

Ice Age 441

Chapter 441: A Solution for the Zombie Horde

The weight of Zhang Yi's words left everyone in silence.

If not for his new ability, the scene they had just escaped from would have been their grave—regardless of whether their numbers were threefold, fivefold, or even tenfold.

The sheer scale of the zombie horde was unimaginable. Tens of thousands? Hundreds of thousands? No one could say for sure.

"What should we do next?" Uncle You asked, his voice tinged with uncertainty.

If they couldn't find a way to eliminate these zombies once and for all, they would face endless assaults from the horde.

The subway tunnels, as they had seen, were teeming with zombies, including the terrifying Bronze Armored Zombies that even struck fear into them.

If these zombies were to swarm out and attack their shelter, how long could they hold out?

Worse still, the zombies displayed an alarming capacity to learn and grow stronger. Even if they survived the first wave, what about the next?

And then there was the most feared enemy—the Zombie King, lurking in the shadows, yet to reveal itself.

What kind of creature was it? What powers did it have? No one knew. The unknown only deepened their dread.

Zhang Yi, too, fell into silence, gazing at the distant sky.

Though the surface world wasn't particularly bright, it was far more radiant compared to the oppressive darkness of the tunnels.

The landscape was blanketed in snow—cold but lacking the suffocating sense of despair found underground.

Taking out a pack of cigarettes from his spatial storage, Zhang Yi lit one and took a deep drag.

The others didn't disturb him, sensing his heavy thoughts.

After a long pause, Zhang Yi seemed to snap out of it. He handed Uncle You a cigarette.

Fatty Xu didn't smoke, nor did Liang Yue, so the two men quietly smoked together.

Meanwhile, Fatty Xu's expression grew increasingly awkward.

In truth, when the zombie horde had gotten too close earlier, he had wet himself a little. Now, with his underwear damp and Liang Yue present, he couldn't bring himself to mention it.

He crossed his legs tightly, pretending nothing was wrong.

After a while, Zhang Yi finally broke the silence.

"No matter what, we must solve this problem—and quickly!"

"We can't allow these zombies any more time to grow stronger. They're starting to scare me."

"And do you have a solution?" Liang Yue asked, skepticism in her voice.

Zhang Yi narrowed his eyes, his gaze fixed southeast, where a vast ocean once stretched.

Now, the coastal waters were likely frozen, and seeing the ocean again would require venturing much farther.

"If our goal is to deal with the zombies, it's not as difficult as it seems."

Everyone turned to him in confusion, and Zhang Yi smiled.

"I'm beginning to realize how useful my ability really is. While it's not the best for direct combat, it shines in other areas."

Without waiting for questions, Zhang Yi shared his plan.

"The subway line here isn't complex—only the Ci Qu Line runs through it."

"From what we've observed, the zombies hibernate in the tunnels. The virus may be resistant to the cold, but even they avoid the extreme temperatures outside."

"This means that during their dormant state, they're all inside the tunnels."

"Now, while we lack enough explosives to destroy the entire subway line, there is something else far more effective than explosives."

The group stared at Zhang Yi eagerly.

"What is it?" they asked.

Zhang Yi took a deep breath, his gaze unwavering toward the southeast.

"Seawater."

Freshwater rivers were completely frozen and inaccessible, but seawater, rich in salt, remained unfrozen in the deep ocean.

Zhang Yi planned to use his spatial abilities to extract vast amounts of seawater and flood the entire subway tunnel system.

Upon hearing this, everyone's eyes lit up.

Liang Yue clapped her hands in excitement.

"Brilliant! This is absolutely brilliant!"

"The Ci Qu Line is a single-track line. If we seal off the terminal station, it'll be like a dead-end alley."

"With your spatial storage, you can bring enough seawater to flood the tunnel entirely. The depth of the tunnels will ensure the rats and zombies drown. At the very least, we can eliminate the majority of them!"

"If the Zombie King is a living creature, it'll likely be half-dead too. And even in the worst-case scenario, it won't be able to stay in the tunnels any longer."

Liang Yue's explanation sparked hope in Uncle You and Fatty Xu.

It felt like a lifeline in the midst of despair, offering a way to resolve their crisis.

Fatty Xu got up from the ground, beaming.

"Boss, your ability is seriously overpowered. It's like the ultimate weapon against zombies!"

Uncle You laughed.

"I think what's most impressive is Zhang Yi's mind. Sure, we all have abilities, but Zhang Yi knows how to use his to their fullest potential."

"Miaow!" Hua Hua chimed in, seemingly in agreement.

Zhang Yi, however, simply smiled faintly.

"This plan came to me on a whim, but it'll take a lot of preparation to execute."

"There's also a critical issue I need to consult with some technical experts back at home."

Pulling a snow vehicle from his spatial storage, Zhang Yi announced,

"Let's head back. The sooner we implement this plan, the better."

"We must act quickly and not give these zombies any more time to grow stronger!"

Chapter 442: Feasibility Study

Yangsheng Base.

Xiao Honglian sat at her desk, her hands clasped beneath her chin, her expression grim.

Beside her, Zhuge Qingtian remained silent, his face equally somber. Moments ago, the reconnaissance team they sent to investigate the zombie horde had been completely wiped out.

Before her lay a communication device, displaying a video sent by Dong Hu in his final moments. Through it, Xiao Honglian saw the terrifying zombie horde deep within the subway tunnels, along with rats the size of small dogs.

But what unnerved her most were the colossal, grotesque Bronze Armored Zombies, their appearance resembling giant stick insects. Their combat abilities rivaled those of Superhumans.

"I never expected such monsters to exist underground," she said.

"If they all swarm out, even with our base fully armed, we won't be able to hold them back," Zhuge Qingtian replied.

"Should we consider moving underground?"

This suggestion implied abandoning everything on the surface, including the massive refinery. Xiao Honglian frowned deeply.

"Absolutely not. If we lose the refinery, we lose the foundation of our survival."

"No matter the cost, we must protect it," she said firmly.

"But if they do attack in full force, can we really defend it?" Zhuge Qingtian asked cautiously.

Xiao Honglian's eyes flashed with cold resolve.

"Then we'll pour our stockpiled oil around the refinery. If the zombies come, we'll ignite the oil and burn them all!"

This plan would come at a tremendous cost, akin to cutting off their arm to save their body. Yet preserving the refinery's remaining crude oil would sustain their survival for a long time.

The drastic proposal left Zhuge Qingtian speechless. But given their lack of better options, it seemed unavoidable.

"If we proceed, we should at least move the soldiers' families underground first. That way, even if something happens to us, there will be people below to carry on," Zhuge Qingtian suggested.

Leaning back in her chair, Xiao Honglian let out a long sigh.

"Do it," she said.

Back at the Shelter.

When Zhang Yi and his team returned, they were greeted by Zhou Ke'er and the others. However, the group's subdued expressions immediately caught their attention.

The women in the household quickly realized that this mission had not gone smoothly.

"Did something happen? Was there trouble?" Zhou Ke'er asked gently.

Fatty Xu and Uncle You exchanged wry smiles, while Zhang Yi maintained his usual warm demeanor.

"We did encounter a little problem, but nothing too serious," he said reassuringly.

Zhang Yi believed that the burden of fighting should rest on the combatants, not the women at home, who were responsible for logistics. At the very least, he didn't want to bring negativity into their sanctuary.

The group changed into casual clothing after returning indoors. Yang Siyah brought over hot drinks, which helped warm them up.

Afterward, Zhang Yi turned to Yang Siyah.

"Could you bring Xinxin and Keran over? I have something to discuss with them."

"Sure, just a moment," Yang Siyah replied, heading to the back to call them.

A short while later, Yang Xinxin arrived, pushing her wheelchair. She immediately noticed the heavy atmosphere.

Though Zhang Yi's expression was calm, there was a certain depth in his eyes, betraying the weight on his mind. Uncle You and Fatty Xu's expressions clearly conveyed that their mission hadn't gone well, while Liang Yue remained her usual icy self.

"Brother, how did the mission go?" Yang Xinxin asked with a smile. She knew something was wrong but wanted to hear the details to see how she could help.

Zhang Yi gestured for Yang Xinxin and Lu Keran to come closer.

"I have a very important question to ask you," he said.

The two exchanged a surprised glance. It was rare for Zhang Yi to seek their advice, which made his request all the more intriguing.

"Ask away, Brother," Yang Xinxin replied with a smile.

Zhang Yi explained, his tone serious.

"I have an idea I need your help to implement. I need a way to freeze seawater quickly—a very large amount of seawater. Do you have any solutions?"

The task wasn't just about flooding the subway tunnels with seawater. If left unfrozen, many zombies and giant rats might survive and escape, creating an even bigger problem.

The ideal plan was to collect seawater in his spatial storage, then rapidly freeze it after flooding the tunnels, turning the subway system into a massive block of ice. At such depths, this would effectively trap most zombies and rats, sparing only the strongest creatures like the Bronze Armored Zombies or the Zombie King.

Zhang Yi laid out the plan, but its feasibility depended on technical expertise.

Lu Keran, who specialized in chemical materials, pondered for a moment.

"There are definitely ways to do it. We'd just need to prepare the right chemicals. But how much seawater are we talking about?"

Zhang Yi chuckled.

"A very, very large amount."

"To put it simply, I need to freeze an entire subway line—over 20 kilometers of tunnels!"

The women in the room were stunned. The sheer scale of the task was mind-boggling.

Meanwhile, Uncle You, Fatty Xu, and Liang Yue showed no surprise, their faces filled with anticipation as they looked to Lu Keran and Yang Xinxin for answers.

After a moment of contemplation, Lu Keran replied,

"It's not impossible. With enough time to prepare, it could be done."

Chapter 443: The Long-Awaited Ocean

Hearing Lu Keran's affirmative reply, Zhang Yi's eyes lit up.

"If this is possible, that's fantastic."

"Time isn't really that urgent for us, actually."

Although the terrifying nature of the zombie horde was clear, Zhang Yi didn't aim to eliminate them all immediately. As long as this issue could be addressed before the horde fully developed into a threat to the shelter, it would suffice.

Lu Keran chuckled.

"In that case, it's much simpler. To freeze seawater quickly, there's an easy way—precipitate and remove the salt from the water."

"It only requires some basic chemical materials."

"But to accelerate the process, I'll prepare a large amount of coagulant specifically for this."

"After all, we found plenty of unused materials from the chemical plant before. This is the perfect opportunity to make use of them."

To Lu Keran, this was a trivial task. After all, freezing water wasn't even a complex chemical phenomenon—it was just a simple physical process.

Zhang Yi slapped his thigh in delight.

"Great! If that's the case, start preparing now. No need to wait; we'll take action this afternoon and head out to collect seawater!"

Time waits for no one, and the sooner the issue was resolved, the more at ease Zhang Yi and his team would feel.

Zhou Ke'er interjected, "You've just returned. Why not take a good rest first? You all look pretty exhausted."

Zhang Yi shook his head.

"It's fine. Just a few of Yang Siyah's superhuman energy dishes, and we'll recover our strength and abilities."

"Time won't wait! I won't even enjoy my meal if this matter remains unresolved."

That was Zhang Yi's nature—he couldn't let go of anything weighing on his mind. A deep sense of foreboding always lingered in his heart, pushing him to overprepare for any situation to achieve complete peace of mind. ฅงคเฒ่า

Understanding his temperament, Zhou Ke'er didn't press further. She simply said, "Alright, then. Be quick and return safely."

Zhang Yi stood up and addressed the group, who hadn't had much time to rest.

"Let's go. We're heading to the coast!"

The journey to the seaside wasn't expected to be particularly dangerous, so no one objected. They promptly re-armed themselves and, without much delay, boarded their snow vehicle, setting course for the eastern coastline.

The beaches of the East Sea had once been a famous tourist attraction. But now, with the global ice age, the area was undoubtedly blanketed in frost.

It had been a long time since Zhang Yi last visited. He'd heard rumors of the Chaoyu Base conducting deep-sea expeditions, fishing, and even venturing to other places. Curiosity, and a hint of anticipation, filled his heart as he imagined what the coast might look like now.

As they departed, Fatty Xu voiced his concerns.

"We won't run into people from Chaoyu Base, will we? We fought them pretty hard last time. If they spot us, it might spark another fight."

Zhang Yi laughed.

"Chaoyu Base is probably swamped dealing with zombies. They'd have their hands full already."

"They don't have the luxury of time to bother with us. Honestly, if they do see us, it's more likely they'll be the ones worried."

Fatty Xu nodded, finding Zhang Yi's reasoning sound. During territorial disputes, human animosity ran high. But now, with threats from non-human entities, tensions between people tended to ease. Cooperation might even become possible in the future.

Filling up the snow vehicle's tank, Zhang Yi started the engine and headed for the long-lost eastern coast. Excitement bubbled in everyone's hearts—they hadn't seen the sea in so long.

What would the vast ocean look like now? Would the depths harbor mutated creatures, transforming into terrifying monsters like Godzilla? The mystery and vastness of the ocean invoked both awe and fear.

Thankfully, their destination was only the icy nearshore, far from any potential deep-sea monstrosities. Given the lack of food sources in the shallow waters, even mutated creatures were unlikely to be found there.

After a long drive, they finally reached the edge of the coast. The vehicle came to a halt at what used to be the beach. The group stepped out and gazed at the endless expanse of white ice stretching before them, lost in thought.

The grandeur of the scene deeply moved them. If not for the apocalyptic circumstances, they might have taken photos and marveled at the wonders of nature.

The vast sea was now entirely frozen, its surface a pristine, mirror-like sheet of ice.

"How beautiful... Is this nature's craftsmanship?" Liang Yue couldn't help but exclaim.

Uncle You added, "Compared to this, the winter ice of Mohe seems insignificant."

Zhang Yi broke the reverie. "There's no time for admiration. We need to find a spot to collect water."

The group returned to their vehicle and continued toward the edge of the shoreline. On the endless icy expanse, their small vehicle looked like an insignificant ant. Faced with nature's majesty, they couldn't help but feel humbled, reminded of their own insignificance.

After driving for two more hours, covering over 200 kilometers, they finally spotted waves at the horizon.

"Boss, water! I see water!" Fatty Xu exclaimed, pointing excitedly.

By this point, they were far from Tianhai City. The further they drove, the more apprehensive they felt. Seeing open water brought a collective sigh of relief.

"Quick! Let's collect the water and leave!" Zhang Yi urged.

The immense scale of the environment inspired awe but also heightened the fear of sudden changes. Even for someone as powerful as Zhang Yi, trouble at sea was a daunting prospect.

Carefully maneuvering closer to the ice's edge, Zhang Yi activated his Spatial Storage. Two enormous dimensional gates materialized above the seawater, functioning like massive pumps to siphon water into his storage.

The process was tedious and monotonous, so Zhang Yi sat by the water's edge with the others, marveling at the sight of flowing water after such a long time.

Uncle You, rubbing his hands, lamented, "If only I'd brought a fishing rod. Fishing here would be such a joy!"

The sentiment was shared by everyone, including Zhang Yi, who even entertained the idea of creating a fish pond back home to stock with sea fish for leisure fishing.

After an extended period, they finally collected enough water. Zhang Yi ensured his spatial storage was filled to capacity—25 kilometers long, 10 meters wide, and 10 meters high—before stopping.

Chapter 444: The Swarm of Rats

Once the seawater collection was complete, Zhang Yi stopped and addressed the group.

"Alright, the preliminary preparations are done. Once we return, we'll figure out how to precipitate the seawater to reduce its salinity."

"What? Leaving already?"

Fatty Xu and Uncle You stood reluctantly, their gazes lingering on the vast frozen sea. Even Liang Yue's eyes held a trace of hesitation.

They had gone so long without experiencing nature's grandeur. In a world where temperatures might grow colder and climates harsher, perhaps only the oceans would remain a sanctuary for life on the planet.

Fatty Xu suggested, "Boss, why don't we think about building a seaside villa here someday?"

Zhang Yi pondered the idea. It was appealing, but such a plan would have to wait until he could guarantee their safety.

"Who knows? If Chaoyu Base gets wiped out by the zombie horde, we might take over their base, seize their ships, and sail the seas ourselves," Zhang Yi joked with a laugh.

His hearty laughter echoed across the icy expanse. The thought of sailing the vast ocean ignited a fire of excitement in everyone's eyes. Drifting on the open sea sounded far more liberating than being cooped up in a shelter.

Seeing their enthusiasm, Zhang Yi spread his hands and smiled.

"Let's focus on solving our immediate problems first. But I have to admit, I do have my eyes on Chaoyu Base's ships."

Zhang Yi's long-term vision was clear. If temperatures eventually warmed and glaciers melted, coastal cities would be submerged. Owning a sturdy, seaworthy ship would be essential for future survival.

After some lighthearted conversation, the group departed the coastline, driving away in their vehicle.

Unbeknownst to them, a massive shadow passed slowly beneath the ice where they had just been. It was so large that no one noticed it. In the vastness of the ocean, who knew how many terrifying creatures lurked? In this era of global mutation, the potential for monsters to evolve into unimaginable horrors was a sobering thought.

Humanity, small and fragile, should always maintain a healthy respect for nature.

By the time Zhang Yi and his team returned to the shelter, night had fallen. Zhang Yi wasted no time; he skipped dinner and headed straight to find Lu Keran.

"I've collected the seawater. Now we need to precipitate it. Are your materials ready?"

Lu Keran nodded. "It wasn't hard to prepare. Let me show you."

She led him to a corner of her workshop, where hundreds of plastic barrels were stacked neatly.

"These are the precipitating agents. Add them to the seawater, and they'll help separate out the salt."

"To freeze the seawater quickly, the key is to remove a significant portion of the salt. Once the salinity is low enough, it'll freeze much faster in low temperatures."

"When the time comes, I'll also provide you with coagulants to speed up the freezing process."

Zhang Yi nodded. "How long will it take to precipitate the seawater?"

"At least two days," Lu Keran replied after a moment's thought.

"Two days? That's manageable," Zhang Yi said.

Over the next two days, the zombie attacks grew increasingly ferocious, likely a response to Zhang Yi's prior offensive, which had enraged the Zombie King. R A NŎBĚS

However, the Copper Armored Zombies didn't appear. Instead, hordes of ordinary zombies swarmed the shelter. Zhang Yi deduced that the Copper Armored Zombies were rare and too valuable for the Zombie King to waste as expendable troops.

But it wasn't the zombie horde that posed the real threat—it was the sudden emergence of a massive rat swarm from the subway depths.

One morning, Zhang Yi was abruptly woken by the shelter's AI system, Xiao Ai.

"Alert! Alert!"

"The shelter is under attack! The shelter is under attack!"

"Current damage level: 0.00001%!"

"The attack is ongoing. Please address the issue immediately!"

What? An ongoing attack? Could it be the zombies again?

Zhang Yi wasn't too concerned initially. With their rudimentary tactics, the zombies couldn't seriously harm the shelter. He got out of bed and walked to the window.

To his shock, the floor-to-ceiling window was entirely obscured by clawing forms. Upon closer inspection, he realized what they were—giant rats from the subway depths!

These rats had never appeared before, but it seemed their anger had been provoked by the deaths of so many of their kind. Now they had joined the zombie horde in attacking the shelter.

The air was filled with incessant squeaking, a grating sound that made Zhang Yi's ears ache.

The rats weren't particularly strong, but their teeth were razor-sharp, capable of tearing through even combat gear. Surrounding the shelter in massive numbers, they began gnawing at its defenses.

Though the shelter wouldn't be breached quickly, Zhang Yi knew that over time, the rats could weaken the walls significantly, leaving them riddled with holes.

"Damn pests! Even the rats are coming after us now?"

Through the external cameras, Zhang Yi saw the shelter completely encircled by countless rats. Opening the doors to go outside seemed nearly impossible.

He wasn't the only one stressed. A sudden knock on his door was followed by the panicked voices of Zhou Ke'er and the other women. The sight of so many oversized rats had them screaming in terror. Few women could remain calm in the face of such a horrific swarm.

At that moment, Hua Hua, freshly woken from her nap, stretched lazily. Then, with a loud "boom," she transformed into her massive battle form. Narrowing her eyes at the sea of rats outside, she opened her mouth and let out an ear-splitting roar.

"ROAR!!!!"

This wasn't the cute meowing of a cat but the thunderous bellow of a king of beasts. The sound shattered the silence, shaking the glass and causing the rats clinging to the walls to fall like rain.

In an instant, swathes of rats tumbled to the ground, clearing large sections of the shelter's outer walls.

Zhang Yi smiled with relief at Hua Hua.

"Your ability is perfect for cleaning up these grunts!"

Hua Hua's eyes glinted with pride, her tail held high in triumph.

Though the rats were troublesome, they weren't insurmountable. Zhang Yi quickly summoned Fatty Xu, Uncle Liu, and Liang Yue to join him in dealing with the swarm.

Chapter 445: Infusion

The scale of the attacking zombie and rat hordes this time was several times larger than before.

The Zombie King was furious—this was clearly both a warning and a deeper test of Zhang Yi's team. As long as the hordes were large enough, they couldn't be wiped out entirely in a single encounter.

This allowed some zombies to survive and relay Zhang Yi's combat strategies back to the Zombie King. Over time, the Zombie King would grow more intelligent, and its hordes would become stronger.

Zhang Yi had no time to dwell on the implications.

"If they want to learn, let them. I'll be launching an offensive soon anyway."

With a small team of humans and one large cat, Zhang Yi began clearing the hordes on a massive scale.

Since they were on their home turf and dealing only with ordinary zombies and giant rats, the team faced little pressure.

In just half an hour, the rat swarm was nearly wiped out, and more than half of the zombie horde was eliminated. The survivors scattered and fled in all directions, retreating toward the Ci Qu subway station.

"Two more days," Zhang Yi muttered coldly.

This time, he noticed that the horde was adapting to their combat tactics.

The zombies no longer clustered together, avoiding being incinerated en masse by flamethrowers. They actively evaded Zhang Yi's Dimensional Gate traps. Moreover, their attacks began to vary based on the abilities of each team member.

Against Zhang Yi and Fatty Xu, who weren't close-combat specialists, they deployed overwhelming numbers to charge them. When facing Liang Yue, Uncle You, and Hua Hua, they drove large numbers of rats to attack from the ground, limiting the pair's martial arts prowess.

This was a clear sign of intelligence.

Zhang Yi's expression darkened. Such massive, intelligent hordes with evolving leaders were not unique to Tianhai City. How many more of these horrors existed across the land?

How were these Zombie Kings born, and how many of them were there? These questions loomed unanswered.

For now, Zhang Yi could only tackle the problems in front of him. As for other forces, they would have to deal with their crises on their own.

In an ideal scenario, all the other bases would collapse while also destroying their respective zombie hordes. A double-loss situation would be perfect for Zhang Yi.

After clearing the hordes, Zhang Yi walked to the edge of the shelter. He placed his hand on the black metal walls, feeling the surface's deep scratches. PÀŹÖBĚş

Some of the marks were as deep as 0.1 millimeters.

"If these rats keep attacking the shelter, it'll be breached in two years at most," Zhang Yi remarked grimly.

Fortunately, Zhang Yi had been proactive, leading his team deep into the subway to investigate the growing hordes before they became a dire threat. That dangerous reconnaissance allowed them to develop a strategy rather than being slowly worn down like frogs in boiling water.

"Let's go. Time to prepare. This should be the end of it all," Zhang Yi declared to the group.

Compared to other factions, Zhang Yi's situation was relatively fortunate.

No personnel were lost, and the shelter remained largely undamaged.

Other forces, however, suffered heavy casualties.

Initially, no one took the sudden zombie appearances seriously. But as their tactics grew more disciplined and military-like, the danger became clear. The zombies targeted weak points with ferocious assaults while cleverly avoiding well-defended areas.

Several factions suffered devastating losses.

The Chaoyu Base was forced to abandon its port facility and retreat to their ocean liners, using them as a refuge from the zombie horde. The port, though crucial for resupply, became expendable to preserve the long-term survival offered by the ships.

In contrast, Yangsheng Base and Qingfu Base lacked such advantages.

Both relied on steel and oil refineries as their lifelines and could only fortify their defenses and fight head-on against the horde.

The most tragic fate, however, befell the Followers of the Snow God.

Lacking solid defenses, they crowded into buildings, erecting rudimentary barricades with stones, cars, and makeshift barriers of wood and barbed wire. While these gave a semblance of safety, they were ultimately no match for the overwhelming zombie waves.

Daily, scores of followers perished. While their large population base sustained their numbers for now, it was only a matter of time before they were overwhelmed.

Ironically, the rat swarms provided an unexpected boon. The massive rodents, large as small dogs, became a food source. In their dire situation, the Followers of the Snow God couldn't afford to worry about potential diseases from the rats—they were simply grateful for something to eat.

Two days passed quickly.

The seawater in Zhang Yi's Dimensional Space had completed its sedimentation process, precipitating a large amount of impure salt. While still saline, the water's reduced salt content made it much easier to freeze.

Zhang Yi extracted the salt and prepared for the next phase of his plan.

Lu Keran handed him dozens of barrels of coagulant and a significant quantity of explosives.

Accompanied by his combat team, Zhang Yi set off in the snow vehicle, departing the shelter.

Instead of heading straight for the Ci Qu station, they first went to the Songzhuang terminus.

To trap the zombies and rats in the subway, all escape routes had to be sealed. The first step was to destroy Songzhuang Station entirely.

It didn't require much explosive to collapse the station. After planting the charges, the team retreated to a safe distance and triggered the detonation.

"Boom!"

The ground caved in, burying the station under ice, snow, and soil.

Fatty Xu asked nervously, "Boss, what if the Zombie King senses danger and escapes?"

Zhang Yi shrugged nonchalantly.

"If it runs, even better. From the start, my goal wasn't to kill the Zombie King."

"I just want to ensure there's no threat near the shelter. Whether it lives or dies doesn't matter to me."

Liang Yue frowned with concern. "But if the other human factions are wiped out, won't the entire Tianhai City fall to the zombies and rat swarms? Can we really survive alone?"

Zhang Yi laughed lightly.

"You're overthinking it. Our priority is to protect ourselves."

"The more you dwell on grand scenarios, the worse your fears will grow."

"If the entire planet gets overrun by the virus someday, what can we do then?"

"Focus on securing our environment. Leave the rest to fate. We don't have the strength to consider the bigger picture."

With his arms crossed, Zhang Yi concluded calmly:

"Help the world when you're powerful; survive when you're not. For now, I care only about the latter."

Chapter 446: Beating Down the Fallen Corpses

Liang Yue stopped arguing.

She knew Zhang Yi made a valid point.

After all, given their abilities, just protecting their group was already a significant challenge. Considering the plight of others was not Zhang Yi's style.

The group finished sealing off all the exits of the subway tunnel. Then Zhang Yi approached the entrance of the Ci Qu Station. He opened the Dimensional Gate, releasing a massive volume of seawater that poured down the subway entrance.

"Whoosh!"

A torrent of water rushed forth, flooding the narrow tunnel and surging forward like a furious tide.

At this rate, it would take only three hours to release enough water to submerge the entire tunnel. The rats inside might sense the danger and flee early, but most would drown or freeze to death in the icy water.

As for the dormant zombies inside, they wouldn't awaken unless they encountered living humans or received direct orders from the Zombie King. Zhang Yi's goal was simply to eliminate most of the zombies and rats. Even if a few managed to escape, as long as their numbers were small, they wouldn't pose a threat.

"Whoosh!"

"Rumble!"

The floodwaters surged violently through the subway tunnel, growing stronger by the second, like a swollen river in flood season. The torrent drowned rats hiding in the crevices and flooded the muddy depths where zombies lay dormant.

"Squeak! Squeak!"

Terrified squeals erupted as the giant rats scrambled to escape the rising waters. But no matter how fast they ran, they couldn't outrun the flood. Soon, most were submerged.

A handful of rats that escaped in time climbed out through the tunnel entrance. However, without their habitat, these rats wouldn't survive in the sub-zero temperatures of minus fifty or sixty degrees. They would have to find a new environment, but in this apocalyptic world, such a place was nearly impossible to find.

The rats and zombies shared a symbiotic relationship. The rats provided additional combat power to the zombie hordes, with the Zombie King deliberately raising them. Their food source, however, was the corpses of other zombies. Without these corpses, the rats couldn't grow to their enormous size.

Once forced out of the subway tunnels, they would quickly lose their means of survival and perish. Even if a few survived, their numbers would dwindle, making it impossible to reproduce on a large scale. In the short term, they wouldn't be a threat to Zhang Yi's shelter anymore.

Meanwhile, deeper inside the subway, some zombies began to stir, seemingly guided by an unseen force. However, even with their superior physical abilities, they couldn't maintain their footing in the rushing waters. They toppled like broken logs and were swept away.

The floodwaters rose steadily, submerging the entire tunnel. Zhang Yi then opened several large white barrels filled with a transparent liquid—freezing agents crafted by Lu Keran.

When the agents were poured into the purified seawater, the liquid began freezing at a visible rate. Ice spread rapidly through the depths of the water, quickly encasing the struggling zombies and rats.

Half a day passed in the blink of an eye. The entire Ci Qu Line was now frozen solid. Zhang Yi dusted off his hands.

"That settles our problem."

Whether some zombies or rats had escaped or even if the Zombie King was still alive, it didn't matter. Even the survival of the armored zombies wasn't a concern.

The zombies and rats only posed a threat because of their overwhelming numbers. Individually, even the armored zombies weren't enough to intimidate Zhang Yi.

By eliminating most of the zombies and rats, even if the survivors were elite, Zhang Yi and his team could easily handle them.

"We should be able to enjoy some peace for a while. Let other factions worry about the zombie hordes and rat swarms!" Zhang Yi said with a smile.

Uncle You, Liang Yue, and Fatty Xu exchanged glances, a light smile spreading across their faces.

Once again, Zhang Yi had resolved a massive problem with startling simplicity, leaving them amazed.

"Spatial energy really is terrifyingly powerful!" Fatty Xu commented. "The internet wasn't lying. Among superhuman abilities, time reigns supreme, space dominates, destiny never emerges, and causality rules as king!"

"Our boss wields spatial energy. There's no one in Tianhai City who can rival him!"

Hearing this, Zhang Yi couldn't help but ask, "Where did you even learn all this stuff?"

Fatty Xu chuckled and scratched his head. "Internet wisdom, of course!"

Zhang Yi lowered his eyes. This wasn't the first time he'd heard such remarks from Fatty Xu.

In truth, Zhang Yi himself had similar thoughts. While his spatial abilities often played a supporting role in battle, their versatility and power were extraordinary. As he developed more skills, this ability became even more monstrous.

Shaking his head, Zhang Yi reminded himself that he wasn't someone who sought to outshine others. He only cared about protecting himself and, if possible, looking after those close to him.

Liang Yue asked, "So, what's next?"

"What's next?" Zhang Yi sneered.

"Isn't it obvious? Beat them while they're down!"

Cautious by nature, Zhang Yi never left his enemies a chance. Though the subway tunnels were frozen, some survivors had undoubtedly escaped—stronger individuals with incredible vitality.

"Whether they're zombies or rats, they pose a serious threat to us!" Zhang Yi declared.

"Since we're already here, we might as well kill as many as we can!"

He pulled out a shotgun, loading it with a crisp "click." Raising the weapon, he gestured to the group.

"Let's go! We'll wipe out whatever we can find. One last cleanup, and then we're done!"

No one objected. Most of the work had been done by Zhang Yi, leaving the others with plenty of energy. Watching him mow down zombies and rats had left them eager to join the action.

The group boarded their snow vehicle and retraced their path along the Ci Qu Line. Around the subway entrances, they found plenty of half-dead rats and motionless zombies.

Unsurprisingly, they obliterated them all.

Chapter 447: Shaking Jiangnan

Outside the subway lines, seven or eight massive armored zombies emerged from the tunnels, tightly surrounding a short humanoid figure covered in white fur.

No one could have imagined that this unremarkable creature, with seemingly no combat abilities, was the Zombie King commanding the entire subway horde.

The white Zombie King stared at the now-flooded subway tunnels, a flicker of confusion in its gaze. It had been tasked with building a massive zombie horde here, which would eventually march southwest to annihilate the humans in the nearby shelter.

But now, the subway had been completely destroyed. The zombie army it painstakingly cultivated was nearly wiped out, and the remaining few were insufficient to form a horde capable of attacking the shelter. The Zombie King seemed lost, uncertain of its next move.

The eight armored zombies surrounding it stood silently, heads bowed, awaiting its orders. Without its command, they wouldn't act unless triggered by the presence of living humans.

After what seemed like an eternity, the Zombie King's mind appeared to reboot. It made a decision, turning northward and taking slow steps in that direction. The eight armored zombies followed closely behind, braving the ice and snow as they moved north.

Zhang Yi's method of flooding the tunnels had successfully eradicated all zombies within the Ci Qu Line. From that day on, no zombies appeared near the shelter, a testament to the effectiveness of Zhang Yi's strategy.

Deprived of their habitat, neither the Zombie King nor the other zombies could remain in the subway tunnels. Elsewhere, no underground space large enough to support the zombies and rats existed.

Moreover, the mutated virus within the zombies couldn't survive in temperatures as low as minus 60 degrees. Just as humans can function briefly in extreme conditions but cannot survive indefinitely, the zombies were similarly constrained.

Zhang Yi's next steps were straightforward:

Enjoy the peace and quiet for now.

Monitor how other factions were faring against the zombies to stay vigilant.

Yang Xinxin maintained real-time surveillance of networks across various regions. Through their communications, Zhang Yi could track the progress of battles against the zombies.

Among the major factions, the Followers of the Snow God suffered the heaviest losses, with over 3,000 deaths so far. Most were bitten to death during combat, while others showed signs of mutation after

being bitten. Before fully transforming, they were executed by their own people, a process they referred to as "returning to the Snow God's divine kingdom."

At Yangsheng Base and Chaoyu Base, the situation wasn't much better. Both had suffered significant losses, with 500–600 soldiers killed in action. Chaoyu Base even abandoned its harbor and fled to the sea to escape the zombie disaster.

Although Wei Dinghai was pained by the loss, he saw an opportunity. He hoped the zombie tide would wipe out everyone in Tianhai City. Once the city was devoid of life, his faction could return to claim dominance. Zombies couldn't survive forever; they relied on humans for sustenance. When all humans in Tianhai City were gone, the zombies would also disappear.

At Yangsheng Base, Xiao Honglian adopted a ruthless approach. She ordered trenches dug around the base and filled them with crude oil. Whenever zombies or rats approached, the oil was ignited, creating a five-meter-high wall of fire around the refinery. The inferno incinerated countless zombies and rats.

Fire proved highly effective against the zombie and rat hordes, but fuel was a scarce resource. Xiao Honglian's method was extravagant, though her faction's substantial oil reserves could sustain it.

Meanwhile, Zhang Yi's old friend, Xing Tian, faced equally dire circumstances. Under Xing Tian's guidance, the lumberjacks from the steel mill transformed into formidable warriors capable of fighting ten zombies at once. Armed with axes, sledgehammers, and iron rods, they launched fierce battles against the zombies.

However, the disparity in numbers was glaring. While they could endure one or two battles, fighting swarms of zombies daily drained their strength. Eventually, Xing Tian led his remaining men into the depths of their underground shelter, temporarily abandoning the steel mill to the zombies.

The zombies posed no threat to the steel mill's equipment, as they had no use for it and only cared about human flesh. Xing Tian's plan was to wait for the zombies to vanish before reclaiming the facility.

The underground shelter was highly secure. Zhang Yi had tested its defenses before; only a high-yield bunker-buster missile could pose a threat. Even a horde of tens of thousands of zombies would take an enormous amount of time to breach the shelter.

In the short term, Qingpu Base's strategy of retreating seemed sound. However, the outcome of the zombie crisis remained uncertain in the long run.

Zhang Yi appreciated Xing Tian's approach. Though not particularly intelligent, Xing Tian knew his limits and withdrew at the right moment, preserving Qingpu Base's strength.

A week passed.

Zhang Yi and his team enjoyed a tranquil routine, drinking tea and reading books at home as if the zombie and rat hordes had never been an issue.

In contrast, the other factions were on the brink of collapse, tormented by relentless zombie and rat attacks.

The Zombie King, which Zhang Yi had driven off, led its eight armored zombies northward, where they established a new nest. Tianhai City's sprawling, interconnected subway network provided ample hiding spots.

However, the zombies still needed food. With Tianhai City's human population dwindling to less than one million, the remaining survivors became prime targets. The zombies could detect living humans from vast distances and slowly advanced toward them.

As the number of zombies in Tianhai City surged, the availability of food dwindled. Smaller factions were nearly wiped out, and the zombies began to spread to nearby cities, driven by their instinct to find food.

The apocalyptic zombie tide, which began in Tianhai City, was now expanding on a much larger scale. This alarming development finally drew the attention of neighboring cities and even alerted Jiangnan District, the region's most powerful faction.

In the northern district of Tianhai City, near the boundary with Xingyun City, the snowy ground was littered with the corpses of hundreds of zombies. Referring to them as "corpses" might be inaccurate—they were dead to begin with, driven only by their instinct to gather where food could be found.

Amidst the zombie horde, several figures moved, collecting blood, flesh, and other biological samples from the bodies.

On a nearby hill, a man dressed in black stood silently, his gaze fixed on the distant subway station exit. His attire was peculiar: in such conditions, he wore pure black clothing, complete with oversized black sunglasses. His cold, pale face looked almost sickly, as though meticulously sculpted with a knife.

Despite his gaunt frame and unhealthy appearance, the middle-aged man exuded an aura that warned others to keep their distance.

The six people with him, also dressed in black, shared his enigmatic presence. In a snowy landscape, white would be the ideal camouflage, so anyone wearing black could only be one of two types:

Those supremely confident in their abilities.

Those secure in their identity, knowing no one would dare attack them.

Or perhaps they embodied both.

These individuals were not native to Tianhai City; they hailed from Jiangnan District's Blizzard City, a fortress that had stood strong since the apocalypse began and housed hundreds of thousands of survivors.

The seven-person squad was dispatched by Blizzard City's supreme commander, Zhu Zheng, to handle the zombie crisis in Tianhai City.

The zombies had rampaged across Tianhai City for some time, growing in numbers and spreading to nearby cities. This caused widespread panic and drew the attention of Jiangnan District.

These weren't the sluggish, easy-to-kill zombies of the past. They were swift, immensely strong, and exceptionally hard to kill. Such creatures posed a threat not just to civilians but also to fully armed elite soldiers.

Given this, Jiangnan District had no choice but to take the matter seriously. With Tianhai City's population of 20 million, the potential for disaster was unimaginable if most of them turned into zombies and began spreading nationwide.

The squad, led by the sunglasses-wearing Bian Junwu, was dispatched to investigate and address the crisis.

After finishing their collection of biological samples, the team regrouped with Bian Junwu.

"Captain, we've gathered all the data we need from these zombies," said Meng Siyu, a long-haired, spirited expert in medicine and biology.

Bian Junwu shifted his gaze from the distance, his sunglasses obscuring his expression.

"No thermal signatures detected," he remarked coldly. "Just a small group of zombies here, with no signs of superhuman control."

He paused, then added, "We'll analyze the samples to determine if this is the work of someone controlling them or just the virus itself. Headquarters is very concerned about this."

Suddenly, Bian Junwu doubled over in a violent coughing fit, sounding as though he might cough up his lungs.

"Captain, are you okay?" asked the vice-captain, Baili Changqing, a stocky, broad-shouldered man with a gentle smile that belied his imposing appearance. ㅅAᄒᄒE\$

Bian Junwu waved dismissively. "I'm fine. Just an old condition."

The rest of the team exchanged worried glances. Their captain's health was notoriously poor, but underestimating him would be a grave mistake. Even within Jiangnan District, Bian Junwu was a renowned powerhouse.

"Judging by their behavior, it seems like the virus is driving their actions," Meng Siyu noted hesitantly. "But something feels... off."

Bian Junwu's sharp, pale features remained emotionless. "Researching this on our own will take too long. We'll need the local factions to assist in our investigation."

Baili Changqing scratched his head. "Since the apocalypse, there's been little contact between Jinling and Tianhai City. From what I've heard, the shelters here are a mess, with leadership changing hands repeatedly."

Bian Junwu's tone turned icy. "It doesn't matter who's in charge. Faced with this crisis, they must cooperate with us fully."

He continued, his voice resolute:

"This land belongs to Jiangnan District. All within it are subject to our authority. In the past, we let them govern themselves, but now that such a major issue has arisen, they must take responsibility for this zombie crisis."

At that moment, a sharp-looking young man approached, tucking a laptop into his backpack.

"As you instructed, I've contacted the leaders of Tianhai City's factions under Jiangnan District's name, requesting a meeting this afternoon," the young man reported. "That includes Zhang Yi, whom you specifically mentioned."

The man hesitated before asking, "According to our intel, Zhang Yi only commands a team of fewer than ten people. Shouldn't we focus on larger factions for assistance? They're too small to make a difference."

Bian Junwu replied calmly, "The data suggests that Zhang Yi's territory has the fewest zombie issues. Despite their small numbers, every member of his team is an elite. To resolve the crisis in Tianhai City, we'll need every bit of strength we can muster."

The young man shrugged. "You're the boss. Whatever you say."

Bian Junwu was accustomed to his casual demeanor. Those with ability often came with quirks, and every member of this special squad was among Blizzard City's top superhumans.

"Let's head to the central building," Bian Junwu said.

The "central building" was the former administrative hub of Tianhai City, located in the city's heart. It symbolized the city's past authority and served as a neutral meeting point for the factions.

Vice-captain Baili Changqing chuckled. "We're here representing Jiangnan District, but do you think the local factions will accept us?"

Qi Guangming, the squad's sniper, smirked. "If they don't, we'll just beat them into submission. None of them could stand up to Jiangnan District anyway."

The team's banter reflected their confidence; to them, even large factions like West Hill Base or the Followers of the Snow God were insignificant compared to the might of Jiangnan District.

The seven boarded a large snow vehicle. Wu Di, the flamboyant long-haired driver, set the vehicle's navigation system. Unlike most in Tianhai City, they had no trouble using satellite-based navigation, a testament to their advanced resources.

The vehicle roared to life and headed toward the central building.

Chapter 449: An Email

On this day, Zhang Yi and his group continued their plain and monotonous lives as usual.

After dealing with the zombies and giant rats in the subway, there was no longer anything that could pose a threat to them.

Yet, that very morning, a piece of news quietly disrupted their peace.

Zhang Yi sat leisurely in the living room, enjoying his breakfast. He wore blue cotton pajamas and sat barefoot on the sofa.

The villa maintained a constant temperature of 22 degrees Celsius, ensuring no one felt overly hot or cold.

For breakfast, Zhang Yi was eating steamed buns made by Yang Siyah and drinking freshly ground soy milk. The buns were stuffed with beef and vermicelli or tofu and green onion—his favorites. They were savory and appetizing.

The women in the household sat at the dining table, chatting and laughing over their meal. Meanwhile, Zhang Yi, Uncle You, and Fatty Xu gathered together with nothing better to do. They alternated between bragging and discussing the miserable state of other bases.

In all of Tianhai City, they were among the very few enjoying such tranquility.

The other factions were likely being driven to dire straits by hordes of zombies and swarms of rats.

What those forces didn't realize was that their networks were already being tightly monitored by Yang Xinxin.

Every day, Zhang Yi received detailed reports about them—how many people died in battle, how much resources were lost—he knew it all like the back of his hand.

To Zhang Yi, these updates served as a bit of spice to his otherwise dull life. People needed some gossip to live freely and happily.

At the same time, he collected intelligence on the zombie hordes to prepare for any that might approach their shelter in the future. Intelligence was one of the most crucial strategic resources in the apocalypse.

Suddenly, Yang Xinxin entered the living room, driving her wheelchair from the control room. Her expression was unusually serious.

Approaching Zhang Yi, she said, “Brother Zhang Yi, there’s a very important email you need to see.”

Seeing her solemn face, Zhang Yi knew something significant had happened. For someone as brilliant as her to show such seriousness, it clearly wasn’t an ordinary situation.

“Oh? What’s the matter? Let me see.”

Yang Xinxin moved closer and handed her laptop to Zhang Yi.

Looking at the screen, Zhang Yi saw an email that read:

To all recipients,

Personnel from the Jiangnan District have arrived in Tianhai City.

You are required to be at the Central Building of Tianhai City at 2:30 PM today.

Invited individuals include:

Xing Weinan from Qingfu Shelter,

Xiao Honglian from Yangsheng Shelter,

Wei Dinghai from Chaoyu Shelter,

Yuan Kongye, leader of the Followers of the Snow God,

And Zhang Yi, with no particular title.

Signed:

Jiangnan Military District

Upon reading this, Zhang Yi's eyes widened in shock.

"Jiangnan Military District! Is this the same as the headquarters based in Jinling, one of the Five Major Military Districts of Huaguo?"

For every citizen of Huaguo, this was common knowledge.

The Five Major Military Districts represented the pinnacle of Huaguo's military power.

During peacetime, they were the nation's backbone.

In the apocalypse, they remained the cornerstone of stability in Huaguo.

There was no doubting the power of the Jiangnan District. The last time Zhang Yi managed to defeat West Hill Base, one critical factor was that the Jiangnan District had launched a missile. ʀaŋŌBĚ

If they so wished, the Jiangnan District could erase all of Tianhai City from the map in an instant.

How could Zhang Yi not hold such power in reverence?

Yang Xinxin nodded. "Yes, I believe it must be them."

Zhang Yi frowned slightly. "How can we be sure this email is genuine and not some plot or prank?"

Yang Xinxin shook her head.

"Brother Zhang Yi, I can assure you that this is indeed a message from the Jiangnan District.

"Our network system has robust firewalls. Anyone wishing to contact us must submit a request. Without my approval, their message cannot reach us.

"But this email bypassed my primary defenses and directly arrived in our inbox.

"Only two kinds of people could achieve this: a hacker more skilled than me, or an official entity with higher-level internet permissions.

“And in Huaguo, no one could breach our network without my notice in such a short time.

“This leaves only one possibility: the sender must be from the Jiangnan District.

“Their sudden arrival in Tianhai City is likely related to the zombie problem.”

Zhang Yi’s eyes sharpened. “If they can do this, doesn’t it mean our network is unsafe?”

Yang Xinxin smiled nonchalantly. “The shelter’s true core lies in our intranet, which uses an isolated server with no external connections. That can’t be breached.”

Hearing this, Zhang Yi breathed a sigh of relief.

Still, the situation had grown more complex. With such a dominant external force joining the scene—one that could crush the five major factions of Tianhai City—it introduced an unpredictable variable.

“I think their visit is indeed tied to the zombie hordes.

“The scale of the hordes is enormous, and their origin is far too mysterious.

"If left unchecked, the 20 million corpses in Tianhai City could form an unstoppable zombie tide.

"Not to mention, the rats in the mix make it even worse.

"If the hordes and rat swarms spread to other cities, it could lead to an uncontrollable disaster."

Zhang Yi shrugged with a wry smile. "Isn't this exactly how a zombie apocalypse starts in those movies?"

Yang Xinxin nodded. "From the email, it's clear they have a complete understanding of Tianhai City.

"They precisely identified the leaders of each faction when sending out their invitations.

"I think we should go. It's not wise to offend a major military district at a time like this."

Zhang Yi leaned back on the sofa, clasping his hands behind his head as he thought it over.

"Considering the computer skills of the other factions in Tianhai City, it's unlikely they could have set this trap.

“Still, to be safe, I’ll bring as much firepower as possible. Better to be overprepared.”

In terms of security, Zhang Yi wasn’t overly concerned.

Apart from their group, the other factions in Tianhai City had been significantly weakened.

As long as Zhang Yi brought his elite team, there would be little to fear.

If the enemy was too strong, retreating would still be an option.

Zhang Yi gathered everyone in the living room and explained the situation.

Hearing that personnel from the Jiangnan District had arrived, everyone had mixed reactions. Some were pleased, while others were apprehensive.

Fatty Xu, in particular, was worried. With a troubled expression, he said,

“Our lives are relatively stable now. If other forces enter Tianhai City, I’m afraid it might disrupt our current environment.”

Zhang Yi dismissed his concerns with a shake of his head.

“Tianhai City may be a port city with decent resources, but compared to the Jiangnan District, what I have is insignificant.

“Even if I emptied out the Walmart warehouse, those supplies mean nothing to the Jiangnan District.”

Indeed, even with the substantial goods he had amassed, they were trivial to the Jiangnan District.

As one of Huaguo’s most prosperous areas, the Jiangnan District had access to abundant resources.

For ordinary people, extreme cold might cause logistical issues or material shortages.

But for a power as vast as the Jiangnan District, such problems could be resolved with ease.

Chapter 450: The Gathering

After Zhang Yi’s explanation, Fatty Xu finally felt a bit more at ease.

“Well, that would be ideal. I’m just worried that any change might disrupt our current peaceful life.”

Those who live comfortably tend to resist change, and Zhang Yi understood this sentiment.

Still, he didn't see the arrival of the Jiangnan District personnel as a bad thing.

The massive zombie and rat infestation in Tianhai City was something Zhang Yi could not resolve on his own.

Yet he also knew that the other factions were too weak to tackle the problem independently.

Over time, the situation would inevitably worsen.

If the Jiangnan District could step in and help, the survival conditions in Tianhai City would greatly improve.

At the very least, Zhang Yi wouldn't have to worry about the zombies wiping out other factions and turning their attention to his shelter.

From this perspective, Zhang Yi was optimistic about their arrival.

Aside from Fatty Xu, who was a pessimist, most people in the group shared this positive outlook.

Uncle You, who had a military background, crossed his arms and declared confidently:

"I think we should trust them!

"As the regional leader, the Jiangnan District would never want a massive city like Tianhai to fall into chaos with such a large zombie outbreak."

Liang Yue nodded in agreement.

"That's what I think too."

Under the threat of a zombie siege, everyone hoped for a higher-level force to help solve the pressing crisis.

Although their shelter wasn't currently affected, no one could guarantee how things would evolve in the future.

If the zombie problem could be resolved completely, it would be the best outcome.

Zhang Yi nodded and said, "Alright then, since the message has reached us, we must go check it out no matter what."

Turning to Yang Xinxin, he added:

“Xinxin, keep a close watch on the network.

“Even though we’re almost certain this email came from the Jiangnan District, we must still be cautious in case someone used an unknown method to set a trap.”

The likelihood of this was low but not impossible, and Zhang Yi’s cautious nature led him to remind Yang Xinxin.

Yang Xinxin pouted slightly.

As a world-class hacker, she felt there was no one who could deceive her!

But she still responded obediently, “Alright, Brother Zhang Yi. I’ll make sure the shelter’s network security is impeccable!”

Zhang Yi smiled indulgently at her playful attitude and reached out to ruffle her hair.

“Good. Everyone, eat well at lunch, and we’ll head to the Central Building in the afternoon.

“Remember, stay vigilant and be ready for anything. In this environment, you never know what unexpected events might occur.”

Everyone nodded in agreement.

Over time, they had come to respect Zhang Yi’s leadership.

He might not have the highest IQ among them, but his calm and steady approach made him the most rational and reliable.

Following his plans usually ensured minimal mistakes.

This cautious and methodical personality was an essential survival trait in the apocalypse.

Naturally, Zhang Yi’s group wasn’t the only one to receive the email.

At the same time, every major faction in Tianhai City received the Jiangnan District investigation team’s message.

To them, the email was like a lifeline.

These factions had already been battered by zombies and rat swarms.

The Qingfu Base was forced to retreat underground, avoiding direct conflict with the hordes.

Yangsheng Base had suffered heavy casualties, burning through vast amounts of crude oil just to maintain their current situation.

Chaoyu Base had even fled to the sea, abandoning their port.

This decision was painful for Wei Dinghai, as the port stored a significant amount of valuable supplies.

Meanwhile, the Followers of the Snow God had endured such devastation that their plight was beyond words.

Their camp, except for St. John's Cathedral, had turned into a living hell.

Zombies and rats slaughtered the living, while the survivors killed rats in desperation to use as a source of protein.

After a week of constant fighting, the Followers of the Snow God had been reduced to half their former numbers.

Thus, when they received the Jiangnan District's email, the leaders of these factions were overjoyed.

Some suspected it might be a trap.

But in their current desperate state, they had no choice but to step into the trap if it meant even a sliver of hope.

So, all factions prepared their teams and made their way to the Central Building to meet the legendary envoys from the Jiangnan District.

Tianhai City, Tianfeng District, Central Building.

The Jiangnan District investigation team's vehicles arrived at the site.

The once-majestic Central Building was now mostly buried in snow and ice.

The exposed portion was covered with thick layers of snow.

Without precise coordinates, locating the building would have been nearly impossible.

Bian Junwu and his team stepped out of their customized snow vehicle, which was specially designed for their mission.

Looking at the heavily snowed-in Central Building, Deputy Captain Baili Changqing scratched his neck.

“Wow, I didn’t expect this place to end up like this!

“It’s such a mess. Won’t it be troublesome with so many people coming here?”

Wu Di, standing nearby, replied with a relaxed smile.

“No worries, I’ll handle it.”

He extended his right hand toward the Central Building. A white orb of light formed in his palm and then shot forward with a loud boom!

Wherever the light passed, snowdrifts were blasted away.

In moments, a circular passage leading to the building had been cleared.

Wu Di turned back, smiled, and gestured to Bian Junwu.

“Captain, after you!”

Without a word, Bian Junwu stuffed his hands into the pockets of his black coat and led the way into the Central Building.

Baili Changqing followed closely behind, with the others trailing in order.

From their walking formation, one could infer their hierarchy:

Captain Bian Junwu led the group.

Deputy Captain Baili Changqing came next.

Wu Di ranked third.

Following them were virus experts Meng Siyu and Qi Guangming.

Lastly, top-tier special forces operatives and sharpshooter Qi Guangming, alongside combat expert Kong Sheng, brought up the rear.

Any member of this investigation team was among the best of the best.

The captains and Wu Di, in particular, were on par with or superior to the leaders of major factions.

After entering the Central Building, they cleared the interior snow and found a relatively intact conference hall.

Bian Junwu sat on a soft black sofa, calmly waiting for the representatives of the factions to arrive.

Meanwhile, the rest of the team, though seemingly relaxed, instinctively spread out to survey their surroundings.