

Chapter 7132

Maria smiled and said, "Emperor penguins are just that strange."

"Other penguins migrate north in winter,"

"But they come back to breed deep in Antarctica."

Charlie remembered something and said,

"I think I saw it on TV before."

"Thousands or even tens of thousands of emperor penguins would huddle together to withstand the wind and snow."

"It was quite a spectacular sight."

"Yes,"

Maria said, "Their habit is to breed in the coldest time."

"Gathering in groups to incubate eggs and raise their young."

"This is probably the only animal we can see in the Antarctic interior in winter."

The Antarctic winter is the harshest environment on Earth,

And very few animals can overwinter there.

The emperor penguin is one of them.

Because the Antarctic sea surface is freezing at a rate of several kilometers per day,

Ice layers several meters thick have formed near the Antarctic continent.

At this point, research vessels don't need docks.

When the ice thickness exceeds the icebreaker's capabilities,

The ship simply comes to a slow stop and stops moving forward.

At this moment, several people waiting a kilometer away saw the ship stop and give a signal,

And immediately began to drive several ice tractors slowly toward the research vessel.

Each of these ice tractors was towing a trailer,

Some with cargo holds and others with passenger cabins.

Immediately afterward, Captain John approached Charlie and told him,

"Mr. Wade, you and the three ladies can prepare to disembark."

"The research station staff will pick you up first."

"You can take your luggage and supplies with you in the vehicle."

"If anything is too large or heavy, you can leave it with us."

"We will use a crane loader to load the ship's supplies and equipment into the trucks later."

Charlie nodded and asked them,

"Captain Torreson, when are you returning?"

John Torreson checked the time and said,

"It's still over a hundred kilometers from here to the research station."

"It will take at least four hours by snowmobile."

"We need to wait for the staff to transport all the goods."

"And arrange the work at the research station before returning together."

"From now until departure, it will probably take about four days."

Charlie nodded slightly.

After four days, there would probably be very few people left on the Antarctic continent,

Which would be more convenient for cultivation?

When Charlie and his three companions disembarked,

The short daylight was drawing to a close.

A hundred meters away on the ice cap,

Three members of the Nordic polar research team were waiting beside a snowmobile.

They had received information that after resupplying the research station with fuel and other supplies,

They would be setting it to unmanned operation.

The station's power, heating, and water supply would operate automatically and remain habitable.

Instruments would record the operational status and key indicators such as temperature, humidity, air quality, and oxygen levels.

If the unmanned operation of the research station throughout the winter went smoothly this year,

A group of researchers could truly stay there for the winter next year.

Because there is no sun and unstable winds in Antarctica during the winter,

There is almost no usable clean energy.

The most stable source of energy is diesel generators,

And the heat generated during power generation can also be used to heat the research station.

Therefore, the research vessel was to supply the research station with at least 150 tons of diesel fuel to sustain its operation throughout the winter.

Transporting fuel was relatively troublesome, requiring at least two or three trips to complete the haul.

Therefore, the research team members were prepared for a busy day,

Hoping to finish their mission early and return to their warm homes in Northern Europe.

When the three research team members from the station saw Charlie and his group of four,

They were somewhat surprised.

They were driving a snowmobile to tow the crew cabin,

Intending to bring back anyone who could help on board,

But they hadn't expected there to be four Asian faces on board.

Charlie took the initiative to step forward, shaking hands with the leader.

While using his spiritual energy for a mental suggestion,

He introduced himself to the three:

"Gentlemen, I am a meteorological expert from the military."

"I have a very important mission here."

"While you are here, you must absolutely cooperate with my work."

"After you leave, you must forget my existence."

"Can you do that?"

The three immediately answered in unison:

"We can."