

## **Ice Age 801**

### Chapter 801: Ice Sea Behemoths

In the blink of an eye, more than half a month had passed.

The voyage had far exceeded expectations, which left Zhang Yi feeling somewhat frustrated.

Long-distance sailing was a tedious affair, trapped on a swaying icebreaker with the same people and scenery day after day.

Although it was similar when they were in the shelter, being on land gave a more grounded feeling, and he could often go out for a walk.

But on the icy sea, leaving the ship was simply impossible.

It wasn't that Zhang Yi couldn't land when passing by land.

However, given his cautious nature, such behavior was clearly unwise.

First, the ship required no supplies; the resources he had were already sufficient.

Second, the land rarely offered any supply resources and was instead rife with bandits and pirates.

During their passage through several small countries, the Golden Edge once suffered a robbery.

Zhang Yi acted decisively, eradicating the threat without mercy!

Basically, none of the pirates or bandits he encountered survived.

However, one troublesome issue was that their ship had been exposed to the surveillance of the Colombian Ocean Fleet.

After all, as the world's top naval power, Colombia's satellite monitoring system was no less advanced than the Nebula of the Huaxu Kingdom.

Moreover, Zhang Yi and his crew had not used any military jamming devices to avoid alerting their enemies.

This made their movements especially conspicuous.

This point had been discussed among Zhu Zheng, Zhang Yi, and Zhu Yunque.

Since their mission was officially an evacuation, there was no need to hide; after all, the core of the mission involved a secret in someone's hands.

Furthermore, the Colombian Ocean Fleet was well supplied, and their own people ensured their logistics.

So basically, they had no reason to worry about the Colombian Ocean Fleet attacking them.

On the thirty-ninth day of sailing at sea, Zhang Yi and his team encountered an extremely bizarre sight.

That day, Zhang Yi was in the cabin discussing calligraphy with Zhou Ke'er. Zhang Yi personally preferred cursive script and often used it to cultivate his temperament.

Suddenly, the ship shook violently, the tremors unrelenting.

Old Tian rushed over, pounding on the door with urgent “bang bang bang!”—the urgency unprecedented.

Seeing this, Zhang Yi hurriedly tidied the desk, asked Zhou Ke'er to gather her clothes, then went to open the door for Old Tian.

“What’s going on? You’re all flustered—what’s the matter?” Zhang Yi frowned as he asked.

Old Tian and the two sailors behind him looked terrified as they said to Zhang Yi,

“Mr. Zhang, we... we’ve encountered a sea monster!!”

Zhang Yi and Zhou Ke’er exclaimed in unison, “A sea monster?”

The day had finally come.

From the moment they set out, both Zhang Yi and Zhou Ke’er had imagined encountering sea monsters in the vast ocean.

There was some worry, but also a hint of anticipation.

Near the coast, they had once encountered a mutated whale, but it was only massive in size and had not displayed overwhelming destructive power.

Zhang Yi analyzed that it was likely driven from the deep sea into shallower waters.

The real overlord had appeared in the deep sea, forcing it to flee to the less dangerous nearshore to avoid becoming prey.

Only, it never expected that it wouldn't die at the hands of sea creatures but at the claws of terrestrial west-footed beasts.

Sometimes, the one who kills you isn't a peer but a cross-domain player.

Zhang Yi snapped back to reality and pressed the bracelet on his right wrist; his black combat suit automatically enveloped his body.

“Wait for me a moment!”

He closed the door and began changing into his combat suit.

Zhou Ke'er didn't idle either and started changing clothes as well.

The combat suits for the investigation team were exchanged by Zhang Yi.

After rescuing Zhu Zheng and driving away the Reincarnation Squad, Zhang Yi had spent the huge points he earned on advanced high-tech weapons and armor.

At least everyone at home had a set, including Aunt Zhou Haimei, who usually stayed home cooking and helped Old You relieve stress.

After donning the gear, Zhang Yi opened the door and went to the deck with Zhou Ke'er.

The Golden Edge rocked fiercely; the sailors on deck had to tie safety ropes around their waists.

Outside, the wind and storm raged wildly, the scene gray and blurred with poor visibility.

In the distance at the ocean's edge, waves churned as if something enormous was thrashing about. Terrifying roars echoed intermittently, as if ancient deep-sea gods from primordial times were awakening.

Zhu Yunque stood blocking the cabin exit, her face scared but tinged with curiosity.

Zhang Yi yanked her aside, "You two stay here, don't run outside! Be careful not to get swept into the sea by the waves."

Zhu Yunque felt a bit touched inside.

Zhang Yi actually cared about her now.

In reality, Zhang Yi just thought if she died, it would be hard to explain to Zhu Zheng.

The deck was too unstable. Zhang Yi immediately activated the Absolute Barrier Between Two Realms and Skywalk, suspending his body above the Golden Edge.

Now he could finally see the full view of the sea monster Old Tian had mentioned.

About twenty nautical miles away from the Golden Edge, the sea had already been stained a vast expanse of blood-red.

It was not just one sea monster but many—literally, Zhang Yi saw numerous heads.

Otherwise, he couldn't have determined the number of monsters.

In the ice-blue ocean, the sea monsters' bodies were enormous, with each at least fifty meters in length!

Zhang Yi continued ascending, trying to get a clearer view.

After flying thousands of meters high, he finally saw clearly.

“One, two... five heads, there are five sea monsters in total!”

A huge mutated shark on the west side was besieging a sea serpent or sea eel-like creature.

Those sharks had also mutated, possibly because they once lived among the Neon Pirates, making them look especially grotesque and twisted.

One shark's head was covered with eyes; another had two heads. Zhang Yi even saw one shark growing arms resembling human limbs.

They frantically bit and tore at the giant sea serpent before them.

It was called a sea serpent because it had a narrow body over a hundred meters long, covered in black scales.

Its head had a massive sharp horn, and its back was lined with hundreds of black protrusions larger than the shark's dorsal fins.

The huge body rose and fell on the sea surface like a continuous range of small mountains—colossal and terrifying!

“Shriek—”

Faced with the mutated sharks' siege, the sea serpent raised its head high above the water, sweeping its body horizontally. Many scales fell into the sea, and blood stained the waters for over ten kilometers.

Its enormous sharp horn suddenly emitted a strong purple glow, finally shooting out a beam of light that swept toward the attacking sharks!

Immediately, one shark's head was pierced through by the beam, letting out a dreadful scream before sinking into the depths.

#### Chapter 802: Stay Away

The battle between sea monsters made Zhang Yi's heart race with terror.

Sharks desperately tore at the sea serpent's body. The serpent's elongated form was already riddled with bite marks, exposing skeletal structures beneath. Yet it remained equally terrifying—after killing one shark with a laser beam from its head, the massive creature arched backward before viciously stabbing another shark's spine.

Like a knife slicing through pork, a "thud!" erupted as if unleashing a waterfall of blood. Shark blood gushed violently into the air.

Zhang Yi couldn't help but swallow hard. Regaining his composure, he immediately returned to the deck.

"Full speed ahead! Get us out of this area!" he ordered Old Tian.

This sea monster was far more horrifying than any mutated whale Zhang Yi had encountered before. Just those four sharks alone—their size and destructive power were spine-chilling, likely surpassing even Kanute, captain of the Tianlong Pirate Crew he'd faced previously. If these creatures noticed their ship and attacked, it would spell serious trouble.

Old Tian recognized the danger and bellowed at the crew to push the engines to maximum capacity, steering away from the sea monsters.

The Golden Edge distanced itself from the chaotic waters, but roars still echoed intermittently. At one point, Zhang Yi looked back to see lightning strikes bombarding the area they'd just fled.

After ten minutes and dozens of nautical miles, calm returned to the surroundings. Yet Zhang Yi couldn't shake the metallic scent lingering in the air.

"Such a heart-stopping battle," he mused on deck. "The ocean's depths hold far greater dangers than land ever could."

"Something's wrong, Captain. Very wrong!" Old Tian suddenly called out.

Zhang Yi frowned. "What do you mean?"

Old Tian pointed at the crimson-stained waters. "Marine life is hyper-sensitive to blood. With this much in the water, fish should be swarming here. So why isn't there a single one around?"

A realization struck Zhang Yi—just as his passive ability [Echo of Time] activated.

Echo of Time—one of Zhang Yi's awakened abilities after absorbing Phoenixin Ren, Takeuchi Mayumi, and Kanute. A time-based passive skill that warned him of impending attacks.

Below!

His gaze snapped downward, specifically beneath the ship's hull. The primal sensation of being hunted by a predator crawled up his spine. Without hesitation, he applied his Skywalk ability to the entire vessel while opening a dimensional gate beneath them.

BOOM!

Seconds later, the surrounding waters erupted into a violent whirlpool. From above, one could see a massive vortex forming—nearly a kilometer in radius—with the Golden Edge at its center. Within the churning depths, enormous black dorsal fins breached the surface intermittently.

"It's that sea serpent!" Zhang Yi recognized it immediately—the same colossal creature that had battled the mutated sharks earlier. Somehow, it had detected their presence and pursued them.

Or perhaps... it had sensed Zhang Yi's unique energy signature.

Lifting the Golden Edge with Skywalk, Zhang Yi gripped the railing while peering into the abyss. The serpent's blood-red eyes—each twice his size—locked onto him with unmistakable bloodlust.

Though uncertain if it understood human speech, Zhang Yi amplified his voice through the ship's PA system: "We're not your enemies. Just passing through."

The sea monster ignored him. Emerging partially from the water, it aimed its horn at Zhang Yi and fired a violet laser beam!

Zhang Yi's pupils contracted as he summoned a second dimensional gate to intercept the attack. The relentless beam poured into the portal for thirty relentless seconds before ceasing. **raNōbEš**

The energy intensity was staggering—comparable to an elite superhuman commander's full-power assault. In its aquatic domain, this creature could annihilate an entire expedition team. Had someone like Deng Shentong or Bian Junwu been here instead of him, they'd have been doomed—the monster needed only sink their vessel to claim easy prey.

"So this is why Zhu Zheng insisted I handle this mission," Zhang Yi inhaled sharply. "They didn't call me [Absolute Defense] for nothing!"

When its attack proved ineffective, the sea serpent grew cautious but continued circling menacingly. Its writhing, gargantuan form radiated overwhelming pressure.

Zhang Yi's anger flared. "I wasn't even bothering you, and you pull this shit?"

[Full Counter]!

The absorbed laser reversed trajectory, returning at full power. Seeing its own attack rebounded, the creature's eyes flashed with confusion—then agony as the beam struck its already battered torso.

An earth-shaking roar erupted as scales and flesh exploded outward, revealing charred bones beneath. Meanwhile, Zhang Yi's right hand coalesced void energy into a lethal strike.

Realizing this human could indeed kill it, the monster gave one final enraged bellow before plunging into the depths.

"Void Spear."

Unstable dark matter condensed into a two-meter lance.

"Precision Shooting!"

Multiple afterimages flickered across Zhang Yi's vision before merging into one. This ability—his original temporal power and precursor to Echo of Time—allowed him to predict enemy movements. Once locked by Echo of Time, escape became impossible.

The Void Spear launched seaward. The ocean itself seemed to recoil, millions of tons of water parting in a perfect cylindrical tunnel as the projectile pursued its target.

KABOOM!

The tunnel collapsed instantly as water rushed back in. Soon after, thick, dark crimson blood bubbled up from the depths.

Zhang Yi frowned. Since his power upgrade, Void Spear's lethality had increased dramatically—now capable of pinpoint annihilation rather than area bombardment. Still, whether it could kill such a

massive sea monster in one hit remained uncertain, especially in its aquatic domain where pursuit was impossible.

"Stay the hell away!" he shouted into the abyss. "Next time, I'll finish you for good!"

### Chapter 803: Rockflow Island

The sea surface had returned to calm, though the surrounding waters for dozens of miles were dyed red with blood, presenting a horrifying and eerie sight.

On Old Tian's side, the radar showed no remaining large creatures in the vicinity.

Zhang Yi inquired, "How far are we from Rockflow Island?"

Old Tian replied, "Over 1,000 nautical miles remaining. At our current speed, we should reach our destination in three days."

"Keep people monitoring the radar room at all times. That sea monster might not be dead yet," Zhang Yi reminded.

Old Tian couldn't help but gulp. Being pursued by such a creature would make every day of their voyage nerve-wracking.

Seeing his frightened expression, Zhang Yi said calmly, "It's severely injured and definitely seeking somewhere to recover now. It won't bother us again in the short term."

"We'll leave immediately after picking up our targets."

Their return voyage should be faster than the journey here. Once they returned to land, the sea monster would no longer be a concern.

Old Tian nodded in agreement and returned to the helm.

Zhang Yi went back to the cabin where Zhu Yunque came running over to ask, "What about that sea monster? Did you kill it?"

Zhang Yi said, "It's seriously injured and has retreated into the deep sea. It won't affect us for now."

Zhu Yunque looked worried. "It's not dead? What if it comes after us later?"

Zhang Yi thought to himself: How the hell should I know?

They'd deal with that when the time came. Worst case scenario, if the ship was destroyed, he could escape with Zhou Ke'er. As for the others, he'd just have to do his best.

Of course, the likelihood of such a situation was quite low. With him around, the chances of this monster destroying the Golden Edge were practically zero.

"We'll reach Rockflow Island in about three days," Zhang Yi told Zhu Yunque. "Contact the people there now."

Zhu Yunque's eyes gradually lit up. They could finally go ashore! After over a month at sea, she was nearly going stir-crazy.

The corners of her mouth lifted, revealing a proud expression. Zhu Zheng had placed the communication channel with Rockflow Island in her hands—perhaps worried that Zhang Yi might completely ignore her.

"Alright, come to my room. We'll contact them properly there!" she said cheerfully, gazing at Zhang Yi's face.

"Whatever," Zhang Yi replied indifferently, following her to her room.

Zhu Yunque's quarters were quite well-furnished, essentially the ship's first-class cabin, second only to Zhang Yi and Zhou Ke'er's.

Zhang Yi entered and sat directly in a chair. Zhu Yunque reached into her wardrobe and retrieved a case containing her communication equipment.

She set up the device on the floor and began attempting to contact the people on Rockflow Island.

The process was somewhat lengthy. Zhu Yunque tried several times but received no response.

Zhang Yi frowned. "What's going on? Did something happen?"

They'd been sailing for over a month. In the apocalypse, that was enough time for many things to change. It was possible everyone on Rockflow Island was already dead.

Zhu Yunque frowned slightly. "Let me try again." She didn't give up, showing considerable focus while working.

Several minutes later, the communicator finally established a connection.

"Got it!" Her eyes brightened. "Hello, are you Snow Wolf?"

Snow Wolf was the codename for their contact on Rockflow Island. It wasn't that the Jiangnan Region lacked his information, but using codenames during communications prevented eavesdropping.

Zhang Yi moved closer to listen. The voice belonged to a young man, filled with exhaustion, tension, and excitement.

"This is Snow Wolf. Is this headquarters? Have you arrived? We're in extreme danger here—over half our team is dead. We can't hold on much longer!"

Zhu Yunque responded calmly, "Don't panic. We should arrive in approximately three days."

As she spoke, she operated her equipment. This device connected to the Nebula System, allowing direct observation of Rockflow Island's complete topography. Zhu Yunque was selecting a suitable landing site.

"Where are you currently located? We'll land in an area near you."

"Northwest direction, there's..." The voice hesitated before continuing, "There's a cliff with a hidden cave beneath it. That's where we are."

Zhu Yunque immediately zoomed in on that area of the map. Rockflow Island's surroundings were covered by a layer of white ice, making some originally steep cliffs accessible. Snow Wolf's hideout was beneath a cliff—extremely difficult to find without satellite imagery.

Zhang Yi leaned in and asked, "Are there any dangers on the island?"

Snow Wolf's weak voice replied, "There are many people on the island—not just us. There are natives and later refugees."

"The island has a volcano and geothermal activity, so it can support many people. But food is scarce."

"Some have turned to killing to survive. Few on the island die from cold—most starve, fall ill, or are killed and turned into food."

Zhu Yunque's expression grew grave. She quickly reassured him, "Don't be afraid. We're here to take you home. We'll definitely keep you safe!"

Zhang Yi pressed further, "Any superhumans? People with powerful mutations or abilities? Any armed groups?"

Snow Wolf answered, "There are armed groups—local gangs. But some people have indeed suddenly developed extraordinary powers."

Confirming there were no professional military forces, Zhang Yi relaxed slightly. As for superhumans, there wasn't much to worry about. A small place like Rockflow Island lacked the conditions to produce powerful superhumans. If any had emerged, Snow Wolf wouldn't have had the chance to contact the Jiangnan Region for help—the island would already be under their control.

He patted Zhu Yunque's shoulder, signaling her to continue talking with Snow Wolf. Zhang Yi had no further questions—his only responsibility was retrieving their targets.

Leaving Zhu Yunque's room, Zhang Yi headed to the control room and summoned Old Tian.

"Old Tian, we're nearing our destination. Have everyone prepare their weapons and equipment—bulletproof vests are mandatory."

"Also keep monitoring the surrounding waters. Report any unusual activity immediately."

Being cautious by nature, Zhang Yi didn't trust any strangers. Only thorough preparation could set his mind at ease.

"Yes, Mr. Zhang!"

...

Three days later, the Golden Edge arrived at Rockflow Island without incident.

This mid-ocean island near the equator was formed by an undersea volcanic eruption. Being an active volcano, it erupted every thirty-seven years. Consequently, Rockflow Island possessed tremendous geothermal energy underground.

By the 1950s, humans had developed effective methods to control the volcano's eruptions and minimize damage. Rockflow Island was subsequently developed into a tourist destination, famous particularly for its hot springs.

After the apocalypse, over 5,000 refugees came here to escape disaster. Combined with native islanders and former tourism workers, the population totaled over 20,000.

This comprised the basic intelligence on Rockflow Island.

#### Chapter 804: You're About to Die

Around 9:30 in the morning, a biting cold wind blew from the northwest toward the edge of the equator. As the hottest region on the planet, the current real-time temperature here was around minus twenty degrees Celsius.

The Golden Edge approached Rockflow Island from the sea, where everything was covered in white snow, with large areas of ice forming in the coastal waters. As the most advanced icebreaker ship currently available, the Golden Edge naturally didn't need to stop at the outer edges. Its massive and heavy hull directly crushed through the ice layer, arriving at the edge of Rockflow Island.

Following their communication with Snow Wolf, they headed to the northwest side of Rockflow Island and found a docking port there. Zhang Yi had everyone prepare themselves before instructing Zhu Yunque to contact the man codenamed Snow Wolf.

Zhu Yunque immediately used the communicator to reach Snow Wolf, while Zhang Yi assigned personnel—sixteen crew members in total, with ten remaining on the ship. He planned to take six crew members ashore with him.

Before long, Zhu Yunque successfully established contact with Snow Wolf. "They're coming right away," she reported to Zhang Yi. Zhang Yi nodded and had the sailors lower the gangway to disembark.

"Is that substance called the Divine Source really on this island?" Zhang Yi wondered curiously as he gazed at the snow-covered island before him. He was still intrigued by that mysterious substance capable of enhancing a superhuman's abilities—even potentially allowing Zhang Yi to break through genetic limitations and reach the Epsilon level. If he could obtain it, that would naturally be ideal.

Although he wasn't particularly obsessed with power progression, in this apocalyptic world, only those with sufficient strength could truly survive well.

Zhou Ke'er and Zhu Yunque stood beside Zhang Yi, both clad in white combat suits. "They say the hot springs here are amazing!" Zhou Ke'er remarked cheerfully beside Zhang Yi. "If possible, I'd like to soak in them later." The over-half-month voyage had been exhausting, and now that they could finally step onto land—especially with the island's abundant geothermal resources—it was hard not to crave some relaxation.

"Hot springs contain many minerals that are great for the body," Zhou Ke'er added with a smile, resting a hand on Zhang Yi's shoulder. She refrained from linking arms with him, as Zhang Yi disliked physical contact when in alert mode. Seeing this, Zhu Yunque couldn't help feeling a pang of jealousy. After their long voyage at sea, her relationship with Zhang Yi hadn't progressed much. He always kept her at a respectful distance, having drawn clear boundaries from the start. She still couldn't figure out what she lacked.

Just as Zhang Yi and the others were observing Rockflow Island and discussing hot spring plans, Zhang Yi suddenly sensed danger. "Watch out!" He immediately activated his Absolute Barrier Between Two Realms, protecting those around him.

The next moment, gunfire erupted. Figures emerged from the snowy thickets in the distance, suddenly appearing from the snow and opening fire on Zhang Yi's group! However, all the bullets were swallowed by his Dimensional Space.

"An ambush? But... just ordinary bullets, no superhumans here," Zhang Yi quickly assessed. A faint smile curved his lips—these must be the dangers Snow Wolf had mentioned earlier. There was no helping it; the Golden Edge was too conspicuous arriving at Rockflow Island, inevitably drawing attention. These people likely wanted to kill them and seize the ship.

"Return!" With a sweep of his hand, Zhang Yi sent all the bullets flying back the way they came. The hidden gunmen in the snow were all pierced by their own bullets, suffering heavy casualties. Screams and shouts of alarm rose from the island, and Zhang Yi could hear furious cursing in his ears.

The attackers belonged to one of Rockflow Island's notorious violent groups, led by a man named Kun Bi from a small Southeast Asian nation. Spotting the Golden Edge, they had immediately set up an ambush, intending to kill and commandeer the ship. But they never expected to run into such formidable opposition!

Kun Bi's eyes were fixed on the group in white combat suits—their attire alone marked them as extraordinary. But rather than wait for death on this island, he preferred to gamble for survival. "Charge, men!" Kun Bi shouted, standing up with his rifle and firing at Zhang Yi's group.

"Just small fries," Zhang Yi muttered, not wanting to waste time. He drew two gold Desert Eagles, leveling them as his Precision Shooting ability locked onto dozens of enemies hundreds of meters away.

Gunshots rang out like firecrackers, each bullet from Zhang Yi finding its mark in a headshot. The crew members weren't idle either—trained sailors, they were as skilled with guns as they were with ships. They picked up their weapons and returned fire.

Originally, the enemies had the advantage of concealment while Zhang Yi's group stood exposed at the port, vulnerable to encirclement. But first, Zhang Yi could absorb bullets, and second—to put it bluntly—even if they just stood there and took the shots, the outdated weapons these refugees wielded couldn't penetrate their combat suits.

In less than a minute, nearly all the attacking thugs were annihilated. Even those who realized the situation and tried to flee couldn't escape Zhang Yi's bullets. The group's leader, Kun Bi, never expected such formidable opponents.

"All or nothing! Let me show you my power!" Kun Bi's body suddenly twisted grotesquely, transforming into a bizarre creature covered in white bony spikes, resembling a giant centipede. He then plunged into the snow, burrowing beneath the ice layer toward Zhang Yi's group.

Soon, Zhang Yi frowned, sensing the impending underground attack. Unfazed, he simply drew his Holy Judgment and stabbed it forcefully into the snow beneath him.

"Shhh—" Blood gushed from underground, followed by agonized screams. With a forceful flick, Zhang Yi sent Kun Bi's body flying out of the snow. "A superhuman... only Beta-level at best."

Kun Bi's appearance startled both Zhou Ke'er and Zhu Yunque—women instinctively feared such insectoid creatures, especially a two-meter-long centipede. Only someone like Zhang Yi, numb to grotesque sights after countless battles, remained unaffected.

"Who are you people? Why attack us?" Zhang Yi asked with an amused, condescending smile. Back in the Jiangnan Region, if anyone learned a Beta-level superhuman dared ambush [Chaos], they'd laugh themselves silly.

"Spare me! I'll never do it again! I was wrong!" Kun Bi writhed on the blade, howling for mercy. Zhang Yi suddenly lost interest—he was just a useless coward afraid of death.

"No, you just know you're about to die." Zhang Yi flicked him to the ground with a jerk of his wrist, then stepped forward. Kun Bi twisted, trying to escape, but Zhang Yi drove his blade through the creature's body again.

"Pfft!" Blood sprayed once more. "I hear centipedes are hard to kill," Zhang Yi remarked. He proceeded to stab repeatedly along Kun Bi's elongated body, from head to tail, until he'd nearly split it in two before finally stopping.

#### Chapter 805: Snow Wolf

The moment Zhang Yi and his team set foot on shore, they were attacked by armed groups on Rockflow Island, proving Zhang Yi's caution had been justified.

Had an ordinary rescue team come instead of him today, they would likely have been gunned down already.

"The gunfire will probably draw quite a bit of attention," Zhou Ke'er remarked to Zhang Yi.

"No matter. It seems there aren't any real experts on this island anyway," Zhang Yi replied calmly.

The fact that even Beta-level superhumans dared attack them openly suggested that even if there were superhumans on the island, their abilities weren't particularly advanced.

Not surprising, given Rockflow Island's current state of isolation.

They probably awakened a bit of power and immediately thought themselves invincible.

Just then, one of the crew members suddenly raised his gun and shouted at a distant figure, "Who's there? Show yourself!"

"Don't shoot! Don't shoot! I'm from Huaxu Kingdom!"

A man approached with his hands raised. He wore a white down jacket, his face mostly hidden beneath a hood, though he didn't appear very old.

"Are you the rescue team sent by Huaxu Kingdom?" he asked cautiously as he drew nearer.

Zhang Yi exchanged glances with Zhu Yunque before asking, "Are you Snow Wolf?"

The man froze, then tears welled up in his dry eyes.

"You're... from home?"

Zhang Yi nodded. "That's right."

The man immediately fell to his knees, covering his face as he broke into sobs.

"Thank goodness you're finally here! Thank goodness, thank goodness!"

His words became incoherent as he kept repeating "thank goodness" through his tears.

Zhang Yi understood his emotions. Being stranded in this isolated place without food, surrounded by murderous thugs—this kind of despair was beyond ordinary comprehension.

Zhu Yunque, moved by the man's state, hurried over to help him up.

After some questioning, Zhang Yi learned the man's identity.

His name was Li Zongyu, a person of Huaxu descent whose family had immigrated to Star Island last century. Since Star Island's primary language was Huaxu, Li Zongyu spoke it fluently.

He worked as a history teacher at a school there.

The trip to Rockflow Island had originally been a school-organized excursion.

Then the sudden frostwave trapped them here.

"Don't worry, we're here to take you home!" Zhu Yunque said sympathetically as she listened to Li Zongyu's story.

According to Li Zongyu, after the apocalypse arrived, the island gradually descended into a living hell.

Over half of their group had already died, with most becoming food for the violent factions.

Zhang Yi remained unmoved by Li Zongyu's account.

He'd seen far worse in Tianhai City—this was nothing.

At least compared to those who'd died horrific deaths there, Li Zongyu and his group were fortunate.

They were still alive, after all.

Noticing Zhu Yunque's overly compassionate expression, Zhang Yi frowned.

They were here solely to retrieve Li Zongyu, not to make any additional promises.

That was contingent on verifying the intelligence he'd sent to Blizzard City.

"Hey, Li Zongyu," Zhang Yi said coldly, stepping forward to stare him down.

"That thing you mentioned—do you have it on you?"

Li Zongyu grew wary. After a moment's hesitation, he slowly nodded.

"I didn't bring it with me. If you get us out of here, I'll hand it over as agreed."

"Besides, that item wasn't obtained on Rockflow Island. If you want to know its origin, you'll need to guarantee our safety first!"

Not from Rockflow Island?

Zhang Yi's brow furrowed slightly—so the mission wasn't over yet, was it?

He smiled faintly. "Smart. Very smart."

Li Zongyu's caution actually earned Zhang Yi's respect.

He wouldn't reveal his trump card without ensuring his own interests were secured.

"How many of you are still alive?" Zhang Yi asked flatly.

"About thirty," Li Zongyu replied.

A manageable number—far fewer than Zhang Yi had anticipated.

"Fine. I'll take you back."

With Zhu Yunque present, Zhang Yi didn't press further about the mysterious stone.

Once aboard the ship, he'd have plenty of time for questions.

"Where are the others?" Zhang Yi glanced around but saw no one else.

Li Zongyu took a deep breath and pointed urgently into the distance. "They're hiding in a cave. I came to investigate when I heard the gunfire."

"Take us there," Zhang Yi said with a smile. "This island still has plenty of people around. We shouldn't linger."

The gunfire had been loud enough to echo across the entire island, inevitably attracting unwanted attention.

But Zhang Yi couldn't care less about the others.

He was here for the mission—their survival meant nothing to him.

Li Zongyu quickly led the way, guiding them across the beach to the base of a cliff.

Stopping before a pile of rubble, he gestured and explained, "This is where we've been staying. Just move these rocks to enter. Sorry for the trouble—could you help?"

Zhu Yunque smiled approvingly. "Being cautious is wise. You're quite clever."

She turned to the crew. "Help move these stones."

"Wait."

Zhang Yi raised a hand to stop them, then gave Li Zongyu an amused look.

"Why can't you do it yourself?"

Li Zongyu stiffened, his smile turning strained.

Zhu Yunque frowned at Zhang Yi. "Mr. Zhang, must you be so harsh? They've suffered enough on this island. Is it so hard to have your men move a few rocks?"

Ignoring her, Zhang Yi pointed directly at Li Zongyu with his index finger.

His grin widened. "Someone bold enough to scout alone amid gunfire isn't ordinary."

"Am I right, Snow Wolf? You're an ability user too."

Zhang Yi's eyes narrowed slightly, his voice cooling.

"Your caution is admirable. But your strength means nothing to me. So don't bother hiding—it's just tedious. Understood?"

Li Zongyu let out a bitter chuckle.

"I... wasn't trying to hide anything."

With that, his body began transforming visibly before the group.

White fur sprouted across his skin as his frame expanded, fangs and claws emerging.

Within moments, he'd become a two-meter-tall white snow wolf.

A beast-type ability user.

"Figured as much. Otherwise, you wouldn't have survived here," Zhang Yi remarked.

He could tell—just a Beta-level ability user with limited potential, let alone lethality.

In a real fight, even a fully armed crew member might take him down.

"Barely enough to protect myself. Even so, I've had to watch many around me die," Li Zongyu said mournfully.

With only his own strength, he couldn't safeguard everyone.

After all, survival required food and fuel—resources worth killing for on Rockflow Island.

Chapter 806: Survivors of Rockflow Island

Li Zongyu personally moved aside the large stone blocking the cave entrance, revealing a narrow opening barely over a meter wide.

He had returned to his human form and took the lead, crawling inside.

Zhang Yi remained cautiously alert, first sending two crew members in, then he followed with Zhou Ke'er and Zhu Yunque in the middle.

The crew from the West brought up the rear.

Inside the cave was very dim. The crew lit lamps that instantly illuminated the entire space.

It was warm and humid inside, and there was a noticeable smell of sulfur.

This was a common odor in hot springs.

Zhang Yi said with some surprise, "I thought it would smell awful here! How do you usually handle bathing and waste disposal?"

Li Zongyu explained, "I know some medical knowledge, so I remind everyone to maintain personal hygiene to prevent infectious diseases."

"There's a hot spring below to clean the body. As for waste, there's a specialized system to store it, which we use as fertilizer for growing crops."

He smiled bitterly as he spoke.

"Originally, we planned to implement a sustainable development strategy here. But since there are no farmers, we're not skilled at planting. Plus, the crop growth cycle is too long; we can't wait that long."

Zhang Yi looked at him calmly and said, "Your idea is a good one."

He asked himself honestly: If he were placed in such an environment, what could he accomplish?

No need to think further; the answer was already clear in his heart.

He wouldn't become Li Zongyu.

He would become Kun Bi.

After moving on for a while, Zhang Yi faintly saw a light source deep inside the cave.

It seemed as if there was a light.

The light didn't come from a fire or lamp but from a kind of green mineral embedded in the rock wall deep inside the cave.

They emitted a faint glow in the darkness, not very bright but enough to barely see the surroundings within two or three meters.

Zhang Yi followed alongside Li Zongyu and casually asked, "From so far away, how did you communicate with the Jiangnan Region? Was the signal reliable?"

Li Zongyu smiled faintly and pulled a Huawei Mate 600 from his pocket.

Zhang Yi nodded knowingly.

"So that's how it is. Their phones truly have world-class signal quality."

Li Zongyu scratched his head. "Actually, there's a base station on the island. Also built by Huawei."

Zhang Yi couldn't help but chuckle twice. "In this area, Huawei really leads by a wide margin."

Soon after, they arrived at the cave where Li Zongyu and the others lived.

At the entrance, two men holding guns were on guard.

"Stop! Who goes there?"

The two men raised their guns warily.

“It’s me. I’m leading the rescue team here!”

Li Zongyu stepped forward and showed his face.

“Rescue team?”

The two men looked skeptical. Their eyes showed a trace of joy but mostly caution.

“Is this the rescue team from the Huaxu Kingdom you mentioned before?”

Li Zongyu nodded, “Yes, we’re saved. We can follow their ship back to the mainland and never have to endure hunger and hardship here again!”

Zhang Yi raised his eyebrows slightly.

Li Zongyu thought too optimistically; life on the mainland wasn’t necessarily better than on the island.

Once they were brought back, Zhang Yi and the Jiangnan Region would naturally arrange things for them.

At least they wouldn’t starve to death.

However, the expressions of the two guards made Zhang Yi feel a little strange.

They reacted to their arrival with complex emotions.

What was going on?

When people meet their saviors in desperate times, shouldn't they be overjoyed?

He realized the situation wasn't so simple.

But it didn't matter to him.

He only wanted to take Li Zongyu—more precisely, the suspected Divine Source stone in his possession.

Li Zongyu turned his head, smiling as he said to Zhang Yi, "Everyone, please wait here a moment. Inside is where they live. It might be a bit messy. I'll ask them to tidy up so it won't bother you."

He pointed to several large stones on the ground.

"Please have a seat!"

Zhang Yi said calmly, "No need. We'll just wait here."

He stepped forward, looked Li Zongyu in the eyes, and smiled meaningfully. "If there's anything to discuss, let's do it quickly. Time waits for no one, and we can't stay here too long."

Li Zongyu swallowed and turned his face away awkwardly, somewhat embarrassed as he covered his mouth with his hand.

To hide his awkwardness, he licked his lips and brushed his hair with his hand.

"I'll just have them tidy up the place. Nothing else to worry about."

After speaking, Li Zongyu pulled the two guards and entered deeper into the cave.

Inside, the lighting was sufficient. It was a space of about two to three hundred square meters.

Tents, cooking utensils, and even clothes hung up to dry were everywhere.

The living area was tidy, with no feces or garbage scattered around.

At this moment, in the middle of the cave, dozens of people sat in a circle. The glowing mineral they had excavated illuminated the space in the center.

A short middle-aged man with a distinctive appearance stood in the middle of the circle, speaking with a firm and powerful tone.

“The current situation is only a temporary difficulty. I believe the apocalypse will soon pass, and we will be saved!”

“Yesterday was cruel, today is even crueler! But tomorrow will be beautiful.”

“Most people died last night and will not see the sun tomorrow.”

“So everyone must hold on and not lose faith. We must have hope for the future!”

His name was Ma Wenzheng, an entrepreneur in the team who now worked part-time as a priest and served as one of the team’s spiritual leaders.

After his passionate speech, sparse applause broke out.

Though the surrounding refugees looked weary and numb, many of their eyes brightened after hearing his words.

When hope is lost, people need encouragement. They need others to tell them there is still a tomorrow.

Looking around, the team was composed of a diverse group of people, a so-called Rainbow Squad, with many nationalities represented.

In the apocalypse, they chose to band together for warmth and to endure the hard times.

Li Zongyu came in with his people and excitedly told everyone:

“Everyone, I found the people who will save us! The rescue team has landed and will take us back soon!”

Hearing Li Zongyu’s words, everyone immediately jumped up and rushed over to surround him.

“Really? Someone’s coming to save us? I knew it, I knew it would happen!”

Some people hugged their heads and cried out of excitement.

“Is it the Colombian naval forces?”

A man wearing gold-rimmed glasses was full of excitement.

“I knew Colombia wouldn’t abandon its citizens. I sent them hundreds of rescue messages, and finally, they came!”

“Thank God, thank Colombia. It hasn’t abandoned its people!”

The man with glasses knelt on the ground, tears streaming from his eyes, praying devoutly.

## Chapter 807: The Dispute Among the Rockflow Group

Hearing Zhou Andi, the bespectacled man say this, the others also thought it was the Columbus Ocean Rescue Team arriving and began cheering excitedly.

"Wonderful! If we can go to Columbus Ocean, we'll definitely live a good life."

"Columbus Ocean is the most wonderful country in the world, abundant in resources and filled with happy people."

The group had already entered a celebratory mood.

After being trapped in desperate circumstances for so long, even the slightest glimmer of hope was enough to make them dream big.

Seeing this, Li Zongyu said unhappily, "It's a rescue ship from the Huaxu Kingdom."

The atmosphere instantly froze.

Zhou Andi widened his eyes in disbelief. "What? A rescue ship from Huaxu Kingdom? Mr. Li Zongyu, why did you ask them for help instead of Columbus Ocean?"

From the crowd, a foreigner with blond hair, blue eyes, and a beard longer than his hair shouted loudly:

"I refuse to go to Huaxu Kingdom! I'm a citizen of Columbus Ocean! I'll wait for the Columbus Ocean Navy to take me home—that's my constitutional right!"

From another direction, a thin and short middle-aged man spoke in broken English: "Mr. Li, as a local official from New Rohan, I can tell you very clearly—Huaxu Kingdom is not an ideal country. My suggestion is to go to Columbus Ocean, or even Malai!"

Zhang Yi's suspicions were justified.

Some of the wealthy vacationers stranded on Rockflow Island were unwilling to seek refuge in Huaxu Kingdom.

In fact, this dispute had been going on for a long time.

Their group was divided into three factions:

The first was the Huaxu faction, led by Li Zongyu, who advocated seeking help from Huaxu Kingdom. These were either Huaxu citizens or overseas compatriots.

The second was the foreign faction, who preferred Western countries.

The third was the neutral faction, who went with the flow and had no strong opinion—they just wanted to survive, no matter where.

Che Haicheng and others were staunch members of the foreign faction.

Several of them immediately opposed Li Zongyu's decision, believing he had caused trouble for everyone.

Li Zongyu rubbed his temples.

"We've tried countless times before—we've sent distress signals to every nearby country, but none responded!"

"Now, only Huaxu Kingdom is willing to save us. Let's just go with them!"

"Staying alive is what matters most!"

Li Zongyu's girlfriend, Zhang Weiwei, stood by his side and firmly supported him:

"Now isn't the time to be stubborn. Rockflow Island is getting more dangerous by the day. We're running out of food, and other survivors have started killing each other. If we wait any longer, we might not get rescued—we'll just get slaughtered."

Suddenly, a high-pitched voice cut through the argument.

"Geez, stop arguing already! If we have to go to Huaxu Kingdom, then let's go! It's not like we have any other choice right now. We can stay there for a while, and if we find a way to leave later, we can go somewhere else. Easy!"

She said proudly, "Don't worry, I know my way out of Huaxu Kingdom. My mom and I left from there before."

"And my dad used to hold a high-ranking position there!"

She grinned smugly. "I'll take care of you guys when the time comes!"

The girl was petite, slightly plump, and had a delicate appearance.

The group had been together long enough to know she wasn't lying.

Su Nuanxi, nicknamed "Little Fish," came from a family with political influence—her father and uncles had held important positions.

However, Su Nuanxi grew up abroad and eventually emigrated permanently.

Her words made Che Haicheng and the others pause in thought.

At that moment, Ma Wenzheng, the part-time priest, stepped forward.

Speaking slowly but firmly, he said, "I think going back to Huaxu Kingdom isn't a bad idea! Right now, survival comes first. We can argue about other things later."

Zhou Andi scoffed when he heard Ma Wenzheng speak. "Mr. Ma, of course you want to go back—you're from Huaxu Kingdom. Once you return, you can go back to being a big-shot businessman. But it's not the same for the rest of us!"

Most of them didn't fully understand what was happening in the outside world.

Some even believed this was just a particularly severe snowstorm and that human civilization remained largely intact.

But Ma Wenzheng remained composed. "That's not the point. The point is figuring out where you can actually survive."

He pondered for a moment. "The outside world might be worse than we think. We have to consider whether this is our only chance to stay alive."

After speaking, he walked over to Li Zongyu's side. "I agree—we should return to Huaxu Kingdom."

Li Zongyu looked at the hesitant faces before him.

Despite their flaws and past conflicts, they had lived together for half a year. The bond forged through life-and-death struggles made him unwilling to abandon anyone.

"Regardless, I've made up my mind—I'm boarding that ship."

"I hope you'll all come with me. Please... trust me on this."

The crowd murmured among themselves.

"This is an opportunity, but do we really want to go to Huaxu Kingdom?"

"It's unfamiliar territory—what are we supposed to do there? It's fine for Huaxu citizens and overseas Chinese, but we don't even speak the language."

"I don't like that country. I'd rather go to Columbus Ocean or Evenia—even Malai would be better. Shouldn't they rescue us out of international humanitarian duty?"

After a long silence, Che Haicheng, the New Rohan official, finally stepped forward and stood beside Li Zongyu.

"Mr. Li, I believe you'll lead us to a better life! So I've decided to follow you!"

Che Haicheng had always been known for his shrewdness—he never made a move unless it benefited him.

His decision to go to Huaxu Kingdom convinced many others to join Li Zongyu's side.

In the end, after much persuasion, most of them chose to board the Huaxu Kingdom rescue ship.

Only five or six stubbornly refused.

"I've already sent a distress signal to Columbus Ocean—they will come for me. That's my right as a citizen!"

Those who stayed behind were all Columbus Ocean citizens, steadfast in their belief that their navy would cross thousands of miles to bring them home.

Seeing that persuasion was futile, Li Zongyu and the others could only reluctantly respect their choice.

Zhang Weiwei thought for a moment and said, "Since we're leaving, let's leave some food and clothes for those staying behind."

The moment she said this, most people instinctively stepped back, unwilling to volunteer.

Che Haicheng sighed. "Weiwei, your heart is in the right place. But whether we can even leave is still uncertain. I'm skeptical about Huaxu Kingdom's ship."

"Even if we do board, who knows how they'll treat us? Keeping emergency supplies is crucial. So I'm keeping my food and water for myself."

He clutched his backpack tightly, looking like Gollum guarding the One Ring—ready to fight anyone who tried to take it.

#### Chapter 808: Hot Spring Bathhouse

Che Haicheng's attitude reflected the thoughts of most people; they quietly agreed, and no one was willing to give up their own supplies for those few Colombians.

Some even took pleasure in mocking them:

"They don't want to leave themselves, so what does it have to do with me!"

"We're all adults here; if you chose the path, you have to walk it yourself!"

Zhang Weiwei felt helpless and silently set aside some of her own food and fresh water.

A few others did the same, leaving portions of water and food behind.

After Li Zongyu counted the number of people who decided to leave, he told them to wait here for a moment, while he went to find Zhang Yi and Zhu Yunque.

At this time, Zhang Yi and the others were not idle either.

Among the accompanying sailors, there was an experienced one who quickly found a nearby hot spring. Zhang Yi assigned two crew members to guard the cave while he took Zhu Yunque and Zhou Ke'er to the hot spring.

It was a misty place, located deep underground.

A bubbling pool of hot spring water emitted a strong sulfur smell.

Zhou Ke'er happily said, "This kind of spring water is very good for the body and can even cure skin diseases! There's even a saying that it helps women keep their skin youthful."

Zhang Yi raised an eyebrow and teased, "What, do you want to soak here for a while?"

Zhou Ke'er's face flushed slightly. "No, not really. We're pretty busy now, and I don't want to waste everyone's time."

However, Zhu Yunque felt an itch all over her body.

On the ship, taking a bath was a luxury.

After all, the ship's fresh water supply was limited, and everyone had to ration their use.

Even she could only take one hot shower a week, and each time it couldn't last more than ten minutes.

So seeing such a good hot spring now, she felt itchy all over and really wanted to jump in for a wash.

If she knew that the water rationing only applied to her alone, she would probably be furious.

Long-distance sea voyages indeed had limited fresh water, but the amount Zhang Yi carried with him was more than enough.

“Zhang Yi, I’m going to take a bath here.”

Zhu Yunque stared at Zhang Yi with eyes that left no room for refusal.

Zhang Yi stroked his chin. He had planned to bring some of this hot spring water back.

But soaking in a hot spring outside of its natural environment was pointless.

So he nodded, “Alright, then let’s take a bath here first.”

With Zhang Yi’s approval, Zhou Ke’er and Zhu Yunque were both extremely happy.

Zhang Yi assigned a few sailors to stand guard outside while he soaked inside the hot spring.

There were several spring outlets, and Zhu Yunque asked Zhang Yi for a bath towel before running off to another spot.

Naturally, Zhang Yi soaked together with Zhou Ke’er, so they could help each other scrub their backs.

You have to admit, it had been a long time since Zhang Yi soaked in a hot spring.

The last time he remembered was a year ago, during a team-building trip with several colleagues from his company, at a hot spring bathhouse.

Thinking back on those times, Zhang Yi felt a bit emotional.

Those colleagues and friends had all died in the apocalypse.

Fortunately, he now had other people by his side.

For example, Zhou Ke'er, who lay in the pool with Zhang Yi, enjoying the relaxing effects of the hot spring on their bodies.

The sensation of every muscle relaxing was incredibly comfortable.

Anyone who enjoys soaking knows that the perfect season for a bath is cold winter.

The colder outside is, the better; the colder it is outside, the more enjoyable the hot spring.

Li Zongyu came to find Zhang Yi, and upon learning that Zhang Yi was bathing, he waited obediently outside.

After more than half an hour, Zhang Yi finished his bath.

Soaking too long made his head dizzy.

He shouted towards the cave beside him, "Alright, time to go back!"

As he spoke, he drank the watermelon juice in his hand.

Soaking in a hot spring while drinking a beverage was one of life's great pleasures.

But he called out several times with no response.

Zhou Ke'er frowned worriedly, "Could it be that they're dizzy from soaking too long?"

Seeing this, Zhang Yi said to her, "Go check."

Zhou Ke'er was very surprised; Zhang Yi's gentlemanly behavior left her a bit puzzled.

Zhang Yi sneered, "I just don't like to invite trouble."

Zhu Yunque, as a special-status young lady, might be clingy if someone saw her body.

It would be like those train perverts from back then — they'd accuse you of being the pervert, and you wouldn't even have a chance to defend yourself.

Zhou Ke'er instantly understood Zhang Yi's meaning and went to find Zhu Yunque.

After a while, Zhou Ke'er helped a flushed Zhu Yunque walk over.

She looked like she had soaked too long, and her blood was rushing upward.

But when she saw Zhang Yi, a trace of grievance flashed in her eyes.

She clearly gave him the opportunity, but Zhang Yi didn't take the bait. What else could she do?

"Let's go."

Zhang Yi didn't express much concern, just said coldly and turned to leave.

Zhu Yunque gritted her silver teeth.

Soon, they saw Li Zongyu's group.

Since they were survivors on Rockflow Island, let's call them the Rockflow Group for now.

Zhang Yi glanced over and recognized some familiar faces.

Not that they were his acquaintances.

Among them were some wealthy businessmen from the Huaxu Kingdom, and even local officials from Tianhai City whom Zhang Yi had seen on TV.

It made sense.

Only those with some financial backing could afford to vacation on an island in the ocean; ordinary people wouldn't have the leisure or money.

At that moment, Zhang Yi suddenly heard an excited high-pitched voice.

“Ah! It’s Alice! You’re Alice!”

From the Rockflow Group, Su Nuanxi excitedly ran out, heading straight for Zhu Yunque.

“Senior Sister, do you remember me?”

Zhu Yunque looked at the girl in front of her and after a moment of thought, said in surprise, “You’re Lisa? You’re actually here!”

Su Nuanxi trembled with excitement.

“Senior Sister, it’s so great to see you here. Are you also part of the Rescue Team?”

Zhu Yunque tidied her hair, nodded, and smiled:

“My uncle is the head of the Huaxu Kingdom’s Jiangnan region. This time, I’m leading the team along with a friend to rescue you.”

Su Nuanxi’s eyes widened, overflowing with excitement.

“Oh my goodness! This is amazing! Having you here makes me feel so much safer.”

“At first, I was really scared, not knowing who was coming. But now that you’re here, I’m completely reassured!”

Like Zhu Yunque, Su Nuanxi also studied at MIT.

Of course, it wasn’t based on grades, but through donated funds securing a spot.

People of their status had their own circles in Colombia; it wasn’t surprising, it was almost inevitable that they knew each other.

After all, no matter where they were, Huaxu Kingdom people were used to sticking together.

Zhang Yi raised an eyebrow but didn’t care much.

He had someone count the number of people and then said to them:

“Before I take you away, I must first make a statement about discipline!”

## Chapter 809: Little Zhang, I Must Criticize You

After everyone had gathered, Zhang Yi first laid down the ship's rules for them.

"Once aboard, I'll distribute necessary food and freshwater resources to everyone to ensure your survival."

"But you must unconditionally obey all my commands."

"Of course, I won't ask you to commit murder or sell your bodies. At the very least, don't cause me trouble at sea."

"Because this voyage has already consumed massive amounts of time, energy and resources. Moreover, sea travel carries numerous risks - sea monsters, pirates, severe weather."

Zhang Yi clasped his hands behind his back and said sternly: "I absolutely won't tolerate any behavior that causes me trouble! Anyone who dares violate this," the corners of his lips curled into a cold smile, "I'll throw them into the icy sea!"

This speech made many shudder.

"How terrifying!"

"The Huaxu Kingdom's rescue team is completely inhumane, saying such things to us disaster victims."

"Well, I'm already starting to regret this."

Su Nuanxi also said to Zhu Yunque: "Your crew member is so scary! Aren't you going to rein him in? How can he speak like that? Doesn't this damage the Huaxu Kingdom's image?"

Wanting to save face before her junior, Zhu Yunque replied:

"He's always been like this, I just can't be bothered lecturing him."

Then, as if to justify herself, she added: "But he's doing this to ensure your safe return. So just cooperate with him!"

Hearing everyone's murmurs, Zhang Yi smiled faintly: "Don't say I didn't give you a choice. Anyone who thinks I'm tyrannical or unreasonable can choose to stay behind right now. The decision is yours!"

The crowd buzzed with discussion, their expressions showing dissatisfaction with Zhang Yi's attitude and anxiety about life aboard.

Yet no one chose to stay - remaining likely meant certain death.

No one could guarantee another ship would ever reach this island.

Seeing no further objections, Zhang Yi continued: "Now, hand over all weapons and communication devices! Especially no privately concealed weapons."

"Guns, ammunition, fruit knives - even nail clippers aren't allowed."

Someone in the crowd sneered: "Then what if our nails grow long and need trimming?"

Zhang Yi narrowed his eyes with a smile: "You can file them on the deck."

Li Zongyu quickly interjected: "Please trust the people sent by the Huaxu Kingdom - they're here to rescue us. Only by trusting them can we leave this hellhole!"

The Rockflow Group members reluctantly surrendered all weapons and communication devices.

The confiscation yielded over a dozen guns, though little remaining ammunition.

Plus knives, metal rods and other items.

But Zhang Yi knew - if people really wanted to fight, anything could become a weapon.

He was simply minimizing chances of these people bringing about their own demise.

Zhang Yi wasn't worried about mutiny at sea - he just hated trouble.

Then Che Haicheng approached Zhang Yi, bowing obsequiously.

"Sir, I'm Che Haicheng from New Rohan. Thank you for rescuing us - please accept my respect!"

He performed a practiced 90-degree bow.

Zhang Yi thought - this old fox knows how to play the game.

"Hmm."

He simply nodded without further comment.

He neither liked nor disliked such sycophantic types.

People like this always found ways to survive in society.

"If there's anything I can do, please command me! You're my savior - my life belongs to you now!"

Che Haicheng tirelessly flattered Zhang Yi, even tearing up emotionally.

Zhang Yi said flatly: "Just mind your own business and don't cause trouble."

"Yes, I'll strictly follow your orders!"

Che Haicheng stood at attention, then turned and shouted to the Rockflow Group: "Long live the Huaxu Kingdom! Long live Mr. Zhang!"

Sure enough, several of Che Haicheng's friends echoed the cheers.

Others looked on with disgust.

But some shrewdly followed suit, heaping praise on Zhang Yi.

"Our lives are in your hands! Please ensure our safe return."

"You're our savior, an angel sent by God!"

A torrent of fawning praise poured toward Zhang Yi.

Just over an hour ago, they'd been sneering about the Huaxu rescue team, complaining why it wasn't Columbus Ocean nations coming instead.

Zhang Yi remained indifferent.

He knew exactly what kind of people they were.

Mostly vacationing officials, wealthy merchants and their families from various countries.

He held little goodwill toward them, remaining unmoved by their flattery.

But for people like Che Haicheng, this performance mattered greatly.

No matter how coldly Zhang Yi treated them, they'd spare no effort to curry favor.

Words and dignity were worthless now.

But gaining even slight favor from Zhang Yi might mean survival when it counted.

They were always so calculating.

Before departure, Zhang Yi asked Li Zongyu: "Is everyone here?"

Li Zongyu sighed helplessly: "A few refused - Columbus Ocean citizens waiting for their own rescue ships."

Zhang Yi nodded: "Fine. If they won't come, so be it. I always respect others' choices."

As he spoke, his gaze flicked toward nearby crew members, his right hand casually making a throat-slitting gesture.

Two crewmen immediately understood.

The Divine Source's secrets couldn't be leaked.

Especially not to Columbus Ocean citizens.

As the group left the cave, those who stayed behind looked at the empty cavern with sudden overwhelming dread.

After much hesitation, they'd chosen to wait for their nation's rescue ships.

But as they waited, footsteps echoed from the cave entrance.

The foreigners looked up in surprise to see returning crew members.

"Can we help you?"

The two crewmen smiled, drawing silenced pistols. Soon "pew pew" sounds filled the cave.

...

Zhang Yi's group left the cave toward the port.

Later, the two crewmen caught up.

"Sorry, we had to relieve ourselves."

Zhang Yi glanced at them - one look confirmed the mission's completion.

"Fall in."

They rejoined the group.

This raised suspicions among some, like Ma Wenzheng who seemed to guess the truth.

But he remained silent, only shaking his head slowly.

They continued toward the port.

The Rockflow Group grew increasingly alarmed seeing fresh corpses along the way.

"These bodies are newly dead - what happened?"

Ma Wenzheng couldn't help asking.

Zhang Yi said calmly: "I killed them."

Che Haicheng quickly fawned: "Well done! These villains clearly meant harm, righteously slain by heroic Mr. Zhang and his crew - most satisfying!"

Su Nuanxi walked beside Zhu Yunque. Thanks to their connection and her assumed noble status, she carried herself with superiority.

Even Zhang Yi, in her mind, was just following orders to rescue a princess like her.

Seeing so many corpses, she turned pale, clutching her chest.

She couldn't resist saying to Zhang Yi: "Don't you think killing them was too cruel?"

Zhang Yi paused, frowning in amusement at Su Nuanxi.

"They were robbers. You pity them?"

Su Nuanxi shook her head. "No, they weren't robbers. Just desperate souls struggling to survive."

"Before, they fought to live. Now you're here - you could've taken them. Why kill them?"

She stared righteously at Zhang Yi: "I must criticize you - this damages the Huaxu Kingdom's international image!"

#### Chapter 810: Food Factory

Su Nuanxi's words made Zhang Yi stop in his tracks.

All along the way, she had been chatting with Zhu Yunque, and Zhang Yi knew exactly who she was.

"Are you from the Huaxu Kingdom?"

Zhang Yi stared at her, asking coldly.

Su Nuanxi, however, was indifferent and said, "At the very least, my ancestors lived on that land and made outstanding contributions to it."

"Besides, I'm criticizing you from a humanitarian perspective, which has nothing to do with which country I come from."

A faint smirk lifted the corner of Zhang Yi's mouth. Anyone familiar with him would know that the woman in front of him was about to suffer.

"Contributions? Hah, what an impressive claim about your ancestors' contributions!"

Zhu Yunque walked over and said to Zhang Yi, "Forget it, don't bother arguing with her. She's never suffered much growing up and knows little about the world."

She leaned close to Zhang Yi's ear and whispered, "She even exposed her family background online before. Why waste time with such a foolish girl?"

Zhang Yi replied coldly, "I hate people who speak without feeling the pain themselves the most!"

Su Nuanxi continued to preach her set of ideas righteously.

"When I was studying in Colombia, I went every year to help homeless people and starving children in Africa. I believe people should unite and be kind to one another, not harbor hatred."

She drooped her eyelids somewhat dejectedly.

"This might be hard for people from your country to understand. After all, people from the Huaxu Kingdom are generally selfish and numb."

These words instantly changed the expressions of some Huaxu Kingdom natives in the Rockflow Group.

Zhang Weiwei, Li Zongyu's girlfriend, tugged her sleeve and frowned, "Watch your words! Don't generalize like that."

Su Nuanxi stubbornly lifted her chin, "But that's exactly what I've seen!"

She pointed at Zhang Yi, "Look, he's gone way too far. Why must killing be the solution to problems?"

For a long time, Zhang Yi had thought that so-called saints and the vast majority of brainless people only existed online and were hard to encounter in real life.

But today, his eyes were opened.

His logic couldn't comprehend how such a person could exist in the world.

Probably from eating too much three-route formula milk as a child.

He didn't respond to Su Nuanxi's words, only calmly said, "Let's go check out a nearby place first."

With that, he changed direction, not heading toward the harbor but toward another part of the island.

Li Zongyu hurriedly asked, "Mr. Zhang, where are we going?"

Zhang Yi replied, "To the lair of those villains."

Li Zongyu thought for a moment, suddenly understanding, "You want to collect their supplies? Makes sense, long ocean voyages do run short on provisions."

They had assumed Zhang Yi was going to confiscate spoils, so without much thought, they all followed.

Along the way, Su Nuanxi noticed Zhang Yi didn't refute her words, and she immediately got more confident.

She thought Zhang Yi knew her identity and feared her ancestors' power, so he was swallowing his anger.

Thus, she spoke even more recklessly.

"To be honest, the Huaxu Kingdom does have many problems. Its large population also results in generally low quality. Hmm, I mean this with no sarcasm, just a rational, neutral, objective comment."

"If it weren't so, my parents wouldn't have sent me to Gelunweiya from a young age to study at MIT."

“This time when I go back, I think it’s necessary to change the views of the people there. Although, it might just be futile!”

She tried hard to disparage the Huaxu Kingdom to prove that leaving was the right choice, and to show off her nobility.

A cold smile crept onto Zhang Yi’s lips. He said nothing, silently waiting for something.

Before long, they arrived at the villains’ previous base camp.

It was also a cave, but not underground.

Upon arrival outside, everyone’s faces changed drastically.

The ground was covered with black bloodstains and skeletons.

It was obviously human bones.

Some skeletons still had flesh and blood not fully scraped off.

At the cave entrance lay a huge chopping board, with axes and large cleavers emitting a disgusting stench of blood.

“Let’s go inside and take a look!”

Zhang Yi was wearing combat suits with a mask that blocked the smell, so he wasn’t worried and cheerfully invited everyone inside.

Li Zongyu said, “The supplies must be stored inside. Let’s go check! This is also for our upcoming voyage.”

Su Nuanxi pinched her nose and shouted, “Why do you want us to come? Can’t you just look by yourselves?”

Zhang Yi impatiently walked over and grabbed her long ponytail firmly.

He pulled hard, and Su Nuanxi cried tears on the spot.

“Ah!!! It hurts, it hurts, let go, you’re pulling me to death!”

Zhang Yi smiled and said, “Didn’t you tell me to be kind and magnanimous? Come on, I’ll show you who I’ve been killing.”

“See these skeletons? They’re nothing. The real main course is inside!”

Without giving her a chance to argue, he dragged Su Nuanxi into the cave, where the stench was even more nauseating.

Zhu Yunque wanted to say something, but seeing Zhang Yi’s cold gaze, she was too scared to step forward.

Once inside, Zhang Yi threw Su Nuanxi to the ground.

Tears streaming, she pinched her nose and was about to curse loudly.

But when she looked up, she screamed in terror.

Inside the cave, corpses hung everywhere!

In the apocalypse, food was extremely precious, and they didn’t waste a single bit.

The skinned bodies hung on the walls, with their hands pierced by hooks like pig's trotters.

Along the wall ropes hung bunches of muttering things — intestines, but much fatter than pig intestines.

Some peeled skins were drying on the ground, used as clothing for warmth.

Blood was collected in basins to make blood tofu.

Everything here was like a living hell on earth!

Su Nuanxi's gaze was nearly vacant, only able to scream frantically.

She retreated like a madwoman, but accidentally put a hand into something soft and wet.

"Clang!"

She looked down and realized she had knocked over a basin, spilling all the entrails on herself.

Two eyeballs rolled over, staring at her blankly.

"Ah!!!"

Su Nuanxi was on the verge of a breakdown.

Though they had endured many painful experiences on Rockflow Island after the apocalypse, she had never seen a living hell like this.

Zhang Yi smiled and said, "Look, this is the food factory you said should be treated with kindness! Now, who do you feel sorry for? Those people, or those hanging on the walls?"

"Oh, and maybe some of those people are your friends!"