

Ice Age 511

Chapter 511: The Investigation Team's Decision

Zhang Yi retrieved the footage recorded by the mechanical rat and played it on the big screen for the investigation team.

As they watched, their expressions turned grim.

Although the mechanical rat's perspective couldn't fully capture the scale of the zombie horde, it had passed through multiple subway tunnels, each one packed with dormant zombies!

A conservative estimate put the number at over ten thousand.

Wu Di, who usually had something sharp to say, was now at a loss for words, his face full of shock.

A chill ran down everyone's spine—not because they feared zombies.

No matter how many there were, they could eventually be exterminated through various means.

But the fact that these zombies were hidden underground meant that someone was orchestrating all of this!

Had Zhang Yi not discovered them and alerted the investigation team, they would have remained completely in the dark and returned to Blizzard City unaware.

By then, the zombies would have emerged from the subway with a vengeance, crushing the already weakened factions!

If that happened, Tianhai City would be doomed.

Not only would the investigation team bear the blame for mission failure, but their failure to detect the problem in time could allow the zombie outbreak to spread across the entire Jiangnan District!

Zhang Yi watched the silent group, crossed his arms, and spoke slowly:

"The first time I saw them, I was just as shocked."

"Their numbers are overwhelming. Without your help, Tianhai City won't stand a chance."

"So, I have to shamelessly ask you all to stay and help us one more time!"

His eyes were filled with sincerity as he looked at Bian Junwu and the others.

Beneath his sunglasses, Bian Junwu's brows furrowed deeply.

Faced with such an unexpected situation, even he couldn't make a quick decision.

He asked, "How many people know about this?"

Zhang Yi replied, "Only me and a strategist from my team. I haven't told any other factions, and even most of my own people are unaware."

Bian Junwu gave Zhang Yi a long, thoughtful look.

"You suspect that someone is behind all this?"

Zhang Yi smiled and shook his head.

"I can't say for sure, but this matter is too big for me to decide alone. That's why I need your advice."

He let out a heavy sigh and patted his thigh.

"If even you guys can't tell me what to do, then I might as well take my people and leave this cursed place."

"By the way, Blizzard City provides food and shelter, right?"

Bian Junwu ignored Zhang Yi's humor.

"Besides this footage, do you have any other evidence?"

Zhang Yi shook his head.

"No, that's all I've got this time."

"You have to understand, I'm not some professional investigator. Finding this much was already a stroke of luck."

Bian Junwu remained silent for a long moment before nodding.

"I understand. We'll find a way to handle this."

"But when the time comes, you and your people will have to pitch in as well."

Zhang Yi hesitated.

"Our team is fine, but the other factions have lost over 80% of their combat strength. Can we really handle such a massive horde?"

Bian Junwu replied, "This is your home. Of course, you need to fight for it."

Zhang Yi sighed.

"Alright, I get it."

Bian Junwu stood up. "We're leaving."

Zhang Yi said, "Won't you stay for a meal? My place is big enough, and you could rest here for a bit."

But Bian Junwu decisively raised his hand, declining the offer.

"No need. We're not in the habit of resting in someone else's home."

The investigation team was extremely cautious and wouldn't trust anyone easily.

Especially now—Zhang Yi revealing the zombie horde only made Bian Junwu more suspicious.

After all, who could guarantee that Zhang Yi wasn't the one controlling the zombies?

Since the outbreak, his faction had miraculously suffered no casualties.

Zhang Yi rubbed his nose. "Alright then, if you need my help, just let me know!"

His gaze was earnest.

Bian Junwu merely nodded, then led the others out of Zhang Yi's shelter.

Zhang Yi walked to the floor-to-ceiling window, watching their vehicle disappear into the distance.

After a long time, he let out a slow breath, his eyes carrying a hint of guilt.

Because he had indeed withheld some information.

The footage he showed Bian Junwu and the others was only a portion of what the mechanical rat had captured.

In reality, the number of zombies in the Aoshan District subway tunnels was far greater.

But Zhang Yi worried that if the investigation team knew the true scale, they would be too afraid and retreat.

And that wouldn't align with his plan.

"Don't blame me. I'm just trying to survive."

"In the apocalypse, everyone has to rely on their own skills to make it."

He knew that the investigation team was already too deep to back out now.

Which meant his safety was guaranteed—for now.

Now, all that was left was to see how things unfolded.

If everything followed the script he had envisioned, he would be the biggest winner.

Inside the snow vehicle, the atmosphere among the investigation team was heavy.

They had just barely dealt with the last zombie horde and thought that Tianhai City's crisis was nearly resolved.

Even if some zombies remained, they shouldn't pose a major threat.

But after seeing that footage, they realized how naive they had been.

It meant they were facing an even greater disaster.

Beneath Bian Junwu's black sunglasses, his expression remained unreadable.

Everyone knew he was wrestling with a difficult choice.

They had two options.

One, return to Jiangnan District and request reinforcements from headquarters.

Or two, rely on themselves and Tianhai City's remaining forces to attempt another decapitation strike.

Bian Junwu hesitated between the two plans.

The first option was the safest. But it would also mean admitting their own incompetence.

Their reputation among Jiangnan District's leadership would take a hit.

And worse, their mission reward points would decrease—points that ensured their and their families' survival in Blizzard City.

But the second option carried significant risk.

The team members waited for Bian Junwu's command.

After countless battles together, they trusted his judgment completely.

Bian Junwu thought for a long time before finally making his decision.

"The situation is still unclear. We can't request reinforcements just yet."

"Our priority is to investigate the site first."

"If we can handle it ourselves, we must avoid troubling headquarters."

The team members nodded in agreement.

Even if they were to request help, they first needed a clear picture of Tianhai City's situation.

That way, they could make a reasonable request—ensuring no wasted resources and preventing failure due to insufficient reinforcements.

Bian Junwu had made up his mind.

"We'll head to the location Zhang Yi mentioned and investigate."

Hearing this, Baili Changqing asked seriously, "Should we have Tianhai City's local factions send people to join us?"

Chapter 512: The Truth

Baili Changqing's suggestion was instantly rejected by Bian Junwu.

"No! Right now, we absolutely cannot let anyone else get involved."

His expression was ice-cold as he spoke in a low voice, "If this isn't a natural disaster but a man-made one, then we have to suspect that the mastermind is one of the five major factions!"

Everyone in the investigation team fell into a heavy silence.

"Someone's been raising these zombies? But who?"

"Could it be Zhang Yi? I think he's the most suspicious!" Wu Di frowned.

Given Tianhai City's current situation, Zhang Yi did seem like a prime suspect.

He was the only faction leader who hadn't suffered any losses in the zombie crisis.

Baili Changqing, however, disagreed. "I don't think it's him."

"There's always a cause and effect. But Zhang Yi has no reason to do this."

“He doesn’t lack resources to survive in the apocalypse, and his people are all alive and well.”

“More importantly, he willingly gave us intel on the zombies. If he’s not insane, he’d never deliberately provoke us—the representatives of Jiangnan District!”

Wu Di crossed his arms, his brows furrowing even deeper.

“But if not him, then who? Besides him, all the other factions in Tianhai City have suffered heavy losses.”

“If it were them, they wouldn’t have deliberately triggered a zombie horde to wipe out their own forces, right?”

Meng Siyu spoke up, “Could it be some unknown force?”

Bian Junwu remained silent.

They had no intelligence on the matter, so there was no way to draw a conclusion.

“We’ll go to Aoshan District and see for ourselves. Once we’re there, we’ll know what’s really going on.”

Inside the shelter.

After Bian Junwu and the others left, Zhang Yi sat on the couch in the living room, flipping open and snapping shut a silver metal lighter.

Click.Click.

The flame flickered brightly, its blue hue thin and sharp like a military dagger.

Outside, snowstorm raged endlessly, but inside the shelter, it was as warm as spring.

Staring at the flame, Zhang Yi pondered for a long time before finally deciding to come clean with his people.

The investigation team had already been tricked into heading to Aoshan District.

That meant the hidden zombie horde would soon erupt.

That meant the true final battle of Tianhai City was approaching.

If everything played out as Zhang Yi expected, then the battle outside the Bai Xue Jiao stronghold had been just a carefully staged act. But this time, the pressure would escalate to an entirely different level.

If he lost control even slightly, the entire Tianhai City would be destroyed by the undead tide.

Zhang Yi needed to keep everything within his grasp.

At the very least, he had to ensure the survival of himself and his people.

At worst, he had to make sure he survived.

“It’s time. They need to be mentally prepared.”

With a final click, he shut the lighter and turned to the shelter’s AI assistant, Xiao Ai.

“Xiao Ai, notify everyone in the shelter to gather in the living room.”

“Understood, message sent!”

Moments later, Xiao Ai's voice echoed throughout the shelter.

"All shelter residents, please gather in the living room immediately."

Hearing this, many exchanged curious glances.

Most of them still believed the zombie crisis had been resolved.

Zhang Yi only called for a full meeting when something serious was happening.

So, what now?

Only Yang Xinxin's eyes flickered darkly as she wheeled herself away from the control panel.

A few minutes later, everyone had gathered in the living room, their eyes locked on Zhang Yi.

"Zhang Yi, what's going on?"

"Did something happen again?"

Anxiety crept into their hearts.

They thought they had survived the worst and could finally enjoy some peace.

But Zhang Yi's solemn expression told them otherwise.

Without any buildup, he got straight to the point.

"This zombie crisis in Tianhai City isn't a natural disaster—it's man-made."

"There's a massive conspiracy at play, and every single person in Tianhai City has been dragged into it."

His voice was calm but carried undeniable weight as he revealed everything.

From Zhou Ke'er's discovery of Yuan Kongye's multiple superpowers to his own uncovering of the massive zombie horde hidden in Aoshan District.

The situation was too complex, the plan too far-reaching. Zhang Yi had to break it down carefully so they could grasp the full picture.

By the time he finished explaining, half an hour had passed.

The room was filled with an eerie tension.

Everyone wore strange expressions.

It felt like they had just listened to a suspense thriller full of unexpected twists and turns.

If they hadn't paid close attention to every detail, they wouldn't have been able to untangle the web of events.

"Take your time processing the details of the story," Zhang Yi said. "For now, just remember this—Yuan Kongye and Bai Xue Jiao's ultimate goal is to destroy all the factions in Tianhai City and harvest our superhuman powers."

"As for what they plan to do afterward, that's none of our concern. Our real problem is figuring out how to eliminate her first."

Sitting nearby, Yang Siyah's face had turned pale.

She rubbed her arms as goosebumps prickled her skin.

“Then... she definitely has to kill me?”

【Death Return】 was an ability that only activated when a superhuman implanted with Ice Soul was slain.

And in this shelter, Yang Siyah was the only one with Ice Soul.

Her powers were mostly supportive, but extremely useful.

And to Yuan Kongye, whether she killed one or a thousand, it didn't matter.

There was no reason to spare Yang Siyah.

Zhou Ke'er secretly felt relieved that she hadn't implanted Ice Soul back then.

She also realized that Zhang Yi had been protecting her all along.

Zhang Yi reassured Yang Siyah, “For now, you don't have to worry. If things play out as we expect, Yuan Kongye's plan won't succeed.”

Liang Yue asked worriedly, “But if what you say is true, then Yuan Kongye has already absorbed the abilities of at least a dozen superhumans... maybe even dozens or hundreds! Who could possibly stop her?”

Zhang Yi clasped his hands under his chin.

“There is someone.”

“Who?”

Everyone turned to him curiously.

“Bian Junwu.”

Zhang Yi said his name with conviction.

This was precisely why he had gone to such lengths to ensure the investigation team stayed.

Chapter 513: The Zombie Horde Uprising!

When Zhang Yi mentioned Bian Junwu's name, Liang Yue, Uncle You, and Fatty Xu all nodded in agreement.

They had witnessed Bian Junwu's terrifying power firsthand.

His ocular ability was strong enough to destroy anything he laid eyes on in an instant.

If not for its severe side effects, his ability would have been classified as "Epsilon" level.

But for Zhang Yi, that power alone was enough—as long as it could dismantle Yuan Kongye's conspiracy.

That night, while Zhang Yi and the others held back the zombie horde in direct combat, Bian Junwu's seven-man squad had infiltrated the underground and eliminated six Zombie Kings.

At that time, the number of zombies protecting those Zombie Kings was enormous.

Yet, Bian Junwu's team still succeeded in their decapitation mission.

That meant they had the means to fight against a massive zombie force.

The cost, however, would likely be great—perhaps even shortening Bian Junwu's already limited lifespan.

Zhang Yi knew what he was doing was far from noble.

But if sacrificing people who had nothing to do with him meant securing the survival of himself and those close to him, then so be it.

If he felt any guilt at all, it was because Bian Junwu had once extended an invitation for him to join Blizzard City—an act of goodwill.

But...

"I have no choice," Zhang Yi told himself.

"If only one side can survive, I will choose me and my people."

Then, Zhang Yi laid out his plan for everyone.

"I'm telling you all this so you can be mentally prepared."

"If things spiral out of control and the seven-man squad fails, we must abandon Tianhai City."

"My spatial storage has enough supplies. No matter where we go, we can survive."

"The only regret is losing this shelter with its top-tier defense system."

"So, for non-combat personnel, don't take off your clothes when you sleep these next few days. Be ready to evacuate at a moment's notice!"

"As for the combat personnel, your job is simple—stay ready for battle and follow my commands!"

Everyone listened attentively, and surprisingly, there were no objections.

Only Liang Yue asked curiously, "So... are our enemies the zombies or Bai Xue Jiao?"

Zhang Yi took a deep breath and gazed at her. "Probably both."

He was smiling, but no one else could.

Fighting a zombie horde numbering in the hundreds of thousands while also dealing with an immensely powerful superhuman...

The situation was nothing short of despair-inducing.

No one understood how Zhang Yi could still be smiling.

Zhang Yi inhaled deeply. "I'd like to say something comforting right now."

"But this is the reality. Just accept it."

"The worst-case scenario is that we leave Tianhai City."

"If Bian Junwu fails, even if Yuan Kongye doesn't lead the zombie army to slaughter us, Jiangnan District won't show mercy either."

Zhang Yi pointed skyward.

"The 'Angel of Death' won't hesitate to obliterate Tianhai City."

The group exchanged bitter smiles.

If things reached that point, they wouldn't stand a chance.

Zhang Yi leaned back on the couch, his eyes fixed on the extravagant chandelier worth millions hanging from the ceiling.

"It is what it is. What's meant to come will come."

"I've planned everything. But in the end, human efforts are one thing, fate is another. Whether everything goes as planned is up to the heavens now."

Zhang Yi was self-aware.

He and Yang Xinxin had crafted a strategy to counter both the zombie horde and Bai Xue Jiao.

But the world was full of unpredictable variables.

That's why he had arranged an escape plan—if things went south, they would leave Tianhai City immediately.

To Yuan Kongye and her group, Zhang Yi wasn't even the biggest enemy.

Their real grudge was with the major factions.

After the apocalypse, their grudges had only deepened, and Yuan Kongye would undoubtedly target them first.

"Everyone, prepare yourselves!"

Zhang Yi dismissed the group.

At this point, all he could do was pray.

And he really did.

With hands clasped, he silently sent a prayer to the heavens.

Then, he took out his satellite phone and activated the mechanical rat.

Bian Junwu and his team had arrived.

As usual, they first let Meng Siyu use her Aerial Perception ability to scout the area before moving in themselves.

They weren't afraid of the zombies.

But the unknown entity controlling them—that was what worried them.

First, they had to confirm whether Zhang Yi's intel was real.

The team ventured deep into the tunnels, using Meng Siyu's ability to scan the surroundings before proceeding further.

Zhang Yi had given them precise coordinates of the zombie cluster, so they found the location quickly.

Meng Siyu's ability covered a three-kilometer radius.

From exactly three kilometers away, she saw everything.

Deep within the subway tunnels, countless zombies lay sprawled across the damp, muddy ground.

Her face turned grim.

"How bad is it, Siyu?"

Noticing her tense expression, Bian Junwu asked.

Meng Siyu took a deep breath before responding,

"They're here. And their numbers are terrifying—at least 100,000 of them!"

Everyone's expressions darkened.

A horde of that scale was beyond dangerous.

But they didn't panic.

They were veterans when it came to dealing with zombies.

They understood their combat capabilities and behavior.

Dormant zombies wouldn't wake up unless controlled by a Zombie King or if they detected the scent of the living.

Bian Junwu adjusted his sunglasses.

"Then let's wipe them out."

His decision was firm.

They would withdraw first.

Then, they'd call for reinforcements from Jiangnan District and request a missile strike on this location.

At this scale, neither their team nor Tianhai City's remaining forces could handle the horde alone.

They needed backup.

Everyone nodded in agreement.

But just as they were about to leave, a deep, guttural roar echoed from the far end of the tunnel.

It was as if a flood was surging toward them.

Even the ground trembled beneath their feet.

Baili Changqing's face paled.

"Damn it, the horde is waking up!"

The seven of them turned grim.

They had been careful.

They hadn't recklessly approached the zombie cluster.

And yet, they had been discovered.

There was no time to think.

"Run! Get to the surface!"

At Bian Junwu's command, the team sprinted back the way they came.

Behind them, the horde erupted like a tidal wave.

Blood-red, ravenous eyes gleamed in the darkness.

Among the horde, massive Bronze Armored Zombies charged forward.

And above them, terrifying winged Bronze Armored Zombies soared through the air, hunting from above.

Chapter 514: Seeking Refuge

The sudden zombie riot forced the investigation team to flee the underground tunnels at full speed.

"This isn't right! Why are these zombies acting so differently from before?" Wu Di gritted his teeth.

Baili Changqing, running alongside him, remained calm as he explained, "If everything is as we suspect, then everything the zombies did before was just an act!"

"An act? You mean they were putting on a show for us?"

Baili Changqing nodded. "Their goal was to make us think the mission was complete so we'd leave Tianhai City."

"Looking back, taking down the Zombie Kings was way too easy."

"Especially that battle—six Zombie Kings gathered in the same location? It's almost as if they were deliberately placed there for us to kill!"

For the first time, Baili Changqing's usual confident smile disappeared.

His expression darkened. "Our real mission isn't to eliminate the Zombie Kings—it's to find the one controlling the horde!"

As they ran, the Bronze Armored Flying Zombies closed in from behind.

Wu Di extended his right hand, summoning his floating cannon and firing!

A powerful energy beam blasted through the chest of one of the flying zombies, sending it crashing to the ground.

But it wasn't enough to kill it.

Its defenses were clearly much stronger than regular Bronze Armored Zombies.

In mere moments, it rose back into the air, letting out an enraged roar as it resumed its pursuit!

The sound of flapping wings grew louder.

Behind it, dozens more flying zombies were already descending upon the investigation team.

"Tsk!"

Baili Changqing pulled the massive black knight's lance from his back and positioned himself at the rear.

The nearly three-meter-long lance spun in his hands like a windmill.

As a superhuman of the Enhancement Type, his ability was simple—enhancing all of his physical attributes.

But as one of Blizzard City's top warriors, he was an unstoppable force in close combat.

【Iron Fist】 Baili Changqing—an unbreakable human shield!

"Get the hell back!"

With a cold smirk, he swung his lance in a wide arc.

One of the giant flying zombies took a direct hit to the waist.

Crack!

The impact snapped its slim torso in half, sending its massive body flying like a discarded trash bag!

"Hahaha! Come on, you bastards! Who's up for a game of baseball?"

Baili Changqing laughed wildly, batting the zombies away one by one.

Despite his towering height and massive weapon, which made him seem clumsy, his movements were incredibly swift.

The black afterimages of his lance left the flying zombies with no room to dodge.

Meanwhile, the deafening rumble of the oncoming zombie horde grew louder.

Bian Junwu and the others reached the subway exit, never once looking back.

They trusted Baili Changqing.

Soon after, he too leaped out of the underground, his lance dripping with green zombie blood.

"Move, move, move! There's too many of them!"

The team scrambled into the snow vehicle as Meng Siyu floored the accelerator.

Bian Junwu glanced into the rearview mirror.

A seemingly endless wave of zombies was pouring out from the tunnels, flooding the snowy plains like a tidal wave.

The most terrifying among them were the Bronze Armored Zombies and their flying counterparts.

They were faster than regular zombies, chasing relentlessly while letting out piercing screeches.

Gritting his teeth, Wu Di rolled down the window and fired his floating cannon.

Sharpshooter Qi Guangming popped out of the sunroof, raising his black sniper rifle to pick off the approaching undead.

But the sight before them made their hearts race.

A tsunami of zombies surged forward, an overwhelming force of death.

And they were nothing more than a tiny boat about to be swallowed whole.

At this point, it was a race against time.

If the zombies overtook them, they were dead.

Even the strongest superhumans couldn't survive against numbers like these.

Bian Junwu pulled off his sunglasses.

【Oblivion】 —activated!

A brilliant white light swept across the horde, instantly disintegrating thousands of zombies.

"Ugh... cough cough cough..."

Bian Junwu's coughing worsened.

His power drained his already limited lifespan every time he used it.

But right now, they had no choice—they had to escape.

His attack bought them a few seconds, creating some distance between them and the horde.

But the zombies remained relentless, their glowing red eyes locked onto the team, their pursuit unyielding.

Bian Junwu's heart sank.

This confirmed it—someone had manipulated the previous battle to make them think the job was done.

And now, because the controller believed they had left Tianhai City, the zombies were no longer being restrained.

For the first time, the investigation team was witnessing the true

scale of the horde.

"Boss, these things don't get tired! If we keep running like this, we're screwed. We need backup!" Baili Changqing shouted.

Bian Junwu wiped the blood from his lips and forced himself to stay composed.

"Head to the nearest shelter! Alert all forces in Tianhai City and have them send reinforcements."

Requesting help from Jiangnan District was out of the question now.

What were they supposed to do? Ask them to launch missiles and nuke the entire area?

That would kill them too.

The underground shelters were their best bet.

These were military-grade fortifications built precisely for wartime crises.

If they could get inside, no matter how large the zombie horde was, it wouldn't break through in a short time.

Meng Siyu checked the map.

"The closest shelter is Yangsheng Shelter."

"Go there! And notify all factions to send reinforcements immediately!"

"Understood!"

Meng Siyu steered the vehicle toward Yangsheng Base while sending out an urgent message to every faction.

Xiao Honglian nearly fell out of her chair when she received the message.

"What?! I thought the zombie crisis was over! Why the hell are they coming here for shelter?!"

Her first instinct was to reject them outright.

But then she remembered—the investigation team represented Jiangnan District.

Clenching her teeth in frustration, she stormed out of her office.

At that moment, Yangsheng Base was back in full operation.

Thick black smoke billowed from the refinery's chimneys.

People believed life had returned to normal.

No one expected...

That this was merely the beginning of the real disaster.

Chapter 515: The Dilemma of the Followers of the Snow God

Xiao Honglian called Zhuge Qingtian over and shouted,

"Notify everyone immediately! Get back inside the shelter now! A massive zombie horde is approaching—tell them to hide, quickly! Hurry, hurry, hurry!"

Zhuge Qingtian froze. "A zombie horde?"

Xiao Honglian snapped impatiently, "No time to explain! Just do it, now!"

Seeing the urgency in her expression, Zhuge Qingtian didn't dare to ask more. He rushed to the broadcasting room and announced to everyone at the refinery to evacuate to the underground shelter immediately.

Meanwhile, Xiao Honglian led the elite guards to maintain order and prepare to receive the investigation team.

Inside the refinery, workers scrambled, dropping what they were doing and moving toward the underground shelter. Thankfully, Zhuge Qingtian was smart—he didn't tell them it was another zombie horde, avoiding panic.

Other factions also received the news at the same time.

Wei Dinghai grimaced. "Again? When the hell will this end?"

He was aboard a ship, hesitating whether to abandon this place and escape with his crew. But after thinking it through, he knew it wasn't realistic.

There weren't many ports where their massive ship could dock. Every other area had its own ruling factions. If they left, they'd have to battle local forces for territory—a suicide mission given their current strength.

Gritting his teeth, Wei Dinghai cursed, "D*mn it, we have no choice but to fight!"

Wei Dinghai and Xing Tian quickly responded, saying they would bring reinforcements.

They had no choice.

If the investigation team was wiped out, Jiangnan District would likely conclude that the zombie crisis in Tianhai City was beyond salvation.

And when that happened, Death itself would descend from above—dooming everyone to annihilation!

Even if they hid inside their shelters and bunkers, they wouldn't survive for twenty years. They simply didn't have enough resources.

Rather than wait for inevitable death, it was better to take the gamble and join forces with the investigation team to resolve the crisis.

At the shelter, Zhang Yi remained calm as he received the message.

"We're heading over now."

Upon learning that Bian Junwu and his group had fled to Yangsheng Base, Zhang Yi formed a new plan.

He didn't want Bian Junwu and his team dead, nor did he expect them to eliminate the zombie horde.

Because Zhang Yi was the only one who knew that behind all of this was the secret scheming of the Followers of the Snow God.

Only by eliminating Yuan Kongye could this nightmare truly end.

And for that, Bian Junwu's forces were indispensable.

Standing up from the couch, Zhang Yi changed into his combat gear and carefully checked all his equipment.

After preparing, he called Liang Yue, Uncle You, and a few others to join him in assisting the investigation team.

Everyone had been mentally prepared for a crisis, but no one expected it to escalate this fast.

Zhang Yi had barely returned from the Followers of the Snow God before he was thrown into another storm.

"Don't worry too much," Zhang Yi reassured Fatty Xu and the others. "Stick close to me. If anything goes wrong, I'll use my two Dimensional Gates to teleport us out instantly."

"We'll escape the battlefield and return to the shelter immediately."

His words were a much-needed morale boost, keeping the team from succumbing to fear. Their expressions steadied.

Having a team leader with a top-tier escape ability? That was the ultimate sense of security!

Winning wasn't the priority—staying alive was!

The group geared up.

At the same time, Zhang Yi instructed Zhou Ke'er and the others, "Don't just sit around at home. Pack your most important belongings and leave them in the living room."

"If things go south, we'll pick you up and get out immediately."

"Don't take too much. We have plenty of supplies, so each person is allowed only one bag. Got it?"

The women in the house looked worried. Zhou Haimei urged, "We should pack quickly!"

Yang Xinxin, however, remained calm. She didn't have much to bring—just her laptop.

She raised a finger at Zhang Yi, reminding him, "Brother, don't forget, this is our only chance."

Zhang Yi nodded slowly. "I understand."

There was no time for farewells. Zhang Yi and his team finished gearing up and set off for Yangsheng Base to assist the investigation team.

Standing at the doorway, Zhou Ke'er watched them leave, an overwhelming sense of helplessness rising in her heart.

At this point, aside from Zhang Yi and Yang Xinxin, no one truly understood the full extent of the crisis they were about to face.

At the Followers of the Snow God's stronghold, Zheng Yixian frowned deeply as he read the message.

He stepped over the ruins and entered St. John's Cathedral, where Yuan Kongye was in prayer.

"It's bad," Zheng Yixian announced immediately.

Yuan Kongye slowly opened her eyes and turned toward him.

Her gaze was cold, inhumanly indifferent, yet filled with devotion to the divine.

Zheng Yixian spoke firmly, "The situation at Aoshan District has been discovered by the Jiangnan District investigation team."

A flicker of emotion crossed Yuan Kongye's face.

Jiangnan District—the very name was a threat to her.

At least for now, it wasn't something she wanted to confront.

"Aren't they supposed to have left Tianhai City? Why are they at Aoshan?"

Aoshan District was remote. After the apocalypse, it quickly became deserted, a dead zone.

When the zombie crisis erupted, there wasn't even an active horde there.

That was precisely why they had chosen Aoshan as the perfect place to hide the zombie swarms.

Even if the investigation team was thorough, they couldn't possibly search every inch of the vast Tianhai City.

That was why Yuan Kongye was so surprised.

Zheng Yixian shook his head. "I don't know. Logically, their search should focus on the five major factions and the surrounding populated areas."

"This is bad news."

Yuan Kongye furrowed her brows. She couldn't tell if this was a coincidence—or if someone had deliberately led them there.

Zheng Yixian continued, "Now the zombie swarm has been disturbed. They've started attacking the investigation team, forcing them to flee toward Yangsheng Shelter."

Yuan Kongye lifted her gaze. "Could this be a trap? A ploy to lure us in and wipe us out?"

Zheng Yixian couldn't be sure. "Only the Blood Vine can communicate with the White Zombies. From what I've gathered, the horde was genuinely startled."

Chapter 516: Inside the Shelter

Yuan Kongye remained silent, her head lowered in deep thought.

"As of now, the remaining forces in Tianhai City are no match for me," she murmured. "But the power of Jiangnan District is something I have to be wary of."

Especially Bian Junwu's strength.

That terrifying power, capable of annihilating everything in its path, was something even she feared—yet also coveted.

Perhaps that was why she had gifted him the Ice Soul.

She had absorbed thirty-six different superhuman abilities, yet not a single one could match even a tenth of the sheer destructive force of **【Annihilation】**.

"If we don't go, wouldn't that make them suspicious?" Yuan Kongye said calmly.

Zheng Yixian thought for a moment, then nodded in agreement.

"You're right. We should make an appearance."

"But I'll go alone," he added. "You stay here. No matter what happens, as long as you're safe, it doesn't matter."

His eyes lingered on Yuan Kongye's cold yet beautiful face, unable to hide the warmth in his gaze—an unspoken, deeply buried love.

Yuan Kongye didn't refuse his proposal.

Even if she knew it might be a trap, she believed no sacrifice was too great for her ultimate goal.

She stepped forward and embraced Zheng Yixian gently.

"Only you treat me this well," she whispered.

Minutes later, Zheng Yixian left the cathedral.

He gathered the remaining priests and clergy of the Followers of the Snow God, briefly explaining the current situation before giving orders.

"Han Chang, Wu Huan, Li Qian, Dai Mei—you're coming with me to Yangsheng Base for support."

"Tong Zhan, Gong Yi, Lei Mingze—you three will lead the remaining forces and stay behind."

Zheng Yixian took nearly all their remaining combat power with him.

Because, at this point, there was nothing left in the Followers of the Snow God worth protecting.

And the person he cared most about no longer needed anyone's protection.

Eight Superhumans from the cult boarded a snow vehicle, one that had originally been a gift from Xiao Honglian, and set off toward Yangsheng Base.

At Yangsheng Base, Bian Junwu and his team of seven arrived quickly in a snow vehicle.

Xiao Honglian had already arranged for everyone to take refuge in the underground shelter.

She and a few warriors remained outside, waiting for the investigation team.

From a distance, they could see the raging snowstorm sweeping in from the horizon.

None of them had ever witnessed such a terrifying sight before.

Even though they had fought zombie hordes in the past, nothing compared to the sheer ferocity of what was approaching now!

"D*mn it! What the hell did they provoke this time?"

Fear flickered across Xiao Honglian's face.

With their current numbers, there was no way they could handle a zombie horde of this scale.

A black snow vehicle sped into Yangsheng Base, and Xiao Honglian immediately ran forward, shouting, "Over here! Quickly!"

The vehicle swerved in her direction, and before it even stopped, the doors swung open.

Bian Junwu, Baili Changqing, and Kong Sheng leaped out, weapons in hand.

"Get to the shelter now! The horde is too massive!"

There was no need for an explanation—Xiao Honglian and the others could see it for themselves.

The approaching zombie horde was an overwhelming black mass, blotting out the space around the refinery.

Xiao Honglian felt a stab of pain in her chest.

Her refinery—completely ruined!

Once the battle started, the entire place would be reduced to rubble.

But there was no time for regret now.

"Move! Get inside, now!"

Fighting back was suicide. Against a horde of this magnitude, resistance was futile.

They fired at the zombies in the front line, taking down a few before retreating.

At the shelter entrance, soldiers guarded the heavy doors, shouting, "Hurry! Get inside!"

Meng Siyu drove the snow vehicle into the shelter. After clearing out some of the zombies following them, Bian Junwu and his team jumped through the entrance.

Xiao Honglian gave the order to shut the heavy shelter doors.

Seven layers of reinforced alloy slammed shut.

No matter how large the horde outside was, it would never break through.

The moment the doors sealed, the entire area outside was completely overrun by zombies.

They could hear the horde screaming and clawing at the shelter, driven into a frenzy by the scent of living humans.

Inside, the team watched everything unfold on the surveillance screens.

Everyone let out a long sigh of relief.

Bian Junwu noticed Xiao Honglian's grim expression.

She had worked tirelessly to build this base, and now it was destroyed in an instant. Of course, she wasn't in the mood to celebrate.

He said, "I've already contacted Zhang Yi, Xing Tian, Wei Dinghai, and the Followers of the Snow God. They'll be bringing reinforcements soon."

"Once they arrive, we'll strike from inside and out to wipe out the horde."

Xiao Honglian turned and walked to the control panel.

"But judging by the sheer scale of the horde, it's no less terrifying than the one we faced at the Followers of the Snow God's stronghold," she said.

"And right now, our combat strength is less than half of what it was back then. How do we fight this?"

"Can't you request reinforcements from Jiangnan District?" she asked seriously.

Bian Junwu shook his head. "Getting help from Jiangnan District isn't that simple. Every investigation team is already assigned to missions."

The truth was, his team was one of Jiangnan District's strongest.

If they couldn't handle the crisis, bringing in another team wouldn't make a difference.

The only real solution was to deploy a full-scale military operation to exterminate the horde.

But that required approval from Jiangnan District's highest command, and that would be a bureaucratic nightmare.

"Then what do we do?"

Xiao Honglian closed her eyes, frustration in her voice.

Did she blame the investigation team?

Not really.

The zombie crisis was Tianhai City's problem to solve.

Even if the investigation team hadn't come, this disaster would have arrived eventually.

They were actually here to help—she had no reason to resent them.

She just felt... helpless.

Meng Siyu pulled up footage on her computer, using the satellite system to display the area outside the shelter.

"This is what's happening outside."

Bian Junwu, Xiao Honglian, and the others crowded around the screen.

The refinery was now completely overrun.

From above, it looked like a field covered in locusts—an endless, squirming mass of death.

Anyone with a fear of clusters would probably have a breakdown just looking at it.

"Great," Xiao Honglian muttered, arms crossed. "Now we're all trapped in here."

Chapter 517: The Urgent 24 Hours

Yangsheng Base was completely swallowed by the zombie horde.

Outside the underground shelter, the creatures howled and gathered, relentlessly attacking the entrance with whatever means they had.

Fortunately, this was a military base built for war. Even a missile strike would require multiple bombardments to break through.

These zombies, with their primitive attacks, posed no real threat.

Inside, the people in the shelter finally had a moment to breathe.

But getting out? That was a different story.

The investigation team was full of elite warriors, but even at their best, they could only take on tens of thousands of zombies at a time.

The problem was that there were hundreds of thousands outside.

Among them were not only regular zombies but also Bronze Armored Zombies with superhuman strength and flight-capable Bronze Winged Zombies.

There was no way they could win against such a force.

Bian Junwu's brows furrowed tightly. Suddenly, he coughed violently, covering his mouth.

His face, already pale as usual, now looked even more bloodless—so much so that his lips turned a bluish-purple, as if he could collapse at any moment.

"Boss!"

"Captain, are you okay?"

His subordinates looked at him with concern.

Bian Junwu waved them off. "I'm fine. Cough! But it's clear now—we need external support."

A faint smile appeared on his lips, despite the blood he had yet to wipe away.

"Since they're all gathering in one place, we can request an airstrike from headquarters!"

Xiao Honglian's eyes lit up. "You mean we can ask Jiangnan District to launch missiles?"

There was no better solution.

With hundreds of thousands of zombies gathered outside, a single missile strike could wipe out a huge portion of them!

Bian Junwu nodded.

"At this point, it's our only option."

They were backed into a corner. There was no way they could clear out this many zombies on their own.

As proud as Bian Junwu was, he wasn't foolish enough to gamble the lives of his team.

He pulled out his satellite phone and contacted the highest military authority in Jiangnan District.

With his clearance, he was able to directly reach Jiangnan District's Supreme Commander—Zhu Zheng.

It didn't take long for the call to connect.

Bian Junwu quickly explained the situation.

"We need support! There are hundreds of thousands of zombies surrounding our shelter."

"Oh? So the situation in Tianhai City has gotten this bad?"

Jiangnan District Headquarters—Blizzard City.

A massive fortress surrounded by towering gray walls, snowflakes drifted through the air.

Inside the command center, thick bulletproof glass covered the exterior walls, providing those inside a clear view of Blizzard City's landscape.

Standing before the glass was a tall, rigid military officer in his fifties.

He wore a green uniform, the stars on his shoulders gleaming under the lights.

His hair, streaked with white, was meticulously combed, and his face was as sharp and chiseled as a blade.

His eyes, sharp like a hawk's, belonged to none other than Jiangnan District's Supreme Commander—Zhu Zheng.

After hearing Bian Junwu's report, Zhu Zheng's expression turned grim.

Tianhai City was only about 300 kilometers from Blizzard City.

If the zombie crisis there exploded, it wouldn't take long for it to spread here.

At first, Zhu Zheng hadn't taken the zombie threat too seriously.

That was why he had only sent one of his best investigation teams to handle it.

But now, those elite warriors were trapped and calling for reinforcements.

And every single member of that team was among Blizzard City's top-ranking Superhumans!

"Hold on," Zhu Zheng said, turning to the massive display screen behind him.

"Show me the area around Yangsheng Shelter," he commanded.

The AI system quickly pulled up satellite footage.

On-screen, the zombies looked like an endless swarm of ants, stretching across the snowy plains in a chaotic, surging mass that covered a ten-kilometer radius.

The AI ran a quick analysis and provided exact figures.

"Total number of zombies: 395,861.

Human-type zombies: 395,521.

Large-scale mutant zombies: 340."

Zhu Zheng was stunned.

This wasn't just a zombie attack—this was a full-scale war!

Even with missiles, clearing out such a vast number of zombies would be difficult.

His face darkened as the severity of the situation sank in.

Picking up his satellite phone, he spoke to Bian Junwu again.

"There are too many zombies. It would take hundreds of missiles to wipe them out!"

Bian Junwu immediately understood what Zhu Zheng meant.

Missiles were strategic weapons for the military.

Manufacturing them had become nearly impossible in the apocalypse. Every missile used was one less in their already dwindling stockpile.

Zhu Zheng wasn't going to waste that many just to exterminate some zombies.

"The most effective method," Zhu Zheng said, his voice deep and cold like iron, "is to deploy Death from Above."

Bian Junwu's pupils shrank.

Death from Above—the ultimate doomsday weapon.

"Yangsheng Shelter is located 172 meters underground with exceptionally strong defenses. I intend to drop Death from Above directly on that area. That way, we can completely eliminate the horde."

Zhu Zheng had already made up his mind.

This wasn't a discussion—it was an execution order.

Bian Junwu clenched his fists. "But if you do that, Tianhai City will become a wasteland!"

Zhu Zheng's tone was icy.

"There aren't many survivors left in Tianhai City, are there? Sacrificing a few now to prevent the zombie outbreak from spreading to other cities is the most effective solution."

Bian Junwu knew Zhu Zheng wasn't wrong.

Right now, Tianhai City's remaining human population was only a few thousand, maybe at most a few tens of thousands.

Dropping Death from Above was undoubtedly the most efficient choice.

But it also meant they would be abandoned.

Once the weapon was deployed, the entire city would be rendered uninhabitable for years.

Even if they survived underground, their supplies wouldn't last until the radiation cleared.

They would all die in the darkness.

Bian Junwu understood now—Jiangnan District would not be their savior.

"Commander Zhu, please give us more time! Let us try one last time!"

Zhu Zheng was silent for a moment before replying in a low voice,

"Fine. You have 24 hours. If you can't eliminate the zombie horde by then, I will authorize the launch of Death from Above."

Zhu Zheng knew that if Bian Junwu and the forces in Tianhai City couldn't solve this problem within 24 hours, then no amount of extra time would make a difference.

As Jiangnan District's Supreme Commander, he wasn't sentimental enough to risk an outbreak that could threaten not just the district—but the entire nation.

Chapter 518: The Entire City Mobilizes

Bian Junwu ended the call, his expression unreadable.

Xiao Honglian couldn't tell what the response had been, so she anxiously asked, "What did Jiangnan District say? When are the missiles arriving?"

She had pinned all her hopes on reinforcements from Jiangnan District.

Bian Junwu glanced at her and replied coldly, "Headquarters said the zombie numbers are too overwhelming. So they've decided to deploy Death from Above to eliminate them."

The moment those words left his mouth, everyone around them widened their eyes in shock.

"What?!"

Death from Above—also known as the Doomsday Weapon—was a forbidden technology from before the apocalypse.

Its destructive power was beyond comprehension, but it left the land uninhabitable for decades due to intense radiation.

If Tianhai City were struck by Death from Above, it would become a complete wasteland.

Even those who survived the initial blast would eventually die from radiation exposure.

Even if they remained safely hidden in the underground shelter, they would never be able to return to the surface.

"This is insane! They're just sentencing us to death underground!"

Xiao Honglian's face twisted in fury as she shouted.

But Bian Junwu remained calm.

"Getting angry won't change anything. We have to find a way to clear the zombies, or we'll just be waiting here until our supplies run out."

He raised his wrist, revealing a golden Rolex watch.

"Time until Death from Above arrives: 23 hours, 58 minutes."

Xiao Honglian's rage didn't affect him at all.

If anger could solve the problem, he'd be angrier than anyone.

Xiao Honglian quickly realized that now wasn't the time to argue about right or wrong. They had to work together and solve the crisis.

Bian Junwu turned to her. "I need you to hand over all shelter data immediately—especially details on weapon systems."

Then, he looked at Meng Siyu. "Xiaoyu, inform all the other factions about this situation—exactly as it is."

"They need to understand that if they don't give it their all this time, we're all doomed."

Pushing up his tinted aviators, he added, "Also, make sure they know—anyone who tries to abandon the fight will be hunted down by Jiangnan District without end."

Meng Siyu nodded.

"Understood!"

She knew how critical every bit of combat power was now.

They needed to drag Zhang Yi, Xing Tian, Wei Dinghai, and even the Followers of the Snow God into this battle.

Xiao Honglian took a deep breath, forcing herself to stay calm.

Right now, she had no choice but to trust Bian Junwu.

She called over Zhuge Qingtian. "Hand over all our data to him."

Zhuge Qingtian's face was grim, but he gave a nod and went off to retrieve the shelter's classified documents.

Meanwhile, the major factions were all rushing toward Yangsheng Base.

But they moved cautiously, avoiding any unexpected encounters with the zombie horde.

Everyone had different motives, but one thing was universal—nobody wanted to die.

Zheng Yixian, however, was in a more complicated position than the others.

After all, this disaster was his doing.

And now, the situation had spiraled out of control.

The Followers of the Snow God didn't have a perfect solution to this crisis either.

Controlling the horde through the Blood Vine and the Zombie King was a slow and difficult process.

Even if he could send commands, they had to be kept simple, or the Zombie King wouldn't understand them.

And making the zombies retreat too suddenly would look suspicious to the other factions.

As Zheng Yixian hesitated, he received a message from Meng Siyu.

After reading it, his face twitched involuntarily.

"Death from Above."

It was here. The thing he feared the most.

Jiangnan District, with its overwhelming military power, could erase them all in an instant.

"Dmn it!"*

For the first time, the usually composed Zheng Yixian lost his cool, slamming his fist into the side of the vehicle.

"This can't happen! 24 hours... how do I make sure the investigation team doesn't die without making it look suspicious?"

His eyes gleamed sharply, as if ready to kill.

He, too, was caught in a desperate dilemma.

Meanwhile, Zhang Yi's convoy sped toward Yangsheng Base from Lu River District.

He also received Meng Siyu's message.

At first, he was surprised.

Then, he laughed.

Unlike the others, he wasn't afraid of Death from Above.

If anything, this development fit right into his plans.

Though it wasn't exactly what he had predicted, the overall direction remained unchanged.

In fact, Death from Above had accelerated everything.

"The Followers of the Snow God should be the ones panicking the most," Zhang Yi smirked.

"They must have ways to manipulate the zombie horde—so they can't

let the investigation team die here."

"Which means... they'll have no choice but to abandon their precious zombie army. And this horde is probably the bulk of their forces!"

"If we wipe them out, they won't be able to create another massive army anytime soon."

"That'll be our chance to take them down for good!"

"But still..."

Zhang Yi looked up at the sky.

For a brief moment, he seemed to see the figure of Death itself—a cloaked reaper, scythe in hand, descending to erase everything.

"It's still terrifying."

His combat suit had some radiation resistance, enough to survive brief exposure to low-level radiation.

But he needed a worst-case scenario plan.

Spatial storage wasn't meant for living beings, but in short bursts, it could serve as temporary shelter.

He had tested it himself—he could last about a minute inside.

If he detected Death from Above falling, he could use it to escape the initial impact.

It wasn't a perfect solution, but it was something.

The key was to make sure they weren't at ground zero when it landed.

Taking out his satellite phone, Zhang Yi sent a message to Zhou Ke'er and the others still in the shelter.

"Get to the third basement level. Now. Tianhai City might be hit."

He also relayed the information to everyone in the vehicle.

The atmosphere turned deathly serious.

Even though they were all Superhumans, against Death from Above, they were no different from ordinary people. They would all die.

"So we have 24 hours to solve this, huh?"

Uncle You sighed heavily, his face grim.

"How the hell are we supposed to deal with hundreds of thousands of zombies in 24 hours? Hell, even if they were pigs, we wouldn't be able to catch them all in time!"

Chapter 519: The Frozen Tide

With less than 24 hours left before Tianhai City faced total annihilation, tension gripped everyone.

Liang Yue furrowed her brows, gripping her longsword tightly.

She remained silent, deep in thought, searching for a way out of this crisis.

Fatty Xu's face was pale, and he muttered under his breath, "We're done for... This time, we're really dead! Boss, why don't we just run? 24 hours is enough for us to escape Tianhai City!"

Zhang Yi glanced at his satellite phone and said casually,

"Oh, and one more thing—Jiangnan District made it clear that if we run, they'll hunt us down with no escape."

"You wouldn't seriously think the zombie horde is scarier than Jiangnan District, would you?"

Fatty Xu instantly turned ashen.

Either way, he was dead.

Fighting zombies at least gave him a tiny chance of survival.

But if Jiangnan District decided to track them, there was no way out.

With their advanced satellite monitoring and vast surveillance network, they could pinpoint their location at any time.

"This... this is impossible!" he whined miserably.

Zhang Yi leaned back in his seat, half-lidded eyes glinting with amusement.

"Relax. There's a way out of this zombie crisis."

"As long as we know that the Followers of the Snow God are behind the horde, then things get a lot simpler."

"They never expected me to expose their hidden stash of zombies. They must be panicking right now."

"But the real problem isn't ours to deal with—it's theirs."

Zhang Yi was completely at ease.

He was certain there was a solution.

Because the Followers of the Snow God wouldn't want their grand plans ruined by Death from Above

before they could achieve their ambitions.

His eyes flashed with a dark glint.

"Everything is moving according to plan. Nothing's deviated too far from my expectations."

"Now, I just need to see if this plays out the way I want."

Yangsheng Base wasn't just an underground bunker.

It was a fortress designed for wartime defense, equipped with a powerful automated defense system.

Unlike the Followers of the Snow God's stronghold, it wouldn't be so easily overrun.

Bian Junwu, Xiao Honglian, and the others gathered in the operations room to plan their breakout.

The 300,000-strong zombie horde was overwhelming, but not completely undefeatable.

After all, the people inside were the best of the best.

A strategy was quickly formulated.

"The key to destroying the horde is eliminating its command center—the Zombie King!"

"But since we were the ones who provoked the horde, the Zombie King is likely positioned at the rear, controlling the assault."

"We need to break through, locate the Zombie King, and kill it."

"Without a leader, the horde will fall into disarray."

Bian Junwu stood before a massive holographic map, with Yangsheng Shelter at the center.

The shelter's defenses were formidable, including automated turrets capable of mowing down thousands of zombies.

"How do we break through?"

Xiao Honglian asked, "There are too many zombies. We don't have enough firepower to clear a path."

The horde included hundreds of Bronze Armored Zombies—some even airborne.

Even if the elite fighters could each handle five of them, they were still outnumbered.

"We'll need that guy's help," Bian Junwu said, adjusting his aviators.

A certain someone came to mind—Zhang Yi.

"Who would've thought we'd be relying on him to save us?"

Zhang Yi's group was still en route to Yangsheng Base when his satellite phone rang.

Caller ID: Bian Junwu.

Zhang Yi raised an eyebrow.

The others turned to him curiously.

Anticipating everyone's interest, Zhang Yi put the call on speaker.

"Bian Captain, how are things over there?"

Bian Junwu's cold voice came through.

"We're holding up. But time's running out. Listen up, Zhang Yi—don't come here yet. Head to the coast first and use your ability to bring back a massive amount of seawater!"

Zhang Yi exchanged glances with his teammates and immediately understood Bian Junwu's plan.

Against such a massive zombie horde, they lacked large-scale weapons.

But seawater itself was a devastating weapon.

Most zombies, when submerged, would have their movements severely impaired—rendering them nearly harmless.

Moreover, if seawater flooded the land, it would freeze quickly in the subzero temperatures.

It was the perfect weapon against the horde.

Zhang Yi didn't hesitate.

"Got it. Give me four hours."

He immediately ordered Uncle You to turn the vehicle toward the East Sea.

Meanwhile, Xing Tian and the others were instructed to stay back and wait.

They needed to coordinate their attack once everyone was ready.

And the most critical component was the seawater Zhang Yi would bring.

Four agonizing hours crawled by.

For those inside the shelter, every second felt like an eternity.

The major factions were also on edge, terrified of Death from Above.

Zheng Yixian, in particular, was feeling the weight of the situation.

How had the investigation team found their hidden zombie horde?

And now, he had to make a decision.

Either sacrifice the horde and gain Jiangnan District's trust—so they could continue growing their power later...

Or go all in and try to wipe out every survivor in Tianhai City, including the investigation team.

But the second option was pure suicide.

Even if the zombies breached the shelter, it would take too long to kill everyone inside.

And openly declaring war on Jiangnan District?

That was the dumbest thing he could do.

So Zheng Yixian had no choice but to abandon the horde.

Losing 300,000 zombies was devastating, but it was the only way to survive.

"I have to make this look real. They can't suspect that we were controlling the horde."

From a distance, Zheng Yixian gazed at the massive swarm.

The cold wind whipped against his cloak as he exhaled sharply, the icy air stinging his throat.

"For now, I can't do anything."

"Bian Junwu and the others aren't weak. They won't die so easily."

"All I have to do is... nothing. Let the zombies act on instinct."

Chapter 520: Breakthrough

Zhang Yi and his team spent over four hours transporting enough seawater from the coast.

He contacted Bian Junwu and relayed the news.

"The seawater is ready, but we need to find a high vantage point to pour it down from."

"As for its effectiveness, don't expect too much. It can only disrupt the zombie horde's formation and slow them down."

"But the area surrounding Yangsheng Base is all flat land, so it's impossible to completely submerge them."

Bian Junwu responded, "That's enough! We just need to buy some time to break through!"

Only by breaking through first could they find the Zombie King, the intelligent commander of the horde, and take it down.

Once the Zombie King was dead, the horde's threat would be significantly reduced.

Moreover, based on their scouting, they confirmed that this was the last zombie horde in Tianhai City!

Aside from whoever was secretly controlling everything, at the very least, once this battle was over, Tianhai City would no longer be plagued by zombies—at least for the foreseeable future.

Bian Junwu's gaze turned cold.

He had already made up his mind—once this zombie crisis was over, he would track down the mastermind behind it all!

Anyone capable of controlling such a massive horde had to either join Jiangnan District or be eliminated.

After ending the call, Zhang Yi instructed Uncle You to drive toward the highest point near Yangsheng Base.

From a distance of several kilometers, they could already see the massive horde.

A dark, writhing sea of bodies—just one glance was enough to send shivers down anyone's spine.

Fortunately, they were far enough away, and the horde's attention was fixated on Yangsheng Shelter.

If not, dealing with them now would be a massive headache.

Meanwhile, Bian Junwu contacted Xing Tian and the others, instructing them to prepare for battle.

As soon as Zhang Yi began pouring seawater, the people inside the shelter would launch a counterattack and attempt to break through.

At that moment, they would need an external force to create chaos and cover the escape of the Investigation Team and the core combatants of Yangsheng Base.

The various factions had already taken their positions nearby.

They were just waiting for Bian Junwu's command to launch interference attacks on the horde.

Though their numbers were few, the survivors were all elites.

Nearly half of them were Superhuman Captains, while the rest were the most skilled warriors.

Zhang Yi's vehicle arrived at a cliff five kilometers west of Yangsheng Base.

From their elevated position, he could see the massive horde below.

Without hesitation, Zhang Yi opened two enormous Dimensional Gates.

In the next moment, two torrents of seawater gushed out, cascading downward!

This seawater had been drawn from the deep sea, carrying an extremely high salt content.

Yet even so, the moment it left the ocean and met the freezing air—at minus sixty degrees—it rapidly crystallized into ice.

The torrents transformed into two raging ice rivers, surging downward toward the flatlands surrounding Yangsheng Base.

The roaring of the water caught the attention of some zombies.

But as they turned to look, the surging tide swallowed them whole!

"ROAR!!"

The horde turned toward Zhang Yi's group, letting out furious, guttural screams.

At this moment, they weren't even being commanded—Zheng Yixian had done this on purpose.

The zombies were operating purely on instinct, driven by their relentless hunger for living flesh.

Upon spotting Zhang Yi and his team, a mass of zombies instantly charged toward them.

However, this mindless assault posed no real threat.

Zhang Yi quickly noticed that the zombies lacked their usual coordination.

They weren't even trying to avoid the seawater—making them easy prey.

Soon, wave after wave of zombies were swallowed by the icy flood.

The sudden disruption rippled through the horde, breaking their formation like a line of falling dominoes.

Zhang Yi smirked.

"Just as I thought—exactly as I expected! Hahaha!"

"I knew it! Yuan Kongye and Zheng Yixian wouldn't dare go all out in a suicidal fight!"

"Then let's make them waste their trump card here!"

The seawater engulfed tens of thousands of zombies. Though they thrashed desperately, they could no longer move freely.

Bian Junwu, watching via satellite, immediately gave the order.

"Commence attack!"

At that moment, the ground inside Yangsheng Shelter trembled.

Cracks spread across the earth as dozens of cannons of various calibers rose into position.

"RATATATATATA!!!!"

Machine guns roared, spitting fire as they rained bullets down on the densest sections of the horde!

"BOOM!!!"

Heavy artillery thundered, and shells exploded amidst the zombies, obliterating hundreds in a single instant!

At the same time, Xing Tian, Wei Dinghai, and Zheng Yixian led separate assaults from three different directions.

Their primary methods of attack? Superhuman abilities and explosives.

Conventional firearms were useless at this point.

Wei Dinghai's abilities, in particular, shone in this battle!

His "Ice and Snow Lord" ability was already a powerful combination of offense and defense.

But as a seasoned sailor, his greatest strength was naval combat.

With both ice and seawater in play, his powers became even deadlier!

Now that Zhang Yi had released a flood of seawater, turning the snowy plains into raging ice rivers, the battlefield had transformed into Wei Dinghai's ideal combat environment!

"Ice Age!"

Wei Dinghai extended his hands, manipulating the rushing ice rivers as if they were his own weapons.

The frozen torrents surged toward the Bronze Armored Zombies within the horde!

By Superhuman classification, Bronze Armored Zombies belonged to the Enhancement Type—boasting immense strength, defense, and speed.

But against this type of attack, they were at a disadvantage.

As the icy water engulfed them, their bodies rapidly froze over, making it impossible for them to maintain their footing.

The five major factions coordinated seamlessly, launching a perfectly synchronized ambush on the horde!

In just a few minutes, nearly one-third of the zombies were wiped out!

However, as the remaining zombies locked onto their attackers, the tides of battle began to shift.

The ice river attack had succeeded in disrupting the horde's formation, but it hadn't eliminated them.

The overwhelming difference in numbers was still undeniable.

If they took too long, the seawater would run out—giving the zombies time to regroup and counterattack.