 meters high.

“Ohhh!” Apart from Ye Qing, everyone on site was shocked by its straightness and speed.

Then came the third section, which had the thickness of a man’s elbow.

Still the same straightness. Currently Ding Yin felt like he was on a roller coaster as the picture feed in front of him keep on quickly raising, stabilizing, and raising again.

“Oh no, oh no, it can’t go any higher, otherwise it’ll be blown over.” The people from the weather station had already kept a safe distance between them and the arm, and now again they backed up a dozen meters.

Seeing them back up, the film cast and crew also backed up.

The fourth, the fifth, until finally, the last section straightened out.

Right now, the entire 80 meter arm had completed its movement. There was no need for any cable support, rather it only had automated universal like joints connecting the sections together.

“It’s gonna fall, it’s gonna fall. Everyone watch your safety.” The specialists yelled out in full seriousness.

Just as he finished speaking, the 80 meter sectioned film arm suddenly swayed a little.

The snake like movement had everyone clearly see the eight sectioned film arm form a not so clear circle in the sky.

And despite that, the camera at the top was still stationary with no traces of movement because the circle maneuver only lowered its attitude a bit, which was quickly recovered by extensions from the very first section.

Just as it finished forming a circle, the arm moved again. Again, nothing major, yet there was still no sounds of motors performing compensation movements.

However, as the arm lightly moved to the wind, everyone present all heard the gust of wind blowing by.

This was the sound was the wind hitting the arm. These gusts of wind were just like music. Under its accompaniment, the arm danced to the tone.

Yet the only thing that didn’t change was the position of the camera, and the picture feed in Ding Yin’s monitoring system.

“This..... this.....”

“What the heck?!” The two specialist was completely dumbfounded as they yelled out reflexively: “How is this possible?!”

Chapter 163: True effects

“This isn’t possible! This doesn’t match the data at all!”

“The wind should be gusting towards a vortex and should twist the structure. Additionally, at different heights, there’ll be different wind speeds, which should hit the arm with different amounts of force.”

“Yet how can it just so simply ignore such complicated physics.”

The people from the weather station, even after having time to think, still couldn’t figure it out.

“Guys, quick, look. The feeds aren’t shaking at all.” The director, who had been forgotten until now, couldn’t contain his excitement anymore as he yelled for the camera team a bit too loud, making everyone hear him.

Like a wave, everyone gathered around him. Although they were standing more than 100 meters away, they could still see just how still the camera was. But no matter how good the eyes were, it still can’t compare to mechanical differentiation.

Ding Yin was squeezed pretty tight by everyone, but he didn’t even have time to say anything as spreading the joy was key right now.

The camera was pointed right at the ground. This Sony F-55 4K camera was able to capture every blade of grass on the ground with crystal clear quality. Yet, while the blades of grass moved with the wind, the pictures still remained motionless, as if it was still placed on the ground.

“The wind has definitely toned down, the wind must have toned down.” The two specialist now gave up on looking elsewhere as they both focused on the dancing arm, and waited for the wind to pick up so that they could be right.

Without disappointment, a couple of minutes later, the wind clearly picked up again.

But following it was the nimble movements of the automated joints that looked just like that of a master dancer. No matter how big or complex the wind, it would be able to immediately recover with its joints through its powerful stepper motors.

The feeling was just like that of a hunting python. No matter how and where it moved, its head would always point towards the prey.

The difference here was that snakes use their muscles, while the foldable film arm used its stepper motors and angle sensors.

\*Wooooo Wooooo\*

As the wind grew larger, everyone watching stared on with shocked, beyond belief faces, not at the monitoring system, but at that moving arm in the sky.

Yes. No matter how big the wind, how could it break a ‘snake’?

As for getting picked up from the base, well, that was even more impossible. Most of the forces brought forth by the wind were all exhausted by the motors, and the heavily weighted base.

Before long, 20 minutes had passed, and everyone from the film crew was visibly smiling. Even Ding Yin was laughing out loud and slapping his leg while watching the monitor feed.

Now that the shaking problem had been perfectly fixed, he could now finally start doing some serious filming.

Fu Xiangqing from the camera team whispered to himself: How can this be? How was the cable supported arms not stable, yet this one without cable support was completely fine.

“How do you do it?” The two specialist asked, bright red.

“Was this really so hard?” Ye Qing strangely asked back: “Those that can be blown over or blown broken are just equipment that lack force discharge abilities. These arms of mine can not only discharge incoming forces, they can even automatically return back to their original position through their motors.

“This is just a simple automated correction functionality, it shouldn’t possess any difficulty to create, so I really don’t understand your reactions.”

“Hahahaha ~ President Ye, there’s no need to explain these details to these meteorologist. They only understand wind vortexes.” The drivers of the two trailer beds all joined in on the ‘fun’. They were all Monster Heavy Industry truck drivers who drive around with M.E.C.s and other kinds of strange components all day long.

After hearing and seeing these strange things, and with how much they understood of their employing company, they naturally knew more than the average person.

“If it was as easy as you said it was, then how come other companies can’t make them?” The two specialist still couldn’t and wouldn’t accept just how wrong they were about those film arms.

The two drivers almost burst out laughing right then and there, even Ye Qing was barely able to refrain from laughing.

“Alright, alright. Since there’s no problems with it straightening, then I still need to test its rotating abilities.” Ye Qing couldn’t wait any longer, because he’s afraid of bursting out laughing in front of these unknowing ones.

Hearing that Ye Qing wanted to test the arm’s rotating abilities, half of the onlookers quickly followed. There were even a couple of beautiful little super stars present.

After all, this never before seen high tech equipment just made it too easy to raise people’s curiosity.

The control system of the film arm was pretty similar to that of an excavator. It might seem complex, but people just needed to play with it a bit and they would completely understand how it worked.

With a bunch of people behind him, Ye Qing coolly smiled, then pushed the control stick directly forward.

\*En En En En\*

The motors responsible for the movement of the arms suddenly went into full power as it emitted \*En En En\* sounds.

With the camera attached, just like sky diving, it plummeted straight for the ground.

“Ahh!!”

The guys and gals behind Ye Qing were all scared pale. Just seconds before the arm was still standing straight at 80 meters, yet who would’ve thought that it would plummet so suddenly.

Of course, calling it sudden was a bit too much, as if the arms fell too fast, its braking system wouldn’t be able to catch up at all. However, after having gotten used to the snail pace speed of winding cables,

and then seeing this, of course everyone would be shocked. What's more, previously the snail only knew how to go straight, with no knowledge of how to bend and turn.

Additionally, this speed was only slightly slower than terminal velocity.

Ding Yin, who was crouching and entirely focused on the monitoring feed, nearly had a heart attack.

The feeds which moments before were perfectly stable and stationary, suddenly dropped to the ground. Naturally that would scare the living daylight out of most people.

"Oh my god! This sudden drop nearly scared me to death!" Ding Yin continued to pat his beating heart, and looked quite pale: "I almost thought that our ten plus thousand camera fell off....."

Wait wait.....

Sudden drops.....

Before he even had the chance to calm down and clear his thoughts, the film arm, once again like a snake, slithered right back up into the sky.

Ding Yin's view was immediately brought back to above the clouds, and split into two. Half of it the sky, while the rest was the ground. Just like riding a terrifying rollercoaster.

Just when he wanted to yell, the feeds actually stopped and went back to being still. Almost yelling, yet having to stuff it back down, was just like the camera floating in the wind, and carrying him over a sea of green.

If this set of monitoring system was a VR system, then the nearby hospital would be guaranteed to receive a new patients suffering from heart attack right now.

Shocked, stunned, in uproar, and horrified.

The casts and crew, who originally thought they've seen it all, right now showed just on wrong they were on their faces.

They originally thought that the automated correction motors that provide wind resistance were already high-tech enough.

But only now did they realized just how childish their imagination was.

So the unrestricted movement that was just like flying, was these film arms' true ability.

The people from the weather station just didn't know where to hide anymore.

Which was why they all completely forgot about their ridiculous 'scientific' conclusions, and full heartedly delved into this free, special, appreciative, and stimulating experience.

Vortex.....

The heck are those.

Ding Yin had a breath stuck in his throat which he wanted to yell out, but how could Ye Qing give him the chance?

When the foldable film arm ultimately bend to a point where it couldn't bend further and the camera stopped moving, it had pretty much bent into a complete circle.

Now Ding Yin finally had the chance to explode.

"Hold on a minute!" Ding Yin, with bloodshot eyes, yelled as if he had lost some of his mind: "Quick, do that ground drop for me again!"

"Quick, President Ye, do that again for me!" Loud yells which have never been heard, once again came from Ding Yin. It's quite hard to believe that this old man was still capable of such high pitch screams.

Ye Qing satisfied the request and let Ding Yin again experience the thrill of the sky high plunge.

"Yes, Yes!" Ding Yin this time jumped right up and shouted: "This! Exactly this! This is something even Hollywood wouldn't be able to recreate!"

"Hahaha, the landing of the spaceship, with this shot, it'll definitely make the audience nervous to the point of forgetting to breathe."

"What do you call visual effects? Hahaha, this piece of equipment is the visual effects!"

"100% real shots, the shaking, falling, and hovering of the spaceship can all be recreated."

"As long as I've got these two arms, I can definitely create something truly unforgettable!"

Chapter 164: Roadside watermelons

In today's day and age, scenes that required virtual editing and sci-fi effects would all compete in their technical skills, and their abilities to display both on the industrial and electronic displays.

When Hollywood wanted to film a zero gravity scene, they could always invite astronaut trainers and equipment from NASA to specifically film a realistic, zero gravity scene.

Domestically, even if there were people who were willing to invest so much, there still weren't any zero gravity chambers to film in, as all of the country's astronauts had to go to neighboring Russia to rent their zero gravity chambers to train.

Additionally, as for why domestic sci-fi films were so terrible, well that was because the electronic and industrial side couldn't keep up.

This wasn't a problem solvable with money. It was just like how no matter how wealthy you were, you still couldn't be able to purchase a F-22. Hollywood, which possessed the world's most advanced filming technologies, also wouldn't sell or even rent out their rice bowls to others.

Under these terrible circumstances, the domestically made fantasy and sci-fi films naturally couldn't keep up. It got to the point now that instead of showing off their technical prowess, they were showing off their bullshitting abilities, such that a 5 cent effects scene was the result of a hundred million investment.

Of course, Ding Yin wasn't one of those.

He was the only one within the entire film scene that wouldn't get yelled at for his effects.

Of course, don't think about how good these effects were, as they were barely able to meet the standards of the paying audience.

Avoiding a display of weakness was always a good way to see just how good a director is.

Now that Ding Yin had gotten his hands on two camera movement systems that were more advanced than anything Hollywood had, he would naturally take this chance to brainstorm all the diving scenes he was going to shoot.

Since there was no way to make great visual effect scenes, then he must replace them with high quality, mind-numbing shots.

With this thought in mind, Ding Yin just couldn't wait any longer to discuss pricing with Ye Qing.

Ye Qing gave him a very very friendly price; only 10 million.

Of course, this price was several folds more expensive than traditional film arms, but Ding Yin was still willing to pay up wholeheartedly.

At the same time, he couldn't help but admire Ye Qing's money making abilities. Just look at how many millions he just pocketed with two no difficulty, casually made equipment.

This money making ability, don't mention a nationally famous director, even if the top 10 nationally famous directors were put together, they still couldn't compete.

Before leaving, Ye Qing called out to Xue Ningong saying that he had got a gift for her.

"A gift?" Xue Ningong, with a full body suit of plastic armor, looked at Ye Qing with shrinking eyes.

"A suit of armor." Ye Qing took out his 3D camera from the Benz, and waved at her: "Alright, stand still. I feel sick seeing this space suit of yours, so I'm going to make a new one for you."

"Wait, you can make one? Oh right, that's what those big shots at the Sheraton wanted from you the last time."

After striking a pose, Xue Ningong jokingly said: "Just a picture is enough? You sure you don't need my height, waist size, and stuff?"

"Hehe ~" Ye Qing smiled: "Of course I need it. Text me those later, oh, and don't forget the other parts of your three sizes."

"No!" Xue Ningong screamed.

"Kay, well peace then." Ye Qing waved, and stepped into the driver's seat with a smile: "I'll have someone bring the full metal suit over tomorrow. Of course, this will only be the outer armor, as for the inner clothing, I don't have that kind of skill."

"I'm so going to tell your girlfriend about this." Xue Ningong bitterly commented: "I'm definitely going to get her to treat your petty little mouth."

Although Ye Qing had already said that DouDou wasn't his girlfriend, Xue Ningong believed that this was pretty much set in stone. As no matter how one saw then, they didn't look like normal friends whatsoever.

Having turned the car around, Ye Qing left laughing.

The two trailer beds also left through the way they came, by the giant gap in the south.

Having left the dried up lake, Ye Qing drove with his sunglasses-like data glasses.

As for the two trailer beds, Ye Qing didn't bother waiting as he roared off.

The land here was all governed by a township, hence why there were farm fields as far as the eye could see. If it wasn't for just how damn hot it was outside, Ye Qing would've definitely rolled down his windows and enjoyed the peaceful views.

Having exited the twists and turns of the village, just as Ye Qing was about to get on the highway and head for Zhongyun, a roadside stall made him stop suddenly.

This roadside stall was placed right under a blooming tree, with a bed of dried grass and a poster board showing its wares.

Family farm watermelons, 1.50/lb.

Watermelons in Zhongyun right now were sold at 2-3/lb, but this wasn't the reason why Ye Qing stopped.

Beside the pile of delicious looking watermelons, was a girl in Zhongyun University uniform, sitting there with a hand fan.

Seeing this junior sitting there selling watermelons, Ye Qing couldn't not support her.

Which was why Ye Qing turned on the emergency lights, parked on the edge of the road, and went out with the wallet DouDou bought for him.

"Are you looking to buy watermelons?" The girl in her fading uniform, seeing a masculine Benz stop by, hurriedly stood up and asked with smiles.

Ye Qing smiled back. This girl looked to be in her early 20s and seemed quite gentle.

"Are these all from your family farm?" Ye Qing patted a watermelon and the echo was very crisp.

"Yes sir. Right now is the perfect time for watermelons, and I guarantee that they're all sweet."

Ye Qing randomly picked one up and handed it to her: "Cut it open and I'll give it a try."

"Um..... will you be able to finish it all?" The girl asked hesitantly.

"I'll take it to go if I can't finish it. Go weigh it. If it's good, I'm probably going to buy more."

Coming in at 7 Lbs, Ye Qing tried two pieces, and they truly weren't bad.

Coincidentally, the two trailer beds also arrived at this time. Ye Qing waved for them to stop and invited the drivers to enjoy some refreshing melons with him.

Ye Qing knelt down beside the road as he continued to eat his watermelon and chat with her. However, this girl always kept an eye out, only when Ye Qing mentioned that he was a graduate from the University of Zhongyun did she finally realize.

And with this connection, the words came flowing out like a flooding river.

From the small talk, this girl was called Yu Sisi, who just finished her first year. These watermelons were all from her farm, as universities were now promoting startups, hence this stall of hers.

Yu Sisi never spoke a word about her family's situation, but from what she was wearing alone, Ye Qing was able to easily guess that it wasn't so good.

Ye Qing then asked her how many watermelons her family farmed, and got the reply that it was only 2 hectares of these seeded watermelons. The watermelons brokers considered it too unprofitable to drive to their farm and pick it all up, which was why she would pick some out and sell it here for a couple hundred a day.

Only 2 hectares.....

Ye Qing didn't know just how many watermelons a hectare contained, but it was probably not a lot.

"How about this. I just so happen to have two trucks here, so I want all of your family's watermelons. It's a good thing that I can treat all my employees on such a humid day."

"Errr..... that's more than ten thousand pounds." Yu Sisi shockingly looked at this senior of hers:

"There's no way you can finish all of this. Senior, you don't have to be so kind to me."

"I'll buy no matter who it's from. Plus, if it weren't for these watermelons, I would've totally forgotten to treat my employees." Ye Qing pulled out 5000 in cash from his wallet and handed it to her: "This is the down payment, so go find people to pick for you. If you've got family who still has some, I want it too. You can also take this chance to be an dealer agent, and you can fill these two trucks as much as you like."

"As for the price, keep it at 1.50. I've got many employees, so there's many ways for me to split them."

Ye Qing did some quick calculations. He had several hundred workers at the office and the old factory had even more. The monsters at the factory, although could be unsummoned to rest, they could still eat. Just the appetite of the Raging Miners alone was enough to exterminate all of these watermelons.

"But but, if it's the watermelon dealers were to come, the price would be even cheaper." Yu Sisi found all of this quite hard to believe.

Just as Ye Qing thought, Yu Sisi family's situation wasn't fine whatsoever. But no matter how she thought, she still wasn't able to understand why this unfamiliar senior was this willing.

"No buts, just this price. If I were to buy in Zhongyun, it'll definitely be higher."

Having finished, Ye Qing called over the two drivers and had them go with her to collect the watermelons. When the final price had been calculated, they would give him a call and he would wire everything over.

The two drivers promptly pledged that they would only leave when the trucks were completely full.

“Senior, thank you. Thank you so much.” Sparkling tears twinkled down Yu Sisi’s face, who hurriedly tried to wipe them away with her sleeve.

Chapter 165: Lightweight alloy armor

In the evening, a truck filled to the brim with watermelons rolled into the Dragon Creek Beach factory.

When all the bagged watermelons had finally been unloaded, Ye Qing called for all of the present monsters and pointed to those filled to the brim bags.

Right after Ye Qing said he was treating them to watermelons, a peon grabbed a bag and literally ripped one out.

Just like handling a basketball in one hand, he opened his mouth wide open and bit down.

Ye Qing literally had the hair on the back of his neck stand straight upon seeing this. No matter if it were the peons or the master artisans, deep deep down, they were all still wild beasts. Just like last time with the tea, swallowing both the drink and the leaves in one gulp.

This time the watermelons, including skin, seed and all, were guaranteed to be all gone.

Another peon went down into the underground base with four bags in tow. The Raging Miners were even more ridiculous: the watermelons, bag and all, completely disappeared into their stomachs.

Ye Qing was seriously regretting his decision right now.....

Having distributed all dozen or so bags of watermelons, Ye Qing, with a piece in hand, went back to commanding the monsters.

The second Mechanical Colossus X would be completed the day after tomorrow.

Ye Qing straight up wanted ten of these giant machines first for his personal use, to redevelop the entire Dragon Creek Beach region.

The X series’ construction process was seriously too tedious, because nearly 80% of the parts used must be created from scratch from the Metal Smelting Center. In comparison the I series, they could have all of their parts created from C.N.C. machines.

Ye Qing also kept himself busy. Taking the chance that there wasn’t a need for the M.P.C.V. to join in the construction, Ye Qing uploaded the picture of Xue Ninggong from the 3D camera onto his machine.

How to say this.....

Even if this was only a plotted 3D coordinate graph, Ye Qing was still able view Xue Ninggong’s beauty.

But he couldn’t enlarge it, because if he did, all he’d see would be coordinate positions and connecting lines.

Keeping only the plastic armor pieces, Ye Qing laid them all out in a row.

In total 56 pieces. The body of the armor was easy to make, just light weight alloys, and then engrave on those circuit like sci-fi engravings.

The key here was the color.

The lightweight alloys were all silvery white, but her armor needed to be pure white.

These armor pieces' design was still remarkable. Ye Qing's felt that making it completely out of metal would bring it to new highs, however, to only paint on a layer of white paint was just too damn ordinary.

Hence why he was going to use alloy grade titanium dioxide for the color.

It was one of the world's best white colored pigments, non-poisonous and non-transparent. It was commonly included in many makeups to make the skin look whiter and non reflective.

It has alloy and titanium in its name, but it couldn't be considered a metal. Rather, it was a human creation that could increase alloy properties if used in alloy manufacturing.

Hence why using it here as the colour was simply perfect.

When the entire tight fitting suit of armor had been completed, Ye Qing then generously lathered on a layer of adhesive that included alloy grade titanium dioxide for the color.

The next day, Ye Qing had an employee come pick up this 56 piece suit of metal armor and deliver it to the film site, while he went back to planning out his new factory center.

.....

After having received her bento in the afternoon, it was Xue Ningong's turn to be absent-minded.

She didn't have the nerve to send her bust sizes, which was why she just sent her height, weight, and waist size.

Custom order armors that suit her sizes would obviously have the best results. Xue Ningong took a look down at her chest, which had two semi spherical pieces of armor on, and couldn't help but think, 'what if it's too small...'

Without letting her wait too long, the wild and luxurious Benz G-65 appeared again. Except this time it was a girl driving and it had a giant box in the back.

For some unknown reason, Xue Ningong felt that the looks this female employee was giving her.....

Was kind of awkward. It was as if she and Ye Qing had 'something'.

After having delivered the gift and having gotten all the signatures from the cast, she left. Xue Ningong, on the other hand, hurriedly opened the box and brought out a piece of pure white metal armor for examination.

This piece was an arm guard that had a beautiful, circuit like engraving.

Within the circuit like engraving flashed signs of the silver white metal underneath. The subtle way of coloring these engravings had very cleverly brought out the difference between the surface colors and what was underneath. Additionally, this also added to the armor's fantasy feel and aesthetics.

Under the sun, it was like a spacesuit that had just completed charging the ‘force’.

“Why does he have to be so talented...” The more Xue Ninggong looked at it, the more she felt that the plastic pieces she had on were a three year old’s toy.

Finally, unable to bare the urge, she ran into her camper and had her assistant help her out of the plastic armor and into this magical suit of metal armor.

Super light!

This was the first thought Xue Ninggong had as she basically couldn’t feel the weight of these armor pieces.

Then, after taking a beauty picture in the mirror, she was suddenly stunned.

How did he know her bust size?

The her in the mirror almost literally became a spaceship pilot with skills beyond this world. These 56 pieces of tight fitting armor perfectly rested on her body. Even if she moved excessively, she wasn’t able to feel any loosening in the armor.

The original plastic armor made tons of ambient noise when moving, which seriously affected the sound recorded by the mics.

Lifting her leg, the light armor not only outlined her exceptional curves, but even perfectly combined her beauty and fantasy looks.

“Sis Gong, I seriously don’t know where to begin to describe you right now.” Her assistant was also seeing flashing stars and was thankful that she was a girl. Otherwise, she would be completely charmed to death by the mysterious and fantasy like beauty that Xue Ninggong was emitting.

After a long time of indulging in her own beauty, Xue Ninggong was finally willing to exit the camper.

Ding Yin at the moment was brainstorming just how to make the most out of those two ridiculously outrageous film arms, and wondering whether or not he should restart filming everything again from scratch.

And then he saw Xue Ninggong wearing her new set of fully metallic armor.

Ding Yin was literally shocked. But when he finally snapped back to reality half a minute later, he wailed towards the sky.

“Damn it ~ It’s all a waste!! With this armor, how can I still use those terrible plastic armor shots!!”

.....

Ye Qing was completely unaware of just how big of a beauty problem he had caused Ding Yin with his interference.

Rather, the almost completed Mechanical Colossus X in front of him, in his eyes, was the perfect representation of industrialization.

Its size was just too, damn, large. When Ye Qing stared at it, he couldn't help but sigh at how small and insignificant humans were.

After this Mechanical Colossus X was completed, just two more and Ye Qing would finally be able to rank up and meet the new monsters and black techs.

This development completely left the passing of time to the wind.

Right after the second X series had been completed, Ye Qing roughly sorted through some of the company paperwork and again delved back into the construction of the third one.

It was also because of just how big the X series was, so it required Ye Qing to operate the M.P.C.V. to complete.

Take the fixed screw holes for example, there was no way that the master artisans would detail out the distance between each line within the screw holes, as that would drag the designing process to God knows when.

Of course, using normal processes to achieve precision drill holes was still possible. All that needed to be done was to move these large tasks onto an even bigger platform. Although Ye Qing could draw out every single detail with the amount of monsters he had, that would just waste way too much manpower and time.

Which was why Ye Qing had to get the M.P.C.V. involved. With its magnetic base, it could go to any position under the Colossus and precisely drill in all the needed holes with its mechanical arms.

Right now Ye Qing was putting his mind to only one thing, and that was to operate the M.P.C.V. into doing nothing but one thing: produce, produce, and produce some more, all the way until the Monster Factory had completed ranking up.

Chapter 166: Rank up

Parked at the corner of the underground base were three X series. With just one more, he would finally be able to rank up.

Ye Qing found that eight days had already passed.

During this entire time, Ye Qing didn't go anywhere, rather, all he did was chat with DouDou on WeChat.

And now, the fourth and final Mechanical Colossus X was complete and about to roll out.

Ye Qing let out a big sigh of relief, because if it wasn't for rushing to rank up the Monster Factory, he really didn't want to ever experience this kind of boring repeated work ever again.

He was already seeing blurs. Production all day, everyday, and then some.

During these eight days, the only enjoyment Ye Qing had was the chatting time with DouDou at night, and the ever increasing balance in his bank account.

Out of all the foreign guests from before that had come for alloy artworks, Ye Qing already had people ship off more than half of the entire order.

The orders had all been completed way ahead of schedule, and the contract they all signed specifically stated that they were responsible for the final transportation of the art pieces. Ye Qing was only responsible for delivering them to the docks, and the rest of it, including customs and taxes, were all their problem.

Why? Because he had the skills to back himself, so why not.

7:50 PM

Ye Qing laid back on the M.E.C. in his office and was chatting with DouDou while looking at the newly brought 60" flat screen TV.

Ye Qing had seriously gotten bored of the final completion steps. Although he bought a ton of Champagne bottles for this, he just didn't feel like it anymore.

Now that there was basically nothing left for him to do, he took the chance to watch some relaxing television shows, especially the massively advertised «The Great Escape»!

A single episode of the show was non-stopingly advertised for more than ten days. On the internet side, there were even fans of Xue Ninggong who were helping the station for free by telling people to definitely go watch it.

Ye Qing couldn't help but praise the Zhongyun Station for their unstopping endurance.

Not only did they advertise the show for more than ten days, they were even able to invite Xue Ninggong to become the first guest on their show.

Before, Xue Ninggong had only been on talk shows. Participating in this kind of amusement show was a first, which was why Ye Qing reckoned that the viewership would be crazy high.

Ten minutes before the show even began, DouDou was already telling him how the viewership count of Zhongyun Station had already reached 1.45%, and what's more, her colleges said this kind of viewership was only achievable by famous, first tier shows.

However, this grade was only achieved with Xue Ninggong's help since she participated in the first episode of this show. As for which stars they would be able to invite later on, that would have to wait until the results of this episode was out.

DouDou also told Ye Qing another piece of news from the office. From what her show director had told her, Zhongyun Station was able to invite Xue Ninggong all because her father used to be Station Chief there, and was now the head of a major department in the State Administration of Press, Publication, Radio, Film, and Television.

The current chief, Liu Yun, used to be her father's assistant. That was also why the chief was able to invite Xue Ninggong over and even act as the main hostess at her new movie premier.

So that was why!

Before Ye Qing didn't know what Xue Ningong's father did, but felt that he was pretty far up the chain, otherwise she wouldn't have moved to Beijing at such a young age.

The State Administration ~

That's literally a knife that oversees all show directors and actors. Xue Ningong being able to achieve such heights at such a young age, naturally meant her father played a key role in it.

While chatting away, the show entered its last 90 seconds of advertisement.

At this moment, all the ads being played went up a level, from all those no name brands to all those famous brands.

When the show actually started, a giant single floor structure quickly rotated onto the screen.

When the picture stopped, a pure white corridor, just like the one in Resident Evil, appeared.

This had Ye Qing quite intrigued, as who hadn't seen Resident Evil? For all who had seen it, the laser covered inferred hallway should have left quite the impression.

Those laser cutters also existed within Ye Qing's factory, however, they only worked if the protection cover was down and an object was placed in the work platform.

Of course, Zhongyun Station doesn't possess this kind of technology, which was why this hallway was just a hallway, without any defensive systems.

The hostesses were Yu Fei and Wu Xiaoya, the ones whom Ye Qing meet at the exhibition last time.

If DouDou was the hostess, then Ye Qing felt that the show would be that much more pleasing to the eye.

Yu Fei and Wu Xiaoya explained to the audience that at the end of this pristine hallway were rooms of much unknown and danger. Each of those rooms had four exits, but the exit from which one entered would automatically seal itself, preventing any backtracking.

And within this structure were all kinds of small rooms.

There were rooms filled with all kinds of traps and dangers. There are also rooms which were perfectly safe to rest in.

As well as the mysterious secret shop room, which allowed one to exchange for all kinds of custom props. For example, props that would lower the difficulty of the next room, and props that could scout out the hidden dangers within a room.

Additionally, with each room successfully traversed, a point could be earned. The more points one earned, the more props one would be able to purchase.

.....

Having heard the brief introduction, Ye Qing felt just how cool the idea of the show was, and how intrigued he was by it.

Each secret room had four entrances and one exit, which was able to support the entering of four different people. In this episode, apart from Xue Ninggong, there were three other quite famous stars.

If anyone were to meet within the rooms, then they must make an effort to put up a show, because there could only be one successful escapee.

After these four “explorers” had taken their positions, Ye Qing almost fell on the floor laughing.

A very handsome male star, after struggling to get past the passageway and opening his first door, saw a household switch in the room, and just couldn’t stop himself from flicking it.

Which resulted in the room immediately shooting out rows upon rows of darts, making the guy experience the pain of ten thousand arrows.

Of course, the darts were all tipped with soft materials, and the players also had safety goggles on, so there was no need to worry about injuries. But this kind of curiosity kills the cat action, literally had all the audience laughing their butts off.

The second to be eliminated was a female star named Lang Xue. While walking, she kept on talking into her mic saying how she had played these kind of escape games before and the most important thing to watch for was whether or not there were traps on the ground, because no matter how well it’s hidden, there will still be traces of it left on the ground.

Yet in the end, when she entered her room, it was completely filled with giant cubes, no danger whatsoever.

But when she jumped on top of the giant cubes, she plummeted into a well hidden pit.

This kind of high elimination show had Ye Qing laugh like mad, as even Xue Ninggong received the same treatment. She wasn’t met with any traps and didn’t press any random switches, but just when she opened her second door, she was faced with a room that was covered with lasers.

Hence, she had to be like Tom Cruise in Mission Impossible and do the impossible by dodging and weaving through them.

What had Ye Qing amazed was that Xue Ninggong was able to nimbly dodge all the lasers by just performing some unconventional postures.

However, she wasn’t able to keep her luck for long. When she chose to open the door directly in front of her, she was hit with a wall of smoke.

There was no way to hide from the smoke, because the electronic voice prompt prompted that only the rooms on the side were safe. This room at the end of the lasers was specifically left for those nimble contestants, and only those who had purchased the special gas mask from the secret shop were able to continue.

The white smoke was all created by the chemical reaction of dry ice and air, but the result had left Xue Ninggong in a state of never ending uneasiness.

Everyone had three lives, and just as Ye Qing was looking forward to their second round of trials, advertisements despicably cut in.

\*Beep\* \*Beep\* \*Beep\*

Ye Qing pulled out the suddenly beeping Monster Factory phone.

What appeared on screen was a colorful explosion of fireworks. When the fireworks had exploded and gathered in the middle of the screen, the word [Congratulations] was formed in the end.

“Finally, a rank up!” Ye Qing had his hand on his forehead and laughed like a maniac, just like those villains in anime.

Chapter 167: The Metal Specialist

“The Monster Factory has finally made a name for itself as it has continued to take over the competition, and is now sitting in the prized seat of the local top ten.”

“Congratulations to you for all the hard work and persistence in satisfying the Rank 4 conditions.”

“After reaching Rank 4, a new provincial ladder will be unlocked. Additionally, more scientific and technical information will be made available for you to utilize.”

“Rank up requirement: Reach top ten on the provincial ladder.”

Upgrading.....

Ye Qing took the chance of the commercial break and made a quick run for the underground base.

Without question, the fourth M.C. X had already rolled out.

After such a long time and such hard work, Ye Qing had finally ascended the Monster Factory to Rank 4.

With Rank 4, the population cap of the monsters will double to 80. Additionally, more technologies and brand new monsters would be made available.

These rewards had Ye Qing feel like he was beyond cloud nine, as they were available as soon as the Monster Factory reached Rank 4.

When the completed X series had filled up its massive diesel tank, Ye Qing, with the help of the support ladders, climbed into the cockpit of the giant machine.

After pressing the engine button and engaging all the transmissions, the 150 ton Mechanical Colossus immediately shook like an earthquake.

While inside the cockpit, Ye Qing felt that even the Raging Miners were small in comparison. And with the controls over the massive arms, he even felt like he had a chance in a fight with Titans.

This was industrialization, heavy industrialization. And it was also the final product of the Rank 3 Monster Factory.

Having slowly edged this just completed X series next to the other three, Ye Qing then ran back to his office to continue watching the hilarious «The Great Escape», as well as to wait for the upgrade to finish.

The entire episode was 90 minutes long. After reviving again, the four “explorers” clearly became obedient, as they strictly adhered to not flipping any switches or taking any causal steps.

Lang Xue, who had fallen into a trap hole before, while walking, would always tap the tiles ahead of her in case of traps before walking on them.

And this actually had its uses. Twice, when she tapped the tile in front her, the tile dropped open with a click to reveal the spike filled traps inside.

Of course, those spikes were all fake as they were all made out of foam.

This time, the quickest to die was one who had acted as a soldier before, named Yang Hong. When he had successfully bypassed four rooms and on his fifth, he didn’t pay attention to what was under his feet: an ultra thin, nearly invisible, transparent tripwire.

The trip wire immediately broke on touch, and foam blocks and smoke effects exploded out like popcorn.

Ye Qing couldn’t bear the laughter. Most likely, neither could the other viewers, because this military actor actually died on a landmine.

Having ended his laughing fit, Ye Qing was now somewhat admiring just how much effort the station invested.

Although the traps and hidden mechanisms inside the rooms weren’t difficult to create, but to create them one by one for each individual room wasn’t something anyone could do.

Especially when after each episode they had to switch the rooms and traps around. Otherwise, the audience and competitors would be able to guess what was going to happen in each room.

Taking the opportunity during advertisements, Ye Qing took a look at the upgrade progress bar: 64%.

Ye Qing watched the entire episode from start to end, then stared at the progress of the Monster Factory upgrade, as it slowly crawled from 90% to 99%.

At that moment, Ye Qing held onto his breath in wait for the progress bar to hit 100%.

\*Beep Beep Beep\*

“Upgrade complete!”

Then this phone, which did not have any cracks or gaps, began to emit a dream like blue glow.

This blue wasn’t eye piercing, however, when it dissipated, nothing on the outside changed. It still had the same metallic and futuristic feel with its operating system, but what it could do was completely different.

Its background was now a map of the entire Dragon Creek Beach that Ye Qing had bought. The underground base was completely outlined by dotted lines on the map. If it were to be enlarged, then it would just look like the Umbrella Corporation’s base in Resident Evil, as every detail was clearly outlined.

Enlarge again and the four hidden Raging Miners would also be shown in real time as they moved.

“6666!”

This came as a huge surprise to Ye Qing because the previous background just had the factory, which couldn’t move or be enlarged.

This basically gave Ye Qing an unobstructed view of the entire factory no matter where he was.

Although there existed many cameras that could perform similar things on the market, the difference in technology was as big as night and day.

What Ye Qing had here was an all around 3D view, where he could move and enlarge any corner of the factory.

The ladder systems also changed. He now needed to switch tabs to view the local rankings, as the main tab became the provincial ladder.

Ye Qing had already scouted this ladder. It was a ladder containing every manufacturing company within the province.

First on the list, [Shagang Group].

Second, [Jinling Petrochemical].

Third, [Yueda Investment Co., Ltd].

The well known [XCMG] could only settle with fifth.

In total assets, [XCMG] wasn’t big, only worth a couple dozen billion. However, they were well known to have massive results in the field of mechanical manufacturing, as they possessed a huge amount of patents and multiple product series. For example, their crane series was well known throughout the world.

As for Zhongyun’s pride and joy, Huaxing Heavy Industry, they only came in at 26th place.

And Ye Qing’s current Monsters Heavy Industry didn’t enter the top 300 of the ladder.

The ladder rankings had Ye Qing completely dejected. Like he was at the top of the Zhongyun, but now he had to compete with all the hundreds of other companies within the province.

This was a ladder only for manufacturing industries. If sales were included, then the ladder would definitely included retail giants like the Suning Group, and the top would definitely be defined with hundreds of billions, which to Ye Qing would basically mean: Good luck, you’re going to need it.

Of course, the further back in the ranking, the quicker it was to catch up. That was why when Ye Qing crawls up to the regional top tens, he would already have become nationally famous, which will make entering the national ranking that much easier.

Continuing to explore and read, Ye Qing finally got a grasp of everything the Rank 4 Monster Factory had to offer.

First, the glory store finally had something for Ye Qing to buy.

The draws system was also updated with twelve new boxes.

And most importantly, Ye Qing was now finally able to hire more monsters and purchase new black technologies.

The number of new black techs was still the same as the last time: four. However, Ye Qing was much more interested in the new monster he could hire.

Opening up the monster hiring screen, a brand new type of monster appeared in front of Ye Qing.

When compared to the peon, their build was much smaller, comparable to a normal human being.

But everything else about them was completely abnormal. Their dark black skin was completely different from the black skin color of those African inhabitants. Rather, it was more like the dark black color of metals.

They had a pair of full red eyes, a pair of horns on their head, a face that was as cold as a rock sculpture, and a suit of similarly black coloured body armor.

Their name — Metal Specialist!

Chapter 168: Industrial Waste Purifying System

Metal Specialist: Possesses a very keen sense for all metals and has an incomparable gift in metal smelting. With them, you now possess a living metal encyclopedia.

Properties:

+15% increase in manufacturing efficiency

+15% increase in metal performance

“Metal smelting?” Ye Qing began to talk with himself as he looked at this introduction. Metal smelting was very broad and general subject. Picking, purifying, refining, and quenching were all major subtopics within this broad topic.

At the same time, all iron and steel industries put metal smelting techniques as priority number one on their investment and research list.

Here’s a simple example. When the same iron ore was brought to different smelteries, the resulting steel would have a giant gap in performance.

Some smelteries’ outputs possessed lots of impurities, are brittle, cracked easily and rusted easily. On the other hand, other smelteries’ results had high hardness, were anti corrosive, and were very strong.

There had always been a difference in techniques, even chefs could be sorted by ranks 1, 2, and 3.

And just from the introduction alone, this new Metal Specialist was clearly one of the best chefs, belonging to the very top of the pyramid.

Ye Qing, who now possess the Metal Smelting Center, the very best of smelting equipments, would be able to pump out steel that was incomparable with what was available on market.

However, it also had a major flaw: it could only facilitate the use of arc smelting techniques.

Powder metallurgy was impossible, and so was electroslag remelting.

Powder metallurgy techniques were currently very popular. Take oil bearings for example. When graphite was added during its creation, this non metal element would be able to absorb lubricating oil such that when it's in use, it would be able to non-stoppingly release lube to minimize its wear and tear.

This kind of technique was straight up impossible for smelting furnaces. But in the field of metallurgy, this was just the basics.

Ye Qing, in one go, hired four of these Metal Specialists. When the summoning mist dissipated, these iron colored, horned monsters opened their fiery colored eyes.

"Hello boss." The four Metal Specialists even had a hint of metal in their voices.

Ye Qing first nodded, then walked up and began to examine the pitch black armor they were wearing.

"What's the purpose of this armor?"

"This is the isolation armor. Its able to protect us from harm in high temperature situations."

"....."

The most common thing at in a smeltery was high temperature. It was just that Ye Qing still hadn't gotten around the basic theory of this armor.

However, this armor was specifically made for the Metal Specialists, so no one else was able to use them, not even Ye Qing.

After studying it a bit more, Ye Qing once again turned his attention back to the blueprints.

A spinner appeared on the screen, which Ye Qing pressed after rubbing his hands together for luck.

When the spinner began to slow down and the pointer stopped moving, a blueprint with the name [High Power Forging Machine] appeared in front of Ye Qing's eyes.

Having completely read its brief blurb, Ye Qing was seriously thinking of how lucky he was to pull such a powerful, heavy machinery.

Finishing with his single spin chance, the screen changed to the Shopping Center, where the four black tech blueprints up for sale were [Ultra carbide alloy technique], [Lifelike Flight System], [Fully Automated Assembly Platform System], and [Industrial Waste Purifying System].

The blueprints each cost 5000 gold pieces, but Ye Qing simply gave the price no hoot, as he bought them all in an instant.

These blueprints were all simply great. For example, the Fully Automated Assembly Platform. Ye Qing believed that this was completely and utterly a first rate assembly hen. It was literally a weapon of mass destruction in the field of mass production.

Furthermore, the Industrial Waste Purifying System should be an overall upgraded version of one of the third rank's black techs, the Environmental Purifier.

Before, Ye Qing felt this was too complicated to build, but now it was a must build.

Because the Dragon Creek Beach was completely surrounded by chemical wastewater. Previously, Ye Qing had already blocked up the sewer pipe a couple of times, but the Dragon Creek Beach was right next the ocean, which already contained many years worth of unmoved chemical waste.

From the looks of things now, a verdant hills and limpid water Dragon Creek Beach could be a possibility.

It was just this Lifelike Flight System left Ye Qing completely stumped and without knowing where to begin.

Conventionally mechanical flight was achieved by propellers and turbines, but this Lifelike Flight System relied on mechanical wings, to fly like a bird.....

This is seriously some high tech sh\*t!

Civilian use blueprints also increase by a bit, which Ye Qing bought out as well.

There were also a lot of other upgrades. For one, the M.P.C.V. also received an upgrade. Finally, no longer did it look like an excavator, rather it was more like one of those deep sea submersibles from those sci-fi movies.

"Since the rush to Rank 4 has been completed, then next on the list is the redevelopment!"

Now that tech, equipment, and funding had all been gathered. (It's time to du du du dueeee!! EXODIA!!). The area that originally belonged to the old shipyard had already been completely developed on. So, wanting to expand production capabilities, then he must open up new new workshops, especially after getting his hands on the Fully Automated Assembly Platform.

Ye Qing felt that the first phase of the expansion plan should be put in action.

The next day, Ye Qing, with a thick stack of planning documents that were rushed out during the night, arrived at the Blue Sky Tower.

Within the large office, when all 300 employees saw Ye Qing, they were all stunned speechless.

Because they hadn't seen their president for a good couple of days, and he now looked completely dejected and depressed, unlike the confident and at ease him from before.

His hair was a complete mess, and he even had blood traces from staying up late and working overtime.

This was unavoidable. Ye Qing had spent all of the past several days in in the underground base producing, and had piloted the M.P.C.V. to the point of having P.T.S.D..

"Purchasing department, all in the meeting room now." Ye Qing waved the shopping list in his hand for them to get back to work.

The Purchasing department had ten people in total. The manager was called Qiu Yi, who was 30 something and very earnest. When all ten of them arrived in the meeting room, Ye Qing indicated for them all to take a seat.

“President, what’s the task?” Qiu Yi, seeing how serious Ye Qing was, and remembering what department they were, immediately figured out that a large, important task was coming.

“In the upcoming week, your entire department will probably have make a trip to every corner of the country.” Ye Qing handed out ten sets of printed documents, kept one for himself, and pointed to it: “In the upcoming period of time, our company’s manufacturing region will be taking part in a comprehensive expansion.”

“The raw materials needed are on a massive scale. Just the concrete needed, under my rough estimate, amounts to at least 300,000 tons.”

“300,000 tons?” Qiu Yi almost cried out in shock. What kind of idea needs 300,000 tons of concrete?

A cubic meter of concrete weighed around 2.4 tons. 300,000 tons of concrete, if spread out to a meter thick, was enough to fill 17 entire soccer stadiums.

“Yes ~ Current the price of concrete is pretty cheap. 300,000 tons is only 70 – 80 million.” Ye Qing was super satisfied with their shocked expressions, especially those of the female juniors. It was just too damn eye pleasing.

“For all the materials listed on the shopping list, you guys need to get them all from the makers. For example, the copper cables. You guys should get them from Baosheng, Hengtong, and similarly nationally famous makers.”

“One this can guarantee the material’s quality, and two the price will also be cheaper.”

“The rest are all the same. I’ve already circled out brand names for you guys to pick from.” Ye Qing pointed to the shopping list once again: “You guys can divide the tasks however you choose. When you’ve come to an agreed upon price, send it to your manager or myself. If I think the price is right, then the company will directly transfer the money to their company’s account.”

“Timeframe is a week. When each of you come back and are able to complete the task, there’ll be a 10K bonus waiting.”

Just as he finished, Ye Qing keenly felt ten pairs of scorching eyes staring at him.

Ye Qing straight up filtered out the males, welcomed the stares of the 4 pretty ladies, and smiled back.

Chapter 169: The precious Dragon Creek Beach

Having divided the task amongst themselves, everyone in the Purchasing Department happily took their business trip funds and headed for the long distance bus stations.

Ye Qing also didn’t stop there. Although right now it was the scorching summer, he still called Xue Xiaohu to go with him to a regular cleaning center for a sauna.

Having washed off all the dirt and traces of tiredness, he then called for four masseuses to give both him and Xue Xiaohu a full body treatment.

Ye Qing, while enjoying the full body treatment of two masseuses, opened up his contact list and gave calls to the two steel plants he had purchased from previously to ask the price for steel grade pig iron ingots.

The shopping list that was handed out before totaled around 200 million.

In it, there was no mention of the most important material needed for construction — the steel.

Ever since the Metal Smelting Center came online, Ye Qing basically no longer needed to buy all those completed steel materials anymore.

Rather, he directly bought large quantities of steel grade pig iron ingots and smelted the steel inhouse.

This way not only was the cost margin low, but with the Metal Smelting Center making all the steel its quality was leaps and bounds ahead of those available on the open market.

The entire Dragon Creek Beach was more than 40,000 hectares, so even with Ye Qing's plan of phase one construction, there was still the need for a sky load of steel.

Steel had always been brought by Ye Qing personally. After connecting the call with the first steel factory and some greeting, Ye Qing straight up asked the owner how much steel grade pig iron they had stockpiled.

"20,000 tons!" The steel factory owner, ever since getting in contact with the never satisfied steel gorgery that was Ye Qing, abruptly turned all his losses into gains and became the target of much jealousy by every other steel maker.

"Price?" 20,000 tons to the current Ye Qing was really not a lot. Raw iron cost around 1500 a ton, so 20,000 tons was only 30,000,000.

"I'm going to have to raise the price a bit this time President Ye." Weifeng Steel's owner, Mr. Pan, said: "The raw iron this time was all imported from the Carajas iron mine in Brazil. The quality is guaranteed to be better than last time."

"I offer 1650 a ton."

The Carajas mine in Brazil was the largest iron ore exporter in the world, and was also well known for their quality ores. Although the price set by Mr. Pan was a bit on the high side, but seeing how he was much closer, Ye Qing agreed to the price and immediately had him send all 20,000 tons over by truck.

After he finished with Weifeng Steel, Ye Qing then called up Hongtai Steel. They had around ten thousand tons of raw iron in stock, so Ye Qing bought them all after agreeing on the price.

"Uncle, why don't we buy an iron mine and mine it ourselves." When Ye Qing was done calling, Xue Xiaohu was somewhat embarrassed to be Ye Qing's wingman. He was only 18 and he was already being taken to places like this by Ye Qing.

"Ordering all the materials from other people means they're earning all the money."

“You really know how to daydream.” Ye Qing smiled: “There aren’t any big iron mines near Zhongyun. Rather, they’re all scattered, low quality deposits. The amount within these deposits are also too miniscule for any mining operation.”

“Which was why some steel factories import raw iron and smelt it themselves.”

“Brazil and Australia are world famous for their raw ore mines. At most we can imitate those steel factories and buy raw iron to smelt them ourselves.”

Xue Xiaohu nodded in understanding.

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6 PM. The first of the 50 18 wheelers from the two steel factories rumbled into the Dragon Creek Beach.

Good thing that the four newly hired Metal Specialists were super knowledgeable about metals, which was why Ye Qing sent them to examine the quality of the ingots after they had all arrived and were unloaded.

This unloading step was both long and slow. The truck train lined up all the way to Huanhai Avenue. This slow unload and tight train of trucks immediately had Ye Qing decide on building an unloading dock that was capable of servicing 200 18 wheelers at the same time in Phase One of development.

Taking advantage of the indefinite unloading, Ye Qing went into his office, and with a whiteboard marker, neatly mapped out the plot of land belonging to this new unloading dock on the Dragon Creek Beach sandbox.

Next was the rough drawing, which really had no real technical difficulty to it.

A level ground, connected to all the wires and pipelines, and a full steel structure.

As for the dockers, Ye Qing ignored the traditional forklift and conveyor belts because he was about to make the bold move of switching to fully automated mechanical arms within the entire building.

This was an inspiration that came from creating the collapsible arm from Xue Ningong’s film crew.

Just think about it. What kind of high tech bombardment will it be to see 200 large scale mechanical arms synchronously moving to load and unload stuff within this giant warehouse?

And most, most, most importantly, the mechanical arms belong in the category of high tech products, so it was very advantageous to use it to earn Monster Factory some industrial index along the way.

When Ye Qing completed the first drawing, the sun was already beginning to set.

Ye Qing once again hired another ten Master Artisans and ten peons from the Monster Factory.

With only 20 monsters and the help of the Mechanical Colossus, Ye Qing had all the confidence in completing work speed with all those large scale construction groups.

The newly hired Master Artisan appeared wearing the disguise uniform and went off to complete the drawings with laser guided ranger finders. The peons, while hugging a barrel of chalk, followed the Artisans by plotting down accurate and precise lines.

A Mechanical Colossus X was driven out from the underground base by Ye Qing.

The original entrance to the underground base, after getting enlarged, was redoored with camouflaged steel bunker-like doors. The area here that was next to the sea had a layer of level gravel, thanks to the Raging Miners, spread all the way to the factories.

The entire row of searchlights on top of the cockpit was turned on by Ye Qing.

Accompanying the explosion of the heavy sounds of the engine, the Mechanical Colossus X, just like a fullmetal titan, slowly traveled out of the factory.

This was the first time that the X series had appeared in public, but sadly this here was remote to begin with, and with the fact that it was evening, there was no one who would come here to see what was going on.

\*Ka Bang ~\* \*Ka Bang ~\*

Just as the M.C. X got off of the gravel road, Ye Qing, from the security cameras, witnessed the giant impressions made by the Colossus on the cement that connected the gravel to the barren earth.

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Ah screw it. This cement road was already in terrible shape and filled with potholes to begin with. When the concrete arrived later, might as well as rip it apart and repave it.

Not long after Ye Qing arrived on the bare earth, the second Mechanical Colossus X also left the base.

Then a third and a fourth!

A series of lined up big bright halogen searchlights lit up the entire barren surroundings as bright as day.

"Hey Hulk One, Hulk Two, Hulk Three, single file horizontally with me." Ye Qing, in his cockpit, called out to the three other drivers with walkie talkies.

No reply, but the other three Mechanical Colossuses all moved together, roaring and shaking, and came to a single file with Ye Qing's ride.

Ye Qing stared out from the cockpit and after seeing all of randomly scattered boulders, flashes of eagerness could be seen in his eyes.

"On my command!" Ye Qing shook the lightweight control skeleton and slammed the start button: "Hulk One, Two, Three, swap out to dozer blades, lower to negative 0.2 meters, and with me, charge!"

As soon as he finished, all four Colossus simultaneously began to move their pair of two meter long mechanical arms.

After a round of rolling thunder like mechanical sounds, the two ton dozer blades that had their edges made entirely out of titanium alloy, lined up to form a metal blockade that no one was willing to or could pass.

\*Boom ~\* \*Boom ~\* \*Boom ~\*

The blades broke the surface of the earth and sank deep down.

Quickly after, these four mechanical monsters, with black smoke rising, roared as they began their advance.

Under the incomparable power of the Mechanical Colossus X, no matter if it was boulders or soil, they were all rolled up and shoved aside like a tidal wave.

The marks left behind by the four giant monsters was only a perfectly level surface.

“Hahaha ~” Ye Qing had his blood boiling as he undauntingly charged forward.

This was the charm of industrialization. This was also a display of its power.

In under a short 20 minute window, the originally ‘even if gifted, no one will want to develop’ Dragon Creek Beach, had a clear and level surface of 36 meters by 1800 meters cleared out by four steel monsters. By this rate, it would only take them a day or two to level and clear out the entire Dragon Creek Beach.

On the leveled surface that was more than 1500 meters away from the factory, the originally boulder dotted surface revealed scattered spots of brown.

Further away, the brown color on the surface was even more visible as it turned to orange brown, and even flashed signs of metallic glow on those flat cuts.

A completely black, horned, red eyed, armoured shadow flashed out from the main gates of the factory.

He chased on the leveled ground and continued to head after the in operations Mechanical Colossuses.

Ye Qing was in the middle of having his fun, yet glimpsed a dark steel like human shadow catch up. This sudden appearance frightened him to the point that he nearly turned around and smashed the shadow down with the dozer blades.

Signaling for the other Colossuses to stop, Ye Qing then asked the shadow what was going on, and why he was chasing so urgently?

“Boss ~ The iron ingots you had us examine are complete, and I’m here to give you the report.” The Metal Specialists’ voice was a bit hoarse: “The ingots were roughly 8% off of the standard they set on their product certificates.”

“Well that’s basically close enough.” Ye Qing wasn’t surprised by this common white lie. Slightly exaggerating their products was basically an unspoken rule of all steel factories.

“Boss, we can actually smelt better steel ourselves.” The Metal Specialist commented as he pointed to the glowing brown metal patches on the ground.

## Chapter 170: The Geologic Survey

“This is limonite, an ore made up of 40% iron, which is basically worth mining.”

Why would Ye Qing, who was only focused on charging forward, care about what color the surface behind him changed to?”

Only upon hearing what this metal specialist just said did Ye Qing curiously exit down from the cockpit pit of the Colossus.

“\*Inhale\* ..... “

Under the illumination of the search lamps on top of the cockpit, Ye Qing now saw clearly just what the ground revealed by the Colossuses looked like. It was as if it had been completely graffitied by a master artist with pockets of brown clouds that actually looked like some sort of pattern.

With a touch, an ice cold metal sensation had Ye Qing recognize that these rocks in front of him could actually be steel smeltable limonite ore.

It really was luck doing its thing here.

Iron ore generally distinguishes its iron content with its color.

Those iron ores imported from Australia and Brazil, as well as other famous mines, would generally all look grey. These ores can be immediately used as iron with no need to purify them.

This colour only belong to those metal rich ores that contained more than 60% iron.

Although those ores had some pretty steep prices, the cost to purify them was relatively cheap.

China has a lot of iron deposits, but the majority of them were all low grade ores. Moreover, many of those deposits were all accompanying ores, just like the limonite ore in front of Ye Qing. Due to having been under damp surroundings for long periods of time by being near the sea, it had become moist and includes many other impurities, which created a major problem for regular steel factories in extracting the iron from the ore.

This was also why only now could Ye Qing finally confirm why the Dragon Creek Beach area was so barren.

Because there were just too many minerals here. For example, the high concentration titanium mine underground, and the basically exposed limonite ores on the surface.

Since the earth here contained this much metal, it naturally resulted in low level of vegetation, and then there was also the decades worth of factory waste sewage piled up nearby.

“Boss, we have special refining methods for refining these minerals. If we were to smelt it ourselves, then we can produce steel that far exceeds those on the open market.”

Refining ores is a trade of much importance. Of course, there was no way that Ye Qing would doubt the abilities of the metal specialists. Furthermore, now that he had found a reasonable minable exposed iron mine, he had no excuse to not buy it out and let the metal specialists refine even better steel.

That’s right — to buy it all out.

The underground titanium ore wouldn’t be found no matter how Ye Qing used it, but this exposed iron ore was definitely going to be found, which meant reporting this finding to the Ministry of Land and Resources, and applying for a mining licence.

Ye Qing once again climbed up into the cockpit and called into the walkie talkie: “One Two Three stop, turn around and follow me to create the space for the new factories and unloading dock.”

When this deposit was reported, the ministry would definitely send a team to survey its concentration and size, which was why Ye Qing decided to wait until they had completed their survey before replanning the layout of the new expansions.

There was a 1500 meter distance between the factory gates and the start of the iron deposit, and Ye Qing believed that the surveying team wouldn’t bother to check the surrounding hills because they actually all belonged to him.

It wasn’t like they were going to come probe his factory activities just for some not really worth it mining iron deposit.

Ye Qing’s factory right now was in total only worth a couple billion. So long as he had paid his taxes, no one from central was going to come looking for trouble. To disrupt a factory’s manufacturing just for some barren deposit, wasn’t that just like losing big to win small?

When in the future, the scenes where Ye Qing would need to pay tens of billions in taxes annually would be quite something.

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In the morning of the next day, Ye Qing immediately gave the Ministry of Land and Resources a call saying how he found a limonite ore deposit during construction and didn’t know how big it was, so quickly send someone to check.

As soon as they heard it was limonite ores and at the Dragon Creek Beach, 20 minutes after reporting to the call operator, the Vice Chief of the ministry personally gave Ye Qing a call.

When Ye Qing bought out the usage rights of the desolated land that was the Dragon Creek Beach, it made many of the directors in the ministry happy for some time. Now that they got a call from Ye Qing saying that he found a patch of limonite deposit, they naturally needed to check in with Ye Qing’s opinion.

At the same time, this Vice Chief was somewhat puzzled. Currently, there hasn’t been any reported findings of mineral patches that were worth mining near Zhongyun.

Typically when a company finds a batch of minerals during construction, they would just act as if it didn’t exist and continue on.

So why was there a report this time?

Doesn’t the presence of the surveying team of the ministry hinder his factory’s construction plans even more?

“It’s like this Chief Sun. My Monster Heavy Industry is currently in need of large sums of steel. If the deposit size here is actually ok, then we might look to buy out the mining rights.”

“Oh okay, no problem, no problem. I’ll immediately send the nearest surveying team over to check.” Hearing that Ye Qing might want to buy the mining rights, this chief finally understood.

Under normal circumstances, if they didn't want to mine it, then there was no boss that would go directly looking for trouble.

But Ye Qing was interested in this deposit, so he could only report it.

Hanging up the call, Ye Qing, while drawing some rough sketches, was also talking with the company's 10 C.A.D. designers to produce C.A.D. drawings of the sketches he was going to upload.

Ye Qing wanted electronic drawings of all the current construction projects, so naturally these time consuming works were handed down to his subordinates.

As for the actual work of factory expansion, after Ye Qing got his dose of the Mechanical Colossus, he left it all to the ten newly hired peons and master artisans.

At 10 AM, the geology surveying team of Zhongyun arrived at the Dragon Creek Beach in two pickups and two cargo trucks.

Huanghai Avenue acted as the divider for two completely different scenes. On the Dragon Creek Beach side, it was all rocks and desolate land. Yet on the other side of the road, it was a wonderful sight filled with beautiful and lush trees.

When Ye Qing came out to meet the surveying team, he suddenly thought of a problem.

When Huanghai avenue was being built, it definitely needed foundations to be dug, so then there couldn't have been iron deposits under there.

There wasn't any near his factory as well, but normally iron deposits were always spread out across a large area, so maybe a part of the deposits was buried under the nearby ocean.

When Ye Qing got to the wasteland, the twelve man surveying team had all gotten out.

People who regularly work in the wild all had something clearly in common — they were tanned to the extreme.

These people weren't different either, as all them had a tanned and weather-beaten face. And from their looks, they were actually quite spirited and enjoyed what they do.

Having gotten over the greeting and formalities, Ye Qing first invited them to his office for some tea.

"President, you're too nice." The team lead who shook hands with Ye Qing had a navy blue vest on and a set of binoculars hanging from his neck: "Before we came, Chief Sun had already informed us to do this asap and to not trouble you or your factory."

"So we won't trouble you any further, and you don't need to look after us."

"Alright then. I'll have someone prepare two tables of food and drinks for you guys when you are done. And please, don't be too courteous with me, you guys are actually helping me here."

"Sure ~ thank you!" The man didn't turn down Ye Qing courteous offer of food.

And just like Ye Qing predicted, the surveying team, while drilling, also got half meter deep samples from all directions for examining.

But this sampling range stopped before the pathway to the factory.

Originally, Ye Qing still had worries that they would come to the hills and take sample from there. So while the team was busy drilling for samples near the pathway, Ye Qing got his answer. Even though the hills might contain some deposits, there was just no point in mining it.

The construction of any mine required a huge volume of heavy equipment.

Those hills, even if they contained iron deposits, were still not worth investing the manpower and resources to mine.

What's more, Ye Qing's factory was right there. If they were to drill for samples on the hill, then wasn't that just troubling the production of the factory?

And just like how quickly the surveying team came, the rough results of the samples taken also came out quickly in the afternoon.