

Scavengers 791

Chapter 791: Stinky Egg

Old Chen fired a shot, hitting the hiding Viper Worm with precision. The aggrieved Viper Worm immediately revealed its violent nature, its fierce eyes fixated on Old Chen. Without a moment's pause, it lunged towards him.

At the critical moment—

Old Chen: "Kid!"

Ji You squinted his eyes: "Here!"

A resounding and powerful "Here!"

Ji You took a stance, ready to battle the Viper Worm.

Old Chen, piloting the Mecha, retreated while resisting the Viper Worm's counterattack. Out of the corner of his eye, he saw the kid standing still. Old Chen quickly yelled at Ji You, "What are you dazed for? Run!"

The Viper Worm's attack was fierce. Old Chen, experienced in countless battles, did not fall into a disadvantage, but the Viper Worm's body was full of poison, making a mere touch lethal. This racial talent was simply cheating. Hence, Old Chen carefully increased the distance between them while fighting.

However, this cheating Viper Worm, besides being poisonous all over, was also impervious to swords and guns. Ordinary Particle Cannons couldn't harm it. In addition, its elongated mouthpart suddenly swept towards Old Chen's Mecha.

Ji You: "..."

Damn!

This cheating Viper Worm, its mouthpart can even extend, stretching like a tape measure, instantly reaching thousands of meters. Just when it seemed to hook onto the back of Old Chen's Mecha, Ji You, who had been ready to flee, took a deep breath.

At the urgent moment, Old Chen also realized the danger. He raised his hand, wielding his sword toward the Viper Worm's mouthpart behind him.

Bang!

Old Chen's strike was precise and ruthless!

The Viper Worm quickly retracted its mouthpart.

But!

In an instant, the next second, the Viper Worm's mouthpart split from one into two, two into four, four into eight...

In a blink, hundreds of mouthparts, like the tentacles of an octopus, all grabbed towards Old Chen—

Ji You: "!!!"

Heavens!

This creature, it's totally cheating! What can't it do?

Old Chen took a deep breath, a great sense of crisis engulfing his whole body. At that moment, no one knew better than Old Chen that being entangled by even one tentacle would instantaneously bring countless others.

Run?

Attack?

After checking his energy reserves, Old Chen stared in the direction of the Viper Worm, his eyes chillingly cold...

Rather than letting this Viper Worm cause countless slaughters, it might be better to try and take it down with him. Calculating the feasibility in his mind, Old Chen squinted his eyes, his rough fingers tightly gripping the button.

millisecond.

milliseconds.

milliseconds.

...

Old Chen silently calculated the time, then suddenly—

Whoosh—

Old Chen was startled.

Several Particle Cannons, at an extremely fast speed, almost grazing the Mecha's ears, followed straight after and bombarded the huge body of the Viper Worm.

Bang!

Bang!

Bang!

The Viper Worm, in pain, shook violently, and at that moment, it retracted its numerous mouthparts, bypassed Old Chen, and pounced towards Ji You!

Old Chen: "..."

"Damn!"

"Kid! Why haven't you run yet?"

"Are you sleepwalking?"

Seeing the Viper Worm crazily chasing Ji You, Old Chen felt like he was about to have a heart attack. He quickly chased after him, furiously scolding, "I told you to run, why didn't you run?"

Ji You turned around with a cheeky smile: "Senior, didn't you say we should join forces?"

Old Chen: "..."

Done for.

Not only did he have a heart attack, but Old Chen, who had lived for 280 years, began to feel even the strands of his hair hurting for the first time.

Thinking this, Old Chen calmly raised his weapon, aiming the Particle Cannon at the Viper Worm, cursing, "Where the heck did you spring out from, can you please go away?"

Ji You panted heavily, still chuckling: "Can't send it away."

Old Chen: "..."

Ji You: "Senior, can you stop nagging? Let's join forces and teach this worm a lesson."

Old Chen: "..."

This Iron Fool, really—

So naive, yet so cute.

In that instant, Old Chen thought of his younger self, also a youthful, energetic, passionate, striving, persevering, hopeful child.

In the child's eyes, in her heart, it seemed there were no difficulties in the world, any obstacle, she believed she could conquer. This level 8 Viper Worm, in her view, was nothing more than a slightly taller, more imposing Star Beast.

She—

Has no idea that this worm in front of her is an enemy she could not defeat even if she gave her all.

Old Chen squinted and fired another precise shot.

Bang!

The Viper Worm's attention was drawn by Old Chen.

Ji You got a brief moment to catch her breath and quickly seized the opportunity to put some distance between herself and the Viper Worm.

The Viper Worm lunged at Old Chen, who agilely turned and ran further.

Ji You, the Viper Worm, Old Chen—lined up in a straight line, their positions forming a clever point, with the Viper Worm surrounded by Ji You and Old Chen in the middle; the situation seemed to quickly dawn on it as it realized it was highly disadvantageous.

Thus, the body of the Viper Worm gradually became invisible.

In the blink of an eye, its massive body vanished into the starry space.

Ji You: "..."

Ji You clicked her tongue, asking the nearby Old Chen: "Senior, this bastard, does it really have no weakness?" Covered in poison, fast, capable of invisibility, tough skin impervious to blades and guns, and its mouthparts can produce countless clones...

Old Chen, facing a level 8 Viper Worm for the first time, opened his mouth with a hint of helplessness in his tone, "About its weakness, there is one. Its weakness is its excretory orifice."

Ji You: "Huh?"

Old Chen explained: "But, its excretory orifice is hidden deep in its abdomen, covered by layers of spiky hair, typically, we simply can't pinpoint it accurately."

Ji You: "..."

The invisible Viper Worm aimed to ambush; these two creatures before it complicated matters hugely. First, its pride in its running speed proved ineffective as it could not catch up with these two creatures repeatedly.

Second, these two creatures were cunning, always one attacking and the other running immediately after, constantly switching roles to strike at it. The Viper Worm felt played and decided it must devour one of them. In the darkness, the Viper Worm's sinister and terrifying eyes moved back and forth between Old Chen and Ji You, then after a few seconds of hesitation, it shot out its sharp mouthparts.

Forget the old one.

Snap!

The Viper Worm decisively left Old Chen behind and silently moved in Ji You's direction.

meter.

meters.

meters.

...

In the starry space, the whereabouts of the Viper Worm were unknown, yet both Ji You and Old Chen knew it was hidden nearby, ready to strike at any moment. Both their expressions were extremely serious. Now that the enemy was hidden, it was dangerous to split up to engage the enemy, risking being defeated one by one. Old Chen secretly signaled Ji You:

"Youngster, come closer to me."

Ji You immediately sped up, but just as she moved slightly closer to Old Chen, Old Chen shook all over: "Holy shit!!! Did you fall into a dung pit?"

Ji You: "..."

Recalling the persistent bad smell that wouldn't disperse, Old Chen seemed to suddenly understand, exclaiming, "I wondered where that shit smell in the starry space came from! Turns out it was you, this stinky egg."

Ji You: "..."

Ji You: "Senior, that's too much."

Chapter 792: Debt Forgiven? Impossible

This stink bomb—it has to be you!

It was you!

It was you!

...

In her mind, there seemed to be countless echoes replaying non-stop, making Ji You's whole body tremble uncontrollably. She never expected that by being an honest partner to her senior, she'd be subjected to personal attacks like this.

While on high alert, Ji You murmured, "What's wrong with smelling bad? The stink is my protective color. I'm safe because I stink; it's a stinky glory."

After speaking, Ji You thought for sure that Old Chen would openly mock her for what she said, but to her surprise, Old Chen suddenly asked, "Not bad, got any more for me?"

Ji You: "Huh?"

Old Chen: "Where did you get that Stinky Grass? Get me some too."

Ji You: "!!!"

Ji You almost thought she had heard wrong, and couldn't help but dig at her ears as she asked, "Senior, are you joking?"

Operating the Mecha, Old Chen's detectors were continually rotating around. Upon hearing her, he rolled his eyes and said, "What joke? Kid, quit dawdling and get me some quickly!"

Ji You opened her mouth: "...Senior, hang in there. I'm coming."

Hearing this, Old Chen didn't dare delay. He immediately put on his helmet, donned a protective mask, and even pinched his nose with one hand before finally giving Ji You an 'OK' hand gesture to indicate he was prepared.

Seeing the old senior's setup, with protection measures fully in place, it seemed he was well aware of the potency of Stinky Grass.

For a moment, Ji You felt somewhat regretful...

A stinky bomb was ready to go, and the next second, Ji You squinted her eyes, aiming the deep barrel of the Particle Cannon at Old Chen.

Whoosh—

Bang—

After a faint noise, came the sound of Stinky Grass bomb exploding in the starry sky, splattering thick black goop onto Old Chen's Mecha, soaking him completely. Old Chen nearly suffocated!

The scene froze for a moment.

Ji You lowered her voice: "Senior... are you alright?"

Silent.

Very silent.

Ji You whispered, "Still alive?"

Then suddenly—

"Damn it!"

"It's... a bit... too stinky, isn't it?" Old Chen's lips trembled, his body shook uncontrollably, and his somewhat weathered face turned a shade of pale green.

"Still alive!" Ji You clapped her hands fiercely: "That's great!"

Old Chen: "..."

Old Chen's mouth twitched as he said, "How many big storms have I, Old Chen, weathered in my life? What's there to fear from a bit of Stinky Grass?"

Ji You with stars in her eyes: "Senior, you truly are a role model for our generation!"

Old Chen slightly raised the corner of his lips, feeling proud: "Hmm."

Ji You wiped away the joking demeanor and said sternly, "That'll be a total of 5,251 credit points, cash on delivery, no credit."

Old Chen: "..."

Old Chen took a deep breath, and with a 'you must be joking' look of astonishment on his face, exclaimed, "You're charging for this?"

Ji You glanced sideways at Old Chen and said, "Senior, I have costs to cover too."

Old Chen puffed up his cheeks and glared, sounding rather roguish: "No money, but I've got a life to give."

Ji You: "..."

Ji You never expected that the old senior would turn out to be such a rogue character.

Suddenly——

A terrifying feeling crept over her limbs, and Ji You jumped up, took off running!

The Viper Worm extended its mouthparts, lunging at Ji You, but just at that moment, Ji You instinctively ran away, and as she did, the terrible stink clinging to her body spread in the direction she fled. The Viper Worm happened to land right where Ji You had been standing, and in an instant, it quivered.

Then.

The Viper Worm quickly retreated, pulling away from the spot in a blink.

It glared in the direction Ji You escaped, opened its mouth, and angrily hissed:

"Squeak, squeak, squeak..."

Ji You patted her chest frantically, her heart still racing: "Damn it! That was close! Nearly became worm food."

And also—

I didn't expect the Viper Worm's scream to be so thin and prolonged, just like a rat's, completely at odds with its imposing, terrifying appearance. After running a few steps, Ji You couldn't help but mock it in his mind.

Failing in its strike, the Viper Worm quickly turned invisible and then aimed its attack at Old Chen. But just as it was about to pounce, that familiar stench hit it again!

The Viper Worm's steps faltered.

Old Chen swiftly broke free.

The Viper Worm, infuriated, let out a flurry of squeaks and, in its anger, couldn't maintain its invisibility. In the endless expanse of space, one could see a corpulent worm, incessantly quivering its body bristling with spines and its hundreds of legs.

Its mouth opened, the oral appendages splitting into thousands of strands.

Quivering.

Quivering.

Like an oversized fluffy tail.

Don't say it, but it looked kind of cute.

Ji·Poker-Face·You stared at the Viper Worm in space, sinisterly baring his fangs:

Ahem...

It would be even cuter if I could smash it to death myself.

Then.

Seizing the moment when the Viper Worm briefly lost control, Ji You and Old Chen instinctively moved closer to each other. As they did, they both pinched their noses and said in unison, "You stink."

After that.

Ji You, Old Chen: "..."

The two exchanged glances, deciding that neither had the right to complain about the other. Then, they turned towards the still trembling and roaring Viper Worm. Old Chen gestured: "Attack!"

Hearing this, Ji You narrowed his eyes.

The next second.

Both of them fired simultaneously, and for a while, numerous Particle Cannons bombarded the Viper Worm's belly like money was no object.

Since the weak spot was at the excretory opening in the abdomen, then—

One could only pray for the blind cat's luck to hit a dead mouse, hoping to strike it at least once.

Boom—

Boom—

Boom—

The Viper Worm, having been attacked, came to its senses. It immediately curled up, protecting the crucial area around its abdomen. Then, it grew even more enraged, launching indiscriminate attacks on Ji You and Old Chen.

It vibrated its spines.

Fluttering~

Old Chen's heart instantly rose to his throat: "Careful! It's going to shoot its arrows."

Ji You: "..."

Ji You in disbelief: "It's being a pest now?"

Old Chen: "..."

Old Chen almost got infuriated to death by this brat.

Old Chen: "Shoot the arrows!"

Ji You chuckled: "Got it, got it."

Pfft~

Pfft~

Pfft~

The dense spiny arrows exploded in all directions, mainly targeting Ji You and Old Chen. They were just a hair's breadth away from joining forces when, in less than 2 seconds, they were forced to flee in opposite directions—Ji You to the east, Old Chen to the west.

The Viper Worm pondered for a moment, seeming to consider Old Chen a greater threat, and chased after him.

As he ran, Ji You observed Old Chen's situation and saw the Viper Worm's thousands of oral appendages about to entangle Old Chen, his heart leaping to his throat. But he saw Old Chen adeptly dodged it.

Ji You's heart had just calmed down when, in less than a second, one of the Viper Worm's thin appendages suddenly wound around Old Chen's Mecha Legs.

Ji You: "..."

Old Chen's expression darkened, and he fell silent for a moment before his tone oddly became very calm, "Kid, don't worry about anything, just keep charging towards the Space Station."

Ji You's fingers trembled slightly, he took a deep breath and then suddenly said, "Senior, that, could you please settle the bill, 5251 credit points. Considering our great relationship, I'll just round off the change for you; just transfer me 5250 credit points, okay?"

Old Chen: "..."

Chapter 793: Lao Lai

At the moment a slender proboscis of the Viper Worm wrapped around Old Chen's Mechanical Leg, several more proboscises took the opportunity to quickly follow and tighten their grip, binding Old Chen's Mechanical Leg tighter in mere milliseconds, leaving him unable to escape.

If previously there was a slight hope that he and Ji You could evade the Viper Worm, at this moment, Old Chen had completely abandoned that wishful thinking.

He—

was prepared to fight to the death.

Self-Destruction together with his Mecha, while perhaps not enough to kill the Viper Worm, would surely inflict severe injuries. Given little Ji You's speed, as long as he could hold off the Viper Worm for 5-10 minutes, she could definitely escape the danger.

Could he hold it off for 5-10 minutes?

A doubt like this arose in his mind; after all, it was a level-8 Viper Worm, comparable to an ordinary level-9 Peak Star Beast. Right now, Old Chen was actually feeling somewhat doubtful about his own capability.

But, when he saw the young, tender face of the little one through their connected Holographic Communication from not far inside the silvery-white Wind Wing, a resolute strength surged in Old Chen's heart:

Yes!

Old Chen's chest swelled with boundless pride, thinking that in his old age, to fight to the end against a level-8 Viper Worm wasn't a wasted life after all!

Then—

Old Chen heard that utterly maddening remark from the little cub.

At that moment, Old Chen felt his body almost falter: "What?"

Ji You said: "Elder, no backing out on promises, okay?"

Old Chen: "!!!"

Old Chen tremblingly said: "I'm almost gone, and you're still asking me for a favor?"

Is this something a human would do?

Ji You hummed: "Because you're about to go, I must ask quickly, otherwise, it'll become a bad debt."

Old Chen: "..."

Old Chen slammed the table, not willing to accept this, and loudly said: "I'm not gone yet!"

"Want me, Old Chen, gone?"

"Not possible, even in 100 years!"

After saying that, Old Chen, maneuvering his Mecha, suddenly swung it vigorously. At that instant of high-speed operation, the dozens of proboscises trying to latch on all missed, and at that very second, Ji You's long-prepared Compressed Particle Cannon, whoosh—

Took the opportunity to fire.

Viper Worm squinted its eyes, somehow instinctively sensing a slight danger.

It was also due to the animal's inborn talent that the Viper Worm quickly retracted all its tentacles at that moment.

Boom—

The moment the Viper Worm retracted its tentacles, the Compressed Particle Cannon struck, exploding rapidly. The Viper Worm hurriedly dodged, but due to the explosive fast speed and its large body, several of its tentacles were still injured.

Viper Worm shook its body furiously:

"Squeak squeak squeak!!!"

Old Chen: "..."

Old Chen opened his mouth wide, his fingertips trembling.

But now was not the time to be shocked, the successful escape prompted Old Chen to quickly seize the moment, increasing the thruster's power. His Mecha rushed forth in an instant, quickly widening the distance between him and the Viper Worm, then heading towards Ji You's direction.

With the Particle Cannon compressed and charged into one, Ji You's spiritual power was nearly spent, and as soon as the Particle Cannon fired, Ji You's body swayed slightly, nearly collapsing as she mustered her last bit of strength and roared: "Elder! Pull me—"

Before her words even landed, the Mecha Wind Wing plummeted like a punctured hydrogen balloon, blinking downward.

Old Chen, still a hundred meters away, quickly reached out with the mechanical arm, grabbed the drifting Wind Wing, and brought it back.

Then.

Old Chen picked up the Wind Wing and frantically escaped.

Ji You slumped within the Mecha cabin, gasping heavily, and said: "Elder, if you were a millisecond later, I would have drifted away."

Old Chen laughed heartily: "No worries, if you drifted, we'd just fish you back."

Ji You: "..."

Ji You gasped, "Senior, do you think catching fish is easy?"

Old Chen chuckled, "It's not easy, but I still have to catch it for you."

With an angry Viper Worm chasing behind him, Old Chen maneuvered the mechanical arm, slightly adjusted his posture, lifted the Wind Wing onto his Mecha's shoulder, and ran swiftly. In the starry sky, only streaks of afterimages passed by.

The Viper Worm was not slow either. To facilitate flying, its spines retracted, and its skin became extremely smooth. Its numerous mouthparts merged into one, but now it was even longer and sharper.

Urgent.

Very urgent.

The situation for Ji You and Old Chen undoubtedly became more dangerous, a slight misstep could result in a tragic death swallowed by the beast.

Ji You felt weak and running away was almost impossible in the short term. Old Chen had no choice but to run with her Mecha. Time was too pressing, and he couldn't even spare a moment to pull Ji You into his Mecha.

Dragging a Wind Wing while escaping also burdened Old Chen. This slowed him down as well.

How cunning is the Viper Worm?

It sensed the weakening of its enemies, its eyes flickered, and it suddenly turned invisible again.

Inside the Mecha monitor, the Viper Worm disappeared again, indicating it still had plenty of strength and energy left —

It was even more dangerous now.

Ji You and Old Chen glanced at each other.

Silence.

Then~

Ji You suddenly said, "Senior, in such a good time, we can't waste it. Why don't we continue discussing our debt issues?"

Old Chen: "..."

Old Chen choked and cursed, "You little brat! If you dare bring up money again, do you believe I would immediately throw you to the worms?"

Ji You: "..."

Ji You nearly passed out in frustration, "Senior, this is defaulting! Defaulting is immoral, shameless, laughable, despicable, and deserving a spit-drowning..."

Old Chen bluntly replied, "Same old saying, no money, only life to offer!"

Ji You: "..."

Faced with such a shameless old dodger like Old Chen, Ji You was momentarily out of ideas.

Meanwhile.

In the monitoring room.

Having witnessed the intense battle of wits and bravery between Old Chen and Ji You against the Viper Worm, the middle-aged veteran Old Jiang was so nervous that he almost couldn't breathe. He had to restrain his impulse several times, wanting to jump into his Mecha and rush to the rescue.

But!

Hold!

Must hold.

Old Jiang clenched his teeth, maintaining calm, constantly providing information about the Viper Worm detected to Old Chen and Ji You.

However, the space station's sensors had significant limitations. Firstly, only two sensors could detect the spiritual fluctuations of the Viper Worm. Too few devices meant a limited detection range, and once the Viper Worm turned invisible, its spiritual fluctuations would become extremely weak, leading to potential failure in detection by the devices...

Therefore, once it could no longer detect, Old Jiang could only stare helplessly at the screen.

Helpless.

Powerless.

Weak.

...

This feeling tormented Old Jiang, making him clench his palms tightly. If possible, he would rather join his comrades in battle, not sit idly in the monitoring room, unable to provide any help.

At that moment—

A steady sound of footsteps approached from behind.

Chapter 794: Rescue

Old Jiang was restless when suddenly, steady footsteps came from behind.

Thud!

Thud!

Thud!

This sound was all too familiar; without even looking back, Old Jiang knew it was the Captain and said, "Captain, the situation is quite urgent. Old Chen and that kid, they might—"

might really die.

He couldn't bear to voice the latter part.

On the monitoring screen, the Mecha maintaining high speed gradually began to slow down, while the speed of the Viper Worm quietly increased. Old Jiang, anxious, stood up and said, "Captain, please approve my support mission!"

Baby face remained silent, his eyes calmly fixed on the monitor.

After Old Jiang spoke, a sense of powerlessness overcame him; he somewhat despairingly sat back down, lifted his hand to rub his brow, then straightened himself up again, saying, "I was being overly emotional."

Baby face said indifferently, "Don't let it happen again."

Old Jiang: "Yes!"

Those sitting here must maintain absolute calm to ensure the accurate and timely relay of information.

Old Jiang recognized his mistake and regained his composure, then immediately told Old Chen, "Old Chen, the spiritual fluctuations of the Viper Worm have reappeared at the northwest, 35 degrees angle. The distance to you is only..."

"The spiritual fluctuations have disappeared again."

"Be careful."

After relaying the message, Old Jiang straightened his back, operated two monitoring devices, and continued scanning various directions like northwest and southwest.

Nothing.

Still nothing.

Old Jiang frowned.

The next second—

The mouthparts of the Viper Worm suddenly flashed into view, precisely at the rear flank of Old Chen's Mecha—

Old Jiang clenched his fist!

Baby face's frown was almost imperceptible.

Old Jiang steadied his nerves and asked, "Captain, is a rescue needed?"

Baby face shook his head: "No need."

Old Jiang: "..."

Logically, Old Jiang supported the Captain's decision, but emotionally, he was still greatly disappointed. Putting himself in the Captain's shoes, he would make the same choice. In war, on the battlefield, decisions must prioritize the bigger picture, as individual efforts cannot change the overall situation, but decisions based on personal emotions can impact the entire battle.

Therefore—

Old Chen had fought for over two hundred years and couldn't become a decision-maker.

He himself had fought for decades and couldn't become a decision-maker either.

Because they weren't calm enough, always making decisions based on personal emotions, they couldn't bear the burden of being decision-makers.

Old Jiang slightly closed his eyes...

The next second.

Old Jiang heard a clear voice near his ear: "How is the situation in the southeast?"

It was the Captain speaking.

An old soldier, with a hint of excitement in his tone, said, "The invading Star Beasts are about to be completely annihilated."

Baby face, upon hearing this, said, "Inform them, once the task is completed, head to the southwest for support."

Old soldier: "Yes."

Baby face then asked, "The nine students, when can they enter the Space Station?"

Old soldier replied, "They have successfully returned and are now at the Dock."

Hearing this, baby face's stiff lips curved slightly upward, saying, "Later, arrange for a medical assistant to conduct physical checks on these students." Led by Shen Changqing, grandson of General Shen Chi, and Chu Jiaojiao, niece of Admiral Chu Ba, these students performed exceptionally well, full of vitality and passion yet calm and composed. Truly a delightful group with boundless potential.

Old soldier: "Yes."

Baby face, with a steady tone and orderly manner, issued a dozen more commands continuously and then suddenly changed the subject, saying, "Notify Captain Han Zheng, as soon as he returns to the Space Station, to immediately take over my position."

Old Jiang and all the old soldiers in the monitoring room were shaken simultaneously, and Old Jiang couldn't help but ask, "Captain, where are you going?"

After issuing all commands, baby face's eyes still fixed on the screen, but one hand had already taken off the monitoring helmet and placed it on the desk beside him. Following that, he took a set of protective clothing out of the Space Button. A pair of slender, lean hands began to meticulously put on the protective suit.

Finally, as the last step, he fastened the disciplinary button. Baby face's tall frame, as sturdy as pine or cypress, stood tall and straight...

Upon hearing his subordinate's question, baby face said in an even tone, "I'm going to support Old Chen."

Old Jiang: "..."

Other veterans: "..."

The room fell into silence.

A moment later, Old Jiang said, "Captain, I think this is inappropriate."

Another vet also said, "Captain, please reconsider."

Everyone else nervously looked at baby face. Hearing their words, his facial expression remained unaltered, and his tone showed no fluctuations. He did not respond to his comrades' comments, merely instructing lightly, "Open the emergency passage now, I will depart within one minute."

Everyone: "..."

This was—

No turning back.

Old Jiang and the others didn't speak further. The Captain was currently the only one capable of facing a level eight Viper Worm. If he did not take action, both Old Chen and the first-year rookie would undoubtedly face death.

The emergency passageway, which doesn't go through the Dock, allows direct access in and out of the Space Station. It's usually sealed, only opened during sudden, urgent situations. Being the temporary person in charge of the station, baby face had the authority to demand its opening. Consequently, the warrior responsible for controlling the Eagle Space Station's emergency access promptly opened it.

Afterward,

Baby face stepped up into the Mecha.

Next,

Whoosh—

The Mecha launched.

As Old Jiang and others silently watched, the Mecha swiftly shot into space.

On the other side,

As Old Chen and Ji You were being chased by the Viper Worm and frantically fleeing, their spiritual and Physical Strength rapidly depleted, causing their speeds to slow down. Just as the Viper Worm's long appendage was about to reach them, Ji You, suppressing the tingling sensation on his scalp, asked, "Senior, your Physical Strength isn't holding up, huh? You're tired after running just this bit?"

Struggling to maintain the Mecha's high-speed run, Old Chen immediately retorted, "I'm hundreds of years old, what's wrong with not being able to run?"

Ji You: "..."

Ji You said, "You can't run, and you still have excuses?"

Old Chen said, "I'm old, of course, I have my reasons."

Ji You: "..."

This senior, he's really shameless.

Is this just thick-skinned?

Generally, veterans around two hundred eighty years old would typically carry an aura of respectability, right?

Seeing Ji You's expression, Old Chen, with a twisted mouth, cursed, "If you can, then you do it, here, take the cockpit!"

Ji You screamed, "Stop yelling, hurry up and run, here it comes again!"

Old Chen's expression tightened, and he went full throttle.

Whoosh—

The Mecha leaped forward again, and the Viper Worm's appendage struck empty.

"Squee!!!"

Through the monitor, seeing the irritated and trembling state of the worm behind them, Ji You, patting his chest hard, said, "Senior, look, is that worm cursing us?"

Old Chen stroked his chin, murmured, and said, "I reckon, it has cursed our ancestors back to eighteen generations."

Ji You asked, "Shall we curse back?"

Old Chen: "..."

What is this kid thinking? Sometimes spouting words that leave one speechless, Old Chen, with a headache, said, "Rabbit whelp, talk sense. Show some consideration for an old man of a few hundred years."

Ji You laughed heartily and said, "Senior, if we can't kill it, but instead get killed by it, thinking about it after dying, I would feel pretty stifled. So, I thought, even if we can't kill it, we should at least curse it back to feel better, right?"

Old Chen: "..."

Old Chen said resignedly, "Alright, when you're dead, you won't feel stifled anymore. Just run, run, run!"

Just then, the Viper Worm that had been thrown off, suddenly reappeared and lept—

Chapter 795: A Fight to the Death

The stealthy Viper Worm, silently closing in on Ji You and Old Chen, with Old Chen carrying Ji You's Mecha and maintaining a high-speed run, was now somewhat exhausted. His spiritual power consumption was also extremely huge. The Viper Worm, with its keen senses, immediately seized the opportunity as soon as it sensed a slight decrease in Old Chen's spiritual fluctuations and speed, it sprang at the chance and leaped out.

Swoosh—

Swoosh—

Swoosh—

Hundreds of mouthparts shot out, suddenly grabbing onto the Wind Wings on the back of Old Chen's Mecha.

Ji You: "!!!"

Old Chen: "!!!"

Ji You: "I'm done for."

Old Chen: "You're done for."

Ji You: "..."

Ji You took a deep breath and said, "Senior, you better run now. If it's too late, you won't be able to escape."

Old Chen glanced at Ji You with disdain and said, "You little chicken, you don't even have two taels of meat on you. You're not even enough to get stuck in the Viper Worm's teeth. If I run now, it would catch me in no time to fill its stomach. So, I'm not running."

Ji You was extremely moved: "Senior... I didn't expect you to be such a loyal and righteous senior."

Old Chen snorted through his nostrils.

Ji You grinned and said: "Senior, why don't we talk about a 5250 credit points worth of chat?"

Old Chen choked, gave her a sideways glance: "Talk less, what's there to chat about? Isn't it better for you to save your energy and get up quicker?"

Ji You: "..."

This Lao Lai, not even bringing up the matter of money, it looks like he's planning to default on his debt to the end.

Ji You was still weak all over, slumped in the Mechanical Cabin, unable even to move her fingers. She had contemplated a few times what it might be like to get her Mecha entangled like this, but she never thought that such a tragedy would actually happen to her.

Honestly, the feeling was very unpleasant.

The Viper Worm's mouthparts turned into tentacles, wrapping tightly around. It seemed that in order to avenge its humiliation, it no longer cared about the stench covering the Wind Wings, and in the blink of an eye, hundreds of mouthparts had cocooned the Wind Wing.

And the Viper Worm was ambitious. While holding onto the Wind Wing, it started to approach Old Chen's Mecha.

Old Chen was not completely unprepared, but perhaps he had already resolved himself, and he did not specifically try to prevent the Viper Worm's entanglement.

So—

Soon, both Mechas were cocooned by the Viper Worm.

All of this took place within a mere 2 minutes.

Old Jiang in the Space Station's monitoring room, his heart clenched to the extreme, his pupils both reddened.

Under such circumstances, it was confirmed that Old Chen and Ji You could no longer survive.

Seeing this, the others in the Space Station were also anxious, someone asked: "Old Jiang, do we need to notify the Captain to retreat?"

Going there now would only mean collecting their bodies, and with the Viper Worm's digestion capabilities, even the Captain rushing over might not be able to collect their remains.

Old Jiang's fingertips trembled.

Silence.

A moment later, Old Jiang shook his head and said, "A Level 8 Viper Worm hidden near the Space Station is always a huge threat. If the Captain goes to rescue now, even if... even if..." He couldn't bring himself to say that he couldn't rescue Old Chen and that kid. After a slight pause, he continued in a cold voice, "The Viper Worm has entangled Old Chen's Mecha; it won't be able to corrode or dismantle the Mechanical Shell for at least two to three hours. So... even if the Viper Worm can become invisible, the Mechas can't, and its invisibility is as good as gone. As long as we determine the position of the two Mechas, we can determine its position."

As long as they could pinpoint the Viper Worm's exact location, dealing with it would undoubtedly be much easier.

Old Jiang said, "The Captain won't retreat."

This, they knew. The Captain knew even better than them, which meant—The Captain wouldn't give up this excellent opportunity to kill the Viper Worm.

The veterans in the monitoring room listened and fell silent.

Meanwhile.

Inside their respective Mechanical Cabins, Ji You and Old Chen were lying still, quietly watching each other through the holographic screens of the Light Computer, eyes locked in a stare-off.

Ji You opened his mouth, "Senior..."

Old Chen glared at her, "Don't you bring up the matter of credit points with me!"

Ji You: "..."

Ji You said annoyedly, "Give it back! You old debtor, a total of 5251 credit points, don't you try to wiggle out of it!"

Old Chen: "..."

Old Chen's eyelids twitched, "Wasn't it 5250?"

Ji You, fuming, replied, "That was because I was considering our friendship and purposely rounded down for you. Now that our relationship has collapsed, why would I round it down? I must include it! And I haven't even started charging you interest yet!"

As he spoke, Ji You firmly stated, "No, it has to be included! Now you owe me 5501 credit points!"

Old Chen: "..."

Old Chen didn't want to nitpick about the insistence of the youngster to change the figure from 5251 to 5501, adding exactly one more credit point. He glared at Ji You and said with exasperation, "You're about to die, and you still care about money!"

Ji You huffed, "Even if I'm dying, I have to see this money credited into my account before I pass away, or I'll die unsatisfied!"

Old Chen: "..."

Damn brat.

Truly a die-hard money grubber.

Old Chen asked, "How's your Physical Strength recovery?"

Instantly, Ji You put away his playful smiles and said seriously, "It has recovered by ten percent."

Old Chen looked at her askance, "Only ten percent, why are you so weak?"

Ji You's heart sank, and he retorted, "So what if I'm weak? Does being weak mean I deserve to be looked down upon? The weak have rights too!" He had the demeanor of someone insistently defending his weakness.

Old Chen: "..."

Old Chen waved his hand, "Your Mecha is just a Standard Mecha, two Star Level. The Mechanical Materials aren't high-end. Given the corrosion speed of the Viper Worm slime, it would take about an hour to corrode a hole through the cabin. As for mine, my Mecha is a 6 Star Level custom model designed by a Master, built with high-end Materials. It won't easily be corroded, hmph!"

"At least 8 hours!" Old Chen said proudly when it came to his own Mecha, and then he continued, "So, this worm taking us out will take at least 8 hours. Ah ha~"

"I misspoke."

"It will take 8 hours to take me out. And you?" Old Chen eyed Ji You and hummed, "You'll be dead in an hour."

Ji You: "..."

Ji You gritted his teeth, "Senior, stop talking, or I'll multiply your debt by 10 times! No! By 10,000 times."

Old Chen: "..."

All of a sudden, Old Chen said, "Kid, I just used the method you gave me to compress two Particle Cannons."

Ji You's eyes brightened, "Senior, impressive!"

Having compressed two and still being lively enough to say such infuriating things, Ji You couldn't help but admire him. She lowered her voice and said, "In one hour, I can compress another one."

Old Chen's gaze was profound, "Now, we both save our strength. The moment it breaks through the Mechanical Shell, we fire immediately."

As he spoke.

Old Chen gazed quietly at Ji You and earnestly asked, "Kid, are you ready?"

Ji You: "Yes!"

The world of warriors never succumbs without a fight.

— Only a pledge to battle to the death.

Chapter 796: Undying

second.

seconds.

seconds.

...

After truly facing the fear of death, death itself seemed not so frightening anymore. Ji You's heart became very calm, like the undisturbed surface of a lake. She cast aside all distractions and concentrated her spiritual power on compressing the particle cannon in her weapon reserves.

An ordinary particle cannon posed no threat to the Viper Worm.

But Ji You's all-out effort just now had proven that her self-created compressed particle cannon from Star Network could indeed harm the Viper Worm.

One wasn't enough.

How about two?

Or three?

Besides, when Old Chen was entangled earlier, Ji You's firing of the compressed particle cannon was a bit off due to her worry about hurting Old Chen. Her hands had trembled, leading to a misplaced shot. But this time, Ji You believed her hands would definitely not tremble.

Time stealthily slipped away.

After seizing Ji You and Old Chen, the Viper Worm turned invisible rapidly. It wasn't stupid—it knew this area had human activity and wasn't suitable for lingering. Thus, holding onto Ji You and Old Chen, it sped off.

To a place it deemed safe, where it would completely deal with the two 'worms' that infuriated it so.

Inside two 'cocoon' enveloped by the Viper Worm's mouthparts.

The chatterbox kid had been silent for a few minutes. Old Chen found this unusual and couldn't resist speaking up first: "Kid, why so quiet all of a sudden?"

Ji You glanced at him and kept silent.

Old Chen: "Don't have anything to say?"

Ji You: "Not interested."

Old Chen raised an eyebrow: "Really got nothing to say? Remember, each word we speak now might be one less we'll ever get to say. Who knows if the next second will leave us unable to speak at all, huh?"

Ji You rolled her eyes: "I've got nothing to chat about with a deadbeat like Lao Lai."

Old Chen: "..."

Old Chen was rendered speechless again, and after a few seconds, he rolled his eyes and said, "You know, I'm not in the mood to chat about money anymore."

Ji You: "..."

Damn old man, so crafty.

In the communication screen, the two stingy ghosts wanting money could only glare at each other.

The cockpit was very quiet, but outside the mecha, there were distinct ticking sounds.

Drip~

Drip~

Drip~

The sound of the Viper Worm's remarkably corrosive saliva dripping onto the mecha's mechanical shell. The intelligence of a Level 8 Viper Worm was not to be underestimated; it knew that its saliva wasn't produced infinitely. While aiming to break the mechanical shell, it had chosen a specific spot—nearest to the two 'worms' was the cockpit.

All it needed was to create an opening in the cockpit, and then it could easily consume the two 'worms.'

Confident about this,

The Viper Worm was very confident.

As the Viper Worm hustled away with its two prey toward the other group of little critters, it suddenly lost the scent of its quarry.

Viper Worm: "Squeak squeak squeak!!!"

Ji You muttered sarcastically: "Ah, ah, ah! Where did my prey go?"

Old Chen's eyelids twitched, and he kept quiet.

Viper Worm: "Squeak squeak squeak!!!"

Ji You rolled her eyes: "Damn! Those pesky worms dared to escape from the grasp of the mighty Viper Tyrant? I'll definitely catch you."

Old Chen's mouth twitched, still silent.

The Viper Worm moved around, but couldn't find the other nine 'worms.' For a moment, its tail thrashed even more violently, causing the mecha carrying Ji You and Old Chen to start shaking crazily:

"Squeak squeak squeak!!!"

Ji You smirked: "Little fairy, you've successfully got the Viper Tyrant's attention."

Old Chen, trying to suppress his shaking hand but failing, smacked the table harshly and cursed, "Enough already, you're so boring."

Ji You hummed: "Don't feel like chatting with a deadbeat. I'm just translating the big monster's words to pass the time. What, is that bothering you? If you're capable, then pay up!"

Old Chen: "..."

Old Chen sullenly retorted: "I can't, I'll shut up."

Ji You was at a loss for words.

She conceded defeat.

She also closed her mouth, ignoring Old Chen, and learned through the information fed back by the monitors that Shen Changqing, Chu Jiaojiao, and the others had successfully left. Ji You's lips curved slightly upwards.

My friends, they are all safe.

Immediately after.

Ji You's expression darkened.

What about herself?

When making the decision, out of the ten people, she was certain that she alone could escape the threat of the Viper Worms. Therefore, after comprehensive consideration, Ji You bluntly made the decision to use herself as bait.

But—

She overestimated herself.

Ji You raised her hand, touching her chest: [Xiao You, it looks like your sister might not be able to keep her promise to you.]

She promised to take Xiao You and see the mountains and rivers of the interstellar.

She promised to try her best to create a new body for Xiao You.

She promised to...

Having lived two lifetimes, she owed nothing to heaven or earth and had done right by everyone; the only one she failed was Xiao You, who had given her a new lease on life.

Listening to the ticking sound, and facing the Viper Worms' terrifying spiritual waves, Ji You felt the corners of her eyes slightly moist.

In her mind, the crisp voice of a young girl rang out: [Sister, my biggest dream now is to always be with you. So, sister, every moment of every day, you are fulfilling your promise to me.]

Ji You opened her mouth: [Xiao You...]

A thousand words in her heart, all condensed into two words in the end.

Xiao You's voice was sweet: [Sister, I'm with you.]

Ji You clenched her chest, [Xiao You, I've decided! I'm not going to die!]

—For you, I must not die.

Xiao You nodded softly: [Mhm! Sister, let's not die!]

A light burst forth in Ji You's eyes—

Right at this moment, the swiftly moving Viper Worm suddenly stopped.

The instant the Viper Worm stopped, Ji You and Old Chen distinctly felt countless tentacles wrapping around the Mecha even tighter; through the monitor, they saw the appearance of a dazzling, golden Mecha in the starry sky, as huge as a mountain, and its arrival instantly made the Viper Worm's entire body seize up.

Old Chen frowned: "Captain!"

Ji You glared: "Baby face!"

Old Chen: "..."

Old Chen glared at her: "This is a senior, don't call him whatever you want."

Cough cough...

Though privately, these old soldiers also called him 'baby face.'

Baby face didn't make a sound but quietly took out a huge bow and arrow. He narrowed his eyes, the Mecha's mechanical arms nimbly drew the bow, and countless arrows aimed at two huge 'cocoon.'

Under the cold aura, baby face spoke calmly: "Are you alright?"

Old Chen yelled: "Report to the Captain! Very well."

Ji You shouted even louder: "Report to the senior! Exceptionally well!"

Upon hearing this, baby face drew the bow: "Prepare to evacuate."

Having said that.

Whoosh—

Whoosh—

Whoosh—

arrows shot toward the two 'cocoon' all at once.

Ji You's heart leaped.

Only to hear—

Bang!

Bang!

Bang!

The Viper Worm's layered and densely packed mouthparts, coiling like balls of yarn, were in the blink of an eye filled with countless arrows. Caught off guard and screaming in pain, the Viper Worm immediately retracted all its mouthparts; Old Chen and Ji You took the opportunity to break free and quickly evacuated.

Baby face drew the bow again—

The Viper Worm discarded the two smelly bugs from its mouth and lunged at baby face: "Squeak squeak squeak!!!"

Just then, Ji You, who had already run out a hundred meters, unexpectedly turned back against the anticipations of baby face and Old Chen—

Chapter 797: Stink Bomb

In the starry sky.

The mouthparts of the Viper Worm were stuck with countless arrows, preventing it from unifying its thousands of differentiated mouthparts back into one entity, leaving these wounded appendages exposed in the celestial expanse.

Pain.

This pain was so intense that it robbed the Viper Worm of its calm, its rationality, its sole desire now—to find a place to shake off these damnable arrows—so much so, that it failed to notice two insects it was about to devour had seized the chance to escape.

And they were escaping fast, beyond its grasp!

The Viper Worm thrashed wildly, issuing an enraged screech: "Squeak squeak squeak!!!!!!!!!"

Seeing Ji You and Old Chen successfully distance themselves from danger and swiftly put distance between them, baby face squinted, his huge bow and arrow ready for the second round.

Everything was going according to baby face's plan—

The bowstring pulled taut, stretched tight.

Just as baby face was about to release, suddenly—

The distant Wind Wing suddenly turned back, firing a shot at the agitated Viper Worm!

This completely caught baby face by surprise; he didn't expect Ji You to move so fast. From the moment she piloted the Mecha to make a U-turn to firing the shot, it took less than a second—baby face didn't even have enough time to try and stop her, he could only watch helplessly as it happened!

Baby face: "..."

Old Chen on the other side: "..."

Old Chen with wide eyes: "F*ck! Are you out of your mind, you little bastard! Get back here right now!"

Boom—

Under the bewildered gazes of Old Chen and baby face, the shot fired by Ji You was fast! Accurate! Ruthless!

The Viper Worm couldn't avoid it in time and was hit squarely!

Following a loud explosion, a huge pink smoke emerged in the starry sky centering on the Viper Worm!

Wait a minute?

Pink?

Old Chen, baby face: "???"

As the two men were confused, suddenly—

An extremely noxious stench wafted from the pink Smoke Bomb, spreading all around.

Old Chen: "I..." Damn!

Before he could finish, he hurriedly pinched his nose and covered his mouth.

Baby face, whose face had been unusually composed, showed a crack in his calm at that moment.

He endured for a moment but couldn't hold back any longer, lifting his hand to cover his nose and mouth.

Then, the stench—it was simply too foul, too horrendous, the vilest they had ever encountered in their lives, indescribable by any human language...

Old Chen pinching his nose: "Mmm mmm mmm..."

Stink bomb!

Stinky brat!

Stinky girl!

Old Chen muttered his annoyance and helplessness incoherently as he hurriedly donned his protective gear!

—You little brat! Would it kill you to give a heads up when you're about to pull a Big Move!

Furious!

While Old Chen was frantically equipping himself, he noticed out of the corner of his eye that the Captain was not idle either, and even managed to suit up faster than himself.

This flurry of activity actually took less than 10 seconds, and when the two turned their heads to look back at the center of the pink smoke, suddenly—

"Senior, give me... give me a hand!"

It was the young rogue's somewhat weak voice.

Old Chen's expression changed, and he was about to fly over when a swift figure darted past—it was the Captain, who was quicker than Old Chen and lunged towards Ji You's direction.

Immediately after.

Whoosh—

A rope was thrown into the pink smoke.

Click~

The rope secured around the Wind Wing's joint.

Baby face, with a stern face, yanked hard with his slender arm, and somehow managed to pull the Wind Wing out!

Old Chen exclaimed: "As expected of the Captain!"

The one known as 'baby face with the strength of a mighty King Kong'!

Ji You was dragged out by the baby face senior, who did not dare to relax. His handsome face was void of any emotional fluctuations, his hands were steady, operating his glimmering Mecha to swiftly flee —

Old Chen followed closely behind.

kilometer.

kilometers.

kilometers.

...

The trio was quite a distance away from the pink smoke, but the stench still clung to them like a shadow.

Fortunately, it seemed that even the Viper Worm was dazed by the stink as it could only convulse wildly without giving chase!

Then.

Through the Holographic Communication, Old Chen, trembling hands pointing at Ji You, began to rant: "You little rascal, you've got some nerve! Shall I say you're stupid or just dumb? Are you a Long-haired Pig? You set off the fireworks and didn't run? Do you wish to die that quickly? Staying put there, were you planning to feed the insects?"

"Cough..." Ji You, expelling the stagnant air from her chest, said somewhat uncomfortably: "Cough... Senior, it's not that I didn't want to run, it was... I was momentarily knocked out by the stench."

Old Chen: "..."

Ji You: "I'm wronged."

"Stop!" Old Chen immediately turned away, saying with disgust: "Don't talk anymore, I can smell it through the screen."

Ji You: "..."

Old Chen pinching his nose: "I've lived for two hundred eighty-eight years, and I've never smelled anything so foul!"

Ji You: "..."

Old Chen originally thought this kid would be ashamed, however, the next second, he saw the brat suddenly grin arrogantly, very pleased: "Of course, I am the number one distinguished student of the Material Department from Lanyue Star, and I am the future king who will stand at the Peak of the Universe in the material field! The stink bomb I concocted from materials I personally mixed, of course, it is the ultimate stench in the Universe!"

Ji You grinning: "Senior, have I opened your eyes now?"

Old Chen: "..."

Old Chen cursed: "I didn't want to have my eyes opened to this sort of thing! Also—"

He rolled his eyes: "The stink bomb you made knocked even yourself out, what an exceptional move."

Ji You: "..."

It hit close to home.

When using the stink bomb, she really hadn't expected herself to be nearly knocked out by the smell, missing the best chance to escape. Thankfully, the reliable baby face Captain was there.

Suddenly—

The ever-silent baby face asked: "Did you really make this stink bomb yourself?"

Ji You straightened up and replied: "Reporting to Captain, yes."

Baby Face: "..."

Baby Face: "Not bad."

After a slight pause, baby face continued: "Also, you are not officially enlisted yet, you don't have a formal assignment, and you are not under the jurisdiction of the Legion, so, there's no need to call me Captain, you may address me as Senior, or Uncle."

Ji You: "..."

Uncle—

Calling someone who looked about her age uncle was indeed a bit stressful for Ji You.

"Cough cough..."

Ji You said: "Senior."

Baby Face: "Mhm."

Baby Face then asked: "How many more of these stink bombs do you have?"

Ji You shook her head: "No more."

Hearing this, baby face's tone remained calm: "Is it difficult to make? Can it be mass-produced?"

Huh?

Ji You's eyes suddenly lit up: "Not difficult! Yes, it can be done!"

Baby Face: "Good. I need a hundred. I'll provide the materials, and I'll pay you for the labor."

Ji You: "!!!"

Old Chen: "!!!"

Old Chen couldn't help asking: "Captain, what do you need so many of these things for? It's just stink, nothing else good about it!"

Ji You, upon hearing this, was not pleased: "Senior, I don't like the sound of that, if you don't have the knowledge, you shouldn't just speak nonsense, okay? I'm telling you, my stink bomb, besides being smelly, has no other flaws!"

Old Chen huffed: "You little..."

Baby Face suddenly interrupted Old Chen, saying: "Smelly is enough, also, look—"

Chapter 798: Easy Target

Babyface said somberly, "Look at this—"

Old Chen looked in the direction pointed by Babyface, only to see a cloud of pink smoke and nothing else.

The Viper Worm was shaking vigorously in the smoke, looking lively and unharmed.

Old Chen couldn't figure out, what's the point of this stink bomb, other than being smelly?

Could the Viper Worm really be killed by the stench?

Obviously not.

Also, a stink bomb producing pink smoke? Old Chen was truly baffled, he turned to that brat called Ji You, speechlessly saying, "Kid, what's with the taste for pink? Even six-year-old girls don't like that nowadays."

Ji You: "..."

In the enclosed Iron Plate Space, hearing Old Chen's criticism, Xiao You, the designer of the stink bomb's color, inexplicably blushed deeply. She quietly asked, "Sis, is pink really that ugly?"

Yes!

This stink bomb was a collaborative effort between Ji You and Xiao You under immense tension. They decided they must survive while being wrapped by the Viper Worm's mouthparts! So, they divided the tasks: Ji You was in charge of further compressing a High Energy Compression Particle Cannon, and Xiao You—

Xiao You was in charge of redesigning a special stink bomb!

With the Materials available inside Ji You's Space Button, Xiao You came up with a viable design in the Iron Plate Space and handed it over to Ji You for production once she was sure it could be made quickly with a 100% success rate.

Ahem...

Regarding the sudden decision to use pink, it was Ji You's idea to add color, and Xiao You liked pink, so Ji You added that color.

Ji You with a stern face: [Ahem...nonsense! That cranky old man is blabbering! Don't listen to him! I think it looks great! Pink is my favorite color!]

Xiao You, pleased, blushed and whispered softly, [Yeah, I also think pink is the prettiest ^_^.]

Seeing Ji You remain silent, Old Chen grunted, "See? Even you think it's ugly, right?"

Ji You lifted her eyelids and rolled her eyes, "...Elder, can you talk less? Do you know that nobody likes it when you open your mouth?"

Old Chen: "..."

Old Chen cursed, "You damn brat, ever heard of respecting the old and loving the young?"

Ji You: "Oh really, you're 288 years old, bullying an 18-year-old kid like me, aren't you ashamed at all? So, when are you paying back the money?"

Old Chen: "..."

Old Chen cursed, "Annoying brat, always talking about money, boring, I'm done talking."

After saying that, he turned back towards the center of the smoke.

Meanwhile—

Babyface, throughout, was staring intently at the center of the smoke, not blinking even once.

Actually, the time wasn't long, the conversation among Ji You, Old Chen, and Babyface took less than 1 minute.

At this moment, the smoke still centered around the Viper Worm was still dense but gradually dissipating.

Gradually—

Old Chen's pupils suddenly contracted: "You little brat, you—"

Staring at Ji You, Old Chen's mouth trembled, his voice slightly choked, "You—what kind of freak are you?"

Babyface rarely smiled, "See clearly?"

Old Chen: "I..."

He didn't know how to start.

But—

As the smoke cleared a bit, the body of the Viper Worm reappeared, no longer its dark and slick appearance, but its whole body, even the tiny thorns, were all dyed pink!

This!

This!

This is a giant pink caterpillar!

Comical!

It's truly comical!

The horrifying appearance of the Viper Worm, its plump body, because of the pink color, became especially ridiculous and clumsy, even a bit endearing.

But!

That's not the point!

The point is—

After being dyed, the worm's invisibility abilities were completely nullified! Even if it tried to become invisible, the layer of pink on its surface meant it was still exposed to everyone's eyes!

Unless, it could wash off the pink dye quickly, which clearly, neither the time nor space allowed.

The most troublesome aspect of the Viper Worm was its ability to turn invisible at any time. Removing this ability made it much less challenging.

Old Chen, mouth agape, "You little brat...well done!"

Ji You, proudly lifting her head: "Of course! Who am I? I'm destined to be the ruler at the Peak of the Universe! I said I had to give that worm a taste of color! I had to follow through! How could the words of a ruler be empty?"

Old Chen: "..."

Ji You shouted loudly, "I am the supreme ruler of the Peak of the Universe, my word is my bond!"

Old Chen opened his mouth, "..."

The supreme ruler of the Peak of the Universe, where his word is law.

Very good.

Extremely good.

Youthful kids need to have some dreams, being an old man, he wouldn't crush her spirits excessively.

Also—

What a clever kid!

As soon as the Viper Worm showed itself, Baby Face turned serious, silently drawing his bow again—

Whoosh—

Whoosh—

Whoosh—

arrows swiftly aimed at the Viper Worm's mouthparts!

Bang!

Bang!

Bang!

The Viper Worm was in pain once again, howling angrily, "Squeak squeak squeak!!!"

Rustle, rustle~

Arrows stuck firmly onto the mouthpart, some falling continuously as the Viper Worm thrashed...

After his shot, Baby Face drew his bow again—

Whoosh! Whoosh! Whoosh!

This time still targeting the Viper Worm's mouthpart!

Viper Worm: "Squeak squeak squeak!!!"

Ji You, looking at the Viper Worm's mouthpart resembling a sieve, couldn't help but blurt out:

"Who is it! Who is it! Who? Within 5 minutes, I want all the information on this man!"

Old Chen: "..."

The unfazed Baby Face, hearing Ji You's absurd remark, couldn't help but glance at her.

Ji You raised her hand to scratch her head, chuckling, "Cough cough... Elder, don't panic, I was just loosely translating the Viper Worm."

Baby Face: "..."

Baby Face pulled his bow—

Once.

Twice.

Thrice.

...

Old Chen also used the opportunity to coordinate his actions with Baby Face, and together they temporarily managed to suppress the Viper Worm.

Ji You didn't dare to move, she just stood aside watching for opportunities while also keeping an eye on the surroundings, ready to react and run at the slightest sign of trouble.

Suddenly—

With its thick skin and raw flesh, the Viper Worm shook off all the arrows and lunged fiercely at Ji You!

Ji You exclaimed, "Holy shit!"

You bug, bullying the weak but fearing the strong, huh?

Ji You was about to explode with rage!

Even though she was fully on guard, she never expected the bug to counterattack and not go after Old Chen or Baby Face, whose attacks were the most forceful, but choose her instead?

Just because she was the weakest? Easy to bully?

Sure enough—

This was a truly disagreeable stinkbug!

The Viper Worm leaped up, mouth wide open aiming for Ji You's Wind Wing!

It was not waiting anymore, it aimed to swallow Ji You along with her Mecha in one gulp!

The situation had reached an extreme crisis, just as the gaping maw of the Viper Worm was about to engulf Ji You entirely, Baby Face stored away his bow and arrow and suddenly leaped out!

Old Chen quivered his lips, "Tang Qi—"

Chapter 799: Working Together

The sudden counterattack from the Viper Worm, and the fact that it targeted Ji You who was hiding in the distance instead of Old Chen and Baby Face, took all three people by surprise.

The Viper Worm seemed to have made up its mind to bite off a chunk of flesh and was almost willing to self-harm greatly to inflict severe damage on its enemy. It initially let Baby Face and Old Chen's attacks land on it, and then it dashed forward fiercely. In the blink of an eye, it was behind Ji You, opening its mouth—

Beneath its massive jaw was a dark and bottomless throat, ready to swallow Ji You whole, Mecha and all.

At the moment of crisis, Baby Face piloted his Mecha to rush over, lifting his foot and kicking at the Viper Worm.

Bang!

Under the enormous impact, the Viper Worm was unexpectedly knocked back several meters!

Ji You hurriedly made her escape!

The Viper Worm took a look and didn't care about Baby Face, who posed a greater threat; it immediately chased after Ji You.

Behind her was the terrifying presence of the Viper Worm that followed like a shadow, as well as its frantic squeaking.

Ji You was so angry she wanted to squeak as well.

"Damn it!"

"Viper Tyrant! That's enough!"

"How can you keep picking on the easy target?"

"That makes you not Viper Tyrant, but a Viper Pest!"

...

Ji You ran for her life, her speed already at her maximum, but the Viper Worm's speed was no less than Ji You's. In just a few seconds, it was about to catch up with her when suddenly the Viper Worm rose up and pounced directly at Ji You.

A stench of Stinky Grass mixed with the foul breath from the Viper Worm's mouth hit her face, and with her mouth open, Ji You thought: "I..." Damn!

At the same time, she realized the terrible feeling that disaster was imminent.

The Viper Worm opened its mouth and swallowed the head of Ji You's Mecha—

Ji You: "..."

Old Chen: "..."

At that critical moment, without a second word, Baby Face rushed over and kicked the head of the Viper Worm. However, the Viper Worm almost ignored him, focused solely on swallowing Ji You.

With furrowed brows, Baby Face suddenly leaped up, extending the mechanical arm of his Mecha and fiercely pulling at the head of the Viper Worm, determined to tear it off—

Seeing this, Old Chen's pupils constricted, and he couldn't help but shout: "Tang Qi—"

In his haste, he forgot to call the Captain and directly used Baby Face's real name.

Any warrior who had been on the battlefield knew that the most taboo thing in fighting a Viper Worm was direct contact! Even if wearing protective clothing, hiding in the thick cockpit of a Mecha, there was still a risk of getting poisoned!

Captain—

Tang Qi had completely disregarded his own safety!

Old Chen's eyes darkened, and he made a decision too!

Without any hesitation, he increased the thruster power and charged towards the Viper Worm that was locked in a tug-of-war with the Captain.

The Viper Worm had brute strength and could almost tear apart a well-equipped spaceship with its bare hands. It wanted to swallow Ji You and the Wind Wing, while Captain Tang Qi—Baby Face was tightening his face, clenching his teeth, not giving an inch.

So—

Among the Viper Worm, Ji You, and Tang Qi, Ji You seemed to become the filling of a sandwich, stuck at the edge of the Viper Worm's mouth. If Tang Qi showed any sign of weakness on his side, Ji You and her entire Mecha would fall into the beast's mouth.

Old Chen rushed over to lend a hand to Captain Tang Qi, and the two of them pulled hard at a corner of the Viper Worm's head.

Tap—

Tap—

Tap—

Faced with an unprecedented crisis, the Viper Worm continuously secreted mucus, which was even more toxic than before. The Mecha shells of Ji You, Old Chen, and Tang Qi were constantly being corroded, and the corrosion was happening quickly. Ji You's Alliance-standard 2-star Mecha Wind Wing had already lost a piece due to corrosion!

Crack—

Ji You distinctly heard the sound of puncturing in some part of the Mecha's shell.

Her expression turned stern:

This won't do!

Ji You quickly glanced at Old Chen and Baby Face, noticing that their personalised High Star Mechas were faring much better against the corrosion; only their surfaces were melting and hadn't been penetrated yet.

Her situation was extremely critical. The Viper Worm's venom had dripped into the Mecha through the holes, causing several function keys to malfunction.

Moreover, the Viper Worm's toxicity could attack its prey through the air. Ji You had just inhaled a bit and already felt a bit unwell.

But as she caught a glimpse from the corner of her eye at Old Chen and Baby Face, who were tirelessly trying to save her without regard for their own safety, Ji You's tension, anxiety, unease, and fear suddenly vanished!

[Even until the last one microsecond, there's absolutely no reason to give up.]

Ji You narrowed her eyes and suddenly said, "Seniors, I have an idea!"

Tang Qi said, "Speak."

Ji You immediately responded, "My position is right above the Viper Worm's mouth, and I have a High Energy Compression Particle Cannon in my hands. I'm going to fire it into its stomach! It'll surely deal a heavy blow, and while the Viper Worm is weakened, the two seniors can coordinate to pull me out."

Old Chen anxiously said, "No use, don't bother with that, kid. Spot your chance and get out of here quick! You staying here only encumbers us, making us unable to fight freely, understand?"

Ji You: "..."

That hurt.

Ji You: "Let's give it a try!"

Old Chen said, "I'll try!" It's too dangerous for this kid to try. Even if we wound the Viper Worm, it might be an exchange of life for life.

Ji You: "Senior, did you forget? I'm the one stuck at the bug's mouth, not you, so you don't have the advantage in attacking."

Old Chen: "..."

Suddenly breaking his silence, Tang Qi said, "Let's try it."

Old Chen: "Yes."

Ji You: "Yes."

As soon as they finished speaking, both of them turned to look at Baby Face Tang Qi and said, "Captain/Senior, you were talking about me."

Baby Face said, "Ji You, you do it!"

Old Chen: "Captain—"

Baby Face sternly said, "Try it with confidence, trust me, I will bring you safely out of the blast zone."

Ji You loudly responded, "Yes!"

Tang Qi said, "Old Chen, retreat for now and divert the Viper Worm's attention."

Old Chen: "Yes!"

As soon as Old Chen showed signs of retreating, the Viper Worm started to thrash about restlessly, causing a rumbling all around.

When Old Chen retreated, his movements were swift and decisive, and the Viper Worm, startled, suddenly jerked its head upright. At that moment, Baby Face kicked even harder at its head.

Meanwhile—

Ji You narrowed her eyes, and the long-charged High Energy Compression Particle Cannon was aimed into the depths of the Viper Worm's mouth—

The Spiritual World.

Ji You: "Sisi, this battle, we must succeed, failing is not an option, charge!"

The Six Strands: [Charge!!!!]

Ji You: "Show Viper Tyrant a tough fight! Let it know that Ji Aotian is not to be trifled with! Charge!!!"

The Six Strands: [Charge!!!!]

At the brink of life and death, all Spiritual Silks, including the sturdy and powerful Boss, Second, and Third who were following closely behind Boss, the sly and slippery Fourth who always shirked responsibility, the honest and simple Old Five, as well as Sixth who swayed like grass in the wind...

All were fully spirited, coordinated in their efforts, aiming at the depths of the Viper Worm's mouth.

Swoosh—

The High Energy Compression Particle Cannon made a very faint sound, but its penetration power was formidable, hitting the target precisely!

Chapter 800: Victory!

Bang! Bang! Bang!

This particle cannon, from the moment of launch to striking deep inside the Viper Worm's mouth, was extremely fast. Its fluctuations were deliberately concealed, and the Viper Worm, which had been lured into distraction, didn't react in time. By the time it sensed something wrong in its abdomen, it was too late.

Boom——

A massive explosion erupted from deep within the Viper Worm's belly, causing debris to fly around.

Bits of flesh and mucus from the internal organs were even blasted out!

The Viper Worm writhed in agony: "Squeak squeak squeak!!!"

"Squeak squeak squeak!!!"

"Squeak squeak squeak!!!"

After firing the shot, Ji You was completely exhausted. She and her mecha fell like leaves drifting in the wind, unable to control herself. At that moment, Tang Qi, like a gliding eagle, swiftly caught Ji You!

Swoosh——

Old Chen's long-prepared compressed cannon fired without hesitation!

Swoosh——

The second one!

Swoosh——

The third one!

With Old Chen distracting the Viper Worm, Tang Qi managed to retreat successfully. He carried Ji You on his back without letting go. As soon as they were out of immediate danger, Tang Qi immediately said, "Ji You, can you still move? Log into my mecha quickly."

Ji You's mecha couldn't withstand the toxic corrosion of the Viper Worm's venom and was damaged. Staying within it was of no benefit. Tang Qi opened the cockpit of his mecha right away and granted Ji You access authority.

Biting her teeth, Ji You said, "I can!"

She saved her last bit of energy for this very moment! Time was of the essence; she couldn't afford to waste even a millisecond. Ji You leapt up in a single bound, grabbing the rope that came swinging towards her, and immediately climbed onto the baby-faced Captain Tang Qi's mecha.

In less than a second, Ji You used all the speed she ever had in her life, and as soon as she entered the mecha—

Bang!

The mecha's cockpit door closed.

Ji You entered the mecha, and baby-faced Tang Qi kept his focus on the battle center, not even glancing at Ji You as he charged towards the Viper Worm.

This time, he did not draw his bow to shoot arrows but instead opened the mecha's cannon and aimed at the writhing Viper Worm.

Swoosh—

Swoosh—

Swoosh—

particle cannon rounds were fired simultaneously at the Viper Worm's belly. Then—

Bang!

Bang!

Bang!

The Viper Worm tried to turn invisible a few times, but the pink dye smeared on its body was futile against both Old Chen and Tang Qi.

The battle raged intensely, both sides fighting desperately!

The Viper Worm's previously impervious fur had become ragged and torn, while Old Chen and Tang Qi's mechas had been severely corroded...

Stalemate!

Ji You was completely drained and could no longer fight. She could hardly keep her eyes open, but she dared not relax and forced herself to watch the combatants.

Bang!

Bang!

Bang!

Baby-faced Tang Qi remained calm throughout, firing his cannon. Each shot was 9999 particle cannon rounds, all targeting the Viper Worm's belly.

There lay the Viper Worm's fatal weakness—

—The excretion opening.

Compared to the massive size of the Viper Worm, the excretion opening was very small, nearly undetectable by the mecha's sensor, and covered with bristles and rough skin, making it difficult to target.

Therefore, baby-face's goal was to destroy the Viper Worm's fur.

Boom——

Suddenly, the Viper Worm shuddered all over and then stopped moving.

Old Chen gasped: "Did it hit?"

Baby-face didn't utter a word. He remained cool and continued to shoot, firing another 9999 rounds!

Boom——

The Viper Worm still didn't move, passively enduring the hits.

Old Chen dealt another blow!

"Squeak~"

The Viper Worm made a feeble cry! Its body quivered fiercely for a moment and then stilled once more.

Ji You's eyes widened: "Damn! It was faking!"

The creature was actually feigning death?

Indeed—

It was no wonder it was called the Viper Tyrant!

If they had really believed it just now, they would have been in big trouble!

The Viper Worm ceased to move...

Old Chen turned around: "Captain?"

Tang Qi had a stern face, but his gentle eyes flashed with clear joy.

"It's hit," Tang Qi said calmly. "Continue firing."

Old Chen immediately opened fire!

Bang!

Bang!

Bang!

They only stopped once the Viper Worm was completely motionless.

After waiting a brief moment, Tang Qi took the initiative to step forward, cautiously approaching the corpse of the Viper Worm.

Silence.

Complete silence.

...

Tang Qi, projecting his spiritual awareness outward, could no longer sense the spiritual fluctuations of the Viper Worm.

Then, he raised his hand and collected the Viper Worm's corpse into the Space Button.

Old Chen exhaled deeply, his mecha swaying unsteadily and nearly drifting away, thankfully caught by Tang Qi.

Afterward, Tang Qi and Old Chen began collecting the skin and spines that the Viper Worm had inadvertently shed during the battle.

These were important materials for making the Invisibility Mecha, highly prized.

Old Chen, while picking them up, chuckled, "Who would've thought that at my ripe old age I would actually kill a Level 8 Viper Worm!"

Ji You: "Ahh! Who would've thought that at such a young age, I would actually kill a Level 8 Viper Worm!"

Old Chen: "..."

Old Chen cursed, "You brat, are you insulting me?"

Ji You grinned, chuckled, and said, "Nope! Just deliberately reminding a certain old man not to forget to pay back the money, haha!"

Old Chen: "..."

Old Chen fiddled with his ear, "What did you say? I can't hear you well in my old age."

"What?"

"Can't hear!"

"Hanging up!"

With that, Old Chen unilaterally cut off the communication with Ji You.

Ji You: "..."

Deadbeat!

Such a scoundrel!

Ji You was so infuriated that she almost threw a tantrum and cursed in front of baby face's mecha cockpit!

Baby face suddenly said, "Focus, we'll begin the return journey in 3 seconds!"

Old Chen: "Yes!"

Ji You also immediately fell silent.

The return journey was uneventful, and the group of three made it back to the Eagle Space Station smoothly.

Docking port.

Nine people stood straight, having returned to the Eagle Space Station and undergone medical checks, Chu Jiaojiao, Sheng Qingyan, Shen Changqing, Yue Qiguang... the nine went to the docking port, and then, no one moved a step, no one stirred.

The atmosphere was heavy.

Time passed so slowly, each minute, each second was torture for them.

No one made a sound.

Nor did anyone want to make a sound.

Silence engulfed the area, so quiet you could hear a pin drop.

Suddenly—

The docking port saw another mecha enter, and the eyes of the nine people collectively lit up, watching the incoming mecha.

When the mecha revealed its pilot, Chu Jiaojiao and the others couldn't help but feel disheartened.

Not it.

Still not it.

Still not them.

...

For the first time, this group of people profoundly experienced the feeling of helplessness, of powerlessness and frustration.

...

Time stealthily slipped away.

The longer it took, the more anxious Chu Jiaojiao, Shen Changqing, Sheng Qingyan, Yue Qiguang, Yue Qiyuan... felt inside, the calmer their expressions became.

Finally—

When two mechas entered, the nine people turned their heads, their eyes once again sparking with a glimmer of hope.

Old Chen and Tang Qi stepped briskly out of the mechas, and then, for a few seconds, no one else appeared.

Chu Jiaojiao clenched her fists.

Tang Qi suddenly said, "Are you all waiting for student Ji You?"

Chu Jiaojiao and the others stared at Tang Qi with tension.

Tang Qi said, "She won't come out of the mecha, says that you need to personally invite her."

As soon as he finished speaking, Chu Jiaojiao and the others were nowhere to be seen, all rushing toward the mecha's boarding gate. Then, they were hit by a wave of stench—

Chu Jiaojiao and the others pinched their noses: "Damn! That stinks!"

Ji You laughed heartily: "Better a shared stink than a stink alone!"

Chu Jiaojiao and the others: "..."