Endless 91

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"By the way, you haven't been to the Sublimation Furnace Core yet, have you?" Geoffrey asked.

"To be precise, I haven't really been anywhere."

That's the truth. Every time Bologue came to the Order Bureau, his activities were only within the Field Operations Department. After learning about the eeriness of the "Cultivation Room," Bologue realized that getting lost there might lead to some very bad situations.

After hearing the recent information, the idea of getting lost deepened in Bologue's mind again.

"Yeah, that's right. Before you get familiar with the 'Cultivation Room,' you'd better not wander around. Every year, a few unlucky ones get lost and then disappear."

Speak of the Devil, Bologue's face went dark listening to Geoffrey's words.

Geoffrey laughed heartily and patted Bologue's shoulder.

"Just kidding, it's not that dangerous. The more dangerous parts of the 'Cultivation Room' right now are just the 'Ruins District,' but those are controlled by the 'Safety Containment Department.' Unless you forcefully break in, it's still quite safe here."

Bologue reluctantly believed Geoffrey's words, and then Geoffrey pressed the Sublimation Furnace Core's insignia. After a brief pause, the elevator trembled slightly and ascended.

When the elevator doors opened again, a scorching heat wave hit them, noticeably raising the temperature by several degrees. The clanging of metal was constant, and the mechanical noise was deafening.

The first sight was an extremely large reactor resembling a High Tower, with blinding red light flashing between the metal gaps and red dust settled on its surface. Beneath its giant base were countless cables and power conduits extending from the reactor.

The pipes were densely packed, like a spider web spanning every corner of sight, faintly echoing with rumbling sounds.

Technicians clad in various protective clothing walked among them, carrying heavy toolboxes, their faces covered by gas masks.

The extraordinary mystery was disappeared, resembling more a large factory. Bologue and Geoffrey stood out, much like inspectors visiting a factory workshop.

Bologue took a deep breath, the hot air rushing into his respiratory tract, causing a mild sting.

Here was the Sublimation Furnace Core, or rather, the "Research and Equipment Department."

"Hey! Geoffrey, you guys are here!"

A voice called out, accompanied by a wave of fragrance, like a biting winter chill, momentarily clearing Bologue's mind in the heat. Then, a person in a white lab coat appeared before them.

That person was strange, dressed entirely differently from those strictly guarded.

Her golden hair was tied at the back, leaving a long ponytail. She wore a white lab coat with black clothes underneath, a swinging badge on her chest representing the Sublimation Furnace Core, a fruit entwined with serpents. She sported casual shorts, her smooth thighs exposed, and wore sandals on her feet.

Everyone else appeared tense, conducting high-risk experiments, wishing they could wear more protective clothing, while she seemed freshly departed from a beach party, holding a glass, asking if anyone wanted another round.

"I should have said, as the head, you need to lead by example and pay attention to your behavior! Put on the protective clothing!"

A man in heavy protective gear spoke from behind the woman, judging by his voice, likely male.

"Alright, alright, no big deal. I trust the technicians," the woman shouted, "There hasn't been an accident all year at the Sublimation Furnace Core, and they'll keep it that way, right guys!"

No one responded. The other technicians directly ignored the woman, treating her as nonexistent and continued with their work. The woman awkwardly laughed at this and, to ease the atmosphere, walked directly towards Bologue.

"Bologue Lazarus, right? I've heard so much about you, your name often appeared in various experimental documents before."

The woman looked at Bologue with delight, her cold fragrance becoming more distinct. In this volcanic-like Sublimation Furnace Core, she seemed like a flower meant to bloom in the depths of winter.

"A living Undead."

She circled Bologue, occasionally reaching out to touch or tug at his hair, confirming he was a tangible entity, not some illusion.

Gradually, Bologue could clearly hear the woman's breathing quicken; her eyes shone as she gazed at him, as if he were a remarkable beauty.

Bologue's body shuddered instinctively, like encountering a predator, his body reacting on its own.

"I say, after this, how about we make a deal? You help me test a few things, and, of course, there's something in it for you."

She suddenly leaned close to Bologue, her voice wrapping around his ear in a seductive manner, whispers of temptation arose.

"An undying little white mouse. Where should we start dismantling? Internal organs, limbs? Oh, we lost something in the 'Ruins District,' just right, you can't die. Would you mind fetching it for me, darling?"

The woman's voice turned eerie and fragmented, the previously dazzling older sister transformed into some sort of wicked Witch, Bologue's expression froze for an instant, his gaze struggling towards Geoffrey beside him, Geoffrey shared the same expression, completely drained of color.

Geoffrey turned away directly and greeted other technicians, even for this social butterfly, not wanting any entanglement with this woman.

Wait a minute, all these technicians look alike, how do you tell them apart?

Suddenly a cool sensation emerged from the back of the neck, interrupting all of Bologue's irrational thoughts.

"I say, Bologue, my boy."

The woman's arm affectionately draped around Bologue with a bewitching smile, softly inquiring of him.

"Why not switch to my team, the Sublimation Furnace Core is very safe, no fighting, just screwing, and the budget is ample. Whatever you want, sis can get it for you, whether it's Alchemy Armament or the more sinister 'Contract Object,' whatever you desire will be yours."

Absolutely the Devil's words!

"I say! Be serious!"

A voice rang out, the man in protective clothing directly kicked her without pity, making her fall unsteadily, only to be lifted like a chick with a single hand.

"I apologize on her behalf."
The man bowed while pressing the woman's head along.
"Hello, I'm Bader Villier, her deputy."
Bader finished speaking and whispered to the woman, "Quick, introduce yourself!"
"Oh, oh, oh, hello, hello."
The woman hurriedly grabbed Bologue's hand, shaking it forcefully while obsessively stroking the back of Bologue's hand, her eyes entirely fixed on him.
"Belli Yiyeta, head of the Sublimation Furnace Core, also known as the 'Research and Equipment Department.'"
And thus, in the woman's absurd laughter, Bologue met the Minister of the Order Bureau for the first time.