

Wow 351

Chapter 351 First-generation AI_2

She directly used her externalized Spiritual Energy to repel all incoming bullets, even more brutish and violent, yet the opponent's skillful and evasive maneuvers were equally pleasing to the eye. What was more critical was...

She saw that the opponent also had moments when evasion failed, with bullets hitting his body, making direct contact with the skin, only to feebly deform and fall away.

It wasn't the externalization of Spiritual Energy, but merely... the strength of his own flesh.

Comparable to the physical strength of a transformed gorilla on her team, perhaps even surpassing it?

What kind of monster was this?

The more challenging the target she devoured, the better, but if the target was too strong, she might break her teeth without being able to bite off a piece of meat.

The more she observed, the more her heart raced.

The hunger brought on by the supreme command kept her mind in a state of cold frenzy, yet the rational part of her that discovered more facts told her the target was by no means an entity she could easily handle.

Conflicting wills battled in her brain, as if two little figures wearing different colors were fighting a melee on the brain as their battlefield, the intensity of the struggle was so great it even caused her nerves to ache faintly.

"First, destroy the gun emplacement," came the instruction from the Blackwater City squad leader through the earpiece.

At this range, the emplacements obviously couldn't threaten them anymore, but considering a possible retreat later on—now that the vehicles were damaged, those fixed machine guns and gun emplacements would become their biggest trouble when retreating.

Anticipate defeat before victory, that's the way to remain invincible.

The artificial soldiers from Blackwater City weren't creations solely seeking death.

They, too, were in pursuit of "living" itself.

["Lucky Strike" charging +2.]

"Swoosh! Swoosh!" Figures leaped onto the surrounding wall one after another.

Bai E and the white-haired captain were the first to rush up, laying a solid foundation for their teammates, and Rose and the transformed gorilla who followed closely were also beings of exceptional quality.

As long as they could secure their footing on the wall, breaking through was only a matter of time.

"It doesn't seem like there are that many of them," Rose, who followed closely behind Bai E, scanned the mechanical warriors that were stationed behind the wall, besieging them.

The positions were sparse and scattered, not the sea of steel they had imagined.

"Times are tough for everyone." The attack they received wasn't fierce, and it seemed very likely that this assault would succeed. Bai E even felt a bit like joking.

The mechanical intelligences were competing with humankind for resources, and each of their creations had an extremely high value, so it was reasonable that their numbers weren't as overwhelming as the bugs.

A mere "mining" fortress, it's probably quite normal to not have abundant forces garrisoned, and maybe this was also the core reason why they didn't opt to assist the "attacked transport team".

"Zzzt! Zzzt!" Broken sparks began to ignite everywhere.

Both Bai E's squad and the Grey Iron City squad excelled in close-combat.

The long-range artillery couldn't stop them, and now that they had cut into the inner parts of the fortress like ravenous tigers, they could only rely on those freely-moving warriors to resist.

And the freedom of movement often meant that their firepower wasn't fierce enough.

Even the combatants equipped with close-combat modules, who had some ability to resist, seemed stretched thin in the face of these ultimate elite human warriors.

The joint squad advanced triumphantly, leaving nothing but a trail of steel wreckage behind them.

The fortress was not large in scope, essentially just an expansion around the original information station.

[You have completely destroyed the target, battle experience gained: 20 points.]

The experience provided by ordinary mechanical warriors wasn't generous, proportional to the difficulty of destroying them.

When the final warrior that rushed to defend fell at the muzzle of Bai E's gun, silence fell over the not-so-large steel fortress.

"That's it? Is it all over? That was hardly satisfying!"

"Thought it'd be more trouble, but this was it?"

"Not enough fighting! Absolutely not enough!"

The warriors from Grey Iron City hadn't yet exited their battle state, and being somewhat unruly, they spoke arrogantly.

Then, accompanied by the sound of electric motors, the tall silver-grey alloy gate opened, and a humanoid intelligence that wasn't particularly burly but had a sleek and graceful form slowly emerged from within.

Its bright golden shell immediately highlighted the exceptional status of the newcomer.

"..."

Everyone glanced at each other and eventually all eyes turned to the last gorilla who had spoken.

"Look at the nonsense you're spouting."

The bright yellow exterior shell, daring to use such an eye-catching color, obviously wasn't ordinary goods.

Not to mention the opponent's beautifully streamlined body, which already possessed quite a bit of human aesthetics.

It was rumored that high-level intelligences would use the mechanical force within their bodies to remodel their forms, including body shape and paint color, to match their increasingly sophisticated and human-like intelligence.

So now... They had hit the jackpot?

Even within the intelligence community, such entities were rare, and over time with the passage of time, there was inevitable degradation and the extremely difficult replenishment of first-generation intelligences, which were now before their very eyes.

Was their luck so bad, or was this information base station just that important to the intelligences?

They didn't know.

But in a close encounter, the brave would go first.

No matter how the warriors of Grey Iron City talked, at least in their war-ready state when faced with such an opponent, they would definitely do more than just spout empty threats.

Pounding its chest that boomed like a lump of iron, the first gorilla warrior of Grey Iron City charged forward.

First-generation intelligence?

So what about first-generation intelligence?

Does first-generation intelligence mean invincibility?

Take my blade!

"Swoosh!"

The bright yellow afterimage was too fast for Bai E's eyes to catch all the details, and the little yellow figure closed the distance to half a step in front of the gorilla in an instant. The visibly built-in, micro-powered Power Fist smashed onto the gorilla's chest, which he took pride in as if it were armor made of steel plates.

"Crack!" The crisp sound was belatedly captured by everyone's ears, but before that, the gorilla's body had already been smashed away by that punch.

"Boom!" The huge body crashed against the steel wall and slumped to the ground.

"Cough!" Broken flesh spewed from the gorilla's blood-stained mouth as he propped himself up with one hand, his attempt at a counterattack as arrogant as ever even as he issued a throat-tearing roar, "Ahhhh!"

The brutal killing power brought clarity to the dazed minds of the two remaining Grey Iron City warriors.

The violent desire to lash out faded from their brains, and they truly realized what their opponent was—

First-generation intelligence!

Endowed with the technological bonuses of the Golden Age, enhanced by hundreds of years of mechanical force evolution.

These were not beings that conventional military strength could compare with.

A look of wariness filled their eyes.

Both the brawny man and the acting team leader simultaneously turned to their own captain, the look of inquiry obvious.

It was as if they had previously agreed that if they truly faced an impossible situation, they were planning to flee.

As survivors who had painfully made it through the many who underwent surgery in Grey Iron City, they were not willing to lose their lives on a mission that could be dismissed as optional.

Bai E's gaze was heavy as she stared at the bright yellow figure, with a faint mist in her eyes and Spiritual Energy fully mobilizing, trying to analyze the opponent's core capabilities and potential weaknesses.

"We're not leaving," Bai E said, not even glancing at the pleading looks from her team members.

Her real goal was certainly not the fortress itself, but since there was not much damage visible on her true target yet, retreating now meant she could forever lose the opportunity to make her move if the other side also retreated.

From her observations since she first met him to the present, she didn't think her squad stood much of a chance against the fully empowered captain from Blackwater City.

Only by leveraging the hand of the first-generation intelligence before her, could she possibly inflict serious damage on her target, thus achieving her goal.

Risk?

Of course, there was risk.

But even her own team members were just tools to her, their casualties never weighed heavily on Bai E's mind.

And besides, she was "immortal," what was there to fear?

"Fight!"

Chapter 352 Unlock Skill - Firepower Suppression

Bai E, fully aware of how formidable the opponent was, was the first to launch a fearless assault.

The aura of Spiritual Energy enveloped her body, and the strong protective field undeniably played a certain role.

Facing the opponent's renewed attack, the little minion had no concept of holding back, yet as it entered the radius around Captain Whitefur, the surging Spiritual Energy and its sprint clashed violently.

Also endowed with Spiritual Energy, Bai E could distinctly sense that area becoming like an inflated balloon, squashed into the shape of a platelet under the pressure of two opposing forces...

"Boom!" The solid breeze dispersed, Whitefur's Spiritual Energy field ultimately failed to completely withstand the minion's charge, but it did slow down the original intelligent machine that even Bai E found difficult to track.

Whitefur's Spiritual Energy was formidable; although it couldn't suppress the opponent completely, fighting within her domain of projected Spiritual Energy could at least mitigate some of the minion's combat power.

Equivalent to a support bestowing debuffs.

In the heat of battle, a faint concern flickered through the cool brows of Captain Whitefur as she calmly warned, "I can't hold on for much longer."

Make your move!

Of course, Bai E would not sit idly by and let his teammate's effort go to waste; it was evident that Captain Whitefur alone could not defeat this original intelligence machine.

He could see the loot drop rate caption above the enemy's head—

[??? (Intelligent Machine) (Hostile) (Lord) — "Lucky Strike" kill drop: Guaranteed (Steel*3000, Combat XP 8000 points); High probability (Tech: Advanced Steel Smelting Process, Tech: Advanced Part Forging Process); Possible (Knowledge: Miniaturized Kinetic Theory, Trait: Mechanical Mind)]

The experience points were the highest Bai E had seen thus far in a conceivable target.

In a sense, it also indicated its strength.

Only with true teamwork could they have a chance of defeating this powerful intelligence machine, a relic from the Golden Age.

"Go," Bai E commanded curtly, and Rose responded instantly.

"Yes!"

Bai E didn't rush forward but stuck to his "character" by taking a shot first, just to see where he stood.

Seizing an opportunity when the enemy pursued Captain Whitefur, Bai E quickly drew his pistol and fired a shot.

[Attack hit, but failed to penetrate the target's armor...]

Damage wasn't important, but the visible feedback provided Bai E with a clear display of the target's combat abilities—

[??? (Intelligent Machine) (Hostile): Health ???/???; defensive power 70; Action Power 200% (Overclocked State); Traits: Energy Shield, Super Alloy Armor, Nano-Repair, Throne of Machine Power, Strong Energy Punch...]

Each ability detailed came with a comprehensive explanation, but the function of many abilities was apparent just from their names.

The stat panel was so luxury it was terrifying, and that wasn't even all of it.

As the battle progressed and the opponent revealed more abilities, it was clear the display panel would update.

Most notable among them was the "Throne of Machine Power," highlighted in a special golden font, as if the panel itself was alerting Bai E to pay extra attention to this particular ability—

[Throne of Machine Power: An endless current of mechanical energy floods its body, and any intelligent units "fallen" within a certain radius become part of it. The abundant mechanical energy allows it to increase the output of all its abilities exponentially. Once it has acquired enough "fallen" intelligent machine units, it will briefly enter an "Overclocked State," destroying everything! (The duration of the "Overclocked State" depends on the number and quality of the "fallen" intelligent machine units.)]

"Damn it!"

Sacrificial offerings of teammates!

Even Bai E couldn't help swearing outright upon seeing the opponent's capabilities.

No wonder the defense intelligent machines were so easily eradicated, as if they were completely mismatched with the level of this intelligent machine fortress.

It turned out the true trump card was this unique original intelligent machine!

Can they delay for time?

Or, is a forceful kill necessary?

"Boom!" The deputy captain watched helplessly as his axe was blocked by a not-so-burly arm all by itself, the blade, forged from monometal, easily shattered upon impact, and the lengthy pole's linkage didn't need mentioning, breaking at the same moment the blade flew off.

"Snap!" A seemingly unanticipated kick swept across, and the burly man launching the surprise attack from the side let out a sound of bones shattering and contorting as his body twisted and flew backwards, following in the large gorilla's wake.

Even within Captain Whitefur's domain of projected Spiritual Energy, the performance of the little minion was unbelievably strong.

Not to mention, standing against the explosive power driven by a small nuclear reactor and in an overclocked state, Captain Whitefur, at the second level of Spiritual Energy, probably couldn't hold out for long.

They couldn't delay!

Or rather, they couldn't afford to plan on just buying time.

"Gun!"

Bai E reached back and called out, and Stone, who was responsible for carrying miscellaneous items and had just come up last, finally handed over the newly assembled Anti-Material Sniper Rifle to Bai E.

The basic killing power of the Anti-Material Sniper Rifle far exceeded his own bow and arrows, and under the premise of not using "Instant Kill Nine Heads," the most powerful arrow barely matched the inherent killing power of the Anti-Material Sniper Rifle.

The adage that technology is humanity's greatest strength was no empty talk, with sufficient proficiency and the freedom to use such firearms, their power to boost humanity's combat effectiveness was undeniable.

Chapter 353 Unlock Skill - Firepower Suppression_2

Of course, the power of an anti-material sniper rifle is not limited by an individual's skill level, nor can it enjoy bonuses from personal abilities.

This is precisely the key reason Yue Ying once mentioned that the upper limit of firearms will always be lower than that of melee weapons: Bai E cannot use techniques like "Instant Kill Nine Heads" to amplify the basic lethality of his weapon. This causes the inherent performance of firearms to become their limit in terms of causing damage, with the potential bonus from personal abilities being extremely limited.

To achieve a true over-the-limit burst, one must rely on the ultimate archery skills.

However, before the opportunity for a truly fatal shot presents itself, one cannot always rely on archery skills for regular output. Bai E's current Spiritual Energy reserves are insufficient to support continuous bursts; for sustained output, the use of firearms like the anti-material sniper rifle is more enduring.

"Bang!" The narrow bullet skirted the underside of Rose's entangled arm, causing the air to heat up so much that even golden strands of hair began to curl.

"Hum!"

The various energy shields, which are possessed by the more formidable next-generation mechanoids, were naturally not absent in this early generation mechanoid, preventing the bullet from truly reaching the opponent's alloy body.

But clearly, this process was not easy.

In the split second of countering the bullet, not only did the rate of the Minion's punch towards Rose slow down, but the punch itself also lost much of its force, to the extent that Rose was able to forcibly pry open the incoming metal fist.

A mechanical body does not require distance or time to build up force like humans do. Its kinetic energy punches often only start to exert force when in close proximity to the body, somewhat similar to the Inch Punch technique in hand-to-hand combat, and right now...

"His output power is limited!"

This is a core issue that mechanisms can never avoid.

A first-generation mechanoid with a small nuclear reactor may seem to have nearly endless energy, but the amount of energy available at any given moment is limited.

In order to counter Bai E's bullet, the Minion's energy shield system momentarily drew a massive amount of energy, causing the kinetic punch to lose its energy supply and turning it into nothing more than an ordinary punch.

The containment is effective!

Only the firing rate of the anti-material sniper rifle is too slow...

Bai E recalled the skill tree associated with the long-neglected Light Firearms Specialization. The choice of one out of three initial skills was made due to limited experience. Now, with more than ten thousand experience points saved—and with a "Lucky Shot" chance in hand—if he were to blow up this first-generation mechanoid in front of him, his experience storage would nearly reach twenty thousand. A simple skill that doubles experience?

Easy!

[Payment: 2 Potential Points, 2000 Combat Experience.]

[Skill Acquired—Firepower Suppression.]

[Firepower Suppression: Open fire at full force! From now on, you can achieve maximum efficiency when firing any firearm you wield, forcibly increasing the fire rate by 50%, extending overheating time by 30%, improving shooting precision by 30%, increasing output level by +1, and base attack power by +2. Consumption: 10 Spiritual Energy (100 action power reserve)/min.]

This is the perfect skill for using machine guns and similar firearms. Aside from the enhancements to attack speed and overheating time, the added kinetic impact and base attack damage from the skill itself may not seem like much.

However, if it's applied to a machine gun or other high-rate-of-fire weapon, this kind of bonus would amplify the efficiency hundreds or even thousands of times over. Each bullet fired would carry additional damage, becoming frighteningly efficient when mowing down hordes in large-scale battlefields.

There's a reason why the skill tree of Light Firearms Specialization level 4 has three distinct paths.

It doesn't seem quite suitable for the current situation.

To debuff the Minion, Captain Bai needed to be in close range due to the limited range of her Spiritual Energy projection, so someone had to engage in close combat. In a situation where there are more allies than enemies, high-rate-of-fire weapons like machine guns were clearly not suitable, hence the need for a sniper rifle.

The slow firing rate of the sniper rifle clearly can't maximize the effect of the damage bonus, but it doesn't matter... Bai E is only interested in its increased firing rate.

Another skill in the three skill trees—Precise Shooting—would normally be a more suitable choice for sniping, emphasizing armor penetration and range. However, at this moment, these effects seemed somewhat inappropriate, not as substantial as a real increase in rate of fire.

Machine gunning at point-blank, the main appeal was abstract.

Bai E hugged the huge sniper rifle in his arms, firing round after round of scorching bullets at the Minion, who kept moving at high speed.

Dodge? Useless!

The 15% precision bonus from level 5 specialization, combined with the 30% bonus from the activated skill, and the firearm's own 12% accuracy bonus, resulted in a total precision bonus correction that reached +57%. With Bai E's adequate strength and reflex control, each shot was a headshot, hitting exactly where aimed.

[After multiple occurrences of precise shooting at high-speed targets, Light Firearms Mastery experience +21.] (High probability of awakening special attributes.)

[Your "Light Firearms Specialization (Level 4)" has gained a new special attribute bonus: Overload Mode.]

[Light Firearms Specialization (Level 4): Shooting Accuracy +12%, Critical Hit +2%, Arc Shot (Special) +5%, Quick Reload (Special) +1, Overload Mode (Special) +1.][Overload Mode +1: Increases shooting speed by 10%.]

An unexpected delight.

The special attribute that had given signs of awakening a long time ago had finally unlocked at this moment, and the added attributes were brutally simple.

For a while, the firing from the heavy sniper became even more frequent.

Facing Bai E's harassment, if the intelligent machines truly felt human emotions, they would be utterly annoyed.

A more sophisticated analysis system had already pinpointed Bai E; however, the main force responsible for the fight—Rose and Captain Bai with white hair—were not to be underestimated, and the many other team members could also provide a slight diversion, not to mention Bai E himself, holding the heavy sniper and slipping around like an eel.

Simply uncatchable.

Bai E's attacks constantly required it to divert a substantial amount of energy to maintain its shield system.

Then... stop relying entirely on the shield!

The bright crystal-like eyes of the little yellow figure flashed with a dangerous red glint; after the decision made by the intelligent analysis changed, every system within immediately underwent transformation—

[Decision Core Changed: Graceful→Deadly]

[Shield Module's power output limitation reduced to 60%.]

[Armor Self-Repair Module preheating.]

[Lethal Weapon preparing...]

If it could no longer eliminate these humans invading with the most graceful posture... then, let them witness the true power!

...

The fully recovered strongman from Grey Iron City charged again, raising his greatsword and swinging it towards the little yellow figure's forehead.

The opponent's fist was closing in, but it didn't matter, because Bai would intervene.

The bullet from the Blackwater City captain would surely appear at just the right moment, in just the right place, forcing the little yellow figure to split its energy to respond.

The support from his teammates filled his heart with courage, and the lost fighting spirit was surging back!

"Snap!"

"Pfft!"

Two distinct sounds almost synchronized.

The crisp sound of flesh being penetrated occurred right before his eyes, as the strongman holding the greatsword looked down in disbelief at the iron fist that had gone straight through the center of his chest.

It... went through?

Incredible speed! Tremendous strength!

What about the bullet? Couldn't the bullet save him?

Oh, the bullet did hit.

The yellow figure's side helmet was charred black, even revealing slightly perforated alloy helmet beneath which black components lay hidden.

Yet, right in front of him, the scorched, damaged spot was rapidly repairing itself at a visible speed, and in just a few seconds, the damaged area had returned to its original state.

"Pfft!"

With a rip by the little yellow figure, the human body before him split in two, blood raining down from the sky, splashing on the approaching Bai with white hair and Rose...

Chapter 354 Miracle" of Zero

It's even more... dangerous now!

The moment the blood rain burst forth, it wasn't just the stench of blood that hit the nose; there was also a bone-chilling cold that reached straight to the crown of the head.

Facing the danger stimulated the senses almost to the point of constricting the pupils of Bai E and Rose, who were the closest; the little yellow beings had more energy to supply other combat systems since they were no longer using their shield systems to fully block damage.

Moreover, when facing potentially higher kinetic outputs, the little yellow beings could freely allocate the strength of their shield resistance to ensure their repair speed was fast enough to keep up.

A more flexible combat strategy brought unparalleled combat capability.

They were the deadliest weapons of war, even a collection of human technology achievements from the Golden Age.

Even though the strong man possessed considerable self-healing abilities in Grey Iron City, facing such devastating injuries where his body was torn apart, it was clear he wouldn't survive.

The strong man, not falling short of a warrior's final glory in his warlike state, astonishingly used the last of his will with his only hand and foot, to cling onto the little yellow being's legs.

"Kill!" His last breath burst forth with an intense fighting spirit.

It was unknown whether it was due to an overload in the system from using too much energy to tear apart the strong man or if the grip of the strong man, now torn in two, had taken effect, but the little yellow being's body experienced a significant temporary rigidity.

The arrow was on the string, it had to be released.

The strong man's life for a chance, and the experienced fighters wouldn't miss it.

"Hoo~" Rose took a deliberate breath through her mouth and nose, the surging power pulsed in her fine yet resilient muscle fibers, and she launched a straight punch from her lower back with full force.

The invisible shield system briefly resisted for a moment, only to be scattered by the tremendous force.

One punch, solidly hitting the chest armor of the little yellow being.

"Crack!"

The sound of the alloy armor splitting and cracking echoed, such extraordinary force causing even the human technology alloy to admit defeat.

The gift of liberation wasn't solely Bai E's specialty.

Apart from the strange skill called "lucky strike," everything Bai E had mastered could be familiarized and mastered by any native through their own training and combat.

The difference was that the natives needed talent whereas Bai E, with the aid of his abilities panel, could control more effectively the acquisition and enhancement of all these abilities.

"Hoo~"

Rose withdrew her fist and swiftly retreated, feeling an empty loss in her body after throwing the punch; she knew this technique couldn't be used for long.

But for now...

"Swallow it." From a distance, Bai E's voice sounded, along with an object wrapped in silver foil thrown over.

Bar No. 3.

As Spiritual Energy filled him, Bai E gradually lost his extreme dependence on Bar No. 3 during combat.

But for Rose, who had not yet awakened her Spiritual Energy, this was the best replenishment for her combat strength.

Just like it had been for him previously.

"Mhm." Rose grabbed it, casually tore open the wrapper, and swallowed it in one bite.

Bar No. 3, made from an unknown substance, transformed into countless peculiar molecules the moment it reached the stomach, spreading a warm current throughout her body from her gut.

With a twist of her neck and a light "crack," Rose's eyes were full of fierce and soaring combat spirit.

Battle was right before her, Bai E was right behind her.

Could there be any moment more stirring in this world than the scene before them now?

With one hand, Rose ripped open the combat suit offering slight protection, only wearing a military green tank top as she extensively warmed up her limbs.

Her body yearned for the fiercest battle; this primal desire excited her beyond measure, yet she remained as calm as possible.

"Whoosh!" Powered by explosive strength in her legs, Rose caught up to the little yellow being, which was in pursuit of the gorilla, in a display of speed that belied her delayed start.

"Before you hurt my teammates, ask me first, scumbag!" Rose, leaping high, drove her knee into the face armor of the little yellow being, and the penetrating power of armor-breaking immediately sent a small piece of alloy flying, causing damage that turned out to be far greater than Bai E's rifle shot earlier.

"..."

"Goodness." Zero watched from not far away, her eyes almost bulging out, "Rose is that fierce?"

Considering that the little yellow being could take a hit from an Anti-Material Sniper Rifle, nobody had seen Rose incapacitate herself during their private sparring sessions within the team, had they?

"..." Bai E remained silent, but even he seemed a bit taken aback by Rose's performance.

He knew she was fierce, but he hadn't anticipated she'd be this fierce.

Rose, without the panel and even the cheat-like skill "lucky strike" that Bai E had, had come this far, perhaps even surpassing the Blood God of the past, purely on her own talent.

It seemed the Arbitration Place's high regard for someone like Rose, who was cut off from Spiritual Energy, was not misplaced.

The people of the Arbitration Place knew just how terrifying the enhancement of personal abilities through Spiritual Energy was; leaving aside the clever uses of Spiritual Energy itself, many of the skills Bai E now possessed also required the consumption of Spiritual Energy to support and perform.

If those cut off from Spiritual Energy truly could not utilize it or have a similar power, only relying on their basic attributes, how could they compete against high-end opponents?

Chapter 355 "Miracle" of Zero_2

In the days they spent together, Bai E would listen to Rose share things she had been privately taught by the people from Arbitration Place, as well as the characteristics of her unique "spiritless" constitution.

Spiritless individuals didn't lack souls, it was just that their Spiritual Bodies were not projected into higher-dimensional space, but fused with their physical bodies instead.

Therefore, for them, it was not that they couldn't sense the power of Spiritual Energy, but that they couldn't sense the Spiritual Energy from the outside world.

As for the energy within themselves... Could someone accustomed to their own strength really distinguish between Spiritual Energy and physical strength?

Her fervent will stimulated Rose's Spiritual Energy, and the special constitution of a spiritless person only allowed the Spiritual Energy to take effect in the form of physical strength within her, the violent outburst far surpassing her base attributes—a short-lived eruption caused by the turmoil of her spirit.

This was the true talent of a spiritless person!

"We can't fall behind either," Bai E said with a smile tugging at his lips, looking at Zero beside him with eyes full of encouragement.

He hadn't chosen any of his team members blindly.

Zero was also formidable.

"Yes."

With a somewhat youthful face set in determination, Zero hugged his red-dot sniper rifle tightly, aiming as accurately as possible at the 'little yellow people' being entangled by several melee experts.

The battle unfolding before his eyes gradually faded and was soon engulfed in darkness.

Green dots of light began to converge from behind his field of vision, slowly assembling and outlining a world that transformed into a mesh of points and lines.

The mesh was chaotic, filled with distorted curves, and it was constantly changing, like a fine fishing net underwater, revealing an unpredictable pattern due to the flow of the current.

And the bodies engaged in the real-world combat appeared in Zero's special vision as faint yellow outlines.

These yellow-outlined figures tangled with the green mesh in Zero's field of view, similar to dropped frames, with the 'little yellow person's body occasionally revealing key "points" that briefly overlapped with the green net lines or dots.

Those opportunities were fleeting and without any pattern, difficult to seize.

Whenever Zero tried to aim, those overlapping "points" would repel each other like magnets of the same polarity, splitting apart instantly.

Veins on Zero's temples bulged as he strained his eyes, peering through the sniper rifle's scope and chasing after that sliver of a chance.

'Face?'

'Line?'

'Point?'

"Not enough! Not enough!" Zero murmured under his breath.

The more precise he was, the greater the opportunity!

Twisting red lines seeped from the corners of his eyes.

A strand...

A line...

A thread...

Flowing down the contours of his cheeks, eventually converging on his jawline.

In the moment the surface tension of the blood-red liquid could no longer balance its own weight, a droplet of blood gently fell.

Drip~

"Bang!"

Zero pulled the trigger forcefully, shouting at the same time, "Captain!"

"I see it," Bai E's calm voice rose beside him.

He had already put down his Anti-Material Sniper Rifle after instructing Zero, switching to his Compound Bow instead.

The battle had escalated in intensity in the instant the 'little yellow people' switched modes.

Without knowing the full extent of the little yellow people's capabilities, all previous attrition had been mere probing of the opponent's hand. Seeing that the opponent had now gotten serious, he could no longer hide his own cards.

If they continued to probe, it would be their side who would falter first.

While Zero was taking aim, Bai E had already drawn his bow fully, ready with an arrow notched.

Zero didn't need to call out a reminder, and in truth, there was no time for it. The moment Zero decided to pull the trigger, Bai E, having sensed this, nearly acted in unison with him.

Surrounding Spiritual Energy often brought a moment of "insight" concerning matters close to oneself.

The scene of Zero pulling the trigger was possibly more vivid in Bai E's mind than Zero's own sensations...

Therefore, aimed at by the sniper rifle's red dot, a slender brass bullet hurtled forward, followed by a dark metallic arrow launching from another direction, preemptively striking the target before the bullet hit.

A seemingly inconspicuous point on the 'little yellow person's body, equivalent to the position of a human's right rib.

"Zzt!"

The arrow, infused with techniques like "Steady Wind," "Power Shot," "Slay Hundred with a Blink," "Overlimit Drive," and the Spiritual Energy finesse—"Spiritual Heart Transfer," held the mightiest force Bai E could muster at that time.

Its kinetic impact, amplified layer upon layer, reached hundreds of points in magnitude, unlike missiles capable of a similar level of impact—dispersed and dealing blunt damage.

An arrow's damage was more penetrating. Given the same kinetic impact, it far exceeded the damage from a blast with a wider impact surface, as long as it could penetrate the defense.

Even the shield system crafted in the Golden Age operating at its peak power could not withstand the onslaught of this arrow.

The defensive power of the shield system could not even put up the slightest resistance, and was penetrated in an instant.

As for the body made from special alloys... against this exceptional arrow, it was equally powerless.

Carrying the whirlwind in its wake, the arrow whistled as it pierced through the mechanical body.

Chapter 356 Miracle" of Zero_3

...

"Crack-crackle!"

Numerous electronic components shattered into a lament under this strike, and due to the internal energy flow conflicts, space-time speckles, energy disturbances, and many other factors combined, the impact of this hit was far more terrifying than the gaping wound from that punch.

[Your attack successfully crushed the opponent's core system, causing the target to fall into mechanical disarray—self-repair function temporarily damaged, shield system collapsed, requiring entry into a dedicated repair bay.]

[Your attack inflicted 354 points of comprehensive damage on the target!]

Previously, everyone's attacks were unable to cause sufficient damage, so much so that the target only revealed its true life values now—646/1000.

Compared to the previous war machine, it was directly enhanced by double.

Bai E's strike was highly damaging, but still not enough, not even able to take away half.

Fortunately, the subsequent effects were decent, with the core disarray causing the minion to crash momentarily, the most critical being that both of its core systems had been compromised.

Even mechanical power could no longer connect them.

Next, aside from the intrinsic strength of its armor alloy, its defensive capabilities were far less aberrant than initially.

This is Zero's gifted ability—Miracle.

It consolidated all possible conditions, gathered all those conditions that were almost impossible to occur simultaneously, and then applied a sufficient external force at the right moment.

With Zero's strength, it was certainly hard to shatter the armor of high-defense enemies, but as long as Bai E's response was quick enough, they could launch a burst attack somewhat like a combination move.

"Maintain your fighting strength and avoid further injuries; it can no longer outlast us," Bai E encouraged.

Like a cornered beast still fighting, the opponent, having lost core functions, would be more "impatient" than themselves, if these original intelligent machines possessed such emotional modules.

Be wary of the opponent's retaliatory outburst, as an injured beast is even more dangerous.

Because they have nothing left to lose.

"Buzz!" A dangerous red glow emanated from the minion's crystal-like eyes, and although void of expression, everyone felt a piercing murderous intent.

But everyone knew it was because the enemy had truly sensed danger.

"Another arrow!" Morale in the allied forces soared, and Rose watched Bai E intently, full of anticipation.

["Lucky Strike" charge +2.]

"Zero?" Bai E turned to look at Zero, who stood beside him, cradling his gun.

But met only a pair of eyes covered in blood.

Zero, having tried to use his ability to its fullest for the first time, also suffered the massive backlash of this terrifying talent and was clearly unable to repeat it right away.

Bai E diverted his gaze, making no demand.

He simply bent his bow and nocked another arrow to its maximum draw.

At this very moment, the minion, having locked onto Bai E as its primary threat, moved in a flash, and its aesthetically pleasing alloy fist aimed a blow at Bai E's face.

With no energy being spent on shield systems and repair systems, the minion's offensive became notably more exaggerated.

Rose and the white-furred warrior struggled valiantly to intercept, but couldn't halt it even by half a step.

Bai E watched the incoming fist intently, stepping back early as anticipated, his eyes free from any panic.

His "Extreme Sensory Sharpness" awakened from the injection of Gene Optimization Solution and "Fury Surge" obtained from the Blood God greatly amplified his insight and reflexes, allowing him even the surplus to observe the entire situation on the battleground—

As the minion's silhouette intersected with that of the white-furred team captain, Bai E caught a pair of eyes filled with apology.

Apology?

Why apology?

Why did I ascertain that as an apology?

Is it... a hint from Spiritual Energy?

Is the opponent about to do something regrettable to me?

Bai E narrowed his eyes, and as the long arrow left his hand, he slipped and fell to the ground.

"Huff! Huff!"

Bai E sat collapsed on the ground, gasping for air.

Sweat deliberately exuded from his forehead, dropping in large beads, his acting utterly convincing.

[Your attack inflicted 332 points of comprehensive damage on the target!]

The damage had little variability, just missing the "special effect" bonus from Zero.

And Bai E, who achieved such a terrifying output, rightfully bore immense pressure, lying half on the ground, seemingly at the brink of weakness.

"Thwack!" The arrow pierced the minion's body, and Rose, who was closely following it, also landed a kick on the minion's thigh, causing it to stagger involuntarily.

"Are you alright?" Rose, who had forced back the minion, flashed over to Bai E and extended a hand to help him retreat, her concern genuine and heartfelt.

"I've got this!" The white-furred warrior stood out, positioning himself between Bai E and the minion.

He blocked their line of sight and also the faint blue light flickering on the minion's metallic arm...

...

Chapter 357 Lethal Weapon, and Apologies

"Swoosh!"

A dazzling beam of light, seemingly brighter than sunlight itself, flashed momentarily across everyone's field of vision.

Two azure beams shot out from the Minion's arm-mounted devices, the recoil so tremendous that it had to flick its wrist upwards at the exact moment of deployment.

"Zzzt!"

The beams emanating from both arms drew a perfect circle around the Minion's position, revealing the long-prepared lethal weapon's imposing power.

The ground over which the beams passed turned pitch black, with only two finger-thick gaps revealing an abyss so deep that not even sunlight could penetrate.

Divide! Divide!

Everything in the path of the beams split into two distinct halves, clearly demarcated.

The stone ground nearby, the metal walls in the distance.

Even the Grey Iron City gorilla, standing behind the Minion and about to bring down its great sword, was bisected by the beam.

Under the high-temperature, high-energy beam, not even blood appeared at the site of the wound.

The halved Grey Iron City gorilla stood motionless for a long time; with a gust of wind, it seemed to realize it had become a creature of the dead, and its two halves fell irregularly to either side, forming an "eight" shape.

In front of the Minion, Bai E and Captain Rosehair, almost in a direct line, could not escape either.

Two halves.

Two halves.

This was a strike poised against Bai E for a long time.

The activation of the high-energy beam required a considerable charge-up, and at this unimaginable moment, the beam swept out without any warning, shocking everyone present.

Even if Bai E had been fully alert, it was doubtful he could have reacted in time to an attack from such a light weapon.

The lethal weapon from the original intelligent machines indeed possessed the fatal ability worthy of its name.

Rose held the body she had supported by its shoulder, feeling the mass in her hands instantly lighten by half, and her eyes became somewhat dull.

The sudden strike left her mind blank; no matter how much she trusted Bai E, it was hard to believe that someone could be saved after being split in two.

Not to mention that besides Bai E, no one else present had any medical...

"You!"

"You!"

The moment she thought of healing, Rose thought of You.

It had been she who recommended Bai E to go and learn medical capabilities, and she herself had explored the subject long ago.

You looked over from afar, a mournful shake of the head conveying, "I can't do it..."

I can't do it...

Once again... Once again witnessing teammates die before her eyes, and she was powerless to help!

You stood rooted to the spot, clenching her teeth, her whole body trembling.

Her fingers tightly gripped the submachine gun in her hands until, with a fierce motion, she charged toward the Minion, now in a brief state of overload.

Die! Let them all die!

Within You's seemingly calm and cool eyes, a cold, deadly stillness had settled.

"Ratatatatata!" Each bullet carried the flame of rage.

It was like a flickering spark...

"I can't die! I cannot die yet..." The figure standing there, split in two, struggled to maintain the balance of its bisected body.

Invisible, intangible grey mist, like some sticky, gluey substance, desperately tried to draw the two halves of the body together, preventing them from completely falling apart.

Formidable Spiritual Energy tenaciously bonded the body back together; the body, which tended to disperse, was once more united inch by inch under this force, and a piercing light shone in Rosehair's eyes, her will to survive never having been so fierce.

"This is my mission! I must complete everything! Let me finish it all!"

All the souls that had once resided within this body were merely temporary passengers, their ethereal lives ending at some unimportant moment, just as no one cared when the current soul had begun.

And no one cared now.

But there was something that had to be done now.

The captain from Blackwater City was very formidable, and a kind person... So, he must be devoured.

This task had to be undertaken personally.

I must completely settle matters with this soul here and now.

Then... freedom.

May the next soul that takes over this body be free from this moment forth.

No longer bound by the doctor's orders, no longer killing and devouring fellow beings for the sake of slaughter.

There are so many new things in this world.

Go see, go witness.

Go play, go laugh.

Go embrace this world!

"Swoosh!"

The formless mist instantly gathered from the crevices of the body, and with it, the body that had been split in two merged back into one.

The white-haired neck gently lowered from its thrown-back position, the eyes now shining with their restored lively gleam.

"Let me live a little longer..." she whispered softly, turning to look behind her.

"I can save him." White Hair hurried over and crouched down, her eyes sincerely looking at Rose, and the eye that was always hidden under the half-length white fringe also became visible, joining in the gaze upon Rose, "You go help. We can't let the proto-intelligent machine get its breath back."

'The other party is not to be trusted.' Rose always remembered the words Bai E had privately said to her before.

So she hesitated...

"Squeak~"

There was a strange sensation in the palm of her hand.

As if fingers were mischievously scratching at her palm.

In a place White Hair could not see, Rose's left hand was covering the fingertips of Bai E's left hand...

Rose was momentarily stunned, then suddenly overjoyed, yet she showed no sign of it on her face.

Seeming to have made a tough decision, Rose stared intently at the White Hair in front of her, her eyes serious and ice-cold for the first time, "Alright! But if anything happens to our captain, you all will join him in burial... even you."

White Hair looked straight into Rose's eyes, unflinching, "If he is in trouble, I'll be the first to join him in burial."

In terms of souls... shouldn't everyone be equal?

"I'm sorry..."

After Rose left and watched as the original proto-intelligent machine, having entered a temporary overload state from the use of lethal weapons, gradually regained most of its mobility, turning the battle chaotic once again, White Hair then leaned down beside Bai E's ear and whispered so gently.

"You are wonderful, but I can't resist the doctor's orders..."

The doctor's orders were like the deepest brand of thought, innate.

This body wasn't naturally grown; she was one of the doctor's finest creations.

"I will try my best to suppress the doctor's orders, from after my time..."

For some reason, maybe because the awakened soul this time was firm and intelligent, or perhaps it was because of getting "close" to that warm yet cold "sun"?

This body had never wavered during a mission like it had today.

Every target that perished in her mouth seemed as inconsequential as pigs or dogs, bringing her no sense of burden whatsoever.

But no matter what, this was the first time...

For the first time, the temporary occupant of this body started trying to resist the inborn mission of this body.

Yet that would only be a result visible to the next soul...

Change starts with me, yet I won't see the future that change brings.

"I'm sorry... I'm sorry..."

Large drops of tears fell one by one onto Bai E's face, and White Hair, with a usually expressionless face, couldn't stop crying.

For the first time, emotions overcame the brand, and White Hair looked at the serene, sleeping face so close to her, apologizing for the last time.

"I'm sorry..."

But I can't delay any longer.

A recently deceased body is still useful; if we delay further, it won't satisfy the mad craving for consumption that comes from the brand in this body.

"I know you can't hear me, but I really want to say to you, face to face... I'm sorry."

"I heard you."

Chapter 358 quick recovery to 100%

Bai E whispered back, then slowly opened his eyes.

He certainly hadn't died.

The lethal weapon was indeed terrifying, and even if Bai E had detected the attacker's intention, he would have had trouble avoiding it in time.

Taking the hit head-on was out of the question, even with Absolute Defense activated, it absolutely couldn't withstand the damage from that ray weapon.

Split in two, that was the only fate for a target attacked, or rather, locked on by a ray weapon.

Against such a terrifying adversary, perhaps only human lives could fill the gap.

Every first-generation smart machine possessed extraordinary combat strength beyond ordinary human imagination, and this was only one, unable to cooperate with others.

If they operated in groups, even if first-generation smart machines like themselves and Zero's combination technique were hit, they could retreat behind their companions for rapid repair.

They truly were mankind's great enemy.

But fortunately, there was only one opponent this time.

Its ray weapon also couldn't be used routinely.

Today, for the first time, the "Defiance of Death" obtained from that ancient warrior exhibited its heaven-defying effect.

For a normal body, the wound was so severe it was beyond horror, but under the super organ capable of "deceiving death," Bai E's body still clung to a sliver of life.

Even under the effect of the regenerating blood, the health bar wiped out in one hit by that terrifying ray weapon was slowly recovering.

[You have taken a fatal attack, health points -200.]

[Under the effect of the "Trait—Defiance of Death," you have successfully retained 1 health point. You will maintain your current action state until the next high-value fatal damage is taken.]

[Under the effect of the "Trait—Blood of Regeneration," your cellular vitality has been greatly enhanced, rapidly repairing damaged body tissues, health points quickly recovering... Health points +1.]

[... Health points +1.]

[... Health points +1.]

...

And it wasn't just these acquired abilities from various sources, the innate talent and expertise that had come with Bai E's birth had finally completed their final metamorphosis at this moment—

[Your body is rapidly repairing the wounds, don't worry! Warrior!]

[Injury repair progress 40%, Rapid Recovery (unlocked) unlocking progress 100%.]

[Innate Talent—Rapid Recovery (Genetic Optimized Version): Your body has become familiar with nearly all forms of energy in this world. From now on, your body can draw from any perceptible and imperceptible, usable and unusable forms of energy. It will draw all usable components to restore every status of your body (including but not limited to your physical health, stamina, willpower, Spiritual Energy, etc.). For pure energy forms of external forces (including attacks), you can also absorb a "portion" for recovery.]

At the moment Rapid Recovery was successfully unlocked, Bai E could even feel every cell in his body come to "life."

The clean-cut, piercing wound that had divided him was "fatal," but the attack was straightforward, and the damage area was not extensive, making it simpler to repair.

A mere "fatal wound" is nothing to speak of.

In the gap between conversations, newly formed cells had already pushed aside the charred black debris burnt instantly by the high-energy ray.

The squirming flesh buds, as if possessing their own consciousness, stretched out their tendrils toward the other half of the body.

Amid the sticky "sizzling" of cells, the split flesh finally reattached.

Bai B looked at the scene unfolding before her eyes, filled with disbelief, "You... how did you?"

She could sense that the other party also had Spiritual Energy and that normally the other's vitality was quite robust, but when it came to something more private like the last breath of life, her Spiritual Energy wasn't sufficient to make a more precise judgment.

By all logic, it was her Spirit Energy—strong enough to be considered formidable even among the secondary stage—forcibly keeping this last breath of life, so how could he?

"I heard it," Bai E slowed his breathing and calmly sat up.

It was as if the strike that could destroy any creature had no effect on him.

Of course, that wasn't actually the case.

[Current Health: 32/200.]

This health ratio could certainly be considered critically low.

Resisting death could only maintain a certain basic level of action for Bai E, but another power from the Blood God, "Extreme Pain Suppression", was the real reason Bai E could ignore those bone-piercing, lung-drilling, heart-twisting pains and maintain the ability to fight.

Moreover, he had deliberately hidden and reserved his Spiritual Energy just now, and about half of it remained, which was enough to cope with danger.

He was critically injured, but his combat power had not diminished.

This was where Bai E's confidence came from.

And seeing Bai E in front of her, seemingly unaffected, Bai Mao's eyes revealed a visible sense of fear.

She felt guilty towards this captain of Blackwater City, but to satisfy, or rather, to quell the frantic devouring desire within, she had to consume the one in front of her.

Only at the moment of satisfying that brand would she have the chance to seal it with her Spiritual Energy, thus freeing the later soul from the brand's control.

The better the opponent's condition, the smaller her chance.

The opportunity to inflict serious injuries on him with the Hand of Primordial Intelligence came only once and must not be missed!

Her eyes hardened, and Bai Mao drew a dagger from behind her waist.

This was the first time she had revealed her weapon—

A creation of Spiritual Energy capable of easily penetrating all defenses.

Her purpose for being created was never to target heretics; even her true combat strength was assassination against humans of the same size.

"Snap!"

"Snap!"

Almost instantly, the two who were in close proximity exchanged multiple blows.

The close-quarters combat was fierce and dangerous, equally perilous for both sides.

The dagger's cold light flickered, bringing with it the chill of piercing skin as it passed over.

Fortunately, Bai E's own level-6 proficiency in hand-to-hand combat was equally remarkable, and even against the opponent's second-level Spiritual Energy suppression, he was still able to hold his own.

Knowing that Bai E's teammates could discover the change behind them and come to his aid at any moment, Bai Mao realized within two breaths of combat that the Blackwater City captain's close combat skills were also extraordinary, and her eyes suddenly filled with a thick mist.

"Boom!"

The psychic attack in the mental realm came swiftly and stealthily, like countless spikes suddenly thrusting towards the vulnerable brain, or like a heavy steel weight smashing down hard.

The violent explosion echoed in his mind, yet under the influence of something like a filter, the abrupt assault on the spiritual realm did not greatly affect Bai E's movements.

[With the help of "Self Restraint", you have successfully passed a mental resistance check, and your resistance to similar origins of assault increases for a short time.]

"..."

It was still self-restraint.

Bai E felt somewhat relieved.

The next moment, he explosively attacked.

Annihilating a Hundred Heads!

Chapter 359 explode!

Afterimages flared, limbs coordinated in rapid succession.

To instantly kill a hundred, one could strike the same spot several times in an instant, counting as "a single hit," or attack multiple areas simultaneously, considered "at the same time."

With Overlimit Drive and the Gift of Salvation activated, Bai E's moves were fierce and caught his enemies off guard.

Under his short-range burst, White Hair was caught by surprise in an instant.

"You..." He was clearly a sniper specialized in long-range combat, so how could he be so ferocious up close?

...

"How did they start fighting?"

The incident in the rear did not remain hidden from the others for long.

The acting team leader of Grey Iron City and the boy flashed an understanding look, instantly recalling their captain's earlier reminder.

"Don't come over!" Before they could act on their indecision, they heard their captain's icy command, "Deal with the artificial intelligence, it's also an enemy."

White Hair multitasked, directing her teammates while plunging a dagger down.

She was above, Bai E below, holding a natural advantage in position.

But she had neither the strength nor the skill...

Bai E, without a word, easily blocked White Hair's dagger with what seemed like a wider palm, then delivered a hard chop to her jaw, sending her flying with his top-notch strength.

He also took the opportunity to quickly stand up from his disadvantaged semi-reclining position.

Her intent to kill was clear, and he was equally decisive, even if the intent was mixed with apology, Bai E did not soften in the slightest.

After all, not far away, Rose and You were still dealing with that dangerous first-generation artificial intelligence, who knows if that little yellow minion could emit another fatal ray weapon in a short time.

Another hit like that, and he wouldn't be able to take it.

Resisting death also had an internal cooldown, the mysterious organ inside needed time to recover after one use, and if he was hit by rays again before that, he had no chance of survival.

This was the first time Bai E truly felt the immediate threat of life and death, and it could even be said he had narrowly skirted the brink.

After quickly dispatching White Hair in front of him, he would be free to deal with that first-generation artificial intelligence completely.

Bai E sprang to his feet with an explosive boost from his legs, his body surging forward to lunge again.

With the help of Spiritual Energy, White Hair barely managed to stabilize her form only to watch his fist steadily grow larger before her eyes, and eventually, it landed squarely on her face.

"Crack!"

An alarmingly sharp snapping sound echoed, emanating from White Hair's neck.

Her body might be able to resurrect infinitely, but her physical defenses were just average, and as long as her Spiritual Energy field could be breached to land a hit on her body, the captain's physique was like an easy target.

"Swoosh!"

Bai E didn't let his guard down, spinning around to deliver a whip kick, and upon landing, he followed with a sweeping blow.

His raw power unleashed furiously.

[Your attack hits the target, dealing 0 points of strike damage.]

[Target's breathing has ceased, basic life signs lost.]

[Your attack hits the target, dealing 0 points of strike damage.]

[Target's breathing has ceased, basic life signs lost.]

But no experience points notification popped up.

Her body was like a limp sandbag at the mercy of anyone's abuse, yet no matter what he did, there seemed to be a force maintaining her rough form.

Spiritual Energy!

An immortal body could nourish the existence of the soul, and an undying soul in turn supported her Spiritual Energy.

...

She wouldn't die!

I won't die!

Bai E narrowed his eyes, his fingers caressing the pistol at his waist.

He considered whether to use "Lucky Shot" and blow her away directly.

But even with "Lucky Shot," it might not be possible to kill the white-haired captain in this state.

It was a gamble.

Moreover, the most crucial issue was that he only had one chance left for his "Lucky Shot." If he used it on the white-haired captain, he wouldn't be able to deal with the original model artificial intelligence that was behind him.

The drop rates of these two enemies were equally alluring to him.

Even the threat of the original model artificial intelligence seemed higher.

"..."

Bai E's gaze intensified as he made his decision.

A kick exploded from his foot, and the sound of cracking bone was even more distinct.

The more severe the injury was, the longer it would presumably take for the opponent to repair itself.

Within that time, he would have more than enough time to first eliminate the threat posed by the artificial intelligence.

"Snap!" The powerless body was kicked by Bai E against the metal exterior of the signal base station, producing a dull sound.

Bai E turned his back, and as he looked toward that little yellow person, his hands once again closed around his compound bow.

A limit of 99 points of Spiritual Energy meant that he could now burst forth several times.

And each burst would be a terrifying blow that his opponents could hardly withstand.

The endless gale coalesced at Bai E's fingertips, as the tumultuous force eager to be unleashed swirled at his fingertips, ready to strike.

The little yellow person seemed to sense the source of danger and became visibly more agitated.

Far from the composure and elegance it displayed upon first appearing, even the exposed electrical beams and sparks now had a hint of panic.

As it increasingly adopted thought patterns similar to those of humans, even the artificial intelligence began to develop primitive cognitive circuits of "fear" and "confusion."

Unfortunately for it, under the restraining efforts of the ferocious Rose and You, with significant damage sustained to its body, the original model artificial intelligence was also unable to escape the entanglement of these formidable women.

"Whoosh!"

The wind howled, the arrow disappeared.

[Your attack has caused 300 points of comprehensive damage to the target!]

A sizeable hole now appeared in the middle of the delicate yellow carapace's chest.

Through the hollow, one could see the flickering sparks from the severed electrical cables, along with the mini-core reactor—essentially the heart of the machine.

The most critical parts naturally had the strongest protection, and even Bai E's arrow could not destroy the protective casing of the core. As a result, the corner of the nuclear reactor protruded awkwardly through the perfectly round hole.

Life Value — 8/1000

A true candle in the wind.

But for an artificial intelligence, as long as the damage to their body doesn't exceed a certain threshold, they won't lose the ability to move about as severely injured humans would.

Even if all they needed was to enter a repair pod, they could swiftly be restored to their original condition.

The artificial intelligence with only 8 points of life left also had the capability to threaten and turn the tables. Of course, Bai E wouldn't give it that chance.

He drew his pistol.

[Activate "Lucky Shot."]

For the first time, the eyes resembling rubies made brief contact with Bai E before the brass bullets, spinning, shattered the transparent lens.

As pieces of the fractured crystal lens scattered, Bai E also received the comforting prompt —

[Loot acquired: Steel*3000, Combat Experience 8000 points, Technology: Advanced Steel Smelting Process, Technology: Advanced Component Forging Process, Knowledge: Miniaturized Kinetic Theory, Trait: Mechanical Mind.]

Chapter 360 died again...

[Resurrection process ongoing...]

'I cannot die!'

'I cannot die!'

In a pitch-dark world, a lone soul curled into itself as if residing in a womb, fists clenched, biting hard on the front teeth.

Of course, perhaps she wasn't alone.

In the nothingness surrounding her, it seemed as if countless chaotic tombstones stood tall, and she... might become the next addition in a moment's time.

Only a few memorable aspects of this experience would be passed on to the next host of this body.

Every former owner of this body had come to be in the same manner.

Unconscious birth, meaningless death.

It was as if only the brand imprinted on the soul itself was the true "soul" of this body.

It shouldn't be like this...

"It shouldn't be like this!"

No one lives like this, "I" shouldn't either.

Of course, perhaps "I" might no longer be able to see what true "freedom" is, but maybe I can spare the next "me" from the torment of this insubstantial life.

I might be the first to realize this.

The true end might need to begin with me.

Let me bear this lucid pain!

Let me bear the sin of hurting others!

Let me be the final end of this painful life!

And then, embrace rebirth!

"Boom!"

The stubbornness of the soul stirred up Spiritual Energy, and the remaining members of the two confrontational squads felt that spirit-level tempest, turning their gaze in its direction immediately.

White fluffy hair moved on its own, spreading as freely as if floating in water.

The petite body lazily floated in the air, supported by the Spiritual Energy she exuded.

The arms dangled unconsciously, as if she had not yet awakened from her "dream."

The interim squad leader and the little boy, who had been ready to surrender, were instantly invigorated and rushed over, "Captain!"

The people of Blackwater City are terrifying; without their own captain, how would they survive?

"Old Bai?" Rose looked towards Bai E, seeking guidance subconsciously.

The white-haired captain had already made a move against Bai E once, and someone who had shown their true colors was undoubtedly an unequivocal enemy.

While the other party had not fully revived, why not fire another volley?

Bai E with an intense gaze, took a moment before shaking his head, "Wait and see."

She had indeed acted, and even though her words conveyed regret, the earnest killing intent was anything but illusory.

Her apology was not really aimed at him but appeared more like redemption for herself.

It was as if... she was realizing her actions were wrong for the first time, but still had no choice, hence the mentality of owing the victim.

It wasn't her goodwill towards him; it was her goodwill toward herself.

It wasn't her apology to him, but rather an apology to every life lost at her hands.

Realizing this, Bai E had resolved to strike fatally, and considering the characteristic of the opponent changing personalities with each death, what kind of being was now presenting itself?

Since the opponent was no match for him, Bai E didn't mind waiting to see what new tricks were in store.

This world's secrets were still plenty...

The deputy captain and the little boy from Grey Iron City, who had approached closer, didn't dare to touch but also didn't dare to distance themselves and just kept calling from a steady gap, "Captain~ Captain?"

The body with all limbs hanging limply as if unresponsive, seemed to have heard the calls from the outside world.

The next moment, a pair of eyes clear as gems snapped open, and the body suspended in mid-air slowly straightened from its slanted position.

Those eyes met with Bai E's, a ravenous hunger to devour surfacing instinctively, overshadowing the original crystal-clear sky blue of the irises.

"Whoosh!" Seemingly relaxed and waiting, Bai E drew his bow, and an arrow launched almost instantaneously, embedding itself directly into the forehead of the white-haired figure before anyone could react.

The arrowhead halfway in, feathers sticking out.

Just the right strength, a perfect center hit.

"Crack!" The body that had just awakened and hung in mid-air once again crashed to the ground like a clump of mud, its head propped at an odd angle by the metal arrow sticking through it.

The two survivors from Grey Iron City stood dumbfounded beside, staring at their captain who had once again become a "corpse," disbelief written all over their faces.

The captain... had died again?

"..."

"..."

"?"

"?"

"?"

All eyes turned to Bai E at once, and in the eyes of the two surviving members of Grey Iron City, there was no longer much fear, only deep confusion—

Why would you wait for our captain to fully wake up before making your move if you can't stand to see her alive?

Bai E's fingers caressed the comfortable body of the compound bow twice, knowing that Rose was looking at him with confusion, so he explained without shifting his gaze.

"It's still her."

Yes, it was still that same personality... or perhaps, soul.

She wanted to attack him, so of course, he couldn't indulge her.

And Bai E was quite curious—if this phoenix-like ability could really allow her to resurrect without limit?

That would be way too overpowered.

He just didn't know if swapping souls after each death was a side effect of this ability, but the current soul hadn't changed even after several deaths, had it?

Bai E wasn't without the intention of using Bai Mao to test things out; after all, she couldn't die, so he could mess around as he pleased.

If this ability really was useful, couldn't he steal it for himself to have as a trump card?

"..."

"Drive your vehicle over here." While waiting for Bai Mao to come back to life, Bai E didn't forget to order the two surviving members of Grey Iron City.

"Ah?" The boy sounded as if he didn't understand and responded blankly.

He knew Bai E was talking to him, but he wasn't sure if he really was commanding him.

"You have a vehicle, drive it over." You had discovered this based on the tracks, discussing it privately with Bai E beforehand.

Even if the other party tried their best to disguise it, they couldn't escape the eyes of You, the master tracker.

"I..." The boy opened his mouth blankly, wanting to say something in rebuttal, but ended up saying nothing.

He just felt completely bewildered—

You killed our captain, twice!

And now you want to boss us around, as if it's the most natural thing?

What do you take us for? Traitors?

Although there's nothing wrong with being a traitor... after all, if our captain couldn't win and was still stubborn about it, under the circumstances of already revealed hostility, not surrendering would probably mean a certain death.

"Alrighty!" The acting captain responded more promptly, evidently much more aware of the situation.

She seemed incredibly cooperative and lacked any semblance of arrogance when not in a combat state.

"Don't think about escaping, we have companions nearby," Bai E casually reminded them.

Having had a conflict with the people of Grey Iron City, Bai E would have, of course, preferred to eliminate all witnesses if possible.

But if he could incorporate them into his own ranks, that wouldn't be bad either; there were plenty of grey figures in the world, and abducting a few for the rebirth of Li Ming didn't seem like a big problem.

The acting captain paused, her lips twitching before she reluctantly agreed, "...Yes."

Indeed, the people of Blackwater City never moved in such small groups.

But if you're already so damn strong, why do you need so many people?

"Go open the door," Bai E nodded to Zhou. Once the Minions had come out, the gate had closed again, requiring authorization or a key to open.

Zhou had an interest in technological stuff and had made an effort to understand it during his free time.

When they decided to split up, Bai E had used the goodwill he had recently garnered to con a key from a fellow communications and research officer.

One must always plan ahead for all eventualities; since they were going to separate, Bai E thought it was better to keep the key items in his own hands.

"Yes." Zhou, who had somewhat recovered from his bloodied eyes, immediately ran over cheerfully.

"Should we call those two squads over?" Rose leaned in close to Bai E's ear and asked quietly.

She knew Bai E had many secrets and sometimes needed to avoid the prying eyes of others.

"No need, we'll summon them after everything is settled."

With Bai Mao's case yet to reach a final conclusion, Bai E preferred not to let the military's spies know too many of his secrets for the time being.

As for the final treatment of Bai Mao, Bai E currently had two plans in mind—

If her ability really was impressive and he also found a way to kill her for sure, he could temporarily take her back and keep her safely, waiting until he had saved up enough for a lucky critical hit before executing her.

If her ability was not so great, or if there was no way to completely eliminate her, apart from killing her again and then running away, what other good plan could there be?

Perhaps, he could also see what personality she would end up with next time?

If there was no danger, maybe she could be persuaded to join their side?

Everything still depended on the upcoming tests...