

Wow 561

Chapter 561: "Conspiracy"_2

"Annihilation!"

When utilizing Spiritual Energy, all of Gu Lan's attacks would carry a trace of absolute damage known as "Destruction Damage."

However, the level of Spiritual Energy wasn't just a representation of the reserve of mana; the efficiency of mobilizing Spiritual Energy was incomparable as well.

Even among those gifted with Spiritual Energy, Gu Lan's level of expertise might have led the pack amongst players, but among the natives, it could only be considered to have just started taking shape.

If he wanted to fully mobilize his Spiritual Energy into a single strike, it would require a certain amount of time to concentrate.

"Hum~"

The tremors of Spiritual Energy almost reached their peak, making the bullets' trajectory beyond control.

"Bang!"

The brass bullet, cloaked in a flash of silvery bright brilliance, vanished in front of everyone's eyes in a blink.

"Pfft!"

[Your attack has successfully hit the target; the physical strike is ineffective, and only the added impact of Spiritual Energy has caused a slight blow to the target.]

[A greater impact will have a higher probability of interrupting the target's spellcasting; the current chance of interrupting the spellcasting with Spiritual Energy is 21.3%...]

Time seemed to slow down so much in the passage of sensory perception that, with his consciousness fully focused, Gu Lan felt as if he could clearly see the veteran's progress as he trailed behind a faint purplish line of light.

'Did I interrupt it?'

This thought flashed through his mind in the brief time available.

[...The interruption was unsuccessful.]

"Swish~"

As light and shadow returned, Gu Lan's eyes dimmed.

"I've failed..."

"Hum~"

The Array patterns took shape, and the purple eyes suddenly opened wide.

The first glimpse they threw was directly at the lone dark figure standing on the edge of a roof.

"Bang!"

Shattered to pieces.

The purplish Array under the view of Spiritual Energy instantly fragmented, falling from mid-air like broken glass.

Within the shards that glowed oddly, Yue Ying's indifferent eyes were continuously obscured.

If the real body of the opponent had descended, there might have been a great battle.

But mere power bestowed upon ordinary people was trivial in front of her.

Even if the enemy managed to cast a spell, she just wanted to see who the demon behind the villager really was.

Now... she had confirmed it.

"Conspiracy!"

With the Array's shattering, the power supporting Song's body receded like a tide, and the foundation of his body, which had already been hollowed out by demonic erosion, collapsed like a deflated balloon.

The only thing left in this world was the final eerie laughter that was unlike any human voice, "Kikikiki~ Jijijiji~"

Even the villagers who knew nothing of the situation could sense the excitement and satisfaction that pierced their hearts from this laughter.

As long as it involved plotting, whether successful or not, it was enough to console a conspiracy demon.

What it wanted was merely the process itself...

Not to mention, a conspiracy planted in the hearts of others was even more exhilarating and maddening for it.

Yue Ying sighed softly, feeling somewhat fatigued.

Of course, it was not because of the simple act of making a few moves.

It was because... Black Street was indeed a place of "outstanding people and exceptional spirits"...

She had seen demonic corruption before, but Black Street was too frequent and too intense.

Demons tempted the mortal world everywhere, of course, but most of the temptation was just that—temptation.

Turning people into zombies, into mindless raging butchers, into beasts obsessed with rutting... these were normal acts of demonic corruption.

If any ordinary person willing to embrace a demon could immediately receive the demon's blessing, then even the most stringent laws would likely fail to stop those at the bottom of society from defecting to the demons' ranks.

A demon's blessing was a rarity among rarities, a privilege only the so-called "Chosen Ones" might attain, reserved for absolute elites.

For most common people at the bottom, even if they joined the demons' ranks, they would still be the lowest of the low, just beasts of burden.

But in Black Street?

Every demon incident she encountered involved demons bestowing blessings directly, or even incarnating in the flesh.

Could it be that every resident in Black Street is a one-in-a-million chosen one?

Or is there some other special factor at play?

It's baffling... my head hurts.

But since it's still human territory, as long as Bai E can move freely, let him deal with these matters...

Now that the conflict is over, I can become invisible again~

A whirlwind suddenly rose from the flat ground in the midst of the Spiritual Energy senses, and behind the withered bodies and shattered Array fragments, a torrential vortex drew in the attraction from a high-dimensional space, absorbing back every trace that existed in the mortal world into the basic "nutrients" needed by the high-dimensional space itself.

"Whoosh whoosh whoosh~"

Yue Ying seemed to hear the howling winds caused by the storm in the high-dimensional space.

And mixed within it was a distinctly clear yet fleeting seductive female voice that would make anyone blush and stir with restlessness upon hearing it—

'Hee hee~ Found you!'

Self-control took over instantly, and Yue Ying stumbled back a step.

Hidden beneath the black hood, a fair, delicate face blushed at once, and even the soft touch of the graceful fabric brushing against her skin made her involuntarily shiver.

"Thank you, my lord, for taking action," Gilder, who had regained his composure below, took the initiative to speak.

"..."

Yue Ying clenched her silver teeth on her lower lip, her figure flickered, and she vanished into the vast night sky.

"..."

"..."

"So aloof..."

"But so strong..."

"How would our lord fare against her?"

"I don't know... maybe fifty-fifty."

Watching the slender black shadow leave along the edge of the roof, players murmured curiously among themselves.

Players from Grey Iron City who had been drawn in by the commotion were also full of curiosity, patting Kuang Xin on the shoulder and asking eagerly, "Hey~ buddy, who was that? So fierce?"

"Don't ask." Kuang Xin didn't know either, but it didn't stop him from pretending, "Our Li Ming organization is full of talent; there are secrets you're not yet qualified to know."

"Oh~" The Grey Iron City player, leaning on a wooden stick, nodded in agreement, "That's true..."

But then he turned his attention to another matter, "What he just said, was it all true?"

Their glorious leader, was he just a small soldier in the military district?

Hearing this, Kuang Xin glanced sideways at the other man, "What about it? Since when does strength not speak for itself? How many NPCs can you find at our lord's level of power?"

As long as you have strength, you're the boss anywhere.

A temporary identity means nothing; one's own strength is the eternally unchanging truth.

There's no inherent fear of authority in the hearts of these players; how strong could an in-game force be if they can't come through the internet to beat them up in their own home?

Their leader is strong, their organization has countless masters, and most importantly, it provides endless assistance to them.

Just faithfully follow, and the background of the game world becomes but a tale for their amusement.

"Stop chatting." Dai Lian tugged at Kuang Xin's arm.

Xu Ruoguang began to take control of the remaining scene, and they needed to help.

"As enforcers of Black Street, you took the initiative to gather and cause trouble. You know what the consequences are, right?"

Faced with Xu Ruoguang's interrogation, all the old soldiers hung their heads low.

They merely wanted to follow Song's lead to test the lord's strength, not really harboring much of a rebellious intention.

It was all Song's personal agenda, and they were simply caught up in it.

But they couldn't voice this truth, and everyone remained silent like a mute, letting Xu Ruoguang reprimand and handle them.

As for resisting?

The lessons from the Black Axe Gang and demon-blessed Song were still fresh before them...

Although that black-robed lord hadn't shown much, her strength was probably no less than that of the real lord.

Resist? Impossible.

Xu Ruoguang exchanged a glance with Gong Yan as she approached, and their eyes betrayed a hint of surprise—

They had wanted to trouble these old soldiers but didn't expect them to deliver themselves into their hands, providing a perfect opportunity to fit those Grey Iron City players with prosthetics.

Chapter 562: Neural Link

The old soldier complied willingly, handing over the contact information for the "doctor."

When the person in charge arrived, those following behind Xu Ruoguang, including Kuang Xin responsible for the liaison, were all gaping in surprise.

"How come it's you?"

It had been a long time since they had seen Zhou Wenjie, who scratched the back of his head and laughed, "I didn't expect it either, haha~"

Xu Ruoguang turned his head to look at the old soldier following him, "Is this the 'doctor' you were talking about?"

The old soldier replied softly, "The doctor is an organization..."

"..."

Zhou Wenjie's face was all smiles, "I came because I heard there was a chance to leave the city. I was planning to sneak out and find you guys, but it turns out the ones making contact with our organization were you..."

"Cough~" A cool voice echoed from the shadows of the room not far behind, coming from a woman dressed in a purple-red cheongsam, revealing her graceful and enchanting figure.

"She..."

"Hey~ Don't mind her." Zhou Wenjie casually waved his hand, "She's just here to protect me, afraid the local forces outside the city won't play by the rules."

The voice of the woman retorted coldly: "It's surveillance."

"Whatever you say~" Wenjie responded nonchalantly to the figure behind him, then turned eagerly to Kuang Xin and the others, "What kind of surgery? How many?"

"Probably dozens."

Among the survivors from Grey Iron City, quite a few of the original residents of Black Street were missing arms and legs.

Since they were going to be taken care of, fairness was essential.

"No problem..." Wenjie agreed immediately, "Where are they? Let's get to work!"

He was a man of action; when he said he would do something, he did it.

"No... Guys, what about the money? How much do you want?" Xu Ruoguang took the initiative to ask. Although he knew the man, after all, this was a negotiation between two forces, and some procedures had to be followed, no?

Zhou Wenjie waved his hand nonchalantly, "No need for money. We're all buddies here, why worry about money?"

"Cough~" The woman in the cheongsam coughed lightly again from a distance, her tone sounding somewhat cold and disgruntled, "The organization has been short on funds recently..."

"Oh~" Zhou Wenjie complied obediently, then casually threw out a price, "...Then it's 10,000 Blackwater coins."

Xu Ruoguang's expression darkened upon hearing this.

That was exorbitantly expensive, wasn't it? Weren't they buddies? The old soldiers all said they used to charge at most 5,000 per person, and now it's doubled with you?

With a confirmation in mind, Xu Ruoguang instinctively clarified, "Each?"

"Bulk deal."

The woman's voice rose again in the background, her words sending a chill down the spines of even the unrelated bystanders like Kuang Xin, "Bulk deal!?"

Dozens of them! That would be dozens!

At the rate of 5,000 each, the total cost would be tens of thousands, even after a buddy discount of 20% or 40% off, it would still fill a considerable gap in the organization's funds.

But now, he wanted to do them all for just 10,000 in a bulk deal?

"Zhou! Wen! Jie!" The woman's face turned dark, the scar on her face looking particularly ferocious.

Zhou Wenjie turned around, spreading his hands, "What's to be done then? Why not just kill me?"

"..." The woman, called Wolf-Scorpion, paused for a moment, her words sharp, "The organization raised you..."

"Shut up!"

Wenjie suddenly shouted sternly, silencing Wolf-Scorpion. She watched as Zhou Wenjie's face became expressionless, doubt flickering in her eyes, "..."

"I'm the one exerting effort, not you." Wenjie quickly put on a docile, ingratiating smile, "You can just go back and say we did two, no one will know, right~"

"But there are dozens..."

"You know." Wenjie flexed his thin arms and legs, "I'm super fast."

"But the material costs..."

Seeing his chance to interject, Xu Ruoguang immediately exclaimed with delight, "I'll pay! I'll pay! We'll cover it ourselves! We've already bought all the materials!"

Xu Ruoguang, knowing the number of people involved, had made arrangements to purchase all the materials early on. With money, there were no barriers to acquiring them.

The true barrier to installing prosthetics was never the materials but the technical skills.

The direct interface of machinery with human nerves without causing conflict is a challenge that had led countless generations to painstaking trials and research.

Organizations possessing this technology invariably treated these abilities as core competitive advantages.

Wolf-Scorpion narrowed her eyes and bit her lower lip, then fell silent.

Seeing Wenjie turn towards them, Kuang Xin, Dai Lian, and Xu Ruoguang each involuntarily gave him a thumbs-up—

Brother, you're awesome! A role model for our generation!

They had long thought that this young man, sent into the city, had ended up as a black slave; they didn't expect that even a black slave could have his day as a master.

Awesome!

"Don't talk anymore, let's go, let's go!"

Eager to start the surgeries, itching to work.

Every skill in this game was imbued with Magic Power, inspiring desire.

Seeing that they had reached a consensus, Dai Lian made his way to where the players were waiting, "Who wants to go first?"

"Me, me!"

"Me!"

Eager to experience new things in the game, the players, leaning on their broken limbs, jostled to be first, buzzing with excitement.

"Then it's you," Dai Lian said, picking someone at random and bringing him to the somewhat gloomy operating room.

"Lie down." Zhou Wenjie, who had already changed into a white surgical suit, issued the command with equal excitement.

In the operating room, he was king.

"Do you want anesthesia?"

Chapter 563: Neural Link_2

"No need!" the player lying on the surgery bed said, tilting his neck back. In reality, just getting a tiny cut on a finger requires a long hiss of pain, so why not go all out in the game and experience everything that was never experienced in reality?

"Fine!"

The brutal and bloody spectacle had the lurking observer in the corner, assigned to "watch," continuously twitching her eyelids.

She always felt that the little brother cultivated by the organization wasn't normal, but she hadn't expected that the people he met would be just as abnormal as he was.

Who else would watch the sawing off of their limbs, without any anesthesia, with such interest? Even making... making those dirty-sounding moans.

Both parties were enjoying themselves... which was quite unbelievable.

In Wen Jie's focused gaze, there was only the thrill of rapidly gaining experience.

[You are attempting to perfect the Knowledge – Neural Linking (Completion), current progress is 86%. Upon completion, you will receive: Knowledge – Neural Linking; Scientific Research Experience +1000 points; Technology Points *2.]

The technology for connecting machines with nerves owned by the organization was quite rudimentary, limited to just being usable, and certainly not comparable with the cutting-edge technologies possessed by the city's research institutes.

Zhou Wenjie, who gradually gained the organization's recognition and trust through his basic computer skills, noticed the limitations of the prosthetic limb implantation technology as soon as he encountered it.

The city's research institutes, of course, would not publish their cutting-edge achievements. If one wanted to develop personally, they needed to make breakthroughs in this area on their own.

And for any technology to break through, there was no doubt a need for a large number of cases to practice on.

The organization only wanted to make money from this, but Zhou Wenjie only cared about the cases he could use to boost his experience and proficiency.

Not only towards the brothers who had sent him into the city, but even towards complete strangers, Zhou Wenjie was willing to perform surgery for free.

It was like when he first joined the organization without any sense of consciousness that a black slave should have, working overtime with a crazy fervor.

"Next!"

"Next..."

"Next."

Watching Wen Jie buried in frenzied surgeries, the observer in the corner's stern expression gradually softened, and eventually, she moved closer on her own, wiping the sweat from his forehead with a handkerchief.

The makeshift operating room lacked advanced equipment, and large-scale surgeries like these required a tremendous amount of physical strength, which Zhou Wenjie was depleting rapidly.

But fortunately, the results were very satisfying.

[You have completed a prosthetic limb installation and successfully connected it, Neural Linking experience +0. Current Knowledge – Neural Linking (Level 2) experience has reached full capacity, awaiting a breakthrough to further raise your capability limit.]

[You are trying to perfect the Knowledge – Neural Linking, current progress is 100%.]

[You have completely perfected the Knowledge – Neural Linking (Completion), rewards: Knowledge – Neural Linking (Full); Scientific Research Experience +1000 points; Technology Points *2 have been awarded.]

[You have acquired "Knowledge – Neural Linking (Full)," unlocking the knowledge cap, current knowledge level cap is level 5.]

"Whew~"

Zhou Wenjie let out a long breath and didn't bother to check what was behind him as he plopped down to sit.

As a "doctor" specializing in "surgical operations," how could his physical fitness be poor?

But the long spells of continuous high-intensity surgeries had drained every ounce of strength from his body.

[Through long-term maintenance at the limit, your physical fitness has seen substantial improvement, physical fitness +0.1.]

Feeling invigorated again...

However, his body, which still followed the trend and fell, was caught by another soft and warm embrace. The usually icy and venomous tone softened for the first time, "If you're tired, take a rest, no one is pushing you."

Wen Jie directly took out a tube of pale blue liquid from his embrace and gulped it down.

After wiping the liquid from the corner of his mouth, Zhou Wenjie smiled brightly, "Rest? I don't have time to rest!"

"Next!"

...

[Feedback from the commission: Physical Strength +0.1, Knowledge - Neural Linking Experience +200.]

[You have learned "Level 1 Neural Linking" and have also received *1 Technology Points.]

[Current Neural Linking Experience 100/300, mastering "Level 2 Neural Linking" when full 300 points are reached.]

[Source "Knowledge - Neural Linking" category changed, the current "Knowledge - Neural Linking" has been automatically replaced by "Knowledge - Neural Linking (Complete)".]

[Knowledge - Neural Linking (Complete) (1/5 levels): Understanding of the commonalities between the human body and machines has granted you the initial ability to mount mechanical bodies onto flesh. Starting from now, you have the capacity to perform surgeries installing mechanical prosthetics onto the human body and can ensure the probability of rejection reactions occurring remains below 30% within three years, below 50% within five years, and below 99% within ten years. Note: Neural linking technology is a prerequisite knowledge necessary for developing "Advanced Knowledge - Bio-mainbrain Theory," and can only be advanced to research development of "Advanced Knowledge - Bio-mainbrain Theory" once it is at full level.]

Bio-mainbrain? Sounds familiar.

One of the requirements in my own mecha transformation plan 2.0 seems to be this technology.

I've been considering where to acquire this technology, and didn't expect it to be delivered into my hands by the players.

I'm well acquainted with those players connected to me, and it's been several days since I've assigned them missions. This means that there is only one possible source for this feedback—

"Wen Jie!"

Awesome!

Just as Bai E was secretly delighted, he heard a call from not too far away, "Captain Bai, Hou wants you to come over."

"Oh~ Got it."

The hangar is spacious, with a very high dome.

When usually piloting within the hangar, its vastness goes unnoticed. Now, by walking through it, one realizes how minuscule the human form is in comparison to the entire hangar.

This was the third day after the "brainwashing" surgery.

The military district doesn't keep idlers. As a mech servant plucked for thorough use, I must diligently shine in my position and safely get through the probation period before completely earning the trust of those higher-ups in the military district.

Of course, perhaps due to their knowledge of these insider secrets, even after being "demoted" to a lowly mech servant within the armored battalion, the attitude of the other mech servants, as well as the head of all the mech servants—that is, the hangar manager who was tricked by Bai E—remained utterly respectful towards him.

Seeing Bai E's approaching figure from a distance, Hou, mentioned by the other mech servants, greeted Bai E cheerfully: "Captain Bai, there are many tasks for a mech servant. Those mech servants who go to the battlefield and those like us who stay back here are two different concepts. The mech servants heading to battle need to learn some emergency measures required on the battlefield and the rapid loading of ammunition. As for us in the rear, we need to learn the maintenance and care technical skills for overseeing the mecha as a whole, which is a different direction. I wonder which type do you prefer?"

"Either is fine..." Bai E did not limit his own development.

If one cannot fight on the front lines, learning some logistical skills is always worthwhile.

"Then start with following me," Hou said with a smile, his demeanor humble and gentle, a true standout among old mech servants.

With Bai E aboard the vertical elevator, accompanied by the sound of the motor operating, Hou began to explain, "This mecha, it's like the more commonly seen tanks and combat vehicles. To maximize its combat abilities, it absolutely requires solid logistical support. A mecha is not a person; it doesn't speak when it hurts. Identifying all possible hidden faults in the mecha to ensure it doesn't fail at a critical moment is our sole responsibility."

"Click~"

With a light click of mechanical engagement, the elevator stopped at the back of the mecha. In front of Bai E, Hou opened a heavy plate on the mecha's back, revealing a dense array of various signal lights, "Our mechas have various self-diagnostic systems. Captain Bai, you should be aware since you came from being a mech pilot. But the self-check indicators you saw from within the cockpit only relate to the loss or damage of broad functional modules. These self-check lights here can show more details of the mecha's condition. Of course, it's the hidden corners that harbor potential but not yet occurred faults that are our biggest enemies."

"I've heard that in the past, there were skilled masters who could merely start up a mecha and listen to its sounds, feel its vibrations, and locate those most hidden faults. But I can't do that, nor can anyone here. We must learn to use tools. Maintaining a mecha not only requires meticulous attention to detail but also efficiency. This is even more important for mech servants who will be going to the battlefield. From now on, I'll demonstrate it to you."

Chapter 564: Mecha Quick Repair

The instruments were certainly not handheld; they were mounted on huge remotely controlled mechanical arms.

Mechas required regular and frequent maintenance to utilize their combat capabilities, yet the instruments for servicing these mechas needed a complete production industrial line as support.

Every detail in the background was the accumulation of the city over hundreds of years; even for an individual, ample logistical support was the true foundation to exert combat power.

Aspiring to act independently of resources and social connections to establish one's force seemed somewhat unrealistic in this world...

Watching the gigantic mechanical arms flying up and down before him, Bai E gained a deeper understanding of the underlying rules of this world.

He would need to pay much more attention to this if he wanted to build his own force in the future!

Silver-grey mechanical lights tumbled in his eyes, and Bai E, who was multitasking, didn't miss a single word spoken by Master Hou.

[You are learning "Knowledge—Mecha Maintenance," progress 1%...]

"When the fault light is on, it's already a very serious situation. Often times, a loose armor plate or a missing screw can become the core reason for the downfall of an armed mecha," said Master Hou.

[You are learning "Knowledge—Mecha Maintenance," progress 3%...]

"Seals like this rubber ring and rubber strip also need constant attention and should be replaced according to the technical manual regularly. Actually, once you do it often, you'll gradually become familiar with the areas that commonly have potential risks." Master Hou paused with a serious tone. "Of course... you must never become negligent because of familiarity. Those corners that don't usually have problems can also become fatal weaknesses during critical moments. We always conduct technical analysis after each battle; if problems arise due to poor maintenance... heads will roll."

The military district had extremely stringent requirements for these mecha servitors, who, despite their technical skills and low status, had to always be on edge.

Most mecha servitors were artificial humans, and the majority of artificial humans who arrived at the armored battalion would be assigned to the mecha servitors, as obedient artificial humans made the best technicians.

Of course, a few natural persons with mechanical aptitude were also stuffed into this role, like Master Hou. They often became the core of the entire hangar.

They were well-compensated, but the demands were equally strict.

Mecha servitor was an absolutely, absolutely faultless position.

Meticulousness, patience, and efficiency were the absolute requirements for every technician.

"At the same time, the newly replaced modules also need to be tested a certain number of times to ensure their stability. Any part produced by a lathe has tolerances, and even a 0.1% performance difference in a critical moment or critical component can have vastly different outcomes. Additionally, you need to know what is normal to identify what is abnormal. Otherwise, even if you see those risks, you won't know there's a problem. Like here... this armor plate should be smooth and seamless, but now..."

Bai E listened intently, feeling the satisfaction as knowledge was gradually stuffed into his brain.

[You are learning "Knowledge—Mecha Maintenance," progress 50%...]

[The learning progress of "Knowledge—Mecha Maintenance" has reached the minimum requirement; teaching mode activated.]

[Teaching: You have understood quite a bit about the basic knowledge of mecha maintenance. Hands-on attempts and guidance from your seniors will be very beneficial. You can pay a certain price (combat experience/general experience) to correct your mistakes and learn from the experience your mentor provides during guidance to complete your understanding of mecha maintenance. (Cost: 20 points of experience/min)]

Well then... it's time to begin.

"Master Hou..." Bai suddenly spoke up. "Can I give it a try?"

Master Hou, who was controlling the mechanical arms through a panel, was slightly taken aback, and looked at Bai E with a questioning gaze. "You want to try?"

How long had it been since the lesson started?

Normally, a mecha servitor would have to watch for a few days before they could gradually attempt to take over.

"Let's just try it; I need to get my hands on it to verify right from wrong, right?" said Bai E with a smile.

"That's true..."

But it still felt too soon.

Master Hou hesitated for a moment but then nodded, "Okay."

After all, it was Bai E, and his joining the mecha servitor team was surely only temporary.

One couldn't defy the will of such a person; if he wanted to try, then let him have a try.

Realizing one's limitations was more conducive to future teaching.

Making way, Bai took over.

He operated the mechanical arm to different positions, switching between various inspection tools, and using methods such as sonar and probes to check for any possible issues within the mecha's insides.

Even if some tentative risks were detected, the instruments wouldn't trigger an alarm. Those potential issues that had not yet caused damage were beyond the machine's ability to discern.

The whole process required the operator's own meticulous observation.

Master Hou stood to the side, arms crossed, silent.

This first attempt would be the perfect test of Bai's capabilities.

Any mistakes made during the process could be pointed out after completion, providing sufficient room for reflection and retention.

He had already decided that even the slightest error would be addressed afterward.

It was understandable to have shortcomings during the first try.

Chapter 565: Mecha Quick Repair_2

First and foremost, he had to learn to respect and awe!

Respect and awe are the first rule that all mech servants must learn.

[You are paying combat experience points to correct your mech maintenance behavior...]

[You are learning "Knowledge — Mech Maintenance", progress 55%...]

[...Mech Maintenance experience +1.]

[You are learning "Knowledge — Mech Maintenance", progress 61%...]

[...Mech Maintenance experience +1.]

[Current Mech Maintenance experience 0/300, mastery of "Level 2 Mech Maintenance" will be achieved at 300 points.]

[Mech Maintenance (1/3 level): You have learned most of the common knowledge about mech maintenance and acquired basic hands-on ability. From now on, you can handle most minor malfunctions and potential hazards on the mech, albeit "slowly".]

'Quite slow, but it wins through carefulness.' Hou, who was watching from the side, stroked his chin, somewhat satisfied.

Regardless of ability, at least the attitude is correct.

Newcomers shouldn't aim too high. Only when one's own duties are carried out meticulously, can they gradually aim for faster efficiency.

As time passed, experience points occasionally jumped up.

Until after he had finished working on the entire mech, the sunset outside the hangar cast a dim, dusky yellow light.

3000 combat experience points converted into a total of 900 knowledge experience points was completely insignificant for Bai E now.

[You are learning "Knowledge — Mech Maintenance", progress 100%...]

[...Mech Maintenance experience +1.]

[Current Mech Maintenance experience 500/500, you have successfully mastered "Level 3 Mech Maintenance".]

[Mech Maintenance (3/3 level): You have learned all the common knowledge about mech maintenance and possess extensive hands-on ability. From now on, given the necessary facilities, you can handle all malfunctions and potential hazards on the mech, with "extremely high" efficiency.]

[Detection: Character possesses notable "Spiritual Energy" cultivation and has previously formed a "link" with similar mechanical structures, you have the qualification to unlock advanced "Knowledge — Quick Mech Repair".]

[Trigger side quest — Knowledge Training.]

[Knowledge Training: Advanced knowledge encompasses the coordinated abilities from broader aspects. You need to integrate and apply your mastered skills into your current art through continuous trials. Quest requirements: Complete a certain number of repeated mech maintenance operations 1/???. Reward for completion: Scientific research experience +3000, Knowledge — Quick Mech Repair, Spiritual Energy +10/10, current link strength conversion delay reduced by 50%.]

"..."

Bai E was slightly taken aback. There were more advanced things?

"..."

Hou was stupefied.

Completed... completion?

Hou, engrossed in his observation, realized a fact—

On his first try, Bai had already completed a full maintenance check on an entire mech.

Even though he was set on pointing out mistakes, having watched the entire process, he couldn't find a single opportunity to correct anything afterward.

The speed indeed was a bit slow, but for someone on their first attempt, the ability to fully apply what was learned to conduct a complete inspection of the mech was already an impressive feat.

On such a foundation, it was too nitpicking to demand speed, and he just couldn't say such words.

Not to mention that 'slow' was only at the beginning stage—later on, as Bai became more adept, his movements were anything but sloppy.

Unable to utter the words to teach the newcomer to respect and awe, Hou could only pat Bai E on the shoulder after restraining himself for a while and sincerely exclaimed, "Well done. Want to give it another try?"

The mech he had chosen was a new one, recently manufactured to deal with the expanding Mech Armored Corps. Even though there were some minor issues with the mech, there certainly weren't many, and nothing that was beyond the curriculum.

It's only the old mechs that have been in service for a long time strange issues can arise, issues that even experienced technicians like them couldn't predict.

Today was the first lesson, and it was essential, no matter what, to teach Bai, this newcomer, to respect and awe!

Bai E nodded, "Okay."

I couldn't ask for more!

Unlocking new advanced knowledge required repetitive tasks, and although there was no clear upper limit, doing as instructed was definitely the right choice.

Perhaps what Hou mentioned about that legendary master was a manifestation of some mech quick repair technique.

"Then we'll just wait..."

There weren't many mechs in the hangar to begin with, and the other two remaining were also new; there was no need to waste time on them.

It was only when the mech pilots from the Mech Armored Corps returned from their training that they could gain enough hands-on experience from the truly old machines.

"Boom!"

"Boom!"

As the two were talking, a slight tremor was felt.

The heavy mass shook the ground, the vibrations drawing closer from afar.

"They're back!"

"They're back!"

The watchful mech servant shouted loudly, and suddenly the whole silent hangar buzzed with activity.

Without Bai E's mech in training, it was so lonely; almost all of the mechs returned in one piece on their own.

Bai E's gaze suddenly focused on a particularly wretched-looking mech among them, the number on its ankle—

W0721

That was his mech...

Bai E stepped aside and silently waited for the pilots to climb out of the mech cockpits.

Most of the pilots coming down from the mechs didn't look back at the hangar, but one pilot with golden curly hair jumped down from the ladder and immediately scanned the entire hangar, trying to find a particular figure.

Bai E hadn't informed anyone in the squad of his actions that night, and after the incident, they were all ordered not to contact Bai E or even to inquire about his whereabouts without permission.

But there were quite a few who knew about Bai E's situation, and for Rose, who had a wide network, finding out Bai E's whereabouts wasn't difficult.

Should the mech servant be here in this hangar, right?

"Rose, what are you looking at?" a fellow pilot asked enthusiastically from behind, "The training's over, let's go eat together?"

Rose glanced at him as one might look at trash, "You fought like shit in today's training, and you still feel like eating?"

This was the new partner assigned to her from above, allegedly the son of some mid-level military officer.

Rose wasn't averse to trying new things; if he had a good character and they got along well, then she might be able to do more for Bai E in the future.

After learning that Bai E had taken his mech out alone and wiped out an entire Intelligence Machinery Group Army, Rose knew that even if she got the chance to pilot a mech again, Bai E would most likely not act with her.

But what she hadn't expected was... this guy was all talk and no skill.

When working with Bai E, she only felt the strain of chasing after him, but with this guy, she felt helpless with her skills going to waste.

Perhaps that's how Bai E felt when he worked with her...

Irritatingly, Bai E's "intimidation" was still influential; during training, those kids targeted his mech with a ruthless beatdown, almost dismantling it.

"Stupid! All so stupid!" Although Rose was usually well-mannered, now she was utterly frustrated.

The military leadership were all fools; they were willing to sideline someone with Bai E's fighting capabilities, no wonder he kept so many things from the military base.

Right now, Rose just wanted to take this rare opportunity to find Bai E and ask about the specifics and his future plans.

If there were secrets he couldn't share, she could make preparations for him in advance.

But with this guy sticking around, that would definitely be impossible.

Rose showed her disgust openly, "If you have time, ponder more on how to pilot a mech. We're about to go into battle, and I don't want to die with you."

Chapter 566: Sweep all

Rose's undisguised expression seemed to stab the man's heart, and the man retreated slowly, his gaze fixed on Rose, his tone steady, "Okay, I understand."

Enor had come with a mission behind his back.

Bai E's mecha had already birthed a mechasoul, and from then on, this mecha could no longer be treated as ordinary.

In general, individuals capable of communicating with a mechasoul would certainly not be deprived of the bond with their own mechasoul.

However, Bai E's situation was clearly an exception.

The natural disadvantages of artificial humans existed, and even if they were brainwashed by the academicians of the Scientific Research Institute, they might not be absolutely "safe."

This observation period for Bai E was less an inspection on the danger posed by Bai E himself than an exploration into the possibility of mechasoul theft.

Valuable resources must be in the firm grasp of the true core of the city to be reassuring. How could it be more suitable for the interests of the military region and even the city to have an artificial human like Bai E pilot a mecha with a mechasoul, rather than placing it in the hands of high-ranking officials' direct descendants?

Of course, Rose could not be replaced. As one of the mech pilots responsible for the mechasoul's birth, if both individuals were replaced at once, the likelihood of successfully communicating with the mechasoul would undoubtedly be greatly reduced. Therefore, Enor became the outcome selected after the power struggles among the military bigwigs.

Of course, Enor wanted the mechasoul.

As the descendant of a legitimate official's family, being able to communicate with the mechasoul would undoubtedly catapult him to the top echelons of the city.

However, after two days of interaction, this artificial human female soldier called Rose unexpectedly stirred his heart.

Her lovely figure and face, her valiant and spirited character, all deeply intoxicated him.

To cause such an excellent lady to feel disgust deeply wounded his proud heart.

Leaving the hangar to find his father, Enor made his request.

"Father, I want to undergo Mechanical Court's enhancement. That female mech pilot's driving skills are too impressive. I won't be able to catch up with her level in a short period of time."

In front of his father, he spoke truthfully.

Being chosen as the hopeful candidate, Enor was certainly not useless.

Possessing Spiritual Energy talent, he had always been exceptionally quick at learning and understanding in all aspects since he was young. Behind every boastful claim was the real capital that bolstered his confidence. However, faced with Rose, Enor knew that he had no way of meeting her standard in the short run.

Originally, he was confident that after some time, he would be able to catch up swiftly through the strong learning abilities granted by his Spiritual Energy talent. However, the female mech pilot, wholeheartedly loyal to the city and thinking of the upcoming battle, did not give him much time to learn.

His father frowned deeply, "You must know, the enhancement from the Mechanical Court is a one-way road..."

Not everyone is willing to abandon their original flesh.

The belief in the natural body and the adoration of technological power have always been an unresolved debate. But clearly, regardless of the viewpoint, there are enough supporters for each.

"Father, I've thought it through. I don't need extensive modification, just a little compatibility with the machinery will be enough for me to catch up to her quickly."

His father pondered for a moment before slowly nodding, "Okay, you have considered your own matter, you were chosen from among many candidates, don't let me down."

"I understand, Father!"

...

Having sent away her new partner, Rose once again tried to find Bai E, but a gentle voice called out to her from behind first, "Rose."

Turning around, there stood Bai E, dressed in a maintenance uniform.

He had noticed Rose earlier but decided not to appear and disturb her as she was accompanied by someone else.

The moment she saw Bai E, even with Rose's temperament, she couldn't help but feel a tinge of redness around her eyes, "Captain!"

Upon hearing that Bai E had been severely dealt with for violating military discipline, her initial reaction was dizziness.

If Bai E was gone, she didn't know what the purpose of her continued fighting would be.

For humanity?

That impulse didn't seem so strong.

Seeing Bai E in person now, she finally breathed a sigh of relief, "Captain, are you alright? They wouldn't let me see you... "

Bai E smiled warmly, "I'm fine, what can happen to me?"

"They said you can't return, and I'm to be the captain of the squad from now on..."

"Then be the captain," Bai E said lightly, smiling. After all, being the captain of a special squad wasn't such a big deal.

"And the Mech Pilot? They've chosen someone else to be my partner..."

"Partner, was it the person just now?"

"Yes!"

Bai E pondered for a moment, and quickly realized the military's intention behind their actions.

"Let them be."

There's no damn mechasoul in that mecha; it was just an explanation others had come up with because they couldn't understand how he could perform so well in battle.

The only link between him and that mecha was established after 48 hours of contact, and even if he were not given the mecha back, establishing another link on a different mecha within 48 hours probably wouldn't be a problem.

He would let them perform as they pleased.

"And what about you?" Rose looked intently at Bai E, "What will you do in the future?"

"See how it goes~" Bai E shrugged with indifference.

The military wouldn't keep him on ice indefinitely.

According to Helen, as long as he got through the so-called surgical observation period, they would have to find him work to do again.

Chapter 567: Sweep all

...

And he himself also cherished the days he spent working as a mecha servant in the hangar, as it was an opportunity to accumulate technical knowledge for his future development.

Under normal circumstances, the work of a technical worker like a mecha servant would have nothing to do with him, but now...

He still had a task here that was not yet completed.

Seeing that Rose's face was still filled with unease, Bai E smiled and teased the tip of her nose, "What are you thinking about? I'm fine. I've said, I can accept whatever happens."

Looking at the figure in front of her, who still shone brightly despite being in the depths of despair, Rose suddenly bowed her head and muttered, "I understand."

"If there's nothing else, go and attend to your work. I can't keep using Spiritual Energy to block off this area."

"Okay!"

Watching Rose run off, Bai E wore a comforting smile.

His trust was not misplaced; these friends who had no blood or close intimate relationship with him had come to offer help as soon as something happened to him, and this was the only solace he could find in this cold and heartless dark age.

"Bai, Master Hou is calling for you!"

"I'm coming!" Bai E immediately responded and, taking one last glance at Rose's retreating figure, he turned and ran towards where Master Hou was.

To pressure Bai E, Master Hou specifically selected what seemed to be the most severely damaged mecha from the returning units.

Of course, he couldn't perform a full-body check on each mecha with instruments in such a short period, so he had to use his experience to make a rough visual judgment to decide which mecha was more seriously damaged.

And so...

Looking at the mecha in front of him, Bai E's expression was rather splendid.

"Master, are you sure it's this one?"

"Certain!" Master Hou affirmed without hesitation.

W0721

This was Bai E's own ride.

The news that this mecha had birthed a mecha spirit was just a reasonable explanation from the Mechanical Court for Bai E's combat abilities and had been unanimously accepted by the upper echelons. However, this information was restricted to high-ranking officials and completely unknown to the lower-ranking officers and soldiers.

Not to mention Master Hou, a front-line technical worker who dealt with machines every day.

"Alright."

Bai E, following Master Hou's wishes, stood on the elevator platform behind the W0721 mecha.

Even just by approaching, Bai E could feel a familiar warm aura spreading from the mecha.

So even during the inspection and repair process, Bai E seemed to intuitively find those deeply hidden hazards, which translated into... a dazzlingly efficient performance.

Compared to the first maintenance, which had been nearly ten times slower, by the time Master Hou emerged from his immersion in the smooth, flowing operation, Bai E's calm voice had already sounded by his ear.

"Master, do you see any other issues?"

[Current side quest—Knowledge Training, completion 6/???)

One counts as five?

Worthy of being his own exclusive ride, Bai E's palm gently caressed the mecha's cold shell, and in a blur, he seemed to feel a warm response.

"Let me take a look."

Master Hou nodded gravely.

The first inspection had been so slow, yet now, the second one was done so quickly, there were parts he hadn't even seen clearly before the kid passed over them—it couldn't have been a thorough check of every detail.

The overconfidence of a rookie often occurs with geniuses.

It mustn't be encouraged.

However...

Nothing! Still nothing!

And still, no faults to be found!

After a thorough and careful inspection, Master Hou couldn't find a single detail to critique.

Flawless!

The mecha that had been badly damaged just moments ago now appeared as pristine as if it had just rolled off the factory floor, not only efficient but also accurate.

What level was this?

If it were him, he might not be able to achieve this level of perfection, right?

Could he really be a genius?

Watching Master Hou's frozen movements, Bai E cheerfully suggested, "Master, I have a proposal, what do you think about it?"

"Ah... go ahead," Master Hou responded subconsciously.

Bai E's eyes scanned over the mechas parked in the hangar and he said with a smile, "How about letting everyone take a break today? I'd like to fix these mechas by myself."

Time was of the essence.

If the military district's higher-ups decided to make him the main combat force again before he finished this task without a defined number of attempts, he would hardly have any chance to complete this technical task for quite some time.

...

The damaged mecha were one fewer to fix each time, as the mech pilots only had one training opportunity per day, which naturally meant only one chance to damage them. If someone else fixed them, there was nothing left for Bai E to fix, so he needed to cherish every hard-earned opportunity.

The request Bai E made was obviously a bit exaggerated, and Master Hou stared at him incredulously, "Just you alone?"

"Mm-hmm, I find this very interesting and want to deepen my impression while I'm still learning. Don't worry, I won't sleep tonight. If there's even one that isn't fixed by tomorrow, you can take me straight to trial."

"..." Master Hou stared at Bai E, his eyes expressing something strange.

So you're the kid who deceived the hangar's manager, and now you want to fool him too?

With your own strong capabilities, you're held in high regard by the military brass; even if you stole a mecha and left the base without permission, you got off lightly. But what about them?

If the Mech Armored Corps needs the mecha for training tomorrow and a few are missing because they haven't been checked and repaired, do they really just blame you for it?

But the personal will of Captain Bai...

"Wait a moment, I need to ask for permission from my superiors."

Upon receiving the news, the Mech Armored Corps instructor waved his hand, "No problem."

Missing a few means fewer mech pilots will train, and besides, didn't they just receive a few newly made units? It's not a big deal to use those as a temporary replacement.

To him, Bai E was now the True God!

Any request from Bai E could be accommodated.

After receiving approval from his superiors, Master Hou let out a sigh of relief; he was glad not to be caught between two sides.

"I'm leaving it all to you."

Master Hou patted Bai E on the shoulder, "I'll come to check the results first thing in the morning."

"I guarantee to complete the task!"

With time pressing, Bai E didn't hesitate and immediately got to work.

[Current side quest—Knowledge Training, Completion: 7/???)

[Current side quest—Knowledge Training, Completion: 8/???)

...

[Current side quest—Knowledge Training, Completion: 15/???)

...

[Current side quest—Knowledge Training, Completion: 34/???)

When one is engrossed in something, time always flies by quickly.

As the first rays of the morning light shone through the cracks of the hangar doors, Bai E stretched lazily at the control stand.

Looking at every mecha in the hangar, now as good as new, a sense of accomplishment rose in Bai E's heart.

"Not bad..."

He had finished fixing them all.

The task wasn't yet complete, but a quiet enlightenment had already dawned in Bai E's mind.

The goal of the task was to get him to gradually adapt his Spiritual Energy to the process of inspecting mecha, so that in the future, he could get direct "intuitive prompts" from the Spiritual Energy when inspecting any mecha.

Simply put, Spiritual Energy was the key to this ability.

And the "intimacy" that had once been established with a mecha was the absolute factor supporting Bai E's ability to "empathize" with the mecha's body.

Both were essential, and it seemed he was just one step away from completing it.

The doors opened, and Master Hou, yawning, led a group of mech servitors into the early morning hangar.

Seeing that the mechas were completely renewed, and even all the used tools were neatly arranged by category, every mech servitor gaped in surprise.

Thanks to Bai E, they had all taken an "early shift" the day before and knew only Bai E had been repairing them last night.

And now...

"They're really all fixed?"

"It's not just a superficial job, is it?"

"Hurry up and check! Hurry up and check! Everyone, go and verify it again!" Master Hou was skeptical.

Captain Bai was someone he had taught himself, and even if Captain Bai's aptitude seemed a little absurd, the idea that a newbie who had just learned the day before could fix so many mecha overnight was the most shocking thing to him.

Reports from various mech servitors quickly came in.

"Report, no problems found!"

"Report, no problems found!"

"Report, no problems found!"

"..."

Thus, all eyes converged on the figure that looked incredibly small leaning at the foot of a mecha, seemingly asleep.

Awe rose from within, more from the worship of abilities they did not possess.

["Lucky Strike" Energy +50.]

Chapter 568: You're right, but this is Bai E!

"Tomorrow is the final assault," Hamilton felt a bit melancholy.

The last total attack on the Bug Race's nest led to the annihilation of the entire Mech Armored Corps, creating a significant fear of the gigantic alien creature within him.

Although, during this period, all the mech pilots of the Mech Armored Corps had undergone special mental resilience training with the help of the Arbitration Place's enforcer, which should have given them some resistance to the fear domain of that giant bug, he was still deeply troubled by the prospect of the forthcoming confrontation after having suffered a great loss before.

Naturally, he wanted to find a source of confidence for himself—

For example, Bai E, the captain who could maintain freedom of movement within the fear domain of the Bug King during the last confrontation.

Last time, even though he was just a common soldier, he had managed to save thousands of fighters amidst the total defeat, making an indelible contribution to preserving the core forces of the camp as intact as possible. And now...

Even though it might still be a while before his maximum observation period came to an end, Bai E's combat effectiveness in piloting a mecha was not to be underestimated.

Even though in the recent internal military meetings Enor was selected as the successor to Bai's mech spirit, and the progress in the last few days was fierce; even though the Mechanical Court also dispatched several groups of elite mech pilots to join the army on the campaign, unverified strength was still difficult to earn Hamilton's trust.

For some reason, he had complete trust in that silent warrior who had been promoted from an artificial human.

If he could bring him along and appoint him on the spot in the battlefield, that would serve as the last insurance.

However, to bring such a controversial focal person into the battlefield, there needed to be a reasonable excuse... Under normal circumstances, the meaning of other senior officers was to not let him be in touch with external matters for the time being.

Let me see what sort of progress Bai has made in the hangar these past few days?

The person in charge of guarding the hangar saw Hamilton swaying over and instantly perked up, "Commander, what brings you here?"

This was the boss of the entire armored camp. To him, in the military district beyond the marshal, Hamilton was the most important.

"Nothing much," Hamilton waved with one hand and casually glanced around the hangar, seemingly asking offhand, "That mecha servant named Bai E who was transferred here a few days ago, how's his performance been lately?"

"Bai E?"

The person in charge's face stiffened, gradually becoming more expressive.

"He's under Master Hou's guidance. Shall I call him to speak with you about the details?"

Hamilton nodded, "Alright."

Then, the person in charge picked up the communicator and shouted into it, "Master Hou, please come to the central control tower."

Hamilton stood at the entrance, casually surveying the hangar.

Seeing a collapsed scene in a corner, he raised his eyebrows in surprise and slightly lifted his chin toward the area, softly asking, "What happened over there?"

So, the face of the person in charge became even more animated, "It collapsed... Bai E did it."

That was why he had been acting strange when Bai E was mentioned.

Early that morning, when everyone started work in the hangar, they were greeted by a completely collapsed mecha stand.

It was always the mechas that broke, but a mecha stand needing repair... that was a first.

No one knew exactly what kind of procedure Bai had used to detonate the mecha stand, which had never had any problems before, into that state.

It was known that Bai had made a mistake in the operation and destroyed the structure of the stand with a mechanical arm; others who didn't know better might have thought it had been blown up by a smart weapon's rocket.

The damage was quite bizarre, and people were still being sought to repair it.

Mecha servants could only repair mechas, not mecha stands.

However, the chief culprit, Bai, had proactively offered to study it after damaging the stand...

It couldn't get worse anyway, so he should be studying it now, right?

"Oh~ I see," Hamilton nodded, appreciating this attitude.

Daring to explore, eager to progress, very good, very good.

Soon after, Master Hou came running over.

The person in charge gestured toward Hamilton, who stood with folded arms, and whispered, "The commander wants to know about Bai's performance over these past few days. Since you've been leading him, you know better. Please tell the commander."

Master Hou's face also began to show a colorful array of emotions.

Looking at Hamilton, his lips trembled, hesitating whether it was appropriate to speak.

Hamilton's eyebrows quirked up, "What is it? Speak frankly."

So Master Hou blurted out, "Captain Bai is an absolute genius like I've never seen before. If he can delve deeper here, I believe he could bring about a revolutionary reform to our entire mecha maintenance logistical system! The efficiency of future repairs could greatly improve. If it's possible... I hope the commander could approve for Captain Bai to become the core technical person for our maintenance center!"

The person in charge: "???"

Hamilton: "???"

Looking at Master Hou's fervent expression, Hamilton was somewhat astonished and uncertain, "What does this master mean?"

"The commander may not be aware, but these past few days all our mecha servants have been out of work. The inspections and repairs of the Mecha Armored Corps' training mechas have all been completed by Captain Bai alone, without ever delaying any training opportunities, and without a single oversight. Captain Bai seems to have a natural sensitivity to mechanical structures; he was simply born for this job!"

Chapter 569: You're right, but this is Bai E!_2

"..."

"..."

Hamilton hesitated, his expression somewhat cautious as he asked, "What about battlefield rapid repairs?"

"Rapid repairs?" Hou's face flushed with excitement. "As long as the structure of the mecha body is sufficient, I think it wouldn't be a big problem for Bai to roll one out on the spot."

"..."

"..."

"Chì chǔ."

Hamilton nodded with difficulty, roughly recognizing the achievements Bai E had made over the past few days. "You have detailed records in each of your maintenance reports, right?"

"Of course."

"Bring me the electronic files."

"Yes!"

...

The mobilization of all soldiers before the start of the war was indeed a necessary procedure; however, before that, the senior officers in their camp needed to have a detailed preliminary plan for this battle.

The speeches in the conference hall and the occasional discussions were gradually coming to an end, Weslin looked seriously at the officers in front of him, "Does anyone have anything else to add?"

"I do." Hamilton, who had been mostly silent, finally stood up. He took out the electronic records he had gotten from the hangar. "On the list of soldiers mobilized for this battle, I need to add one more person."

Even if it was a full-scale attack, it did not mean that the entire camp would be deployed all at once; there were always some technicians needed in the rear or for logistics that remained in the camp.

Clearly, the name "Bai E" or "95B27" had not appeared on the previous mobilization list.

Weslin had a rough idea of who it might be but still asked softly, "Who?"

"Bai E."

"No!" A senior officer immediately stood up.

It was none other than Enor's father.

With his own son having taken over Bai E's role, he was the least willing to see Bai E make a comeback.

Once on the battlefield, there were endless possibilities.

If Bai E once again achieved outstanding merit in the face of the impossible, then the mecha spirit his son had yet to secure would be completely forfeited.

Therefore, even though he belonged to the same faction within the army that was strongly opposed to artificial humans as Hamilton, he had to be the first to stand in the way.

"The hidden dangers within Bai E have not been confirmed as cleared, and until we can confirm that Bai E is completely loyal to our city, we cannot take any risks. We can lose, but we must remove all possible unstable factors from the plan beforehand."

Hamilton stared at the man, nodding slowly, "You're right, but this is Bai E! Even if he's not part of the main combat formation, Bai E has excellent vehicle driving skills, top-notch logistical maintenance, and a perfect ability to protect himself! In the face of spore mine bombardments, Bai E can protect a large area around him from being disturbed by the mines. When facing the Spiritual Energy domain of the Dominators, only Bai E can freely navigate through it."

As Hamilton spoke, the achievements of Bai E up to now, including the maintenance records obtained from the hangar this morning, flickered on the white backdrop behind Weslin.

"In the face of the Bug Race's final assault, we should certainly make use of every bit of strength we can muster. Even as a mecha servant, Bai E can still play a critically important role. Even if there are certain risks involved with him, I don't think these risks will impact us when facing the Bug Race on the battlefield. On the contrary, I think this is an excellent opportunity to test whether Captain Bai has truly eliminated the hidden dangers after undergoing the brainwashing surgery!"

"There's no need to argue." Weslin did not care to listen to this nonsense; the deployment of one or two soldiers was irrelevant to the overall situation, and although he admired Bai E, he did not believe that one person could reverse the tide of such a macro-scale battle.

When his subordinates were chaotic, it was time to cut through the mess quickly.

"Let's vote on it, simple and fair."

The result was, of course, very clear.

The choices that seemed the fairest were actually the least fair.

The votes against artificial humans split fifty-fifty, but supporting Hamilton, who had chosen Bai E, was the backing of Carlos's faction.

The number of officers betting on Bai E was much larger than the number betting on Enor.

Ever since his birth, a battle after another, Bai E had deeply engraved his near "invincible" posture in the minds of every officer in the military region.

Even officers who had nothing to do with Bai E did not resist the presence of such a "War God" in their team!

Looking at the voting results, which were obviously predictable, Weslin waved his hand casually, "32 to 11, add the name to the list... just like that, meeting adjourned!"

...

"Mecha Servant Bai E, you will go into battle tomorrow. As a combat Mecha Servant, you will march with the army!" The messenger conveyed the military order expressionlessly, and the receiver, Bai E, calmly acknowledged.

"Received! Sir!"

'Still... going to the battlefield, huh?'

For Bai E, this total offensive against the Bug Race was indifferent to him.

In several encounters with the Bug Race, he always felt that their power was not as simple as it appeared on the surface.

The feeling that humans could finish them off if they pushed a little harder might just be a guiding signal released by the Bug Race intentionally.

What was their purpose? It remained unknown for the time being.

In any case, Bai E did not believe that this total offensive, which mankind approached with full confidence, could truly take down the Bug nest perched on the Blackrock Plains.

He indeed had a mission, but to slay that Overlord... was it really that easy?

Going to the battlefield... then let it be.

Bai E glanced at the collapsed Mecha position behind him, casually threw down the wrench in his hand, clapped his hands, and strode away.

After occupying all maintenance resources in the hangar for two days to complete the task, he conveniently blew up one of the Mecha positions...

[Side quest — Knowledge Training, completed.]

[Reward: Scientific Experience +3000, Knowledge — Quick Mecha Repair, Spiritual Energy +10/10, Current Link Strength Conversion Delay reduced by 50%, issued.]

[Loot Acquired: Steel*50000, Technology — Mechanical Repair Factory Experience 3000 points, Technology: Mechanical Repair Factory.]

The loot was not substantial, but the technology acquired was crucial for developing his own power in the future.

Whilst influence within the city needed to expand, power under his control outside the city also had to be developed.

In critical moments, it could become a solid backing for his strength.

Even though he was promoted to a "natural person," his essence was still that of a man-made being.

The people who promoted him always remained aloof; it would be extremely difficult for a man-made being to gain sufficient influence in the city without seizing political power by force, inevitably leading to failure in the end.

It was prudent to start preparing now for the future.

...

As the sun just spread the first pale milky rays of dawn, the steel torrent of the army had already once again rolled out from the barracks.

Compared to the last total assault on the Bug nest, the army had a higher proportion of mechanized units this time.

The city was not devoid of technology, nor was it unaware of the power of heavy artillery.

But a city needs to eat, factories require manpower to operate, and spending more money in one area means someone else goes hungry.

In a post-apocalyptic city tightly wound like a string, tightening one section too much could lead to the total collapse of the city's ecological chain.

However, the emergence of new types of Bugs from the Bug Race also stimulated the city, and even the usually tight-budgeted city finance department allocated more funds for the military region's planned total assault against the Bug Race.

More V3 rocket launchers, aerial drones capable of carrying missiles threatening to large Bugs, more Mecha and more pilots...

The Arbitration Place could not offer widespread training on resistance to Spiritual Energy pressure to the whole camp, but there were other alternative solutions — the main members operating combat vehicles were all equipped with helmets made of Spiritual Energy, providing certain resistance to the Spiritual Energy field of the dominant Bugs.

Not to say they were completely immune, but at least they could recover from the "fear" state faster after being affected.

For this offensive, the city almost gave its full support!

Chapter 570: 450th Mech Armored Corps, move out!

Every three mech servants formed a squad, each responsible for servicing their designated support objects.

The role of the mech servants on the battlefield was to track the mecha they were assigned to within a certain distance. Then, based on the battle situation, the ammunition consumption of the mecha's weapons, and the radio communications, they would plan their actions to ensure that their assigned mecha could perform at its fullest potential in combat.

As a mech servant deployed in combat, Bai E naturally sat in an armored transport vehicle with two other mech servants, trailing at the very end of the formation.

Mecha were strategic weapons and were naturally the last to be deployed; therefore, as the logistic team for the mecha, their squad of mech servants naturally had to position themselves even further to the rear.

If it were Bai E from the beginning of his arrival in this world, he might have thought that the mech servant unit was the safest place to be.

With a bit of luck, some mech servants might not even need to be deployed from start to finish. It could be that the mecha were so badly damaged and the mech pilot killed that rescue was unnecessary, or that the enemy was never strong enough to require the mecha to exert full strength.

But now...

After the Bug Race successively deployed various Titan-level behemoths, the mech servant squads that needed to follow the mecha were probably not so fortunate anymore.

Bai E didn't have much of an impression of the other two mech servants sharing the ride, but they obviously recognized him. As soon as they got on board, they took the initiative to offer their services, saying, "Captain Bai, you rest. We'll handle the driving."

When it came to a critical situation, Bai E would still have to contribute his strength.

The logistic vehicles of the mech servants had extremely thick armor but were loaded with the ammunition and weapons required by the mecha, making them very heavy and slow to move. Moreover, there was no additional space to equip weapon modules.

The only weapons available in the vehicle might be the personal gear that the mech servants themselves could carry.

A knife and a gun were their entire armament for self-defense.

Guarding an entire vehicle with just three guns on the chaotic battlefield, despite the assured protection of allied forces in the vicinity, was still unnerving.

The two mech servants were thrilled when they heard they'd be teamed up with Bai E.

Facing his companions' eagerness, Bai E didn't refuse.

They had not yet reached the actual battlefield, so it wasn't a problem to conserve his energy and build his strength.

The vehicles rumbled forward, stirring up sweeping clouds of dust.

The path they took was nearly the same as the last time, and along the way, there were numerous bones that time had not yet fully cleaned away.

The flesh had long been consumed by the wild creatures of the wasteland, yet the hard chitin bone armor of the Bug Race was clearly not something ordinary creatures could digest.

Humans had difficulty directly utilizing the Bug Race's chitin bone armor. The costs of collecting, transforming, and producing were far greater than the output. Normally, the Bug Race would send out small-scale bugs to reclaim their lost chitin bone armor, and these wandering bug squads were one of the most common forms of conflict with human patrol teams.

However, seeing bone armor left unclaimed to the point where even the flesh had been devoured was still a rare sight until now.

Clearly, the military camp's frequent large-scale sorties in the previous period had nearly severed all the outstretched tentacles of the Bug Race.

All this preparation led up to today, only to thoroughly eradicate the Bug hives in this final battle, freeing Blackwater City from the threat of the hives, thereby enabling future reductions in military spending and a shift of focus towards other areas of development.

The military zone's influence might shrink after this battle, but Weslin, as a marshal with this achievement, would be paving a wide-open path in the city's political trajectory.

Through the transparent windows, Bai E gazed at the scenery outside and suddenly found himself harboring a thought that even he found strange.

It was just a moment, and Bai E quickly suppressed it deep within his heart, never to resurface again.

Nurturing a threat within one's own ranks?

He was not yet so deranged to that extent.

If possible, he would certainly do his utmost to help the military truly complete this thorough annihilation of the Bug Race.

As the more mechanized columns swiftly advanced, the mech servant squad trailing far behind Bai E could already feel the heat of the frontline battle from the thunderous bombardments of the heavy cannons.

Rows of V3 rocket launchers slowly elevated their snow-white missiles right before Bai E's eyes, which then took flight amid bursts of white vapor, traced countless different arcs in the sky, and ultimately pounded into the true heartland of the Bug Race.

The last time Bai E was on the front line, when the rockets flew over his head and dispersed across the vast battlefield, he only felt that human firepower was so weak.

Now, whether it was due to expanded equipment or the fact that the grouped rockets were all concentrated together, from behind the rows of V3 rocket launchers, Bai E realized for the first time that human firepower was not inferior to that of the Smart Machinery Factory where he had charged alone, and it may even be much more powerful.

To ensure the intensity of the strike, the rocket launchers fired in sequences. As one salvo was launched, the next round of rockets was already rising from the launchers' racks.

The retaliation from the Bug Race was equally fierce; blue energy streams easily shredded human armored vehicles, and Bai E occasionally caught glimpses of small mushroom clouds igniting amidst the distant human military formations.

Even in broad daylight, the skies were alight with fire!

The unceasing artillery bombardment shook the earth and masked signals that were already difficult to detect...

Beneath the ground at fixed intervals, special sonar devices scanned the earth beneath the military formation. Those bugs moving deep underground were not entirely untraceable.