

## The Crafts 307

Chapter 307: Clash

\*Boom\*

\*Boom\*

\*Boom\*

Standing far away, Lucas' vision shifted to a region within the Millennium Mountains that was constantly being bombarded by air-to-ground attacks. Based on the unique appearance of those blasts, he surmised that they were fired by rare shuttles. This revelation caused Lucas to have a frown on his face.

'It seems my worst nightmare is true. The Heart of Silver has been spotted.'

Although there was no confirmation that the target of the assault had anything to do with the Heart of Silver, Lucas preferred to be pessimistic rather than optimistic. There was also the fact that his current location was ridiculously far out from Trundel City's Neon Summer province. Furthermore, it was out of the official air route used by light-rail trains for intercity travel and most freelancers to get into the depths of the Millennium Mountains. This meant that anyone found here was probably here for a particular reason and not just to hunt desolate beasts.

Another factor that supported Lucas' pessimism was the fact that there were two parties in that region; the attacking side and the defending side. This realisation pointed to the fact that the two sides were clearly competing for something and what else could that be except the Heart of Silver?

The final reason was that the direction of the attack was roughly equivalent to one hundred kilometres from where the directional guide stopped functioning. Although it wasn't exactly one hundred kilometres, it was roughly in the same area; just only five kilometres away from the point of walking exactly one hundred kilometres in the direction the directional guide last pointed towards [1].

These three reasons solidified Lucas' belief that the direction of the attack was the location of the Heart of Silver, or at the very least, related to it.

'But going straight right there is dumb.'

With that thought in mind, Lucas immediately retrieved the complete Stellar Circuit Battle-Armour. The original SCB only had two gauntlets, two boots, a pair of greaves[2], a pair of vambraces[3], a cuirass, a helmet, and the key component, the Vis Receptacle which was fastened to the cuirass. However, after improving his skills, Lucas created more vestiges and added them to the Stellar Circuit Battle-Armour, boosting its power and also the protection it offered.

The new parts were a pair of pauldrons [4] for his left and right shoulders, a pair of cuisses [5] for his thighs, and a pair of rerebraces [6] for his forearm. With this, Lucas became completely encased and the term battle armour became more appropriate for the SCB.

The Vis Receptacle was also upgraded to provide more power as there were more vestiges than before. The current Vis Receptacle could be likened to a nuclear reactor due to the incredible amount of power it contained. Because of this, Lucas didn't fancy the idea of using the complete Stellar Circuit Battle-Armour unless necessary. Even though he had strengthened the vestige to the best of his abilities, Lucas was somewhat worried about the Vis Receptacle exploding mid-battle.

The reason this fear existed was because Lucas' current vestige-smithing skill wasn't at his peak; it was much too far from that. Also, lacking stellar energy, he couldn't exceed the Grade 4 mark for vestiges. This meant that when facing anything above that level, there was a significant chance that the Vis Receptacle could shatter. If that happened, the resulting explosion would be powerful enough to devour everything within a thirty metres radius. There was no need to say what would become of Lucas in that scenario.

After suiting up, Lucas activated the stealth mode of the SCB —this was exactly why he summoned it out. Following this, Lucas then headed towards the site of the explosion but in a roundabout manner rather than going straight ahead.

Suddenly, Lucas heard a rustling sound up ahead. He froze and scanned the area for the source of the sound.

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The four men who alighted from the Trojan War Fox went into the cave and explored it. However, the majority of the pieces of equipment earlier located here had been moved away in a hurry using a spatial vault, by Sentinel and his men. But even there were so many that the group had only taken away a part of it, albeit the important ones.

"Heat signature detections, sir." One of the men hinted to another towards a particular direction.

All four of them wore tactical battle suits with badges, but the man who led the group was the only one with a white badge whilst the others had yellow badges on.

The direction the yellow-badged man pointed towards was exactly where the secret entrance to Area B is.

"Contact the command centre and have those above monitor our movements. We'll be heading deeper now." The white-badged man, who was the leader of this unit, gave out his orders.

A signal was sent to the Trojan War Fox and the shuttle's operating agent immediately focused the vehicle's monitoring systems on the team. But even with that, it was still somewhat for them to track the exact position of the team. Luckily, all four men had trackers fit inside of their clothing which made things better.

Unlike most mountains, some of the mountains in the Millennium Mountains were immune to radar and similar scouting technology, while others had great resistance towards it. The mountain that the mysterious organisation had set up their base was one such exactly like the latter. Together with the nitrous silver coating, this was why William and his men could not find them and resorted to bombarding the region they were suspected to be in.

Just as the group of four went into the secret escapes route, on the outside, William had just received the information they sent up.

'They were quite fast.' William snorted.

He didn't think that the other side had a secret underground exit or that they would have survived the bombardment of laser beams earlier. But none of those mattered anymore as they were being hunted down.

Suddenly...

**\*Boom\***

A loud explosion rocked the mountain as a certain spot not far away from the cave's entrance exploded and sunk inwards.

"What happened?"

Those on William's shuttle were all stunned at the scene, confused about what had just taken place.

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 receptionist at the front door greeted Lucas as he stepped through the entrance. However, after noticing that Lucas was not hyuman, the young lady's expression changed slightly but she quickly hid it.

Belfargos city-state wasn't as averse to the presence of humans as with the other city-states. There were quite a lot of humans here and the city-state had the second largest population of humans, just after Digress city-state. Most of these humans worked as assistants or took on the more menial roles in the city-state that hyumans refused to take on. Those with good looks applied for hostess or receptionist positions, while those who were physically stronger handled physical tasks. The ones who were more audacious took on dangerous tasks like acting as a porter for freelancers in the wild. Not every one could afford a spatial vault but having to carry so much luggage while battling was troublesome, hence the need for a porter.

In here. You can go to the bar alone on your own.

On the other hand, in the case of a desolate beast domain, a domain classified under either of the two, would be heavily monitored by the closest city-state unless it was too far away. In some cases, a request for a crusade would be made to the Oklo Dynasty.