

Ice Age 971

Chapter 971: The Hexagram of Fate

After Baldier finished shooting two rounds of arrows, he did not continue to use the advantage of long-range attack distance to keep hunting.

He cautiously looked into the distance and said in a low voice, "As expected, a troublesome prey indeed!"

The wolf pack beside him also emitted low whimpers, seemingly warning him that something dangerous was approaching.

Baldier patted the head wolf's head and whispered, "Let's go, it's time for us to leave!"

After speaking, he turned and disappeared into the ruins.

The wolf pack also slowly vanished into the thick toxic miasma following his figure.

However, when they left, an astonishing scene occurred.

All traces left on the snow-covered ground were quickly erased as the wolf pack departed, including the lingering scent in the air.

It was as if Baldier and the wolf pack had never been here at all.

An excellent hunter must possess sufficient patience.

When hunting fierce beasts, one shouldn't use brute force to fight them directly, but rather gather intelligence, set traps, and then find the right opportunity for a one-shot kill.

When Hua Hua arrived nearby, it raised its head and wrinkled its nose, but its expression became cautious and confused.

"Why can't I smell the enemy's scent? Master clearly said he should be right around here."

After searching for a long time without finding any trace of the enemy, Hua Hua had no choice but to hurry back to Zhang Yi's side.

At this moment, Zhang Yi was cautiously waiting for Hua Hua's return.

Hua Hua explained the situation to Zhang Yi.

After hearing this, Zhang Yi immediately furrowed his brow.

"No trace of the enemy at all?"

"According to Hermit Boone's intelligence, the person in Hell's Lock who matches this ability should be their third-in-command, Uller."

"And all Boone knows is that he possesses ultra-long-range sniping ability and is an extremely powerful hunter."

Just like the relationship between Zhang Yi and other captains.

Unless the relationship is particularly close, even teammates will keep some secrets about each other's abilities.

Because you never know when you might become the other's enemy.

"Could it be a superhuman with levitation ability? But the hardest part is that not even a scent was left behind. Hmm... that would be quite difficult to achieve. When he uses his superhuman ability, it's impossible to completely eliminate the energy fluctuations in the air."

"Unless he possesses some special ability that allows him to perfectly conceal himself."

Zhang Yi raised an eyebrow, "This is a very troublesome enemy."

Since the apocalypse began, Zhang Yi had encountered many opponents, but he had always been the one scheming against others, making them fight under extremely difficult conditions.

This was the first time he had been attacked without being able to fight back.

For just a tiny moment, he understood how his previous opponents must have felt.

However, this matter couldn't be dragged on indefinitely.

Otherwise, with someone constantly watching him, Zhang Yi's hunting operations would be unable to continue.

He thought for a moment, quickly formulating a battle plan in his mind.

"The enemy's attacks won't stop, he's just waiting for the best opportunity to strike me."

"And the previous attack was merely a probe."

"We can't drag this out too long, otherwise once the opponent learns our trump cards, it will be troublesome."

He looked at Lele: "Lele, don't sleep tonight, stay alert and help me with early warning."

Lele obediently nodded.

Zhang Yi then looked at Hua Hua, a meaningful smile appearing at the corner of his mouth.

"Hua Hua, there's an opportunity to use that armor set that Keran made for you."

Hua Hua immediately tilted its head, "Master, I feel like you're scheming something bad again."

Zhang Yi chuckled, "Don't say that, I've never treated you poorly."

"Alright, here's the plan. If that guy attacks a second time, you charge straight over, clearing the path ahead! Then Lele and I will follow behind you. This is clearly the safest approach."

After Hua Hua enlarges, its natural defense becomes astonishing, and with the armor made by Lu Keran, it essentially becomes a biological tank.

Simply put, Zhang Yi's strategy was to have Hua Hua take point to detect and clear any traps and ambushes along the way.

Then he would bring Lele to follow and directly confront the hidden hunter.

Hua Hua tilted its head, feeling quite speechless about its cunning master.

But considering its own formidable defensive capabilities compared to its master's ordinary human physique, which really didn't have much presence in terms of defense,

it could only lift its chin and say, "Alright then! It's just a pity this dumb dog is too weak, otherwise it should be the one clearing the path."

Lele lay pitifully in front of Zhang Yi, its eyes full of grievance.

But helplessly, it couldn't beat Hua Hua, so it could only endure it.

Zhang Yi held White Owl in his hand, cautiously raised his head, and narrowed his eyes to scan the surroundings.

He had already used military-grade chemicals to eliminate his scent.

Plus, with the surrounding toxic miasma, it was almost impossible for others to track him through scent.

But where exactly had he miscalculated, allowing the enemy to lock onto his position?

"Let's go, find another place to rest!"

Zhang Yi directly opened the Dimensional Gate, then brought Hua Hua and Lele to the central area of Golden Phoenix City.

This area had more buildings, denser toxic miasma, and crucially, tall structures that would allow them to observe incoming attacks from afar.

This location was over thirty kilometers away from where he had been attacked.

If he got attacked again here, that would be quite interesting indeed.

He wanted to see exactly how the enemy was locking onto his position.

...

Baldier hadn't gone far.

He wore a heavy felt hat on his head, trying hard to hide his entire face in shadow, leaving only his chin covered with stiff stubble exposed.

The moment Zhang Yi moved, he detected it.

Once stained with his teammate's blood, the scent of causality would never disappear.

As long as he locked on with the [Hexagram of Fate], even hiding to the ends of the earth would be futile.

The attack range of his Fate Arrow could cover an area of fifty kilometers in radius.

This covered almost the entire toxic miasma zone.

However, no matter how fast, numerous, or powerful his arrows were, he still hadn't managed to kill that prey.

He couldn't even inflict the slightest injury on his target, which made Baldier realize that the other's superhuman ability index was definitely not below his own.

9800 points - this was nearly the peak level for Delta-level superhumans.

As an excellent hunter, Baldier couldn't help but feel his heartbeat slightly quicken.

He took deep breaths, trying hard to calm his emotions, because an overly rapid heartbeat would affect his thinking and senses.

He didn't feel fear, but rather unprecedented excitement.

Like an old hunter in the mountains encountering a beast worthy of being called the king of the forest!

"This might be the hunt of a lifetime!"

Holding the massive compound bow in his hand, he sat on the branch of a dead tree, silently waiting for the deep night to arrive.

Meanwhile, on the snow-covered ground below him, dozens of large gray wolves circled for a while before dispersing with perfect coordination and disappearing into the thick fog.

When the clock showed 2 AM, Baldier slowly raised his head.

In his field of vision, the massive white hexagram in the sky was still shining brightly.

Baldier drew his compound bow, silver light gathering in his palm and transforming into a long arrow.

"Twang!"

As he released his grip, a single arrow split apart, transforming into hundreds of silver arrows that shot rapidly toward the sky!

Chapter 972: Silver Arrows and Silver Bullets

Baldier made his move. In the dead of night, when everyone's guard was at its lowest, he fired an arrow at Zhang Yi from dozens of kilometers away!

One arrow became a hundred arrows.

And Zhang Yi had been waiting for this hidden hunter to strike again.

The moment the opponent attacked, brilliant starlight illuminated the night sky, shining brightly above the toxic miasma.

Zhang Yi "saw" the arrows coming and abruptly stepped out of his tent.

"Hua Hua!"

Before Zhang Yi's words even finished, Hua Hua instantly enlarged, transforming into a massive, ferocious black beast nearly eight meters long and four meters tall.

Every strand of fur stood up like steel needles, while at the same time, the silver metal collar around its neck rapidly expanded, forming a set of silver armor that covered its torso.

"ROAR!!"

Hua Hua's voice thundered like lightning, stirring up a fierce gale as it charged rapidly toward the direction the arrows had come from.

Without hesitation, Zhang Yi drew his two White Owls. Only with thirty-fold spatial acceleration could he barely make out the true form of those arrows.

The two silver pistols erupted with Sacred Silver radiance, violently colliding with the arrows mid-air.

Silver light rained down across the sky, incredibly dazzling.

"BANG!" "BANG!" "BANG!" "BANG!"

The sounds of impact were continuous, yet all of this happened in the blink of an eye.

After deflecting all the arrows, Zhang Yi opened a Dimensional Gate and mounted Lele's back.

"Follow them!"

Zhang Yi shouted with cold intensity.

"WOOF!"

Lele passed through the Dimensional Gate, pursuing the direction Hua Hua had gone.

As long as they could confirm the enemy's location, dozens of kilometers would only take a few minutes.

Hua Hua charged forward like a battle tank, though it remained extremely cautious, using its keen sense of smell to investigate everything along the way.

The intelligent system of Zhang Yi's combat suit could precisely determine the enemy's position based on the arrow trajectories.

So there was no worry about going the wrong way.

Before long, Hua Hua stopped amidst some ruins, its massive claws scraping long marks across the ground.

Its amber vertical pupils coldly scanned the surroundings.

Zhang Yi arrived close behind.

Along the way, they hadn't encountered any traps.

This didn't reassure Zhang Yi—instead, it intensified his unease.

In battles between top-tier superhumans, any carelessness could lead to death.

The fact that the enemy hadn't laid ordinary traps could only mean something bigger was waiting for him.

"Be careful, that guy won't have gone far."

Zhang Yi's gaze swept around the area as he spoke calmly.

"Hua Hua, blow away the mist!"

Upon hearing this, Hua Hua immediately took a deep breath and forcefully exhaled all around.

The fog surged and rolled, instantly clearing a circular area hundreds of meters across.

Deep within the mist, pairs of icy blue eyes silently watched them.

A bowstring was silently drawn to full draw.

Baldier hid in the shadows, his compound bow now completely enveloped by powerful superhuman energy. Silver radiance surged violently across the bow like a storm.

Between his two fingers, an arrow had already taken form. The dense superhuman energy had become almost tangible to the point where it was hard to tell with the naked eye whether it was an arrow formed from energy or one made of steel.

"SWOOSH!"

A faint tremor sounded in the air.

The arrow instantly carved a path several kilometers long through the sky, strikingly visible within the mist.

Zhang Yi detected the incoming attack, but he had already preemptively protected himself, Hua Hua, and Lele with the Absolute Barrier Between Two Realms, covering all surrounding space including underground.

There were simply no angles left for the enemy to exploit.

That strand of silver radiance shot through the air, directly plunging into Zhang Yi's spatial gate.

In the next moment, Zhang Yi felt the tremor of that power.

His pupils narrowed slightly—this arrow's power was at least ten times greater than the previous ones!

And just like the earlier arrows, it couldn't be absorbed, only forcibly erased.

"SWOOSH!" "SWOOSH!" "SWOOSH!" "SWOOSH!"

Silver arrows continuously flew around the periphery of the spherical barrier.

Unless Zhang Yi completely closed the Dimensional Gate, they would keep emerging from his Dimensional Space, solely to locate their target.

However, between them and Zhang Yi lay an entire different world.

So they could never find their target—if not destroyed, they could only fly around futilely outside.

Hidden in the darkness, Baldier's expression turned serious.

"A spatial ability user, and even my arrows cannot penetrate his space."

"However," he drew his bow again, this arrow even more ferocious and its energy more violent than before: "My arrows will never stop until they kill their target! Unless you can maintain this state indefinitely, sooner or later you will be killed by my arrows!"

The second arrow shot through the air, and like the first, continuously shuttled back and forth between the two Dimensional Gates that formed the Absolute Barrier Between Two Realms.

Zhang Yi knew he couldn't drag this out any longer, or he would eventually be worn down by the enemy's locked-on attacks.

"Hua Hua, go out!"

Zhang Yi commanded Hua Hua.

Since the enemy's target was him, not Hua Hua, then using himself and Hua Hua in infantry-tank coordination was the best method to deal with the opponent.

Without hesitation, Hua Hua charged out of the Absolute Barrier Between Two Realms' defensive perimeter, then took a flanking approach, rushing toward the opponent from the side.

Meanwhile, Zhang Yi raised his large sniper rifle, Thunderbolt.

"At this distance, I can snipe you too!"

Zhang Yi actively closed the distance. Although he knew full well this would put him in the enemy's home territory and at a disadvantage.

But with his Absolute Defense capability, as long as both could attack each other in their current environment, he could quickly seize the initiative!

The trajectories of the two arrows had already allowed him to lock onto the enemy's position.

His Mind Domain also immediately expanded.

Sure enough, he saw the enemy hidden deep within the mist.

But it would have been better if he hadn't looked—what he saw shocked him.

Because he "saw" that in the directions around him, there were actually dozens of figures.

Only one figure was humanoid, while the others were all bestial in form, seeming like hunting dogs or wolf packs.

But Zhang Yi didn't need to worry about these things for now.

Protected within the Absolute Barrier Between Two Realms, unless he voluntarily deactivated his ability, almost no one below Epsilon level could harm him.

The dark silver large sniper rifle aimed at the distant hunter. Zhang Yi didn't need to use his eyes to see—once his mind's eye locked on, the bullet wouldn't deviate in the slightest.

And Hua Hua's rapid approach clearly affected the opponent somewhat, disrupting his concentration.

It was at this moment that Zhang Yi pulled the trigger.

Chapter 973: Hawk

Zhang Yi's shot made Baldier take it seriously.

He drew his bow and fired an arrow, which actually hit the Sacred Silver bullet mid-air with perfect accuracy.

But at that moment, the howling wind sound from nearby had already arrived.

Hua Hua charged wildly to Baldier's vicinity, its body like a tank, destroying everything in its path.

Baldier's gaze darkened as seven or eight giant gray wolves blocked Hua Hua's way.

"Meow—"

Hua Hua let out a fierce roar, sharp and piercing, not gentle like when it was with Zhang Yi, but more like a ghost's wail.

It completely ignored those giant wolves and charged straight through them. The poor wolf pups were as fragile as toys before it, directly sent flying away.

It seemed the wolf pack wasn't combat-type mutant beasts, otherwise they wouldn't be so fragile.

Baldier put away his longbow and quietly disappeared into the thick fog.

When Zhang Yi raised his gun to continue shooting, in his Mind Domain, that hunter had vanished without a trace!

Zhang Yi narrowed his eyes. The opponent clearly possessed some powerful method of concealing his presence.

"Planning to escape, are you?"

Strike once and immediately retreat far away.

This was an extremely cunning hunter, more troublesome than Zhang Yi had imagined.

Hua Hua angrily pounced on and killed several gray wolves.

However, after those gray wolves died, they actually turned into specks of silver light, dissipating in mid-air.

They weren't real beasts, but mutant beasts created from superhuman abilities.

Zhang Yi didn't continue pursuing, instead calling Hua Hua back.

He found a place to stop and rest, having Hua Hua and Lele responsible for guarding the perimeter.

He opened his smart system and carefully reviewed the information obtained from Hermit Boone several days ago.

It was intelligence about the Hell's Lock members.

Although incomplete, it would definitely yield some useful information.

Soon, he found information matching this troublesome opponent.

"Vito Baldier, codename [Uller], the hunting god and snow god in Norse mythology. The title indeed matches his abilities."

"Member of the Navy SEALs, powerful sniper, skilled in assassination."

"Abilities unknown, only known to possess ultra-long-range sniping capability. During the ocean standoff period, he hunted over twenty officers and superhumans from the East Sea Region."

After reading the information, Zhang Yi felt somewhat indifferent.

This information wasn't very meaningful to him - he had already learned all this through their two encounters.

But just through this intelligence, he couldn't figure out how to kill his opponent at all.

"Seems not skilled in close combat, though this could also be a facade."

"Main attack methods are mutant energy arrows, powerful but unable to penetrate my Dimensional Gate."

"Although from his currently displayed abilities, he temporarily can't pose a fatal threat to me, he will affect my hunting operations."

Zhang Yi slightly furrowed his brows: "I must think of a way to eliminate this guy!"

But how easy was it to kill a powerful Navy SEALs member on the battlefield?

In terms of battlefield experience, the opponent far surpassed him.

For a moment, Zhang Yi fell into deep contemplation.

On the other hand, Baldier was even more troubled than Zhang Yi.

"A spatial superhuman with flawless defense. I've used my strongest arrows, yet still can't penetrate his defenses. Killing him is much more difficult than imagined."

At this moment, he felt a sense of powerlessness.

It was like using a sniper rifle to ambush a heavy tank.

Even if he got the first shot, all his attacks could only tickle the opponent.

More importantly, he discovered the opponent was extremely cautious, giving him no opportunities at all.

Every time he retreated, the opponent would absolutely not pursue, even though the opponent possessed super high movement speed.

If the opponent really dared to blindly chase him, he could set up traps based on that next time.

"How exactly should I deal with him?"

Baldier was somewhat troubled.

But compared to Zhang Yi, there was one thing he did differently.

From beginning to end, he actively communicated with the Colombian Navy's temporary command center, including providing real-time combat footage.

Then they would provide him with data analysis.

As for Zhang Yi, he hadn't communicated with Li Tianyang's side even once from start to finish.

Baldier transmitted the information he learned about Zhang Yi back, and the command center immediately obtained Zhang Yi's data.

"Superhuman captain from Jiangnan Region, Chaos. Ability is spatial, his ability codename is [Absolute Defense], a superhuman primarily focused on defense. But his personal combat power is also very formidable."

Huo En provided Baldier with Zhang Yi's information.

"Our current information about Jiangnan Region is limited. We only know he can transfer physical attacks to Alternate Dimensional Space."

"However, this ability isn't absolutely invincible. Cadillus previously fought him - as long as the power is strong enough, his space can be forcibly torn open."

Baldier: "..."

He remained silent for a long moment before saying: "But the problem is, I'm not that guy Cadillus. What's the point of telling me this?"

Huo En remained silent for a moment: "I'm just reminding you, this might be useful information."

In reality, the command center couldn't provide Baldier with much help either.

It was like a fully-equipped ADC facing Gwen with her W active - there's nothing that can be done.

However, Baldier had his own assessment in mind.

"I'll solve this with my own methods."

He ended the communication, having made his preparations.

Since Zhang Yi's spatial defense was unsolvable, then he would just wait for his skill cooldown.

He didn't believe Zhang Yi could maintain his skill activation state 24 hours a day.

Even more, he didn't believe Zhang Yi wouldn't sleep for 24 hours a day.

This was a war of attrition. He had absolute distance advantage, so there was no need to rush to defeat his opponent.

Next, he would launch long-range attacks against Zhang Yi at irregular times every day.

Then, use the Da Vinci sleep method for rest.

He could control the battlefield initiative and sleep whenever he wanted.

But because his attacks were irregular, Zhang Yi would have to be constantly vigilant and unable to sleep.

Continuing like this, after three days, five days, even ten days or half a month, he could drive his opponent crazy with torment!

Baldier narrowed his eyes - his vision could still see that hexagram hanging high in the sky.

"Even if your ability is unsolvable, you're still human after all. As long as you're human, you will definitely get tired, anxious, and go crazy."

"Let's see who can outlast whom!"

...

Zhang Yi leaned against Hua Hua, falling into deep thought.

The cat and dog surrounded him like two walls, their stiff fur drooping down, soft and warm.

"If I were that guy, what would I do after encountering an opponent like me?"

"Either use even more powerful attack methods to break through the opponent's defense. But this is extremely difficult to achieve - superhumans below Epsilon level are almost impossible to break through my Dimensional Space."

"Or, stall me and call for teammates. After all, he can lock onto my position. But on Star Island, the number of superhumans who can help him deal with me is extremely small."

"The Colombian Navy wouldn't give up competing for the Divine Source just for me."

"What would I do if I were him? What would I do?"

Zhang Yi suddenly felt the current situation was somewhat familiar.

He couldn't help but recall six months ago, when he was hunting Yuan Kongye in Tianhai City.

Zhang Yi narrowed his eyes: "Could he be playing the hawk-taming game with me?"

Chapter 974: Testing the Limits of Ability

Zhang Yi quickly realized that the hunter hiding in the shadows, Vito Baldia, also known as Hunting God Ullr, would definitely adopt the same strategy as him.

Utilizing his advantage in ultra-long-range combat and his ability to conceal his tracks without being detected, he would engage in a war of attrition.

The opponent was a professional soldier by background, extremely skilled at leveraging his own advantages to secure victory.

Therefore, the opponent would not engage him in direct confrontation.

This point had already been confirmed in the previous two encounters; once he or Hua Hua got close, the opponent's choice was to immediately flee.

It couldn't be determined whether the opponent's close combat skills were insufficient, only that the opponent had no need to take such a risk.

In Zhang Yi's heart, he felt like he had encountered a kindred spirit, a feeling that didn't excite him but instead filled him with immense disgust.

"Right now, the most crucial thing is to break free from this locking attack ability of his."

Thinking this, Zhang Yi immediately deployed the Absolute Barrier Between Two Realms and began taking off his clothes.

He planned to take a proper bath, and after deploying the Absolute Barrier Between Two Realms, it could also isolate the low external temperatures.

After all, the place he was currently in was essentially a separate world from the outside space.

He naturally had more than one set of his combat suit and black battle attire, of course he had spares.

So after taking off his clothes, he took water from his Dimensional Space and meticulously scrubbed his entire body using military-grade odor-eliminating agents.

Only then did he change into a brand new set of clothes.

Even the weapon in his hand was meticulously cleaned by him.

After completing these actions, Zhang Yi had Hua Hua and Lele stay in place, while he used spatial traversal to move several kilometers away.

This was to avoid the scent on Hua Hua and Lele affecting his experimental results.

Zhang Yi found an empty house and settled inside.

A few hours later, the familiar rain of arrows attacked once more.

Zhang Yi's gaze turned gloomy.

He could now completely confirm that the method the opponent used to determine his location was not through scent.

But if it wasn't that, then what could it be?

Zhang Yi raised his pistol, shattering the arrows in the sky one by one.

He knew he couldn't continue like this; the opponent's plan was to use the hawk-taming method, dragging him until he collapsed alive.

Zhang Yi himself was an expert at playing this game; he absolutely wouldn't allow others to treat him this way.

So Zhang Yi changed locations again.

But this time, he activated the Absolute Barrier Between Two Realms, completely sealing himself inside.

Opening a Dimensional Gate didn't consume any special ability energy.

So theoretically, Zhang Yi could keep the barrier deployed indefinitely.

But this time, Zhang Yi waited a full half day, and the familiar arrows never came flying over.

In his heart, Zhang Yi had a vague guess, but he wasn't in a hurry.

He simply continued to maintain the Absolute Barrier Between Two Realms, then leisurely took out some cooking utensils and fresh ingredients, and started hotpot in an empty room.

Meanwhile, far away in the icy, snowy wilderness, Baldia fell into deep distress.

The hexagram in the sky began to blur.

He didn't know why, but he could no longer determine the opponent's location.

"This is impossible! The Hexagram of Fate has locked onto his causality. Unless he dies, the causality won't be erased."

"But why can't I see him anymore?"

Since awakening his special ability, this was the first unexpected situation Baldia had ever faced.

No matter how powerful the superhuman, even John Cadillus, once locked by this move, couldn't conceal their tracks.

The power of causality law wasn't related to strength; it was an inevitability.

But Baldia couldn't imagine that the person whose causality he had locked was, in a certain sense, no longer in this world.

Baldia could no longer sit still.

He stood up from the ground, his eyes flickering, and from the surrounding thick fog, dozens of giant gray wolves approached.

"Go, my eyes! Find our prey for me!"

Dozens of giant gray wolves lowered their heads and emitted low howls, then quickly vanished into the thick fog.

...

Twelve hours passed.

Zhang Yi still hadn't seen the familiar arrows attack.

He finally confirmed that the Dimensional Space could block that locking ability.

"Next, it'll be easier. As long as I continue to deploy the Absolute Barrier Between Two Realms, he won't be able to detect my location."

Zhang Yi stroked his chin, a cold glint flashing in his eyes.

"I now have two choices: turn the tables and find a way to hunt down that guy."

"Or there's a second method: ditch this guy and go hunt others?"

Soon, Zhang Yi rejected this plan.

Given the opponent's ability, as long as he continued operating on this island, he would quickly be tracked down again.

If he didn't deal with Baldia first, dealing with anyone else would be wishful thinking.

"But how can I kill him?"

Zhang Yi fell into deep thought.

"He definitely has a method to lock onto my existence. But what exactly counts as my existence?"

"A part of my body, does that count?"

Zhang Yi suddenly looked up; he felt this method was indeed worth trying.

He subconsciously glanced at his hand and shook his head, then looked at his foot and shook his head again.

"What about hair?"

Zhang Yi pinched his own hair and laughed wryly, "Connective tissue, probably doesn't count as part of the body, right? But it's worth a try."

He plucked two strands of hair and placed them outside the barrier, wanting to observe whether the opponent could lock onto his position this way.

After a long time passed, there was no response at all.

But just then, Zhang Yi heard Lele's barking from outside.

He picked up his gun and went outside to check, only to see the transformed Hua Hua pouncing and killing two giant gray wolves, while the surrounding toxic miasma churned violently, as if something else was retreating.

Zhang Yi immediately deployed his Mind Domain.

Using this method, he immediately detected three more gray wolves in the vicinity, running in different directions.

Without hesitation, Zhang Yi took action, raising his gun and firing.

The three gray wolves hit by bullets instantly disintegrated into silver points of light.

The gray wolves killed by Hua Hua also disintegrated the same way.

"Ability creatures?"

Zhang Yi frowned.

But the next moment, that familiar feeling appeared once again.

A rain of arrows flew toward him from the sky.

Zhang Yi thought for a moment and decided not to use Sacred Silver bullets again; these things were quite expensive, and he'd feel the pinch if consumption got too high.

He drew Holy Judgment. After several confrontations, he had already figured out the power and speed of the opponent's arrows.

He just needed to focus more and increase the power of the Void Black Flames to intercept all those arrows.

"Swish!" "Swish!"

Several slashes cut through the air, weaving dozens of black crescent moons that swept all the arrows clean.

"The previous method lost its effect, so now you're using ability creatures as eyes and ears, is that it?"

"So that's how it is. I think I understand somewhat now."

Chapter 975: Wolves

Baldier's wolf pack didn't possess particularly powerful combat capabilities; they merely served as his eyes.

Hua Hua could easily kill these things, but their only purpose was to help Baldier confirm the enemy's position.

Then Baldier would launch his attacks from afar.

"When I don't activate the Absolute Barrier Between Two Realms, he determines my position through causality."

"When I activate the Absolute Barrier Between Two Realms, he uses the wolf pack as eyes to find me."

"That means no matter what I do, he has a way to locate my position."

"However, these two methods probably can't be synchronized."

Zhang Yi immediately called Hua Hua and Lele, moving to another location.

He was beginning to understand the pattern of Baldier's attacks.

So he wasn't the least bit anxious.

That night, the wolf pack reappeared around Zhang Yi's hiding place.

A gray wolf narrowed its eyes and wrinkled its nose, sniffing the scent of that person.

Soon, arrows rained down from the sky!

Zhang Yi, hiding in the shadows, saw everything clearly.

The arrow rain descended from above, but instead of shooting toward Zhang Yi, they targeted a distant location.

There, Hua Hua was running at extreme speed. Seeing the arrows tracking it, it let out a sharp roar.

"I already know your attack methods."

A cold smile curled at the corner of Zhang Yi's mouth. He leaped down from above, appearing before Hua Hua after several blinks, and immediately slashed out dozens of times!

Black Void Power collided with silver arrows, erupting in brilliant sparks.

Seeing this, the wolf pack turned and fled without the slightest hesitation.

Zhang Yi shot them down one by one with his gun.

Although these were all Ability Creatures that would reappear after being killed, eliminating them at least prevented continued tracking.

Zhang Yi took Hua Hua and Lele, opened the Dimensional Gate again, and traveled over ten kilometers away.

"I've already figured it out. The wolf pack tracks based on scent. These beasts have incredibly sensitive noses."

Zhang Yi rubbed his own nose, while Hua Hua and Lele gave him strange looks.

He called the wolf pack beasts, so what did that make them?

Zhang Yi patted their heads, a profound smile in his eyes.

"I can conceal my own scent and use the Absolute Barrier Between Two Realms to completely block Baldier's sensing."

"But you two can't. The scent on beasts is too obvious. Especially... excrement."

And he had used this very point to experiment on the wolf pack.

Hua Hua carried a urine bag containing his urine.

So when it ran away, the wolf pack would mistake it for Zhang Yi riding on Hua Hua's back.

That's why Baldier's arrows targeted it.

"I basically have it figured out now."

Zhang Yi took a doll from his Dimensional Space and dressed it in the combat suit he had worn before.

"If the wolf pack can lock onto my position through my scent, then I just need to repeat the same trick."

"But urine might not be the most effective. Body fluids work best."

Zhang Yi glanced at his hand, images of countless heroic figures flashing through his mind.

In situations like this, heroes usually gritted their teeth and cut their palms to draw blood.

"Actually, I might not need to use that method."

Zhang Yi shook his head. He found it quite difficult to be harsh on himself.

"But I have other ways to substitute."

Soon, Zhang Yi had everything prepared.

He had Hua Hua carry the dummy outside the range of the Absolute Barrier Between Two Realms, then hid inside a building.

He himself quietly left, observing from a distance.

Sure enough, not long after, the disappeared wolf pack emerged again from the toxic miasma.

They chased the scent in the wind. Whenever Zhang Yi, Hua Hua, and Lele stepped out of the Absolute Barrier Between Two Realms, they would quickly locate their positions.

"Whoosh!"

Hua Hua ran out from the ruins carrying Zhang Yi's dummy.

The wolf pack raised their heads, smelling the familiar scent in the air—the scent of prey!

Soon, Baldier, dozens of kilometers away, opened his eyes.

He drew his compound bow to its full extent and released hundreds of silver arrows toward the distant sky!

He knew this wouldn't kill Zhang Yi, but as long as it consumed Zhang Yi's patience and energy, that was enough.

Hundreds of silver arrows streaked across the night sky. Zhang Yi's tactical visor quickly calculated the opponent's position based on the arrow trajectories.

Without another word, he immediately activated the Absolute Barrier Between Two Realms and charged over before the arrows could land!

He knew his opponent would flee immediately after a failed attack, so he had to seize this opportunity.

He couldn't let the other escape again!

Hua Hua, covered in silver armor, faced the deadly attacks from above, its amber and ice-blue pupils filled with vigilance.

It let out a "meow—" and accelerated to its maximum speed, almost becoming a blur.

"Whoosh!" "Whoosh!" "Whoosh!"

Arrows descended from the sky, continuously targeting the dummy on Hua Hua's back.

No matter how fast Hua Hua was, it couldn't escape the arrows that tracked the scent.

Baldier kept his eyes closed. The wolf pack were his eyes, and the arrows carried his will.

So his arrows could only be severed, but they would never miss, relentlessly pursuing the enemy until death!

Hua Hua charged recklessly through the ruins, tangling with the hundreds of arrows.

But while it was fast, the arrows weren't slow either.

They wove into a large net in the air, descending like a cage!

"Thud!"

A silver arrow pierced through the dummy's body.

Baldier paused slightly, then immediately grew alert.

He knew his opponent's capabilities—they couldn't be so easily pierced by a simple arrow.

Either his opponent was testing him, or—this was a trap prepared for him!

But by the time he understood everything, it was already too late.

The time Hua Hua had bought was enough for Zhang Yi to arrive at full speed.

And Zhang Yi, within the barrier, moved silently, not even stirring the wind.

He had finally found Baldier!

"Die!"

Zhang Yi raised his Thunderbolt. Where his mind focused, no aiming was needed. A Sacred Silver bullet condensed with formidable power shot toward Baldier's head!

As a top-tier hunter and soldier, Baldier could sense the danger of the headshot.

The hair on his back stood straight up. In that split second, there was no time to draw his bow!

"Bang!!"

A clear, explosive sound echoed deep within the toxic miasma.

That wasn't the sound of the bullet firing—Zhang Yi's ability could erase the explosive noise caused by spatial vibrations.

That sound came from the bullet striking a hard object.

Baldier's feet plowed two deep furrows in the ground. His hands gripped his compound bow tightly, holding it before his head.

On the bow's body, a small but deep dent remained.

The compound bow made of Adamantium had actually been deeply dented by Zhang Yi's single shot!

Chapter 976: Compound X

"You're already dead."

Zhang Yi said this to Baldier.

For this hunter, Zhang Yi held some respect in his heart.

Because like him, the other party was a shrewd and patient hunter.

Even purely from a hunting perspective, his abilities surpassed Zhang Yi's.

However, currently on the entire Star Island, unless Epsilon-level superhumans joined the fray, no one could break through Zhang Yi's Absolute Defense.

Appreciation aside, killing was still necessary.

Baldier's eyes stared fixedly at Zhang Yi like a venomous snake.

He had already realized that he had fallen into Zhang Yi's trap.

Once a top-tier hunter was engaged in close combat, his greatest advantage vanished completely.

Therefore, what followed was bound to be a fierce battle.

Baldier immediately opened communication with the command center to transmit real-time footage back.

Even if he were defeated, he could still provide headquarters with information about the person before him.

At the command center, Huo En and others saw Baldier's real-time communication and all gathered around.

"What's happening with Uller?"

"He has an enemy before him. This guy should be the Jiangnan Region's [Chaos]!"

Everyone stared intently at the three-dimensional projection before them, also realizing that Baldier was in a difficult fight.

But currently, they couldn't provide any assistance.

Because on the directionless Star Island, anyone in danger could almost only rely on themselves.

Even if there were superhumans nearby, it wasn't easy to rush to support in areas without a sense of direction.

Instead, it was easy to become hunted by other enemies in the shadows due to the chaos.

Huo En said gravely, "Uller is Hell's Lock's strongest hunter. He can definitely hunt down Chaos! I think this active real-time communication is just to boast about his achievements to us!"

Lieutenant Colonel Keludi echoed, "You're absolutely right. Lieutenant Colonel Uller has never failed in a mission. Chaos will become a brand new gold star on his medal of honor!"

As the two spoke, the battle on the battlefield had already begun.

Zhang Yi wasted no words. He knew close combat had neutralized one of the opponent's important abilities.

However, he still didn't know how strong the opponent was in close-quarters combat.

So, he planned to use medium and long-range attacks for probing first.

He put away Thunderbolt, and two White Owls appeared in Zhang Yi's hands.

The large silver-gray pistols, modeled after Desert Eagles, had tremendous power and equally massive recoil, but Zhang Yi could completely erase the recoil's effects using spatial power.

The massive gun barrels aimed at Baldier. Without needing to aim, he raised the guns and fired!

Baldier quickly drew his longbow. Silver radiance flourished as a sky-full of arrows erupted from the compound bow!

"In short-range combat, my bow's power isn't weak."

"Rather, it should be even stronger!"

Baldier, having recovered from the shock of his ambush point being discovered, quickly began analyzing the battle situation and utilizing his own advantages.

He was the Hunting God. Although he always used a bow instead of firearms and was often criticized for being outdated.

But those people simply didn't understand that for powerful superhumans, the mechanical nature of firearms could sometimes become a hindrance.

While bows, which relied more on human power, could achieve the fastest power bursts!

The gunfire from Zhang Yi's hands continued incessantly, and soon two magazines of bullets were emptied.

But Baldier's bow-drawing speed didn't slow in the slightest; his drawing hand almost appeared as a blur.

Zhang Yi slightly furrowed his brows. He had also discovered the problem.

However, this point didn't affect him either.

"Even at medium and short ranges, you still use the bow as your primary combat method?"

His pistols needed reloading, which was indeed a drawback.

But the advantage was that it consumed very little special energy.

Unlike Baldier, who continuously consumed his own special energy to condense arrows.

Moreover, although Baldier could attack uninterrupted, his attacks couldn't break through Zhang Yi's Absolute Barrier Between Two Realms defense.

Zhang Yi directly put away the White Owl in his right hand, and Holy Judgment appeared in his grasp.

"Then, I wonder how your close-quarters combat skills are?"

Zhang Yi violently swung his right hand. Thick Void Power enveloped the entire blade, then transformed into a massive sword aura that slashed toward Baldier!

Baldier had to interrupt his own offense, quickly leaping into the air to evade this attack.

However, the black, flame-like dark substance didn't stop.

It became supple in Zhang Yi's hand.

Like flowing water, like a long snake, it writhed and coiled as it launched another assault toward Baldier!

Baldier continued to flee, but no matter how fast he was, he couldn't be faster than Zhang Yi, who could teleport within a one-kilometer radius.

This area had now become Zhang Yi's domain.

Whether to fight or retreat was entirely Zhang Yi's decision.

Baldier didn't have the qualification to refuse battle!

"Facing this kind of attack method, what will you use to resist?"

While dodging Zhang Yi's attacks, Baldier raised his head to look at Zhang Yi.

He frowned deeply. The current situation was very unfavorable for him.

And the biggest reason was only one: his attacks were completely ineffective against Zhang Yi!

While Zhang Yi's attacks could kill him.

In a sense, both relied on space to fight.

Only Zhang Yi's space didn't exist in this world.

While Baldier's space existed in the present world—he had to create physical distance to ensure his absolute initiative and safety.

When this advantage disappeared, he became as awkward as Zhang Yi being unable to open the Dimensional Gate.

Faced with the pursuit of the Void Black Flames, Baldier had to extend his hand, draw his bow and nock an arrow. A more powerful special energy arrow rapidly formed.

Then aiming at the Void Black Flames chasing him like a venomous snake, he fiercely shot it out!

Dazzling silver radiance burst forth as the bowstring was released!

The moment it touched the Void Black Flames, the shining brilliance directly painted the surrounding sky into two distinctly separate colors of light and darkness.

Zhang Yi's expression showed no fluctuation as he continued attacking with Void Power.

Baldier attempted to create distance.

However, all these efforts were futile.

Given the current situation, one of them had to die for the battle to possibly end.

Huo En's voice came through the communicator into Baldier's ear.

"His Dimensional Space defense isn't unlimited. You must use forceful means to break through it to have a chance to kill him!"

Baldier's eyes turned sinister. "I know."

He gave a command to his combat suit: "Inject X Compound!"

"Order received. Drug hatch opening. Injecting X Compound!"

Inside the combat suit, a hidden compartment located at the heart position opened, extending a syringe that directly injected into Baldier's heart.

Chapter 977: Are you risking your life?

Zhang Yi looked down from above at Baldier. Today, he absolutely had to kill this troublesome opponent!

Otherwise, his plans on Star Island would face massive obstacles.

But when he met Baldier's sinister gaze, a heavy feeling arose in his heart.

Baldier's eyes held the look of someone ready to fight to the death.

The X compound was directly injected into his heart. Through this powerful blood pump, it rapidly circulated throughout his body, and the drug's effects quickly took hold.

Baldier's aura changed in an instant.

Zhang Yi keenly noticed that he had become even more dangerous, as if a wild beast had awakened.

Baldier's eyes turned blood-red, and even his skin quickly took on a terrifying crimson hue.

"Drugged up?"

Zhang Yi instantly realized what was happening.

He couldn't help but admire inwardly that his opponent truly lived up to being a top-tier Columbus Ocean warrior, able to recognize when the situation was turning against him in the shortest possible time.

If this dragged on any longer, Baldier would inevitably face the outcome of having his supernatural abilities completely drained, followed by being killed by Zhang Yi.

Rather than that, it was better to take advantage of his current peak condition, inject the drug, and fight with everything he had!

However, if Baldier wanted to fight to the death, Zhang Yi certainly wouldn't inject Compound-5 to confront him.

Because that would be a completely meaningless action.

"Chaos, come on!"

A turbulent aura erupted from all around Baldier. At this moment, his power had been strengthened to unprecedented levels.

He even carried a faint aura approaching the Epsilon-level.

Now, he felt like a single arrow from him could pierce through the sky!

Even this superhuman before him who possessed Absolute Defense, he could kill him!

But just as he raised his compound bow, ready to fight Zhang Yi to the death.

"Goodbye."

After leaving these words, Zhang Yi turned and left without the slightest hesitation.

After Baldier took the drug, although he would briefly erupt with astonishing combat power, the drug's effects wouldn't last very long.

Even though Columbus Ocean's pharmaceutical technology differed from Huaxu Kingdom's, this kind of drug that overdrafted one's potential would definitely bring massive weakness soon after.

Rather than fighting him to the death right now, it was better to slip away first, then wait for the right moment to come back and collect Baldier's weakened head.

Zhang Yi understood this perfectly clearly.

Baldier was momentarily stunned. He hadn't expected this guy to be so despicable!

"Do you not have even a shred of a warrior's courage? Pah!"

Baldier cursed viciously.

But Zhang Yi completely ignored him.

What warrior's courage? He wasn't a soldier, what did that have to do with him?

After he killed Baldier and reported back to the command center, how the story would be told would be entirely up to him!

In an instant, Zhang Yi had already traveled a thousand meters away.

Baldier instantly completed the process of drawing his bow and nocking an arrow.

This time, his arrow had turned blood-red, a bewitching arrow carrying a demonic, shocking power.

"Whoosh!"

Baldier released his hand, and a red streak of light instantly pierced through the void, chasing directly after Zhang Yi's back!

Zhang Yi didn't have time to perform spatial traversal again at this moment, so he had no choice but to turn and open a Dimensional Gate.

"Swish!"

The crimson arrow disappeared into Zhang Yi's Dimensional Space, soundlessly.

But Zhang Yi quickly opened the Dimensional Gate again.

Because Baldier's arrows were capable of tracking him, they couldn't be left inside the Dimensional Space.

Otherwise, when Baldier launched his second attack, Zhang Yi would find himself in a dilemma.

The crimson arrow swiftly flew out from the Dimensional Space, heading straight for Zhang Yi.

Zhang Yi raised the long sword in his hand and slashed down hard with it!

BOOM!!!

Crimson blood light and black light shot skyward, triggering a violent explosion.

The two forces canceled each other out, and Zhang Yi retreated several hundred meters to avoid secondary damage from the explosion.

Baldier's eyes turned sinister, "Even this can't injure you? Is this the ability of the Jiangnan Region's top combatant, Absolute Defense?"

But this time, he clearly had the upper hand, because his abilities were starting to make Zhang Yi somewhat flustered.

Baldier crouched low, and around his body, blood-colored smoke slowly began to spread.

Then that blood-colored smoke rapidly solidified, transforming into hundreds of blood-colored giant wolves!

Baldier aimed his longbow at Zhang Yi, which also put considerable pressure on Zhang Yi.

Between two instances of spatial traversal, there would be a brief interval of less than a second.

But for a top-tier sniper, this interval was completely sufficient to capitalize on.

And during this interval, Zhang Yi was very vulnerable and could potentially be hit directly.

At this level, while the defensive capability of combat suits couldn't be called negligible, they definitely couldn't withstand fatal injuries.

Now, instead, Zhang Yi found himself forced to remain in place, unable to use spatial traversal to escape.

Hundreds of blood-colored giant wolves charged toward Zhang Yi at high speed, quickly surrounding him in the center.

But at this moment, Zhang Yi's helper Hua Hua also arrived.

It charged forward like a tank, directly knocking away several blood-colored giant wolves, then stood in front of Zhang Yi.

Zhang Yi glanced at it but only said calmly, "You deal with the wolf pack! I'll handle that guy."

"No need to fight to the death. He's drugged up. As long as we drag this out, he's definitely going to lose!"

Time was not on Baldier's side.

Baldier sneered inwardly. The effects of the X compound could last for half an hour—it was Columbus Ocean's most advanced drug.

Zhang Yi's words meant he believed he could hold out for half an hour.

Baldier naturally thought Zhang Yi was being far too arrogant and overconfident.

He drew his bow with one hand, and death-tinged crimson arrows once again coalesced.

But this time, there were three arrows!

Zhang Yi's gaze sharpened.

Baldier had two types of arrow attacks.

One was the split arrows used for probing attacks earlier, and the other was the sure-kill arrows that concentrated powerful energy.

And now, Baldier was clearly using the latter.

"Your Dimensional Space can only handle one of my arrows. So how will you deal with the remaining two?"

As Baldier spoke, the three arrows in his hand went "Whoosh!" as they shot forth!

The three arrows headed in three different directions—left, center, and right—but all roads lead to Rome. Once they locked onto Zhang Yi, they would pursue him until they were destroyed!

"I'm starting to admire you a little."

Zhang Yi said this.

In his right eye, white light began to appear, and the light rays started to distort.

One Divine Power directly blasted apart the crimson arrow in front of him!

While his right hand used Holy Judgment to shatter one arrow, his left hand opened a Dimensional Gate to trap another arrow.

But just at this moment, Baldier suddenly made a move that Zhang Yi hadn't anticipated.

He planted his longbow into the ground, a sharp dagger appeared in his left hand, and then he charged toward Zhang Yi!

Chapter 978: Twelve Mirror Worlds

In the military, being a sharpshooter is a tremendous honor, only bestowed upon those with the most superb marksmanship skills.

But this doesn't mean snipers are only skilled at long-range attacks.

An excellent sniper often needs to possess powerful comprehensive combat capabilities.

As for close-quarters combat skills, for Baldier, a Navy SEAL, they were ingrained in his very bones.

A cruel smile appeared at the corner of Baldier's mouth.

From the few times Zhang Yi had drawn his blade, he could tell that although Zhang Yi had received professional training, he wasn't truly proficient.

So Zhang Yi wasn't a superhuman strong in close combat.

At the very least, compared to him, a Navy SEAL, he was far inferior.

Therefore, close-quarters combat instead became Baldier's forte.

The three arrows had temporarily sealed Zhang Yi's Dimensional Space ability while also distracting him.

He was certain Zhang Yi would never expect him to use this move.

In an instant, Baldier had already arrived right in front of Zhang Yi.

His left arm crossed in front of his chest, the thick and powerful limb swiftly slashing toward Zhang Yi's neck.

Crimson superhuman energy enveloped the dagger, making this already extremely dangerous weapon appear even more terrifying.

A look of astonishment flashed in Zhang Yi's eyes.

But soon, it transformed into mockery and derision.

Who said my Dimensional Gates could only open in front of me?

A kilometer away, the crimson arrow that had been absorbed into the Dimensional Space suddenly flew out, then rapidly changed direction, charging toward Zhang Yi once again.

But this brief moment was already fatal for experts.

And Zhang Yi opened another gate right in front of him.

By the time Baldier realized something was wrong, it was already too late.

His arm, following its high-speed movement, had already plunged into the Dimensional Space.

His pupils contracted sharply - he understood that once he entered the opponent's space, life and death would be entirely at the other's mercy.

But at this moment, he couldn't dodge in time because he had used all his strength in this strike, and the Dimensional Gate was right before his eyes.

Just as Baldier's nose was less than a centimeter away from the Dimensional Gate, a sudden change occurred.

Before Zhang Yi's eyes, Baldier inexplicably vanished.

A giant wolf appeared there instead, then abruptly plunged into the Dimensional Space.

"Huh?"

Zhang Yi was somewhat surprised.

But the next moment, he saw Baldier appear several hundred meters away.

Zhang Yi instantly understood what Baldier's ability was.

The numerous giant wolves Baldier summoned didn't actually possess outstanding combat power.

Initially, they only served as Baldier's nose and eyes, helping him track prey.

And now, they had revealed a second function.

Either swapping positions with Baldier.

Or Baldier could transfer his true body to any of the giant wolves at any time, while his original body transformed into a giant wolf.

This was why Baldier would summon hundreds of giant wolves at once, distributing them around Zhang Yi.

Zhang Yi frowned slightly. With this setup, to kill Baldier, he would have to completely eliminate all the wolf packs around him.

However, if he ascended and attacked using the Dark Realm, he couldn't guarantee simultaneously enveloping both Baldier and the wolf packs within the attack range.

After all, Baldier's speed after taking the drug was exceptionally fast, making it entirely possible for him to evade the attack range.

And at that point, Zhang Yi would instead enter a weakened state due to excessive energy consumption.

"No need to rush, let's take it slow! Time is on my side."

Zhang Yi calmed himself down.

Hua Hua continued attacking the wolf packs. Those giant wolves were far inferior to Hua Hua in combat power, and many were quickly slaughtered.

But the wolf packs were exceptionally cunning. As Ability Creatures transformed from Baldier, they didn't engage Hua Hua in close combat, instead doing their best to evade its attacks.

All to buy time for Baldier to kill Zhang Yi as quickly as possible.

Baldier gave Zhang Yi no time to strategize, drawing his bow and nocking arrows once again - three more arrows came flying toward Zhang Yi!

Zhang Yi now had no choice but to activate the Absolute Barrier Between Two Realms, creating a comprehensive, gap-free defense around himself.

But this meant he would become a stationary target, unable to use spatial traversal for movement.

Baldier's eyes were bloodshot - his combat power had now reached Epsilon level.

Knowing time was critical, he frantically drew his bowstring, arrows pouring down like torrential rain from all directions toward Zhang Yi!

And once the number of arrows reached a certain threshold, the Dimensional Space would directly collapse from being unable to bear the excessive energy!

At the Colombian Navy command center, Huo En watched the scene before him and couldn't help but exclaim:

"What incredible defensive power! Even Uller had to use X Compound to suppress him."

Keludi said with a serious expression: "But now, he's definitely going to die!"

X Compound possessed stronger effects than Compound-5, but also came with more terrifying side effects.

The price Baldier paid was the loss of his lifespan and injuries that would be difficult to heal for the rest of his life.

But he considered it all worthwhile because Chaos deserved this level of response.

As a soldier, surviving a brutal battlefield was already the greatest fortune.

Living a few years less was still easier to accept than death, disability, or suffering from terrible post-war syndrome.

On the battlefield, Zhang Yi, protected within the spherical barrier of the Absolute Barrier Between Two Realms, frowned slightly.

Under such relentless attacks, he had no way to dodge.

Streaks of crimson light flashed like lightning, continuously expanding within his Dimensional Space. The powerful energy accumulated like a progress bar filling up.

Once that progress bar filled completely, his Dimensional Space would completely collapse!

Uller held his compound bow, a smile of having caught large prey curling his lips.

At this moment, he believed the battle's outcome was decided - unless Zhang Yi similarly used drugs to boost his power, he would certainly lose!

However, if Zhang Yi did use drugs, well, that would be even better.

Because Zhang Yi, in order to ambush the joint forces' superhumans, was currently positioned within the joint forces' territory.

Even if both of them fought until crippled, any superhuman unit arriving now could finish the job.

But just at this moment, Baldier suddenly noticed a slight smile curling at the corner of Zhang Yi's mouth.

It seemed like mockery, yet deliberately restrained.

"Is this all you're capable of now? If you think this alone can kill me, you have no chance."

"Twelvefold, Mirror World!"

As Zhang Yi's words fell, ten massive Dimensional Gates suddenly appeared in the air around him as the center.

And his body instantly vanished from within the Absolute Barrier Between Two Realms.

The number of Dimensional Gates he could now open was no longer just two, but twelve!

Everyone was progressing, and Zhang Yi was no exception.

Chapter 979: Fall of Stars

Zhang Yi suddenly vanished into thin air, then instantly reappeared from another direction to launch an attack.

The direction he emerged from was precisely behind Baldier.

The light in his right eye twisted as Divine Power activated once more!

At medium to long range, this was Zhang Yi's most lethal killing move!

However, just as the attack was about to strike Baldier, he swapped positions with a giant wolf again, letting the wolf shatter in his place!

Zhang Yi smiled faintly, "You certainly have plenty of eyes!"

All the wolves surrounding them served as Baldier's eyes and ears.

Although Zhang Yi had launched a sneak attack from behind, Baldier had still seen it clearly.

But at this moment, the number of giant wolves was visibly decreasing at a rapid pace.

Hundreds of giant wolves were being hunted and devoured one by one by Hua Hua.

Within five minutes at most, all these giant wolves would disappear.

And Baldier would fall into the encirclement of Zhang Yi and Hua Hua.

Baldier's gaze turned icy cold as he immediately drew his bow and fired at Zhang Yi!

This time, however, Zhang Yi calmly deployed the Absolute Barrier Between Two Realms while simultaneously using spatial traversal.

The increased number of [Gates] meant he no longer needed to deliberately cancel the barrier before using his spatial traversal ability.

His previous actions had merely been deception to lure the enemy deeper.

He only took half a step back before vanishing into thin air.

The next moment, he emerged from another space.

While Baldier could transfer positions using giant wolves, Zhang Yi could achieve the same through his twelve Dimensional Gates.

The only difference was that his Dimensional Gates were formless and intangible, completely undetectable to the naked eye.

In a short time, Baldier couldn't determine how many Dimensional Gates surrounded him.

This also created significant problems for his high-speed movement.

Zhang Yi pulled out two Sacred Silver Grenades and directly threw them at Baldier.

His body shuttled back and forth through the air—though he didn't seem to move much, his shadows appeared everywhere.

It was like an illusion, or as if the area was filled with mirrors, making it impossible to tell which were Zhang Yi's true body and which were reflections.

Baldier's eyes widened sharply; he knew these two grenades were no ordinary weapons and posed a real threat to him.

But the existence of the Dimensional Gates made him hesitant to move recklessly.

In those brief moments, his mind raced at high speed, and he soon observed the flaw in the Mirror World.

Snow fell continuously from the sky, which had become the norm since the Apocalypse.

But with careful observation, one could notice that all the falling snowflakes never reached the ground—instead, they silently disappeared in midair.

Baldier instantly realized that by paying close attention, he could pinpoint the locations of the surrounding Dimensional Gates.

The moment the Sacred Silver Grenades descended, his feet moved, and he fled the explosion zone like a phantom!

A deafening roar echoed, accompanied by silver light as the explosion covered a space of over a hundred meters!

Baldier avoided the attack, and having discovered the weakness in Zhang Yi's ability, he charged forward rapidly with his dagger in hand.

"Quite clever!"

Zhang Yi also realized that Baldier had detected the positions of the Dimensional Gates.

However—

"I never said the Dimensional Gates' positions were fixed!"

He extended his right hand, and with just a thought, the twelve Dimensional Gates instantly vanished and reappeared in different locations.

Baldier nearly stumbled into one of the gates, forcing him to sacrifice another giant wolf for displacement.

Holding the massive compound bow in one hand and his dagger in the other, his blood-red eyes now showed a trace of solemn intensity.

Even after injecting the X Compound, he still hadn't managed to quickly eliminate Chaos as he had imagined.

Could it be that his opponent's strength far surpassed his own?

At the command center of the Colombian Navy, seeing the battle turning unfavorable for Baldier.

Huo En and the others began to worry.

"Uller, stay calm! He just has strong defensive capabilities. But no matter how powerful the defense, it will have its vulnerabilities!"

Just then, a slightly mocking voice came from outside the conference room door.

"You sent that guy Baldier to hunt the spatial kid? What a foolish decision!"

"I can't believe I just stepped away to relax with a beautiful blonde, and you managed to create this kind of trouble."

The only person who would dare speak to Huo En in such a tone was none other than the Lord of the Ocean, John Cadillus.

Huo En frowned and turned to look at Cadillus, who approached wearing a blue cloak with a thoroughly "satisfied" expression.

He wasn't wearing his signature hood, revealing his flaxen hair and somewhat frivolous face.

"Cadillus, what do you mean by that?"

Huo En inquired.

Cadillus spread his hands, "I've encountered that guy before. Although I only used a tiny bit of power to capture him alive," he made a "tiny" gesture, "really just a tiny bit."

"But that guy, he actually withstood one of my attacks! I have to say, it's nothing short of a miracle."

Cadillus's words caused the expressions of everyone present to change.

Cadillus was a superhuman with a superhuman ability index of 18,000 points. Even if he wasn't specialized in one-on-one combat, a casual strike from him shouldn't be something a Delta-level could withstand.

If even his attacks couldn't break through Chaos's defense, let alone the fake Epsilon, Baldier.

Of course, Baldier couldn't be compared to a true Epsilon at all.

In terms of actual strength, he could only be considered as touching the boundary of Epsilon level, though higher than Delta level.

And this power would rapidly fade over time.

But the worst part was that when Cadillus entered, the communication line was still active.

So, Baldier had also heard Cadillus's words.

His heart grew even heavier.

Zhang Yi clearly had no intention of fighting him to the death, merely kiting him around his vicinity.

Once the drug's effects wore off from his system, he wouldn't even be a match for an ordinary Delta-level superhuman.

Then, he would be dead for sure!

A sliver of unease began to grow in Baldier's heart.

But Zhang Yi remained completely unruffled, with no intention of hastily ending the battle.

Baldier, having taken the drug, had his combat power boosted too significantly—there was no need to confront him head-on.

Zhang Yi wasn't in a hurry, but Baldier grew anxious.

Baldier gritted his teeth fiercely, thinking: Since things have come to this, without a determination to die, there's no way I can defeat this sneaky bastard!

He began to forcibly drive the superhuman abilities within his body at any cost.

Even more violent crimson energy erupted from him.

He drew his compound bow, the violent energy nearly snapping the adamantium-built weapon!

[Falling Stars]!

"Fall like a comet!"

Torrential power burst forth from the bowstring!

Countless violent crimson arrows shot straight into the heavens—their numbers dense, easily exceeding thousands!

They soared high into the sky, then plummeted rapidly toward the earth below, covering an area of nearly a square kilometer!

Chapter 980: The Man in the Mirror

This was Baldier's all-or-nothing strike. He had to gamble that Zhang Yi wouldn't dare use his Dimensional Space to absorb such a massive volley of arrows.

Even with multiple Dimensional Gates available, it would be impossible to dodge such a dense arrow attack.

Moreover, arrows capable of tracking their targets made briefly sealing them with Dimensional Gates utterly meaningless.

With twelve Dimensional Gates, how many arrows could he possibly seal away?

But once he lost the Dimensional Gates, his defensive capabilities would plummet drastically, leaving him completely unable to evade Baldier's desperate assault!

At this critical moment, Zhang Yi's gaze also darkened considerably.

In the Colombian Navy's temporary command center, everyone's hearts leaped into their throats.

They all knew Baldier was betting everything on this move. Whether they could successfully eliminate Zhang Yi, or at the very least preserve Baldier's own life, hinged entirely on this single strike!

Zhang Yi's eyes turned ice-cold, with a sharp, murderous intent blazing within them.

After executing this ultimate technique, Baldier's energy rapidly weakened.

However, Zhang Yi couldn't possibly withstand this attack head-on, and even absorbing it with his Dimensional Space wasn't the optimal strategy.

So he took half a step back and vanished into his Alternate Dimensional Space.

Thousands of arrows descended from the sky, their kill zone spanning several kilometers in every direction. No matter where Zhang Yi reappeared, he would be instantly hunted down!

Therefore, Baldier wasn't the least bit anxious—he had ample patience.

Yet this time, when Zhang Yi disappeared, he truly vanished.

After the endless rain of arrows fell, they suddenly halted mid-air, ceasing all movement.

Because they could no longer detect Zhang Yi's presence.

Baldier's eyes filled with stunned disbelief.

"How can this be? Has this guy... actually fled?"

According to previous patterns, whenever Zhang Yi disappeared through one Dimensional Gate, he would immediately emerge from another.

So what was happening this time?

Just as he was utterly perplexed, a long, black stream of light appeared in the space behind him, like a sudden scar tearing through reality.

Void Slash!

The raging power of the void erupted violently right behind Baldier!

Having just used [Falling Stars] and distracted by Zhang Yi's sudden disappearance, Baldier failed to react in time to the attack that materialized barely a centimeter behind him.

His combat suit was effortlessly shredded, and his body suffered devastating damage.

"Swap!"

Gritting his teeth against the searing pain, Baldier hastily activated his skill to exchange places with one of his giant wolves.

The wolf was instantly vaporized into specks of light by the slash, but Baldier didn't escape unscathed.

He teleported several hundred meters away, now sporting a massive, gruesome wound across his back that bled profusely, with his spinal bone clearly visible through the torn flesh.

The biting cold wind, carrying the toxic miasma, gnawed at his body.

He had no choice but to quickly command his smart system to inject stimulants and antidotes to restore his stamina.

Fortunately, his combat suit wasn't too severely damaged and possessed self-repair functions. It temporarily ejected repair materials to seal the gap, preventing Baldier from freezing to death.

But the damage Zhang Yi had dealt him was brutally severe.

The moment Zhang Yi reappeared, thousands of arrows shot toward him.

However, what emerged wasn't Zhang Yi's main body—just a single arm holding a sword, reaching out from mid-air.

The instant the arrows charged toward him, he vanished back into thin air.

Within the Alternate Dimensional Space, time flowed at least tens of thousands of times slower than the outside world. Surprisingly, however, human consciousness wasn't bound by this constraint.

This meant that spending just one minute inside felt equivalent to a full year passing externally.

Moreover, one had to endure the agony of their mind racing far faster than their bodily responses, trapped in a near-stationary state.

In the past, Zhang Yi had always used this ability against his enemies.

But later, he further developed this power, transforming it instead into a self-sealing defensive technique.

Because he discovered that as long as he entered his dimensional space and closed the Dimensional Gates, no enemy could locate the entrance to this otherworldly realm, let alone launch attacks against him.

All he needed to do was adapt to the profound loneliness and sluggish sensation inside, where every moment felt like an eternity.

This wasn't an invincible technique.

Staying inside for too long would drive anyone to madness.

Zhang Yi's tested limit was one minute—roughly equivalent to one external year—and even that was only achievable under special circumstances.

After each attempt, his spirit would suffer significant negative side effects.

Yet in combat, using this ability just once could create unpredictable impacts on his opponent.

In duels between masters, victory and defeat could be decided in an instant.

As Zhang Yi submerged into his dimensional space, an alarm clock floated beside him, set for one minute.

The second hand moved so sluggishly it was almost imperceptible.

But Zhang Yi felt no urgency whatsoever—he had an extraordinarily long time to relax and recalibrate.

Although this sensation of extreme sluggishness was torturous, once adapted to, it could become almost enjoyable.

Because he could utilize this extended duration for deep contemplation, carefully strategizing how to counter his enemy.

Outside, Baldier's heart sank into icy dread, unable to comprehend what other bizarre abilities Zhang Yi might possess.

That slash to his back had been the cruelest addition to his current plight.

He planted his longbow into the ground, switching to a dagger to guard against Zhang Yi's potential surprise attacks.

Several seconds later, the familiar assault materialized once more.

This time, it came from above his head.

A black longsword, infused with void energy, descended from above to cleave through his skull!

Baldier's scalp split open, blood streaming down.

But as a top-tier hunter, his reflexes were still sharp enough to counter with a reverse slash of his dagger!

The collision between dagger and horizontal sword produced a deafening clang, with black and crimson energies clashing and dissipating in mid-air.

This time, however, Baldier was forced to his knees under the pressure!

A faint smile touched Zhang Yi's lips.

"Forcing yourself to overdraw your potential—it seems the side effects are hitting faster than expected!"

After speaking, he submerged back into his dimensional space.

He glanced at the alarm clock. According to his calculations, he had one final opportunity to launch an attack.

Otherwise, he would risk falling into temporal disarray.

In fact, he was already somewhat disoriented.

It was equivalent to staying in one place for months, then suddenly having to engage in combat.

But before returning, he issued a command to Hua Hua.

Launch an assault on Baldier!

During his duel with Baldier, he had suppressed him completely, denying him any breathing room.

Meanwhile, Hua Hua had finally finished harvesting the wolf pack.

By now, Baldier was severely weakened.

So, it was time for Zhang Yi's substitute to enter the fray.