

Apocalypse 844

Chapter 844 Little Warm Moment

After that close call, Fred and his team returned to the base where the others were already waiting. Fortunately, they didn't encounter any more danger on the way back.

The handover of the vehicles for Jason and Adam's teams was carried out promptly. As a gesture of goodwill — and because they now had more than enough vehicles — Fred's group gave each team two off-road vehicles. Not long after, Jason and Adam's teams stopped by the marketplace to spend some of the newly acquired crystal cores from this trip at the car dealership. They stocked up on supplies and gasoline to add to their current supplies on hand, but didn't linger, eager to return to their camps.

Of course, Fred and his team didn't let them go alone. They escorted the two groups to the truckload of supplies they had found earlier, the same ones they had found before Kisha brought them back to the base. Thankfully, this time the journey was much smoother, with little to no danger along the way.

To ensure a safe exit, Fred's team used the armored trucks from the base to clear a path for Jason and Adam's convoys. After helping them divide the supplies evenly, they escorted them all the way to the outskirts of the city. Only when Jason and Adam's groups safely turned off the main road and disappeared toward their respective camps did Fred and the others finally return to base.

Meanwhile, the STAU's submitted a report detailing the vehicles and gasoline they had acquired from the car dealership, adding everything to the inventory. Mr. Winters and his team received the goods with enthusiasm, especially the office supplies, including computers and printers, which were a welcome surprise. These additions would greatly streamline the process of tracking inventory as well as generating weekly and monthly sales reports.

The group assisted Mr. Winters in setting up the new equipment in the small office at the Supply Center, where the other staff members were already busy recording the inflow and outflow of goods, along with managing distribution and sales.

Though it was referred to as a "sale," traditional currency no longer held much value. Most transactions were conducted using work points, making accurate record-keeping more critical than ever.

"This is a huge help — a real upgrade," Mr. Winters said gratefully as he patted the STAU member on the shoulder. In front of them stood a new table equipped with Mac computers, large printers, and stacks upon stacks of A4 bond paper.

"As long as it helps with your work, sir — happy to assist," the STAU replied with a respectful nod before exiting the Supply Center.

Of course, their efforts and sacrifices earlier didn't go unrewarded. For Rakan and his subordinates, who had not yet awakened, each received five bottles of Scarlet Honey along with a week's worth of supplies — including canned goods, fresh meat and vegetables, and clean drinking water. On top of that, Kisha generously provided them with baskets of spiritual fruits to support their possible awakening, and the bottles of Scarlet Honey increase the probability of awakening their powers.

Meanwhile, Fred and the other awakened ability users received five bottles of Scarlet Honey, a bottle of spiritual water drawn from the spiritual spring, and baskets of spiritual fruits, along with similar essential supplies. The spiritual water would help purify their internal energy and enhance the quality of their abilities, while the Scarlet Honey would increase their body caps and help them increase their stats little by little.

Mr. Winters was also in charge of distributing the additional rewards. As a result, Evelyn, who had narrowly avoided serious danger, returned home to her husband and their little baby with a generous

haul of supplies. Among them was baby formula, which brought her great relief, as well as extra meat and bones for the Alibi dog, who had quickly become both the family's loyal guardian and the baby's devoted protector.

"Honey, how was your mission?" her husband asked gently, cradling their baby in his arms. The Alibi dog, now looking even bigger and more alert, padded behind him, watching over them with steady eyes.

"Oh! The mission?" Evelyn paused, a flicker of nervousness crossing her face. The truth was, she had come dangerously close to being crushed by a tank-like evolved zombie — a near-death experience she had no intention of sharing. Telling her husband would only make him worry or feel guilty for letting her shoulder the risks of frontline duty.

"It actually went well," she said with a soft smile. "Fred, Rose, Clyde, Reeve — they were all there, along with Rakan and his team. They're all really strong, so honestly, I didn't have to do much."

As she spoke, Evelyn carefully scooped milk formula into a baby bottle, added warm water, and gave it a gentle shake until the powder fully dissolved. Then she brought the bottle to their baby's lips. The little one now had rosy cheeks and a healthy, plump face — a clear sign of the love and care her husband had poured into raising him. He had grown chubby and lively, a far cry from the fragile infant they had found not long ago.

"The baby's gotten chubbier than before..." Evelyn said, gently shifting the topic as she reached out to take the baby from her husband. He gave in with a helpless smile, letting her cradle the infant, and watched the two of them with soft, doting eyes. Then, without a word, he took the apron hanging nearby and slipped it on.

"What do you want for dinner?" he asked.

"Hmmm... I'm craving braised pork and bone marrow soup with radish," Evelyn replied thoughtfully. Ever since she took in the baby, a quiet change had begun to blossom within her. The deep well of motherly love she once buried had found a new outlet, making her a little more lively each day.

Though the pain of losing her own child hadn't vanished, caring for this baby was helping her heal, drawing her out of her grief. Watching her now — brighter, softer, and slowly reclaiming herself — her husband felt a growing sense of relief. He continued in his role as a house husband, content to support her however she needed.

"Alright, I'll cook it," he said with a warm smile. "And thanks to the crystal cores you gave me a while back, I managed to buy some good pickled vegetables and cured meat from the marketplace — let's have those as side dishes."

He took out a few glass jars filled with colorful pickled vegetables and set them on the counter. Then he turned to Evelyn.

"Go play with the baby in the living room. You shouldn't stay here — the smell of food will cling to both you and the baby," he added, gently nudging her toward the couch. He could see the weariness behind her smile; after an entire day out on a mission, she deserved some rest. This was the least he could do for her.

Touched by his quiet care, Evelyn didn't protest. She made her way to the living room and sat down, cradling the baby in her arms as he finished his bottle. The alibi dog lay at her feet, warm and watchful, like a furry guardian of their little peace.