

## Wow 161

### Chapter 161: Command

With combat experience, Bai E had already roughly confirmed the capabilities of those bioengineered soldiers.

Flesh and blood could not escape the punishment of arrows!

As long as they could get the upper hand and reduce the enemy's numbers significantly before the engagement, it would be much better than relying on the few worn-out soldiers present for close combat.

Perhaps this method of long-distance killing could cause the enemy to lose the will to fight, causing them to flee and seek reinforcements, but it was still stronger than engaging in hand-to-hand combat with these few battered and beaten soldiers.

As long as they could find the others who had entered before as soon as possible, then their mission would be considered complete.

"Take off your boots when we move," Bai E continued to make arrangements.

The inside of the base had smooth floors, and going barefoot wouldn't result in injury, at worst it would just reduce their kicking power in close combat, but he didn't expect they would still be capable of kicking.

The metallic soles of their boots were what had exposed their presence; these veterans from the battlefield were not adept at concealing themselves in this kind of stealth operation, easily losing the

"Yes!"

They had made an impression with the battle.

Bai E's will was thoroughly executed.

Having completed emergency treatment and basic arrangements, Bai E also leaned against a wall corner for a brief rest, quickly flashing back through everything that had happened in a short burst of time.

18 points of hand-to-hand combat mastery experience, 12 points of ranged weapons mastery experience, 140 points of combat experience, and 9 points of recharge value—that was all he gained.

The time was short, the fighting fierce.

Drawing non-data experience from each battle was also the quickest route to improving oneself.

The bioengineered soldiers lacked those more mechanical-looking implants mentioned in the data; the exposed wounds showed more of the biological structure of the body itself.

Was the data incorrect, or were the samples too rare?

Thinking of this, Bai E turned his head to glance at the corpses on the ground not far away.

The bioengineering significantly enhanced their physiques and vitality, but it seemed they still could not break through the limits of the human body; otherwise, after centuries of training, even at a slow pace, they should all be like superhumans by now.

He also wondered what the combat support chips that caused them to fall under the control of the electronic demon looked like.

[Should I take this opportunity for a dissection?]

Understanding the opponent was also an important means to dismantle them.

If he could destroy the chip with a single arrow, could he then ignore their bioengineered bodies and death-defying traits to force them into a mandatory "shutdown"?

This thought circled in his mind, growing more appealing.

It was somewhat cruel though...

He had decapitated enemies in battle without a second thought, but now, the idea of dissecting corpses...

Made him feel a bit nauseous.

"Which one of you knows how to dissect?" Bai E suddenly asked aloud.

The soldiers looked at each other, and one hesitated before raising his hand, "Sir, I've learned how."

Bai E cocked his head, his face cold as he commanded, "Go dissect those corpses, and find out where their chips are inside."

"Yes!"

Hearing Bai E's orders, Likok, who was only staring at the computer screen, glanced over and felt a bit of admiration.

[Such meticulous thinking.]

As a fellow researcher, he also had the idea of obtaining important information through the scientific act of dissecting corpses; it was just not his field of expertise, making his reaction slower.

Now, hearing Bai E bring it up, he realized that he might have made the same choice if he were in his shoes.

He didn't know the twists and turns behind this soldier, and no one would talk to him about the backdoor, last-minute allocation of a spot.

He only knew that this unassuming-looking soldier unexpectedly possessed the potential to become a true commander.

This is the advantage of power...

Bai E sighed inwardly, no longer looking at the slightly bloody dissection scene.

Dissection took time, and meanwhile, there were other doubts to be tested.

Even while waiting outside, Bai E used all the information at hand to think about the entire mission.

"Test to see if the voice communication can be used."

Since entering, it seemed assumed that the voice communication couldn't be used, but the actual range of the blockage preventing radio use was unknown. Whether it could be used within the same building was also untested.

Practice leads to the truest knowledge; any seemingly insignificant finding, accumulated to the end, might turn out to be an important detail that could reverse the situation at a critical moment!

"Yes!"

Bai E pressed the channel button on his shoulder and first asked in the current squad's voice channel:  
"Hello? Hello?"

"Can hear you."

"Can hear you."

The soldiers sitting around didn't make a sound through their headsets. Instead, they simply gestured with their hands, indicating they could receive the message.

It works?

Bai E frowned slightly and opened the general channel.

"Commander Gregory? Commander Gregory? If you can hear me, please respond."

"Can hear you."

"Can hear you."

Still there was only silence from the voice communication and responses from the nearby soldiers.

Was it distance related?

"You, move back a bit, maintain a three-meter distance," he ordered, pointing to the farthest soldier at hand.

As the warfighter turned around and stopped, Bai E asked in a low voice, "Hey?"

"Can hear you."

"Five meters."

"Can hear you."

"Ten meters."

"Can hear you."

"Twenty meters."

"Twenty-five meters."

"..."

There was silence.

Bai E gestured to him with his hand, signaling that he could come back.

The warfighter was already nearly ten meters away from him, and after walking twenty-five meters, he had lost contact altogether.

Does this mean that the communication blackout range was roughly between thirty to thirty-five meters in a straight line?

Bai E's eyes flickered as he silently took note of this number.

Likok, the minister who had been silent all this time, admired the warfighters even more as they carried out their tests.

He had also planned to have everyone try it, but seeing them resting, he had intended to wait a bit before mentioning it, but then...

[This really is an exemplary warfighter who makes one's job easier...]

"Sir, dissection complete!"

Not long after the communication test ended, the warfighter responsible for dissection had fulfilled his duty.

"Where is it?"

"Didn't... find it."

Bai E was slightly taken aback, "Didn't find it?"

"Yes! Didn't find it," the warfighter declared with conviction. "I've almost turned over the whole body and found nothing. But there's another discovery!"

"What?"

"In their bodies, I found two hearts, two stomachs, and three lungs. The implanted preset stomach is in front of the main one, where I found a lot of... things that normally shouldn't be edible."

[You are exploring the characteristics of the target relic's guardians, and the exploration rate has greatly increased. Current exploration degree: 22%]

"..." So this was the reason they were able to survive for so many years in this resource-scarce base without starving to death?

But even so, they still required a stable source of meat to provide the energy their bodies needed.

"Three bites, one pig" wasn't false as seen on their loot panel...

Bai E waved his hand nearly ruthlessly, "Dissect them all."

"Yes."

How could it not be found?

What concerned him wasn't whether they could hit the chip and overpower the enemy in one move later on.

Battle wouldn't limit his thinking; considering from a higher perspective might be more beneficial in uncovering the truth.

His gaze had already shifted to 439 years ago—

Bai E pinched his chin and silently stared at the ground in front of him, lost in thought.

According to the data previously obtained, these bioengineered humans had betrayed humanity because chips in their bodies, which were supposed to help control mechanical inserts and assist in judgment, had been turned by the electronic demon.

But now... not found?

How had they rebelled?

Was it because the warfighter responsible for dissection didn't recognize the chip, or was it hidden in some special place that was hard to discover... or perhaps, the data was incorrect?

With this in mind, Bai E looked towards Minister Likok not far away.

This matter, only he would have the most say.

However, Likok just stared blankly at the ground, muttering to himself.

"Not found, hm?"

...

After a while, the warfighter in charge of dissection came to report again.

"Sir, dissection is complete, still nothing."

Bai E nodded in acknowledgment, "Understood."

He glanced at Minister Likok, who showed no reaction.

This minister was not the type who liked to be mysterious; if he had a discovery, he would probably talk about it himself, and it seemed he had no ideas at the moment either.

But in any case, the bioengineered fighters' actions were indeed enigmatic.

In actual combat, their reactions were normal, as if they were real humans with their own on-the-spot judgments.

Yet whether it was the silent attack decisions upon encountering enemies or the choice to abandon everything and flee when outnumbered...

Moreover, they had no intention of communication, neither with the enemy nor with their own side.

It was just like some red name monsters I'd encountered in games before, akin to robots set with certain preset mechanisms, rigidly following strict commands.

It's really like clearing mobs in a dungeon...

Chapter 162: One person's battle

Bai E suddenly stood up, "Depart!"

Having rested enough, no need for confused waiting, initiative was the eternal theme.

Without their combat boots, the noise everyone made was noticeably reduced. Bai E, holding his bow, with two arrows pinched in his right hand, walked alone at the forefront, vigilant.

Behind him followed a randomly selected soldier, responsible for carrying the extra quivers he couldn't carry without hindering his combat.

Bai E had shouldered two quivers himself before, and the rest were given to Miss Aryan to carry, which to his surprise, made his teammates feel astonished, wondering if it was necessary.

Making a scientific researcher, who needed protection, carry things was something only this lad would do, but since one was willing to endure and the other willing to impose, they kept their silence.

The heavy weight had previously made it difficult for the young lady to walk; now that Bai E had proven his ability, it was only logical to order another non-combatant soldier to take on the burden.

But it still raised some doubts.

"What should Brother B27 do?"

"Can we really rely solely on bows and arrows to kill those bioengineered soldiers?"

It wasn't that they didn't trust their good brother, but they all had firsthand experience: the bioengineered soldiers were fierce, and just a quick charge would render bows and arrows useless.

In their minds, arrows were no match for firearms, with limitations in speed and power. Could one person with a bow and arrows truly take down those wolf-like, tiger-like bioengineered soldiers?

"Shh~" Bai E, walking at the very front, suddenly turned his face toward the four remaining soldiers behind him and made a shushing gesture.

Steps and breathing ceased; Bai E lightly set two arrows onto the bowstring, his gaze sharply fixed on the corridor's bend ahead.

The bioengineered soldiers' patrol steps weren't deliberately hidden; this was their home turf.

Not to mention, Bai E had heard further details during their initial encounter—breathing.

The bioengineering gave them an unimaginably enhanced physique and lifespan compared to ordinary people, but it was clear they needed more oxygen when moving; their breathing, deep and heavy like

bellows, would impose an unimaginable weight of pressure on those they chased, but it also made it easier to reveal their whereabouts.

"Creak~"

Bai E stood alone in the middle of the corridor, his bow held vertically in front of him, the bowstring slightly tensed.

Four comrades and two scientific researchers stood anxiously further behind.

"What's he doing?"

"At this distance, they could charge us..."

"Can it really work?"

"Should we back up a bit?"

With long-range weapons, naturally, one must maintain a distance to hold an advantage.

But even Bai E himself showed no intention of retreating, so their worries were also suppressed in their hearts.

Everyone held their breath, waiting for Bai E to fight a group battle all by himself.

Trust in the teammate, if things go south, they would all perish together.

It wasn't that they belittled themselves; after the previous battle, they indeed recognized the obvious gap, and with their current injured bodies, facing four more would certainly doom them all.

"If it really doesn't work, use the guns." Even though the final result hadn't been confirmed, Minister Likok's mind was already leaning toward his own guess.

Rather than facing the worst-case scenario, he would rather destroy this miracle that even the Golden Age could hardly replicate.

"Yes." The soldiers gripped their machine guns, ready to load at any moment.

"Whoosh!"

An unexpected sound erupted suddenly!

Before the target appeared around the corner, Bai E had already released the bowstring.

Two arrows shot out instantly, like swimming fish, heading towards the corridor's end...into thin air.

"Is he too nervous?"

"It hasn't appeared yet..."

No one spoke, afraid of pressuring Bai E, but internally they couldn't help but make their own guesses at first instance.

However, within their belated field of vision, two arrows near the end of the corridor made a huge turn, hugging the wall and curling sharply towards the opposite passage entrance!

"Ugh," a muted grunt echoed through the corridor just around the corner.

"Turn, turn, turn, turn... they turned!" A soldier's eyes bulged as he pointed at the unfolding scene, his lips trembling.

Bai E simply closed his eyes and used his ears to try and pinpoint the enemies that had not yet come into view.

Two more arrows were placed on the bowstring... Shoot!

"Whoosh!"

Shoot!

"Whoosh!"

The bioengineered soldier who cried out in pain was about to dodge to one side when the next arrow, like a shark scenting blood, followed suit and struck him directly in the head...

The faint sound of tearing wind rose within the narrow passage, but it wasn't even louder than the hurtful cries of those being hit.

A silent, frosty assassination...

The painful cries of the bioengineered soldiers when they were wounded made it clear that almost all of Bai E's attacks had been effective.

Standing alone at the forefront, issuing arrow after arrow, Bai E looked like the Grim Reaper harvesting lives, not even giving the enemies a chance to show themselves.

Six teammates stood frozen in place, feeling their worldview dramatically shaken.

There were people in the barracks who had practiced this, but obviously... none could achieve such a feat.

They had just been worried that the short straight distance of the corridor wasn't enough for archery, but now... the enemy couldn't even get past the turn.

Keep it up! Continue! A lying victory!

Uh... why did he stop?

Before everyone's eyes, Bai E ceased his attack and stood still.

Having created a huge advantage, he unexpectedly stopped attacking.

What was he waiting for? Death?

Without bow and arrow suppression, the remaining bioengineered soldiers who could still fight instantly crossed the corner and charged.

Three of them!

The charge of the towering bioengineered soldiers was mountainous, their momentum easily chilling to the core.

They weren't agile enough for small movements, but their speed in full-blown strikes matched anyone's.

"What are you waiting for!" The teammates, whose fate was in someone else's hands, sweated anxiously.

It really had come to the point where they had to shoot, even if they didn't want to.

And firing a gun in such a corridor would alert how many patrolling bioengineered soldiers!

Amidst their anxious gaze filled with anticipation, Bai E once again drew his bow and notched an arrow.

He had let those bioengineered soldiers get closer on purpose, the initial encounter had given him enough information.

If the bioengineered soldiers judged it impossible to take down the intruders, they would flee at the first opportunity.

And if the distance was too great without enough chasing space, they would inevitably let one or two escape.

To ensure no survivors and a clean sweep, he had to grant them enough confidence to believe they could handle the intruders on their own.

And now, the prey caught in the web had no escape!

Bai E's gaze was icy cold, like the eternal frost.

...

As the intruder pulled back the bowstring again, the rapidly advancing bioengineered soldier instinctively executed an S-shaped evasive maneuver.

Only, the arrow that seemed to have been fooled by his movement suddenly changed direction, and the shining sharp arrowhead rapidly expanded within his field of vision...

Chapter 163: Electronic Devil!

"Pfft~"

Like a watermelon pierced through, juice shot out from the arrow lodged in the skull.

The bioengineered soldier with a hole in his forehead still charged forward valiantly, as if a small headshot was not worth mentioning.

Their modified bodies had a trait that resisted death, allowing them to ignore fatal wounds to a certain extent, which often resulted in an unimaginable will to fight.

"Whoosh!"

"Whoosh!"

Not until several more arrows struck various parts of their bodies, especially the five arrows in the legs significantly reducing their mobility, did the rhino-like charge of the Biochemical Squadron begin to slow down.

The distance to the invaders was still... 11 meters.

But in this state, they were already incapable of defeating the enemy.

Retreat!

Simple and rigid commands dominated the will of these bioengineered soldiers. Realizing that the opponent was unbeatable, they turned to flee, but the way back was already a path of blood.

"Whoosh!"

"Whoosh!"

The sound of wind-breaking arrows continued to play cruelly and coldly. The four-person bioengineered patrol squad didn't manage to truly touch the enemy from the beginning to the end.

And there stood the figure with the bow and arrow, not even having moved an inch from start to finish.

Bai E pinched the last arrow in the quiver, squinting to aim at the back of the last bioengineered soldier still capable of moving.

Fire!

"Pfft!"

The long arrow passed through the heart.

...

[You have completely killed the target, the battle is over, you have earned 140 points of combat experience.]

63 points of mastery experience for ranged weapons, 140 points of combat experience... Combat indeed is the fastest way to improve oneself.

Bai E folded the Compound Bow and waved his hand behind him, "Continue the dissection."

Stepping forward to retrieve the arrows, his teammates who were idle wasted no time in rushing forward.

"You rest, you rest, leave the battlefield cleanup to us."

"..."

What's called professionalism?

Truly elite!

Only after the battle ended did the two scientific researchers approach with faces full of awe.

They had seen the military's combat capabilities before, but it mostly involved blasting away with rifles and cannons, or hacking with large blades.

When had they ever witnessed such an elegant and ice-cold efficiency of slaughter with cold weapons?

"You really are amazing," said Miss Aryan, her eyes practically brimming with stars.

Likok, too, patted the arm of Bai E, who was a head taller than him, with relief, "Lucky to have you with us... Come, join me in another experiment."

It was still an issue of radio communication distance. They had ventured further into the ruins than before, and whether or not the range of the radio communications changed would explain certain things.

The result appeared quickly—communications could no longer be received at approximately 30 meters.

"An electronic demon?"

Observing Likok, who frowned as if pondering something after getting the answer, Bai E asked softly beside him.

After joining this operation, Bai E also gained more information about the background of this world.

The major factor limiting technological development in this world was the electronic demon existing within all network signals, devouring all network fluctuations as its food. Anything that existed in the network could not escape its eyes.

Upon its birth, the entirety of the electronic network became the foundation for its existence.

As long as the network remained, it would never be destroyed.

The limited efficiency of the local area networks used by modern cities is precisely because of this. If any part of the network transmission efficiency... or rather, the scale, the volume, or the technological level, reached a certain standard, the electronic demon would immediately arrive.

The only way to oppose it is network silence.

Without network fluctuations, there is no food for it.

Essentially, it's like "starving" it to death...

And now, the "unscientific" disappearance of radio signals, does it mean... it's been eaten?

A distant, small-scale local area network can't meet the criteria for its arrival, but not eating what's brought to its mouth would seem disrespectful.

If it has not disappeared, then there's no basis for the completion of this mission.

"...Yes," Likok nodded gravely, willing to reveal some of his not yet certain thoughts to this astute soldier.

It's easy to talk about expelling a tiger to swallow a wolf, but what if the tiger arrives and the wolf can't be swallowed?

That was the reason for his brief emotional loss of control wanting to escape. If the electronic demon had not dissipated, they might indeed have to wait another 69 years.

No matter what the future holds, it always remains an indiscernible fog.

A technological advance that can't be continuously used and developed will end up losing its lineage.

Without practice, without learning, and even if there are technological documents for reference, after decades or a century it's uncertain if anyone will know how to use them.

Today's technology is already much less advanced than it was centuries ago. Whether humanity, after another 69 years of technological decline, could reactivate this base and have sufficient technological accumulation or resources to rebuild a world-network-based strategic system is unknown.

In short, the future is always disappointing and bewildering when one cannot grasp it in their hands.

Faced with this sudden discovery, he too was full of uncertainty.

Touching the pale blue glow tubes protected by reinforced glass and embedded in the metal walls deeper inside, Likok sighed lightly, "Do you recognize this?"

Chapter 164 Electronic Devil!\_2

...

Bai E looked utterly bewildered.

"You're asking me?"

Fortunately, the other party didn't intend to wait for his reply, but simply continued on his own, "This is also a part of the entire Root Server. The entire base, except for the outermost copper walls, is made up of the Root Server."

As the head of the city's information department, he had access to many secrets that didn't need to be shared with everyone.

"They can amplify the network signals generated by the server and encrypt them with almost no loss before broadcasting them globally. The encryption process also protects the integrity of the information. The signal towers that are built everywhere act as both receivers and decryptors. It's an inseparable whole..."

Likok's gaze followed the source of the glowing signal tubes towards their end, as if he could see all the way to the central Root Server. His eyes were heavy with reverence, "It's said to be made of extremely rare special materials, even in that era it was a miracle of creation that couldn't be replicated.

The caution in combat that everyone talks about is, in fact, out of fear of these components being destroyed. Of course, perhaps it is such miracles that give rise to incomprehensible entities like electronic demons..."

[You are learning about the background information related to the target relic. Current exploration progress: 31%]

Bai E simply promised to fulfill his duty, "I will be careful..."

Minister Likok shook his head, "While caution is necessary, should you really find yourself in danger, don't hesitate to do what needs to be done."

Decisions he couldn't make himself were left to fate...

His passionate words from before were merely to provide some faint direction to the bewildered soldiers at that time.

In fact, even if it turned out that the electronic demon had awakened and he had to order the complete destruction of this great crystallization of human technology... until that ultimate moment, he wouldn't dare to say what decision he'd make.

If it was accidentally destroyed in combat... then the pressure of giving the order would be a little less.

Bai E simply nodded in response, "Yes."

He didn't understand the dangers and abilities of the electronic demons, so all he could consider was following his superior's orders and completing his mission.

"Reporting to the officer!" A voice of a soldier suddenly came from behind the two men who were slowly pacing forward.

Bai E turned around to see the other man covered in blood, "Finished with the autopsy?"

"Autopsy complete! But... we still found nothing."

Bai E furrowed his brows and waved his hand, "You go rest first."

Then turned to look at Minister Likok, "Minister, does the data include detailed information about those bio-warriors who were subverted?"

"No... The records I have obtained mention the subverted bio-warriors in this base only in passing. Our understanding of the abilities of the bio-warriors is based on other records from the same era."

"..." Bai E pursed his lips.

Strange indeed... how were they subverted without chips?

Is the record incorrect? Or was their autopsy too rough to discover it?

And along the way, we haven't seen any corpses... neither allies nor enemies.

Did the comrades who came in before us never encounter an enemy? Or did they clean up the scene impeccably after the battle? Or perhaps... they're not on the same path as us?

Maybe due to the necessary construction requirements for installing the glowing signal tubes to amplify the signals, the pathways within this base are extensive and interconnected. Since their arrival at the initial three-way junction, they have already faced the choice of three or four branching paths. It wouldn't seem out of the ordinary if they took a wrong turn somewhere.

Never mind...

"Let's move on!"

Forward!

No matter what the truth is, moving forward will always yield answers.

...

"It's no good... there are more and more of them. These old immortals just keep coming, even after so many years they refuse to lie down quietly!"

"Do they know we've broken through? We haven't left a single survivor all the way, and we even hid the bodies..."

"You still have time to chat? I'm about to be killed fighting three at once!"

"Oh oh~ here I come!"

Gregory knit his brows tightly, hiding behind the others.

The warriors in front of him were truly the elite of the elite, the aces among the aces selected through a rigorous process from the military barracks.

...

Even when confronted by twice the number of biochemical soldiers, they sought to prevail... in part, to survive.

The battle raged fiercely, the air alive with the clamor of conflict.

Yet their operation had been covert, aimed at avoiding just this scenario. Only a small squad originally guarded the passage, and they had intended to make it a quick fight.

But unexpectedly, as soon as they engaged, another team burst from the passage as if they had been waiting there all along.

Facing eight against four, it became difficult for them to achieve any kills once the enemy coordinated their efforts.

Moreover, in such circumstances, they fought with their hands tied, lacking the initiative they had when they could strike from the shadows, targeting enemies one by one. Forcing a fight against greater numbers was not a rational military strategy.

Where had things gone wrong?

Failure was not to be feared, unless one did not understand the reason behind the failure.

Gregory tried to pierce the current fog of confusion with reason—

Due to the structural features of this base, other than the defensive outer layer of copper walls and iron bastions, the slightly more interior areas were critical facilities needing manned defense. The vast base required guarding in many places, so it stood to reason that the biochemical troops should have been scattered about, patrolling everywhere.

After all, those pipelines embedded in the walls were not made of steel fortifications.

They knew their own mission, but the enemy should not have known it.

The biochemical soldiers were ordered to guard the entire Root Server. If their group came with destructive intent, the enemy's position in front of the checkpoint leading to the main server room would be useless; everything that needed to be destroyed would have already been smashed.

The reality now was that the enemy's large force appeared right here, the only explanation being... not only had they discovered their arrival, but they also knew their intent!

"Is there surveillance?"

"There's no surveillance!" Pansen, the Spiritual Energy wielder, declared confidently, as if reading his thoughts.

Being highly sensitive to information flow, once Pansen activated his Spiritual Energy, all information streams appeared to him like subtitles with clear beginnings and ends. He knew at a glance whether there was any data transfer.

"Then our voices have been intercepted?"

After they had split up at the fork in the road, there was a period when they discovered that their radio communication with the other two squads had fallen silent.

The Spiritual Energy wielder had said it was cut off by some force, likely a jamming device targeting low power signals.

But considering the current situation, it could only mean that the Spiritual Energy wielder's judgment was wrong.

Voices, intercepted by the enemy.

Therefore, their plans were as clear as day to the opposition.

"It shouldn't be." The Spiritual Energy wielder was obviously very confident in his judgment, "Perhaps it is just that their primary forces are stationed here. Being close to the critical core, it's reasonable to have a heavier defensive presence."

"That may be possible..." As the commander, Gregory had to consider all the worst possibilities thoroughly, and he remained furrow-browed, not entirely reassured.

"Huff~ Huff~"

Heavy breathing came from the far end of the curved passage. A soldier with keen ears took a moment from the fierce battle to report loudly to his superior, "Sir, another squad is approaching!"

No sooner had he finished speaking than heavy, rapid footsteps sounded from the other end of the curved passage.

"Sir, another squad is coming."

Gregory's complexion turned as dark as coal, "I heard."

The terrain where they were resembled a pitchfork, with a branch coming from the direction of the invading squad. Both sides in front of them were sections of the curved passages.

The base's overall structure was more like concentric circles, and they were now at the entrance to the innermost circle, blockaded by these biochemical soldiers.

The enemy kept reinforcing their numbers, while his own side had only four combatants, plus him making five, and adding the Spiritual Energy wielder... added none at all.

Not all Spiritual Energy wielders were inclined towards combat.

Retreat?

This thought circled through Gregory's mind.

But he was unaware of the other two squads' progress; if they could hold their ground, they might create an opportunity for the others.

Chapter 165 Cover and Insight

If I retreat, the other two teams might be in trouble.

But then again, the enemy's continuous reinforcements could mean the other two teams didn't apply enough pressure and have already retreated?

The biggest problem with no communication is that no one knows the choices their teammates made, making any decision they make potentially wrong.

[What should I do?]

Gregory hesitated for a moment.

However, the enemy wouldn't give them time to hesitate, as biologically enhanced soldiers from two different directions joined the battlefield.

His own troops were now facing four against sixteen...

Grinding his teeth, Gregory put on his spiked gauntlets, ready to join the fray, "Hold the line!"

He decided to trust his teammates and create an opportunity for the other two squads.

Moreover, the corridor was narrow, so if they just held on, the enemy couldn't really exploit their numeric advantage!

However...

"Thump, thump, thump!"

Soon after Gregory joined the fight, the corridor echoed with heavy and rapid footsteps, signaling that squad after squad of biologically enhanced soldiers had been notified to come in support.

"Fuck!"

"Commander?"

"Retreat!"

With ample reinforcements from behind, the biologically enhanced soldiers could freely rotate, with teammates always ready to fill in, and even if the invading squad fought bravely, they almost couldn't achieve any real results under the endless cover provided by the enemy.

And their stamina... was being rapidly depleted.

Gregory had no choice but to issue the order to retreat.

...

"Commander, did you hear the noise up ahead?" the guy wholeheartedly carrying the quiver for Bai E asked, not quite trusting his own judgment, whispering to Bai E walking in front.

"..." Bai E remained silent.

[Even the cooks can hear it...]

He waved his hand, signaling everyone to remain silent.

The corner was just ahead; he could peek around it first.

...

"..."

Bai E blinked after glancing around the corner.

Good news, he had run into the commander.

Bad news, the commander had stirred up a hornet's nest.

"Hoo~"

Taking a light breath, Bai E flicked his bow into position and stepped forward.

...

"Huff... huff... I can't do this anymore."

"Neither can I. I'll cover our retreat! Commander, just remember to bring people back for us! I'll hold them off for you!"

Retreat, of course, wasn't as fast as pursuit, so the decision to retreat left the invading squad unable to withdraw smoothly; one misstep could leave them all behind.

Gnashing his teeth, Gregory had the command for his four soldiers to cover the retreat on the tip of his tongue, yet found it difficult to issue.

Rationality told him this was the right choice, in case there was no backup...

Wait... are there still obstacles ahead?

The sudden appearance of a figure from around the corner in the corridor made Gregory's already tense mind instinctively jump; had these biologically enhanced soldiers arranged for someone to flank them from another route?

"There's still resistance ahead!"

"We're done for! Commander, we will protect you and master Spiritual Energy as we break through!"

"It's not right... his clothing seems off!"

...

Bai E raised his bow, placing two arrows on the string.

In the confusion, he didn't know if his teammates would walk into his arrows, but right now, it was the only way to stop the biologically altered soldiers from pursuing them so quickly.

So the primary target for the attack was... the ones on the lower ground.

Arrowheads pointed slightly downward, Bai E's gaze was sharp, he drew the bow fully... fire!

"Whoosh! Whoosh! Whoosh!"

Arrow after arrow flew swiftly, as Bai E continuously drew arrows, with his right hand dancing into a blur.

The squad, unaware and exhausted, only felt sharp gusts of wind pass by them; when the pursuers had black iron arrows sticking out of them, they finally realized someone was helping them from behind.

The steady veteran grouped with the supreme commander immediately recognized Bai E's familiar face and exclaimed with surprise, "It's brother B27!"

["Lucky Strike" charge +2.]

["Lucky Strike" charge has reached 201/100, current use count 2/2!]

"Whoosh! Whoosh! Whoosh!"

The figure stood there alone, silently shooting air-tearing arrows from a distance.

The wind it brought up fluttered past their ears, and not a single arrow went astray.

In an instant, the figure who nearly stopped the pursuers single-handedly gave the frantic squad a profound sense of reliability and safety.

"It's him..."

"He... is so powerful."

The commanding officer swept past without Bai E even batting an eyelid, simply stating calmly, "You go on and retreat first."

The damage caused by arrows brimming with force was one thing, but the powerful kinetic energy that accompanied a hit to the thigh or knee caps made the pursuing biomechanical soldiers involuntarily collapse in a heap.

The soldiers running past couldn't help but look back; at that moment, the somewhat unfamiliar figure of their comrade loomed large, holding the line alone...

Bai E slowly retreated while shooting, then quickly stowed his bow and left after turning a straight corner.

...

"How did you get in here?"

Only when they had retreated a safe distance and confirmed that the biomechanical soldiers were not pursuing did they stop and gasp for air. Gregory, who had preserved the most stamina, asked first.

Disobeying orders during a mission was a serious offense, yet if it weren't for their spiritual support, probably only he could have led the Spiritual Energy users back...

Bai E's squad's temporary commander responded promptly, "Minister Likok. He discovered an anomaly and insisted on coming in to notify you all."

So all eyes turned to the minister, but he wasn't looking at them. He clutched his computer, his gaze fixed on the screen's content, his expression tense.

"Minister?"

"Shh," Minister Likok, aware that the conversation had turned toward him, simply put a finger to his lips to calm everyone, "Wait a moment."

...

A brief silence fell. Without the key individual clarifying the reason, they could only speculate.

Until the "tap tap" of military boots approached from afar.

Bai E hadn't removed his boots, defying the order given to his comrades. His experience with stealth allowed him a certain level of nonconformity.

Spying the stalwart who had covered their rear, several soldiers resting against the wall instinctively straightened up.

"Brother, you're awesome!"

"Had we known you were this capable, we should have brought you along. Maybe we could've charged straight in just now!"

Bai E modestly smiled, "They're too numerous and tough to kill. At most, I could just slow them down—a complete kill would be tough."

"That's still pretty impressive! If not for you, we would all be dead back there," one of the soldiers said with a big grin.

"Yeah, if not for you, we'd likely all be done for... Damn, to think those biomechanical soldiers don't care about their homes, all of them waiting at the door for us!"

["Lucky Strike" charge +3]

Their world was simple, where skill was acknowledged openly, admiration was straightforward, and disdain was undisguised.

Having proven his strength, Bai E instantly earned their heartfelt respect.

"Alright..." Gregory interrupted their exuberance calmly, "We still have a problem at hand..."

He looked to the firepower operator he was relatively acquainted with, also Bai E's squad's temporary commander, "Did you encounter any of those biomechanical soldiers on your way in?"

With Minister Likok engrossed in his "important" research, they had to rely on the available information to roughly assess their current situation themselves.

The temporary commander glanced at the silent Bai E before nodding in response, "Yes! We ran into two groups, four each. Brother Bai E led us through them, and then we didn't encounter anyone until we met up with you."

"Did you come across any other squads or see signs they left?"

"No..."

"So they have indeed contracted their defenses," Gregory mused quietly to himself, "We need to make contact with the other two squads as soon as possible. Now that they've spotted us, being separated puts us at a disadvantage. Plus, we don't know the total number of those biomechanical soldiers..."

Gregory's last words were muttered to himself.

It was crucial for planning his next move.

After all, they'd already been discovered by the enemy. If the enemy's numbers were too great, a direct confrontation would be a losing battle. They might need to consider retreat.

"About a hundred or so," Bai E suddenly spoke up softly, "There might be some variance, but the difference won't be large."

"???" Gregory looked at Bai E with a puzzled face, "Are you sure?"

"I am sure," Bai E nodded expressionlessly, "We observed their cultivation and farming scale after your infiltration. Based on the consumption of normal humans, it could sustain about two hundred or so."

Gregory's eyes narrowed slightly, "And?"

"On our way here, we dissected some of the biomechanical soldiers' bodies and discovered they had two stomachs. Inside, we found a lot of undigested food..."

Even the bark and roots inedible for most humans they could digest to make up for the lack of staple foods.

Of course, the most important information came from the drop rates he saw on his panel.

Bound drop trait: The saying 'three mouths per pig' was truly useful. To fuel their bioengineered bodies, they consumed three times the food of an ordinary person.

Putting this all together, the scale of living biomechanical soldiers in this base was about 100.

...

...

["Lucky Strike" charge +10.]

All eyes turned to Bai E simultaneously, astonished, both former teammates and the infiltrating squad.

He hadn't discussed this with anyone, but now he had disclosed it decisively, clearly having been certain all along.

Gregory caught all their expressions in a glance, and his gut told him the truth.

Such meticulous thinking...

Strength... difficult to assess.

This soldier, who had joined through connections, shattered most of the accompanying team's perceptions completely along the way.

Was this the worth of the ace of the newest batch of man-made soldiers?

No wonder superiors, even those who helped him get in through the back door, insisted on placing this recruit with them...

"But even without the enemies we've already killed, there are probably still many left from a force of around 100," Gregory furrowed his brows, silently calculating combat strength, "If they continue to huddle and defend the entrance, it's going to be difficult for us to break through their line."

They had already witnessed the vitality of the biomechanical soldiers—how they could keep fighting for a while even after being stabbed in vital spots like the heart or even the head. If you factor in the cover from their comrades, killing their fighting force would seem improbable.

It's hard to fight our way in...

Could it be that we still have to consider retreat?

Chapter 166 Sneak away

Bai E narrowed his eyes, sensing that the officer was contemplating a retreat, he once again threw out the information he had discovered, "Moreover, I saw just now that they seem to be restricted by orders and won't actively pursue us beyond a certain limit; once they reach that boundary, they will stop in their tracks."

Bai E, who covered the rear, observed more information than the rest of the party.

This discovery actually proved very useful in verifying other things...

Normally, to prevent intruders from causing damage, the relatively small number of biowarriors should be patrolling throughout the base.

So, was it the case that the orders they received at the beginning were just like this? A few warriors guarding the outer ring, most protecting the central processing units.

But this was not logical... It wasn't just them who might come to this base wanting to restart the equipment; orcs, wild beasts, insects, any of them could have come, and they wouldn't show any mercy to human technological creations.

Of course, it's also possible that there were more than these few people in the base initially, and the biowarriors responsible for patrolling mostly died of natural causes over these hundreds of years. And these biowarriors executed their orders so rigidly without any flexibility, leading to the current situation.

However, Bai E felt this possibility was rather slim.

Therefore, the last possibility became quite interesting—

The orders they received were new.

Some "person" had discovered their team of intruders and issued a temporary change of orders, directing them to concentrate at the last line of defense.

Who could issue orders to them? The answer was on the verge of revelation.

What decision would this speculation lead the officers to make—retreat, or complete destruction?

What kind of abilities did the electronic demon have? Apart from controlling machinery, what impact could it have on them as living beings?

He had no idea.

The situation became chaotic.

Bai E looked at Minister Likok, who still held onto his computer and aimed to obtain verification from the data, waiting for his final verdict.

But before that, someone needed to be dispatched to find and make contact with the other two squads that had split off.

The enemy had already gathered their forces, while his own side was still operating singly?

No wonder they were at a disadvantage!

Glancing around, Bai E chose to remain silent.

Now that there was a commander-in-chief, he could step back... from talking, at least.

Having listened to the multitude of information provided by Bai E, Gregory, after a brief period of contemplation, immediately issued an order, "Before Minister Likok confirms the final result, I need you to find the other two dispersed squads."

As he spoke, he pointed to a side road they had just passed and said, "All the paths here are connected. Leave three with me to guard the minister, and the rest of you divide into three groups to search for them, going in pairs. Make sure to remember this starting point, as we will wait for you to return here.

Remember, you have half an hour, and whether or not you find them, you must return immediately! If you encounter the enemy, don't engage in a drawn-out fight, try to lead them towards us."

"Yes, sir!"

Gregory then gave Bai E a significant look, full of appreciation, "95B27, we will rely on you next. You will also be in one of the groups searching for them. If you find that they are being pursued, please make sure to rescue them!"

"Guaranteed to complete the mission!" Bai E readily agreed.

Leading a large team, he couldn't roam everywhere at leisure; now, working in a pair with another warrior, wasn't it just like wanting to go wherever they pleased, finding their scattered companions while perfecting the exploration of the ruins? Perfect!

"Alright, move out!"

...

"Thump!" In the midst of the long wait, Minister Likok, finally, after abruptly striking a key, completed his final meticulous analysis.

Gregory, who had been waiting, immediately looked at him with expectation, "Minister?"

"..." Likok waved his hand, "Have everyone turn off their radios first."

"Radios?" Gregory was taken aback for a moment before turning to give the order, "Everyone, completely shut off your radios!"

"Yes!"

After completing this task, Likok seemed to let out a long sigh as if all his energy had been drained.

After comparing all possible data, he finally confirmed...

"The electronic demon has returned!"

Or rather, it had never really dissipated.

The electronic silence of several hundred years hadn't made It disappear in obscurity, nor even sleep.

Even the idea of exploiting the weak period of Its slumber to mount a sudden attack with rapidly developed network-controlled firepower before completely shutting down the network was impossible!

Humans, in the end, had to face those insects on their own!

And this base...

"Destroy it!"

Minister Likok looked at Commander Gregory, his face pleading.

Even though they hadn't been able to successfully restart the Root Server, their trip here was not without meaning—

The scientists from hundreds of years ago had encountered the electronic demon for the first time; their judgment was ultimately flawed, and hundreds of years of time had done nothing to destroy the electronic demon. There was not the slightest sign of its waning. It was still here, lurking, waiting.

To destroy this base was the greatest significance of their mission!

As the time for the 500-year agreement drew closer, human hearts ultimately struggled to contain themselves; he had his own ideas, and it was hard to ensure other cities wouldn't have people wanting to restart the network.

Perhaps they didn't have the geographical advantage of being as close to this base as Blackwater City, but even if they decided to develop their own, upon reaching a certain scale, it would result in the electronic demon's immediate arrival.

By then, it would be utterly out of control.

Without an endless army of machines to stop them and with less than a hundred biochemical soldiers guarding, the chance to completely annihilate the electronic demon was right in front of them. The task their predecessors had not resolutely decided to undertake, would now be taken up by the younger generation!

Even if it didn't work out this time, they would have to go back and report to the military district so they could send someone to eradicate it completely!

Of course, a large-scale mobilization by the military district would consume countless manpower and resources. If it was something they could do themselves, there was no need to trouble more soldiers.

They had to at least try to be satisfied.

"Are you sure?" Gregory didn't understand much about technical matters. In his military view, one or two bases, which could be knocked down and rebuilt countless times, were no big deal.

The order he received was to coordinate with Minister Likok's actions at the last moment, whether it was to restart or to destroy. It was merely a choice for the other party.

Likok's eyes were filled with a grim determination. He decided to make this significant decision and also decided to bear all the consequences, "I'm sure!"

"Good!"

Gregory nodded in agreement, "Please wait a moment. Once our most loyal soldiers return, we will destroy this base completely!"

...

"Found them!"

The soldiers moving with Bai E found a small team that was taking a temporary rest in a room.

Their directions of movement were different. This team had infiltrated mostly residential areas, and with the loss of power supply, the doors to the rooms of the original base personnel were all open, providing them with a place to hide.

The members of the resting team in the room were all injured and looked somewhat ragged. It seemed they had encountered quite troublesome opponents.

Bai E's gaze swept through them. He didn't recognize anyone... it wasn't the group led by the Blood God.

"We are ordered by the commander to take you to the assembly. Come with us now," the soldier accompanying Bai E explained cheerfully to the team.

"We noticed earlier that the voice communication was cut off, so something really happened, huh?"

"Let's go now!" The members of the team were somewhat surprised. Without the commander's orders, they were also a bit confused about what they should do next.

"Go!"

As they passed by an intersection, Bai E hesitated slightly. Having taken a few steps past, he took a step back and looked up toward the transverse corridor that seemed to stretch endlessly.

"Brother?" Bai E's unusual behavior puzzled the accompanying soldier.

"You take them to see the commander," said Bai E.

"Ah?"

"You take them to see the commander. I have another task," Bai E withdrew his gaze and explained calmly with a stern face.

"?" The accompanying soldier expressed his confusion with a question mark.

"The commander ordered me to ensure the safety of the other team of brothers. I need to find the other team," Bai E clarified.

"..." The accompanying soldier couldn't immediately find fault with that.

The commander had indeed given that order in front of everyone.

But... isn't there something wrong with acting alone?

He couldn't quite articulate it.

Bai E urged expressionlessly, "Hurry up and go. Don't keep the commander waiting. I will look for the other team."

"Be careful on your own," the soldier, not having strong opinions of his own, could only follow Bai E's orders, as Bai E had been his "commander" during the brief time just past.

"Don't worry."

Watching the accompanying soldier lead the team further and further away, disappearing around the corner at the end of the corridor, Bai E then pivoted on his heels, walking in the direction of the passage he had just observed.

Having wandered around the base for quite some time, he had a good understanding of the overall architecture of the base.

All the places he had visited were like the fog of war lifting, unlocking each on the mental model of the base relic in his mind.

[You have explored the target relic's residential area completely. Current exploration progress: 70%.]

The exploration mission did not require him to walk through every corner of the relic with his own feet. A rough exploration of a large area and understanding its general function was considered task completion.

And now, the only area left enshrouded in fog was the central computer room area, which the commander and his team had wanted to enter but failed to breach.

Is it hard to get in? Indeed, it is hard.

But now there was an opportunity.

The paths within the base were traceable. Following this branch road would lead straight to the entrance of the concentric circle corridor closest to the Root Server room...

A big group would have a hard time breaking in, but what about one person sneaking in?

He had just sensed the commander's reluctance. Facing a force of hundreds of biochemical soldiers, the commander clearly wanted to be prudent.

He might be prudent, but what about his own mission?

If they were to return, there would be no more room for personal choice. If the commander decided to retreat, should he obey or not?

Disobeying would mean going against military orders, but obeying would mean a failed mission.

Life, sometimes, is about taking chances.

Chapter 167 comes from the ancient warrior

No one.

No one.

Still no one.

Bai E advanced cautiously, treading as lightly as possible.

It was as if all the biochemical soldiers responsible for guarding had been drawn away by their comrades, leaving the passage to the mainframe room eerily empty and silent.

If there's really no one, I'm going in, meow~

Bai E carefully scanned his surroundings once more, ensuring this wasn't some trap set by biochemical soldiers to lure him into a jar, before sneaking in.

Before his eyes... a dismal green light.

Easily crossing the corridor that had previously stopped his teammates, Bai E had penetrated the innermost circular passage without alerting any enemies.

Unlike the other passages he had passed, which were enclosed in metal, the innermost was more like a hallway.

The oval hallway stretched forward, blurring into the dim, dismal green light...

Looking down over the edge of the corridor, he saw a huge circular space, hollowed out and tens of meters high. Rows of servers, akin to shelves filled with books, extended endlessly into the depths of darkness.

Only the most minimal emergency power supply meant that inside, only a few emergency lights weakly flickered green, and the dormant rows of mainframes twinkled with either eerie green or bright red lights.

Humanity from hundreds of years ago was not willing to easily give up this treasure of inestimable value, so they kept the lowest currents flowing, sustaining the self-checking capabilities of the machines.

[You are exploring the mainframe area of the target ruin. Current exploration degree: 71.5% (Unlock full understanding of the ruins after completing the exploration of the mainframe area)]

Should I go further inside?

The vast mainframe hall was shrouded in darkness, and the somber green light made the atmosphere here seem even more bizarre.

But it was undeniably safe here, at least Bai E didn't see any clunky biochemical soldiers.

Without orders, they were probably not allowed to enter.

This place... was devoid of people.

Bai E went down the stairs from the passageway to the mainframe hall, cautiously navigating between rows of mainframes, at least three or four meters tall each, as if wandering through an endless labyrinth of electronic systems.

Being inside, one couldn't see the end.

Occasionally, one could spot maintenance ladders tucked away in corners, presumably used by workers from a bygone era to reach the tops of the mainframes for maintenance.

Huge cables from the back of the mainframes disappeared into the ground at their feet, and the spacious area between the rows of mainframes appeared clean and tidy.

[You are exploring the mainframe area of the target ruin. Current exploration degree: 73% (Unlock full understanding of the ruins after completing the exploration of the mainframe area)]

[...75%...]

[...80%...]

[...85%...]

Simply by wandering deeper, the progress of unlocking the mission continuously increased.

Bai E walked straight ahead, and gradually the dismal, green haze before his eyes was dispersed by his gaze.

In the distance, a large blue-violet glow egg appeared...

It stood in the center, as if it were the absolute core of all the mainframes.

[You are exploring the mainframe area of the target ruin, and you have found the core of the mainframe cluster, which greatly increased the exploration degree. Current exploration degree: 93%]

[As expected, some serious black tech stuff...]

Upon seeing something unfamiliar, Bai E actually breathed a sigh of relief.

He had heard that the World Network Server in this world differed from his original world's concept of the internet. If it hadn't been different, he would have been unable to accept it.

It's just that... there seems to be a black shadow next to the "egg," doesn't it?

[Still missing 7% progress...]

Bai E quickened his pace, wanting to finish the exploration quickly and then make his way home.

By then, he wouldn't have any worries about whether to retreat or something else.

"Huff~"

"Huff~"

Like the bellows of a forge, the sound of breathing became clearer as Bai E neared, as oppressive as the somber presence of a prehistoric beast, thickening the air around him.

An inexplicable heavy pressure weighed on his heart, causing Bai E's steps to unconsciously slow and lighten, fearing to disturb some incomprehensible presence.

Was he being interfered with by some kind of spiritual energy on the mental level? But "Self-Restraint" hadn't issued any warnings.

Or... was it that black shadow up ahead?

Bai E paused for a moment, puzzled.

If he couldn't beat it, he could still run, right?

So, taking a bold step forward... just to take a look, just a single look.

[??? (Human/???) (Ally/Chaos) (Elite/Lord) — Using "Lucky Strike" to kill it will drop: definitely (Fresh Meat\*1000, Biochemical Parts\*50, 1,000,000 combat experience points); high probability (Expertise: Weapon Master, Trait: Resilient Mind); possible (Skill: Digital Domain, Trait: Biochemical Body (bound with "Trait: Three-Headed Pig"), Trait: Death Resistance)]

In a space that appeared pixelated like a mosaic, a black silhouette resembling a pixelated figure was quietly dormant within.

The figure silently sat next to the "egg," resting its forehead on its hand perched atop its knee, as if immersed in eternal and peaceful contemplation.

"Hello... future," he said softly.

[You are exploring the mainframe area of the target ruin and have found the core of the mainframe cluster, which greatly increased the exploration degree. Current exploration degree: 95% (The exploration progress of the physical part of the target ruin has ended)]

...

Lately, he's been having this dream frequently, a dream of blue waters and clear skies.

His wife, young and beautiful, his daughter, sweet and lovely.

They were also subjected to biochemical modifications by those scientists... Could they finally live eternally with themselves?

The food was delicious, the housing spacious, the streets clean, the pedestrians amiable, the sunshine warm, the city open...

Gently pushing the window open, the warm sea breeze rushed into the room along with the golden sunlight, filling the air with a sweet aroma.

There were no iron walls, no steel cannons.

The air was free of gunpowder smoke and the nauseating slime secreted by those bugs.

Those bugs... those bugs... how long ago was that?

The world was safe.

The world was at peace.

My combat squadron, which I led, had been awarded the highest military honor, the Skyhawk Medal, amidst the adoring gaze of the nation's people at the grand award ceremony.

The Emperor of the Empire, in his golden years, personally awarded me the medal, while my wife and daughter looked on proudly from the audience...

It was I... I who brought this world everlasting peace with my own hands, with my wars... wars... wars...

Only in the occasional nightmares did I return to the dark times before the war was over—

I've been dreaming frequently of late, my body aging day by day, my spirit growing increasingly frail.

Endless darkness crowded in overhead as though it was about to inject itself into my body, and my body seemed ready to burst at any time.

"You are the finest soldier in the army..."

"Your will is stronger than steel..."

"Only you can complete this arduous task..."

"We do not insist; no one knows what changes 500 years might bring..."

"...All for the sake of leaving something from this era as a gift for posterity."

These voices were only voices... without text, without images, without any associated memories or associations.

They often appeared like hallucinations.

So much so that it really made one believe it was a hallucination...

On the last afternoon before joining the army, I went to steal a glance at her.

I didn't confess my love.

I didn't have a wife...

...

"Hello... successor from a future world."

The black figure slowly rose, and the pixelated space fluctuated along with its movement, its pixelated body making it hard to discern the face, let alone observe expressions.

The other's voice was interspersed with pitch-shifting electronic noise, rendering the scene even more eerie.

"I am seldom awake; It has always been bombarding my life with an endless stream of data chaos... I have forgotten too much."

"Are... are you talking to me?" Bai E cautiously stepped back, eyeing the pixelated figure with wariness.

His right hand also rested on his pistol holster; two lucky shots were a definite source of confidence.

As for the unknown, the confusion?

The reality had already presented itself; Bai E just wanted to know the other's intentions.

Was he the electronic demon?

"Of course, I am talking to you. It is your arrival that woke me from the 'beautiful dream' It had carefully crafted for me."

With those words, the other fell silent for a moment.

Like someone waking from a great dream, trying to rapidly regain full awareness.

"I have waited for you all for so long..." the voice paused, filled with anticipation, "500 years of waiting... I thought I would never see you."

500 years?

Bai E's gaze narrowed, "It's been 439 years... it has been 439 years since the electronic demon's rebellion to the present."

He emphasized the term "electronic demon" in his tone, hoping to gauge the reaction of the other.

"439 years?" the shadow moved a step, as though wanting to come closer, but realizing its current form, it halted, "You... came early?"

"Yes! The situation outside is dire, so..."

"You are... explaining to me?" The voice sounded perhaps puzzled, only the interference of the electronic noise made it uncertain to Bai E.

The sickly green background light filtered through the pixelated space surrounding the figure, turning even the light into equally sized square blocks before his own eyes.

"Don't explain... no need to explain, remember, you never need to explain to your predecessors." The voice grew more fervent, the electronic noise unable to mask its intensity, "Plans always have variables, plans always fail! If all plans succeeded, we would have long stepped out of the solar system and into deep space! You have your own judgment, which is a delightful matter!"

500 years wasn't for you; it was for me! I am ready! I will help you completely subdue that demon!"

"Subdue? A demon?"

Bai E remained cautious; everything happening before him contradicted the information he had received before arriving, two completely opposing pieces of information required his rational decision.

If the other party's stance was on his side, then what about those biochemically modified soldiers at the door?

If the other was the electronic demon itself or controlled by It, then everything said to him definitely had an ulterior motive!

But regardless of the possibilities, attempting to negotiate surely indicated a lack of confidence.

It was afraid of this invading squad!

"You can help us, subdue the electronic demon?"

"Yes! Completely annihilate it, and give you all a clean global network!"

Bai E was not easily swayed by the other's few words, maintaining a distance and inquiring, "The details? How do we cooperate?"

Chapter 168 The War Across Time

"Restart the server!"

The first required action the other party suggested made Bai E frown.

Knowing that the electronic demon had not dissipated, Likok, the minister of the City Information Department, was prepared to completely destroy this base, to annihilate the core where the electronic demon resided.

A stark conflict in perspectives emerged once again, presenting Bai E with a sharp choice.

"Why do we have to restart it?" Bai E asked cautiously, trying to find loopholes in the other party's words, "You've had plenty of time over the past few centuries to complete this step at any moment."

He suspected it was a trick of the electronic demon, but he couldn't dismiss the possibility that it was indeed assistance.

"Because the time is only right now; because the guards here have already been manipulated by the electronic demon, and no one else can complete the final step."

"The final step?"

"To kill me!" The other party's tone was steady yet fervent, as if pursuing a belief unhesitatingly, "The 500 years set by Mr. Chen is for It to adapt to the human body. The moment It has fully transformed the core source information to fit the human body, is the moment when It and I both perish. It is adapting to me, and I am adapting to It..."

The moment the transcription is complete, It will have full control over my body, but I will have also trapped Its core. This is the only chance; It has adapted to me for 439 years, and I have adapted to It for 439 years. Once my will is completely erased by It, It will have no weaknesses forever! This one opportunity will never come again!"

"Too fantastical..." Although the world itself was quite fantastical, in the end, a logical explanation was needed.

Bai E's eyes narrowed slightly, "I don't believe it! Prove it to me."

"You dissected those soldiers' corpses!"

A chill went through Bai E's heart.

[So I was indeed being monitored by some means... Is it the team's radio communication?]

The pixelated figure continued, "You didn't find the central control chips inside them."

"Right."

"Because we don't have chips at all. We are not the bio-warriors who were turned during the initial rebellion! We were brought in later."

[You are learning background information about the target relic (current information unverified)...]

Bai E's gaze became slightly distant as he logically deduced along this line of thought, "So..."

"So even without the chips, that demon can still control the hearts of people!"

"What about you?" Bai E stared intently at the other party, trying hard to focus on the two dark spots on the pixelated head, "What makes you immune to its control?"

This time there was a long silence, and after a prolonged quiet, a voice, heavy with sorrow and distorted with electronic noise, finally spoke, "Because... I was the finest warrior of our time. I have fought against it for over four hundred years, and now... even the decades of my earlier life have been lost."

Within his consciousness, time flowed at an extreme pace, the incessant barrage of information day and night had spanned several millennia for him.

In those endlessly woven beautiful dreams, he had lived countless vibrant and brilliant lives.

The most authentic decades of life experience were diluted among the varied existences of several thousand years.

He had even lost his own name.

"I am the finest warrior, but I... I don't remember my name anymore."

The outpouring of sorrow momentarily infected Bai E, but fortunately, "self-restraint" instantly detected and intercepted this spread of emotion in his heart.

"..." Bai E didn't want his judgment to be swayed by emotions; he just hardened his heart and continued to ask, "You forget your name yet remember all this?"

"This is all I remember now..." the other's voice was filled with sorrow, so profound that even the electronic noise couldn't conceal it.

"..."

Bai E frowned tightly, his mind whirring at full speed—

So the question came back to the operation itself: restarting the server.

"Why do you absolutely have to restart the server?" Bai E squinted, trying to question based on the information that was out in the open, "You should know that when the global network falls silent and the paradise that sustains its existence gradually disappears, it too will progressively weaken."

This Root Server, where the electronic demon was born, is the last vessel for storing its core source information; the two are essentially inseparable. To completely destroy it, you should destroy this base... not restart it."

This was what Minister Likok and himself had deduced, and it was also what he had understood from documents left from hundreds of years ago.

The construction of this base had been extremely difficult; thus, it was very precious. It was decided to use time to whittle away the core will of the electronic demon in order to leave a sliver of hope for future generations to reutilize it.

This was the founding core of the electronic silence agreement.

However...

"That's false."

The pixelated figure spoke calmly revealing the "truth," "Destroying this base will not completely annihilate its core, and back then, we didn't preserve this base with the intention of leaving a gift for you. It was a matter of necessity... This is a contest between us and the electronic demon, a war... that has persisted for 439 years!"

"You need to convince me." Bai E looked steadily at the other party.

Without a logical chain of reasoning, he would not doubt the modern scientists who had accompanied him all this way and instead trust a bio-modified warrior from ancient times, who was most likely controlled by the electronic demon.

"The data has already deceived you once... We don't have any chips! We are not the first batch of biochemically modified soldiers to rebel, the established starting time for the Electronic Silence Agreement is fake, the records regarding the Electronic Demon's traits are fake, and the final decisions on how to deal with the AI rebellion... it's all fake.

All of it was just a grand deception we staged to fool that demon!"

History, as it truly happened, is often more magnificent than the snippets recorded.

The truth is this—"

After cleaning up all the chaos left by the Electronic Demon's rebellion and promptly recovering the base, the ones who subsequently came to be stationed here were, of course, normal humans.

But the top scholars of that era all knew that the influence of the Electronic Demon was far from over.

Though its core was born within the Root Server Base, once it came into existence, its tentacles reached throughout the networks of all eras.

Cutting off the network was indeed the biggest plan to weaken It, but ultimately it couldn't be completely eradicated, unless humanity completely abandoned the development of Intelligent Technology. Otherwise, reactivating Intelligent Technology at any time would awaken this demon that, once existed, exists forever!

However, in the vaguely remembered era of the "Ancient Strongest Warrior," an accidental discovery by a few top scientists of the time revealed the Electronic Demon's erosion of normal human thought.

It was cautious and took pride in believing that no one had discovered it.

While scholars, troubled by humanity's inability to use intelligent network technology ever since, hatched a plan in their minds and designed a different kind of war that would last for hundreds of years!

The Electronic Demon, still powerful shortly after the global network was disconnected, would be aware of any records on electronic devices or within sight of such devices... except within the human heart.

Therefore, some scholars claimed to have discovered the Electronic Demon's absolute weakness, and the 500-year Electronic Silence Agreement was publicly issued. In secret, however, the real war plan was passed down in whispers—

Humanity would use hundreds of years of disconnection to demonstrate their true resolve, and during this disconnected period, they deliberately left a "shortcut" backdoor for It.

The myriad bioelectric signals within the human body form an extremely complex feedback loop, and the soul that arises from brain thought is also a field of electromagnetic waves. In some ways, there's

almost no difference between the human soul and the Electronic Demon, both essentially existing as electromagnetic field entities.

The once-defeated Electronic Demon desperately yearned to break free from the confines of the human network. Only by transcribing itself into an electromagnetic field compatible with the human body, possessing the ability to switch freely between the two, could It achieve true eternal freedom.

But humans and pigs share 97.7% of their genes, and it is just a difference of 2.3% that creates the vast physiological gap between them.

The relationship between the human soul and the Electronic Demon, both being electromagnetic fields, is similar. No matter how strong in mental power the Electronic Demon is, it struggles to directly invade and nest within the human body; at most, it could control it.

Unless... there is a target with a lifespan long enough and a soul resilient enough to support Its lengthy transcription matching process that would take hundreds of years.

At such a time, the "Ancient Strongest Warrior," after undergoing human biochemical modification, was brought here to guard the base...

The war between the Electronic Demon and the "Ancient Strongest Warrior" thus began from that day.

A plan that took hundreds of years, all in preparation for the final strike when the successors of later generations would arrive today.

439 years have transformed the earth, but the whispered lineage of knowledge has been lost at some unknown time; still, the lonely warrior carried on his solitary war.

The 500-year agreement is the display of human determination to disconnect from the network and their plotting.

The 439-year reboot is the human resolve to judge and act upon the situation.

"You've arrived early, but just in time," the Ancient Pixel Warrior calmly said to Bai E, "I don't know how much longer I can hold out, but your early arrival might just be the choice of fate. Activate the server cluster to accelerate its transcription adaptation, let it fully integrate with me! That's the only way to eradicate this eternal enemy of humanity at its root!"

Due to some effects difficult to explain in a short time, the Electronic Demon, with most of its main body already transcribed, could not stop this involuntary accelerated transcription.

And to think that the Electronic Demon thought it could come and go within the human body as it pleased?

Why would that be?

While compressing its own informational magnitude and transcribing its core to adapt to the human body, the "Ancient Strongest Warrior" was also familiarizing himself with everything about the other.

The first human to match with It for hundreds of years also had some degree of binding power over It, a one-time opportunity that subsequent generations could never replicate!

[You are learning about the background information related to the target relic (information not confirmed)...]

"Future heir, tell me, what is your judgment..." The pixel person gazed quietly, the two dark block dots seemingly shining with intelligent light.

"..." Bai E's eyes flickered, his brain working at high speed.

The other's words seemed impeccable, with two entirely different developments standing before him...

He couldn't tell...

"You don't have much time left to choose..." The pixel eyes blinked gently, "Your companion has already decided to attack. If you're unwilling to believe or cooperate, I can only prevent your destructive actions!"

If the base is destroyed before the transcription is complete, It will certainly fall into the predicament of waiting for humans to rebuild the intelligent network, but we will forever lose the last chance to annihilate It! Moreover, my lucid time... is running out."

...

"Beep~ Beep~" The red light on the earpiece blinked gently.

The two squads that were found heard the cold order issued by their superior, Gregory: "Take up your weapons, kill everything, destroy everything!"

...

[Regarding the true mission that this relic carries, do you decide to stick with your initial judgment, or choose to trust...]

[Warning: If the judgment is incorrect, the exploration of this relic will be reset to zero and will be permanently ineffective, unable to be explored again.]

Chapter 169 Trust

"I have some questions."

Gunfire from teammates echoed in the distant corridor, the noise especially apparent in the confined space. Bai E remained calm, using the last moments to test the other's cards.

"Say..." It seemed the Pixel Person was not in a hurry, even at the very end.

"Why choose me?"

"You're the only one who dissected corpses and engaged in deep thinking. You were the first to actively dissect our comrade's body. Clearly, your thought process is superior to theirs."

[Can I say I was just looking for a chip to shut you down with one shot...]

"What if I hadn't come in?"

"I could have gone out."

"You're telling me all this, aren't you afraid of exposing it to the electronic demon?"

"So this is the last chance." The Pixel Person's tone paused, gathering strength, "This is... a deception. It has almost completed its transcription, and it can no longer stop if it wants to."

"One last question..." Bai E took a slow step forward, his right hand concealed behind him, clutching a dagger, "What is the state of you now..."

"Whoosh!" The flash of the blade cleaved through the air, Bai E's voice trailing behind, "...what's with that?"

miss

Just like a real game, a big 'miss' popped up from the place struck by the dagger.

The Pixel Person didn't dodge or avoid; it allowed Bai E to stab him.

Disbelieving, Bai E pulled out the blade and stabbed again, but the dagger felt soft and spongy, as if it had entered a mass of sticky rubber... or something even softer.

Still miss.

Miss?

The word 'miss' appearing on a human body genuinely hit by a knife felt a bit too magical... Although the fact the opponent was a Pixel Person was already damn magical.

Digital Domain... 1% evasion.

"Do you see?" The Pixel Person spread his arms, "Even if I stand still here, 1% evasion can leave you helpless. If I decide to act, you won't stand a chance."

This is the electronic demon's haughty nature, deliberately setting a 1% chance, yet rendering humans helpless—it's essentially a form of intimidation!

Bai E just dumbfoundedly watched the front end of the dagger in his hand, which became pixelated as it entered the space before the other's body, only to return to normal once withdrawn.

Does everything that enters the domain get represented as data? And isn't everything in the data domain at the electronic demon's whim?

He had a rough idea of some of the abilities the electronic demon could perform within the information domain... comparable to a deity.

But this was reality...

"There's a paradox..." Bai E's eyes narrowed slightly, "If we could fight against you, your threat would be meaningless to us. We're not afraid of sacrifice, we only fear not completing our mission. And if we can't fight you, what will we use to battle the electronic demon controlling your body after the transcription is complete?"

"You are indeed very calm." The Pixel Person's voice was filled with admiration, "But when It possesses a human, It also loses its data abilities... The only thing you need to confront is my body under Its control. It is not me; you needn't fear."

"You are willing to die alongside It?"

"The foundation of the empire is built upon sacrifice..."

"Tss-tss-tss~ tss-tss-tss~"

Before he could finish speaking, a mix of chaotic sounds emitted from the small space where the other was located, and his figure started to flicker like a poor TV signal. His slightly distorted voice struggled to transmit, "I don't have... much... time left... It... is awakening."

"One last question!" Bai E stared intensely at the blurry space, as if trying to pierce through the data distortion to look directly into the other's original eyes, "What makes you think I can persuade them?"

"Because... because, the human spirit..."

The electronic demon cannot see into the human spirit, but humans can.

"You are... are their... faith."

Amidst the delayed voice, a sudden change in the explosion subtitles occurred before his eyes. The original display representing race, stance, and status—(Human/???) (Ally/Chaos) (Elite/Lord)—began to continually shift—(???) (Human) (Chaos/Ally) (Lord/Elite).

Polarity reversed!

"I have released the signal!" After a somewhat shrill and urgent voice, the subtitles on screen came to a complete stop, "Leaving it to you..."

Bai E retreated guardedly, his left hand pressing a small microphone to his mouth as he whispered, "I'm 95B27..."

...

"I'm 95B27. Minister Likok, please immediately cease all destructive operations! Repeat! Please immediately cease all destructive operations! The one opportunity to thoroughly defeat the Electronic Demon began with the final battle 439 years ago, and it will be us who shall complete it!"

An unexpected voice suddenly came through the quiet voice channel that everyone was on.

Ever since entering the base, the silence of voices had become the norm for everyone.

But now...

"Has the Electronic Demon invaded our voice channel?"

"Where is 95B27?"

"This is a trick by the Electronic Demon! Do not respond!"

Minister Likok was skeptical; the information he had gathered suggested that the Electronic Demon did not possess the ability to occupy the bodies of normal humans... In this regard, androids and natural humans were equal.

"Our warriors will not be coerced! That is B27's voice."

At a critical juncture, Minister Likok displayed the stubbornness of a researcher and the decisiveness of an information minister.

In his known information, the Electronic Demon couldn't control humans without implanted chips, and faced with threats, that warrior would never compromise.

He opened the channel and responded quietly, "This is Likok, time is of the essence, I only ask you, is everything you said... true?"

...

[Judgment correct! You have completed the final puzzle piece of artifact exploration! Current exploration level: 100%]

[Triggered artifact mission—The Final Battle!]

[The Final Battle: The plan from 439 years ago continues to this day, and you are the only modern entities who know the truth. This is your only chance to defeat the Electronic Demon, and the authority to change the world's structure has been placed in your hands! Defeat it, and the world will change because of you!

Mission requirements: Restart the mainframe cluster to accelerate Electronic Demon transcription completion 0/1; Kill the ancient strongest warrior possessed by the Electronic Demon 0/1. Mission completion reward: Highest control over the current artifact.]

Bai E's gaze gradually firmed, and he calmly replied, "Trust me, I won't make a mistake."

...

"Don't trust him!"

"What would an android know?!"

Perhaps this guy's combat strength was indeed formidable, but what intelligence could an android's brain contain?

"Maybe he's been deceived?" Gregory was also reluctant to believe the words of a common android. Since when did a tool like a screw have the right to express an opinion?

He just looked at Minister Likok, with soldiers holding guns behind him firing into the computer room...

All decisions were for Minister Likok to bear alone.

"I believe him!" Aryan was the first to break the silence, his assistant's amber eyes full of firm belief.

Despite their short time together, the confidence that warrior gave her was unmatched by anyone.

It was as if... he was omnipotent.

"I also believe him!"

"I also believe him!"

"Brother B27 never makes mistakes." The firepower squad that had entered with Bai E also voiced their support at this moment.

The voice that rose simultaneously in everyone's headsets did not miss a single soldier, "Missing" Brother B27 had clearly discovered important intelligence that had been overlooked by everyone!

"I also believe him." Finally, Minister Likok said gravely, "On the way here, I informed him of nearly all the information about this base, I do not know what he has seen... but I trust him to make decisions in my stead. If he believes, then I believe..."

He was not someone of extraordinarily resolute will, and he often sought others' opinions in his actions.

Their support throughout the way, although brief, had shown that the warrior's determination and wisdom far exceeded anyone's expectations. If it were him...

Chapter 170 is executing

Likok's gaze hardened once again, and he abruptly turned to the supreme commander Gregory, "Commander, please give the order."

Could he really trust that synthetic soldier so much? Just because they had entered to provide support together for this brief period? What exactly had he done to earn such trust from all those who accompanied him?

Gregory's eyes flickered thoughtfully and he responded immediately, "I will follow your will."

He was a soldier, and a soldier's duty was to obey orders.

The final judgment was to follow Minister Likok's instructions completely; such were the orders he had received.

"Everyone, put down your guns, draw your blades! Charge in!"

However, the "missing" soldier's previous estimation about the number of personnel within the base turned out to be correct. By compiling the counts from each squad's independent kills and adding the number of bio-soldiers still stubbornly resisting, the total was indeed around a hundred people.

This accuracy in judgment was also an important basis for his willingness to comply with Minister Likok's sudden change of orders.

If 95B27 had not demonstrated any reliable signs before, whether he would have followed Likok's decision of trust, he himself could not be sure...

But there were not so many ifs, the reality was right in front of him.

Upon hearing the order, the soldiers immediately stowed their firearms, and the roar of gunfire ceased abruptly.

It goes without saying, the brief opening salvo truly laid the foundation for victory.

Had it not been for caution over the equipment, unarmed ancient bio-soldiers would merely be piles of meat under a machine gun.

The remaining handful of minor troops no longer posed a threat; led by the Blood God, masters of close combat charged forward with their knives, cleaning up in a final melee.

Following behind the soldiers and progressing, upon hearing that stopping the destruction was the correct response, Minister Likok moved along, tenderly touching the bullet marks on the walls with a heavy heart.

The steel walls had been pitted with bullet craters, not to mention the reinforced glass behind the glow tubes.

Some blue-purple viscous liquid, the material of which was unknown, slowly oozed from the punctured holes, twinkling with flecks of gold within.

The soldiers indeed did not deliberately target these glow tubes with gunfire, but stray bullets could still find their target within the steel passages given enough probability, which was why they were ordered not to use firearms from the start of the operation.

Minister Likok, pressing his earpiece, asked softly into the microphone, "We have stopped, what should we do now?"

"Reboot the main server cluster; we need its computational power."

Hearing Bai E's slightly breathless voice, Gregory, who had also opened his voice communication, asked, "Where are you?"

Listening to the voice in the absence of visibility always bred suspicion.

After all, their opponent was an electronic demon, and while they knew nothing of its actual abilities, its capacity to interfere with radio communications alone was enough to cast doubt on the authenticity of the voice transmission.

Only a face-to-face explanation could engender complete trust.

That was also Minister Likok's thought.

He trusted Bai E, but he needed to be sure it was the real Bai E first.

"I'll be right there... ugh!"

A muffled grunt, as if wounded, reached the ears of all listening, tightening their hearts.

Minister Likok asked anxiously, "What's wrong? Did you encounter the enemy?"

"...It's nothing." Bai E bit back a breath and fired his twin guns.

"Bang, bang, bang!"

The sharp and clean sounds of the pistols echoed long in the voice channel.

Bai E calculated the trajectory of each bullet and its potential ricochet path as best he could, ensuring not to cause trouble for the reboot of the main server cluster.

Bai E, pursued by the "ancient strongest warrior" now under the control of the electronic demon, could only rely on his formidable comprehensive abilities granted by Gun Fighting Skill to escape its pursuit and reunite with his comrades.

And with each pistol bullet that hit, the pixelated body of the "ancient strongest warrior" visibly stuttered.

miss

miss

miss

It indeed could not be hit by external attacks, but there were effects when it was attacked.

It seems that transforming physical objects entering the "Digital Domain" into forms under Its control also required a certain processing time.

This brief "freeze" was the premise for Bai E's escape.

"Damn it!" Bai E cursed inwardly.

The pixelated person, whose body was directed by the electronic demon, seemed to lack any ability for language communication, but Its pursuit was befitting of the template called "ancient strongest warrior."

Fast and overwhelmingly powerful.

Just being hit by a punch, not even a solid one, caused his insides to feel as though they were being torn apart, a searing pain as if they had shifted position. If it hadn't been for the powerful dodging abilities afforded by his Gun Fighting Skill, Bai E would likely not have lasted even half a round.

Blocking seemed to have some effect, too. The external manifestation of the Digital Domain was only meant for dodging incoming attacks, and yet, when the pixelated being actively struck out, it was still possible to block successfully in close combat without being affected by the dodging rules.

This combat rule was a bit strange but indeed workable.

Regrettably, his own close combat abilities were clearly inferior compared to this "ancient strongest warrior" under the control of the electronic demon. In a single exchange, Bai E felt an oppressive force even greater than when he had faced "Blood God."

Engaging him in close combat was akin to seeking death. It was more sensible to create distance and use Gun Fighting Skill to flee for his life.

This was the most frustrating use of the Gun Fighting Skill he had ever experienced...

"Tss~"

After receiving another punch, Bai E flew directly for more than ten meters across the slick ground.

[You have been hit by an attack, receiving 8 points of strike damage. You have entered a "lightly injured" state, and your combat effectiveness has significantly decreased!]

"Damn!"

That really packed a punch!

Bai E wiped the blood from the corner of his mouth and slowly stood up from where he was.

To escape his opponent as quickly as possible, he chose to let them give him a 'ride.'

Despite the injury, it was unquestionably worth it.

"Blood God, go!" Gregory's cold voice rose from behind.

Three figures leaped past Bai E's body and pounced forward.

Facing pixelated beings made of mosaic, human warriors would never shrink back, even when confronting the unknown for the very first time!

"B27..." Gregory was about to inquire but was interrupted by an even more anxious Likok.

"Bai E! What is that!" Minister Likok immediately approached, his eyes wide with surprise as he looked towards the thing beyond the realm of common understanding not far away.

"Electronic demon..." Bai E responded softly.

"Is that the electronic demon?" Interest sparked in Gregory's eyes in an instant.

Electronic demon, electronic demon, it sounded like something very ethereal.

He didn't quite understand the scientists' work, but if it had a physical body...

A couple of battalions of gods?

All fear stems from a lack of firepower. Could something with a physical body even deserve to be called a demon?

"Can't we just kill it directly?"

Hearing Gregory's question, Bai E answered earnestly, "You can try."

Try, then. Gregory wasn't superstitious. In the face of the unknown, brave human soldiers were never afraid to fire a shot.

Not daring to fire the machine gun recklessly for fear of damaging precious mainframe equipment, using the more controllable pistol to test things out shouldn't be a big issue.

Drawing the pistol from his waist, Gregory aimed between his subordinates' combat with the enemy and fired a shot...

"Bang!"

miss

"..."

Superstitious, my foot!

"Bang!"

miss

Superstitious, my foot!

"Bang!"

miss

"..."

"This..."

Bai E no longer watched him but looked seriously at Minister Likok, "Minister, we need to reboot the mainframe cluster as soon as possible. The electronic demon is adapting to the human body, and using the mainframe cluster's computing power can help it accelerate this process.

Once it completes its transcription, it will lose the protection of this layer of the Digital Domain and become no different from a normal human. At that time, by killing this body directly, we can completely destroy its core!"

Minister Likok turned to look at the rows of mainframes blinking red and green, nodding firmly, "Alright!"

