

The Crafts 260

Chapter 260: Trapped Under

Thud

Once again, Lucas crashed into the wall of the laboratory, but this time around, he suffered less pain than the previous time. This was because Lucas now wore the complete Stellar Circuit Battle-Armour, and a faint shield had been deployed to help mitigate the impact.

Every time Lucas made some progress in his vestige-smithing skill, he would tweak the Stellar Circuit Battle-Armour and make improvements to it as it was his main source of power.

Before Lucas could recover from this blow, three waves of mental energy locked onto him and erupted at the same time.

Boom

The wall of the room couldn't handle the simultaneous attacks and collapsed, burying Lucas underneath it.

Not one, or two, but three drudnids currently stood facing the rubble that buried Lucas, ready to attack again upon the slightest hint that he was alive.

Just like the previous drudnid, all three had third level Apertures Opening stage strength, and one of them even seemed to be slightly stronger than the other two.

Silence pervaded the area with only the occasionally whirring sound from the drudnids interrupting the calm.

Looking at the white rocks that formed a molehill beside the wall, the drudnids suspected that Lucas had been killed by their joint assault. After all, the power of the joint attack was so immense that even one of their own would end up heavily damaged after that. They had also utilised their neuro-magic to scan the rubble and found no traces of life, which could only mean that the target had died.

The drudnids then turned around to return to their resting spot.

Meanwhile, underneath the rubble, Lucas held his breath and remained frozen as he listened to the low thuds coming from the drudnids' act walking away.

After he got hit by their combo, Lucas immediately decided that the best course of action was to play dead. He was familiar with some stealth techniques from his last life and the Stellar Circuit Battle-Armour was equipped with a stealth mode; although this stealth mode couldn't hide the flow of stellar energy, it could block his biological signals such as heat signature.

Right after doing that, Lucas also activated power saving mode on the SCB, reducing its stellar energy consumption and usage to the minimum, occasionally flickering its flow path. This gave off the idea that the SCB was damaged. At the same time, if the drudnids identified targets by their stellar energy flow, it would make them mistake that the target was in a severe life-and-death state and would die if left alone for a few minutes. As such, the drudnids wouldn't continue with their assault again.

Although he wasn't sure of this, Lucas had decided to take the bet and it paid for. Such a rapid response was simply due to his immeasurable experience surviving in the wild and against dangerous opponents.

As the drudnids retreated, Lucas couldn't help but sigh mentally while scrunching his face.

Even with the armour protecting him, the attacks from the three drudnids were particularly hurtful and effective. The mental blasts from the drudnids was a pure force attack. It also possessed a certain quality that enabled a majority of it to get through obstacles and hit the target. In a sense, it was the same logic as when one punches one side of a sheet of metal with the right amount of force, the force is transmitted through the sheet and exits from the other side.

In this case, that force was transmitted through the battle suit into Lucas' body. Even though he was already at the peak of the Body Strengthening stage, it still wasn't something a Body Strengthening stage practitioner could take and remain standing; even more so as there were three mental blasts.

While he was recovering, Lucas began thinking of a plan. He couldn't remain underneath this rubble for long, and his oxygen supply would soon be depleted. However, Lucas couldn't charge out right away as that would be suicidal.

Lucas did have a trump card —two bronze grade cards of fourth and sixth level Apertures Opening stage— but he felt it was too wasteful. Over two months had gone by since he left Baylands city-state, but Lucas had not gotten even a second level bronze grade card. As such, he decided not to use the two at hand unless he truly had no other option.

'When I first came in, I failed to sense the first drudnid. Even after defeating it, I didn't sense the other three either. How could that be?'

Lucas frowned hard.

Getting struck by the drudnids didn't mean that Lucas' guard was down from the start. On the contrary, he had been alert after the appearance of the first one, and even scanned the place but found nothing out of the ordinary. Having discovered nothing strange, it was inevitable that Lucas would presume that there was no other enemy here; finally dropping his guard down.

Being masters of battle, the drudnids must have noticed this and attacked at the moment. They instinctively knew to move quickly so that Lucas would be left unable to react properly.

The key to all this was simply one fact- Lucas was unable to sense them.

At first, Lucas was tempted to ask the system for help, but scratched out the idea. Relying often on external help was not a good thing.

Just then, Lucas recalled an important fact about drudnids.

Drudnids were the equivalent of robots for the Sunil civilisation, however, they were also very different from the latter. Whereas robots were mechanical constructs that operated thanks to a compacted assortment of data, logic and programming called an artificial intelligence, a drudnid was operated by a true consciousness, except at a lower level and with a fixed programming.

This made drudnids closer to living beings than robots were. However, a similarity existed as both technologies were created to serve a certain goal.

Apart from this, the artificial consciousness of drudnids were affected by the global catastrophe from thousands of years ago and the immense passage of time. It was already quite a miracle that they still functioned within the East Braftford relics, albeit with fractional performance. But this was the key point for Lucas.

Drudnids were operated by an artificial consciousness, and the current drudnids had a fractured consciousness.

A plan promptly formulated in his Lucas' head.