

Ice Age 881

Chapter 881: On the Run

Over in Blizzard City, things were bustling under Zhu Zheng's orders.

Although the chances were slim, they still had to prepare for a possible strike by the Colombian Navy on the southeastern coastal cities of the Jiangnan Region.

Tu Yunlie, as the operations minister, had a lot on his plate.

Besides coordinating the superhuman organizations across the cities under the Jiangnan Superhuman Union, he also had to assign personnel to various locations to assist in the defenses.

On this particular day, just as he was about to leave the command center, an old acquaintance stopped him.

"Minister Tu, please wait. Could I take a few minutes of your time?"

Tu Yunlie looked up and saw none other than Deng Shentong, captain of the Celestial Squad.

This man, once wildly celebrated in Blizzard City and even considered Zhu Zheng's successor, now had much of his pride faded.

Gao Changkong's grand scheme had led to his consecutive defeats twice in a row.

This caused Deng Shentong's prestige in Blizzard City to plummet sharply and dealt a huge blow to his spirit.

However, at this moment, as Tu Yunlie stared at Deng Shentong, he felt that he had matured beyond what he was before.

The previous restlessness and arrogance had vanished, replaced by a restrained humility in his eyes.

“What is it, Captain Deng?”

The muffled voice came from beneath the thick collar of his military uniform.

Deng Shentong gave a faint smile and said with steady eyes, “I want to enter your Yan Yun Guard for training. And I hope you will train me under the strictest standards!”

After his defeat against Gao Changkong, he realized his own weaknesses.

Although he possessed exceptional talent and the full backing of Deng Technology, these had become his crutches.

His fundamental combat skills were hard to compare with soldiers who had survived life-and-death battles.

When a person’s youth is too smooth, it’s not always a good thing.

Because once they fall, they might never get back up.

After much thought, Deng Shentong finally decided to join the Yan Yun Guard’s training camp as an ordinary soldier. It was known as the harshest training in Jiangnan.

Under the apocalypse, the Yan Yun Guard only selected the strongest warriors.

The training intensity was over three times tougher than special forces training before the apocalypse!

The death rate during training even reached 10%.

Upon hearing Deng Shentong’s request, Tu Yunlie immediately refused without hesitation.

“If it’s just to strengthen your power, Deng Technology has plenty of ways.”

“Even specialized physical training is no weaker than the Yan Yun Guard’s.”

“My soldiers are ordinary people, and you are the young master of the Deng family. How can it be the same?”

Although Tu Yunlie’s tone was gloomy, anyone sitting in his position wasn’t foolish.

If Deng Shentong encountered any accident during Yan Yun Guard training, how could he explain it to the Deng family and Zhu Zheng?

Don’t be fooled by Deng Shentong’s rank as a captain-level superhuman.

Without using his superhuman abilities, to be frank, some of Tu Yunlie’s elite soldiers could easily crush him.

Life-or-death training was no joke!

Deng Shentong clearly heard Tu Yunlie’s concerns.

He solemnly declared:

“Deng Technology’s training can only enhance my physique and superpowers, but it can’t temper my fighting will!”

“I’m willing to sign a document stating that if any accident happens during training, I won’t hold anyone responsible!”

“Minister Tu, as the captain of the Celestial Squad, my becoming stronger is of great significance to the entire defense of the Jiangnan Region.”

“Please agree to my request, for this reason.”

He lowered his head and looked at his strong, fair palm, tightly clenching his fist.

“I’ve lived too comfortably in the past. If this continues, even without Gao Changkong, Zhang Yi, and others, I will sooner or later be surpassed by other rising talents!”

“I cannot tolerate this, nor can I tolerate losing again!”

Tu Yunlie silently listened to Deng Shentong’s self-reflection.

He admitted that Deng Shentong’s words moved him.

Deng Shentong was very talented.

But his path had been too smooth, and with the Deng family’s intention to build him up as a god, he had been immersed in a false sense of strength.

Perhaps the blows dealt by Gao Changkong and Zhang Yi were a good thing after all.

So he said, “As long as you’re willing to sign the waiver, I don’t mind adding one more soldier to the Yan Yun Guard training camp.”

“But remember, once you go there, you will lose all your status and receive no special treatment!”

“Even if an accident happens, you will still die!”

A smile appeared in Deng Shentong's eyes, but his expression was unwaveringly firm.

"I understand!"

...

Meanwhile, on the other side of the sea.

The Golden Edge, to evade the Colombian Navy's pursuit, began to turn southwest as Zhu Zheng instructed.

This way, they would gradually move farther away from Huaxu Kingdom's mainland.

Next, they could only rely on the sailors' judgment to make a large detour through the ocean toward the southwestern sea area of Huaxu Kingdom.

All sonar, radar, and other equipment were completely shut down—a very dangerous move, and the ship's speed could not be too fast.

Otherwise, hitting a hidden reef or iceberg would easily cause the ship to sink.

Zhang Yi could not afford to be careless for a moment.

He kept remembering the person Zhu Zheng had mentioned—the Epsilon-level superhuman of the Colombian Ocean Fleet with a superhuman ability index of 18,000 points!

With Zhang Yi's current strength, if he encountered that person, probably no one on the ship would survive.

Even he himself, to survive, would have to depend on the opponent's actual ability.

At this moment, his superhuman ability index was 9,600 points, a comprehensive rating given by the Jiangnan Region.

But in reality, his attack power was only equivalent to Deng Shentong's 9,300 points.

However, sacrificing attack strength brought him a defense of roughly 12,000 points!

Space-type superhumans were extremely rare and abnormal existences.

If not for this, Zhang Yi wouldn't have been able to block multiple attacks from Yuan Kongye, who had just ascended to Epsilon, when his own superhuman index was only over 7,000 points.

But the Colombian Navy's man had nearly twice his superhuman index.

"If his abilities include release-type powers like Divine Power, he could easily destroy my Dimensional Space. Killing me instantly would be no problem."

"But if he's an enhancement-type superhuman with super strong melee ability, then I basically wouldn't be in mortal danger."

Zhang Yi touched his chin thoughtfully. "So, how much of a threat he actually poses depends on his specific abilities."

The superhuman ability index only represented the strength of ability, not the actual combat power.

In a real fight, environmental restrictions and ability counters could create asymmetric differences in strength.

For example, an ice-attribute superhuman fighting in magma layers could lose over 90% of their power.

That's also why no outstanding fire-attribute superhuman has appeared so far.

So even if the Colombian Navy's Epsilon superhuman with an index of 18,000 points appeared, Zhang Yi wouldn't necessarily be completely crushed.

It was just that currently, he had no idea what John Cadillus's real abilities were.

That was his greatest trouble.

"Still too little intel! Old Zhu, you're not pulling your weight!"

Zhang Yi leaned against Zhou Ke'er's thigh, closing his eyes and complaining.

Chapter 882: Comforting Hearts

In the icy ocean, dark currents surged beneath the surface.

The atmosphere on the ship had once again grown heavy because of the recent events.

Whether it was the oppressive presence of the Colombian Navy or Zhang Yi's execution of the traitor Che Haicheng, the mood among the crew had become somber.

Even the sailors were anxious due to this blind voyage.

Losing their course meant they had to rely on a sextant to determine their route, just like centuries ago.

Unfortunately, the sunlight was faint, the white sun offering no warmth, visible for only a few hours each day.

And at such a time, the Fin Dragon lurking in the deep sea revealed itself once again.

It appeared several kilometers away from the Golden Edge, its massive body hundreds of meters long faintly visible amidst the waves.

Its cold and terrifying eyes shone like deep-sea ghostly lamps at night, frightening the watchful sailors into shouting loudly.

Zhang Yi snapped awake from his sleep and immediately rushed to the deck.

But as soon as he appeared, the Fin Dragon sensed him and without turning its head, dove back into the seabed.

Zhang Yi frowned. This beast was too troublesome. Without the ability or equipment to dive into the deep sea, there was really nothing he could do about it.

And to make things worse, they were currently on the run and unable to activate sonar.

This meant they could not detect it in advance beneath the deep sea.

The creature was smart; it had sensed the Golden Edge's predicament and had begun acting recklessly lately.

It was patient, waiting for the Golden Edge to falter or for the people aboard to weaken before making a move.

Zhang Yi returned to the deck and called out, "Old Tian!"

He received no response. Turning around, he saw Old Tian comforting a watch sailor who had just been startled, along with several other crew members who had just woken up.

Without sonar feedback, there had been no warning of the Fin Dragon's sudden appearance.

In the middle of the night, suddenly seeing such a titan-like sea monster—who wouldn't be terrified?

Zhang Yi stepped into the control room. The sailor was taking deep breaths, even wearing an oxygen mask, and it took a long time before he regained his composure.

"Old Tian."

Zhang Yi called again. Old Tian finally heard him, quickly stood up, and walked over.

"Mr. Zhang."

A worried expression showed on Old Tian's face. In recent days, the wrinkles on his face had deepened.

Though not yet fifty, years of sea wind exposure made him look like a man in his sixties.

"Check the weapons, especially the deep-sea bombs. Make sure they can be deployed immediately."

"Yes, Mr. Zhang!"

Zhang Yi thought for a moment, then raised his voice:

"Also, tell them that people from the East Sea Region have already been dispatched to pick us up."

A calm and composed smile appeared on his face. "Don't worry too much. The East Sea Region Navy has already mobilized. The Colombian Navy wouldn't dare to confront us head-on in these waters."

"We just need to get through this period, and then we can go home."

If it were the old Zhang Yi, he wouldn't have explained so much.

But right now, morale on the ship was low, and they needed encouragement.

Sure enough, after hearing Zhang Yi's words, hope flickered in everyone's eyes.

"When will they be here?"

"This aimless sailing makes it easy to deviate from course. Honestly... it's hard to say when we'll reach the designated spot."

The crew couldn't help voicing their concerns.

"It won't take too long. Even if you stay on the ship, I'll protect your safety. I have enough supplies to last you a lifetime. What is there to worry about?"

"You're all experienced sailors. Don't burden yourselves mentally. It's not a big problem. The real issue is letting your own minds collapse first."

"That would be meaningless."

After Zhang Yi's guidance, the crew's mindset improved noticeably.

Though all veteran sailors, they had been at sea for over three months straight, only landing briefly at Rockflow Island.

Experienced sailors knew this tested one's willpower immensely.

After comforting everyone, Zhang Yi called Old Tian aside.

“Can we confirm our current location?”

Old Tian’s expression turned awkward.

“Although we have navigation charts, we can only estimate our position. And... we can’t guarantee it’s accurate.”

It was no longer the Age of Exploration.

Even veteran sailors heavily relied on electronic devices.

Suddenly losing navigational instruments made relying on the naked eye, sextant, and experience truly difficult.

“It’s fine. If we’re off, we’ll just try more. The main thing is to avoid heading into the Colombian Navy’s hunting ground.”

Old Tian quickly reassured, “You can rest assured on that. They’re trying to find us now, but it’s like searching for a needle in the ocean.”

If it were so easy to find a ship that had shut down all electronic communication, there wouldn’t be so many lost wrecks every year.

“Well...”

Old Tian hesitated.

Zhang Yi glanced at him. “Say what you need to say!”

Old Tian forced a smile. "The crew's spirits have been quite low recently. If this continues, it won't end well."

"I know that. Any ideas on how to fix it?"

Zhang Yi asked.

Old Tian thought for a moment, then said, "The best ways to relieve worries are those few: smoking, drinking, women, and gambling."

Until now, drinking had been banned aboard by Zhang Yi's direct order.

Zhang Yi laughed, "Alright then. Starting today, I permit you to drink on the ship. I'll provide the alcohol, but you must promise me the watch crew will not drink!"

Since the ship was basically adrift, letting the crew relax wouldn't have much impact.

"As for other things, handle them yourselves. Regarding women... or the 'young master' issue, don't involve the Rockflow Group people. But there are some in the lower deck cabins."

"You can exchange supplies with them, but don't force them like animals."

Old Tian hurriedly said, "With your order, we will definitely follow the rules!"

"Also, I have another request. We should be near the southern sea area now, so there must be some islands nearby."

"It's been too long since everyone set foot ashore. If they can rest and recuperate on land, it might help the journey ahead."

Old Tian cautiously observed Zhang Yi's expression.

Zhang Yi was indeed tempted by the suggestion.

After all, humans were land animals. Staying at sea for long made one yearn for solid ground.

That feeling of feet on firm earth gave a reassuring psychological comfort.

“If we can find relatively safe land, we can consider landing to rest.”

Zhang Yi nodded, agreeing to Old Tian’s proposal.

Chapter 883: The Mysterious Sea Region

The Golden Edge continued sailing forward.

However, during the following time, the Fin Dragon repeatedly appeared around the Golden Edge to probe.

These repeated touches allowed this intelligent sea monster to capture the movement patterns of the Golden Edge and the powerful human aboard.

Although that powerful human possessed terrifying combat strength, it seemed the others on the ship were incredibly weak.

Moreover, that powerful human did not have the ability to dive into the deep sea.

Therefore, the Fin Dragon chose another method: constantly harassing around them.

Every time this happened, Zhang Yi had to appear and drive the Fin Dragon away.

Over and over again, it annoyed him to no end.

Because the sonar was shut off, the Golden Edge could not detect the Fin Dragon's position in advance.

Fortunately, Zhang Yi's Echo of Time ability could predict the Fin Dragon's attacks ahead of time.

Otherwise, the Golden Edge might have been ambushed and capsized by the Fin Dragon.

Because of this, Zhang Yi's sleep quality began to deteriorate.

He could not fall into a deep sleep, or else the Golden Edge might be destroyed in his dreams by the Fin Dragon.

As for the others on the ship, they could only choose to trust Zhang Yi to protect them.

Many crew members began using large amounts of alcohol to numb themselves; the ship often resembled a drunken stupor.

It was only after three days that a turning point arrived.

That evening, Old Tian, sporting dark circles under his eyes, excitedly found Zhang Yi and said, "Mr. Zhang, it seems we've found land!"

Like Old Tian, Zhang Yi hadn't slept well these days.

Hearing that land was found, a flash of joy appeared in Zhang Yi's eyes.

"Where? Can we determine where we are?"

“That’s uncertain for now. The sea ahead is shrouded in thick ice fog. But some islands and reefs are visible; that means there must be land nearby!”

Zhang Yi smiled and said, “That’s great!”

Finding land meant leaving the deep sea area.

This would make it easier to remove the threat the Fin Dragon posed.

After all, the Fin Dragon’s greatest advantage was the deep sea.

Zhang Yi squinted his eyes and hurriedly went to the deck with Old Tian.

Sure enough, about ten nautical miles ahead appeared a hazy fog.

The fog was very dense, a deep white with sharp ice crystals.

Within the fog, some small islands and reefs could be faintly seen.

Encountering reefs meant land was nearby; going further forward could lead to large islands suitable for landing and resting.

Zhang Yi’s gaze involuntarily glanced back at the sea surface. Deep beneath, the huge Sea Serpent was hiding, waiting for an opportunity to strike the Golden Edge.

A sharp glint flashed in Zhang Yi’s eyes.

He was a person who never liked leaving trouble behind; any safety hazard had to be solved on the spot.

Next, they needed to avoid pursuit by the Colombian Navy, and having to simultaneously face a sea monster with a superhuman ability index as high as 9,200 ambushing them would be overwhelming.

So Zhang Yi decided to settle things with the Fin Dragon in this area.

However, this beast was very smart and wouldn't attack without confidence.

Zhang Yi said to Old Tian, "Bring the ship into that ice fog! Find a piece of land first, let everyone rest."

Old Tian nodded and immediately returned to the control room, ordering the crew to sail into the ice fog.

In the deep sea, the Fin Dragon watched the Golden Edge slowly leave from the depths.

A gloomy expression appeared in its huge pupils.

Because as it moved forward, the water depth began to decrease.

With its massive body, it would be exposed directly to Zhang Yi.

As a deep-sea giant beast, once it came to the shallows, its combat power would sharply decline.

Without the buffering of seawater, the terrifying void skill released by the powerful human could immediately take away most of its life!

"Screech—"

It twisted anxiously in the water, writhing like a maggot to vent its frustration.

No large fish swam around it; instead, some small fish were swimming freely.

It decided to continue lurking.

As long as the opponent did not leave the ocean, sooner or later it would leave the shallow water area before its eyes.

Then, it would continue to block and attack.

The Golden Edge sailed into the hazy ice fog, and its speed immediately slowed because there might be unseen reefs below.

If it hit one, it would easily cause the Golden Edge to stall.

Zhang Yi knew that once the ship entered here, the Fin Dragon could no longer pursue.

This was the disadvantage of a huge body, easily exposing itself in tight spaces.

He did not rush forward but told Old Tian to stop the Golden Edge in an area of water first.

“Rest for a day, then make plans.”

Zhang Yi hadn't had a peaceful sleep for a long time. He planned to rest well here and restore himself to the best state.

After receiving orders, Old Tian immediately stopped the Golden Edge near an island reef.

This place backed onto land; even if the Fin Dragon suddenly attacked, it would likely come from the front.

“Ke’er, I need to sleep well. If any emergencies happen that require me, wake me immediately. Otherwise, don’t disturb me.”

Zhang Yi said to Zhou Ke’er.

Hearing this, Zhou Ke’er gently said, “Just rest well.”

To help Zhang Yi sleep more soundly, Zhou Ke’er took Zhang Yi’s favorite sleeping posture.

That was letting Zhang Yi lie on her lap, giving him a beauty’s knee pillow.

Nothing could be softer or more fragrant as a pillow.

Sure enough, after lying on the lap pillow, Zhang Yi quickly fell into a deep sleep and entered his dream world.

The others on the ship saw the small island reef less than ten square meters away and excitedly shouted.

Seeing the reef meant land was not far away.

They had not seen solid ground for too long; they were almost going crazy.

Old Tian unusually allowed people from the lower deck cabins to come up to the deck to relieve the long-standing oppression.

Zhu Yunque, Su Nuanxi, and people from the Rockflow Group also came up to the deck.

Although the space was empty and nothing was there, the free, cold air filled their lungs.

Several fishermen came to find Old Tian, excitedly saying, “Deputy Captain Tian, can you give us some fishing gear? We want to fish. Fresh fish would be good for everyone.”

After days of interaction, the crew and surviving passengers already had a good relationship.

At least now, everyone was on the same ship, with a foundation of trust.

Old Tian told them to go to the warehouse to get fishing rods.

“Bring out more, let everyone relax a bit too.”

Old Tian smiled and said.

The passengers on deck cheered happily because they lacked leisure activities so much.

Chapter 884: The Strange Fish

On the deck of the Golden Edge, the long-awaited relaxation time sparked a burst of cheer among everyone.

They leaned over the railing, ignoring the bitter cold that had dropped to more than ten degrees below zero, greedily breathing in the outside air, crisp and salty.

Zhu Yunque and Su Nuanxi stood by the railing; Zhu Yunque held Tommy, bundled up tightly in her arms.

Compared to the others, the two could only force smiles.

Because recently, they had not only worried about the sea monster attacks and the pursuit from the Columbus military.

Their greatest trouble did not come from outside, but from the baby they cared for together.

A one-year-old child was incredibly restless, with completely irregular sleeping and eating patterns.

Often waking up in the middle of the night with a loud cry, causing Zhu Yunque and Su Nuanxi to lose sleep throughout the night.

From their initial overflowing maternal love, to gradually losing patience, and now on the verge of collapse.

Looking at the cold sea water before her, Zhu Yunque suddenly had this thought—just throw him away!

No one was paying attention anyway; throwing him away would make it as if this never happened.

After all, she was the one who saved him initially, so throwing him away now would not be a betrayal.

This terrifying thought chilled Zhu Yunque's back as she snapped back to her senses.

How could she have such a wicked idea?

No, she wasn't that kind of person.

She was kind; she was just too exhausted.

At that moment, Zhu Yunque happened to see Zhang Weiwei not far away, playing with some students.

She was with several students from Star Island, trying to hook frozen fish on fishing hooks and casting them into the sea.

Her husband, Li Zongyu, stood smiling beside them, giving pointers on casting technique.

They looked so harmonious.

Zhu Yunque had a thought.

"She's a teacher, so she should really like children. She probably knows better than I do how to take care of a child."

Zhu Yunque did not think she was shirking responsibility.

She felt she was simply looking for a better nanny for Tommy.

So, Zhu Yunque carried the child and walked toward Zhang Weiwei.

Seeing Zhu Yunque, Zhang Weiwei and Li Zongyu politely greeted her.

They had known Zhu Yunque for some time and were aware she was a family member of a leader in the Jiangnan Region.

However, on this ship, Zhu Yunque seemed to have little say.

Plus, her previous self-righteous tantrums had caused the passengers to look down on her internally.

"Miss Zhang, you seem to really like children."

Zhu Yunque looked at Zhang Weiwei, forcing a smile.

Zhang Weiwei didn't quite understand her intention but politely replied, "Originally, my husband and I planned to have a child this year. Who would have thought something like this would happen later."

Zhu Yunque's eyes brightened. "In that case, have you considered adoption? Look, this baby is so adorable."

"As long as you are willing to raise him, I can provide all the food he needs."

Eagerly, Zhu Yunque handed over the child.

But Zhang Weiwei and Li Zongyu both looked awkward.

Li Zongyu awkwardly scratched his nose.

Zhang Weiwei smiled faintly and looked at Tommy in Zhu Yunque's arms, first complimenting, "Such a cute baby!"

"But honestly, with our current situation, it's already difficult enough to take care of ourselves. We really can't support another child."

Zhu Yunque's smile stiffened.

The handoff failed.

"I thought... you liked children."

Zhang Weiwei smiled politely. "We do like them, but it depends on the circumstances, right?"

"When the environment isn't suitable for reproduction, even animals stop breeding."

"We don't even have children of our own, let alone," she glanced at the blue-eyed foreign baby, "raising someone else's child."

They politely apologized to Zhu Yunque.

Zhu Yunque's expression darkened but she could only helplessly hug Tommy and walk away.

Zhang Weiwei and Li Zongyu watched her leave.

Zhang Weiwei whispered, "Should we say she is kind or naive?"

Li Zongyu sighed, "Maybe both! But in the current environment, having both qualities is a kind of cruelty."

Soon, they pushed Zhu Yunque's matter to the back of their minds and cheerfully continued fishing.

Suddenly, a fisherman's fishing rod bent sharply, and he shouted excitedly, "Got one! I got one!"

He pulled hard on the rod, trying to reel the fish in.

"What a strong pull, it must be a big one! I guess a hundred pounds!"

But the harder he pulled, the heavier the force on his hands became.

Just as he planned to make a final effort to haul the big catch from the sea, a huge force suddenly came from the opposite direction, dragging him into the water.

A splash rang out.

Laughter sounded nearby, but Old Tian shouted, "Quick, pull him out!"

In such cold weather, being that far from me, you could freeze to death in no time!

Realizing the severity, people hurried to grab rope ladders to rescue him.

But then, the water surface violently churned, and black blood bubbled up.

The fisherman struggling underwater thrashed his arms on the surface a few times, then completely stopped moving.

The air suddenly fell silent.

Had the fishing person been eaten by a fish?

Before they could react, a dreadful scream came from another direction.

The sharp "whoosh" sounds of things flying through the air never ceased.

From the west side of the Golden Edge, black shadows burst out of the sea one after another, rushing straight at the people on the ship!

"Thunk!" "Thunk!" "Thunk!"

Five or six passengers were pierced by the black shadows and fell to the ground immediately.

The deck echoed with wails.

Old Tian looked closely and realized that what pierced the passengers were horrifying mutant fish.

They were over three meters long, jet black like crude oil, eyeless, with two rows of sharp teeth in their mouths.

Most terrifyingly, each had a spiked horn over a meter long on top of its head!

After piercing the passengers' bodies, the fish began voraciously gnawing on their internal organs, quickly turning the deck into a pool of blood.

"Mutated swordfish!"

Old Tian quickly recognized what they were dealing with.

He grabbed his gun and, while clearing the mutant swordfish from the ship, shouted, "All passengers, get back into the cabins! Workers, grab your weapons!"

The crew, experienced at sea, did not panic.

Mutant swordfish could still be handled with firearms.

For a moment, passengers scrambled in panic toward the cabins, while Old Tian led people to clear the darting swordfish outside.

Chapter 885: Sumeru · Three Thousand Worlds

The mutated swordfish possessed tremendous lethality, capable of piercing even steel plates. Fortunately, Zhang Yi had prepared special bulletproof vests for the crew, so even when pierced, they avoided fatal penetrating wounds. They fought back with firearms and dealt with the threat for a considerable time. Only after killing dozens of mutated swordfish did the Golden Edge finally regain calm. Old Tian wiped the blood off his mask and turned to instruct Old Xie to take a group and finish off

the remaining mutated swordfish. They dared not eat them for the time being—who knew if consuming them would cause illness?

Zhang Yi was inside his room, listening to the loud gunfire outside but surprisingly sleeping very soundly. His Echo of Time ability had not issued any warnings, indicating no danger had occurred. The pleasant sound of gunfire mixed with the mutated swordfish's cries oddly became a form of white noise that helped him fall asleep. He slept straight through until nighttime.

The Golden Edge sailed out of the dense ice fog. Above was pitch-black darkness, with only the control room still lit. The night was as dark as ink. The ocean was as deep and vast as an abyss. The Fin Dragon's massive head slowly surfaced, its enormous body exuding a natural, terrifying oppressive presence. It was late at night, and there was no movement on the ship. Based on days of observation, the Fin Dragon was certain that the people onboard were already asleep. A cruel and cunning gleam flashed in its eyes. Its favorite pastime was hunting down exhausted enemies.

The Fin Dragon slowly submerged into the water, swinging its massive tail as it swam toward the deep sea. A few seconds later, it suddenly sped back, bringing a massive tidal wave. Boom! The Fin Dragon leapt out of the water, stirring up waves over ten meters high, crashing down on the Golden Edge like an overwhelming tidal storm!

At that moment, Zhang Yi's figure appeared outside the Golden Edge. "Dimensional Gate!" A gigantic dimensional gate, like a celestial barrier, blocked in front of the Golden Edge. All the waves were completely swallowed up. Burning fury blazed in Zhang Yi's eyes. "Damn beast, you think I'll let you off just because I spared you? Today, I will kill you for sure!"

He drew out the Sacred Executioner. The black void energy flowed like flames, transforming into a chain dozens of meters long that coiled around him. Zhang Yi stepped forward. Two dimensional gates opened before him, spaced hundreds of meters apart to enable instant teleportation. In the blink of an eye, he appeared atop the Fin Dragon and immediately swung his blade down fiercely!

A flicker of fear appeared in the Fin Dragon's eyes. It roared angrily, and a powerful force burst from the sharp horn on its head. A purple energy beam shot toward Zhang Yi! The black void chain collided with the purple beam midair. Within moments, the purple beam was shattered bit by bit. However, the Fin Dragon was extremely cunning. Seeing it was losing, it immediately swam toward the deep sea.

But this time, Zhang Yi had no intention of letting it escape. Without hesitation, he dived into the sea after it. The helmet of his combat suit had already been lowered and switched to diving mode. The suit

contained compressed liquid oxygen, allowing him five hours of breathing. The Fin Dragon seemed surprised that such a mere human dared to enter the ocean to confront it. A human-like cunning expression flashed in its eyes. It knew it had successfully provoked this powerful yet tiny human.

“Chirp chirp chirp—” The Fin Dragon let out mocking sounds and turned to fire a purple beam directly at Zhang Yi! Movement underwater was severely hindered for humans. But after months of sea travel, Zhang Yi had finally devised a solution. Echo of Time allowed him to anticipate the Fin Dragon’s attack in advance, and he quickly dodged using the thrusters.

Then, deep underwater, he activated his ability—Absolute Barrier Between Two Realms. This was a variant of the Dimensional Gate skill. When Zhang Yi simultaneously opened two gates, he softened them, folding them like a dumpling into a spherical shape to block any external attack. This created a strange world where Zhang Yi appeared to be in the real world but was actually separated by a layer of dimensional gate in between.

As the Absolute Barrier Between Two Realms activated, seawater instantly rushed inside wildly. “Time to show my warehouse manager skills!” Facing the flooding seawater entering the dimensional space, Zhang Yi remained calm and used another ability—spatial management. He could divide the dimensional space into many independent cubic spaces, completely isolated from each other and unconnected.

He named this ability Sumeru · Three Thousand Worlds. “All I need to do is absorb all the seawater into a small world to achieve balance between dimensional space and seawater.” “I can even manipulate the seawater’s flow to move.” “All I need to prepare is sufficient oxygen, nothing more.” Zhang Yi quickly filled the entire independent space with seawater. At this point, the water pressure inside and outside reached equilibrium, and he was isolated from the ocean by the Absolute Barrier Between Two Realms, relying on the oxygen in his combat suit to breathe.

Now, he could move freely in the ocean. Most importantly, this method balanced the water pressure, so he no longer needed to worry about being crushed when diving deep. Only when diving into depths of twenty thousand meters might the Absolute Barrier Between Two Realms fail to withstand the intense pressure. But at this depth, it was more than enough to chase after the Fin Dragon!

“Now, it’s my turn to hunt you down!” Zhang Yi stared at the giant Fin Dragon on the seabed, killing intent surging in his eyes. He had to eliminate this huge threat in advance to avoid being caught between enemies when facing the Colombian Navy.

The Fin Dragon never imagined that this tiny human could chase it into the deep sea. Once seawater was no longer an obstacle to Zhang Yi’s movement, the last gap between them was erased. Now, it was

a battle between a superhuman with a superhuman ability index of 9,600 points and a deep-sea beast with an index of 9,200 points.

The Sacred Executioner emitted black void flames as it swept forward. The Dimensional Gate allowed passage in one direction only. Zhang Yi's attack could pass through, but the Fin Dragon's attacks could not. The powerful energy rapidly pierced through the seawater, stirring a massive underwater storm that instantly reached the Fin Dragon's front!

Its huge body twisted wildly, trying to evade the strike, but being so massive was not always an advantage. For example, its tail was swept by the void black flames. Even a small scrape caused large amounts of scales to fall off, flesh torn apart!

"Chirp chirp—" The Fin Dragon let out a painful and furious roar. As the overlord of the deep sea, except for some terrifying beings in the ocean's deepest parts, it had never suffered such treatment in shallow waters. Its body quickly spun, stirring the currents to form a massive whirlpool. It tried to use its size advantage to destabilize Zhang Yi underwater.

However, all this was useless against Zhang Yi! The dimensional space existed independently from him. No matter how turbulent the seawater, passing through the Absolute Barrier Between Two Realms was like passing through a door with no thickness. No tidal wave could move or harm him in the slightest.

This was the strength of the strongest superhuman, defined by the Jiangnan Region as Absolute Defense.

Chapter 886: You Wouldn't Expect It

"From now on, the offense and defense will switch roles!"

"The beast can attack, so can I!"

Zhang Yi always ensured that in battle, he first secured himself an undefeated position.

The Fin Dragon's two attack methods relied on its massive size and the high-energy particle shockwaves emitted from the sharp horn on its head.

But at this moment, both methods had lost their effect against Zhang Yi.

So no matter how Zhang Yi fought next, he would always win. The only concern was whether he might win too easily.

"Kill!"

"Today, I want to see just how delicious the origin power of a sea beast really is!"

Zhang Yi sped forward through the seawater. With the help of his thruster, his speed was no different from flying through the air.

The Fin Dragon roared angrily, swimming and fleeing in the water while constantly looking back to try counterattacks.

The beast's natural warning instincts told it there was a huge danger near Zhang Yi, so close-range attacks were useless.

But the high-energy particle beam from its sharp horn was absorbed by that strange spatial dimension, then reflected back to attack itself!

The Fin Dragon was almost losing its mind. This was pure cheating! How could it even play like this?

It chased, it fled, but it was doomed.

Zhang Yi relentlessly chased the Fin Dragon's tail, no matter where it ran, he hacked at its tail fiercely.

Even if it dived into the deep sea, Zhang Yi was fearless.

The Fin Dragon shrieked angrily, almost wanting to curse.

Fortunately, its thick hide was tough. It endured more than a dozen cuts, its back covered with bloody wounds, scales falling off all along the way, but it stubbornly did not stop.

After chasing tens of miles, the Fin Dragon suddenly swung its tail in the water, bypassing Zhang Yi and heading toward the surface.

It suddenly understood where Zhang Yi's weakness lay.

From the very beginning, Zhang Yi was not afraid of it.

The reason Zhang Yi always held back was that he couldn't give up on the others aboard the ship.

The Fin Dragon figured this out.

If I can't control you, can't I control your weak point?

I'll take care of it!

Zhang Yi's reaction lagged half a beat, then he turned around and gave chase toward the Fin Dragon.

The Fin Dragon felt the urgent pursuit behind it, a satisfied smile appearing in its eyes.

It knew it had guessed right.

"Heh heh, I can't kill you, but I can kill your companions. That will still make you suffer in despair!"

The Fin Dragon plotted in its mind.

The surface was getting closer and closer. The Golden Edge, without Zhang Yi's protection, was quietly anchored on the sea.

Like a defenseless infant.

Just one charge from the Fin Dragon could split it in half!

But just as the Fin Dragon excitedly charged, about to strike the Golden Edge, Zhang Yi suddenly stopped a thousand meters away behind it.

He silently pressed a button on his arm.

The Fin Dragon's head slammed into the solid hull of the Golden Edge, like a knife stabbing into wood.

But at that moment, its vision suddenly brightened with a fierce, blazing light that instantly transformed into a huge sphere, like a sun exploding right in front of it.

Not only was there sunlight-like brightness, there was also sun-like heat.

The entire dragon was stunned.

But there was no time to stay stunned. A huge shockwave swept toward it.

"Boom!!!!!!"

The explosive force centered on the Golden Edge surged outward in all directions. The Fin Dragon, right under the hull, took the brunt of it, like a tough snake being violently thrown aside!

Zhang Yi quickly retreated, trying to get far from the explosion zone.

He knew how terrifying this explosion was.

He had arranged ten tons of TNT equivalent explosives on the ship!

To be blunt, even his dimensional space could hardly absorb such energy all at once.

No matter how strong the Fin Dragon's defense was, it couldn't withstand his dimensional space.

Zhang Yi was willing to use an icebreaker ship as bait to set this trap for the Fin Dragon.

After entering the ice fog zone, he had already arranged for Old Tian and his team to leave in advance.

As for what to do without the ship?

That was simple.

Who said he only brought one ship when he went out?

He had long considered the possibility of ship failure at sea.

So there were spare ships stored in his dimensional space.

This was something the Fin Dragon could never have imagined.

But now—Zhang Yi had to finish quickly!

Such a high-energy explosion might attract the attention of the Colombian Navy.

He had to kill the Fin Dragon as soon as possible, then use spatial traversal to escape.

By then, even if the Colombian Navy arrived, they would not be able to find them hiding deep in the ice fog.

Before the shockwave from the explosion completely dissipated, Zhang Yi held Holy Judgment and chased after the Fin Dragon.

It was like a long worm blasted far away, its body covered in blood and flesh, miserable beyond words.

The self-destruction of the Golden Edge inflicted more damage on it than all of Zhang Yi's previous dozens of cuts combined!

Because it was the epicenter of the explosion.

For a while, the whole dragon was stunned, its face blown to bloody pieces, its eyes blinded.

Zhang Yi quickly caught up and swung his blade!

Taking advantage of your weakness to finish you!

The Fin Dragon instinctively sensed the intense killing intent. At this point, it had no courage left to resist, only desperately trying to flee deeper into the ocean.

But its injuries were too severe, its swimming speed couldn't increase.

Zhang Yi caught up quickly, slashing down hard on its back!

Buzz!

A huge void flame spread hundreds of meters, wrapping its body like soul-devouring chains.

The terrifying void power corroded its already damaged body, instantly shattering the flesh on its massive frame!

“Screeching—”

The Fin Dragon screamed in pain, desperately fleeing into the sea.

Its blood attracted many nearby sea beasts, but the oppressive pressure from two top-tier experts deterred them from approaching.

Zhang Yi was plain and unpretentious, like a cook killing chickens, patiently pursuing it.

The Fin Dragon angrily tried several times to make a last stand.

But the power gap between them was too great. It couldn't break Zhang Yi's defense; counterattacking would only speed its death.

Finally, after diving more than three thousand meters deep, it was pitifully hacked to death by Zhang Yi, stroke by stroke!

Such a huge body, such a powerful sea beast, was a sight Zhang Yi had rarely seen in his life.

He was reluctant to waste any of it, instantly storing the Fin Dragon's body in his dimensional space, then quickly surfacing.

The entire sea area was stained red with its blood. Zhang Yi had to leave quickly.

Because this could attract other powerful beings in the deep sea.

More likely, the earlier explosion could draw the Colombian Navy.

Chapter 887: Enhancement

Deep within the mist, Old Tian, following Zhang Yi's orders, had already driven the new icebreaker ship Leisure hundreds of nautical miles ahead.

This area was shrouded in ice fog, serving as the perfect natural barrier.

Combined with their active stealth, even the most advanced Colombian ships could not detect their traces here.

As the saying goes, without electronic search capabilities, human ships in the vast ocean were like headless flies.

Although the Leisure was somewhat smaller than the Golden Edge, it still had no problem carrying all the passengers.

At the time, everyone on board had been stunned to see Zhang Yi conjure an icebreaker out of thin air.

Their respect for Zhang Yi grew even deeper. The source of this content is [novel\(F\)ire.net](http://novel(F)ire.net)

Even those who had previously harbored some doubts about him now worshipped him devoutly because of his strength.

About an hour after Zhang Yi left, he suddenly returned to the ship.

He was spotless and looked as calm and composed as ever.

The first thing he did was find Old Tian and tell him to speed up and head deeper into the ice fog to evade detection.

“Your plan is truly brilliant!”

Old Tian said to Zhang Yi with admiration.

“By blowing up the Golden Edge in such a drastic move, we not only eliminate our huge problem, the Fin Dragon, but also create the illusion that we all perished in the deep sea.”

“This will deceive the Colombian Navy and buy us time to escape.”

“Mr. Zhang, you are truly a great strategist!”

Zhang Yi was slightly taken aback.

Was that really what I was thinking?

I thought I was just trying to kill that Fin Dragon because I hadn’t slept enough!

“Ah, you’re right! Old Tian, you’ve really improved lately. I didn’t expect you to figure out such a secret plan of mine!”

Zhang Yi praised and patted Old Tian on the shoulder.

Damn, I really am a genius!

Hopefully, this will fool the Colombian Navy.

At this moment, Colombia still couldn't confirm his identity.

And the best explanation for a giant icebreaker sinking at sea was that everyone on board had died.

Otherwise, the ship must have been rescued by Huaxu Kingdom vessels.

Either way, the Colombian Navy would have no reason to continue the pursuit.

Hopefully, things will go as he hoped.

As Zhang Yi predicted, the high-energy explosion on the sea caught the attention of nearby patrolling Colombian naval forces.

More than an hour later, they arrived at the explosion site and found the Golden Edge sunk to the ocean floor after burning.

The Colombian Navy was stunned.

After multiple confirmations, they concluded this was the Huaxu Kingdom ship that the Copernicus had been chasing.

But now, it suddenly exploded and sank in a sea area with no land nearby.

It was obviously impractical to send divers into the deep, cold sea to investigate.

The search ships reported back to headquarters.

The headquarters was equally puzzled.

Could the powerful superhuman who had sunk the Copernicus alone really have suffered such a disaster along with the entire ship at sea?

It wasn't impossible since no matter how strong humans were, they were still insignificant compared to the mysterious deep sea.

After checking thoroughly nearby, the search ships immediately returned, leaving the decision to the naval command.

The news eventually reached Greto Douglas, commander of the Colombian Ocean Fleet.

After hearing the report and pondering briefly, he decisively gave his orders.

"The search mission cannot stop!"

"This matter involves extremely important intelligence. Don't abandon any possibility."

"Dispatch salvage ships and use diving bells to explore the deep sea. Only by finding the superhuman's corpse on board can we confirm they perished at sea!"

The navy immediately made arrangements.

However, they spent over a day in the area.

By then, Zhang Yi and the others had long escaped.

After dealing with the Fin Dragon, everyone on board breathed a sigh of relief—at least now they didn't have to live in constant fear.

After all, being targeted by a giant sea beast hundreds of meters long in the ocean was an unbearable feeling.

Zhang Yi went to an empty warehouse and cut off the Fin Dragon's head.

The whole body was impossible to remove; otherwise, the entire ship would be weighed down and sink.

But this head alone was five meters long.

Zhang Yi took a deep breath. He had never tried to absorb the essence of a strange beast before, so he didn't know if it would work.

Following human methods, he placed his hand on the Fin Dragon's head.

The next moment, an immense primal power surged into his body.

As expected, mutated creatures were all the same!

Zhang Yi clearly felt his strength growing stronger.

However, it was still not enough.

He was still short of breaking through that boundary.

But his improvement was obvious, and he did not encounter the predicament Deng Yuanbo had mentioned, where superhumans find it difficult to advance further by absorbing essence after reaching a certain level.

According to Zhang Yi's estimation, absorbing such a top-tier Delta-level beast raised his superhuman ability index to about 9700 points.

This also made Zhang Yi realize his potential far exceeded that of Deng Shentong and others.

“Perhaps it’s because they rely too much on technology and harsh methods to increase strength.”

“And I’m purely natural.”

Zhang Yi thought silently.

But one thing was certain: it would be easier for him to break through to the Epsilon level than for people like Deng Shentong.

Perhaps even without the Divine Source, if he absorbed the essence of more powerful beasts or superhumans, he could reach the Epsilon-level superhuman ability index standard.

“The Divine Source... what exactly is so miraculous about that thing?”

Zhang Yi murmured.

If it only allows people to break through genetic limits, maybe he didn’t need it right now.

Because unlike ordinary captain-level superhumans like Deng Shentong, he had not yet reached his bottleneck.

The gap in talent would become more apparent going forward.

He, Gao Changkong, and Yuan Kongye all naturally possessed high potential as superhumans.

As for the one in Shengjing, it was said they had obtained the power of the Divine Source.

But Zhang Yi had no information about them and could not make any judgment.

At this moment, Zhang Yi had new insights into superhuman abilities.

He even felt an impulse to continue hunting powerful beasts in the ocean to level up.

However, this thought was fleeting and quickly dismissed.

Because after traveling through such a vast sea area, if it weren't for a chance encounter with a beast battle, he probably wouldn't have met the Fin Dragon.

After all, such deep-sea giant serpents usually did not appear in shallow waters.

If he truly wanted to hunt stronger beasts, he would have to go into the deepest parts of the ocean.

But thinking about the deep-sea environment—

The species and numbers there far exceeded those on land.

It was almost certain that terrifying Epsilon-level beasts existed there!

“The deep sea is too dangerous. I'd better honestly go find the Divine Source.”

Zhang Yi murmured.

After all, he already knew the location of the Divine Source, so there was no need to risk venturing into the deep sea.

...

Chapter 888: Mermaid

Zhang Yi still did not know just how much impact his self-destruction of the Golden Edge on the ocean had caused.

Because they had completely shut down all communication channels, the Jiangnan Region and East Sea Region assumed that an accident had occurred.

Although Zhu Zheng firmly believed that Zhang Yi was a steady and reliable person and could not have met disaster at sea, worry clouded his mind.

There was intelligence about the Divine Source on Zhang Yi, and his niece Zhu Yunque was also on the ship.

So he urgently contacted Rose Squad and sent Linghu Feixue to investigate the explosion area.

He also coordinated with the East Sea Region to pressure the Colombian Navy.

The situation in the East Sea suddenly became extremely tense.

Both sides dispatched large numbers of ships and superhumans; it was hard to say when a careless spark might ignite conflict.

Meanwhile, what were Zhang Yi and the others doing?

They aimlessly moved forward through the ice fog area, hoping to find a piece of land soon to rest.

After several days, they arrived at a certain sea area.

Zhang Yi was sitting by the window reading a book, while Zhou Ke'er was behind him rubbing his shoulders.

Suddenly, Zhang Yi's ears twitched; he seemed to hear a faint, ethereal song.

It was like the graceful melody of a Brahma bell.

Zhang Yi couldn't help but ask, "Who is singing?"

Zhou Ke'er paused, "Is it... warm loneliness?"

Zhang Yi said, "There really is someone singing. Did you hear it?"

At Zhang Yi's question, Zhou Ke'er immediately pricked up her ears.

Zhang Yi had a keen sense of hearing, and when she listened carefully, she only caught intermittent, faint singing.

"It seems to be coming from far away."

At this, she curiously added, "It's strange. This is the sea—how could someone be singing? Could it be... we are close to land?"

The ice fog area had very poor visibility; the Leisure's navigation was almost like drifting aimlessly in the latter days.

The visibility range was only a few dozen meters, and they might have already arrived near an island in the sea.

Hearing this, Zhang Yi stood up with curiosity.

"Let's go out and take a look!"

He was very cautious and put on combat suits for both himself and Zhou Ke'er before stepping out of the cabin.

At this time, the others on the ship had already been drawn by the singing.

The long voyage at sea had made them feel empty and lonely; the singing was undoubtedly the best remedy for their boredom.

A group of people leaned on the railing, gazing into the depths of the ice fog, all trying to discern the direction from which the singing came.

"Could it be a fishing boat?"

"It's possible to be fishermen at sea. There are many small islands isolated in the ocean. Maybe they haven't been much affected by the apocalypse."

"But who is the one singing?"

Su Nuanxi cupped her hands to her heart, hope shining in her face as she said, "I heard that the singing at sea might be from mermaids. Do you think we've encountered a mermaid?" 〔αηŃβÈŠ

Zhang Yi happened to walk over and heard this. With no expression, he said,

"Things that live in the water year-round—even if it's really a mermaid—it would definitely be covered in fish scales all over. Are you sure that thing is what you imagine?"

Su Nuanxi's expression stiffened instantly. Thinking of a creature covered in scales, with a blood-red gaping mouth, feeding on fish, her face turned pale.

Zhu Yunque tidied her hair and said, "I have heard legends of sea demons. They sing at sea to bewitch sailors, leading ships to run aground and sink."

Old Tian and the other crew burst out laughing upon hearing this.

"That's just a fairy tale. But there really are animals at sea that make sounds similar to human babies, like dolphins and certain species of whales."

Zhang Yi looked into the distance while listening to Old Tian recount his adventures at sea; this was the nth time he had told the story to the group.

But as he listened, Zhang Yi's eyes suddenly widened.

Because the thick ice fog before him slowly dissipated, he actually saw a mermaid perched on a reef!

A human upper body, a fish tail below, and the upper half was an absolutely stunning mermaid with a curvy figure and flowing red hair!

The singing was coming directly from the mermaid's mouth.

Zhang Yi stared at the scene in shock.

The mermaid seemed to sense Zhang Yi's gaze and turned back to look at him.

Her face was incredibly beautiful, more so than any woman Zhang Yi had ever seen, nearly flawless.

The melodious tune she sang was in no language Zhang Yi recognized, sweet and lingering, as if from a mysterious underwater dragon palace.

At the moment she saw Zhang Yi, a radiant smile appeared on her face. Then, she leaped from the reef into the water.

She rose and fell lightly on the surface, like a dolphin.

Soon, she came to Zhang Yi's side.

Her wet, smooth arm grasped the railing, smiling as she gazed at Zhang Yi.

Such a scene even made Zhang Yi feel enchanted, as if trapped in a fairy tale world.

But at that moment, his inner warning blared loudly.

The Echo of Time instinctively made his body retreat.

Zhang Yi was stunned in his heart. The mermaid before him had already opened her soft arms, revealing a patch of fair skin on her chest, rushing into his embrace.

The scene before his eyes changed abruptly.

In an instant, from exquisite beauty to extreme ugliness—what kind of beautiful mermaid was that?

It was clearly a dark and ugly monster fish covered in black slime, with a huge blood-red mouth!

"Damn it!"

By instinct, Zhang Yi cursed and cold sweat broke out on his back.

He unleashed Divine Power to twist space and instantly pulverized the disgusting monster fish!

But strange cries erupted on the ship; that monster fish was not alone.

Three of them had already sneaked onto the ship, pouncing on the passengers and beginning to gnaw.

Their mouths emitted sounds like babies crying, low and rhythmic, making people drowsy.

Those gnawed passengers had empty chest cavities, but their faces still wore happy smiles.

Zhang Yi felt chills down his spine—these monster fish could hypnotize people with their sounds!

If he didn't have the Echo of Time ability, he might have fallen victim just now!

Seeing that everyone on the ship had been hypnotized, Zhang Yi knew he couldn't wake them.

He quickly drew Holy Judgment.

The black void flame transformed into a long serpent and instantly killed all the monster fish on board!

Since these creatures used sound to hypnotize, Zhang Yi planned to use the same method to break it.

He turned on the combat suit's voice amplifier and turned the volume to maximum, shouting loudly, "Wake up, all of you!"

The deafening sound made everyone's eardrums ache.

Everyone snapped awake and realized the beautiful illusion had vanished, replaced by several grotesque black monster fish corpses on the ship, and companions with hollowed-out chests, terrifying everyone into screams.

Chapter 889: Strange Death Original content can be found at [novel\(F\)ire.net](http://novel(F)ire.net)

"Everyone, stay alert! There are many creatures in the ocean that have mutated, far more dangerous than those on land!" Zhang Yi shouted loudly as he began clearing the ugly mutant fish disguised as

mermaids on the reef. Fortunately, their only ability was to confuse people's minds, and their combat strength was extremely weak. Old Tian and the other crew members took out their rifles and fired rapidly, quickly killing many of the mutant fish. The remaining fish sensed danger and immediately dove into the sea. However, after the Leisure had sailed far away, the melodious music sounded again from the cluster of reefs.

Zhang Yi ordered everyone to quickly return to the cabin. "From now on, no one is allowed out until safety is confirmed! Never underestimate the sea." Thinking about everything that had just happened, Zhang Yi couldn't help but feel a chill down his spine. In this era of great mutation, superhuman abilities were all kinds of strange. Even these seemingly weak mutant fish almost got the better of him, a top-tier Delta-level superhuman. Everyone was still shaken.

"There are too many strange things in the ocean; it's best to be cautious." "I thought those powerful sea monsters were the scariest, but I never expected such small mutant fish almost took my life." "We have to be on guard!" This incident also served as a warning to Zhang Yi. Although his strength was growing stronger, he could not afford to be careless because this world was filled with danger everywhere. He had to be cautious, cautious, and cautious again. Even lions and tigers could be defeated by tiny mosquitoes.

"This sea area is strange. Increase patrols daily. No matter what weird things happen, report them to me immediately," Zhang Yi ordered Old Tian. "Yes, Mr. Zhang!" Old Tian passed the order down, instructing the crew to patrol the ship in pairs 24 hours a day from now on.

It was the fifth day after entering the Ice Fog sea area. That night, the darkness was deep, and the ship's lights were dim. On the Rockflow Group's side, a woman slowly climbed up from the bed, glanced at her sleeping companions, and quietly put on her clothes before creeping out. She walked down the corridor toward the restroom at the end. In recent days, she had her period, and suddenly felt discomfort in her stomach in the middle of the night, so she needed to use the bathroom.

The middle deck where the Rockflow Group stayed had its power cut off at night. Fortunately, there was only a long corridor, so she could feel her way in the dark. She stepped lightly on the floor, holding her aching stomach with one hand, moving forward with some difficulty. After arriving at the restroom, she quickly took care of her business. However, while she was using the toilet, a flash of lightning tore through the night sky outside.

The woman, named Bai Jingyu, seemed to sense something outside and hurriedly glanced out the window. But when she looked up, she saw nothing. Bai Jingyu thought it might be her imagination, but out of fear, she quickly tidied up and pushed open the restroom door to head back.

“Tap.”

“Tap.”

“Tap.”

...

Midnight was especially quiet, and the patrolling crew had already entered the control room. Bai Jingyu's footsteps sounded a bit clearly, which made her a little scared because it felt like something was hiding within her footsteps. A growing sense of unease formed in her heart. She swallowed nervously and looked around timidly. But the surroundings were empty; nothing was there.

Bai Jingyu's breathing quickened. She sped up her steps, wanting to return to her room faster. But as she turned, she suddenly saw something that made her pupils widen sharply. Her mouth opened wide as if to scream. However, her vocal cords hadn't even made a sound yet. It was as if something had appeared that made her mouth open wider and wider, twisting into a strange arc no human mouth could form.

Her hands hung down and twisted forcefully like claws. Suddenly, her body began convulsing violently, but after a few seconds, she returned to calm. Bai Jingyu stood in the long corridor, shadows covering her face so her expression was unclear. After a few seconds, she slowly walked back to her room, pulled back the covers, and lay down to sleep.

The next day, Bai Jingyu got up and ate as usual. Her familiar companions noticed something odd in her expression and asked if she was sick. Bai Jingyu simply said, "It's nothing, just my period." Hearing this, others just smiled and offered some comforting words without asking further. Anyone who has had their period knows that during such times, women should not be provoked, or else they will suffer terribly.

That night again, deep in the night, everyone had fallen into a deep sleep. Suddenly, Bai Jingyu's eyes snapped open. She walked barefoot to the bed of the person who had greeted her during the day. Her eyes were cold and vacant, like a walking corpse. The faint light outside stretched her shadow long on the wall. Suddenly, her mouth split open rapidly, and a more than one-meter-long object shot out from her mouth and wrapped tightly around that person's face. He struggled desperately, but after just a few seconds, he stopped moving.

The quiet room echoed with faint sucking sounds. After finishing everything, Bai Jingyu returned to her bed quietly, pulled up the covers, and closed her eyes to sleep.

Early the next morning, someone in the room got up to use the restroom. Habitually, he patted his brother in the next bed to get him to come along. But when he reached out, his hand suddenly sank. Curious, he thought his brother had already gotten up. However, when he turned his head, he immediately screamed in terror.

The terrified and mournful scream startled everyone in the room, even waking those in the next room. "What happened?" "Who's screaming?" The people who had just woken up were confused. The man who screamed was trembling on the ground, eyes wide, pointing at the bed. "D-d-d-d... dried corpse!!!"

Everyone's eyes fixed on the bed. When they saw the scene clearly, their faces turned pale. The person on the bed looked as if all his flesh and blood had been sucked dry; his cheeks were deeply sunken, and his skin clung tightly to his skull. Two shriveled eyeballs still remained in their sockets, dry and vacant, staring upward.

"Quick! Go tell the people on the ship!" "Murder! There's been another murder on the ship!" Some emotionally fragile people could no longer hold back and began shouting anxiously. The news quickly reached Old Tian. He led people down with guns in hand. People from the neighboring rooms heard the news and gathered to watch, discussing wildly.

"Clear the way, everyone clear the way!" Old Tian walked over with his gun. Several key members of the Rockflow Group were there, including Li Zongyu, Ma Wenzheng, and Zhang Weiwei. Seeing Old Tian arrive, they greeted him.

Chapter 890: Sea Monster

Old Tian cautiously walked over and asked, "What happened? Has anyone checked how the person died?"

The corpse was still on the bed; no one dared to touch it.

Zhang Weiwei, who knew some medical skills and was braver, asked Li Zongyu to help examine the body.

Hearing Old Tian's question, Zhang Weiwei suppressed her nausea, came to him, and lowered her voice, saying, "He died in a strange way. His internal organs were completely hollowed out, almost only skin and bone remained."

Old Tian's face instantly turned extremely grim upon hearing this.

Since they arrived at sea, they had already encountered many mutated monsters.

This manner of death was obviously not caused by an ordinary person.

He stepped forward and carefully poked the corpse with his gun.

What he found was exactly as Zhang Weiwei said—the body had been hollowed out.

It was as if something had burrowed inside him and eaten all his internal organs.

"Everyone step back, keep your distance! Everyone else get out of this room immediately!"

Old Tian ordered the others in the cabin.

Immediately, the crew began to clear the room.

Only Li Zongyu and two others remained.

Old Tian said to them, "Don't tell anyone about this yet. Before the truth is uncovered, if others find out, it will cause panic."

Zhang Weiwei nodded, "We think the same. This is a special time; it's best to handle it properly."

Old Tian had the door closed, then ordered the crew to raise their guns, aiming at the corpse.

He then pulled a sharp short knife from his boot and approached the body. He reached out and touched the already sunken chest cavity, then suddenly plunged the knife down with force!

No bodily fluids splattered out; Old Tian's hand felt like he was stabbing a shriveled cured duck.

He kept applying force and effortlessly opened the entire chest cavity.

Inside was completely empty—nothing at all.

He continued cutting open other parts but found no abnormalities.

There were not even any wounds on the body, as if some invisible entity had devoured his internal organs and flesh.

Old Tian's expression grew even heavier.

In all his decades at sea, he had never encountered such a situation.

Meanwhile, outside the cabin, the entire Rockflow Group had already gathered.

They were all talking among themselves.

Some even said, "I saw that corpse; it looked like a dried mummy. It definitely wasn't caused by a person!"

"Could it be a sea monster?"

"Haven't we encountered enough monsters recently?"

"But it actually sneaked into our cabin to kill someone! And no one noticed."

"This, this, what are we supposed to do now!"

Old Tian also felt it was an extremely thorny problem.

If they couldn't solve the current issue, more people might die on the ship.

The Rockflow Group members were quite knowledgeable, so it would be hard to lie to them.

If the crew's morale broke down, it would be difficult to lead them.

At that moment, Zhang Yi's calm voice suddenly sounded outside.

"Old Tian! How have you been patrolling?"

Zhang Yi walked in from outside with two crew members.

He casually tossed a strange-looking sea fish onto the floor.

"If I hadn't caught it, this kind of monster would have escaped."

Everyone's gaze turned to the grotesque, ugly fish on the floor.

Zhang Yi took a white handkerchief from a crew member, wiped his palm, and said:

"This is the killer. It almost ambushed me on the deck just now."

"The ocean is full of dangers nowadays. Everyone must stay alert. You can't rely on me and my crew for everything!"

Hearing Zhang Yi's voice, Old Tian hurried out.

"Mr. Zhang."

Zhang Yi gave Old Tian a fierce glare, "You've been slacking off!"

Old Tian swallowed hard and quickly apologized, "Sorry, Mr. Zhang, it was my fault."

He looked at the strange fish on the floor but kept his doubts to himself.

Zhang Yi said, "Take the corpse out and strengthen patrols from now on."

"Also, Li Zongyu, you must take main responsibility for this problem."

"You have dozens of people in the Rockflow Group, more than my crew. You can't just sit idle all day. Organize yourselves and patrol."

Hearing this, Li Zongyu felt guilty and said, "You're right. We were indeed too careless."

Zhang Yi nodded, "Good. Arrange your own patrols from now on!"

After saying this, Zhang Yi left the cabin as if nothing had happened.

Old Tian ordered the corpse and the monster fish on the floor to be carried away.

The Rockflow Group members in the cabin finally breathed a sigh of relief.

After reaching the upper deck, Old Tian quietly asked Zhang Yi, following behind him, "Mr. Zhang, what should we do next?"

With his years of sea experience, he clearly understood that the wounds on the corpse were definitely not caused by the fish Zhang Yi killed.

Zhang Yi's actions were simply to stabilize morale. Follow current NOVELS on Nov3lFire.net

Zhang Yi glanced at the corpse and said, "Take him to the medical room! We need a detailed autopsy to find out what did this."

Old Tian immediately ordered the corpse to be taken to the medical room.

Then Zhang Yi called Zhou Ke'er over and explained the whole situation to her.

This was the first time Zhou Ke'er had encountered such a strange case.

She quickly changed clothes and went to the medical room to examine the body.

Upon seeing the corpse, a very strange expression appeared on her face.

"The exterior of the corpse has no wounds, and inside it's especially smooth. It's like... the internal organs vanished into thin air."

Zhou Ke'er's words sent a chill through Old Tian.

"Could it be... another sea demon?"

Even Zhang Yi frowned deeply.

They had encountered sea demons in the ice fog region more than once, and each time it was a headache.

Although he possessed powerful strength, the sea demons' abilities were unpredictable, making him defenseless at times.

For example, this time a monster appeared on the ship without him noticing at all.

Zhou Ke'er picked up a sharp surgical knife and calmly said while cutting open the corpse, "I need to conduct a thorough examination before drawing any conclusions. But before that, I think the entire ship must strengthen security."

"Because nowadays, no matter what strange things happen, it's normal."

Zhang Yi agreed deeply and immediately told Old Tian, "From now on, order all crew members to maintain 24-hour heightened vigilance. No slacking off! For safety, change patrol groups from three people each to five people each."

"Also, the middle and lower decks' cabins will have personnel centralized, arranged in shifts for patrol."

"And absolutely no one should act alone. Even going to the bathroom or bathing must be done in groups of two or more."