

Full Time 241

Chapter 241 - First Battle with the Insect Race (6)

In that instant, Andrew and the others on the Transport Ship could even clearly see the tens of thousands of Alien Insect Race members inside the Giant Bubble Flying Insect, yet to be released.

Then came the explosion that swept through the void. The immense force ruthlessly tore the Giant Bubble Flying Insect and the tens of thousands of Alien Insect Race members within to shreds, before grinding them into cosmic dust.

Only after that did the massive shockwave and various radiations burst forth.

Behind Chen Gu, the Sky-Trapping Spider Insects he had used as a meat shield evaporated instantaneously, without a doubt.

Chen Gu took advantage of this moment and recklessly plunged into the mixed swarm ahead. Then, along with the Space Wolf Insects and Sky-Trapping Spider Insects, they were swept out by the explosion's indiscriminate force...

Having received Chen Gu's notice, the Star Armors that retreated ahead of time narrowly made it back to the Mothership. The hatch had just closed when the explosion's force swept over them. The Transport Ship, despite being the furthest away, still shook uncontrollably. Dou Zhanqiong, who had just stepped out of his Mecha, nearly lost his balance and fell to the ground.

Andrew and his companions stood under the Porthole of the Transport Ship, dumbfounded as they watched the explosion.

His executive officer couldn't help but ask, "Captain, can you tell me how Master Chen Gu did it? Even an Antimatter Bomb that small couldn't cause such terrible damage..."

I have no idea either, and I'm just as curious! Andrew thought. I'm waiting to ask Chen Gu for a clear explanation when he gets back! That was supposed to be Second Energy Level? Even a Radiation Missionary of the Fourth Energy Level couldn't do that.

Then it suddenly dawned on him. Something isn't right. Where is Chen Gu? Master Chen Gu hasn't returned. How is he?

Chen Gu was in a dire state. Engulfed within the mixed swarm, he was suffering from the effects of his own Biological Nuclear Explosion. Despite being a bit farther away, the Biological Nuclear Explosion still blasted the entire mixed swarm to bits and pieces.

Chen Gu's Star Armor was also severely damaged. If not for his physique being far superior to that of his peers at the same Energy Level, the explosion would have shaken his internal organs to pieces, and he would have died gloriously on the spot.

Now, his Star Armor was temporarily without power, drifting in the void.

Meanwhile, Chen Gu lay in the cockpit, coughing up blood, one mouthful after another.

What could I do? I was helpless too. I knew full well this profession was all about charging headfirst into danger—inflicting ten thousand casualties on the enemy often meant suffering at least eight thousand in return, perhaps even ten thousand yourself. Yet, when it came to a critical moment, this profession was still the most effective...

Chen Gu struggled to turn his head. At this moment, the Star Armor's backup power activated. Amidst the heavily damaged Star Armor, a sporadic sizzling sound emerged before some equipment reluctantly rebooted.

Chen Gu saw that in the external information feedback system, over seventy percent was blacked out—completely destroyed—while about thirty percent remained barely functional.

Through these partially functioning feeds, Chen Gu saw the Star Sea outside strewn with the corpses of Space Wolf Insects and Sky-Trapping Spider Insects. Farther away, a Giant Bubble Flying Insect, severely injured, was letting out silent screams. It struggled to save itself by contracting its damaged body to protect the Alien Insect Race members inside.

Chen Gu was also startled. This Biological Nuclear Explosion is excessively powerful! What kind of super-lifeform remains did that good-for-nothing Wu Minzhe actually sell me?

It seemed to have a strong amplification effect on the Biological Nuclear Explosion.

Unfortunately, Wu Minzhe is already dead, so I might never get an answer. Chen Gu thought.

The sudden explosion left the Alien Insect Race army somewhat stunned. The remaining Giant Bubble Flying Insects did not dare press too close, and the Transport Ship took the opportunity to return in search of Chen Gu.

Hatches opened one after another, and the Star Armors deployed again. After some searching, Dou Zhanqiong finally spotted Chen Gu amidst a pile of insect corpses.

He excitedly shouted into the communication channel, "He's here! I'm bringing him back!"

This time, Chen Gu's Star Armor was dragged back to the Transport Ship to a hero's welcome. The ordinary warriors on the Transport Ship and the other Mecha pilots all thought this was the captain's "plan"—to use the Antimatter Bomb on the Transport Ship to deal a heavy blow to the Insect Race!

As the warrior who carried out this plan, Chen Gu had shown immense bravery and was perfect in his role. He deserved all the cheers he received.

Yet, Andrew, Dou Zhanqiong, and others were well aware that this was all Chen Gu's idea. Including Dou Zhanqiong himself, no one actually had much faith in the plan.

They didn't even know what kind of bomb Chen Gu had used.

As a battle hero, I'm a classic results-oriented person, Dou Zhanqiong thought. I don't care what bomb you used or whether you hid any secrets. As long as you can slaughter the Alien Insect Race, you are a hero! As long as you're a hero, I respect you.

Dou Zhanqiong practically carried Chen Gu out of the cockpit. Chen Gu's body felt like it was falling apart. Dou Zhanqiong was extremely careful, afraid of aggravating our hero's injuries.

Andrew arrived immediately. "Prepare the treatment pod right away!"

But Chen Gu weakly waved his hand. "No need. Take me back to my room."

As a Second Energy Level professional, he knew his body's condition very well. Entering the treatment pod would mean at least three days to recover. But looking outside, there were still several Giant Bubble Flying Insects left.

Inside them were tens of thousands of Space Wolf Insects and Sky-Trapping Spider Insects. They had just been stunned by the explosion, momentarily unsure of what to do. But give them a little time—or rather, give the Empress behind this Alien Insect Race army a little time to figure out the next step—and they would soon return in force. Chen Gu did not have three days.

Andrew was startled, then recalled the various legendary abilities of professionals. He nodded immediately. "Alright, Dou Zhanqiong, take some men and escort the Master back. For now, follow his orders."

This time Dou Zhanqiong didn't bristle. He gave a military salute, "Yes, sir! Following orders!"

Chen Gu returned to his room. He ushered Dou Zhanqiong and a few others out to stand guard outside the door, commanding, "No one is to disturb me." Then, with great effort, he opened his luggage, which contained two Fifth-Order Genetic Reagents.

This kind of reagent should ideally be used starting from the first order. However, as a professional, Chen Gu no longer needed that. His physical constitution had already surpassed what the previous four orders of reagents could achieve.

Directly using the Fifth-Order, combined with my Atomic Life, should allow for rapid recovery of my body and perhaps even help me reach a higher level!

But, without a doubt, there are still risks.

So Chen Gu decided to inject himself with the remaining two reagents all at once.

Chen Gu barely manifested his Atomic Life, then aimed the nozzle of the reagent syringe at his neck, pressing down hard on the plunger with two fingers.

PSSST! PSSST!

The reagent was quickly injected into his body. Chen Gu felt as if two streams of fire had entered his system. He groaned and completely passed out.

Chapter 242: Hidden Space Cow Bug (1)

Having lost a Semi-Giant Bubble Bug, the Alien Insect Race's forces reacted faster than Andrew had anticipated. About an hour later, they reorganized, and one of the Giant Bubble Bugs released a large swarm of Space Wolves and Sky Spiders that swarmed towards the transport ships.

When entangled with these bugs, no warship could activate its warp engines. During the acceleration process, they were utterly defenseless, and any attack from the Insect Race could reduce an entire warship to dust.

Andrew sent someone to inquire, but Chen Gu, who had entered his room earlier, had still not responded.

Clenching his teeth, he said to his aide-de-camp, "From now on, we can only rely on ourselves."

Andrew also demonstrated the qualities of an excellent commander. He personally directed the turrets and Star Armors in a fighting retreat, managing to delay the enemy for more than an hour. Then he excitedly pumped his fist because six bright spots had appeared in the Star Sea—the support fleet from the six capital ships Bai Yunpeng had mentioned had finally arrived!

And so, a medium-scale Star Sea battle began.

This fleet was assembled when Chen Gu was promoted and sinful desires appeared. The Bureau of Mystic Security had it stationed outside Witch Star to guard against Chen Gu.

But now, they desperately rushed to Chen Gu's rescue!

The other Giant Bubble Bugs also opened their chambers, releasing ferocious and enormous insects one after another. They rampaged through the Star Sea and, with their overwhelming numbers and disregard for death, quickly overpowered the arriving support fleet.

The Alien Insect Race had always been stronger in numbers and combat power than human fleets. Their weakness lay in their command structure: the Empresses often remained behind the scenes and couldn't issue real-time commands on the battlefield.

Although ordinary members of the Insect Race were vicious and warlike, their intelligence was limited.

The six capital ships, like beehives, released a large number of space fighters and Star Armors. With agility and flexibility, they steadily whittled down the expeditionary force of the Insect Race.

Although the losses of fighters and Mecha were enormous, there was a key difference between capital ships and transport ships: capital ships possessed main guns!

But after just two strikes from the main guns, one of the Giant Bubble Bugs released more than thirty Void Tiger Insects in one burst!

These were powerful fighters developed by the Alien Insect Race to counter human capital ships.

Their "bioplasmic jet" organs were located in their mouths, so their acid cannons fired in a spitting spray.

The exchange of fire between the main guns and the giant acid cannons quickly put the numerically inferior human warships at a disadvantage. Bai Yunpeng knew this fleet was no match for the Insect Race. The fleet's crew knew it too, so they avoided direct engagement. Even though they were at a disadvantage, covering the retreat of the transport ships was still manageable.

They were well aware of their objective: hold out for thirteen hours until the main fleet arrived. At that point, they could annihilate this Alien Insect Race army.

In this process, sacrifices were inevitable, and they were prepared for this—it was, after all, war.

In space, explosions sparkled brilliantly time after time, looking beautiful from afar. Yet aboard the warships, commanders wore somber faces, as each spark meant the death of a human pilot.

With space fighters and Star Armors sustaining losses, the fleet quickly deployed its reserves.

"This can't go on!" shouted a combat staff officer on the flagship of the fleet. "Our reserves won't last much longer either. Once we run out of space fighters and Star Armors for cover, the capital ships will directly face the onslaught of the Sky Spiders and Space Wolves, with the added pressure of the Void Tiger Insects' giant acid cannons. We'll be completely wiped out!"

The command cabin fell silent. Though his words were unwelcome, everyone understood he spoke the truth.

Usually, a capital ship is accompanied by three to five auxiliary warships, which are deployed to deal with Space Wolves.

The opponents of the space fighters and Star Armor are merely the Sky Spiders.

However, this fleet had few auxiliary warships. It had been hastily assembled to deal with the potential contamination from the sinful desires, leaving no time to mobilize an adequate number.

Now, this had become the fleet's weak point, putting them in a highly disadvantageous position.

"Commander!" said the combat staff officer. "I have looked at the plan executed by a Star Armor pilot from the transport fleet earlier, and I think we can continue to use this tactic. We have enough Antimatter Bombs on our battleships!"

After all, this fleet was temporarily formed to deal with sinful desires, and there were plenty of powerful bombs available.

The fleet's commander was Lieutenant General Zhou Zhonglin. He had abundant combat experience, a steady approach, and was a general greatly trusted by the Military Department.

He stroked his chin, pondering for a moment before finally saying, "All right, this matter is yours to handle."

"Yes, sir!" the combat staff officer saluted and left.

Zhou Zhonglin then signaled another trusted staff officer to come over and instructed in a low voice, "Follow behind. Those Mecha pilots he chooses... they most likely won't be able to come back alive. Make sure the arrangements for their compensation are handled properly—all the honors and benefits they deserve must not be lacking in the slightest. Understand?"

"Yes, sir!"

Zhou Zhonglin had already studied Chen Gu's tactics en route; in fact, he needed no reminder from the combat staff officer. He was very clear that sending Star Armor or space fighters to find targets like Giant Bubble Bugs and throw bombs at them—at all costs—was currently the most "cost-effective" combat method. This could effectively serve as a deterrent, slowing down the pursuit of the Alien Insect Race.

Yes, these were "suicidal missions." The space fighters and Star Armor sent out with Antimatter Bombs would ultimately detonate them and perish with the enemy, whether they reached their designated targets or not.

This "cost-effectiveness" was utterly cruel, which is why Zhou Zhonglin found it hard to make this decision.

But since the staff officer had proposed the plan, Zhou Zhonglin understood that mercy does not make a soldier and could only approve it.

However, he wanted to ensure the aftermath was handled well, so the heroes could rest without any lingering concerns for their families.

Several dozen minutes later, the first antimatter "firework" exploded in the Star Sea. It was naturally far less powerful than the one Chen Gu had detonated earlier.

Moreover, this Star Armor pilot lacked Chen Gu's strength. After breaking through the defensive line of a group of Sky Spiders, he encountered a swarm of Space Wolves. Unable to break through, he detonated the bomb before dying, consequently killing only a few dozen Space Wolves.

But the subsequent series of explosions indeed greatly delayed the pursuit of the Alien Insect Race.

Although the situation had improved, old General Zhou Zhonglin stood before the flagship's porthole, hands clasped behind his back. He gazed into space, remaining silent for a long time.

Chapter 243 - Hidden Space Beetle (2)

Chen Gu woke up two hours later. He moved his body a bit and finally took a deep breath. He had recovered.

Perhaps due to the effects of the "Fifth Stage Gene Medicine," he felt his body's vitality was even greater than before.

He opened the door, and Dou Zhanqiong said excitedly, "Master, you've recovered?"

Chen Gu walked towards the command cabin. "How's the situation?"

"Our reinforcements have arrived, and the situation has stabilized." Dou Zhanqiong's words allowed Chen Gu to breathe a sigh of relief. Fortunately, there was no situation where he had just woken up from a coma and needed to immediately fight tooth and nail to save the entire fleet.

The Radiation Missionary was human, after all. He had just self-destructed and taken a risk with a gene medicine to recover. If it happened once more... Even the best actor with a tough-guy persona couldn't take it. He was in pain!

Besides, this best actor has always maintained an idol persona.

With a slightly relaxed mood, Chen Gu arrived at the command cabin, where he saw a large firework exploding right below the porthole.

He was stunned. "An Antimatter Bomb?"

A Star Armor had valiantly sacrificed itself, but alas, it only managed to kill a dozen Space Wolf Insects and a swarm of Heaven-Catching Spiders.

The strategic staff had selected the most robust pilots possible, but penetrating the Space Wolf Insects' and Heaven-Catching Spiders' layered blockade to get close to the Bubble Flyers was still extremely difficult.

Andrew said solemnly, "So far, we've detonated nine Antimatter Bombs, killing nearly two hundred Space Wolf Insects and five hundred Heaven-Catching Spiders. But the Void Tiger Insects and Bubble Flyers... remain unharmed!"

This suicidal attack seemed to have gradually aroused the wrath of the Empress behind the Insect Race's army. Several Bubble Flyers released various types of insects, suddenly increasing the number of Insect Race pursuing the fleet even more than before the plan was executed!

Chen Gu's expression darkened, and he ground his teeth. "Let me do it!"

Dou Zhanqiong stepped forward without hesitation. "I'll join you!"

But Chen Gu's request was ruthlessly denied.

Bai Yunpeng explained to Chen Gu personally via videocall, "Your value lies in tactics, not in charging into the fray! You and your 745 Institute can make a more significant contribution to this war between the two races!"

And Andrew also persuaded him, "Our situation is much better than before. We really don't need you to fight personally anymore."

Chen Gu sat in the transport ship, watching as one after another space fighter jet and Star Armor, carrying bombs, unhesitatingly rushed towards the Insect Race!

Even though they knew there was no return, not a single person shrank back!

Chen Gu didn't try to argue with Bai Yunpeng anymore. Rationally, he knew that Bai Yunpeng was right.

But sitting there, watching my comrades rush toward death—this feeling truly fucking sucked! It was utterly terrible!

Thus, Chen Gu sat motionless for two hours, forcing himself to keep watching. After such an ordeal, he gained a new understanding of this war.

In human history, it is recorded that initially, on the Great Star of Jie Dragon in the Skeleton Dragon Star Territory, the Alien Insect Race ambushed an exploratory team of humans, brutally tearing apart all the warriors, consuming and devouring them, leading to the outbreak of the great war between the two races.

But in the past dozen or so years, some so-called "historians," these "truth emperors," have thrown out new theories and evidence. It's very likely that back then it was because humans intruded into the territory of the Insect Race that the Alien Insect Race was provoked to retaliate.

The implication was that the human race was not necessarily the "righteous" side in this war.

But at this moment, all I want to shout is: Fuck it all! Who cares how the fight started? This is a war between two races! In this Star Sea, it's either you die or I do.

And there are actually people playing the 'bleeding heart' role in such a war?!

I'm going to blow up all of those bugs, regardless of what's right or wrong, no matter who's just or at fault, simply because I'm a damned human, and that's enough!

The Alien Insect Race has the power to destroy entire human society. As a member of the human race, should I stand on their side?

Andrew asked, "How much longer until the main fleet arrives for support?"

"Seven more hours."

In the Star Sea outside, the numbers of space fighters and Star Armors had drastically diminished. Of the six main battleships, only three main guns were still firing; the situation looked extremely dire.

Had it not been for the Antimatter Bomb tactics just now, they probably would not have held out this long.

But now, there were likely very few Antimatter Bombs left on the main battleships.

Just then, a huge insect creature suddenly appeared from the void below the transport ship, its bright luminescence rippling. It resembled a live fish but was much more ferocious-looking, covered in dynamic cilia with a long, single horn on its head. With an upward thrust, it pierced through the hull of the transport ship!

Then it swiftly swam forward, tearing a massive fissure in the entire underside of the transport ship!

The whole transport ship began to shake violently; blinding red lights flashed within the warship, and alarms sounded incessantly.

Including Chen Gu, everyone almost fell to the ground. Andrew, the color draining from his face, exclaimed, "How could there be a Stealth Bull Worm! If they had these creatures, they should have used them earlier. Why wait until now..."

The executive officer rushed forward. "Captain, to the lifeboats— we must abandon ship! It'll be too late if we delay!"

Andrew grabbed Chen Gu. "Let's go together!"

Chen Gu, glancing down at the massive Stealth Bull Worm not far below as it tossed its head in apparent glee, clenched his teeth in silent rage.

The Stealth Bull Worm flew a distance before the main guns of the other main battleships could fire at it, wobbled slightly, and then once again vanished into the void by turning invisible!

"Move, now!" urged Andrew.

Chen Gu's face set, he quickly followed Andrew to the escape pods as the ship's warriors were boarding quickly and in an orderly fashion.

In the distant corridor, occasional blasts were heard, but Chen Gu caught sight of four Star Armors near the escape pod release hatch.

He pressed down on Andrew's arm. "You go ahead."

Then, Chen Gu rushed towards the Star Armors. Andrew called out from behind, "What are you doing?"

"Taking out that Stealth Bull Worm!" Chen Gu gritted his teeth. "I never believed in that gentleman's creed about revenge taking ten years. With so many bugs, if I miss this chance, I'll probably never encounter it again. Any feud or grievance should be settled on the spot!"

Andrew grew frantic. "Don't be reckless! That's a Stealth Bull Worm, a new breed recently developed by the Alien Insect Race to counter our fleet. The few ships we have here are all equipped with old Star Radars, completely unable to detect it."

"The new radars are being retrofitted. Let it boast for a while. Once the new radars are installed, we'll be able to detect it, and our fleet will ruthlessly slaughter them in revenge!"

Chapter 244 - The Invisible Bull Worm (3)

Chen Gu stubbornly charged towards a Star Armor and said to Andrew, "Notify the flagship. Prepare an Antimatter Bomb for me!"

Andrew wanted to try persuading him again, but the transport ship was already struggling to hold on. As the explosions drew closer and its structure failed, cracks started appearing on the deck.

All the warriors had already boarded the escape ship; the executive officer desperately pulled Andrew back. "Captain, there's no time! Hurry and board!"

Andrew cursed under his breath and turned to board.

At the same time, Chen Gu also entered his Star Armor.

With a roaring mechanical sound, the deployment hatch opened. Chen Gu's Star Armor emerged first, with the massive escape ship following, both released into the Star Sea.

They had barely left when the severely damaged transport ship exploded into a sea of fire...

As Chen Gu flew through the Star Sea, Andrew was in communication with the flagship.

Inside the flagship's command cabin, Zhou Zhonglin was taken aback. "He wants to blow up that Stealth Space Beast? What a joke."

Andrew said helplessly, "He only asked you to prepare an Antimatter Bomb for him."

It was at this moment that Zhou Zhonglin received Bai Yunpeng's order: "Once Chen Gu boards the ship, confine him immediately. Do not let him go on any dangerous missions. His safety must be ensured at all costs!"

"Yes!" Zhou Zhonglin could only accept the command.

But after waiting and waiting, Chen Gu still hadn't contacted him. To blow up the Stealth Space Beast, he would definitely need an Antimatter Bomb. He surely couldn't rely on the Star Armor's triple-barreled rotating Energy Cannon, could he?

Therefore, Zhou Zhonglin was initially worried that Chen Gu might have already fallen prey to the Space Wolf Bugs or the Sky-catcher Bugs.

But the identification code of Chen Gu's Star Armor still appeared on their radar, showing it intact!

"What is that guy doing?" Zhou Zhonglin muttered.

His executive officer, however, kept nodding. "I've heard Chen Gu has always wanted to go into battle, but Marshal Bai suppressed him and didn't allow it. This time Marshal Bai couldn't control him, so he just charged out!"

"I always thought tacticians were sneaky people, like those characters in movies who snipe from the shadows. I never expected this young Head of the Tactical Institute to be such a passionate youth!"

The dozen or so combat staff officers in the command cabin exchanged glances, somewhat offended.

The identification code on the radar showed Chen Gu flying aimlessly in his Star Armor. Zhou Zhonglin had a bad feeling and ordered, "Initiate contact with him. Tell him the Antimatter Bomb is ready and to come get it quickly."

"Yes!"

But after calling out three times in a row, there was no response from Chen Gu. By the fourth time, they were shocked to discover, "The other party has unilaterally closed the communication channel!"

Zhou Zhonglin's expression changed. "Damn it, this guy doesn't plan to come back! How are we going to explain this to Marshal Bai..."

The situation on the battlefield was reported back to the Central Operations Room. Bai Yunpeng was so angry he wanted to stomp his foot. "What nonsense! He has no idea of his own value! His worth to the entire Confederation isn't in one or two moments of reckless valor..."

However, standing behind him, Bai Xianya, although she also disagreed with Chen Gu's reckless action that lacked a view of the "big picture," her impression of the "old coot" had greatly improved.

On the battlefield, warriors probably don't care about the "greater good." What they need, isn't it exactly an "old coot" like him, a comrade-in-arms who can take charge?

Just at that moment, a guard came in to report, "Marshal Bai, Lady Aviloya has arrived."

Bai Yunpeng personally welcomed her and said to Aviloya with a wry smile, "You should take a look as well. That kid is in a bad spot."

Aviloya was there on behalf of the Bureau of Mystic Security. Concerning Chen Gu, she initially hadn't wanted to get involved. However, the matter also related to the military, and the Bureau of Mystic Security cooperated with the military on many fronts. Aviloya didn't want the military to sense the "special bond" between her and Chen Gu. After all, this was the Central Operations Room; her absence would have been too conspicuous.

So, the Valkyrie pinched her nose and showed up.

Bai Yunpeng, full of resentment, said, "This kid really lacks a sense of the bigger picture and has some of the impulsiveness of youth. That's a Stealth Space Beast; the military hasn't even figured it out yet, and he thinks he can change the situation with his courage alone?"

Deep down, Bai Yunpeng was actually very fond of Chen Gu, even though Chen Gu had just openly defied his orders.

When he shared these thoughts with Aviloya, it was entirely from the perspective of an "old father" grumbling.

To Aviloya, however, it carried a different implication. Her eyebrows rose sharply. What? Does he think our Bureau of Mystic Security's people aren't good enough? Our excellently trained special operatives, amidst their dangerous and busy primary duties, still make time to support your military's tactical research. You're ungrateful and still find reasons to complain? Besides, he stepped forward when the battle was going poorly. It's precisely because of our Bureau of Mystic Security's training that he possesses such courage and commitment! What's supposedly wrong with that? I'd like to hear him spell it out!

In that moment, Aviloya immediately transformed into a protective matriarch, ready to defend her own.

If it weren't for an "outsider" criticizing someone from the Bureau of Mystic Security, Aviloya's opinion of Chen Gu, which was already at rock bottom, would have ensured she had no intention of defending him.

She gave Bai Yunpeng a cold glance. "It seems Marshal Bai isn't quite familiar with our Bureau's special agents and doesn't know what they're capable of."

Bai Yunpeng offhandedly remarked, "He's just at the Second Energy Level. Against the Stealth Space Beast, he really can't do anything."

Aviloya coldly replied, "Then let's just wait and see."

Only then did Bai Yunpeng notice that the Valkyrie was upset. He gave a secret, helpless smile. He was aware that strong individuals often liked to defend their own, but he hadn't realized this one would be so fiercely protective.

At the same time, he thought, For this kid to be defended by the goddess of all interstellar men, that's really something.

The logic behind this was rather amusing if one thought about it, but unfortunately, Bai Yunpeng didn't know it yet.

After countering Bai Yunpeng with a few words, Aviloya herself felt quite baffled. What's going on? Why am I protecting that little thief?!

The feeling was... quite surreal.

As Chen Gu flew into the Star Sea, he considered, If I board the ship again, Marshal Bai definitely won't let me out. Without an Antimatter Bomb, I'll just have to keep using Biological Nuclear Explosion! During the last mission, I could have directly used Biological Nuclear Explosion against the Space Wolf Bugs.

But doing so was dangerous: he needed to make physical contact with the target to employ the Biological Nuclear Explosion.

Yet, he wasn't sure he could withstand being exposed to the vacuum of space in normal clothing without getting hurt.

However, this time, he felt he could take the gamble.

That Stealth Space Beast is a huge threat to all the battleships. If left unchecked, it might destroy the remaining six capital ships, Chen Gu determined.

Chen Gu had already activated the Mind Belief skill. Following a vague sensation, he flew seemingly aimlessly through space, occasionally dealing with one or two Sky Spiders. His target was no longer these minor threats.

Chapter 245 - Hidden Space Cow Bug (4)

On the flagship, Zhou Zhonglin asked his adjutant, "How many Star Armors do we have left?"

"Three hundred and sixty-two units remaining."

Zhou Zhonglin clenched his teeth. "Detach a squad to protect Chen Gu!"

"Yes, sir." The adjutant hesitated for a moment but still carried out the order.

Star Armors were already in short supply. Furthermore, with the appearance of the Invisible Space Cowbugs, a sufficient number of Star Armors were needed to protect the flagship, leaving them stretched even thinner.

Detaching a squad of ten Star Armors to protect Chen Gu at this time was indeed questionable. However, the adjutant also understood Zhou Zhonglin's dilemma: this was an order directly from Marshal Bai!

The adjutant specifically selected ten of his best Mecha pilots, formed them into a team, then gave them Chen Gu's identification code and sent them to provide protection.

About ten minutes later, these Mecha pilots reported back, their voices filled with amazement, "General Zhao, tell us the truth, who is this powerhouse? He must be a renowned figure in the entire military!"

The adjutant's surname was Zhao, and he also held the rank of Brigadier General. His subordinates all called him General Zhao.

"Is it Chu Xiao from the 29th Army?" one pilot guessed.

Another pilot disagreed. "I don't think so. It must be Zhuge Zhanjing from the Yinglong Squadron."

"No, I feel his style is that of someone from the army's central training company..."

Adjutant Zhao was dumbfounded. What utter nonsense are they speculating about! The units these pilots mentioned were very famous within the Confederation military, and these units all had traditions of training exceptional Mecha pilots. The individuals they were discussing were among the most outstanding pilots of their generation.

Unable to contain his curiosity, Adjutant Zhao asked, "What happened?"

The ten Mecha pilots complained, "General Zhao, with his skill level, we can't even keep up with him, let alone protect him! Besides, he doesn't need our protection at all."

"I think he has some objective, but the combat results he's achieving so casually far exceed ours. Just in this short while, he has already hunted down more than thirty Sky-Trapping Spider Bugs and two Space Wolf Bugs..."

The pilots chimed in, "General Zhao, give us a hint, who is he, really? Is he on some secret mission? You can trust us; we're tight-lipped and won't let anything slip..."

Adjutant Zhao felt helpless and reported everything to Zhou Zhonglin. The old general was astonished. "This kid... the Dean? He's never undergone Mecha training, yet he can perform so exceptionally?"

This is unbelievable!

The old general muttered to himself, Are all Professionals this strong?

Adjutant Zhao asked for instructions, "What should we do now?"

"Forget it. We've done what we could. Marshal Bai is a reasonable man; he won't blame us. Tell the squad to disband and return to their original units and duties," the old general said.

"Yes, sir."

Inside the Central Operations Room, Bai Yunpeng watched Chen Gu's maneuvers, stunned speechless. He knew talent when he saw it; this was the standard of the military's ace Mecha pilots!

He couldn't help but glance at Aviloya, asking doubtfully, "Does the Bureau of Mystic Security's special service... have Mecha training programs?"

Of course, they did not. But Aviloya was pleased that her subordinate could earn respect in front of Bai Yunpeng.

She actually didn't understand why that little thief possessed such superb Mecha skills, but that didn't stop her from putting on airs in front of Bai Yunpeng. Weren't you just looking down on our Bureau of Mystic Security agents a moment ago?

"I told you, Marshal Bai, you still don't fully understand our Bureau of Mystic Security's special service agents or what they're capable of," she said.

Bai Yunpeng, having been subtly rebuffed, rubbed his nose and then said indifferently, "Relying solely on Mechas, it's impossible to combat the Invisible Space Cowbugs."

Chen Gu was currently using the memories of Griffin Wester.

This prodigy of the "Blue Blood Outlaws" generation, aside from being an outstanding battlefield commander and a high-Energy Level Professional, had also once been an ace Mecha pilot.

He had started from the lowest ranks of the "Blue Blood Outlaws," initially as a Mecha pilot.

Although the Mechas of that era were not as advanced as they are now, the fundamental principles were the same. After a period of adaptation, Chen Gu immediately became proficient.

Moreover, the High-Energy Combat Art skill was designed to perfectly complement various high-tech weapons, and Star Armors were indeed high-tech weapons.

With these various enhancements, Chen Gu's skill level was genuinely not inferior to those "aces" they mentioned.

While engaged in this guerrilla warfare in space, Chen Gu suddenly had a strong intuition. Found you!

The Invisible Space Cowbug was huge, about half the size of a transport ship. This was precisely why Chen Gu dared to take a chance with the seemingly random "Mind Belief."

It's just too big to hide easily.

Chen Gu followed his intuition, flying in a seemingly casual manner towards a specific direction.

The Invisible Space Cowbug appeared very cautious, its body twisting to avoid Chen Gu. Chen Gu circled around and came back; the Invisible Space Cowbug evaded him once more.

If it were hit by a Star Armor, the Invisible Space Cowbug would be exposed.

After several probes, Chen Gu was fairly certain that the Invisible Space Cowbug intended to attack one of the six main battleships.

He considered this, then flew above that particular main battleship. The massive warship below him blocked the Invisible Space Cowbug's line of sight. Then, he circled around from behind the warship. Suddenly, he pushed the engine power to maximum, accelerating the Star Armor to its limit as he rushed towards the target's presumed location.

A few seconds later, alarm bells blared in his mind. He slammed on the brakes, and the Star Armor made a "soft" impact with something.

"Caught you!" Chen Gu sneered.

Chen Gu's collision disrupted the Invisible Space Cowbug's invisibility. A ripple of light spread from the point of impact, and all the warships immediately detected it. The one directly above it, in particular, quickly changed course to evade the Invisible Space Cowbug's attack.

On the flagship, Zhou Zhonglin and Adjutant Zhao looked at each other in shock. "He... he actually found it! How did he do it...?"

Then, a single word surfaced in both their minds simultaneously: Professional!

That had to be the only explanation.

"But how can he possibly kill the Invisible Space Cowbug?" Adjutant Zhao couldn't help but ask.

That was a colossal creature. High-Energy Level Professionals, like the Queen of Freedom, could undoubtedly kill it in one strike, but Chen Gu was only Second Energy Level.

Just as he voiced this question, he heard the old general beside him exclaim, "Not good!"

He quickly looked and saw layers of scales on the Invisible Space Cowbug's back suddenly flip open. Dozens of long stingers emerged from beneath, piercing viciously into Chen Gu's Star Armor from multiple directions!

"Aah!" Adjutant Zhao cried out in horror.

No one knew the Invisible Space Cowbug had this ability. These creatures had only appeared in recent years, and humanity had just developed new radar systems to detect them. Consequently, their understanding of these creatures was limited.

To think they possessed such a defense mechanism!

Dozens of stingers riddled the Star Armor, turning it into a sieve. The primary target was the cockpit in the chest, leaving no chance of survival for the pilot inside.

Those stingers, vibrant and colorful, were clearly coated in deadly poison.

On the flagship's radar, Chen Gu's Star Armor identification code also vanished at that moment.

Zhou Zhonglin sighed deeply. "He was a good young man. Although he didn't manage to kill this Invisible Space Cowbug, he provided us with a warning, saving one of our main battleships!"

Adjutant Zhao also shook his head in regret, his expression mournful.

Chapter 246 - Hidden Space Worm (5)

In the Central Operations Room, everyone was shocked by the spikes protruding from the back of the Hidden Space Bull Bug.

Bai Xianya covered her mouth with her hand and let out a cry of surprise. Bai Yunpeng's heart ached as if it had been cut by a knife, and he collapsed back into his chair.

Aviloya, meanwhile, watched the scene unfold in disbelief, struggling to accept it. Was that guy just... gone? She felt she should be happy, but this man was her subordinate, and he had just sacrificed himself in such a heroic way. Is this really the same shameless thief I knew? Aviloya couldn't quite decipher her own feelings at that moment. Fresh chapters posted on Novel_Fire(.)net

The cockpit of the Star Armor was empty; Chen Gu was long gone.

Suddenly, Adjutant Zhao saw the Hidden Space Bull Bug writhing in agony. Then, a bright light burst forth from its body. Adjutant Zhao was puzzled. Could it be that the Hidden Space Bull Bug is evolving? Is this its attack method...?

Zhou Zhonglin also saw it. He slammed the table and cried out, his composure lost, "It's Biological Nuclear Explosion!"

Adjutant Zhao was also startled and asked incredulously, "Did he succeed? Is he going to use himself to destroy that Hidden Space Bull Bug?"

Under these circumstances, with the Star Armor already destroyed, Chen Gu initiating Biological Nuclear Explosion could only mean perishing together with the Hidden Space Bull Bug!

At that moment, Zhou Zhonglin's old eyes moistened. He said again, full of emotion, "What a fine young man. Our Confederation military truly produces such outstanding young men!"

The bright light grew stronger and stronger. Zhou Zhonglin had already ordered all friendly personnel and equipment to retreat far away. However, the insectoids, due to their low intelligence and with the Empress not present to command them, were slow to react. They didn't even consider retreating; in fact, some large insectoids were involuntarily drawn closer to the Hidden Space Bull Bug.

After a few brief seconds, the light reached its peak. A terrifying explosion vortex appeared, imploded slightly, and then rapidly swept outward.

The Hidden Space Bull Bug turned to dust in the Star Sea, along with dozens of Void Tiger Worms, hundreds of Space Wolf Worms, and countless Sky-Hunting Spider Worms, all obliterated.

Even a distant Giant Bubble Fly Worm was affected and seriously injured.

Inside the flagship, General Zhou Zhonglin led everyone in removing their hats, a silent tribute to Chen Gu.

In the escape pod, Andrew and his soldiers, crammed together, watched the massive ball of light unfold, their teeth clenched tightly. He kept his word, Andrew thought. He blew up the Hidden Space Bull Bug and eliminated the threat to the entire fleet, even at the cost of his own life!

A squad of Star Armors stood guard around the escape pod, awaiting rescue from the main battleships.

Suddenly, Andrew felt someone bump him. Grief-stricken, he turned around, and his entire body froze. "You, you, you..."

Chen Gu was exhausted, sweat soaking the hair on his forehead, but his mood was good. We Professionals always exact revenge immediately; we never let it wait until the next day. He smiled at Andrew. "Don't recognize me?"

"You're still alive!" Andrew roared with excitement, pulling him into a bear hug.

Chen Gu grinned. With your strength, an ordinary person would have their ribs broken by now, wouldn't they? Good thing I'm a Professional.

The moment Chen Gu's Star Armor landed on the back of the Hidden Space Bull Bug, he immediately switched to Derek Kun Shen Ken's memory, using Quantum Teleportation to transport himself directly into the creature's body!

Then he switched to the Nuclear Explosion Nun persona again and triggered Biological Nuclear Explosion inside the Hidden Space Bull Bug's body.

After that, he switched back to the Quantum Wizard persona and used Quantum Teleportation to transport himself onto the escape ship.

However, after this, he had to consider how he would explain to the Bureau of Mystic Security and the military his ability to use the skills of different Professions.

But Chen Gu felt the risk was worth taking. It wasn't just about saving others; it was also about saving himself. If that Hidden Space Bull Bug continued to exist, no ship in this fleet, including the escape ship, would likely survive.

In the flagship command cabin, the BEEPING of a communicator shattered the mournful and solemn atmosphere. Adjutant Zhao answered it, his expression shifting from astonishment to sheer elation. "General, Chen Gu is alive—he's alive! He's on the escape ship now!"

"What?!" Zhou Zhonglin exclaimed in disbelief.

The others didn't understand the details, but knowing Chen Gu wasn't dead, they erupted into a massive cheer.

Back in the Central Operations Room, just when everyone thought Chen Gu had perished, the Biological Nuclear Explosion lit up the entire Star Sea!

This time, everyone was certain he was gone for good. But then, news arrived from the battlefield: Chen Gu had appeared on an escape ship!

Everything had happened so quickly they barely had time to react.

Bai Yunpeng sprang up from his chair, clenching his fists tightly. "Beautiful! Kid, I knew you could do it! I never gave up hope!"

He no longer cared about being proven wrong. Chen Gu had actually done it! A single individual, with just one Star Armor, had actually killed a Hidden Space Bull Bug, single-handedly turning the tide of battle!

Aviloya now had plenty to say, but Bai Yunpeng didn't care; he was just ecstatic!

Bai Xianya placed her hands on her chest and let out a long sigh of relief. It feels like my quiet prayers actually worked, she thought. That rascal is really impressive; this series of maneuvers is nothing short of magical!

Aviloya's emotions were on a roller coaster. Initially, she hadn't planned on letting Bai Yunpeng off the hook verbally. However, being more knowledgeable about Professions, she soon spotted a problem with the entire sequence of events: Chen Gu had used abilities from at least two different Professions!

What is going on?! she exclaimed inwardly. Unless that kid has a powerful artifact... but according to the Bureau's intelligence on him, he doesn't.

The Radiation Missionary's Biological Nuclear Explosion, and the Quantum Wizard's Quantum Teleportation! No... wait... Aviloya suddenly realized. That kid was just piloting a Star Armor—he's either a Star Battle Instructor or an Abyssal Blacksmith! And he must be of a high Energy Level; otherwise, he couldn't have reached the standard of an ace pilot!

This kid is hiding a big secret! Aviloya couldn't help but narrow her eyes.

But just as everyone was feeling elated and amazed, another twist occurred on the Star Sea battlefield!

The color of those Giant Bubble Fly Worms slowly turned crimson! One by one, chambers on their bodies opened, releasing huge, fierce-looking insectoids!

"This is bad!" Adjutant Zhao shouted as the number of Alien Insect Race creatures rapidly increased. The count of Void Tiger Worms, capable of engaging main battleships, had suddenly surged to several hundred!

Chapter 247 - The Fall

The continuous explosions had thoroughly enraged the Insect Queen behind them. The Giant Bubble Flying Insects turning crimson was irrefutable proof.

She had decided to eliminate these humans at all costs!

Zhou Zhonglin, with a solemn face, ordered, "Send the command! All fleets, prepare for a fight to the death!"

Inside the escape pod, Chen Gu also witnessed this scene, but he was thinking: Why would such a powerful Alien Insect Race army ambush an ordinary transport ship? Moreover, they didn't exert their full strength to annihilate them even after reinforcements arrived. What exactly are they trying to achieve?

Hundreds of massive Void Tiger Insects surged forward. Even though the human warships knew they were outmatched, they refused to sit still and wait for death. All the space fighters and Star Armors bravely met the onslaught.

The ten Star Armors protecting the escape pod said to De Andrew inside, "Change target to the nearest planet. Sorry, but we can no longer accompany you!"

The ten Star Armors also broke away and charged into the vast swarm of insects!

Aboard the main battleships, all available weapons were activated, persistently bombarding the insect swarm!

Insect after insect was blasted to pieces, but these attacks, like stones against the tide, were utterly incapable of stopping the wave.

The escape pod quickly traveled toward a nearby nameless planet. Chen Gu watched the battlefield recede into the distance and silently closed his eyes.

A little over ten minutes later, a series of massive explosions occurred in the Star Sea as six main battleships successively fell, with escape pods being ejected one after another.

However, only about one-tenth to one-fifth of them managed to escape the Insect Sea. The rest were cruelly torn apart by the ferocious insects.

The escape pods scattered, each one choosing the nearest planet due to fuel limitations.

「In the Confederation military's Central Operations Room.」

Bai Yunpeng and Bai Xianya watched the destruction of the main battleships in utter silence on the huge holographic screen before them.

Moments later, Bai Yunpeng led by example, solemnly removing his military cap, an action mirrored by every uniformed person throughout the hall.

An indescribable discomfort filled Bai Yunpeng's heart. As the de facto leader of the Central Operations Room, this was not his first time facing such a scenario.

Since the war with the Alien Insect Race began, such occurrences had become common.

Between the two species, there was no middle ground or "tie" in their war. It was either their death or ours.

Either the human race would wipe out the entire Alien Insect Race army, or the Alien Insect Race would completely obliterate the human fleet—most battles only resulted in these two outcomes.

But then, a staff officer hurriedly reported, "The situation is off! The Alien Insect Race is out for total annihilation!"

Both the main battleships and transport ships had been destroyed, but it was a human habit to release small "scouts" before battle—tiny intelligent flyers that captured images from every corner of the battlefield.

Many of these scouts were still operational, so the Central Operations Room could still receive images from the front.

Zhou Zhonglin and Deputy Commander Zhao were on one of the escape pods. Their expressions were grave and slightly baffled, as the vast Insect Sea relentlessly pursued these small escape pods.

"These insects must have a hidden agenda!" Bai Yunpeng said through gritted teeth.

When Chen Gu first contacted them, not hesitating to reveal his identity, it was to warn them about this very point, and now Bai Yunpeng was more convinced than ever.

Bai Xianya exclaimed with a tremor in her voice, "Our support forces will need over five hours to reach that star sector. Does this mean they..."

Unable to bear finishing her sentence, Bai Xianya fell silent.

Those who had landed on an unfamiliar planet in mere escape pods, equipped with only basic weaponry, stood no chance against those terrifying insects!

Aviloya was acutely aware of this, and her heart sank as well.

Bai Yunpeng refused to give up and still held onto a glimmer of hope, ordering, "Send a few scouts over there! I want to know what's happening on the planet!"

After the Alien Insect Race army annihilated the human fleet, the Sky-capturing Spiders began to clear out the scouts. But a few managed to slip away, following the escape pods down to the planet.

Aviloya said gravely, "I think... we need to bring over Chen Gu's only relative. He's one of ours from the Bureau of Mystic Security, a retired military colonel, so there's no need to worry about any leaks."

Bai Yunpeng nodded. "Agreed."

「...」

BOOM—

The escape ship crash-landed at an angle on the planet's surface, smashing a large crater into the ground. Then, due to immense inertia, it skidded dozens of meters, plowing a deep furrow.

The exterior of the escape pod was pocked and blackened.

A few minutes after coming to a stop, a slightly twisted and deformed hatch was forcibly kicked open from the inside.

Several warriors emerged, clad in protective suits and wielding energy guns.

This was a desolate planet, surrounded by coarse rocks and undulating mountains. The star's light beat down directly onto the surface, resulting in extremely high temperatures. A deathly silence permeated the surroundings.

Then, one by one, all the survivors inside the escape pod made their way out. Chen Gu and Andrew stayed together. Andrew led a squad of warriors to occupy the vantage point atop the nearest peak. Shortly after, they relayed the message: all was safe in the surroundings.

Andrew breathed a sigh of relief. "Don't worry. We have enough supplies inside the escape pod to last us three days. In a few hours, our fleet will crush those insects, and we'll be rescued."

But Chen Gu's mind was clouded with doubts. Why are the insects doing this?

So he wasn't as optimistic as Andrew. He looked around and said to Andrew, "This terrain is not good for defense."

The master tactician of [Blue Blood Thug] came online.

Andrew was startled. "Defense?"

Chen Gu replied, "Better safe than sorry."

"You're saying those insects aren't going to let us go?"

Chen Gu said, "They also have many surface crawlers."

Andrew frowned behind his mask. "You can't be serious. Their vast interstellar fleet would perform a landing operation just to hunt down the few of us?"

While they were talking, they saw an escape pod trailing black smoke and fire gliding down through the sky, then plummeting to some location.

Andrew couldn't continue the discussion with Chen Gu. "Quick, go and see! They might need our help."

Chen Gu followed. "I'll come with you."

There were two hundred and forty-seven survivors inside Andrew's escape pod. They were lucky upon landing; only two were injured, and no one was lost.

Andrew took fifty people with him and Chen Gu, and they hurried toward the site where the second escape pod had crashed.

Their protective suits were all equipped with exoskeletons—yes, their current gear was what [Idol Actor] used as the all-terrain combat troops that defeated Zhao Zhenhuai in the game [No Limits].

But now, with the addition of protective suits, the name of this unit was even more impressive: the "Space All-Terrain Combat Squad"!

Chapter 248 - Troop Nest Beetle

Impressive, wasn't it? Enough to make one shudder at the mere sight.

In reality... they were just a group of lightly equipped infantry—in this era, such equipment only qualified them as light infantry.

The terrain on this planet was rugged, featuring only bare, rocky mountains and gravel. Based on Chen Gu's personal experience, the gravity here was also about 1.4 times heavier than the standard gravity humans were accustomed to.

Even though Andrew's group was equipped with exoskeletons, by the time they had force-marched for over twenty minutes and found the second escape craft's crash site, everyone was gasping for breath from exhaustion.

This escape craft hadn't been as lucky as theirs. It had slammed directly into a mountain peak, breaking in half. One half was completely shattered. The fate of those inside was all too clear.

The remaining half, billowing smoke, had crashed to one side. Andrew immediately yelled, "Quick, rescue the survivors!"

All the soldiers had undergone specialized survival training before boarding and were very proficient in it. In no time, they extinguished the flames and rescued the survivors from inside. The outcome was grim: only ninety-one people had survived.

This type of escape craft had a carrying capacity of three hundred and fifty people.

The rest had died during the landing.

Andrew sighed. Just as he was about to say a few words to the survivors, he was suddenly tapped on the back. Turning around, he saw it was Chen Gu, who was looking up at the sky.

This planet also had an atmosphere, but it was so rich in toxic gases that the sky appeared somewhat foggy.

At that moment, several hazy orbs were approaching from outer space. Andrew quickly adjusted the instruments on his visor. Soon enough, a clear, distant image was projected before his eyes.

Those orbs were some sort of hive-shaped insects, with numerous densely packed, root-like tentacles coiled on the outside.

Below them, several chamber doors opened, ejecting a bio-energetic glow that protected them from harm during their descent.

Andrew exclaimed in dismay, "Troop Nest Beetles... those detestable things! Are they truly determined to exterminate us?"

Chen Gu said indifferently, "Prepare for battle. We need to hold out for at least five more hours."

Clenching his teeth in rage, Andrew roared, "Back to our position, immediately! Establish a defensive line! I'm going to fight it out with them!"

In a place Chen Gu and his team couldn't see, the enormous Troop Nest Beetles were descending. Their heavy impacts shattered the ground's rocks and even created several massive cracks that extended deep underground.

The root-like tentacles on the exterior of the Troop Nest Beetles spread out, swiftly burrowing into these cracks and continuing to drill downwards, beginning to draw thermal energy from below.

Inside them, numerous insect eggs began to hatch and grow at an unbelievably fast pace.

For the first five minutes, they only hatched one type of insect—a mosquito-like creature, but two meters in size, with serrated edges on the front of its wings and three spike ejectors on its head.

These Fierce Mosquito Beasts flew out of their nests as soon as they hatched and began searching the entire planet at top speed.

Afterward, in just half an hour, the Troop Nest Beetles churned out a ceaseless stream of Giant Armored Bugs, Ghost Claw Beetles, Spike Shooters, and Cannon Egg Beetles.

Once their numbers reached a certain level, they followed their innate instincts and formed into formations. Guided by countless Fierce Mosquito Beasts in the sky, they swept towards their target in a mighty, unstoppable procession.

A total of eight Troop Nest Beetles produced members of the Insect Race without pause, their numbers rapidly reaching the hundreds of thousands. Meanwhile, the total number of human soldiers who had escaped the space battle in escape crafts wouldn't exceed ten thousand.

The number of those who had survived after landing on this planet was likely no more than eight thousand.

...

The observation post circled the planet in a satellite orbit, transmitting all images back to the Central Operations Room.

Seeing the sheer number of the Insect Race, everyone in the Central Operations Room felt their scalps tingle with dread.

Everyone's heart sank. With only light weapons, it was simply impossible to fight against an insect swarm of that scale!

A guard came in from outside. "General, Chen Jixian has arrived."

...

Chen Jixian was waiting outside. After receiving Bai Yunpeng's message, Aviloya had instructed Chen Jixian to go to the Capital Star. He had come directly to the Central Operations Room from headquarters.

He still appeared calm and composed, his eyelids consistently half-lowered.

He knew what this place was—once, it had been one of the sacred places in his dreams. He had also harbored ambitions, hoping to one day enter here by his own efforts.

But he never imagined that he would step into this place for the first time for such a reason!

To watch the last footage of Chen Gu.

Chen Jixian was in a daze. He had walked in with steady strides, but only he knew it felt as though he was treading on cotton.

I was still waiting for you to bring me egg rolls. How could it be that just a few hours later, only the last images of you would be left?!

The door of the Central Operations Room opened. The guard stood by the door. "Mr. Chen, please!"

Bai Yunpeng took a deep breath and stood up. He straightened his chest and walked in, but images of Chen Gu couldn't help but surface in his mind.

Throughout Chen Gu's formative years, his struggles, his father had been absent. Then one day, the father he'd never met returned. Was their time together as father and son pleasant? Hardly. But why, then, did his own heart ache so much now?

Chen Jixian walked in. Bai Yunpeng approached him, patting him on the shoulder. He wanted to offer some words of comfort, yet he found himself speechless, only whispering softly, "Take a seat. You have a good son."

...

Andrew selected a massive mountain peak. Using advanced equipment to carve into the rock, his team excavated a cave in the shortest possible time. They then blocked the entrance with boulders and applied simple camouflage.

Just after they finished constructing their position, they saw some black dots flying across the dim sky, accompanied by a buzzing sound similar to that of old fighter planes.

"They're here," Andrew said to Chen Gu. "They are Fierce Mosquito Beasts, the Insect Race's scout units for planetary surface combat."

He smirked with disdain. "The bugs still use their old tricks: Fierce Mosquito Beasts scout, Cannon Egg Beetles and Spike Shooters bombard, and Giant Armored Bugs protect the Ghost Claw Beetles' charge—it's their standard three-pronged attack! If we can hold them off, they're out of options."

Chen Gu nodded. A pity, he thought. Without heavy armor, they couldn't execute the 'Death Before Dishonor' strategy. He had already switched to Griffin Wester's memories, quickly thinking through the situation to determine the most suitable tactics.

Two Fierce Mosquito Beasts circled the mountain peak a few times, then flew away as if nothing had happened.

Chen Gu tugged at Andrew. "Gather thirty men and all the explosives. Follow me."

Andrew trusted Chen Gu implicitly and went to prepare without asking any questions. However, an officer stopped him. "I am Major Jin Yongyuan," the officer said. "I'd like to know what you intend to do

with all the explosives. Our supplies from the escape craft are extremely limited, and I am responsible for them."

Chapter 249 - Swarm Approaching

At this moment, Chen Gu was in the state where Griffin Wester's memories had taken over. How could the Star Battle Instructor possibly tolerate someone questioning his decision?

With an angry glare, he took a step forward with a stride full of authority, ready to confront this "Major Jin Yongyuan" and explain exactly what he was about to do!

Andrew instantly appeared beside Jin Yongyuan—the latter had emerged from the second escape pod. In a low voice, Andrew introduced him, "This is the dean of Research Institute 745, His Excellency the 'Idol Actor'!"

Jin Yongyuan was a major on the main battleship and, of course, knew about Research Institute 745. He looked at Chen Gu in surprise. "Is it really him? So young?"

"Marshal Bai personally confirmed it to me!"

Jin Yongyuan believed him. He looked at Chen Gu, who was glaring at him fiercely, and on the spot, his attitude did a complete one-eighty. Extending his hand, he said, "Please! Whatever the Master wishes to do, I fully support! Whatever the Master needs, we will give our all!"

Chen Gu snorted and still gave him a fierce glare before turning around and leaving.

Andrew hurriedly gathered some men and carried explosive materials to follow him out.

Watching the legendary tactical master's retreating figure, Jin Yongyuan sincerely praised, "Truly a dragon among men, powerful and domineering!"

Jin Yongyuan was followed by his seasoned subordinates. They knew their superior's temperament: he usually acted high and mighty but could also be remarkably flexible when confronted with someone of higher status.

But this time, they felt he was folding a bit too completely and seemed to be genuinely submissive in both heart and speech.

They approached and asked, "Major, who is that man?"

Jin Yongyuan whispered, "The compiler of the tactical manuals 'Heavenly Pillar' and 'Sacrifice for Righteousness'!"

"Really?!" they asked.

"No mistake about it," he assured them.

His subordinates understood. So this was truly heartfelt submission!

As Chen Gu and the others were busy setting up, a few young warriors, harboring a sliver of hope, asked the veterans beside them, "Can we hide from them?"

The grizzled old soldier laughed. "Impossible. Those giant mosquitos have different eyes from ours; they can switch between several modes and are able to see the reflected images of infrared and ultraviolet light. We can't hide from them."

The old soldier checked his weapon. "Old pal, don't let me down when it matters."

Andrew led thirty warriors, following Chen Gu, placing explosives around the area. Andrew's warriors didn't know Chen Gu's "identity." They were puzzled as to why their own commander would follow the orders of this outrageously young man—who wasn't even wearing a uniform.

But Chen Gu was currently using the memories of Griffin Wester, and this Star Battle Instructor had a bit of an obsessive-compulsive disorder. Even for something like planting explosives, he felt it needed to be done "perfectly."

Whenever the warriors did something slightly non-compliant, he would storm up to them and bellow furiously, silencing them as if they were chilled to the core.

The warriors found that when this young man roared, he was filled with a terrifying authority—they slowly realized it was just like the yelling they had endured from their drill instructors when they had first enlisted.

They all guessed that this young, casually dressed officer must be an important figure; no wonder Commander Andrew was so deferential to him.

Andrew himself was somewhat surprised; he did not remember the Master behaving this way aboard the transport ship.

But turning to look back at the more than ten places where they had planted explosives, he saw that the locations were precise to the strategic plans drafted by Chen Gu, and the concealment was done flawlessly, blending naturally into the surroundings.

Andrew couldn't help but admire. It's simply the art of war! He suddenly felt that such "compulsion" wasn't so bad after all.

Chen Gu didn't realize that he had already, unknowingly, influenced a commander who originally "loved his soldiers like his own children"...

When setting up the twenty-first explosive, Chen Gu suddenly pricked up his ears and said, "The bugs are coming."

Several new recruits panicked, "We should quickly fall back..."

"Shut up!" Chen Gu, still influenced by Griffin Wester's personality, commanded like a tyrant. "According to my calculations, the swarm will take nineteen minutes and thirty-five seconds before they can reach a position to attack us."

We still need to set up three explosives. Depending on the varying difficulties of digging and restoring the area at different locations, if you all follow the operation procedures smoothly, it will only take eighteen minutes and fifty seconds. We have enough time to finish."

"Get to work!"

The new recruits shivered, and their movements were no longer so "standardized."

Chen Gu said coldly, "You've wasted fifteen seconds!

Your current panic is costing you your lives. Even if I were trapped amidst the swarm, I could fight my way out, but you can't. So, if you want to leave before the bugs arrive, you can waste at most thirty more seconds!"

At this, the recruits became even more tense, and a veteran swiftly took over. Even though he was also nervous and sweating profusely, his hands were steady as he quickly operated the equipment.

Chen Gu nodded in satisfaction. One planting site was complete, and they moved on to the next. During the transition, a warrior stumbled and fell. Chen Gu looked back at him coldly.

This time, without a word from him, the warrior scrambled to catch up, "Don't worry, I won't waste a single second."

By the time they reached the second planting site, the warriors could already hear the distant roaring of the swarm.

The giant bugs' roars were different from those of giant beasts; they weren't as deep and magnificent but were sharper and more piercing.

The roar of a giant beast instilled fear, but the bugs' roars not only evoked fear but were also extremely unsettling.

After completing the second planting site, they could already see the figures of the swarm. The leading ones looked like small mountains—the giant armored bugs with pitch-black bodies and shells gleaming with a metallic luster, seemingly indestructible.

And the Cannon Larva Bugs in the rear had already lifted their long ovipositor tubes, ready to shoot explosive eggs at any moment.

The number of these bugs was at least several tens of thousands; nobody could survive if entangled by them.

The pressure was becoming too much for some of the new recruits. Sweat dripped profusely from them, and their legs quivered.

Chen Gu glanced at them coldly and said callously, "Hold steady! War is also a kind of calculation. They may look terrifying, but as long as we're always out of their range, that terror can't touch us."

This is called "extreme maneuvering"—as long as I'm just a bit beyond the range of your cannon, your "truth" can't catch up to me.

And now, the distance between Chen Gu's team and the Alien Insect Race was steadily closing in on the range of the Cannon Larva Bugs.

In the entire team, even Andrew was starting to waver, but Chen Gu stood unshakable as Mount Tai.

All the warriors didn't have much confidence at heart, but seeing Chen Gu's demeanor, they felt inexplicably reassured!

Chapter 250 - Explosion Enthusiast

There were still mistakes made. Chen Gu would coldly remind them, "Well done. You've just reduced our escape time by another ten seconds."

At this moment, one of the spore-launching insects, which had an unusually long egg-tail canal, seemed to consider itself exceptionally gifted. It shook its body and was the first to eject an explosive spore from its canal.

The loud CRACK of the ejection caused several warriors to tremble involuntarily. But Chen Gu stood up nonchalantly, shielding everyone as he made a disdainful gesture at the insects.

The explosive spore, its momentum spent, fell to the ground a hundred meters in front of Chen Gu. It exploded with a BOOM, creating a large crater.

Despite the powerful shockwave from the explosion and the blast of wind that threw dust and sand all over Chen Gu, he stood unflinchingly, not retreating an inch.

This firm confidence infected the warriors. Their movements became steadier, and they managed to complete the final placement fifteen seconds ahead of schedule. Chen Gu immediately ordered, "Retreat!"

The spore-launching insect with the unusually long egg-tail canal had already rapidly fired several more explosive spores toward them.

Barely had Chen Gu led his men away when, less than three seconds later, those explosive spores landed nearby!

BOOM!

BOOM!

BOOM!

The power of these explosive spores was no less potent than human large-caliber energy cannons. Rocks flew everywhere from the resulting eruptions, sending chills down the warriors' spines. They knew that if they had delayed even a few seconds more, they all would have been pulverized.

This time, without needing Instructor Chen's stern urging, everyone bolted.

The space-all-terrain combat troops were still very agile, their speed far exceeding that of the advancing Insect Race.

Throughout the sprint, Chen Gu consistently stayed at the rear, an action driven by the memories of Griffin Wester.

This "Star Battle Instructor" was harsh and irritable by nature, displaying an almost obsessive severity toward his subordinates. Yet, at the same time, he was an excellent commander. Knowing he was a Professional with powerful individual combat abilities, he often personally covered his warriors' retreat.

Andrew witnessed this and nodded to himself. It's the old saying, he thought. Many people assume strategists are deceitful and wouldn't dare entrust their lives to such individuals on the battlefield. But Chen Gu is clearly an exception.

Andrew considered Chen Gu's actions: his initiative in taking on missions, like blowing up a Giant Bubble Fly; his determination to destroy a Stealth Cow Bug regardless of the cost; and now this current operation. Andrew's assessment of Chen Gu solidified: This is an excellent soldier!

Suddenly, Chen Gu said to him, "Release the electronic eye."

Andrew operated a few controls on his exoskeleton suit, and a compartment on his backpack opened. An electronic eye with whirring propellers rose high into the air. Soon, a top-down view of the entire battlefield was transmitted to everyone's visors.

The warriors gasped. From above, the scale of the insect swarm was even more spectacular, a dense mass covering a vast expanse of land.

The ground here consisted of yellowish-brown rock and gravel, while the insects were mostly black, looking like a giant black stain suddenly spreading across the land.

Yet, observing covertly, Andrew noticed that Chen Gu remained completely unaffected by these images, calmly checking the advancing positions of the insect swarm.

He couldn't help but nod to himself. Indeed, a superb commander.

A considerable part of the swarm had already entered the first ambush point set up by Chen Gu, but there was still a long "tail" trailing behind it.

Andrew approached and asked, "The swarm is massive, far exceeding our expectations."

Chen Gu understood his meaning. "The first ambush position," he said, "I'm afraid it can't hold all of them."

Andrew felt it was a shame. He suggested, "Let's snipe them from here—if we can plug the front, the tail of the swarm will be forced into the first ambush position."

Chen Gu looked at the dozens of warriors beside him and shook his head. "There's no need for that."

The outcome of such an attack was uncertain, and a sniper battle with such a disparity in strength would undoubtedly cause huge casualties on their side.

Chen Gu saw through the electronic eye that a large part of the insect swarm had already surged into the first ambush position, so he detonated the explosives they had planted earlier without hesitation.

BOOM, BOOM, BOOM—

The charges detonated one after another in a rhythmic sequence.

The warriors in front felt the ground beneath them shaking violently. Looking back, they saw mountains collapsing, the earth sinking, and dust clouds rising into the sky. Flames and light even burst from beneath the ground, like the end of the world.

Even those who had experienced the great Star Sea battles were shocked by such a scene.

Chen Gu, checking through the electronic eye, nodded with satisfaction. "We've basically achieved our tactical objective."

The locations and detonation sequence of these explosives had been carefully planned, thoroughly destroying the geological structure of the area. This caused a massive geological disaster that buried a large number of the insect creatures and created an obstructed zone on the insects' path to the mountain stronghold.

Andrew gave Chen Gu a thumbs-up, but Chen Gu pulled him along, leading everyone in a quick retreat. For Chen Gu, this was nothing to be proud of; it was merely a tactic Griffin Wester had once used.

Chen Gu had realized early on that the greatest benefit "The Past of the Four Hundred" had brought him was not the levels and skills of the Professionals, but their vast experience.

Andrew looked back and saw that, amidst the shattered aftermath of the explosion, giant insect creatures were quickly burrowing out again!

There was even a group of spike-shooting insects aiming and firing a barrage of spikes at them!

The speed of these spikes rivaled physical bullets. They had a strong armor-piercing effect and carried a toxin. With current medical capabilities, taking a hit was practically a death sentence.

"Quick, quick, quick! Lure them to the second ambush position!" Andrew, greatly encouraged by the success of the first ambush, was full of anticipation for the next and shouted excitedly.

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The footage was transmitted back to the Central Operations Room. One of the operations staff members commented aptly, "Very outstanding. Under their current conditions, they've almost done the best they could."

But everyone knew in their hearts that this still wasn't enough. It was impossible to defeat the vast Insect Race in planetary surface combat using such methods.

Chen Jixian watched silently. He had only found out that Chen Gu was "The Idol Actor" just before entering the Central Operations Room.

Some things slowly became clear to him. Chen Gu's deliberate challenge to "The Wings of a General" Zhao Zhenhuai at that critical moment... it must have been for my sake.

It turns out he's so outstanding.

And he had been trying to protect me since so long ago, even though his own power was very limited.

Wasn't it not long after I "kicked him out of the house" with a billion?