

The Crafts 305

Chapter 305: Decimation

"We've lost contact with Nigel." Inside a hover shuttle that was as big as a private jet, a figure with a black fox mask and a black cloak reported to a man who sat at the command centre of the shuttle. This was the team of mysterious people who were all dressed in black. They had gone into the Millennium Mountains just at the same time as Lucas and William's crew, but unlike Lucas, they knew exactly where they were headed. "I guess they found out." A feminine voice commented at that moment. A woman in a black tactical suit leaned against the shuttle's wall, her gloved fingers drumming a combat knife against her thigh—a habit she'd picked up during years of wetwork. She was the speaker, and also one of the strongest members in the group. "It doesn't matter. By doing so, they've already informed us of their arrival. Also, they can't take it yet until it's fully matured so we have nothing to be worried about. Full speed ahead. We have a few pigs to slaughter." The leader of the crew said with burning eyes. Even without releasing his complete aura, a dreadful air surrounded him as a testament to his immense power. In front of him was a small projection of a countdown. It was the estimated time for the Heart of Silver to complete its growth, and there were still three hours left on the clock. . . . In the Millennium Mountains that was home to over one hundred mountains, looking like a graveyard of mountains and leaks piercing through the clouds, there was a small region of seven small mountains that not many people knew about. Although they were called small, this was relative to the other mountains in the area. Many of the mountains easily pierced through the sky and had their peaks on the cloud, but this small group weren't even half the size of the gargantuan monuments. This 'valley of mountains' was actually home to an undiscovered vein of ores, which the mysterious group called "92B-Delta lode". It was a mystic silver lode, which was very valuable. Mystic Silver was a unique element found in the Blue Mist star region. It wasn't exactly rare, reducing its value, but it was still worth a bit, especially in large quantities. This was because Mystic Silver was a valuable material used in making vestiges Grade 4 and above. So while it was trash on a star region scale, on a planetary level, mystic silver had a lot of value even more so in a planet like Erete. It could also be used in making starships and hover shuttles with the capabilities of reaching five times the speed of sound or mach 5. On one of these mountains, a team of eleven people had set up a hideout within a cave. The cave was filled with tons of complex technology and devices. It had also been heavily refurbished to the point that even the brown rocks couldn't be seen as they were again. Static hums faintly sounded from the surrounding devices, giving off an eerie feeling in the cave. The walls were coated in nitrous silver, [1] which was non-Newtonian liquid metal alloy that was opaque. The floors were in the same situation as well. Usually, nitrous silver was used in situations where one wanted to avoid leaving behind a mark. It was mostly used by secret agents, spies and criminals to sneak into a scene, operate, and leave without a trace. But there was one special feature of nitrous silver which made it the ultimate alloy for use by underground forces. The silver in nitrous silver didn't actually refer to regular silver but, ironically, Mystic Silver. When mixed together with nitrogen, the resulting compound, Nitrous Silver, could block off stellar energy signatures to some extent. Of the eleven men, six were monitoring the equipment in the cave, three hid outside the cave utilising the terrain as their cover. As for the last two, they were staring at a large display in the cave. To prevent any possibility of being spotted, the cave was dimly lit with only the pale glow of the display units

and the luminous gems embedded in the ceiling. Those gems didn't utilise electricity or even stellar energy, which made them perfect for lighting up a secret base. "Their E.T.A. is around three minutes. What do we do?" One of the two men asked with a frown as he stared at the map of the area on the display. He leaned forward, almost as if to zoom in closer to the map, while drumming his fingers anxiously on the table. There was a marking of the last point of their colleague, Nigel, had reported William and his small fleet to be. After the confirmation of Nigel's death, they were now without eyes on William's team and had to come to a decision quickly before it was too late "We can't even find them, so what can we do?" The other man replied while furrowing his eyebrows. Suddenly, his eyes twitched as he sharply moved his focus towards a certain spot on the digital map. "What was that?" "What?" His partner who was leaning forward asked with confusion written all over his face. The man didn't reply as his attention was still fixed on that spot on the screen. He had noticed a flicker on the screen but there was nothing there once his focus was on it. This made him confused and wonder if maybe the anticipation and anxiety had caused him to begin hallucinating. 'No. It's not that. They're here.' The man's eyes suddenly widened as he turned around and faced the others. With a loud voice, he yelled, "Prepare for-" *Boom* An explosion rocked the mountain the cave was dug out within. But that was just the beginning. Laser beams of both red and purple colours darted from the distance towards the region and struck clearly on the mountain. *Boom* *Boom* *Boom* Explosions tainted the surface of not just the mountain with the cave, but the two beside it as well. Flames burst out as the trees on them were set on fire by the intense residual heat of the laser beams that struck from afar. The three mountains were littered with craters and landslides could occasionally be spotted due to the originally balanced topography being 'renovated' by the air-to-surface long-ranged attacks. "Fuck it." The man cursed as he hurried to recover as many devices as he could from being destroyed. Even though the cave was lucky enough to not have been hit, the tumultuous attacks had made the cave a dangerous place. This was because the possibility of a collapse became imminent with the constantly intensive vibrations. "Everybody, recover as many devices as you can and run to area B." The man roared at the top of his voice. Area B was a passage dug out in the depths of the mountain in consideration for any possible assault from the outside. There was a hidden exit at the end of the passage that led to the outside of the mountain. The man intended for his teammates to escape through this exit. Meanwhile, about twenty kilometres away, three sare shuttles in camouflage mode hovered while releasing a ferocious barrage of laser beams in a certain direction. This direction just happened to be where the three mountains were. Each shuttle focused on one mountain, and even though their firepower wasn't the same, it was still enough to decimate the surface of the mountains. This was because every mountain in the Millennium Mountains was incredibly tough. If one of the targets was replaced with a regular mountain from Earth, the barrage of laser beams would easily be able to cut down the height of the mountain. The attacks rained down on the three mountains for ten more seconds before all three shuttles stopped attacking. "Any signs of life spotted yet?" William, who was seated in the command area of the leading shuttle, glanced nonchalantly at one of the men who was charged with monitoring the situation. "Only life signs from desolate beasts so far. We still haven't pinpointed their location yet." The man who was rapidly tapping on a keyboard nervously replied before wiping off a trail of sweat on his forehead. "The reports from the surviving members estimate that their hideout is in one of these three mountains. It would be to our detriment if we move in and they're still alive. Find them, no matter the cost." William's voice echoed, intimidating the crew in the shuttle. The grey-coloured Trojan War Fox once again separated from the group and sped forward, towards the site of the carnage. As a

scout-type sare shuttle, it was equipped with state-of-the-art sensory and detection technology hence making it the most suitable option for reconnaissance in this situation. With its speed, it took only a few seconds to cover the twenty kilometres distance —a distance that would take a car moving at 100km/hr (roughly 62 mph) twelve (12) minutes to cover. Not even three minutes later, the Trojan War Fox had sent a reply back to the other two shuttles; a secret base had been found. "Gotcha." William displayed a conniving grin on his face.