

Ice Age 901

Chapter 901: Returning to the Land

From Su Nuanxi demanding to go ashore to her meeting her final fate, Zhu Yunque did not utter a single word.

Somehow, her heart had gradually grown colder, or rather, more realistic.

She dared not provoke Zhang Yi anymore, fearing that at any moment she might meet the same end as Su Nuanxi.

Zhang Yi rested properly in his room.

After about an hour, he felt things had been handled sufficiently over there.

Only then did he get up, have Old Tian gather everyone on the ship, and prepare to go ashore.

This time, he issued weapons to every single person, including teenagers.

While the guns in these people's hands posed no threat to Zhang Yi, Zhou Ke'er, or the crew members, they had lethal force against the pirates on the island who lacked protective gear.

"From now on, wipe out every single pirate on this island!"

Zhang Yi raised a finger, warning them: "You'll be living here for some time to come. If even one survivor remains and they reveal your location, just look at that pile on the beach to see what will happen to all of you."

Everyone shuddered with fear, nodding frantically in agreement.

Then Old Tian began lowering the lifeboats to ferry everyone ashore.

They commenced a thorough cleansing of the island.

Facing Zhang Yi's group with their absolute firepower superiority, the poorly-equipped pirates on the island stood no chance of fighting back.

There was a superhuman among the pirates too.

But before Zhang Yi, he was as weak as a three-year-old child. Zhang Yi casually shot through his head with a single bullet.

In just two hours, they had completely cleared out this small island.

Zhang Yi arrived at the pirates' nest - a warm, deep cave perfectly suited for sheltering from the severe cold in this icy apocalypse.

Inside, the smell of blood was exceptionally strong, with bones scattered everywhere. The stench of decay was enough to make anyone nauseous.

Zhang Yi called everyone here and told them:

"From now on, you'll be living here for a while."

"I'm going back to Huaxu Kingdom first, then I'll bring reinforcements to take all of you back."

Hearing that Zhang Yi was leaving, everyone felt somewhat anxious, worried he might abandon them here.

Only after Zhang Yi repeatedly explained that the crew members and Zhu Yunque would remain temporarily did they feel reassured.

This time, however, it was Zhu Yunque's turn to be afraid.

She rushed anxiously to Zhang Yi's side, pleading: "Zhang Yi, don't leave me here! Can't you take me with you?"

Zhang Yi looked at her and said: "I can only take one person per round trip at most. Don't worry, just wait here for me to return."

Truthfully, taking two people wasn't impossible - Zhou Ke'er and Zhu Yunque together weighed only around two hundred pounds.

But Zhang Yi needed to guard against encountering enemies during spatial traversal, so he needed to keep one hand free.

Besides, he was only protecting Zhu Yunque out of respect for Zhu Zheng - he didn't consider her particularly important anyway. New novel chapters are published on [novel•fire.net](http://novel.fire.net)

Why would he take risks for her?

Zhu Yunque looked wronged, but she knew her status in Zhang Yi's heart was far below Zhou Ke'er's. She could only say:

"Then you must come back quickly. I'll be waiting here for your return."

Zhang Yi had Old Tian collect everyone's communication devices to prevent accidental operation that might reveal their current location.

Then he left them enough water and food to last for some time before preparing to leave the island with Zhou Ke'er.

Holding Zhou Ke'er with one arm, enhanced by his combat suit, her ninety-some pound weight felt incredibly light to him, requiring minimal physical exertion.

Zhang Yi opened two Dimensional Gates heading north, instantly disappearing from everyone's view.

Old Tian and the others stood guard at the cave entrance with weapons, silently waiting in their hearts for Zhang Yi to return and take them away.

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The facts proved that without extra burdens, Zhang Yi's escape ability was absolutely top-tier.

Spatial traversal could cover about 1000 meters per jump. Unless he encountered a superhuman who could forcibly restrict his movement, he could escape any trap.

This method of traveling with a companion made them undetectable even to the Colombian Navy forces, reputed to be the world's strongest naval power.

After more than half an hour of journeying, Zhang Yi and Zhou Ke'er finally reached land.

After briefly determining their current position and adjusting their direction, another dozen minutes brought them back to the long-awaited Tianhai City.

Seeing Tianhai City's landmark tall television tower, both Zhang Yi and Zhou Ke'er couldn't help but exhale long sighs of relief.

This trip had actually taken four to five months!

They had finally returned, and it felt like a century had passed.

Zhang Yi turned on his communication device and contacted home.

"I'm back!"

Soon, he was back in the warm, comfortable shelter.

Everyone was overjoyed to see them return.

Yang Siya, Yang Xinxin, and Lu Keran were moved to tears of happiness, all rushing forward to hug Zhang Yi.

Hua Hua meowed and leaped onto Zhang Yi's head first, lying there while licking his ears and cheek, making Zhang Yi giggle from the ticklish sensation.

Fatty Xu and Old You were equally excited, though they had no chance to intervene. They could only stand by, smiling at Zhang Yi while murmuring: "Wonderful, you're finally back!"

This was probably the warmth of home.

When people grow weary from traveling, they always yearn for a place where their hearts and bodies can find belonging.

This group that had initially banded together just to survive had gradually become like family.

They knew nothing about everything that had happened during this time at sea.

Zhang Yi had briefly mentioned the situation to Yang Xinxin when he last shut down all communications.

So they had been extremely worried all this time that something might happen to Zhang Yi and Zhou Ke'er at sea.

Now seeing them return safe and sound, how could they not be excited?

Everyone gathered around Zhang Yi and Zhou Ke'er, all talking at once, asking about their experiences at sea.

Originally, Zhang Yi had planned to return immediately to bring Zhu Yunque back first.

The others could stay at sea a while longer without issue.

But Zhu Yunque was Zhu Zheng's niece - if something happened to her, it would be difficult to explain to Zhu Zheng.

However, the moment Zhang Yi returned to the shelter, this thought was temporarily set aside.

He had been adrift at sea for four months, and it had been truly agonizing.

Especially in the Ice Fog Sea Region, that oppressive, eerie, and stifling atmosphere had made him extremely irritable.

Only at times like these could one truly appreciate the warmth and preciousness of home.

Zhang Yi first took a warm shower, changed into soft, clean pajamas, then came to the living room area.

Yang Siya and Zhou Haimei were preparing food in the kitchen.

Yang Xinxin, Lu Keran, and the others were all on the sofa, looking at Zhang Yi with expectant eyes.

They had so much they wanted to say to Zhang Yi, and they wanted to hear about Zhang Yi and Zhou Ke'er's experiences at sea.

Zhang Yi sipped his steaming hot cappuccino and began telling them the story of their time at sea.

Chapter 902: Everyone Is Improving

Zhang Yi recounted everything that had happened at sea, and as everyone listened, they couldn't help but let out waves of exclamations.

At times they scoffed endlessly at the behavior of the people on the ship.

At other times they felt worried about the dangers encountered along the journey.

Especially upon learning that Zhang Yi had sunk a Colombian Navy warship, it made everyone gasp with lingering fear.

"The Colombian Ocean Fleet contains a top-tier superhuman with a superhuman ability index of 18,000 points!"

Zhang Yi took a sip of coffee and said calmly to everyone.

Fatty Xu couldn't help but swallow hard. "E-eighteen thousand points! That's almost 10,000 points higher than you, boss!!"

Although the superhuman ability index doesn't absolutely represent combat strength, with such a massive difference, there's no doubt the opponent's power is overwhelmingly superior.

Old You also frowned and said anxiously, "The entire Jiangnan Region doesn't even have a single Epsilon-level superhuman. If we encounter him, how should we deal with it?"

Zhang Yi shook his head and said calmly, "No need to worry too much. The East Sea Region has people holding the line there."

Even top-tier superhumans can't act completely freely when facing forces possessing absolutely powerful weapons.

No matter how strong you are, if targeted by an H-submarine, one Death Reaper of Love with a 100-kilometer coverage range can instantly kill you!

Unless you possess special abilities like Takeuchi Mayumi's precognitive danger sense, even Zhang Yi would find it difficult to survive in such circumstances.

Yang Xinxin leaned against Zhang Yi, looking at him with curious eyes. "Brother, what do you plan to do next? Are you going to return to Blizzard City first, then have Zhu Zheng send people to rescue them?"

Zhang Yi thought for a moment and said, "I plan to go rescue Zhu Yunque first."

A dark glint flashed in Yang Xinxin's eyes.

"But brother, according to what you've said, the Colombian Navy must be trying every possible method to capture you now."

"They've deployed heavy blockades around the Huaxu Kingdom's maritime territory. Even if you go to Zhu Zheng, they won't be able to send ships out."

"In the end, it will still fall to you to take action."

Zhang Yi naturally understood this point. He spread his hands. "As long as I show myself, the Jiangnan Region can release news that I've already returned with important intelligence. By then, the Colombian Navy won't have any reason to blockade the maritime territory anymore!"

"That might not necessarily be true!"

Yang Xinxin said with a smiling expression. "If I were a Colombian officer, I would continue monitoring all maritime activities from Huaxu Kingdom. And I'd be even more cautious than before!"

At this point, since the intelligence about the Divine Source had been brought back by Zhang Yi, he didn't hide it from the household members and told them about the existence of such a thing.

Yang Xinxin said, "The intelligence was obtained by you from the ocean territory, so they might speculate about the specific location of the Divine Source."

"Most likely, it's not within Huaxu Kingdom's mainland territory."

"This way, they would monitor us even more closely. Don't you think so?"

Zhang Yi smiled. "What you're saying makes complete sense. However, this kind of matter isn't something I need to worry about for now. Let Zhu Zheng and the others handle the game of strategy!"

"At the regional level, matters become extremely complex."

Yang Xinxin countered, "But brother, don't you want to obtain the Divine Source yourself?"

A meaningful smile appeared in Zhang Yi's eyes.

He rubbed his hands together and said, "That depends on whether the benefits of obtaining it are proportional to the risks."

Zhang Yi decided that after resting for one day and adjusting his condition to its peak, he would go bring Zhu Yunque back to hand over to Zhu Zheng.

Then he would tell him about the Divine Source intelligence and let Zhu Zheng handle the arrangements afterward.

No matter how great the benefits of the Divine Source might be, his share would definitely be included.

After all, currently he is the Jiangnan Region's highest combat power. If Zhu Zheng wants to obtain the Divine Source under everyone's watchful eyes, he must rely on Zhang Yi's strength.

Yang Xinxin nodded, then suddenly looked at the others. "You haven't been back for a long time. We haven't been idle at home either. We've prepared some surprises for you. You should take a look—they'll definitely be helpful to you."

Zhang Yi looked at everyone curiously. "Oh? Then I'll have to look forward to this."

Zhang Yi smiled. "What you're saying makes complete sense. However, this kind of matter isn't something I need to worry about for now. Let Zhu Zheng and the others handle the game!"

"Zhang Yi, try this!"

Her eyes sparkled as she looked at him with an expectant expression.

Zhang Yi reached out and took the container, taking out a piece of pastry and putting it in his mouth.

Soon his eyes lit up. "The supernatural energy provided by your ability-boosting food has increased!"

The energy provided by Yang Siya's ability-boosting food was at least twice what it used to be!

This was extremely important for Zhang Yi.

Considering his current ability level, after every battle he needs to consume large amounts of food to recover his supernatural energy.

But normal eating and digestion recover supernatural energy very slowly.

With Yang Siya's ability-boosting food, he gains a special advantage in future battles—the ability to sustain prolonged combat.

Yang Siya, having received Zhang Yi's praise, happily laughed.

She raised her chin, revealing her snow-white neck, her graceful figure captivating to the eye.

"Of course! While you were away, I've been working hard too! You just didn't see it."

Because she makes ability-boosting food, her appetite has reached about ten people's worth, eating until she feels sick every day.

The people in the shelter weren't living leisurely either.

They knew that with Zhang Yi's talent, he would become even stronger in the future.

If they didn't work hard to improve themselves, eventually they wouldn't be able to keep up with Zhang Yi's pace.

Therefore, everyone had been quietly working hard in their own ways.

Even Zhou Haimei, who has no special abilities, put great effort into studying culinary arts and practiced yoga for two to three hours daily.

Zhang Yi nodded. "You've done very well. You've worked hard."

Yang Siya, rarely praised by Zhang Yi outside the bedroom, felt her nose tingle and little pearls welled up in her eyes.

"As long as I can be helpful to you!"

Old You and Fatty Xu also hurried to show their training results from this period.

Old You and Fatty Xu go to Blizzard City regularly.

Both have become accustomed to receiving special training.

Old You has currently pushed his abilities to the absolute limit of Gamma-level—his physical body can no longer be strengthened.

So he started relying on external tools. Read full story at [novel●fire.net](http://novel.fire.net)

For example, he's become obsessed with large-caliber weapons.

As for Fatty Xu, when he goes to Blizzard City, he's practicing something quite new.

Nobody knows exactly what he's training, but every time he returns, he appears exhausted yet spiritually refreshed.

But what Zhang Yi looked forward to most was still the mechanical expert Lu Keran.

Over the past four months, she has significantly improved her 【Divine Mechanism Operation】 ability, and the armaments she develops have become even more powerful.

Chapter 903: Updating Equipment

Zhang Yi looked at Lu Keran with eager anticipation.

"Little Lulu, have you made any new inventions recently?"

Lu Keran pursed her lips, showing a nervous yet somewhat proud expression.

She looked at Hua Hua who was lying on Zhang Yi's lap. "Hua Hua, demonstrate!"

Zhang Yi curiously lowered his head to look at Hua Hua.

He saw Hua Hua slowly stand up and stretch lazily.

Then it shook its head, and a silver glow emerged from its neck.

When Zhang Yi first returned, he had noticed the new silver collar around its neck.

He hadn't paid much attention to it, thinking it was just decorative.

But unexpectedly, the thing unfolded like a Transformer and transformed into silver armor that covered Hua Hua's black fur.

Instantly, Hua Hua became an imposing armored beast.

"This thing is quite interesting!"

Zhang Yi couldn't help but laugh.

Lu Keran smiled proudly: "And that's not all! Hua Hua, grow bigger!"

Hua Hua jumped to an open space not far away and transformed immediately into a giant beast nearly five to six meters tall and about ten meters long.

The chandelier was pushed against the ceiling, rattling loudly, and the living room could barely contain it.

Yet the silver armor remained perfectly fitted to its body, expanding as it grew larger.

Zhang Yi was utterly amazed.

"What kind of technology is this?"

Seeing Zhang Yi's astonished expression, Lu Keran felt immensely proud.

"This is memory metal. After I work on it, it can expand according to body size. I spent tremendous effort on the design to achieve this effect."

Zhang Yi walked over and reached out to touch it.

The metal was incredibly lightweight yet exceptionally tough.

Hua Hua already possessed strong defensive capabilities, but with this additional layer of armor, it could charge even more recklessly in future battles.

"Not bad at all, this effect is amazing!"

Zhang Yi repeatedly praised.

Lu Keran walked over, feeling very happy from Zhang Yi's compliments.

"Brother Zhang Yi, give me your combat suit and weapons tonight! I'll upgrade them for you, guaranteed to be better than before."

Zhang Yi nodded without hesitation: "Alright, I'll trouble you with that."

He could only rest for one night before returning tomorrow to pick up Zhu Yunque and the others.

That meant Lu Keran would have to work through the night to upgrade his weapons and combat suit.

As her abilities improved, she could definitely upgrade Zhang Yi's equipment to stronger versions, which Zhang Yi obviously welcomed.

After everyone had shared their changes, Zhang Yi naturally turned to look at Yang Xinxin.

She had been sitting on the sofa the whole time, elegantly crossing her legs while drinking milk tea.

Zhang Yi curiously walked over and leaned close to her, smiling as he asked: "Xinxin, what about you? Did you prepare any surprises for your brother?"

Yang Xinxin looked up with a beaming smile, "Brother, Xinxin is the intelligence type. In our team, I'm naturally the strategist!"

"During your time away from Tianhai City, I've managed everything here in perfect order!"

She told Zhang Yi about her arrangements for Tianhai City's major factions.

Four months was already plenty of time. Newest update provided by novel•fire.net

Although Zhang Yi's Dimensional Space stored massive amounts of supplies,

as the superhumans in the sanctuary grew stronger, their food consumption would continuously increase.

Moreover, the major shelters needed long-term development.

Without proper overall planning, sustainable development would be impossible.

"Do you remember Li Jian?"

Yang Xinxin asked.

Zhang Yi nodded: "Of course I remember him. What about him?"

Yang Xinxin said: "Although his ability is useless in combat, it's practically miraculous for daily life."

"I had each shelter establish underground farms and grow crops using ultraviolet light."

"Under these special circumstances, this approach originally had low feasibility and extremely poor yield rates."

"However, with Li Jian's ability, everything became much easier."

Yang Xinxin smiled: "He can improve crop survival rates, yields, and even shorten growth cycles. This is incredibly useful for us!"

Zhang Yi raised his eyebrows, "Indeed, there are no useless abilities, only useless superhumans. Everyone can play their proper role when placed in the right position."

Yang Xinxin said to Zhang Yi: "I think we should find ways to help these support-type superhumans enhance their abilities."

"After all, they can't actively obtain ability essences either, making it difficult for them to improve their strength."

Zhang Yi nodded; he had already considered this before.

"But currently we don't have that technology. If we want to do it, we'll have to rely on technology from Blizzard City."

"The only organizations with relatively mature superhuman training technology are the Research Department and Deng Technology."

Zhang Yi smiled faintly: "Dealing with them isn't that easy. If you ask them for one favor, who knows what price they'll demand later."

Yang Xinxin's gaze turned to Zhou Ke'er.

"Then we'll have to depend on Sister Zhou!"

As an expert in the medical field, Zhou Ke'er naturally had extensive knowledge of pharmacology.

With Lu Keran's help in analyzing drug components, they could extract the key ingredients from previously acquired medicines that help superhumans enhance their abilities.

Perhaps one day, they could help people around them awaken abilities without relying on Blizzard City.

After all, theoretically speaking, many people had the potential to become superhumans after the Apocalypse.

However, actually becoming a superhuman required certain opportunities.

Talent + luck—both were indispensable.

And the latter could now be provided artificially.

"Let's discuss these things later."

Zhang Yi closed his eyes and lay back on the soft sofa. He didn't like managing too many people—it was too troublesome.

"I'll be bringing back another group of people later. You can arrange work for them then."

Yang Xinxin nodded: "Okay, brother."

After dinner, Zhang Yi chatted with everyone for a while longer before returning to his room to rest.

He needed to depart tomorrow to return to that island in the South Sea.

That night, Lu Keran worked tirelessly in her studio, the sound of clinking and clanging continuing without stop.

That night.

Yang Xinxin slipped into Zhang Yi's room.

There were some things she hadn't told Zhang Yi during the day.

Although relationships within the sanctuary were harmonious now, she still only wanted to share certain critical matters with Zhang Yi alone.

An idea had formed in her mind—an idea that would absolutely benefit Zhang Yi, but one he might not be willing to do himself.

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The next morning, after waking up, Zhang Yi went straight to Lu Keran's studio.

After working through the night, Lu Keran had fallen fast asleep on her workbench.

But the weapons and combat suit Zhang Yi had given her had been completely upgraded and now lay quietly in a box nearby.

Chapter 904: Bounty on the Sea

Zhang Yi walked over and looked at Lu Keran's sweet, innocent profile, unable to suppress a gentle smile.

His gaze inadvertently drifted toward the wall.

Something there caught his attention.

It was a pair of silver-gray mechanical arms, slightly thicker than human arms, appearing somewhat rough and unfinished without any paint.

But upon closer inspection, one could see the extremely precise craftsmanship in every joint.

Zhang Yi walked over and reached out to take them down, discovering they weren't particularly heavy—each weighing about five to six kilograms.

They were hollow inside, clearly a new type of exoskeleton armor.

This made Zhang Yi recall Lu Keran mentioning before that her greatest dream was to create powerful humanoid armor.

In these times, large armored mechs were certainly impractical, while small human exoskeletons were absolutely the best choice.

Just then, Lu Keran woke up.

"Zhang Yi... big brother."

She rubbed her eyes and, seeing Zhang Yi examining her mechanical arms, her face flushed red as she hurried over to snatch them back.

"It's not finished yet! You can't see it."

She quickly stored the mechanical arms in a toolbox, firmly closing the lid.

Zhang Yi spread his hands. "What, keeping secrets from me now?"

Lu Keran's face turned completely red, extremely embarrassed.

She looked like a middle school girl who had just tried writing romance novels only to have her crush accidentally discover them.

"Right now it's just a general concept, making a prototype to see how it looks. It's still far from being a finished product!"

Zhang Yi laughed heartily. "Alright, alright, I'll look forward to your finished product then. By the way, if you need any materials, just let me know—I'll have people help you find them."

This kind of small exoskeleton wouldn't consume much material anyway.

Hearing this, Lu Keran smiled and replied, "Thank you, Brother Zhang Yi! I've already contacted Xiao Honglian, Xing Tian, and Chen Jingguan—they've all been very cooperative."

"It's just dismantling two warships and a few dozen armored vehicles, that's all."

Zhang Yi's smile instantly froze on his face.

Just... dismantling two warships and a few dozen armored vehicles?

"Are you... trying to build mechanical exoskeletons or an aircraft carrier?"

Lu Keran said weakly, "I need to create exoskeleton armor that can adapt to minus one hundred degree temperatures. The core materials required must be the best metals available. Ordinary steel completely fails to meet usage conditions—it must be sourced from the cores of military equipment."

Her large eyes looked innocently at Zhang Yi. "Brother, didn't you say you'd support me to the best of your ability?"

Zhang Yi: "..."

"Ahem, of course. But they're just warships and armored vehicles—dismantle as many as you want. As long as it's enough for your needs!"

Heaven knew that Dawn Rain Base only had five warships remaining in storage.

Lu Keran happily clapped her hands. "I knew you were the best, brother! Well, the materials are about half gathered now."

Zhang Yi nearly stumbled to the ground.

"Half? Hmm... alright, I'll find a way to get the other half for you."

Although it pained him somewhat, Zhang Yi had great faith in Lu Keran's abilities.

He also understood that, as Lu Keran had said, during this ice age era, mechanical products were prone to various malfunctions and extremely difficult to use.

With Lu Keran's capabilities, she would naturally create the most advanced exoskeleton armor.

She was a mechanical artist with extremely high standards for her work, of course striving for perfection.

Zhang Yi looked forward to seeing what kind of thing she would create.

If the results were good, perhaps they could produce several more units—he could try one out himself, or maybe give some to Old You and Fatty Xu.

"By the way, how are my equipments coming along?"

Zhang Yi inquired, as he planned to set out soon.

Lu Keran hurriedly brought out Zhang Yi's weapons and equipment.

"Thunderbolt and White Owl have both been recalibrated—their stability has improved, and their range has increased. Also performed overall maintenance."

"But the biggest modifications are to your combat suit."

"The previous combat suit didn't account for naval warfare. Recently I've been thinking you'd definitely need it someday, brother, so I've added underwater propulsion systems, compressed oxygen storage compartments, and pressure resistance systems."

"And I've also installed micro torpedoes on the arms."

Lu Keran lifted the combat suit's arm and gently pressed a switch, revealing ten micro torpedoes beneath—each about ten centimeters long with a 10mm caliber.

Additionally, there was a case containing 1000 reserve torpedoes.

Seeing these things made Zhang Yi extremely happy.

During his previous voyage when facing the Fin Dragon, he had been troubled by the lack of underwater combat weapons and equipment.

If he had possessed such things earlier, combined with his special abilities, even these small micro torpedoes could create destructive power no less than conventional high-speed torpedoes!

The fact that Lu Keran had considered everything so thoroughly showed she had been worrying about him daily, carefully planning these improvements.

"Thank you, Keran. I really love your modifications!"

Zhang Yi said happily with a smile.

Lu Keran shyly lowered her head, twisting her fingers behind her back.

"As long as you like them."

Zhang Yi thought for a moment and said, "Don't worry, I'll definitely get you the most advanced warship later for you to properly dismantle."

Zhang Yi had a premonition.

If he wanted to go to Star Island's Mist Valley to search for the Divine Source, he would eventually clash with maritime forces in the ocean region.

The Colombian Ocean Fleet, Malaya's navy, Neon's maritime self-defense force...

When that time came, he would definitely have to give those guys some surprises, thanking them for the troubles they caused during Zhang Yi's voyage.

Zhang Yi collected his weapons and equipment, then returned to change into his combat suit. After confirming everything was in order, he left the shelter and headed toward the southern sea.

However, as the saying goes, man proposes but heaven disposes.

Zhang Yi ultimately couldn't anticipate every situation.

And some unexpected developments had occurred in the southern sea region. Fresh chapters posted on novelfire.net

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Half a month earlier.

The Colombian Navy had discovered that Zhang Yi likely possessed intelligence about the Divine Source.

Five-Star Admiral Douglas personally ordered that Zhang Yi be captured alive at any cost!

But due to the timely response from the East Sea Region, the Colombian Navy found itself constrained and unable to deploy significant forces to pursue Zhang Yi.

Coupled with Zhang Yi's desperate move to completely block all electronic signals, their pursuit became even more difficult.

Thus, the Colombian Ocean Fleet adopted another approach—issuing bounties.

Beyond the ocean region, throughout the southern sea, the Starry Sea Region, and even the southeastern waters around Huaxu Kingdom's territorial waters.

Various forces, large and small, all received official documents from the Colombian Ocean Fleet.

If they spotted any Huaxu Kingdom vessels appearing and could capture the people aboard alive to deliver to the Colombian Navy, they would receive incredibly generous rewards.

Even just providing intelligence would yield considerable compensation after verification.

Naturally, the Tianlong Pirate Crew—rulers of the Starry Sea Region located south of Huaxu Kingdom's territorial waters—also received this bounty notice.

Chapter 905: First Squad

The 1st Squadron

After receiving the bounty notice from the Colombian Navy, the Dragon King immediately ordered all six of his fleets to deploy without hesitation, conducting a full-scale search for the Huaxu Kingdom vessels!

Following the complete annihilation of the Western Squadron during the Tianhai City battle, both the Jiangnan Region and East Sea Region had jointly conducted cleanup operations against the Tianlong Pirate Crew.

Subsequently, the Jiangnan Region's Rose Squad entered the Starry Sea Region, beginning their hunt for the Tianlong Pirate Crew while attempting to locate Tianlong Island's position.

This had forced the formidable Dragon King to hide in his bunker day after day.

It wasn't that he feared the Rose Squad.

But rather that if their location was exposed, the Jiangnan Region's Death Reaper of Love would descend upon their heads within one minute.

Even as the overlord of the Starry Sea Region, they would be utterly annihilated under such weaponry.

So the Dragon King had been extremely frustrated during this period, harboring deep hatred for the people of Huaxu Kingdom.

Therefore, this opportunity to both take revenge on the Jiangnan Region and curry favor with the Colombian Navy while obtaining substantial rewards represented killing three birds with one stone for him - of course he was more than willing.

The location where Zhang Yi had placed Zhu Yunque and the others was a place called Luoyan Island.

After clearing out all the pirates on the island, Zhang Yi thought information wouldn't leak out for some time.

But he hadn't anticipated that this area happened to be the patrol waters of the Tianlong Pirate Crew's 1st Squadron.

To gather intelligence on Zhang Yi and the others, they conducted daily patrols throughout the entire sea area.

But on this day, when the pirate ship passed Luoyan Island, they discovered the island was completely silent without a single living soul.

This immediately raised the pirates' alertness.

The information was quickly reported to the 1st Squadron headquarters, reaching the ears of Squadron Commander Nirot.

These pirates were naturally cautious - in their line of work where they licked blood from blades, the slightest mistake could cost them their heads.

So they paid extreme attention to any abnormal phenomena within their territory.

Upon hearing this news, Nirot immediately summoned his deputy Gunner.

"Gunner! Take some people and investigate what happened there."

A person emerged from the ship's cabin.

A woman.

A tall woman carrying a strangely shaped large sniper rifle on her back.

Gunner had brown skin that had turned nearly black from years at sea.

Beneath her gray felt hat, her facial features were almost indistinguishable until she opened her eyes to reveal large whites.

But those eyes only needed to be seen once to send chills down one's spine, creating the feeling of being targeted by a venomous snake.

"Yes, Captain!"

Gunner's voice was somewhat hoarse as she accepted the order and immediately turned to leave.

She took several dozen pirates and headed toward Luoyan Island.

Soon, they reached the island.

The moment they landed, the strong smell of blood put Gunner on high alert.

She curled her lips, "Looks like some brutal killing happened here!"

Leading a group of pirates, she advanced onto Luoyan Island.

About ten minutes later.

In the cave where Old Tian and the others were hiding, seven or eight crew members had been killed directly, their bodies torn open with massive wounds that appeared to have been corroded by some strong acidic solution into near-perfect circular holes, looking extremely bizarre.

Li Zongyu lay weakly against the wall, bleeding profusely with a gun pressed to his head.

Lu Dahai and several other men from the ship had attempted to fight back, but it proved futile against absolute force.

Old Tian, a full-grown man, was lifted by his neck with just one hand by Gunner.

She looked playfully at the older man, speaking in dialect: "You're from Huaxu Kingdom? Then you'd better pray you have the person the Dragon King is looking for among you. Otherwise..."

She extended a finger with sharp, elongated nails and lightly stabbed it directly through Old Tian's bulletproof vest into his chest cavity!

"Ah!!!"

Old Tian couldn't help but scream in agony.

"Stop! The person you're looking for is me!"

At this moment, Zhu Yunque could no longer bear it and stepped forward voluntarily.

She knew hiding was pointless.

These pirates had come with a purpose.

If she didn't step forward, everyone here would undergo brutal interrogation.

Not to mention she couldn't withstand torture herself, but certainly someone among the ship's passengers would reveal her identity voluntarily.

Zhu Yunque felt it was better to step forward, perhaps buying some time.

She believed that being Zhu Zheng's niece at least meant these pirates would show some respect due to her status.

Gunner saw Zhu Yunque.

There was a quality about Zhu Yunque that was particularly detestable - that arrogant young mistress aura.

No matter how well she tried to conceal it, the arrogance in her eyes and movements couldn't be hidden.

"Who are you?"

Gunner asked in a low voice.

Zhu Yunque took a deep breath. At this moment, everyone was watching her.

With Zhang Yi absent, she represented these people's greatest hope for survival.

She tried hard to calm herself.

"My name is Zhu Yunque, niece of Zhu Zheng, the supreme commander of Jiangnan Region! You'd better release us, otherwise my uncle's wrath is something you absolutely cannot withstand... Ah!!!"

Before Zhu Yunque could finish speaking, Gunner's palm slammed hard across her face.

Zhu Yunque was sent spinning to the ground, blood trickling from her mouth.

Gunner glared at her viciously: "Jiangnan Region, that old thing is your uncle? Damn woman, do you have any idea how much suffering your uncle has caused us!"

Zhu Yunque was stunned - how was this unfolding differently from what she had imagined?

Weren't they supposed to fear her uncle?

Gunner said with disgust: "I hate self-important young mistresses like you the most. Today I'll teach you a lesson!"

After speaking, she made a gesture to several nearby pirates.

Four or five pirates showed lecherous smiles, chuckling "hehehe" as they closed in on Zhu Yunque.

Instantly, Zhu Yunque's blood ran cold.

Even though she had never experienced such a scene before, she had seen it in movies!

She certainly knew what was about to happen.

Zhu Yunque desperately cried for help and begged for mercy.

But the pirates just watched with mocking smiles as those men gradually surrounded Zhu Yunque.

Although other passengers on the ship found it hard to bear, with guns pointed at their heads and the absolute disparity in strength, playing the hero now would be suicidal, so they could only lower their heads and avoid watching.

Zhu Yunque wailed in despair, crying as the pirates quickly tore her clothes to shreds.

She felt like she wanted to die.

However, just as they were about to reach the final step, Gunner shouted a stern command.

Those pirates immediately stopped their actions and returned to their positions.

Gunner looked at Zhu Yunque, whose eyes had lost their light and who appeared utterly broken, a mocking and satisfied smile appearing at the corner of her mouth.

Seeing this arrogant young mistress tortured to the point of breakdown excited her greatly.

But as a pirate officer, she knew the value of the Jiangnan Region supreme commander's niece and couldn't actually let anything happen to her here.

Just by frightening her properly, she would comply obediently with whatever they demanded afterward.

How did that saying go?

Throw the first punch, then ask all the questions.

Chapter 906: Nirot

Gunner was in an exceptionally good mood today.

What she initially thought was just catching a small group of stray pirates had unexpectedly turned into landing a big fish!

The niece of Jiangnan Region Commander Zhu Zheng—definitely someone who could fetch a great price.

Perhaps the Huaxu Kingdom national the Dragon King wanted them to capture was her.

Considering this possibility, Gunner didn't kill the remaining people but had them detained under guard here.

She then took Zhu Yunque back to Nirot's flagship to report the matter.

Zhu Yunque was thrown in front of Nirot like a garbage bag.

She let out a sharp cry, her expression panicked as she looked around.

Nirot had snow-white skin, a long hooked nose, a tall and robust build, and eyes that were icy and intimidating.

When had Zhu Yunque ever encountered such a situation?

She had already been terrified by Gunner's earlier actions; her face was deathly pale, her entire body trembling, unsure what fate awaited her next.

"This woman is from Huaxu Kingdom. She claims to be the niece of Jiangnan Region Commander Zhu Zheng," Gunner reported to Nirot.

Upon hearing this, Nirot, seated in his chair, leaned forward slightly, narrowing his eyes to scrutinize this fragile woman.

"Zhu Zheng's niece? Can her identity be confirmed?"

Gunner handed Zhu Yunque's communicator to Nirot; it contained family photos that clearly verified her identity beyond doubt.

A sinister smile crept into Nirot's narrow, cold eyes, his lips curling sharply upward.

"What a twist of fate!"

Kanute, captain of the Tianlong Pirate Crew's Western Squadron, was his younger brother.

Thus, Zhu Zheng was his enemy!

Nirot glared at Zhu Yunque, who lay limp on the floor like mud, murderous intent flashing in his eyes.

This made Zhu Yunque tremble even more violently; all the pirates around could clearly see her arms fluttering like butterfly wings.

The pirates burst into loud laughter, like a pack of hyenas eyeing a captured rabbit.

Nirot asked sternly, "No superhumans detected? And powerful ones at that?"

He hadn't forgotten the Dragon King's order.

The Colombian Navy's massive bounty was for a superhuman of top-tier strength.

It was said that this individual had sunk a Colombian Navy cruiser!

And killed over a hundred elite sailors aboard, including two Delta-level superhumans!

Nirot found it hard to believe that if such a person were among these people, Gunner could have captured them so easily.

Gunner replied, "There's only one superhuman among them, but they're very weak—trash with only Beta-level combat power."

Nirot's eyes narrowed sharply, immediately sensing that something was amiss.

"Wrong person captured? No, impossible!"

Nirot quickly realized they hadn't captured the wrong person.

How could the niece of the Jiangnan Region Commander venture alone into the dangerous Starry Sea Region?

That powerful superhuman must be with her.

They just weren't together at the moment for some reason.

Thinking this, Nirot stood up from his chair.

Only when he rose did others see how tall he was—roughly two meters in height.

His robust frame was packed with knotted muscles, years of maritime combat having forged a powerful physique.

The heavy footsteps made Zhu Yunque's courage shatter.

She was utterly bewildered, unsure what these pirates intended to do to her.

What crushed her most was that her clothes had long been torn, barely covering parts of her body.

The cold, shame, and despair pushed her nearly to breakdown.

"What are you going to do?" she stammered, staring at Nirot, her voice stripped of arrogance, filled only with pleading and humility.

Nirot crouched down, locking eyes with her weak gaze.

"Now, tell me everything—why are you out at sea? Where is that powerful superhuman with you?"

He raised his right hand, bringing his index finger and thumb close together. With a crackling sound, pure white electricity erupted violently in the cabin!

Zhu Yunque's screams followed immediately.

The powerful current surged through her body; instantly, faint smoke rose from her.

A warm flow slowly appeared beneath her, accompanied by a foul odor.

Under Nirot's electrocution, she had lost control and soiled herself.

The laughter around grew louder, piercing Zhu Yunque's ears like needles.

"Take your time. You can answer slowly. I have plenty of time," Nirot said with a demonic smile.

"No, no no no! I'll talk, I'll tell you everything!"

Zhu Yunque's eyes glazed over; by now, she was nearly insane.

As long as she could avoid further torture, she was willing to do anything.

For a moment, she seemed to recall something she had once forgotten.

Shortly after setting sail, she had seen a group of women imprisoned by pirates.

She remembered what those women had ultimately been reduced to after their torment.

...

The next day.

Zhang Yi made thorough preparations before leaving Tianhai City and heading toward Luoyan Island.

The strengths of a spatial ability user became increasingly prominent as his superhuman ability index rose.

Although spatial abilities didn't hold an absolute advantage in offensive power, in terms of versatility, Zhang Yi had yet to encounter anyone superior to him so far.

Take simple mobility, for example.

[Spatial Leap] could ignore all physical obstacles, allowing traversal within 1000 meters.

This method, independent of any modern technology, made him undetectable even by the most advanced military tech.

In other words, the Colombian Navy's proud, seemingly impregnable maritime blockade was meaningless to him.

A little over half an hour later, Zhang Yi finally located Luoyan Island at sea.

But as he approached the island, an inexplicable sense of oppression washed over him.

Zhang Yi grew inwardly alert.

Since awakening [Echo of Time], his premonition of danger had grown increasingly sharp.

"I was only gone for a day. Could something have happened on the island?"

"No, we left the Ice Fog Sea Region without using any electronic communication devices along the way. No matter how capable they are, they couldn't have found our location so quickly."

"If Zhu Yunque and the others encountered trouble, it could only come from pirates in the surrounding waters." Google search Novel-Fire.net

Twin White Owls appeared in Zhang Yi's hands, while two dimensional shields protected him front and back.

With his current strength, even encountering the great pirate Dragon King wouldn't pose a mortal threat.

Anyone trying to ambush him here would be delusional.

Zhang Yi reached the cave where Zhu Yunque and the others were hiding. After carefully surveying the surroundings and finding nothing unusual, he tossed three pebbles into the cave entrance and coughed three times.

Soon, Old Tian rushed out.

"Mr. Zhang, you're back!" Old Tian exclaimed with delighted surprise.

Chapter 907: Encircling to Kill Zhang Yi

Zhang Yi saw Old Tian and felt slightly reassured.

It seemed nothing had happened to the people on the ship, though other dangers might exist around this island.

"Did anything happen during the day I was away?"

Zhang Yi inquired.

Old Tian shook his head: "Nothing happened at all. Everyone has been waiting for your return, Mr. Zhang!"

As he spoke, Old Tian gestured toward the cave: "Please come in and rest!"

Zhang Yi nodded and followed Old Tian into the cave.

But the moment he entered, he immediately noticed something was wrong.

Many people were missing from the cave—Zhu Yunque and some crew members had disappeared.

The next moment, a violent explosion erupted from within the cave!

Zhang Yi snapped back to reality. Before him was Old Tian's eager smile, gesturing for him to enter the cave.

Zhang Yi's gaze gradually darkened.

If not for his Echo of Time ability, that sudden ambush would have killed even him if he hadn't reacted quickly enough!

In that fleeting moment, Zhang Yi figured out many things.

Old Tian and the others couldn't have betrayed him—they weren't foolish enough to use themselves as bait to die with him.

And Zhu Yunque and the others had disappeared.

This meant that after he left yesterday, other people had left this island.

Not only had they taken Zhu Yunque, but they had also set this trap waiting for him to fall into it.

As for Old Tian and the others, they were probably controlled by some ability.

The Old Tian before him now was merely a puppet.

Old Tian continued smiling, "Mr. Zhang, please come in!"

Zhang Yi looked at Old Tian and smiled as he nodded.

"Alright, let's go in."

Soon after, a violent explosion came from within the cave!

Flames shot into the sky. The power unleashed by dozens of tons of explosives in an enclosed environment was incredibly terrifying—the mountainside was blown apart, with earth and rocks flying everywhere!

Several kilometers away, a warship slowly approached.

Gunner held binoculars, watching the massive explosion on the island, a smug smile appearing at the corner of her mouth.

"Success! Even a top-tier Delta-level enhancement-type empowered individual would find it hard to survive the power of dozens of tons of explosives."

"That guy might not die, but he'll lose most of his life force."

She waved to her pirate subordinates, ordering them to go ashore and investigate.

The pirates howled with excitement, rushing toward Luoyan Island in small boats.

But just minutes later, short screams came through the communicator.

Gunner's face showed no particular surprise.

Instead, a pleased smile appeared at her lips.

"So he's still alive after all?"

She never really expected such methods to actually kill that top-tier superhuman from the Jiangnan Region codenamed [Chaos].

But so what?

Right now, the 1st Squadron had already set up an inescapable net around Luoyan Island.

This time, he was definitely going to die!

Suddenly, something flashed before Gunner's eyes.

This fleeting thing appeared extremely slow in her vision.

When she clearly saw what it was, a fanatical fighting spirit flashed in her eyes.

It was a person, a man from the Huaxu Kingdom.

Zhang Yi came breaking through the air, heading straight for Gunner on the ship.

Gunner pulled out that strangely shaped, massive sniper rifle from her back and aimed at the sky.

Zhang Yi used [spatial traversal] again. In just two seconds, he could reach the ship where Gunner was.

But the moment he appeared, a bullet arrived precisely before him.

Buzz—

Zhang Yi seemed to see the space before him ripple like water—that was light distortion caused by powerful energy, creating an illusion of space twisting.

Gunner's speed was astonishingly fast, actually able to capture Zhang Yi's momentary appearance in mid-air.

However, the bullet still vanished into the dimensional space, not harming Zhang Yi in the slightest.

Gunner violently threw off the felt hat on her head, revealing a terrifying appearance.

Her head actually had hundreds of eyes like a dragonfly, densely packed on both sides of her head.

Compound eyes.

With such ability, she possessed superhuman dynamic vision—ordinary people's movements appeared like slow motion to her.

She raised her gun again, still aiming at Zhang Yi in mid-air.

Although her attack was once again absorbed by Zhang Yi's dimensional space.

This way, Zhang Yi couldn't use his [spatial traversal] ability to quickly approach.

"You think this means I can't kill you?"

Zhang Yi raised both hands flat, thirty times acceleration!

The two White Owls fired Origin Bullets, heading straight for Gunner's head!

Gunner's pupils sharply contracted. In her field of vision, the bullets were still too fast to track clearly.

Just as it seemed she couldn't dodge Zhang Yi's shots and was about to meet her end.

At that moment, splashes suddenly erupted from the sea to the side. IF YOU WANT TO READ MORE CHAPTERS, PLEASE VISIT novel—fire.net

Dozens of thick tentacles extended from the seawater, blocking in front of Gunner!

"Thud!" "Thud!" "Thud!"

Over a dozen tentacles were directly pierced through by the Origin Bullets.

But the tentacles' toughness exceeded normal imagination, actually managing to block the Origin Bullets fired by Zhang Yi, saving Gunner's life.

The tentacles wrapped around a black shadow that landed on the ship.

It was a dark-skinned strong man. His sturdy body wasn't tall but very solid, his bare upper torso like forged black iron.

But what drew the most attention was his head full of dreadlocks and the dozens of octopus arms extending from the ends of both arms.

"Be careful, Gunner! He's the top combatant of the Jiangnan Region."

First Mate Naruga of the 1st Squadron said to Gunner.

Beast-type ability user, marine species, ability codename [Killing Octopus].

On Rockflow Island at this moment, Old Tian and the others lay unconscious but completely unharmed in the crater after the explosion.

Although the explosion looked frightening.

Once Zhang Yi was prepared, it was completely not a problem.

The moment he entered the cave, he had wrapped everyone in the cave with the Absolute Barrier Between Two Realms, isolating them from the explosion's power.

Although those people seemed controlled and even tried to attack Zhang Yi, making them lose mobility was very easy for Zhang Yi.

He knew he had fallen into a trap.

But he still intended to meet the trap-setter, to decide whether to abandon everyone and leave, or make one final attempt to save these people.

But when he saw that the arrivals weren't the Colombian Navy but pirates from the Starry Sea Region, Zhang Yi started laughing inwardly.

The worst outcome would be Zhu Yunque being captured, with information about Zhang Yi already obtained by the enemy.

However, Zhang Yi's personal data was core confidential information of Blizzard City. Given Zhu Zheng's way of doing things, he wouldn't allow a rookie like Zhu Yunque to access it.

Moreover, Blizzard City didn't fully know Zhang Yi's true core secrets either.

Just from these two superhumans daring to challenge him directly, Zhang Yi knew very clearly—these guys still completely didn't understand their current situation.

Chapter 908: An Empty Threat

Zhang Yi narrowed his eyes, simultaneously holstering his White Owl pistols.

A cyberpunk-style horizontal sword appeared in his hand.

But just as he prepared to strike and eliminate these two pirates who didn't know their place, a voice suddenly rang out from the distance.

"So you're Jiangnan Region's [Chaos], correct?"

"Truly worthy of being among the elite captain-level figures from Jiangnan, with extraordinary strength."

"However right now, you'd better not make any reckless moves. Otherwise, you'll witness this woman's head being separated from her body."

Zhang Yi looked toward the source of the voice.

In truth, he had already sensed that ship's presence.

It was a steel warship, somewhat outdated in design, the type that would be nearing retirement even in Huaxu Kingdom.

But among the many small nations of the southern seas, it remained highly sought-after powerful equipment.

Nirot, captain of the Tianlong Pirate Crew's 1st Squadron, currently sat cross-legged on the main cannon, arms crossed over his chest.

In his hand, he held an iron chain whose other end was fastened around Zhu Yunque's neck.

At this moment, Zhu Yunque lay sprawled on the deck like a dead dog, breathing weakly, her eyes vacant—thoroughly broken in appearance.

Zhang Yi slightly narrowed his eyes.

He could sense that this person before him undoubtedly possessed remarkable strength.

Those who could call out his codename while remaining so composed were truly few.

"Are you the Dragon King?"

Zhang Yi didn't even glance at Zhu Yunque.

Though he had promised Old Zhu to protect her, showing excessive concern now would only constrain him.

At worst, if Zhu Yunque actually died, Zhang Yi would simply apologize to Zhu Zheng afterward.

Presumably, since he offered an apology, Zhu Zheng wouldn't have the heart to blame him.

Nirot shook his head. "No, no, no. While you have some reputation, sir, you're not worth the Dragon King's personal attention!"

"Allow me, Nirot, captain of the Tianlong Pirate Crew's 1st Squadron, to test your capabilities!"

As he spoke, he tugged the chain around Zhu Yunque's neck.

"However, I advise you not to make any rash moves. Otherwise, this Ms. Zhu will lose her life!"

Zhang Yi narrowed his eyes: "You scum, are you threatening me?"

Nirot laughed heartily, sneering sinisterly: "What if I am threatening you? As a captain from Jiangnan Region, you should understand the consequences of failing to protect the commander's precious niece!"

Zhang Yi subtly adjusted his Holy Judgment sword, inwardly sneering relentlessly.

He grew increasingly convinced of one thing.

These pirates' intelligence about him was utterly incomplete.

Otherwise, they wouldn't be foolish enough to say such things!

As soon as Nirot's words fell, First Mate Naruga launched himself from the warship like a cannonball, charging straight toward Zhang Yi!

He actually ran across the water's surface as if on solid ground, speeding toward Zhang Yi while creating massive splashes with each step!

While still dozens of meters away, his arms suddenly shot toward Zhang Yi.

Instantly, dozens of massive octopus arms stabbed toward Zhang Yi like sharp spikes!

Zhang Yi swung his sword with his right hand, dark void energy coiling around the blade.

With a single downward slash, the void energy transformed into serpentine forms that cleanly severed all dozens of arms!

Naruga's eyes flashed with disbelief.

As a sea beast species, his tentacles were extremely resilient, possessing remarkable defensive capabilities.

Yet Zhang Yi had sliced through his tentacles as effortlessly as cutting through tofu!

Naruga didn't dare underestimate his opponent, diving headfirst into the ocean.

Moments later, he created towering waves over ten meters high that came crashing down toward Zhang Yi!

Simultaneously, Gunner in the distance raised her sniper rifle and began her assault on Zhang Yi.

With her dynamic vision, she could easily lock onto Zhang Yi's position.

Moreover, her peculiar sniper rifle fired unusual bullets—white, bone-like projectiles with extreme penetrating power!

Beast-type ability user, sea beast species, [Broodmother] Gunner.

Her bullets were actually sea worms she reproduced herself.

Not only did they possess devastating killing power, but even a scratch would allow them to immediately enter the bloodstream and turn the target into her puppet.

Gunner and Naruga coordinated perfectly from long and close range respectively.

As the two deputies of the Tianlong Pirate Crew's strongest 1st Squadron, both possessed superhuman ability indexes around 8,000 points—exceptionally powerful superhumans!

Unfortunately today, they had misjudged their opponent.

While their attack methods were quite good, they posed absolutely no threat to Zhang Yi, known as [Absolute Defense].

With just a flicker of movement, he already soared hundreds of meters into the air.

Both Naruga's and Gunner's attacks completely missed.

The next moment, Zhang Yi dove headfirst downward, his right hand's Holy Judgment blazing with intense void flames!

Dozens of tentacles shot up from the ocean depths toward Zhang Yi.

But Zhang Yi didn't even bother dodging, allowing those tentacles to pierce into his dimensional space.

Physical attacks were practically useless against him.

"Water Parting!"

As he reached the sea surface, he immediately executed his new ability gained from battling the Fin Dragon.

By filling space with seawater, he could move freely underwater.

From now on, the deep sea would no longer be Zhang Yi's weakness.

Entering the water, his blade swept horizontally—massive black flames arced like a crescent moon, slashing directly toward Naruga in the water!

Naruga's pupils constricted sharply. He hadn't expected that his opponent, clearly a space-type superhuman, could dive underwater to fight him!

But he had no time to escape. The enormous black flames transformed into a gigantic blade edge—so massive that he couldn't escape its cutting range.

"BOOM!!!"

The tremendous sound came not from an explosion, but from seawater rushing violently downward from the surface.

Void power could devour everything, including seawater.

And including Naruga's body.

With just one move, this pirate expert with an 8,200-point superhuman ability index was cleaved in two by Zhang Yi!

Following his principle of not wasting resources, Zhang Yi didn't split his skull, merely decapitating him.

Then he grabbed Naruga's head and burst through the ocean surface.

Witnessing Naruga's instant defeat, both Gunner and Nirot were utterly shocked.

They knew Zhang Yi was strong, but they hadn't expected a land-based superhuman to possess such power over the ocean!

Naruga had actually fought head-to-head against captain-level opponents in the ocean before.

Though he couldn't defeat them, he could always preserve his life.

Of course, this was also related to his opponents' abilities being less effective at sea.

Actually, Nirot's thinking wasn't wrong.

If Zhang Yi had encountered an enemy like Naruga before his voyage, he truly would have been helpless.

But he had battled the Fin Dragon at sea for so long that he had gained extensive naval combat experience.

Nirot already sensed that things were turning bad.

He stepped hard on Zhu Yunque's back, violently yanking the chain restraining her, making her neck jerk upward—the suffocation made her eyes roll back.

"Chaos! Aren't you afraid I'll kill this woman? How dare you resist!!"

Zhang Yi looked at him with utterly emotionless eyes, coldly stating:

"Even if she dies, that would be your doing. What does that have to do with me?"

Chapter 909: Weighing the Pros and Cons

If Zhu Yunque died, Zhu Zheng would harbor some resentment toward Zhang Yi deep down.

Even if he didn't voice it, such feelings wouldn't simply vanish.

However, that wasn't something Zhang Yi needed to consider right now.

His survival through the apocalypse until now hadn't depended on anyone's protection.

If not for his formidable strength, Zhu Zheng would have long used him as cannon fodder, and he'd have died countless times over.

Even if Zhu Yunque died here today.

As long as Zhu Zheng needed Zhang Yi's assistance, he would still treat him with courtesy.

Zhang Yi had thought this through clearly - after killing Naruga, he immediately moved to eliminate Gunner!

In combat at this level, Nirot didn't deploy other pirates either.

Because ordinary pirates would just be throwing their lives away no matter how many came.

After Zhang Yi killed Gunner, his next step would be to eliminate Nirot!

"The head of the Tianlong Pirate Crew's 1st Squadron commander must be worth quite a bounty!"

Zhang Yi licked his lips. "And your essence must be absolutely delicious!"

Since Nirot dared to come hunting him, he must possess squadron commander-level strength.

Nowadays, only commander-level essence held any value for Zhang Yi.

Since they'd delivered themselves to his doorstep, he certainly wouldn't hold back!

By this point, Gunner began to panic.

Nirot also hadn't anticipated that Zhang Yi wouldn't care about Zhu Yunque in the slightest.

Facing Zhang Yi's assault, Gunner used her dynamic vision shooting ability to interfere with his spatial traversal while simultaneously opening her mouth like she was regurgitating. Her throat convulsed several times before she vomited out a massive swarm of white insects from her stomach!

The spindle-shaped insects flew toward Zhang Yi through the air.

The overwhelming white swarm disrupted Zhang Yi's field of vision.

He swung his horizontal blade, and Void Flame cleared the insects before him.

Gunner had already submerged into the water, disappearing without a trace.

Just then, Nirot realized things were spiraling out of control and decided to deploy his final desperate move.

He grabbed Zhu Yunque's head and lifted her up.

Then Nirot roared at Zhang Yi: "Chaos! Since you don't care about this woman's life, then watch her die!!"

After speaking, Nirot threw Zhu Yunque toward a distant pirate ship.

This move by Nirot made Zhang Yi hesitate for a moment.

Originally, if he killed Zhu Yunque, Zhang Yi would have no reservations.

But now that there was a chance to save Zhu Yunque, Zhang Yi actually needed to weigh the pros and cons.

There was no need to plant a thorn in Zhu Zheng's heart.

Even now, Zhu Zheng might claim to understand Zhang Yi's position and promise no future repercussions.

But no one could guarantee how things would unfold later.

Zhang Yi didn't have much time to deliberate.

He turned and performed several spatial traversals to reach that pirate ship.

Just as he reached for Zhu Yunque, a sense of danger predictably struck.

Zhang Yi wasn't surprised at all - Echo of Time would anticipate incoming threats and provide warning.

He had already seen what was coming.

Nirot's warship had launched heavy torpedoes, and the ship's hull was packed with explosives.

The moment Zhang Yi's hand touched Zhu Yunque, he deployed [Absolute Barrier Between Two Realms].

Almost simultaneously, a massive explosion erupted across the sea surface!

The worst part was that while the Absolute Barrier Between Two Realms was active, he couldn't use spatial traversal to escape.

The explosion would continue for quite some time, forcing him to rely on his Dimensional Space to absorb the blast's destructive power.

Nirot stood on the warship's main gun, staring viciously at the roaring explosion's epicenter.

"No matter how strong you are, with extra baggage and two rounds of explosive attacks, you won't come out unscathed!"

Although Zhu Yunque's knowledge of Zhang Yi's abilities was limited, having spent months together, she still knew some information about him.

Under Nirot's electrotorture, she had long since revealed everything.

This young lady had far less backbone than you might imagine!

Therefore, even knowing Zhang Yi's strength, Nirot still believed he held overwhelming advantage.

Even though according to the data, Zhang Yi's superhuman ability index exceeded his by several hundred points.

But true combat veterans scoffed at so-called ability indexes.

In actual combat, influencing factors mattered far more than the ability index itself.

Time, place, and people - all advantages were on his side. How could he possibly lose?

However, there was one thing Nirot genuinely didn't know.

Throughout the entire Jiangnan Region, Zhang Yi represented the most unique kind of existence.

Other superhumans sought ways to enhance their offensive capabilities to defeat opponents more quickly.

Only Zhang Yi focused not on defeating others but on surviving at all costs.

This resulted in the remarkable phenomenon of having a 9700-point superhuman ability index, 9400-point attack index, but a 12000-point defense index.

Nirot had never encountered such a survival-focused superhuman, especially one so cautious yet so powerful.

In the pirate world, everyone was naturally battle-crazed madmen.

So when Zhang Yi emerged completely unscathed from hundreds of tons of TNT equivalent explosions while carrying Zhu Yunque, Nirot's expression changed completely.

Zhang Yi carried the unconscious Zhu Yunque back to Luoyan Island like dragging a dead dog.

However, he didn't let his guard down now.

Those two rounds of explosions had significantly impacted his Dimensional Space.

And he still needed to face Nirot at full strength.

So far, Zhang Yi didn't know Nirot's specific abilities or superhuman ability index.

But the Jiangnan Region authorities previously had intelligence on the Dragon King indicating his ability value reached 9800 points.

As a squadron commander, Nirot couldn't exceed 9500 points at most, lower than Zhang Yi's current 9700 points.

Coupled with Zhang Yi's defensive specialization, after weighing the situation, Zhang Yi believed he still held the advantage.

Though his winning odds were only ninety-five percent, it was still worth fighting!

Zhang Yi estimated Nirot's superhuman ability index at around 9500 points.

But actually, Nirot's assessed superhuman ability index was only 9300 points.

However, Nirot believed Zhang Yi's ability index was around 9500, while he himself held battlefield initiative through positional advantage and first strike capability.

One combatant was aggressive, the other cautious - thus despite the significant ability index gap, an eerie stalemate emerged.

Nirot decided to take the initiative.

With Zhang Yi carrying Zhu Yunque, Nirot believed this would make Zhang Yi hesitate to act forcefully, becoming his burden.

Now was the perfect time to strike!

"Gunner!"

Nirot shouted loudly.

From the seawater, Gunner's face slowly emerged as she transformed into her true form.

She became a bizarre insect creature - her lower body featured a crustacean-like form with hundreds of legs, while her upper body maintained human shape.

Coupled with the hundreds of compound eyes on her head, she appeared extremely grotesque and horrifying.

The sniper rifle in her hand was actually part of her body, connected to her insect nest, now aimed at Zhang Yi in the air!

With covering fire from a powerful sniper, Zhang Yi needed to deploy the Absolute Barrier Between Two Realms for defense.

This consequently locked down his spatial jump ability.

And this was exactly the effect Nirot wanted!

Chapter 910: Thunder God Jellyfish

"If we can kill Jiangnan Region's squad leader-level superhuman [Chaos] here, Dragon King will be extremely pleased!"

"This will also serve as a warning to those insects who've been disrupting order in the Starry Sea Region recently!"

Nirot's body sank slightly, then he shot upward like a cannonball.

Zhang Yi's attention needed to be divided.

His left hand held the half-dead Zhu Yunque - someone he'd finally rescued couldn't be let go, otherwise the pirates might snatch her away, creating another problem.

Additionally, he had to simultaneously watch for both Gunner's sniper rifle and Nirot.

His left hand held the half-dead Zhu Yunque - someone he'd worked so hard to rescue couldn't be let go, otherwise the pirates might snatch her away, creating another problem.

What kind of attack method would a pirate choose by leaping into the air?

Zhang Yi slightly raised his head; the white sun in the sky, though lacking much warmth, emitted a slightly dazzling gleam.

Suddenly, Nirot disappeared from Zhang Yi's sight.

His shadow grew faint - Zhang Yi could no longer see him, yet his field of vision suddenly darkened slightly.

As if the sky had been draped with a thin, transparent veil.

The next moment, Zhang Yi understood what it was.

Something enormous, incredibly enormous, vast and transparent descended from the sky like a fishing net, completely enveloping the entire area where Zhang Yi stood!

But it wasn't a fishing net.

Zhang Yi had also never heard of any superhuman ability that transformed people into tools.

It was a gigantic transparent soft body, rapidly morphing into a spherical shape mid-air, then completely encapsulating Zhang Yi and Zhu Yunque as if trapping them in a fish tank!

Tianlong Pirate Crew, 1st Squadron commander, beast-type ability user.

Ability codename - [Thunder God Jellyfish].

The colossal jellyfish covered an area as large as a small island - truly worthy of being a soft-bodied creature, with an astonishing coverage area when fully expanded.

Moreover, after enveloping Zhang Yi, violent electrical currents began surging throughout the Thunder God Jellyfish's body.

Zhang Yi's eyes narrowed, already understanding what method Nirot intended to use.

Currently, he couldn't use spatial traversal to escape.

Because a high-level Delta-grade sniper was aiming at him.

The moment he appeared outside, he risked being shot.

However, using the Absolute Barrier Between Two Realms to block such attacks carried the risk of energy overload leading to defensive penetration.

Clearly, the opponent had gathered intelligence about some of his abilities and formulated tactics accordingly.

"BOOM!!!"

Nirot wouldn't give Zhang Yi time to think - massive electrical currents gathered from all directions, then launched indiscriminate concentrated attacks toward Zhang Yi inside his body!

The air erupted with dazzling white light almost blinding in intensity.

That powerful electrical current likely carried millions of volts of high voltage!

Zhang Yi activated his combat suit's anti-glare function.

In that instant, he already reached a decision.

"Void Cage!"

With a swing of the Holy Judgment in his right hand, raging Void Power released from the blade's tip, transforming into vast curtains of void energy that rapidly enveloped Zhang Yi and Zhu Yunque.

Inside the Thunder God Jellyfish, lightning flashed and thunder roared. The dazzling white lightning made dozens of nautical miles around radiantly bright, like a gigantic supernova explosion!

However, the thunderous roaring lasted only moments before dissipating.

The black void curtains around Zhang Yi slowly vanished, yet he and Zhu Yunque remained completely unharmed.

Zhang Yi's power originated from the void, capable of devouring matter existing in reality.

In principle, it represented complete nothingness.

Forming a barrier with Void Power created a natural vacuum zone between Zhang Yi and the Thunder God Jellyfish.

Without air as a medium, even if Nirot released electrical currents of the highest intensity, they couldn't harm Zhang Yi in the slightest!

A muffled sound echoed around Zhang Yi.

"Oh? Quite impressive indeed! But can you block this move?"

After these words, Zhang Yi's ears keenly detected a sound resembling mucus squirming.

He slightly raised his head - above him was now entirely the jellyfish's soft body.

On the jellyfish ceiling, a layer of adhesive translucent liquid emerged, secreted from within the jellyfish's body.

The next moment, this translucent mucus fell downward like rain, "splattering" down.

Zhang Yi deployed the Absolute Barrier Between Two Realms.

Only when these liquids fell into the barrier did Zhang Yi discover this was a terrifyingly corrosive fluid.

But this discovery didn't frighten Zhang Yi - instead, a faint smile touched his lips.

Because judging by this corrosion intensity, even if his Dimensional Space were filled with it, it would take considerable time to corrode through.

"Is this all you've got? I overestimated you!"

Zhang Yi had already understood Nirot's attack patterns.

He decided to stop purely defending and begin counterattacking!

The torpedo launcher on his right arm aimed sideways and, combined with his ability, directly launched ten torpedoes!

"BOOM!" "BOOM!" "BOOM!" "BOOM!"

The torpedoes detonated against the jellyfish wall causing violent vibrations, yet after the smoke and fire cleared, Zhang Yi was astonished to discover the Thunder God Jellyfish's body only twisted violently before dissipating the explosion's energy!

"Soft-bodied creatures aren't weak defensively either!"

Nirot mocked.

"Being skilled at defense isn't your exclusive privilege."

As he spoke, the gigantic jellyfish body abruptly descended toward the sea.

The ocean was his true domain.

He intended to drag Zhang Yi down into the deep sea.

Zhang Yi sneered, "This is barely anything yet. Aren't you celebrating too early?"

Since torpedoes proved ineffective, he'd try with his blade!

Black void flames wrapped around Holy Judgment as he violently surged upward!

The black flames spiraled upward, transforming into a sharp drill that stabbed toward the Thunder God Jellyfish's body!

The Thunder God Jellyfish's body bulged upward, actually stretching several hundred meters in length!

"POP!"

Finally, that thick soft body was pierced through by the void flames like a balloon!

Yet Zhang Yi showed no pleased expression - instead, he frowned.

The breached opening was healing at a visible rate.

Nearby soft tissue rapidly flowed over, sealing that wound.

Nirot's unrestrained voice mocked Zhang Yi:

"Though I know you're strong, this is the ocean - my domain!"

"Here, I cannot be killed!"

Having grown up in Tianhai City, Zhang Yi frequently ate seafood and naturally understood how troublesome such soft-bodied creatures could be.

Without hearts or brains, these creatures essentially had no vital points.

Coupled with Nirot's transformed Thunder God Jellyfish being sufficiently enormous, no matter how Zhang Yi attacked, he couldn't completely kill it.

However, such abilities came at significant cost.

Superhumans like Nirot couldn't come ashore - otherwise, their combat effectiveness wouldn't even match deputy squad leader level.

Yet this price bought absolute dominance and formidability on the open sea!