

## Wow 151

Chapter 151: Spiritual Energy user Pansen

"Hush~"

A slight jostle abruptly woke Bai E from his deep sleep, like two bright stars igniting in the night, his eyes snapped open instantly, retaining a crystal-clear consciousness as he tried to locate the source of the disturbance.

The next moment, the faint touch on his shoulder entered Bai E's awareness.

Despite scanning the dense twilight outside the car window, Bai E then turned to look behind him.

The steady old soldier raised his index finger to his lips, "Hush~"

Signaling Bai E not to panic, the old soldier then pointed towards the side window—

In the jungle, drifting phosphorescent green glows floated in mid-air, and the eyes accustomed to the darkness of night could vaguely make out the shapes in this dimly lit environment. Mud-streaked vines, greenish-brown, had unknowingly crept onto the reinforced glass.

Bai E's gaze became sharp, instinctively reaching for the machine gun beside him, hesitating slightly, then releasing his right hand that had already gripped the handle.

Too much noise, better use a combat knife.

"Shall we take action?"

"Ask the commander."

The two whispered softly, trying not to disturb their comrades' rest before confirming the need to take action.

The main strength tomorrow would lie with those close-combat experts; their role as firepower support was to keep watch at night.

"Hiss~" Turning on a separate channel, the steady old soldier softly requested over the mic, "This is Vehicle 1, this is Vehicle 1, abnormal situation detected. Requesting permission to engage?"

Almost instantly, Gregory's equally soft reply came through the earpiece, clearly not just Vehicle 1 had noticed the anomaly, "Those vines? We've seen them too."

"Commander?"

"Have the soldiers on watch duty remain alert, but for now, it seems the threat isn't significant, no need to disturb everyone's rest."

According to the gathered data, these plants were not very aggressive, all attacks seemed to be some kind of instinctual stress response, not a formidable enemy. It was better to let everyone get a good rest to preserve energy for the next morning when they could deal with it together.

Conversely, kicking up a fuss with these plants and attracting attention from potentially dangerous beasts lurking in the jungle or nomadic orcs would really spell trouble.

This part of the jungle wasn't far from the orcs' main plantation, so encountering small groups of wandering orcs was quite possible.

"Received," the steady old soldier acknowledged promptly.

With such orders from the commander, there was no need for undue worry.

"Do you want to sleep some more? You were tired today, and I probably won't be needed tomorrow..."

"It's fine." The shock had chased away all desire to sleep, "Can't sleep, I'll keep watch, go get some rest."

"Suit yourself."

Bai E took over from the old soldier, who then switched with AB, as the four firepower support soldiers completed their night watch handover.

Sitting in the driver's seat, Bai E stared at the jungle ahead, lost in thought.

Feedback from other players accumulated, only being processed by his consciousness after he awoke—

[From the quest feedback, your Insight +0.2.]

[From the quest feedback, Long-Range Weapons Mastery experience +52.]

[From the quest feedback, Light Weapons Mastery experience +30.]

...

[From the quest feedback, your Reflex +0.1.]

[From the quest feedback, Combat Mastery experience +36.]

...

Enhanced Insight made Bai E's eyes even brighter, allowing him to see further distances in the nearly pitch-black Dark Environment, or to observe those minute details that are almost imperceptible.

The vines creeping over the vehicle were like a thief sneaking into a house while its owner slept, moving as slowly and quietly as possible, inch by inch, trying to envelop the entire vehicle.

Bai E watched one of the vines closely and realized it took a long time before it moved just a tiny bit.

Unlike the vines at dusk that reacted violently, the current motion was growth rather than crawling.

Just like its host plant, which rooted itself in one place and grew slowly over hundreds of years, not vying for height with the sun and the moon day after day.

Trying to trace the vines back to their origins as much as possible, apart from the occasionally "stretching" living trees, there were no other clues to be found.

The lucky hit indicator didn't register those large trees as attackable targets—was it because it deemed that one couldn't burst through them, or because it defaulted to them being part of the background environment?

Any detail could be valuable information when out and about, and Bai E's brain was running at full tilt.

...

"Crack!"

"Crack!"

"Whoosh~"

At dawn, the sound of vines snapping startled some of the soldiers still deep in sleep.

Suddenly awake, Morton and other soldiers arose from their slumber, looking out the windows.

The soldiers who had woken earlier or were on the last watch duty were now using combat knives to clear the vines that had nearly enveloped the vehicle.

Those branches were extraordinarily tenacious, some seemingly with a retaliation instinct, as they immediately tried to locate the source and lash out to attack or entrap their prey the moment they were assailed.

The tall soldiers, unconcerned, stepped into the fray, allowing themselves to be wrapped by the vines without immediate resistance. Only when completely bound did they explosively exert strength.

"Ah~~~ah!"

The muscles beneath the combat suit burst with unimaginable power, instantly snapping the vines that even Bai E found difficult to sever with a combat knife and had wrapped around several times.

The bursts of the broken branches whist through the air, making a "snap" sound.

The Blood God... that was the guy who nearly gave him a concussion with just a few punches in the competition.

So strong...

Even with physique nearing the limit at 15 points and having the specialty—Overlimit Drive, he couldn't match that level of performance.

In fact, it wasn't just him; those who hurled daggers to slice through the air, cleaved through four or five in a single stroke, rapidly retracted to attempt escape only to be caught in an instant by a large hand...

Bai E realized that the individuals selected by the military must each possess their unique skills.

Not one of them was easy to deal with!

The encounters they had faced on the road so far were just appetizers. The bioengineered guards within the target facility were the real adversaries of this mission, and the show of force from these powerful men was yet to come.

If everything went smoothly, following behind these tough guys would mean accumulating military merits and exploring the ruins... that would be beautifully ideal.

Bai E wasn't keen on seizing every opportunity to showcase himself. Freed from his teammates' disdainful glances, sometimes he was perfectly content to take it easy.

"Snap!"

With one warrior severing the final vine wrapped around the vehicle, three off-road cars roared off into the cool moisture of the early morning.

...

"We're here."

The silver-grey spires pierced through the gaps in the leaves and branches, appearing vividly before everyone's eyes, just as the target building materialized from the documents into Bai E's sight.

The pictures in the files bore no concept; it was only upon seeing it with his own eyes that he realized... it was truly massive.

"Stop!"

Gregory issued the curt command through everyone's headsets.

"Release the drones."

The car windows slid open, and three black quadcopters, wobbling slightly, flew out from inside the vehicles toward the target direction.

It wasn't advisable for the drones to directly penetrate the target building, but it was always right to scout the perimeter first.

Those bioengineered soldiers, though genetically modified, still followed the basic human biological system; they needed to eat, drink, and relieve themselves.

These needs might leave traces behind.

While waiting, the three vehicles hid under the shelter of branches and leaves.

Until the operation was completely successful, they had to remain concealed.

"Commander, I see it, there's a field on the west side of the target base with signs of cultivation, but it's not very clear."

"There is an enclosed fence on the northeast corner, it seems to contain small animals."

"The drones are flying too high to see clearly, commander, should we move in closer?"

"No need," Gregory's gaze narrowed with a cold glint. With this basic information, it was enough. Getting too close might alert those potentially anti-electronic bioengineered beings to the presence of intruders.

"Lord Pansen, if you please."

The tall man standing beside Gregory with his arms crossed and an indifferent expression nodded at the mention, "I'll have a look."

Watching the figure striding alone from number 2 vehicle toward the target facility, the curiosity in the voice of the person sitting next to Bai E was evident, "He's going alone?"

The seasoned old soldier, seemingly experienced in cooperating with individuals with psychic abilities, explained cheerfully, "The capabilities of our Spiritual Energy users are extraordinary and unpredictable. It's not uncommon for them to act alone."

"What is he going to do?"

"He's probably scouting the interior of the target facility for us..." As the commander hadn't shared specifics about the plans for the Spiritual Energy users, the old soldier could only guess while stroking his chin, "They say those bioengineered people have noses like hounds, right? We'll see whether their noses are sharper or ours..."

"You seem to be insulting someone..."

Everyone's eyes were fixed on the figure carefully advancing through the grass that reached halfway up the calves, moving stealthily toward the target.

In Bai E's eyes, there was even more information to be seen—

[Pansen (Human) (Ally) — Using "Lucky Strike" to kill may drop: Guaranteed (Fresh Meat\*1500, 3000 points of combat experience); High probability (Attribute: Mental Resistance, Advanced: Light Firearms Specialization level +1, up to level 6); Possible (Feat: Keen Senses, Spiritual Energy (Heavenly Eye): 100)]

Not entirely comprehensive, but certainly indicative.

However, for some reason, as Bai E stared in that direction for a moment, he felt his eyes blurring. The space where the Spiritual Energy user stood seemed to flicker in and out of existence, and staring too long seemed to make one's head spin.

Rubbing his eyes instinctively, when Bai E looked again, he was shocked to discover—gone!

Under the nearing noon sun, had a human silhouette just vanished like that?

Even if one tried to locate the Spiritual Energy user through the unusual disturbances in the grass and foliage, it appeared to be an impossible task.

It wasn't just Bai E; all the soldiers in vehicle number 1, who were eagerly watching, inadvertently dropped their jaws in astonishment.

"Where... where's the lord?"

"I don't know... I blinked, and he was gone?"

The old soldier expressed his amazement, "That's Spiritual Energy~"

No matter how many times one witnessed it, the miracles of Spiritual Energy always elicited awe.

And this lord's skill in Spiritual Energy lay in concealment and reconnaissance.

Time slowly passed in quiet anticipation.

Unable to see the Spiritual Energy user's actions or know the interior conditions of the target building, everyone could only silently wait for feedback from the Spiritual Energy user.

"He's back," the co-driver beside Bai E suddenly pointed excitedly in a direction; at a spot roughly a hundred meters away, the departed Spiritual Energy user seemed to manifest suddenly before everyone's eyes.

Only... the expression on his face seemed rather somber.

"I can't detect deep inside."

The Spiritual Energy user stated the reality upon returning to vehicle number 2: "The building materials inside this base seem to contain a component that blocks Spiritual Energy."

In the history Bai E was aware of, Spiritual Energy users had existed for a long time, but it was only in recent centuries that they started playing a significant role in the composition of human combat forces.

Earlier, technological development appeared to have restrained the exploration of individual Spiritual Energy, and the occasional awakened individuals were humorously regarded as "magicians."

Unexpectedly, this centuries-old relic base had even considered the Spiritual Energy users, who should not have been very prominent at the time.

"However... they are indeed still alive."

The Spiritual Energy user had not returned empty-handed.

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"The intel says the passages in the target base are almost all shut, with only one entrance open on the west side and southeast corner each, and each entrance is guarded by two bio-engineered soldiers."

"Going a bit further inside the corridors, there's a patrolling squad of four bio-engineered soldiers, but the cycle isn't very certain, and I only 'saw' one squad."

"In addition, their perception isn't as sharp as the intel described, and not every bio-engineered soldier is equipped with the standard gear mentioned."

"As long as we conceal ourselves properly and launch attacks from behind, they are very likely to be unaware. I can only carry two people at a time at the maximum, and the concealment effect will fail when we're within 50 meters of them."

"If we can instantly take out the two gatekeepers at 50 meters, we've got a very good chance of infiltrating the base without detection!"

"The base only retains minimal lighting power, and I didn't detect any other electronic devices being used. From what I can see, their living and combat ways are just as primitive!"

After reporting all his findings, the Spiritual Energy user Pansen waited for Gregory's response. Although he held a superior position, he also had to follow the commands of the commander when it came to specific operational arrangements.

Gregory pondered briefly and soon made the arrangements, his precise and concise voice ringing in everyone's earpieces, "Dawson, Han Lei, AB, Bill, you four follow Lord Pansen and launch a surprise attack on the west gate. Make sure to eliminate the guards before they can sound the alarm."

These people all had their special skills, sniper rifles, throwing knives, close combat assassinations... after all, the opponents were bio-engineered humans, with centuries-old black technology, who knew what kind of stuff they had modified, so even sniper rifles couldn't guarantee a kill.

Only long-range sniping combined with an instant burst from a 50-meter range could assure a foolproof action."

"Additionally, Old One, 95B27, Molly, Lina... Aside from the soldiers just named, all remaining personnel prepare to launch an attack. As soon as we take the west gate, everybody rapidly assault!"

"The personnel staying behind must protect the key figures and be ready to respond to orders at any moment. Members involved in the invasion, ensure clear communication, and stay in contact. Start checking your equipment now, I'm giving you 1 minute to prepare!"

After speaking, Gregory turned to Likok and his assistant, Miss Aryan, who had been summoned behind him, "The two of you, we don't know the inside situation, so we must eliminate all risks before we can take you in. Please wait patiently."

While the drones continued to scout from afar, 1 minute quietly passed.

"Ready yet?"

"Ready."

"Ready."

The soldiers leading the way responded one after another.

"Move out!"

Four soldiers split into two groups following the Spiritual Energy user, and before the eyes of Bai E and others still waiting, they performed a great vanishing act once again.

Even with preparation this time, Bai E kept his eyes wide open without blinking, but under the hypnotic ripples in the targeted space, he still lost the trace of the five people after an irresistible moment of mental haze.

I really want to... blow him up.

Envy filled Bai E's heart.

After another short wait, with Pansen's cover, the two snipers got to their optimal sniping positions and lay in hiding, while the other two soldiers vanished from sight alongside the Spiritual Energy user.

Until Pansen's cool voice came through the earpieces, "Action."

"Bang!" Two sniper rifles fitted with silencers fired simultaneously. The dampened sound and flash only flickered in the perception of the attentive Bai E and other soldiers, unable to reach the base's interior, blocked by the thick outer walls.

"Go!" As the guns fired, the two soldiers who approached within 50 meters under Pansen's cover exploded into action.

After a minor sound of knives piercing flesh came through the earpieces, Pansen's voice once again rose steadily, "Objective completed."

Gregory clenched his fist in exhilaration, his voice steady and fervent, "Attack!"

The doors of the three off-road vehicles opened simultaneously, and over ten soldiers scattered into the fields, rushing towards the west gate like a pack of hunting wolves amid the rustling sounds.

A total of 25 men came, and now, apart from the five including Bai E left behind for fire support and the two snipers still in hiding, only two scientific staff remained in the vehicles.

The numbers weren't large, all gathered inside the second vehicle, waiting for the outcome, while the first and third vehicles also kept their engines running, ready to move and provide support at any moment.

And including the commanding officer and the Spiritual Energy user, 16 soldiers together launched an invasion into the target building.

Silence filled the comms, and those left outside, including Bai E, quietly awaited the outcome.

They could only guess at the situation encountered by the soldiers who entered the building through snippets of dialogue transmitted via the limited range of the radio—

"These bio-engineered soldiers haven't exceeded human limitations, there is a possibility of completing the task."

"Go in!"

"No one in the left corridor!"

"No one in the right corridor!"

"No one in the central corridor!"

"Split up and move! Blood God, you take them through the left! Han Lei, you take them through the right! The rest come with me down the middle! Try to eliminate their living forces as much as possible, maintain communication, be quick in action, and decide on your own whether to retreat or call for reinforcements when encountering a tough nut to crack."

To completely take over this base and restart the servers, they needed to fully eliminate all living forces.

The allies had not understood this base for hundreds of years, and Spiritual Energy users' scouting abilities were blocked by the building material.

The opposition might have foregone electronic surveillance and other equipment due to energy restrictions or other reasons, relying solely on manpower.

The information gathering and counteracting abilities of both parties were almost at the same level.

The battle strategies also almost entirely consisted of cold weapons and close combat.

All of these were known to everyone before departure.

After all, not only were they trying to restart the servers but also the bio-engineered soldiers in the base, following the last orders of the electronic devil before it went silent, were equally cautious not to use high-powered firearms, afraid to damage the "main body" of their "master."

...

Both sides were equally reluctant to make a move, afraid of incurring damage. Once the operation managed to break into the base, it would essentially be tantamount to engaging in close-quarters combat from the age of cold weapons.

Even if their cover was blown, it would merely make the mission more or less difficult.

The later the exposure occurred, the more enemy combatants they would undoubtedly eliminate, easing the mission slightly.

The only variable was the number of bioengineered soldiers inside, and their individual combat prowess.

There was no precise data to reference on this point.

Human technology was indeed formidable hundreds of years ago, but for that very reason, the level of individual soldier training did not match the emphasis placed on it in this era.

After all, many technologies of this era have been lost or are unusable, leaving nothing but the soldiers' own bodies to withstand natural disasters.

Therefore, bioengineered soldiers who "far exceeded" the capabilities of ordinary soldiers in that era might not "far exceed" the standards when facing the elites selected from the barracks today—it was unknown.

That was why the military opted for a conservative plan, to first send the strongest elite selected from regular soldiers to probe the situation. If successful, all the better; if not, they would decisively retreat while also gathering some data. As long as the server restart plan was indeed feasible, they would come back to deliver the final blow.

After all, the base wasn't going anywhere, and bioengineered soldiers without the backing of any power didn't have the ability to rapidly bolster their forces or climb the technological ladder.

Sooner or later, it would be in the bag.

But while the military had options, Bai E did not.

A second visit was certainly not what Bai E hoped to see. After all, he might not be taken along next time...

Success!

It must be a success.

The moment he first saw the ruins, the prompt for the main mission was activated—

[Prompt: "Ruins" discovered. Successfully completing exploration will fulfil part of the main mission—  
Iron Curtain. Current exploration rate: 0.1%]

Only with a major success in this operation would he, the "reserve personnel," have a chance to enter the ruins.

It would be best if those tough guys up front could just bulldoze through, leaving a safe shell for him to wander around and smoothly accomplish one-third of the main mission.

As for ignoring commands and acting on his own to follow... Apart from the potential risks of bioengineered soldiers within the ruins, the four gun barrels behind him were not there just for show.

Before setting out, the officer had made it clear that during this military operation, all actions should follow orders, and anyone violating orders would face military justice... which meant being shot on the spot.

He could only hope that everything ahead went smoothly... or maybe, that failure would necessitate reinforcement?

But if there were a rout, they would most likely retreat directly and wait to come back another time, and it wouldn't be his turn, including the five fire support personnel and two snipers, to go in and reinforce.

Worrisome...

All he could do was pray for their success...

Bai E frowned slightly, praying for divine intervention for his teammates.

He wondered how they were faring inside... ever since the decision to split up was made a while ago, there had been complete silence in his earpiece.

Bai E felt a vague panic with no feedback from inside.

"Are you 95B27?"

Amidst the stifling wait, Bai E heard an intelligent and gentle voice next to him.

Turning his head, he saw her identity immediately—not dressed in combat gear and with a delicate slender figure—it was Minister Likok's assistant, Miss Aryan.

"Hmm," Bai E responded stiffly.

"Do you understand computer hardware?" Aryan looked curiously at the stoic-faced soldier before her. Was this the man who had twice led everyone to safety during yesterday's journey?

Consequently, she casually struck up a conversation, "We might need your help soon... It's just Minister Likok and me. We might be overwhelmed."

"..." Hesitating slightly, Bai E still decided to be truthful and nodded, "A little."

Thanks to Wen Jie's scholarly efforts, he now possessed Level 1 knowledge in computer hardware maintenance, so he did have some understanding.

Besides, if there really was a need for his help later, he could actually assist. To decline now and then demonstrate the ability later would be somewhat embarrassing.

"That's good." Aryan, seemingly a pure research talent with little world experience, was immediately delighted by Bai E's simple promise, "Then, thank you in advance~"

"...It's my duty."

"You're also knowledgeable about computer hardware?" The conversation between the two drew attention in the quiet vehicle. The only soldier among the selected elites with some expertise in this area looked curiously at Bai E, "I don't think I've ever seen you in the information classes at the barracks."

He was one of the rare informational soldiers trained in the barracks, possessing not only decent shooting skills but also some learning in information technology. This dual capability was his ticket to selection. The unmanned drone deployed earlier was under his control.

Bai E rubbed the tip of his finger slightly and improvised, "I learned it on the outside..."

I'm self-taught, a prodigy!

Without giving the other party more opportunity to doubt, suddenly a fire support personnel asked with some confusion.

"Has anyone else noticed that it's too quiet on the comms?"

Since the decision to split up and infiltrate the base, there had been no messages transmitted back for a long time.

With the comms left open, one would have expected to hear at least the sound of footsteps or breathing, but there was utter silence.

This silent void was particularly unsettling, as if that silent, towering base was some primordial beast that had swallowed the unknowing humans whole...

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"Yeah... they've been quiet for a long time." Another gunner also realized this fact, "How long have they been inside?"

"27 minutes." A soldier kept precise timing.

Inside... what happened?

The unknown always causes panic, and the few gunners left behind looked at one another, feeling lost without the commander's orders.

"Could it be that the signal can't get back because the distance is too far?"

"That shouldn't be the case, we're still well within range."

"Or is there equipment inside that blocks electromagnetic signals?"

"They... they couldn't have had an accident, could they?"

"Should we... send someone in to check?"

"Let's ask those two snipers first..."

Gregory had said that only the infiltrators needed to keep voice communication clear, and it was likely that if those staying outside interfered with important voice communication for no reason, it could bring trouble to the invading combatants.

Finding the specific channel, one gunner asked AB who was waiting with his sniper rifle: "AB, you're closer, can you hear any voice activity inside?"

"No." The answer was short; AB's character was, as always, indifferent.

"Could it be that they temporarily blocked us? After all, they split up to act, and a mess of noises would not be conducive to coordination. Maybe they will contact us when needed?"

"Maybe... The commander told us to hold our positions, I think it's best not to take matters into our own hands. Let's just wait patiently."

"Right, even if something did happen, it's not like no one could make it out. Just relax and wait, our duty is to provide support."

Sitting in a corner, a gunner who hadn't spoken up until now suddenly asked the scientific researcher, deep in thought and sitting away from everyone else: "Likok, what do you think the possibilities are?"

Likok, always candid, shook his head, "I don't know... The information on this base is incomplete, I can't be certain, but I can be sure there's definitely no high-power signal jamming equipment."

Otherwise, the server's network signal couldn't get out, but it's possible for low-power signal jammers that target individual wireless communication.

Was it active jamming by the infiltration combatants, or blockage by signal jamming equipment? Both were possible.

"Aryan, turn on my computer," Likok, feeling equally uneasy from the conversation of the few gunners, instructed his assistant.

He was of no use in a fight, but when it came to problems in the field of electronic information, he might be able to help a bit.

The hope of rebooting the server was within reach, and he wanted to see the success of this operation more than anyone.

"I'll try to intercept some stray electromagnetic signals that this base might have."

Soldiers collect intelligence with their eyes, Spiritual Energy users with their perception, and he... with technology.

"Yes, sir!" Aryan answered crisply.

Likok, with his computer on and his face reflecting the pale white light, said, "I need some time, but I still think you should follow your commander's orders."

Leave it to the experts to handle their fields of expertise. Despite his dissatisfaction with the military only assigning these soldiers—which by their standards were not top-tier—to assist him with rebooting the server, now that the situation had come to this, he had to trust the judgment of the commander.

"Then... let's wait." The waiting soldiers slightly pushed down their confusion.

Drones still patrolled around the target base, attempting to discover more leads.

Bai E suddenly spoke up, "Why not fly a bit closer? Since the commander and his team have already infiltrated, it doesn't matter if the drones outside get exposed."

The soldier operating the drone hesitated briefly before dipping the flight height at Bai E's suggestion.

As they passed by the breeding and planting fields, Bai E intently reviewed the feedback images.

The one sitting at the scene with the least pressure was likely Miss Likok's assistant, a pure scientific researcher, who just waited for the soldiers to finish the fight and then follow her teacher to complete the rebooting of the server.

Other than that, she couldn't help, so she felt no pressure.

Now, she casually asked Bai E out of curiosity, excited simply to find someone among the soldiers with whom she could share common language, "Do you also have an understanding of information technology from a few centuries ago?"

"..." Bai E's eyes went dark.

You're asking me?

I'm all about hands-on, not theory~

But it seemed the lady didn't expect an answer from Bai E anyway. Her teacher was tight-lipped, and the other soldiers were also taciturn and gloomy. She'd been nearly suffocated by the silence along the way; she just wanted someone to talk to.

Seeing that Bai E didn't speak, she kept talking, "I don't know how they did it back then, but relying solely on the server hosts in this base, they could send signals perfectly and quickly to any corner of the globe. Just by establishing a signal station in any location, it could instantly support all devices within the station's signal coverage to network usage without bandwidth limitations.

Despite both being wireless networks, our current local area networks can only support short-distance transfer of some simple information. Whether it's efficiency, quality, amount, or distance, they are not on the same level."

Using a hundred automated turrets against fast-moving targets in the air, back then, a hundred turrets could hit a hundred required targets without interference or overlap, now it's uncertain if a hundred could even hit one... This is the most evident application in actual combat.

Aryan said with awe, "The information technology of that era was unbelievable; it's said that even then, such miracles were hard to replicate. I think the materials used to build this base's server must have been extraordinary..."

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No need for fiber optics? No wonder a server restart is sufficient...

"Oh~" Bai E nodded, signaling that he was listening attentively.

"Neither my teacher nor I have dealt with devices from centuries ago, we might even need time to study them before we can understand how they work. Who knows how much the technology of centuries ago differs from today's..."

"Hmm..." Bai E nodded stiffly, feeling indifferent.

When these two disciples were allowed to go in, the warriors would have already fully secured the place. They didn't need to rush their progress with life-or-death urgency. They could research slowly, research thoroughly. He himself also needed some time to explore the entire relic to unlock the exploration degree. Nobody was in a hurry.

Miss Aryan's voice took on a light tone again as she turned the conversation, "So it would be great if you could help as well."

Bai E, determined to be a good person to the end, simply responded, "Will do my best."

Thanks to Wen Jie, he did know a bit, but not much...

[Reward from the commission, Knowledge - Computer Hardware Maintenance Experience +195.]

[Current Computer Hardware Maintenance Experience 264/300, at 300 points you can master "Level 2 Computer Hardware Maintenance".]

emmmm... Speaking of Wen Jie, where's Wen Jie?

...

"How is it going?"

The purple dress outlined stunning curves, but the bouncer at the door just glanced at it and quickly moved his gaze away.

"Boss Scorpio... that kid has been working hard, always working except when eating or sleeping. I haven't seen him slacking off." The bouncer reported eagerly, himself shocked by such a formidable will.

I've never seen such a self-motivated and diligent worker...

In just three and a half days... working all the time, the value of the work provided by one person far exceeded that of all the other workers who have been deceived or coerced here.

No wonder Boss Scorpio has taken such a special interest in him; he's incredibly fierce.

The palm softly pressing on the door, Scorpio peered through the narrow window at the frail figure inside, her pupils shimmering with contemplative hues.

Too strange.

This kid, with no identifiable information, who suddenly entered the inner city from outside, was just too peculiar.

At first he stood out, and Scorpio thought he was a spy sent by some power to gain the organization's trust and become undercover.

The solitary confinement was partly for this reason—to restrict his freedom, to test his mettle, and to freeload off his labor.

But it's been three and a half days already, and he's still the same as when he first arrived... if anything, even more focused. It's as if he came purely for this unrewarded work, which is somewhat absurd.

It doesn't seem like an act.

It's as if he's addicted to the work itself, his obsession comparable to a drug addiction...

Probe for some information?

"Click~"

The faint sound of the door opening didn't distract Wen Jie, who was engrossed in his work.

[You have successfully dismantled your target, obtaining useful parts\*6.]

[You have completed an electrical component maintenance practice, Computer Hardware Maintenance Experience +390. (Stacked)]

[You have acquired "Level 2 Computer Hardware Maintenance", and you have also earned 1 Tech Point.]

[Computer Hardware Maintenance (Level 2): You are familiar with all the functions of computer hardware, and you can accurately diagnose any potential failures related to computer hardware, as well as skillfully disassemble and reassemble any electronic components, possessing some repair capabilities.]

[Current Computer Hardware Maintenance Experience 328/500, at 500 points you can master "Level 3 Computer Hardware Maintenance".]

[You are attempting to perfect the Knowledge - Computer Hardware Maintenance, with a current completion progress of 90%. Once fully completed, you will obtain: Knowledge - Computer Hardware Maintenance (Completed); +1000 Research Experience Points; 2 Tech Points.]

[Reminder: Without the experience of fully assembling a computer, you can never fully perfect the Knowledge - Computer Hardware Maintenance.]

Wen Jie, head bowed over his work, saw a faint light flash in his eyes—so he finally reached the step where he needed to assemble a whole machine, huh?

Shave a bit more experience? But the efficiency is too low; now completing several dismantles only adds 1 point of experience, and it will probably decrease even more until there is none.

But as long as there still is, he could shave.

Only by perfecting the basics can one explore higher pursuits.

However, it seemed like the other party couldn't wait any longer?

"Hey." A raspy, seductive voice sounded in front of him.

Zhou Wenjie slowly looked up, in front of him was the dress hem that dipped slightly in between two legs, the edge of black lace tights right in front, and higher up, glimmering long white legs were tantalizingly visible beneath the slit of the dress that ran up to the thigh.

If it weren't for the scar on her face, Wen Jie had decided he would unilaterally declare her his twenty-fourth 2D waifu; actually, the scar seemed fine, it even added a bit of excitement...

Meeting her gaze, Wen Jie tilted his head slightly, his face expressing the dullness characteristic of an engineering otaku, "?"

"How long do you plan to keep up this disguise?" The woman's eyes, swirling like vortexes, bore into Wen Jie's, as if trying to see through the mask he wore on his face.

Wen Jie blinked, "What disguise?"

"Who sent you here?" she asked.

Wen Jie looked as if it was all perfectly natural; "... I came here to work, wasn't it you who sent for me?"

"..." She let out a slight, cold chuckle at the corner of her mouth.

Acting! Still acting!

"Do you know what we do to infiltrators?"

[They are kicked out.]

Wen Jie didn't know, but he didn't care either, "Then wait for me to finish up my work, and then I'll come and see for myself."

He just wanted to rake in experience.

"..."

Is he for real or not?

She stared into Wen Jie's eyes, trying to apply pressure.

She wasn't sure, she was bluffing too.

If he really wasn't a spy sent by some other organization, cultivating him might make him an engineer worth utilizing within the organization.

Deciding to start from the beginning, she asked, "What exactly is your purpose here?"

"I saw you were hiring, and I need a job."

Isn't this a perfect match?

The reason was so simple it was unbelievable.

"But this job comes with no pay."

"Isn't the opportunity to work the greatest reward?"

"..."

Scab!

The logic was so simple it fried her CPU.

The woman pointed to the mountain of electronic components piled up on the ground, "So you're willing to just keep doing this?"

"Of course not," Wen Jie answered honestly.

To him, sincerity was the greatest ace up his sleeve, mainly because coming up with lies was just too tiring...

Winning over a mature woman starts with a straightforward approach.

"I'd like to try putting them together," he said.

"Oh?" She let out a cold laugh.

As expected, a spy skilled in artful infiltration!

"How will you assemble it?"

Wen Jie squatted down, fiddling through the electronic components that looked like a pile of trash, and extracted a small gadget made up of several parts.

Pressing an exposed switch, melodious music suddenly started to play.

"This is the gift I wanted to give you."

An ugly music box without a case...

[Associative Learning, you have successfully assembled a usable "item" through your experience of dismantling and assembling computer hardware, Tech - Basic Electrical Manufacturing and Processing Experience +3.]

[Current Basic Electrical Manufacturing and Processing Experience 3/1000, pay out Tech point\*1 at 1000 points, will master "Level 1 Basic Electrical Manufacturing and Processing."]

The random electronic scrap had everything, and knowledge in computer hardware maintenance wasn't only applicable to computers.

Standing against the dim backdrop of "junk" on the ground behind him, Wen Jie held the slightly punk, hardcore music box with an innocently smiling face and sincere eyes, looking into hers.

"This is what I want to do..."

Chapter 155: Detect the anomaly

"..."

In that one-thousandth of a second, Langxie felt her heart, cold as a frozen fish, suddenly throb, but it was immediately suppressed by absolute reason.

It wasn't that no one had ever confessed or flirted with her, but never with such a sincere and pure smile.

It didn't seem like an act...

For her sake?

She found it hard to accept such a narcissistic answer.

With a slap, Langxie swatted away the toy that had briefly stirred her heart, sneering, "Merely this kind of toy can't prove anything."

"That's why I need you to give me a bit of free time."

Think she's a fool?

Langxie laughed coldly, the scars on her face appearing somewhat fierce, "What privileges do you want?"

"Not to rush me to work..."

"Hmm?"

Zhou Wenjie pointed to piles upon piles of parts, which were electronic scraps these people had somehow scavenged, but with some fixing up, they could still be put together to make what he wanted, "With those, I can assemble a computer that will run just fine."

"So..."

"So I need a little time."

"Right here?"

"Right here."

Langxie stared into Wenjie's eyes, feeling her CPU growing hotter and hotter, causing her not-particularly-sharp brain to feel a bit dizzy.

"But... why do you want to assemble a computer?"

"For you to see," Wenjie responded with a gentle smile, looking up.

[That annoying smile again.]

Langxie silently bit her silver teeth, "Why show me?"

"To demonstrate my strength."

"..."

She had never seen an undercover agent be so bluntly honest.....

Langxie followed Wenjie's line of thought, "And then to get into our core?"

"Right."

"And then to betray us?"

"And then to learn your advanced knowledge!" Wenjie looked at Langxie strangely, "Why would you have such a weird thought? Favorability with each power isn't easy to earn, you know?"

"..."

Favorability?

Her heart beat rapidly, uncontrollably—the excessively innocent and straightforward young man, like a straightforward big boy, bewildered the all-too-familiar-with-deceit Langxie.

But since his behavior was still controllable, she might as well see what he was going to do.

With her watching, he couldn't cause any trouble anyway.

"I'll allow it."

Wenjie's face immediately burst into a radiant smile, "Thank you, sister... actually, you look very pretty when you smile."

"Swoosh!"

A knife with glinting cold light deceived Wenjie's eyes and appeared at his throat without him noticing.

The icy blade pressed tightly against his skin; it seemed even swallowing saliva might lead to suicide.

Wenjie leaned back slightly, puzzled, "You're not really going to kill me, why scare me?"

"..."

The fingertips of Langxie holding the knife pressed down slightly, asserting that he wasn't the first to say she wouldn't dare kill.

Being a woman often required being more ruthless than men to stand one's ground.

But right now... she indeed wouldn't kill him.

"Keep your mouth shut."

"Oh~"

"..." Langxie crossed her arms, her chest boldly prominent, looking down at Wenjie with commanding presence, awaiting his performance, "You may begin."

Wenjie silently turned and began rummaging through the "trash heap."

Many components needed were exactly where he remembered, picking them up with smooth efficiency.

[Premeditated!]

Langxie smirked with her arms crossed, moved lightly to the wall, and while Wenjie wasn't paying attention, she quickly squatted and picked up the "music box" that had been swatted away earlier.

No one had ever given her a toy before; she could take it back as a trophy to show off.....

Meanwhile, Wenjie, eyes fixed on the task, considered everything he encountered in the game to be just a fleeting cloud; the knowledge from the game world that he could truly learn and remember was what he needed.

[You are attempting to assemble a machine.....]

[Free Creation Mode: You are using your Knowledge ability to attempt to create something entirely new and unknown to you; according to your Knowledge judgment, the current success rate is "very small." You can facilitate the completion of this creation by paying a certain price (General/Scientific Research Experience). (Cost: 20 points of experience/min)]

With the simple knowledge taught by the trainers, every piece that fell into his hands displayed its approximate function and name.

Wenjie's job was to find the correct component models needed and pick out those that were undamaged or could be repaired, and put them together.....

As for so-called free creation... he had already seen it when assembling the music box, but such a simple thing could be understood with a thought, so why waste experience?

Now.....

After several attempts at trial and error, Wenjie decided to use a bit of his not-so-abundant General Experience to cheat a little~

[You are spending General Experience to assist your creation attempt... (Cost: 20 points of experience/min)]

...

[That's it?]

Watching Wen Jie dismantle and reassemble, the impatient Wolf-Scorpion turned and left the room.

Seeing that clumsy attempt, it appeared he really came just for himself, and even wanted to perform in front of her...what an "idiot".

"Keep an eye on him, and if he needs anything, inform me immediately."

"Yes! Lord Wolf-Scorpion!"

...

[You are spending General Experience to assist your creation attempt... (Cost: 20 points of experience/min)]

[You have completed a computer assembly, Knowledge - Computer Hardware Maintenance Experience +30, Tech - Basic Electrical Manufacturing and Processing Experience +12.]

[Current Knowledge - Computer Hardware Maintenance Experience 358/500, at 500 points you can master "Level 3 Computer Hardware Maintenance".]

[Current Tech - Basic Electrical Manufacturing and Processing Experience 15/1000, at 1000 points and paying 1 Tech Point, you can master "Level 1 Basic Electrical Manufacturing and Processing".]

[You are attempting to perfect Knowledge - Computer Hardware Maintenance, current progress 91%, upon completion you will gain: Knowledge - Computer Hardware Maintenance (Complete); General/Scientific Research Experience +1000 points; Tech Points \*2.]

"Huff~"

A job well done!

Called over to see a monitor supported only by wires and needing to be held by hand, flickering a few times before tremblingly lighting up, Wolf-Scorpion's peach-blossom-like eyes suddenly widened in astonishment, looking at Wen Jie, "How did you do it!"

All these were scraps collected from the ruins of old cities by scavengers, and being able to piece together a working computer from such trash was undeniably a staggering shock for her, a warrior yearning for technology.

This was already on par with the engineers in the organization!

"I figured it out by backtracking through those leftovers~" Wen Jie said as if it were only natural, "Can't you do it?"

Remembering Wen Jie's clumsy manner just now, it seemed too genuine to be an act.

"You never learned anything related before?!"

"Nope...just got it after a few tries, I never had the chance to touch these things before," Wen Jie answered casually.

"You..." Wolf-Scorpion hesitated slightly.

An outsider with an ulterior motive acting as a mole? Or an enigmatic genius youth?

But it doesn't matter, in a situation where high-end talents are locked away, every single tech talent like this is extremely rare.

Knowledge...knowledge lies there, but it needs someone who can actually learn it.

Perhaps his identity is still suspect, his motives unclear.

But even if he belongs to someone else, he can be corrupted into one of our own!

Wolf-Scorpion's features, beautiful as fire, slightly lifted in a smile, making one last confirmation, "Make a few more, I'll be watching you this time!"

"No problem!" Wen Jie agreed promptly.

He couldn't be stopped from assembling if one tried!

He hadn't fully achieved the perfection progress yet, what if he ran out of supplies, wouldn't it drive him crazy?

[You are trying to assemble a machine...]

[You are attempting to perfect Knowledge - Computer Hardware Maintenance, current progress 92%...]

...

During a brief chat, the prompt in his mind sounded again—

[Feedback from the commission, Knowledge - Computer Hardware Maintenance Experience +30.]

[Feedback from the commission, Tech - Basic Electrical Manufacturing and Processing Experience +13.]

[Current Basic Electrical Manufacturing and Processing Experience 13/1000, at 1000 points and paying 1 Tech Point, you can master "Level 1 Basic Electrical Manufacturing and Processing".]

Wen Jie was working so hard!

And he was even progressing towards technology? Too powerful.

Only...looking at that tech requiring 1000 points of experience, Bai E squinted his eyes and pondered in a daze.

He finally understood where exactly tech points could be used, but why is it that one type of tech becomes effective immediately after feedback, while another requires accumulating experience and paying tech points to use?

The difference between the two...one is applied technology, the other is theoretical technology.

Well~ that seems reasonable.

Suddenly, a voice came from nearby that grabbed Bai E's attention.

"Something's odd..." Minister Likok, who said he would analyze the base's situation by intercepting stray electromagnetic waves, pinched his chin while staring at the chaotic images on the computer screen, mumbling to himself with a frown.

Without a doubt, it drew attention inside the anxiously quiet vehicle.

"Is there a problem inside, Minister?"

"Hmm..." Likok tapped on the images on the computer, explaining the situation to everyone passionately, "Indeed, something is blocking the radio transmission between them and us."

Bai E leaned over to look at the minister's computer screen, found the images a bit abstract, and silently withdrew.

Minister Likok's words, however, immediately tensed up the remaining soldiers, "There's a trap inside!"

"Are the officers in danger?"

"They can't call for help in this situation, do we need to go in and support them?"

"No..." Minister Likok's eyebrows twisted together, almost into knots, "What's strange is right here, this doesn't seem deliberate...or at least, it doesn't seem to be interference signals emitted by jamming devices."

Jamming devices only need to disrupt unidirectional signals; there's no reason to "swallow" all electromagnetic signals.

As he spoke, the minister started talking to himself again, "Could it be that the foundational design concepts for jamming devices hundreds of years ago are different from now?"

The ambiguous words left the remaining soldiers bewildered.

Buddy...what exactly are you saying?

"Tap tap tap~" With rapid typing on the computer, Minister Likok's eyes shone, "Don't rush, let me analyze a bit more."

Chapter 156: Support Decision

"A black hole... a vortex..."

Minister Likok murmured some incomprehensible words to others.

His gaze slowly drifted up from the computer and fixed on the distant silver-grey building.

A touch of confusion appeared on his chubby face, clearly the product of an urgent processing of information derived from the computer analysis...

"All interceptions?"

"Absorption?"

"How could that be?"

"It doesn't seem like a technological method..."

"It's not disturbance, but...being 'eaten'?"

Mumbling to himself, Minister Likok suddenly froze, a possibility leaping into his mind causing his plump body to quiver violently.

The tremor spread rapidly throughout his body, the panic born from within triggering a surge in his hormonal secretion.

It was visible to the naked eye, even the tips of his fingers trembled rapidly.

"Impossible!" Likok clenched his teeth hard, trying to combat the fear leaping out from his heart, "Impossible!"

The sudden emotional breakdown of the minister made all the soldiers abruptly focus their attention on him; one of the soldiers anxiously asked first, "What is impossible?"

"Impossible! Impossible!" Minister Likok just kept repeating the word, rising to gather his things, "Let's go!"

His hand, which had been gathering things, paused and shook his head in self-contradiction, "We can't leave!"

"It's not confirmed yet... it's not confirmed yet..."

Biting his fingers subconsciously out of nervousness, Likok once again sharply turned his gaze toward the silver-grey base, "We need confirmation!"

"What has happened exactly? Minister Likok!" a soldier with heavy firepower approached Likok, looking him sternly in the eyes, attempting to grasp the truth.

After a brief moment of panic, Likok had already calmed his mind. He just looked at the man and then slowly swept his gaze over all the soldiers present, his tone serious, "Would you... dare to disobey orders?"

"Is it that the higher-ups inside encountered some danger?"

"We have orders to ensure your safety," the soldiers questioned, confused.

Looking into the eyes of the soldier who had spoken, Likok asked, "But what if I say that I'm going in now?"

"The higher-ups said, before they send back a message..."

"He can't send a message back now."

At least not via radio.

Likok insisted firmly.

He couldn't be certain yet whether the soldiers who had gone inside had all encountered disaster, but it was quite possible they were not yet aware of the situation they had fallen into or what adversary they were facing...

All he could say was that if things were as he imagined, then they were more likely doomed than not.

Faced with the unknown, people often conjure the worst possible scenarios.

Some soldiers, remembering their superior's secret last words, hesitated, "But if none of them can come back, our mission is..."

"To take me away?" Likok shook his head with a wry smile.

This emergency evacuation plan had been agreed upon before departure: if the internal threat proved too terrifying for even a single message to be conveyed by the entering soldiers, then they would immediately retreat.

They couldn't afford to lose everyone here given the risks on the journey back. It didn't matter if all the soldiers died; the military could not allow Likok, an expert in information technology, to be lost as well.

Naturally, Likok was aware of all these prearranged agreements, but at this moment...

"Without having gathered any information, even if we return, what can we do?"

Facing this terrifying, unknown lair, should they send in the real top experts next time? It's still uncertain whether the military had the courage to go all in.

Or... to abandon this project completely?

Likok was not content with that.

He had to go inside and see for himself whether his thoughts were correct before he could completely give up hope!

"Tell me, what is your answer! Soldier!"

Throughout the journey, Minister Likok seemed to be a man of few words, and the occasional eye contact with a soldier usually ended with a peaceful smile from him.

But just now, this urban information specialist, occupying a high position, revealed the presence due to someone in authority.

There was silence all around, no soldier daring to take the initiative to defy the orders of a superior.

Likok's voice grew firm as he pressed further, "Do you join me in going in to assist your possibly still living comrades and superiors, or do you continue to wait here for a notification that's doomed to never come? I might be able to help them if I go in! Tell me your answer, soldiers!"

Bai E silently went to the corner to pick up the quiver he had brought with him.

He didn't know what had happened, perhaps some terrible accident had occurred.

But after a journey fraught with difficulty, wouldn't it be too much of a pity not to take a look inside? His mission target was within reach; to walk away without seeing it through felt too unsatisfying.

He was certainly going to follow the minister on this.

Bai E's silent action seemed to give the other soldiers an implicit signal to follow, as they each went in search of their weapons of choice...except firearms.

"Bring your machine guns, and explosives like grenades and dynamite."

Minister Likok's eyes were steely, looking at the normally genial and stout figure now emitting a formidable aura, "If things really come to that point, I'd rather destroy the server than let the worst-case scenario unfold!"

That was the main objective of this mission, and now he'd rather destroy it than face a worse outcome... Minister Likok making such a decision indicated that the situation he predicted might be catastrophically bad.

Chapter 157: Support Decision\_2

Bai E felt a heavy mood, having roughly guessed the reason for Minister Likok's nervousness.

Machine guns, bows and arrows, daggers, pistols... Bai E checked each piece of equipment he could carry on his person.

200 arrows, eight quivers; he couldn't carry them all, so his gaze turned to Miss Aryan who seemed to be empty-handed...

The advantage of the battle blade machine gun was that it combined the capabilities of firearms and combat knives, eliminating the need for additional close combat equipment.

Confirming that everyone was following Minister Likok's orders, the firepower at hand called back two snipers still perched outside the west gate, "AB, Bill, you come back too and rearm. Minister Likok has discovered new intelligence, we might have to actively enter the target base to provide support."

"Did we receive the orders from the officer?" Bill's voice carried some confusion.

Before anyone could explain, AB's cool voice rang out first, "Okay."

Having made the decision, it took less than two minutes for the seven soldiers who had been left behind to assemble, ready for deployment.

The firepower in Gregory's vehicle, who now voluntarily stepped forward to become the temporary commander of this squad, said, "Once we go inside, try not to shoot if possible. Wait until Minister Likok

confirms whether the situation is serious, then await my command to fully engage in battle!  
Understood?"

"Understood!"

In an emergency, no one was inclined to squabble for authority.

When battle loomed, there was no right or wrong choice, only whether hearts were united.

"Now...move out!"

Four veterans known for their close combat abilities among the firepower standing by went ahead to scout, Bai E and the seemingly frail AB, along with another unrecognizable veteran, trailed at the rear. The seven of them surrounded and protected Minister Likok and his assistant Miss Aryan in the center, doing their utmost to ensure their safety.

Lightly stepping over the two so-called biologically enhanced bodies at the entrance, the group truly entered the ancient ruins that dated back hundreds of years.

The ravages of time had not brought much change to this base; the doors and walls, constructed out of some unknown metal, still shimmered with a matte silver-gray luster.

[You have entered the ruins, current exploration progress: 0.5%.]

The moment he truly stepped over the threshold, Bai E heard the prompt from his panel.

But he paid it no mind; being at the very back, he simply turned to look at the two corpses on the ground—

Indeed, the body structure of the biologically enhanced beings was just as the documents had described. Their flesh and blood bodies could not withstand the power of the sniper rifles; the different parts of the bodies that were hit had been blasted to pieces by the sniper rifles' might, revealing the metal structures implanted inside them.

A milky white substance that could serve as engine oil or lubricant flowed out from those semi-metal, semi-organic structures, mingling with the bright red blood in a visually striking manner.

As for signs of modified eyes or skin, meant to detect changes in the atmosphere or scan for infrared and heat, no evidence was found.

Could it be that even among these biologically enhanced beings, the extent of modification was graded?

With these thoughts of exploring new discoveries in mind, Bai E followed the team into deeper passages.

The interior of the base felt somewhat cold, and the same matte silver-gray metal that was nearly identical to the outer walls was virtually the only backdrop. The faint green light from the most basic

emergency lighting made it difficult for the soldiers who had just come from the sunlight to adapt to the light.

"There's still energy inside the base..." Minister Likok had to jog quickly through the crowd to keep pace with the soldiers, his gaze sweeping across the interior of the base rumored in tales, attempting to uncover useful information from any signs he could observe.

Even emergency lighting requires a separate power supply for operation.

In hundreds of years, these biologically enhanced warriors, in order to maintain the base from rendering their "masters'" "bodies" completely dysfunctional, must have spared no effort.

The temporary commander leading the way encountered the same problem as the squad that had just breached —

Shortly after entering, they were faced with the choice of a three-way junction.

"Minister Likok?"

After looking at the portable computer screen, Likok shook his head, "We need to go deeper."

Nodding, the temporary commander quickly made a decision, "Main road, move forward."

Commander Gregory had taken this route, and finding the chief command quickly to report the incident and situation was always the right choice.

The base's interior passages were numerous, and not long after they had run a distance, they encountered another three-way junction, with the route they came from behind them and the sides unknown.

The temporary commander gritted his teeth and ordered, "Continue straight."

"Tap tap tap~"

The sound of metal combat boots in the corridor was hard to suppress, even though everyone was consciously trying to step lightly, the noise still carried far down the rectangular corridor.

All of them were warriors used to charging the front lines, none accustomed to practicing the trick of hiding their footsteps.

Miss Aryan, who was not far ahead of Bai E and staggered a bit under the weight of six quivers of arrows and some equipment, curiously turned her head to Bai E, "How come you hardly make any noise when you walk?"

Women's minds are delicate, and even in such moments of high tension, they find time to notice details others might disregard.

Bai E shook his head and gave a casual excuse, "I'm light."

Of course, the real credit went to the 63 points of stealth experience contributed by the players... Although it was not enough to completely silence his footsteps, compared to the big soldiers who couldn't quiet themselves at all, his performance was overwhelmingly superior.

Aryan might not have mentioned it, but once she did, Bai E's heart instantly tightened.

The interior of the base was very quiet, but their footsteps were very distinct...

Before his vigilance could ferment, heavy and concentrated footsteps started emanating from a side corridor.

It wasn't the hardness of military boots.

They had been discovered!

"Click!"

A soldier instinctively released the safety, but as soon as the sound of chambering a round began, the temporary commander stopped them, "Hold fire! We haven't confirmed the situation yet, try not to shoot if possible."

Not to mention, in such a silent environment, once they opened fire, they would probably face not just the squad of patrolling biochemical soldiers about to arrive.

"Take cover!" whispered the temporary commander, "Leave one person to protect the minister, the other six engage the enemy, swift and decisive!"

Upon the order, the seven soldiers immediately responded with tacit understanding, pressing against both sides of the T-shaped passage entrance, with three soldiers on each side, holding their breath in wait.

Only Bai E, the "little brother," was left behind to protect Minister Likok and Miss Aryan from any attack.

Listening to the approaching footsteps of their target, the temporary commander signaled with his mouth to everyone, "Get ready..."

Chapter 158: Biochemical Modified Soldier

The other party clearly knew that they had been discovered, and as they neared, they slowed their steps, inching closer.

The corridor was so quiet that everyone could hear their breath.

Bai E reached out to protect the two behind him, his fingertips caressing the bow hanging at his waist.

Should they attack first?

How effective would their bows be against the combat prowess of the bioengineered soldiers in full alert, and would their attacks disrupt their teammates' arrangements?

Confidence comes from familiarity.

Facing an entirely unknown opponent, Bai E dared not act rashly.

However, these bioengineered soldiers were not about to give them much time to think; one of them somersaulted past the T-junction of the corridor, easily blocking two descending gunfire blades with a small shield in hand.

The three bioengineered soldiers that followed burst out and pounced on the others who were waiting to ambush, like wild beasts devoid of communication skills lunging at their prey—the most dangerous close-quarters combat immediately ensued.

The power of the gunfire blades was substantial, naturally the best close combat weapon for facing the Bug Race or orcs head-on in battle.

But against these likewise highly skilled elite soldiers, the heft of the gunfire blades was a limitation.

In the dizzying melee, Bai E tried to observe the enemy, attempting to gather more information about them—

[??? (Bioengineered Soldier) (Chaotic) — Using "Lucky Strike" to kill may drop: Certainly (Fresh Flesh\*800, Bio Parts\*60, Combat Experience 1500 points); High Probability (Mastery: Combat Specialization Layer +1, up to level 5, Mastery: Agility Weapon Specialization Layer +1, up to level 5); Possible (Trait: Bio Body (connected to "Trait: Three Mouths One Pig"), Trait: Death Aversion)]

Time had not destroyed these bioengineered soldiers from hundreds of years ago; the bodies under their thin combat suits were still brimming with explosive power.

Even after so many years of silence, these warriors had never ceased training their combat qualities; both their physical condition and combat skills appeared to exceed those of the teammates whose main roles were as fire support.

Bai E could not see the specific base attributes of the bioengineered soldiers, but he was somewhat familiar with the capabilities of his teammates.

Even the fire support personnel, who could operate the gunfire blade's rapid-fire mode for extended periods, had at least close to 15 points in stamina; however, in contests of strength alone, they were clearly at a disadvantage.

It wasn't a complete crushing defeat, yet they were still one or two-tenths weaker.

The lack of strength was secondary; what was even more crucial was the lack of specialized abilities.

When everyone's attributes were honed to the limit, a diversity of specialized abilities became the primary source of variation in combat strength.

In the presence of the same specialized abilities, having or lacking special attributes could significantly impact combat capability, not to mention that the melee specialization levels of these fire support soldiers were far inferior to those of the bioengineered soldiers before them.

If it weren't for the numerical disadvantage of four against six, the teammates probably couldn't have held on for long.

Equipment was certainly another disadvantage for the enemies; a dagger in every hand was the bioengineered soldiers' most significant weapon.

But in such close-quarters combat, a dagger was actually the most effective weapon; the cumbersome nature of the gunfire blades limited their effectiveness, and astute teammates usually discarded their guns the moment they engaged, switching to military knives or daggers to fight back.

Whistling sounds of slicing through air emerged in the not too spacious corridor, with hardly any noise of weapons clashing; the close combat with knives was full of silent but deadly intent.

The real advantage on their side was the combat suits!

The pitch-black combat suits made of some unknown material effectively resisted slashes and stabs, and aside from hits to unprotected areas, the bioengineered soldiers' attacks hardly achieved the desired effect.

It was precisely this advantage that allowed the fire support soldiers to barely hold their ground against the bioengineered soldiers.

Still, painful grunts occasionally punctuated the air; the protective suits could fend off the dagger's sharpness, but not the force of fists or stabs.

Minister Likok, whom Bai E was protecting, watched the chaotic battle with tension and said to Bai E from behind, "Go up and help them! Don't worry about us."

Bai E gripped the unexpanded bow, hesitated for a moment, then decided to forgo ranged attacks; opportunities could vanish in the blink of an eye amidst such chaos, so he might as well join the fray directly.

"Be careful yourselves."

After a quick admonition, Bai E dashed forward.

Military knives and daggers fell under the category of Agility Weapon Specialization; these small, delicate weapons essentially extended the reach of fists and feet by just a short range, and their specialization levels could largely carry over from Combat Mastery, albeit slightly attenuated.

Unfortunately, Bai E's level of Combat Specialization was not particularly high either; his dagger and military knife probably packed less punch than his fists.

With the burst of "Overlimit Drive," Bai E felt he could create a miracle with brute force.

"Argh!"

A painful groan accompanied by the sound of cracking bones echoed nearby; a teammate's lower leg had been kicked and broken, causing them to lose their balance and fall.

Spotting the bioengineered soldier who had knocked down a comrade and was preparing to kick again to deliver a finishing blow, Bai E quickly stepped forward and twisted his body to exert force.

His robust strength transformed into an unimaginably terrifying force, following a transfer from leg to shoulder, he threw a punch filled with might, utterly unadorned.

The entanglement between his teammate and the bioengineered soldier provided him with the chance to ambush.

The soldier from hundreds of years ago was also a cream-of-the-crop chosen in his era; his seasoned battle experience allowed him to maintain awareness of his combat surroundings even as he aimed to deliver the coup de grâce.

Before the gust from Bai E's punch could impact his face, the bioengineered soldier had already pivoted his body.

The method of exerting force described by the instructor was almost universally applicable to humans, even if the opponent was bioengineered.

After a standard burst of exertion, the bioengineered soldier threw a punch towards Bai E's chest.

An exchange of blows!

And since he was bigger and had a longer reach, even if they both landed their punches, the one who struck later would definitely lose more force.

He believed that this smaller man who did not seem particularly strong would surely be more severely injured than himself.

"Be careful!"

The fallen soldier, clutching his injured leg and dripping with cold sweat, watched the scene unfold before his eyes and couldn't help but voice a warning instinctively.

Although no one explicitly stated it, everyone was deliberately or unconsciously looking out for the newbie who had gotten in through "backdoor connections," assigning him to guard two scientific researchers who were unrelated to the combat.

Following the couple of unexpected incidents on the road earlier, no one harbored any misgivings about the relationship that got him in through the "backdoor."

But the fact remained clear, the judgments of the superiors definitely couldn't be wrong; the kid who needed to use connections to join this team surely had significant deficiencies in other areas.

Though skilled with firearms and driving, he wasn't selected... This only left the possibilities of poor physical fitness or abysmal close combat skills.

At this moment, facing bioengineered fighters none of them could contend with, it would be easy to let a punch break through the defense.

In the blink of an eye, as the reminders were still reverberating through the air, the dull sounds of flesh colliding had already echoed one after another—

"Bang!"

"Bang!"

He coughed up blood...

The terrifying force, akin to a car crash, sent the bioengineered warrior who had been directly punched in the chest flying back, as blood ceaselessly sprayed in midair. He crashed to the ground only after traveling at least a meter away.

Bai E took a small step back, holding his slightly stifling chest and gently rubbed it.

[It's just... like this.]

Observing from the side, the strength of these bioengineered fighters couldn't be ascertained without a concrete concept, but one had to personally engage to understand their true power.

Whether it was genuine attributes or the biomechanical structure inside their bodies, these bioengineered fighters were definitely demonstrating physical performances far surpassing the current human limit of 15 points in physical strength without having used the Gene Optimization Solution.

However, the excess wasn't significant, and coupled with his quick adaptability, their bodies didn't have enough charging time and didn't exhibit their full power.

Under these circumstances, facing his own punch powered by Overlimit Drive and charged with full force, it was normal for them to be blown away.

The enormous rebound impacted his own body as well, the overloading burst a test of his own physical fitness. Fortunately, a fast-recovering hidden specialization was always protecting his body. Bai E rotated his wrist, feeling the soreness dissipating significantly.

Stepping over a teammate lying on the ground unable to move, Bai E leapt forward, delivering another punch directly at the opponent who had not yet regained his balance.

Strike when the enemy is sick, for a certain adversary, Bai E would not show the slightest mercy.

Lying on the ground and watching the figure lightly leap over himself, the soldier with a fractured shinbone couldn't immerse himself in his pain, his mouth agape as he focused on Bai E with a look of utter bewilderment.

"Huh?"

The bioengineered fighter that used to pummel someone as if they were a child couldn't withstand this "backdoor" guy's punch?

What the hell kind of strength do you have to fall to the level where you need "backdoor connections" to join the team?

"Bang!"

A robust build usually meant the overall responses weren't as agile. The bioengineered fighter, struggling to get up from the ground, took another punch square in the face.

Carrying the momentum of a sprint, his perfectly executed punch with the enhancement from the Combat Specialization Layer was even more formidable than before; blood and teeth... instantly flowed and shattered.

Matching his steps with his fists, Bai E surged forward, smoothly drawing the dagger from his calf as he went.

Striking before the reeling bioengineered fighter could, he quickly reached behind the opponent and wrapped one arm around his throat.

"Schlick!"

The sound of the dagger penetrating flesh rose for the first time in the chaos of the narrow corridor.

With a slight twist of his wrist, the throat was severed.

Blood gushed from the severed artery in torrents, Bai E's eyelids instinctively flickered, and he promptly pulled back to distance himself.

The bioengineered fighter, having lost the support from behind, still attempted to launch an attack as he turned, but the biomechanical enhancements and their death-defying trait could only delay their inevitable death. Their powerless bodies fell forward less than a meter away from Bai E after only taking half a step.

Group combat differs from one-on-one; teammates' constraints provided Bai E with the greatest opportunities.

Seize the moment. Subdue your enemy instantly!

As the dust settled, the late battle information started to stream through the faint blue screen before his eyes, not obstructing the actual view—

[Using close-quarters combat to knock down the target, combat mastery experience +5.]

[Hit the target's vital points, inflicting 12 points of striking damage! Target falls into a brief "daze" state.]

[Using a dagger to hit the target's vital points, dexterity weapon mastery experience +8 (+2) .] (Total experience is not shown until it exceeds inherited Combat Specialization mastery experience.)

[Inflicted 50 points of critical damage to the target! Target falls into a "heavy bleeding" state.]

Death was merely a matter of time.

The first bioengineered fighter to be killed had emerged!

Bai E's body appeared unhurriedly from behind the fallen bioengineered fighter, with the bloodthirsty dagger still dripping fresh red drops.

The teammate who witnessed the entire battle hugged his shin, completely forgetting the pain in his leg.

Swift. Precise. Ruthless.

Clean and decisive.

The burst of fighting prowess from the "backdoor soldier" was brutally terrifying.

This was truly the main pillar of the team!

And it wasn't just the teammates who recognized Bai E's victory. The remaining bioengineered fighters, continuously monitoring the situation, also identified this new, greater threat.

In the brief clash, they could easily determine that none of the other invaders were their match, except for this one who had killed one of their own—he was the sole threat.

Chapter 159: I'll go teamfight, you guys defend base

We can't let him do as he pleases!

Without any need for communication, as if reading each other's minds, the two bioengineered soldiers suddenly burst forth in a more ferocious combat, tying up five teammates already gasping for breath in terrible condition.

The one left charged at Bai E alone, aura of killing intent overflowing.

In this brief engagement, it was enough to reveal that he was the strongest presence in this squad of bioengineered soldiers.

"Don't engage him head-on!"

"Run!" a teammate grinded out through clenched teeth as a reminder.

Bai E shook the blood off his dagger and used the crook of his arm to dry the stain, reinserting it back into the sheath on his calf.

His Combat Specialization Layer wasn't high, and the inherited expertise with nimble weapons wasn't much better.

Using a dangerous tool like a dagger to face an enemy directly could easily result in injuring oneself first.

Compared to this, fists were better, for might created miracles!

As for adding points on the fly... after the experience of unlocking special attributes through learning, Bai E wasn't too keen on directly spending experience points to enhance his specialization layer.

It felt a bit wasteful.

Most importantly, through a brief experience with the enemy, Bai E had a rough understanding of the abilities of these bioengineered soldiers and had already plotted a strategy for the ensuing battle.

Mastery of hand-to-hand combat might only be useful at this moment...

Facing the bioengineered soldier lunging at him, Bai E too readied himself for a desperate move.

He readied his punch!

The fist, filled with all his might, aimed directly at the opponent's chest, with the idea of exchanging injury for injury, intending to repeat the killing blow from before.

Knowing the intruder's strength was not as frail as he appeared, the bioengineered soldier tainted by the electronic demon wasn't an irrational brute and with a nimble change of position, planned to continue attacking from the side.

However, Bai E's move was a feint, and as the opponent dodged, he burst forth with an explosive strength from his legs, performing a smooth front flip to roll and head straight towards his allies.

One-on-one? Who's dueling with you?

This is a melee! Seven against three, you think I'll go 1V1 with the difference in our numbers?

Bai E's actions instantly received his teammates' cooperation, even if one took a punch, two warriors sacrificed themselves to pin down a bioengineered soldier they were attacking together.

The brief restraint was enough time for Bai E to sneak an attack, landing a Black Tiger Heart Pluck square on the back.

A dagger wasn't good for exerting strength, especially against a bioengineered soldier with enhanced corporeal traits; a stab with the dagger didn't have the same effect as the kinetic blow from a fist.

The bioengineered soldier, stumbling forward from the punch, was then tripped by two of Bai E's teammates with a sneaky move, taking a harsh fall.

Just as he planned to follow up with another strike, the one who appeared to be the captain of the patrol team of bioengineered soldiers had already caught up.

Grabbing Bai E's left arm, the bioengineered soldier got close to body to try to employ a joint lock and thoroughly disable Bai E.

From the previous observation, Bai E noticed that these warriors from hundreds of years ago were especially skilled in close-quarters fighting; his old soldier companions had a hard time gaining the upper hand in such close combat, let alone himself, a fresh soldier who had just acquired a Level 1 Combat Specialization Layer.

Turning and throwing a punch, Bai E tried to use his right arm to free his left.

His opponent, of course, didn't dare to take it head-on, but his arms, forged like steel, instantly trapped Bai E's right arm before it could fully exert force, intercepting it before he could power up.

A familiar scene unfolded before his eyes as Bai E, in a daze, recalled a similar situation—

His duel with Rose!

[Thanks, Rose.]

A silent praise in his heart, Bai E adjusted his stance, lightly rotated his arm, and with a short-distance rotation of his waist and back, he powered up his arm to force open the restraint and landed a punch on the opponent's abdomen.

[Use close combat attack to break free from restraint and repel the target, gaining +3 experience in Combat Mastery]

[Inflicted 1 point of strike damage to the target!]

"Cough!"

Overlimit Drive had no cooldown, and every punch at 150% effect forced the bioengineered soldier's captain to involuntarily step back.

Bai E had no intention of pursuing victory, given the leader's strength exceeded the other three, it was best to squish the softer persimmons.

"Huff~" Bai E exhaled lightly, having used Overlimit Drive at full strength in the short bursts, the extra 30% physical exertion undoubtedly taxed his body greatly.

However, in just a breath's gap, the constantly replenished reserve of action power was already converting into physical strength to support Bai E's actions.

The human body can't maintain peak performance all the time; intense confrontation inevitably leads to fluctuations in performance due to physical condition, but the presence of Overlimit Drive allowed Bai E to maintain peak physical levels.

This was why, with his teammates drawing fire, he was confident he could win this sudden fight without needing a high Combat Specialization Layer!

"Crack!"

"Ah!"

A scream of pain followed from behind.

The severe pain of a bone fracture made the warrior cry out, and Bai E caught a glimpse from the corner of his eye, another bioengineered soldier grabbing the fallen ally's arm and twisting down heavily.

Close-quarters fighting was extremely dangerous, and even two people of similar levels could only fight briefly before a swift outcome emerged, let alone when there was a disparity in individual quality.

As Bai E made his move, the bioengineered soldiers weren't idle either; his six teammates had sustained varying degrees of injury, and now it was only willpower and instinct keeping them going.

Luckily, Bai E's timely intervention in pushing back the squad captain, along with the already activated "Well-Trained" trait, allowed his movements to be swift as the wind and lightning.

Chapter 160: I'll go teamfight, you guys defend base\_2

...

Being small has its advantages; a bulky figure absolutely cannot achieve the swift agility needed in close-quarter maneuvering.

"Bang!"

Kicking a bio-soldier off his teammate, Bai E swiftly followed up by plunging a dagger into the assailant's neck.

As a shadow loomed overhead, Bai E had no time to widen the wound and had to release the dagger, rolling sideways to evade the bio-captain's deadly stomp.

But it was enough.

[Using a dagger to strike a vital area, your proficiency with finesse weapons has increased by 5 (+1).]

[You've inflicted 30 points of critical damage! The target is now in a "heavy bleeding" state.]

Another one down!

Bai E's sudden burst out of cover almost instantly broke through the tactical coordination of the four bio-soldiers.

They couldn't win this!

The two still relatively healthy bio-soldiers made their judgement.

Pre-programmed orders began to dictate their decisions, and seeing most of their subordinates downed by the intruder, the dutiful bio-captain turned to flee without a second thought.

Engage the intruder if there's a chance to kill, inform more of your companions if there's not—this was a regulation he had to abide by!

"We can't let him escape!" The teammate with an injured leg wished desperately that he could stand and give chase.

Those who could reach for a gun did so immediately, switching off the safety.

Run if you can't fight?

A glint of cold light flashed in Bai E's eyes, "Don't shoot!"

Bai E kicked the other relatively healthy bio-soldier trying to counter-attack mid-air and while still in the air, he reached behind his back to grab the compound bow he carried, flicking it open with a sharp movement.

Drawing the bow, taking quick aim...

Fire!

"Whoosh!"

The arrow, like a darting fish, flew straight and true, penetrating the unguarded bio-captain's chest!

[Using a ranged weapon you hit the target, dealing 8 points of piercing damage!]

Powered by the Overlimit Drive, the arrow shot by Bai E with all his strength now had a lethality not inferior to a rifle bullet.

Even the robust bodies of the bio-modified couldn't withstand bullets, but a non-fatal hit merely caused a momentary pause in the captain's steps—he stumbled yet continued his escape.

Landing smoothly, Bai E was unhurried as he drew two more arrows from his quiver.

Fire!

[Scatter shot (Double Shot) triggered! Successfully hitting the same target, proficiency with ranged weapons increased by +2.]

[The target took 10 points of piercing damage!]

One arrow struck his back, the other his leg.

The force that accompanied the arrows caused the bio-captain to stumble, nearly falling over.

But the instinct to defy death still drove his movements.

"Whoosh!"

Bai E, without even turning his head, fired another arrow toward the bio-soldier who had just managed to stand up again, the arrow piercing through the soldier's skull, causing him to fall instantly.

Continuing to draw his bow, Bai E aimed at a distant target.

"Whoosh!"

[Scatter shot (Double Shot) triggered! Successfully hitting the same target, proficiency with ranged weapons increased by +2.]

...

[Scatter shot (Double Shot) triggered! Successfully hitting the same target, proficiency with ranged weapons increased by +2.]

...

Bai E approached, reaching the bio-captain who was now a pincushion on the ground, gasping more than breathing, and drew his bow for the last time.

[Ranged weapon hit the critical area, dealing 35 points of fatal damage!]

...

[You have thoroughly killed the target, the battle is over, you've earned 140 combat experience points.]

This was much more exhausting than hunting birds...

Earning the same experience, dealing with these four bio-soldiers was far more troublesome than facing those blood crows before.

But thankfully, they won.

It was just a rather dismal victory.

"Are you alright?"

"My hand's broken..."

"My leg's broken..."

"..."

Shaking his head in resignation, Bai E said, "Just lie down and don't move."

He then waved at Miss Aryan who had been watching from a distance, "Bring over the first-aid kit."

The hailed miss immediately came running with the box, looking at Bai E with sparkling admiration, "You are amazing."

...

["Lucky Strike" energy charge +8.]

Miss Aryan's words were also the sentiment of everyone present.

The battle had completely overturned their prejudice against Bai E for having to "use the back door" to join this elite team due to being "not selected."

This brother's close combat skills might not compare to those of professional tough guys, but he was exponentially more powerful than anyone else present.

Plus, previously intercepting the flock of birds alone, driving to lead everyone out of danger, and now... being able to heal everyone?

How could such a person not be selected? Why should he not be selected?

If he wasn't selected, what about the other fire support members present?

Were the officers blind?

Bai E just lowered his head, carefully checking the injuries every soldier had received in battle.

Their perceptions were not entirely accurate; there were only a few without any hope of recovery. The human skeleton is remarkably sturdy; most had simply suffered temporary fractures from the bio-soldiers' joint locks. It wasn't a big problem.

Dealing with each in turn, it came to AB, who sat alone in the corner against the wall.

"Where are you hurt?"

AB turned away with a cold voice, "I'm fine."

"Fine? Not really."

So stubborn!

Bai E grabbed his hand from his chest and quickly opened his combat suit zipper, subconsciously challenging, "What's more important, your life or your dignity?"

AB was silent, just turning his face to look off down the corridor.

"Zzzzt~"

The vest seemed inflated.

It seemed to have both a front and a back...

"..."

Was AB actually a woman?!

Bai E quickly glanced at her expression but didn't say anything aloud.

This kid's voice was neutral and cold, and the handsome boy haircut with a middle part—how could anyone discern her true gender?

But the priority was to identify the problem, so Bai E directly started to gently press.

"Hiss~" She grimaced, her lips turning white with pain.

"It seems like you've broken a couple of ribs," Bai E quickly assessed the injury, "You're not going to die, but you definitely can't continue to fight. Retreat with... with the guy from earlier."

The soldier with the cracked shinbone's mobility was severely compromised, obviously unable to continue on.

"..." AB bit her lip silently, clearly reluctant.

"I don't have time for counseling. You continuing like this would only hinder our progress. I order you to retreat!"

"..."

"Did you hear me?"

"Yes, Commander!" AB responded instinctively.

["Lucky Strike" energy charge +1.]

Bai E unapologetically accepted the address, with a plan in mind, the team should follow his lead.

"Everyone take a break. The two of you will retreat on your own soon, start the vehicle's engine when you get back, place any medical supplies you might need in an easily accessible spot, and by nightfall... by six o'clock, regardless of the result, I will make sure someone goes back to inform you. If there's no message, it's likely we're all dead.

Take what you need and leave in a vehicle, making sure to inform the officers in the camp about the danger here. By the way, can either of you drive?"

AB shook her head, but the other soldier promptly replied, "Yes."

"Good!" Bai E nodded in relief, "Then that's settled. The rest of you come with me. Let's move on!"

"Yes!"

Without hesitation, everyone acknowledged Bai E's authority.

However, the silence that followed was somewhat heavy, the look in their eyes as they glanced at each other was tinged with sadness.

In the eyes of each, the appearance of the others was somewhat wretched, the brief exchange markedly one-sided in disadvantage.

Without their firearms, these fire support members did indeed have limited capabilities.

Luckily, there were only four enemies; had there been one more, they likely wouldn't have held out until Bai E turned the tide.

Therefore, what about next time?

No need for more, if the same four bio-soldiers came again, their small group would be finished.

They weren't afraid to die, but they were afraid of not completing their mission, afraid of being ineffective.

"Minister, can we confirm our speculation now?" the previously acting commander suddenly asked.

Likok shook his head honestly, dismissing the thought, "No, we need to get closer to the center."

"..."

Bai E's gaze swept over the faces of everyone in the gloomy atmosphere, guessing the worries in their hearts.

"Later, you are responsible for protecting the Minister."

"Huh?" Everyone looked at Bai E, who had spoken, their eyes full of confusion.

Bai E met each of their gazes and said softly, "I'll take care of killing the enemy."