

Chapter 861: They should all head to the Prosperous Northwest!

“Quick, come with me.” Ji Yi shouted, “Someone is providing cover for us! Don’t be scared!”

But when Ji Yi turned around, he was surprised to find the students were already scared silly. The appearance of the barbarians was already terrifying enough. These students from Qinghe University were all protected even during the battle in Luoyang City, so they had never seen real bloodshed before.

This was because the students who were taken hostage together with Ren Xiaosu were freshmen while these seniors were taken to safety by the school’s teachers after the thugs had entered the campus.

Now that they were caught in a situation where snipers were killing barbarians, some of them were so frightened they even froze on the spot.

The front lines were completely different from what they had imagined. Before this, they had thought they would just be sending over some supplies and staying behind to perform for a bit, and perhaps also getting asked to do some miscellaneous tasks. After that, they would return to Luoyang City with what they’d been through becoming part of their precious life experiences.

But they suddenly realized they might not be able to make it home.

When Ji Yi saw that no one was moving, he got anxious. He quickly turned around and shouted at everyone, “Don’t just stand there, run!”

This roar jolted the students to their senses. Hundreds of people dressed in colorful costumes started fleeing. During this time, the small group of barbarians who had come to intercept and kill them had all died. Meanwhile, the snipers who were hiding somewhere had shifted their target to the armory.

The forward operating base had enforced a gun control policy within the base. In other words, other than the main forces that were about to set off for the front lines, anyone who entered the base would have to store their firearms inside the armory.

Logically, this forward operating base should have already switched to wartime military management, and all the soldiers here should have been armed to the teeth. But it was not known why that was not implemented here, leading to this huge threat happening tonight.

Coupled with the fact that everyone had been watching the cultural show earlier, even if they were to leave the venue in an orderly manner and head to the armory, it would still get a little crowded.

After the few hundred barbarians entered the forward operating base, they split off into several smaller groups of combat personnel to divert the attention of the forward operating base’s troops. Meanwhile, the rest of the barbarians’ main force rushed towards the armory at a speed that was even faster than the Pyro Company soldiers.

When the Pyro Company saw this situation, they got anxious. The front lines had just sent back news that the barbarians were also more than willing to use firearms. If the armory were to get raided, the

soldiers would have no choice but to grab whatever table legs were lying around to fight against the automatic rifles the barbarians would be wielding!

All of a sudden, an officer on rotational break who was leading several Pyro Company soldiers turned around and ran towards their barracks. He said, "Everyone's heading to the armory, so even if we get there, we can't get our hands on weapons fast enough. Follow me. We'll retrieve the guns from the sentry towers!"

The officer suddenly realized that even though the soldiers at the sentry towers had been killed, their guns were still there!

As he spoke, the dozen or so of them rushed in the direction where the barbarians had broken in from. They intended to retake the sentry towers.

But a small group of barbarians with huge axes blocked their path. The officer's heart sank at the thought that they were done for.

"You guys, head in the other direction, leave them to me." The officer thought that since he was also rated as a T3 combatant, he should be able to buy some time for the soldiers if he went all out against the barbarians. Although he would definitely die, if the soldiers could get their hands on the guns, they might be able to help the situation.

When necessary, the Pyro Company officers would not only sacrifice their soldiers, civilians, or unrelated people, they also would not mind sacrificing themselves.

The soldiers did not say much and decisively left their officer behind. They planned to go around the barbarians and make a rush for the sentry towers.

However, something unexpected happened. Before the Pyro Company officer and the barbarians could come face to face with each other, two barbarians were shot in the head at the same time. A thin mist of blood mixed with an unknown white substance splattered in all directions, staining the officer's uniform. However, he immediately reacted, "Snipers! It's the two snipers from Mt. Dashi!"

He knew there were no snipers at the forward operating base as all of them had already been deployed to the front lines, so if two snipers were firing at the same time here, it had to be the two from Mt. Dashi!

At the thought of this, the officer got excited. However, it was not because his life was saved. Instead, he shouted, "Both of you, don't worry about me. Please immediately reinforce the armory! Help our troops secure that location!"

The report of the battle at Mt. Dashi had already been disseminated to the entire military by P5092. All the officers who had read it knew full well that two unknown snipers in that battle had contributed greatly to their fight. They were the best of the best who could take on more than 40 barbarians hand to hand!

For such people to suddenly appear in the forward operating base, the Pyro Company had to be blessed by the Heavens!

However, this Pyro Company officer had misjudged the distance between him and Ren Xiaosu. Ren Xiaosu saw the officer shouting something with his mouth wide open through the scope, but he could not hear what it was about. The distance between them was way too vast.

In this noisy environment, even if they were only a few hundred meters apart, they would probably still not be able to hear what the other party was saying.

“What’s that guy saying?” Ren Xiaosu asked.

“He’s asking us to help the Pyro Company secure the armory.” Yang Xiaojin said while holding the spotting scope, “I can lip read a little.”

Ren Xiaosu was surprised. This girl beside him was such a treasure. Why did it seem like she knew everything?

He muttered, “Is there anything that you don’t know?”

“I don’t know how to cook,” Yang Xiaojin said as she aimed at the armory. They were 1.2 kilometers away from it at the moment, so it was within range.

But when Ren Xiaosu heard that, he wanted to argue back. *‘You’re clearly a master at cooking. Just say that you don’t wanna cook and stop with the misleading!’*

But now was not the time to be thinking about this. Ren Xiaosu said calmly, “I’ll snipe the barbarians and help the others escape. You help with securing the armory.”

“OK... wait!” Yang Xiaojin exclaimed. “Something’s happening.”

Ren Xiaosu turned around and looked at the armory. He saw the barbarians making a rush for it, but the armory’s door opened from the inside... and a secret force of soldiers charged out!

No one knew when these troops had hidden themselves in the armory, just like how no one knew about the troops that P5092 had left behind at the camp.

It was exactly the same situation!

Ren Xiaosu suddenly remembered the commander of the forward operating base had said the cultural show tonight was requested by P5092. He said he wanted the troops on rotational break to get a chance to relax and enjoy some performances.

But why would someone like P5092 do something so unnecessary for no reason? The other party clearly knew this cultural show would easily attract an attack!

Therefore, the Pyro Company knew from the beginning the barbarians were still hiding their strength in the wilderness. After the special forces were split into several groups, one of them followed P5092 to Mt. Dashi while the rest remained hidden in the shadows.

Honestly, Ren Xiaosu felt that it would be such a waste if a person like P5092 did not join the Prosperous Northwest.

When this thought floated in his mind, Ren Xiaosu felt he could finally understand the Great Hoodwinker's behavior a little. All promising talent should head the Prosperous Northwest, for that was the best place for them to prosper.

Chapter 862: The supplies get destroyed

Previously, when he rescued the Great Hoodwinker along with Wang Yun, Ji Zi'ang, and the others from the secret prison, the Great Hoodwinker had mentioned something to him. The reason why he got Ren Xiaosu to save them was that he wanted Wang Yun and Ji Zi'ang to become Ren Xiaosu's supporters in the Northwest.

Later, Ren Xiaosu would occasionally think about the matter of the "supporters" as well. It was not that he coveted power, but after experiencing so much, he realized that if he wanted to protect something, he would someday have to say goodbye to the days of him fighting alone.

Just as Ren Xiaosu had said, a true victory would not be dictated by a particular person but required tens of thousands of people to work hard together to achieve.

And what did Ren Xiaosu lack the most right now? Was he lacking in individual combat ability?

It was leadership Ren Xiaosu lacked. He still had a Skill Duplication Scroll with him, but it was a Basic Skill Duplication Scroll that could only be used to copy advanced skills at most.

It was just like how Wang Jing's cardiovascular specialization skill he copied was only at the advanced level even though Wang Jing's proficiency was at master level.

Perhaps gaining an advanced skill would still put him at a much higher level than most people. But the problem was that the opponents in this era were all master tacticians who could play extremely dirty if need be. With only an advanced proficiency in leadership, many of his teammates would die if he faced someone who was a master.

If it were in the past, Ren Xiaosu would have just waited until he had a Perfect Skill Duplication Scroll before he copied someone else's master-level skill in leadership.

But now, Ren Xiaosu's concern was that his individual ability was still limited. Since he did not have any proficiency in this area, he should learn it from someone who did.

Currently, he had only come across a few people he thought were extremely well-versed in leadership. One of them was Qing Zhen, while there was also Zhang Jinglin and P5092.

He would definitely not be able to copy Qing Zhen's skill. And since Mr. Zhang was constantly thinking about retirement, Ren Xiaosu naturally set his sights on P5092.

Over the past two days, the frontline battle report had been sent back, so everyone in the forward operating base knew about the victory the 3rd Division led by P5092 had achieved. When Ren Xiaosu read the battle report, he realized that be it at Mt. Dashi, the forward operating base, or the front line, P5092 had fought all those battles marvelously. It was as though he had a clear picture of the overall situation of the battlefield in his mind.

This person's talent on the battlefield was enough to make Ren Xiaosu look up to him.

For a moment, the words "Prosperous Northwest" started lingering in Ren Xiaosu's mind, unable to be suppressed.

However, the only thing that worried Ren Xiaosu a little was that P5092 really had no qualms about sacrificing others by having them act as decoys. Such behavior did not mesh with the style of the Northwest at all.

Although the people from the Northwest were not afraid to die, Ren Xiaosu was unwilling to let them die in vain by using them as bait. This was probably also why it was very difficult for him to become a commander.

Even a benevolent elder like Zhang Jinglin was prepared to sacrifice the Razor Sharp Company, wasn't he?

At that time, Zhang Jinglin had already executed a contingency plan in the Gobi Corridor to the north. But to prevent a spy from getting wind of that plan, Zhang Jinglin did not tell Ren Xiaosu anything about it.

Ren Xiaosu did not blame Zhang Jinglin for it, because making the calmest decision amid chaos and leading the troops to victory was what a commander should do.

The last thing that should happen in the world was to use morality to blackmail a commander. Because there was no such thing as morality in war.

The Pyro Company's ordinary soldiers were running towards the armory in a bid to get there before the barbarians.

Meanwhile, a small group of the barbarians responsible for creating chaos in the forward operating base had already been killed by Ren Xiaosu and Yang Xiaojin. Ren Xiaosu looked in another direction and was surprised to see that Meng Nan had suddenly fallen down on the ground.

Then Liang Ce decisively carried her on his back and continued fleeing in the direction that Ren Xiaosu had indicated.

Ren Xiaosu muttered, "That guy finally gets it. Their relationship will probably develop very quickly from here."

Yang Xiaojin was lying on the medical center's roof and looking through the scope while saying, "I wonder when someone else will get it as well."

“Hahahahaha, who are you referring to...”

The Pyro Company’s special forces had already rushed out of the armory. Although they were not led by T5081, the 100-odd T4 soldiers who formed the rapid deployment force were enough to terrify the barbarians who were skilled at close combat and wielded giant axes.

Ren Xiaosu made a quick observation. There were around 400 barbarians, but the moment they clashed with the special forces, they were suppressed.

When those barbarians saw they could not successfully take the armory, they turned around and fled into the wilderness. They knew they had been ambushed, so they prepared to return to the wilderness and wait for an opportunity to reemerge to pin down the Pyro Company’s rear.

But they still underestimated the determination of P5092 to clear out the barbarians at the rear. Since the senior Pyro Company commander had set the bait, he had no intention of letting those barbarians leave.

Just as the barbarians were about to break out of the encirclement, another group of special forces suddenly appeared out of nowhere in the wilderness. The special forces had a total of around 400 soldiers. One-third of them had gone to Mt. Dashi, while the remaining two-thirds had stayed behind here at the forward operating base.

Now that the barbarians’ path of retreat had been completely cut off, they had nowhere left to run.

Ren Xiaosu put away his black sniper rifle and said, “The outcome has already been decided. The barbarians can’t do much now, so let’s go and join up with the Trinity Institute.”

“Mhm, let’s go.” Yang Xiaojin also got up.

However, before they could leave, a towering flame shot up from the ground 800 meters away from the armory. That huge pillar of flame looked like a doomsday scenario, and a large amount of dust and smoke started spreading out as well.

“Wait a minute, that’s where the baggage train is.” Ren Xiaosu said in a daze, “Did you see any barbarians over there just now?”

“There were no barbarians over there. I’m sure of it.” Yang Xiaojin said, “All of the barbarians came in via the same route. No one got close to that direction. I’m quite sure of it. Someone must’ve used TNT to blow up the entire supply convoy. The area that was blown up is very large.”

“But who could have done it!?” Ren Xiaosu looked at that area. “Could someone other than the barbarians have their eyes on this place?”

Almost at the same time, all of the Pyro Company’s soldiers and barbarians could not help but look towards where the explosion had gone off. Everyone could feel a fiery blast of air rushing towards them. The shockwave even swept up a cloud of dust, covering the entire forward operating base in fog. In just an instant, the visibility in the forward operating base had gone down to around 10 meters.

An officer of the special forces shouted, “Don’t get distracted. Our priority is to kill all the barbarians! Open the armory’s entrance! Let the FOB troops grab their weapons to secure the base!”

It was not that they did not want to go and save the supplies, but it was more important to kill the barbarians in front of them first. If they were to let the barbarians escape with such a perfect battle plan drawn up, the fault would not lie with the commander but with them who were supposed to execute the plan.

And since the supplies had already been blown up, it would be very difficult to salvage anything even if they went over right now. All they could do was kill all the barbarians in front of them first.

Some people suddenly realized that the gunshots in the forward operating base had stopped and that the snipers had disappeared.

Chapter 863: Reappearance of the Experimentals!

How important were the supplies in the forward operating base? They were very important!

This time, the Pyro Company had set up the defensive line in the north in a hurry, and the manpower and resources needed to build the New Great Wall could be called a vast amount. If the Pyro Company had not fought the war with the Kong Consortium, it would not have been a problem with their strength to build up this northern defensive line.

But it just so happened that the enemies from the North had come at the wrong time. The Pyro Company had just launched an all-out war against the Kong Consortium, so their return from the South to the North was basically a reactionary move.

If the supplies at the forward operating base could not be transported to the northern defensive line in time, the refugees and stronghold residents who were building the New Great Wall would probably have to go hungry.

Even the main forces of the Pyro Company might not be able to fill their stomachs.

Moreover, the most important issue was still the ammunition supply. P5092’s 3rd Division had already been through several tough battles in the South. Meanwhile, the famous artillery troops under him were left with not much ammunition. Several days ago, when they were fighting the barbarians, they had plowed the canyon with their artillery fire. If their supply of artillery shells were to get cut off now, it would be difficult to deploy the artillery to their full potential.

Actually, the artillery shells they used did not cost much to make, and it was not exactly precision equipment either. However, they still needed time to produce the next batch of ammunition.

Therefore, when faced with this war, the Pyro Company was not limited by themselves but by the previous war against the Kong Consortium.

If they knew there would be enemies coming from the North, they would definitely not have waged an all-out war against the Kong Consortium.

When the commander of the forward operating base saw the explosion, his heart sank and he lost hope.

Ren Xiaosu had already plunged into the smoke and run towards the supply convoy.

He covered his mouth and nose with a handkerchief and even donned a pair of goggles to prevent the smoke from affecting his respiratory system and vision.

Earlier, the distance between him and the supply convoy was less than a kilometer apart. With Ren Xiaosu's speed, it took him less than a minute to get there.

But by the time he arrived, there was nothing left except for the glow of the flames.

The vehicles were burning fiercely after they exploded into balls of fire. Ren Xiaosu suddenly heard a noise not far away as he walked in. He slowly approached the source, but whatever that was hiding in the smoke had discovered his presence and turned to escape into the wilderness!

Ren Xiaosu quickly gave chase, but his opponent was moving at a pace not much slower than him. He took out a heavy machine gun from his storage space and wielded it. As he chased after the target, he fired at it.

As the smoke was too thick, Ren Xiaosu could not get a clear view of his target's position and could only shoot blindly.

Seeing that he could not hit his target even after firing for so long, Ren Xiaosu had no choice but to give up. He tried his best to distinguish the sound of his opponent's footsteps as he moved through the smoke to seek his target.

But Ren Xiaosu was a little puzzled. Just what was that thing? Why did the footsteps sound like that of a wild animal? The sound of the target running away was clearly like that of a feline's movements.

But why would wild animals come and blow up the supplies? Ren Xiaosu had a vague idea in his mind, but he could not be sure.

Both parties soon arrived at the edge of the forward operating base and at this moment, Ren Xiaosu realized his enemy had not broken through the wire fence. Instead, there was a hole in the ground that was dug from the outside!

That monster plunged into the hole and disappeared in the blink of an eye. It was only at the final moment that Ren Xiaosu saw the gray skin on its body!

Experimentals!

This time, Ren Xiaosu was really at a loss. How could it be the Experimentals?!

Didn't those things get wiped out after the Qing Consortium's nuclear bomb was dropped on Stronghold 74?

Ever since Stronghold 74 was destroyed, Ren Xiaosu no longer worried about the Experimentals, because he felt they had definitely been wiped out.

He was not the only one who thought that way. The entire world thought so as well, especially those from the Qing Consortium. In Luo Lan's words, no one could have survived that devastating explosion.

But only now did Ren Xiaosu realize that some of the Experimentals had probably left Stronghold 74 before the nuclear bomb was dropped!

This left Ren Xiaosu very surprised. He had not expected to see the Experimentals here at all. Even P5092 was probably not expecting it either.

Therefore, P5092's plan was only targeted at the barbarians, and he managed to do that very well. However, other forces were still hidden in the wilderness. As a result, the supplies at the forward operating base were still sabotaged.

This was the appeal of war. No matter how well-prepared one was, everything could still end up in failure over an unexpected incident.

Ren Xiaosu looked out into the wilderness beyond the wire fence. He suddenly drew his black saber to slash open the fence and give chase.

It was a very risky decision, but he suddenly remembered Yang Xiaojin had said she had seen a figure in the mountains earlier.

At that time, Ren Xiaosu and Yang Xiaojin thought that it might just be a barbarian who was on guard duty. But now, Ren Xiaosu had a new hypothesis.

The Experimentals were very terrifying. Their terror did not lie in their destructive power, but in the fact they could use humans as vessels to create even more Experimentals.

Once the number of Experimentals surpassed 10,000, they would have enough strength to breach the strongholds.

It had only been an hour since the barbarians broke through into the forward operating base. It was midnight now.

There was no moon tonight as massive, dark clouds in the sky cast a shadow upon the land. Ren Xiaosu made his way through the wilderness towards where Yang Xiaojin had seen that figure.

But just as he was about to approach the mountains, a foreboding gust of wind came from near the top of an elm tree by the roadside.

The Experimental Ren Xiaosu was tracking earlier had not fled far away. Instead, it hid in the treetops, planning to ambush him!

In the blink of an eye, the Experimental spread its arms and pounced down from above. But just as it was about to grab Ren Xiaosu, Ren Xiaosu suddenly ducked and stretched out his hand. His arm

accurately slipped past the gaps of the Experimental's outstretched arms and ruthlessly grabbed its neck, throwing it straight towards the ground.

With a loud crash, the Experimental fell unconscious after being slammed onto the ground with a shoulder throw. It had probably never come across a human whose strength could easily crush it by so much before!

Ren Xiaosu was sizing up the Experimental on the ground. This was the first time he had examined one so closely. This Experimental had probably transformed from an adult human male, and all of its body hair was gone, leaving only smooth gray skin. It looked strangely greasy, like a venomous snake that would disgust people.

The creature was lying on the ground with its chest heaving up and down from its breathing. Ren Xiaosu had one foot on its chest and was about to use the black saber to end its life.

He knew this was not the creature he was chasing previously as the other one was much faster than this one. It was a trap.

At this moment, Ren Xiaosu heard another noise coming from the forest. There were four, five, six Experimentals.

Did he just step into the Experimentals' lair? Ren Xiaosu grinned. How lucky!

In the distance, the forward operating base was still burning in flames and the sound of gunfire was tearing through the sky. Amid this, no one noticed that a thrilling battle was about to take place several hundred meters away from the base.

Chapter 864: Pursuing Black Robe

It wasn't the first time Ren Xiaosu had dealt with the Experimentals. For some reason, he always hated the strange creatures. After Stronghold 74 was destroyed, he was even happy for a while.

But now, the strange things actually reappeared. So Ren Xiaosu wondered if the figure Yang Xiaojin had seen in the mountains through her spotting scope was that so-called intelligent being of the Experimentals?

This was the reason why Ren Xiaosu gave chase. If that figure were really the intelligent being, the number of Experimentals would no longer increase as long as he could kill it. Even if the Experimentals were to attack humans again, they could not do so in an orderly manner.

The reason why the Experimentals were such a headache for humans was that there was an individual being with advanced intelligence among them.

If the Experimentals only attacked anyone they came across, the Qing Consortium would have already exterminated them back in the Southwest.

In the forest, several Experimentals slowly surrounded Ren Xiaosu. Ren Xiaosu held his black saber in hand as he stood there and observed the situation. But a moment later, he was surprised when he saw them. The new Experimentals had the appearance of the barbarians!

These Experimentals who were originally barbarians crawled on the ground like brown bears and looked much larger in size than the Experimental he had just killed.

Ren Xiaosu could not help but feel surprised. Where did these barbaric Experimentals come from? Could it be that the intelligent being had escaped to the North?

Right, weren't the Experimentals in cahoots with the barbarians since they destroyed the supplies earlier?

Were those barbarians stupid? They actually joined forces with those ghastly creatures?!

Or perhaps that intelligent Experimental was hiding something even deeper?

However, it did not matter to Ren Xiaosu whether the Experimentals used to be barbarians or humans from the Central Plains. When the Experimentals pounced at him, Ren Xiaosu did not receive them head on. Instead, he used his superior speed to step between them.

Ren Xiaosu no longer pursued the idea of killing the Experimentals with a single strike. Instead, he slashed at them one by one and dealt the greatest damage he could. He did not want to take the risk to advance recklessly.

He traveled through the gaps with an aloof gaze and determined what his next move should be.

It might not seem like his armed combat methods were too effective at the time being, but in just five minutes, not a single one of these dozen-odd barbaric Experimentals was left with a complete set of limbs. They were either missing an arm or a leg, while Ren Xiaosu did not suffer a scratch and was uninjured.

When the Experimentals saw that over a dozen of them were about to lose their mobility, they stopped bothering Ren Xiaosu and turned around to escape.

This indirectly confirmed Ren Xiaosu's thought that someone was controlling them from behind the scenes.

Ren Xiaosu raised his saber and chased after them. But just as he caught up to two Experimentals and started killing them, a figure draped in black robes floated down from the top of the elm tree behind him. The angle and timing the enemy had chosen to appear at could not be more ruthless. It was precisely at the time when Ren Xiaosu's saber was about to hit its target!

At this moment, it would be difficult for Ren Xiaosu to change his movements and turn around to defend himself!

But when Ren Xiaosu heard the gust of wind above him, he sneered, "I was waiting for you!"

City Crusher!

In that instant, Ren Xiaosu's eyes turned crimson. It was as though he had descended into purgatory.

Great strength started surging through Ren Xiaosu's body along with the crimson color that appeared in his eyes. Ren Xiaosu roared as he forcefully twisted his body around. The copious amount of power in him forcefully broke through the inertia of his body and the direction where the saber was slashing down from was forcefully reversed!

The blade slid past the black robes and easily cut through the golden silk lining it. The Experimental that was shrouded in the black robe let out a hoarse and strange cry. It seemed like it had not expected the human in front of it to be so strong!

Through the gap, the Experimental looked down and saw the eyes of the young man who had already turned around. The crimson color actually made him look more demonic than the Experimental.

In the blink of an eye, the Experimental managed to twist its waist and body to avoid the incoming blade. However, a large portion of its black robe had been chopped off. After it landed on the ground, the Experimental rolled backwards in a panic. It no longer had the calm and composed look it had when it was facing the barbarians earlier.

But it had to be said that this intelligent being's physical fitness was even better than a T5's. This was something Ren Xiaosu had not expected.

Ren Xiaosu went after it, but the barbaric Experimentals that had fled earlier actually rushed back and stood in front of Black Robe fearlessly to buy it some time.

As the barbaric Experimentals died one by one, Black Robe was able to catch a breather. But for Ren Xiaosu, the bad news was that after killing all of them, the effective duration of his City Crusher would also be over.

Ren Xiaosu slowly walked towards Black Robe with his saber in hand. He asked coldly, "How did you escape from Stronghold 74?"

The Experimental was stunned. It stood up and said with a hoarse laugh, "I remember this saber of yours. I think you were wearing a white mask back then. You were also at Stronghold 74 at that time."

Ren Xiaosu looked at him silently. This fellow had taken him to be Old Xu, but there was actually nothing wrong in saying that.

Ren Xiaosu looked at Black Robe and suddenly asked, "You went to the North after that? Let me guess, were you also the one who instigated these barbarians to suddenly head south?"

Black Robe adjusted his hood and hid his gray face under the shadows again. "The North is gradually being flooded by the cold seawater. What's wrong with the Northerners heading south to seek a new place to inhabit?"

This was the first time Ren Xiaosu learned about the situation in the North. So it turned out the barbarians had only come to the South because their land was gradually being swallowed up by the sea. However, this was not a reason for them to start a massacre in the cities. War was always a matter of survival. Since a massacre had taken place, they would just have to fight to the death from here.

Along with killing the barbarians, these ineradicable Experimentals would also have to die.

A moment later, Black Robe saw that Ren Xiaosu's crimson eyes had faded. It was taken aback for a moment before laughing out loud. "So you can only be that powerful for a short while, huh? I was wondering why you suddenly started talking to me. So it's because you were waiting for reinforcements. Unfortunately, no one can save you now."

With that, Black Robe closed in on Ren Xiaosu. It stuck its gray palm out through its black robe and grabbed straight for Ren Xiaosu's chest.

But Ren Xiaosu did not dodge. Instead, he allowed the other party to leave a bloody wound on his chest while he grabbed its wrist tightly.

Due to the mutual effect, both parties' movement speed was negated. At this moment, there was only calmness in Ren Xiaosu's eyes.

Black Robe got a bad feeling. It immediately used all of its strength to break free from Ren Xiaosu's grip and leaped up like it was trying to dodge something, but a black bullet suddenly hit Black Robe's thigh.

The black bullet did not get lodged in Black Robe's leg. Instead, it directly went through it and penetrated a tree before disappearing into the forest.

Ren Xiaosu ignored his injuries and tried to chase after Black Robe. However, Black Robe was no longer interested in fighting. It took the opportunity and limped off into the wilderness.

Chapter 865: No hostages in the eyes of the Pyro Company

Ren Xiaosu felt it was a pity. If not for the fact that Old Xu, the Shadow Door, and the steam locomotive were still sealed, Black Robe would definitely have been killed here today.

He did not give chase to kill Black Robe because his speed was far inferior to his opponent now that Old Xu was sealed. What surprised Ren Xiaosu was that Black Robe's physical fitness was even above that of a T5 combatant.

Yang Xiaojin's voice rang through his earpiece. "Are you alright?"

After the battle in the Sacred Mountains where Ren Xiaosu had used himself as bait to kill a T5 combatant, he immediately went to purchase several sets of miniature communication devices for the two of them to use as a duo in battle.

Although the two of them knew each other through and through now, couldn't they coordinate even better with the aid of a communications device?

Right now, their cooperation was already very smooth, with one of them acting as the decoy while the other played the sniper. If no one acted as the bait, just looking for targets alone to kill would take them at least half a day.

"I'm fine." Ren Xiaosu took a look at the wound on his chest. The other party's fingernails had dug about a centimeter into his pectorals. If it were anyone else, they would definitely get shocked by this injury. But to him, it was just a superficial wound.

He had the black medicine, which was specifically used for treating external injuries. As for the black medicine's other effect, he had no use for that.

Yang Xiaojin said into the earpiece, "You're injured. Wait for me there."

She actually went to join up with Ren Xiaosu.

When Ren Xiaosu heard her worried tone, he did not know whether to laugh or cry. He replied, "I'm really fine."

"Wait there even if it's nothing," Yang Xiaojin said firmly.

Alright, whatever.

After a while, Yang Xiaojin emerged from the forest in a disguise made of willow branches.

After the two of them split up, Ren Xiaosu chased the Experimental all the way into the mountains. Meanwhile, Yang Xiaojin quickly disguised herself and located the best sniping spot.

As for how to lure the enemy to a suitable battlefield, that was not difficult with Ren Xiaosu acting as the decoy.

Yang Xiaojin said, "Scissors."

Ren Xiaosu took out a pair of scissors from the palace and handed them to her. He saw Yang Xiaojin cut open the front of his shirt with a serious expression and say, "Black medicine."

As Ren Xiaosu allowed her to focus on treating his wound, he said, "Although we didn't kill that Experimental, his body turned black after he got hit by your black bullet. I wonder if his subordinates will still recognize him."

"You're still in the mood to talk?" Yang Xiaojin grumbled, "You were way too bold this time. If the wound were any deeper, it could have affected your arteries and nerves."

"What's there to be afraid of? Don't I have you here? Besides, I know full well that he can't kill me," Ren Xiaosu explained. "On the other hand, if we don't get rid of those Experimentals, there might be even more innocent people dying in the future. Didya see? Some of those new Experimentals used to be barbarians, while the others were created from normal people."

"Yeah, I saw. Maybe that intelligent being caught some of the barbarians and turned them into Experimentals?" Yang Xiaojin asked, "What's its actual combat strength?"

“The Experimentals that were transformed from the barbarians are obviously more powerful.” Ren Xiaosu sighed and said, “Even I can’t face more than a dozen of them at the same time. I can only carefully hold them off with my speed. Fortunately, their CQC techniques are relatively simple. Otherwise, it would be really difficult to deal with them.”

When Yang Xiaojin heard this, she got up and took out a pistol she was carrying and fired it at a barbaric Experimental’s corpse. However, the bullet did not even manage to lodge into its skin!

She frowned. “If it weren’t for the sharpness of your black saber, I’m afraid you couldn’t have held them off with your speed. With such tough skin, it would be a disaster for normal soldiers to encounter them.”

Ren Xiaosu started getting worried. “Our Central Plains have experienced before how it was to deal with the Experimentals. If the already powerful barbarians are all turned into Experimentals by that intelligent being, it’ll be absolutely disastrous when they make a comeback.”

“And I feel that it might’ve played a very important role in this war.” Ren Xiaosu analyzed, “Think about it. We just encountered a dozen or so of the barbaric Experimentals. We all know that the conversion rate of these creatures is very low. Back then, it wreaked havoc in quite a few strongholds in the Southwest before the number of Experimentals climbed close to 10,000. If it had injected so many barbarians and turned them into Experimentals, would it not get discovered? And what’s with those Experimentals that used to be normal people? It was only Stronghold 176 that fell in the North, and with so many barbarians everywhere there, how could they possibly allow it to capture those people for its experiments? I think that the intelligent being has probably formed an alliance with the expeditionary army. It was also probably the one that instigated the barbarians to head south this time. Speaking of which, why did the barbarians evolve as a whole population and not become stronger individually like those in the Central Plains?”

“Maybe it’s because it’s too cold in the North. I’m not sure why either. It could also be due to different genetics...” Yang Xiaojin nodded. “But it’ll be very easy to identify that Experimental when we see it again in the future. Even if there’s a lot of them together, we can still find it. After all, the others are all gray, while it’s black.”

This way, they might have a chance to kill the other party from afar in the future.

“How should we pass on this information to the Pyro Company?” Ren Xiaosu wondered, “Let’s leave a note for them and direct them to this spot. They’ll understand many things once they see the Experimentals’ corpses.”

“Mhm, mention Black Robe in the note as well.” Yang Xiaojin nodded. “Alright, I’ve dressed the wound for you. I’ll carry you back.”

“No, no, there’s no need.” Ren Xiaosu quickly said with a laugh, “It’s just a minor injury, I don’t need you to carry me back.”

Yang Xiaojin sighed and said, “You’re even worse than Liang Ce. Don’t laugh at others about getting it in the future.”

Ren Xiaosu was speechless.

When the two of them returned to the forward operating base, the battle there was still ongoing. Ren Xiaosu had a look from afar and realized some of the barbarians had occupied a building and even captured a few hostages.

This place was several hundred meters away from where the earliest skirmish had broken out. This meant the barbarians had broken through the Pyro Company's encirclement once during the battle. As a matter of fact, the barbarians were still very strong in close combat, and their willpower was also extremely tenacious.

Ren Xiaosu could not help but sigh. The barbarians were way too smart. They even knew how to hold hostages like bandits.

Unfortunately, the barbarians had miscalculated. To the Pyro Company, being held hostage was not something they cared about at all. From a distance, Ren Xiaosu could see the Pyro Company had no intention of rescuing the hostages either. No one went to negotiate with the barbarians. Instead, they pushed a cannon over, and it looked like they were planning to level the building.

When these people were faced with the trade-off to make a sacrifice, they really excelled at it, whether they were sacrificing themselves or others.

Suddenly, Yang Xiaojin said, "Have you ever thought of asking P5092 to go to the Prosperous Northwest?"

Ren Xiaosu nodded. "I did have such thoughts before, but I somehow feel like he doesn't fit in with the Northwest."

"No, I think he's quite suitable," Yang Xiaojin said.

Chapter 866: Not one more, not one less

"Suitable?" Ren Xiaosu did not quite understand what Yang Xiaojin meant by that. "The Pyro Company members are really good at sacrificing others. You've also seen how P5092 planned his strategies on the past few occasions. Even the Qinghe University students had been kept in the dark. Those students were still singing and dancing happily without any clue that they would get used as bait. How could someone like that be suitable for the Northwest?"

"I don't mean that he's suitable for the Northwest." Yang Xiaojin shook her head. "I mean that he complements you well."

"Why do you say that?" Ren Xiaosu asked.

"Look, he likes to use others as bait in his battle strategies and even acted as one himself at Mt. Dashi." Yang Xiaojin explained patiently, "And since you like being bait as well..."

Ren Xiaosu immediately understood what Yang Xiaojin meant. When they were in the Sacred Mountains, he used himself as bait to create opportunities for Yang Xiaojin to snipe at the enemy. And

now, he was using the same trick here in Mt. Dashi. Including the pursuit of Black Robe, he had acted as the decoy on three straight occasions.

However, Ren Xiaosu had the confidence to do so because he knew he would not die. Although it looked like Ren Xiaosu had been injured after the encounter with Black Robe tonight, there were still several trump cards he had yet to play.

Therefore, what Yang Xiaojin meant was that since P5092 liked to use the decoy strategy so much, and Ren Xiaosu was also very capable of acting as bait, the results could be really spectacular if the two of them worked together.

Perhaps the most powerful decoy in history would be born soon.

If anyone else were to act as the bait, they would have to be extremely careful. But if Ren Xiaosu were to become the bait, the enemies who got lured might end up getting killed instead.

If Ren Xiaosu could discuss it with P5092 and keep luring the enemies deeper by relying on his capabilities, that would actually be a pretty good idea.

Yang Xiaojin rolled her eyes at him. "I was being sarcastic. I was trying to make the point that you shouldn't keep putting yourself in danger, but you actually seriously considered being the bait?"

"Ahem, it's not like that," Ren Xiaosu quickly replied. "I've already written the note. Let's drop it off at the FOB's command center before joining up with the Trinity Institute's people."

After that, the two of them left quickly. Less than a minute later, they heard the sound of artillery firing. It sounded like the Pyro Company had crushed the barbarians.

The two of them took a big detour to quietly meet up with Wang Jing and the others. Ren Xiaosu and Yang Xiaojin waited obediently by a vehicle for the Pyro Company to clean up the scene first.

At this moment, the Trinity Institute's people were hiding outside the forward operating base and watching the warfare in the distance.

When Wang Jing and the others saw Ren Xiaosu, they did not further question them. Moreover, they had already guessed the snipers who had suddenly appeared were the two of them. After all, they had heard Ji Yi and the Qinghe University students say they would have been dead if not for the appearance of the mysterious snipers.

At this moment, Wang Jing and the others sighed. Those who traveled together with Ren Xiaosu were indeed able to live longer. This time, it was also Ren Xiaosu who first anticipated there would be an enemy attack.

Ren Xiaosu whispered, "If the Pyro Company asks..."

"Don't worry, you were always with us." Wang Jing said, "I've already informed everyone, and they know what to say."

Only then did Ren Xiaosu feel at ease. He looked around at the Qinghe University students who were still in a state of shock and not far away from them. They looked just like a group of frightened deer.

Ji Yi walked over to Ren Xiaosu and asked in a whisper, "How's the battle going? Do we need to escape from the FOB?"

"No." Ren Xiaosu shook his head. "The Pyro Company has already gotten the situation under control. I guess they'll have people coming to look for us later."

"That's good." Ji Yi sighed and said, "Before coming here, I made a promise to the dean that we'd return home safely with exactly the same number of people that we came out with. If a few of them were to die along the way, I would have broken my promise."

"It's not that serious. I'm sure that won't be a problem." Ren Xiaosu chuckled.

Ji Yi's eyes lit up. Could it be that this guardian angel was implying that he would protect these Qinghe University students? Previously, Ji Yi did not make such a request because he knew it would be a little too much of him to ask Ren Xiaosu to protect so many of them. But if Ren Xiaosu were the one who suggested it, that would be great!

Ji Yi said anxiously, "Do you mean...?"

"What I'm saying is," Ren Xiaosu said, "if someone were to really die, just get the other students to make a few babies on the way back. That way, you'll be able to go back with the same number of people that came out."

Ji Yi was shocked. *'Is that what you should be saying?!'*

He had set the rule they would go back with not one person more and not one person less. But when Ren Xiaosu perceived those words, his understanding was immediately distorted?

Ji Yi sighed. Actually, Ren Xiaosu was probably just trying to change the subject, right? It looked like he didn't intend to help the Qinghe University students anymore. However, Ji Yi could not complain about that. Who would have the spare energy to care about the lives of others during a war?

He took a look at Ren Xiaosu and the Qinghe University students. Then he wondered if they had coddled the students too much in the past.

Although Ren Xiaosu was several years younger than them, he had done much more than these Qinghe University students.

The young man had even shouldered the safety of all of Hope Media on himself.

The Qinghe University students had not even removed their makeup yet. Due to either their sweat or tears, they looked to be in an exceptionally wretched state.

“I think it’s better that you persuade them to return to Luoyang City.” Ren Xiaosu said slowly, “Although I know that they’ll still want to pay a visit to the frontline soldiers, you can also see how dangerous the war is. If something were to happen, they could die.”

Ji Yi sighed and said, “I guess.... I’ll go talk to them and then get the Pyro Company to send someone to escort them back.”

“That’s the best option.” Ren Xiaosu nodded.

When Ji Yi returned to the group of students, a commotion arose from within the group. Ren Xiaosu listened carefully and was surprised to hear a few students raising their voices and speaking passionately with youthful vigor, “Professor, what’s Qinghe University’s motto? ‘Seek Truth from Facts, Dare to be Pioneers.’ Chief Editor Jiang Xu persevered even when he faced all those difficult situations. If we retreat right after encountering danger, how can we still have the cheek to call ourselves Qinghe University students?”

“Right, those people from the Trinity Institute who look younger than us have not even asked to leave yet, so how can we leave first?”

Ren Xiaosu wondered if they were referring to him!

When Ji Yi heard this, he did not know how to react. How could they be the same as Ren Xiaosu? The number of people he killed was even greater than all of them added together...

Ren Xiaosu listened from afar and thought to himself that these students might not be very capable, but they really had spirit.

Actually, it was not that these students were incompetent. It was just that there was no application for their skills on the battlefield or in the war. However, Qinghe University’s curriculum was still quite rigorous. Even though the students were all frightened, they had character.

Otherwise, they would not have traveled such a long way to the North to deliver the supplies.

Gradually, the other students were also influenced by their impassioned schoolmates. They expressed their unwillingness to leave and vowed to live and die together with humanity.

However, Ji Yi did not waste too much time talking to them. He made an executive decision and was ready to communicate with the Pyro Company to send the students back when they arrived.

Chapter 867: Redemption

The Qinghe University students and the Trinity Institute members remained outside the forward operating base for a short while before returning inside. Then they waited at the medical center for the Pyro Company to get everything under control.

Everyone was very nervous at this moment. Meanwhile, Ren Xiaosu fell asleep right on the operating table in their department while Yang Xiaojin stayed by his side to protect him.

After all, Ren Xiaosu had just been through a life-or-death battle. With all the adrenaline coursing through him, and coupled with his injuries, it tired him. This was a normal physiological reaction.

The students outside the department were sitting against the wall in the hallway of the medical center when they heard Ren Xiaosu snoring.

Everyone was speechless. That guy was way too careless. He could even fall asleep like that?!

When Yang Xiaojin saw Ren Xiaosu's expression, she revealed an unusual gentleness in her. Back at Mt. Dashi, Ren Xiaosu had more things to worry about than her, and he also acted as the bait during their hunt for the barbarians.

Sometimes, the two of them would take turns to keep watch at night. If Ren Xiaosu kept watch for the first half of the night, he would not have the heart to wake her up for the second shift. As a result, he would just keep watch for the entire night by himself.

After the battle on Mt. Dashi, Ren Xiaosu did not even have time to catch up on sleep when they encountered yet another attack on the camp. Even if he were made of steel, he still would not be able to bear it.

Usually, Ren Xiaosu would not snore when he slept. As his physical fitness improved, his bodily functions also became stronger and more vigorous. His respiratory system and cardiopulmonary function were already far beyond that of normal people, so snoring was not something that should happen to him.

But now, his snores were like a message of fatigue that even made Yang Xiaojin's heart ache a little.

This young man who belonged to her habitually took on all of the responsibility himself.

Yang Xiaojin subconsciously tried to soothe Ren Xiaosu's frown as he slept. But just as she reached out with her hand, someone from the Pyro Company walked in from outside the medical center.

This commotion woke Ren Xiaosu up. He happened to see Yang Xiaojin reaching out, so he said with a smile, "What are you doing?"

"Oh." Yang Xiaojin said nonchalantly, "I heard your snoring, so I wanted to pinch your nose to stop it."

Ren Xiaosu stood up and ranted, "How could you do something like that?"

Yang Xiaojin said with a smile, "But you do things like that quite often too."

"That's true." Ren Xiaosu nodded.

The two of them walked out of the department and saw Ji Yi saying something to a Pyro Company soldier. However, that soldier said coldly, "I'm sorry, we don't have any spare vehicles to send them back now. We can go to the front lines if you want to, but we can't retreat. Besides, we also need all of you to go to the front lines. Starting on the day after tomorrow, no outsiders will be allowed to remain here to ensure the security of the FOB."

Ji Yi was stunned. "But our Qinghe Group has our own vehicles."

“Your vehicles have been requisitioned for the transportation of supplies.” The soldier calmly explained, “After the attack this time, the supply convoy suffered an extremely serious loss. Please understand why we made such a decision. You all can wait for the vehicles to be loaded up with the supplies tomorrow before heading to the front lines together with them.”

Then the Pyro Company soldier asked, “Were you all in the medical center all this time? Mr. Wang Jing, have you seen any strangers coming in?”

“No.” Wang Jing shook his head. “When the attack happened, all of us fled out of the base together. It wasn’t until things settled down at the FOB that we returned to the medical center. Why?”

The Pyro Company soldier was still very polite to Wang Jing and the others. “It’s like this. We speculate that the two snipers who appeared previously were shooting from the top floor of the medical center. Later, they left us a very important message, so we wanted to find them to express our gratitude.”

“I’m not too sure about that then.” Wang Jing shook his head again. “It was already very late by the time we got back to the medical center, so we didn’t see any strangers around. Don’t you know the identities of those two snipers? I thought they were your people. They also saved us during the chaos, so we’d like to express our gratitude as well.”

“They’re not with us.” The soldier shook his head. “They could be aspiring fighters who want to stand against the North together. If you have any information, please contact us immediately.”

“Mhm, I will.” As Wang Jing spoke, he did not even look at Ren Xiaosu as he was afraid that he would expose him. It was the same for the other doctors as well. It could be seen just how meticulous Wang Jing was when he handed down instructions to the rest earlier.

“Then you all should get some rest quickly. All medical personnel will have to travel with the military to the North tomorrow. If you need anything, you can let us know at any time.” After bidding farewell to Wang Jing, the soldier went straight to the top floor and took several sets of photos before leaving.

The students looked at each other. A student representative said to Ji Yi, “Professor Ji, now that we don’t have any vehicles to take us back, why don’t we head to the front lines to have a look instead?”

“That’s right! You heard what that soldier said too. Those two snipers also came over to volunteer. Right now, the entire Central Plains has to unite....”

Ji Yi did not say anything and felt extremely vexed.

...

At this moment, the P3 commander of the forward operating base was speaking with someone. He said very carefully, “Commander P5092, I wish to communicate with you regarding something very important.”

P5092 said noncommittally, “What do you want in exchange?”

“You should’ve received the news by now. Although the plan to lure the enemy out tonight was successful, a large portion of our supplies was still destroyed. This matter is enough to get me court martialled. If I get convicted, I’ll probably have to spend the rest of my life in prison.” P31921 said softly: “But as you know, I was just cooperating with your plan.”

P5092 said without emotion, “You made a lot of mistakes tonight, though. Even if you were just cooperating with my plan, you shouldn’t have stupidly parked the entire supply convoy’s vehicles together and given the enemy a chance to blow up the supplies. Furthermore, barbarians really were lurking in the rear. Even without my plan, something would’ve happened to you sooner or later. If the information you have for me is important enough, I will guarantee your safety.”

P31921 was overjoyed. This was the promise he was looking for. Although Commander P5092 was cold, he would not go back on his word.

P31921 deliberated for a moment before saying, “You encountered two snipers at Mt. Dashi, right? I know you’re looking for them. Just a few days ago, two doctors from the Trinity Institute suddenly left the FOB and only came back after the battle on Mt. Dashi had ended. The timing of their return is consistent with the duration of the battle.”

P5092 said nonchalantly, “What can two doctors do? Don’t claim baseless speculation as intel.”

“It’s not speculation.” P31921 quickly said, “Others might not have noticed what happened tonight, but I found out the Trinity Institute left the danger zone before the barbarians’ arrival. Moreover, one of the two doctors who left the base happened to be the miracle doctor you ordered us to take care of.”

P5092 was stunned. For some reason, he believed P31921’s words the moment he mentioned Ren Xiaosu!

Chapter 868: Guessing the truth

First of all, the timing of the two of them leaving the forward operating base and the appearance of the snipers at Mt. Dashi was so consistent it was difficult to explain.

According to P31921, Ren Xiaosu’s reason for leaving the base was so he could go into the mountains to pick some medicinal herbs. However, P5092 was certain Ren Xiaosu’s medicine was not an ancestral remedy. Instead, it was conjured up by Ren Xiaosu’s superpower. Otherwise, it would not have such a miraculous effect.

Others might still be superstitious enough to believe in secret ancestral remedies, but P5092 only believed in science. Science was what told him there were no secret ancestral remedies in this world that could make a wound heal in just three short days.

Alright, one might argue the plants had also mutated, but to say that the remedy was passed down from their ancestors, did the plants already mutate when their ancestors formulated this remedy? That was the flaw in the story!

And that was why P5092 ordered his deputy commander to return all of the Trinity Institute's suitcases so it would help Ren Xiaosu cover up this matter.

Now that P31921 was telling him Ren Xiaosu had claimed he needed to go out to gather herbs, P5092 confirmed that Ren Xiaosu was the one who helped him out in the battle on Mt. Dashi.

Moreover, from a certain point of view, P5092 would also instinctively agree with what P31921 had told him, even if he did not know about those details, because that young man was far too special.

Thinking back, the other party displayed no fear at all around him, not because he was carefree by nature, but simply because he was not afraid of him.

When P5092 realized how close he was to such a dangerous person, he even felt some lingering fear.

What a fucking close shave!

P5092 asked, "If I'm not wrong, it was that girl who accompanied him out of the base?"

"That's right. Your guess is too accurate," P31921 flattered.

"There's no use trying to flatter me." P5092 asked calmly, "Have you told anyone else about this?"

"No, absolutely not," P31921 assured him.

"Very good, continue keeping it a secret. If I find out that you leaked this, I'll court martial you myself." P5092 said calmly, "Tell me in detail what went awry with the plan tonight."

"Everything was going according to your plan initially. The students started off with the cultural show, and as expected, the situation at the FOB quickly attracted an attack from the barbarians." P31921 said, "Moreover, we also successfully lured them to the armory. The special forces encircled them there and ensured they couldn't escape."

"But an accident happened. We don't know who launched a sneak attack on the supply convoy that caused us to suffer heavy losses. However, we now have an idea of where the attacker came from. We found a note at the entrance of the command center saying that the Experimentals have reappeared. It also said we should head to the west of the base to check on the situation. Our people who are investigating should've found some clues by now," P31921 said.

"Experimentals?" P5092 was stunned for a moment. Of course he knew what the Experimentals were, but just like Ren Xiaosu, he did not expect this term would suddenly get brought up again in front of him. P5092 said anxiously, "Hurry up and figure out the situation. I want conclusive news about whether the Experimentals are still in existence."

After that, P5092 ended the call and sat quietly in his command tent.

He recalled his interactions with Ren Xiaosu. For some reason, there was a hint of a smile on his face. P5092 did not know why he was smiling, but he suddenly found the matter to be very interesting.

The only thing that P5092 could not understand was why such an extremely powerful young man like Ren Xiaosu was a doctor.

He went on a killing spree while saving people's lives? What were his motives?

Wait!

P5092 started to carefully recall some of the other incidents. But as his memory was not as good as Wang Yun's, he had to go through the old intelligence files.

He noticed some information. When they encountered the Trinity Institute, those doctors had just made their escape from Stronghold 31.

Why had Ren Xiaosu appeared at Stronghold 31 during that time? And what had happened at Stronghold 31 that day?

P5092 had collaborated with T5081 from the special forces for some days, so he knew very well that T5081 kept getting intercepted during his mission at the Kong Consortium. Based on T5081's description, the secret prison had been destroyed, the normal prison was raided, and Kong Erdong was assassinated. Then... the Kong Consortium's intelligence agency was also ambushed by snipers, and many of their officers died tragically on the streets!

This was it! The intelligence agency had been ambushed by snipers! It was the snipers!

The smile on P5092's face got even wider. It was as though he had found out Ren Xiaosu's secret. So this doctor had been on a mission and was initially planning on leaving Stronghold 31. It was just that he was unexpectedly intercepted by them and brought to the North with the rest.

Immediately, P5092 got a clearer understanding of Ren Xiaosu. This was a supernatural being whose superpower was to materialize a life-saving black medicine, while his special skill was sniping!

Furthermore, the other party was not only a sniper, but also one of the first batches of supernatural beings to awaken their powers, so his physical fitness was definitely superior to those barbarians!

To be honest, it was very impressive that P5092 could analyze this much even if his guesses were very one-sided. For example, he was unaware that Ren Xiaosu had more than a dozen superpowers, nor did he know that Ren Xiaosu's physical fitness was actually even crazier than he had imagined, with an even more freakish power like Old Xu, as well as "City Crusher" which could make Ren Xiaosu and Old Xu even more powerful.

But this was not P5092's fault. After all, there was no one else in the world like Ren Xiaosu. It was only normal that he could not guess it. But what would be abnormal was him guessing correctly.

The Trinity Institute would shortly be following the troops to the front line. P5092 suddenly felt that something interesting would soon happen in this dull war.

He planned to continue acting like he did not know anything and enjoy the other party's pretense in front of him. Thinking of this, P5092 felt a strange sense of satisfaction. *'You want to pretend? Well, I know everything already!'*

At this moment, P31921 called back. "Sir, the Experimentals' corpses were discovered 1.33 clicks away from base. More importantly, some of the Experimentals were transformed from barbarians!"

P5092 cast aside his thoughts about Ren Xiaosu and asked, "How did the Experimentals die?"

"They were injured by a sharp weapon, and there was only one type of shoeprint in the vicinity. These dozen or so Experimentals were probably killed by the same person," P31921 replied. "As the Experimentals are all dead, we can't determine their strength, nor can we determine the strength of the person who killed them."

"A sharp weapon? Try firing a shot at the barbaric Experimentals," P5092 said.

After a gunshot rang out, P31921 reported, "Firing with a pistol, the bullet did not even get lodged into the enemy's skin."

"How sharp must the weapon be to be able to kill them? They were probably killed by a superpower, right?" P5092 wondered.

He suddenly wondered if it was the power of the woman who was with Ren Xiaosu? Both of them were supernatural beings? So one of their powers was to materialize the black medicine while the other could materialize a weapon, and both of them happened to be snipers?

Due to the mismatch of information, P5092 suddenly felt like his thoughts were a mess. He kept feeling like he had missed something.

If Wang Yun was here, he would easily be able to link all the clues together. Unfortunately, P5092 did not have such an ability.

Chapter 869: I'm still a little better than him

Regarding the news that the Experimentals were still alive in this world, the Pyro Company did not try to conceal the fact. Instead, they openly told Ji Yi about it and got him to relay the news to Hope Media.

The Pyro Company felt that it was necessary to let everyone know that the culprits that led to the destruction of Stronghold 74 were still alive. Moreover, everyone had to be even more careful because the Experimentals that had appeared this time consisted of those that transformed from the stronger barbarians.

Actually, this news was mainly meant to be shared with the Wang Consortium. After all, only the Pyro Company and the Wang Consortium were fighting the enemy in the North now.

The Wang Consortium had not informed the Pyro Company of the impending war in advance, but the Pyro Company still magnanimously shared their intelligence with them this time. Jiang Xu even singled

out such transparency for praise on a new page and condemned the Wang Consortium for their secretive behavior the last time.

However, Ren Xiaosu could not read about what was reported in the newspapers since P5092 had left for the front lines.

Honestly, Ren Xiaosu also felt the Pyro Company had made the right decision this time. Just as he had warned the Pyro Company about the Experimentals, the Pyro Company was also obliged to warn others for the greater good.

After all, compared to the barbarians, the Experimentals were a species that sought to exterminate all of humanity and turn them into gray-skinned monsters. They were even more detestable than the barbarians.

The Trinity Institute, the Qinghe University students, and the Pyro Company's Supply Corps headed north together. The Pyro Company had finally managed to consolidate all of the undamaged supplies at the forward operating base after much difficulty and found only a quarter of the original supplies to be still usable.

This left all of the Pyro Company's soldiers looking worried. Because they knew it meant the soldiers at the front lines would probably not get enough to eat their fill!

The soldiers at the Pyro Company's rear would have to quickly gather all available resources and transport them to the front lines. Otherwise, their campaign might collapse even before the barbarians' probing attacks were done.

The Pyro Company's soldiers were indeed strong-willed. But if they could not even fill their stomachs, how would they have the strength to fight?

At this moment, Ren Xiaosu and the others from the Trinity Institute were seated together in a military transport truck. The vehicle traveled the bumpy mountain roads and drove unsteadily towards the North.

With only a dozen or so of them in the truck, they were considered to have been given preferential treatment. At the beginning, everyone thought the Pyro Company had arranged for them to sit in a separate vehicle out of gratitude for treating patients and saving their lives. But when they realized the other doctors and nurses at the medical center were all squeezed into the other vehicles that transported them, the Trinity Institute's team realized they were the only ones with this privilege.

Then the members of the Trinity Institute remembered that when they left the forward operating base, P31921 had specifically said to Ren Xiaosu, "Commander P5092 is looking forward to meeting you again at the front lines."

As such, everyone came to a realization. So it turned out this privileged treatment was only given to Ren Xiaosu, and that they were just beneficiaries through their relationship with him.

The Qinghe University students were not so lucky. As a large number of trucks in the forward operating base had been destroyed, they could only wait for the Pyro Company to load up the cargo first before sitting on the supplies when they set off for the North.

The cold wind brushed across the students' forlorn faces before drifting off into the distance.

Earlier, Ji Yi had looked for P31921 from the forward operating base to try to resolve this arrangement. Ji Yi said very seriously, "These students came here to specially deliver the material assistance. We've sent so many supplies and medicine to you all, so how can you treat them like that?"

P31921 answered very calmly, "On behalf of the Pyro Company, I thank you all for your donation of supplies. However, I don't think this will make much of a difference to our battle plans. Mr. Ji, as you can see, there aren't enough vehicles."

P31921 continued, "And I think it's absolutely right that you all place your hopes on our Pyro Company. If the Pyro Company gets destroyed, who can stop the barbarians dead for Luoyang City? The Kong Consortium? The Kong Consortium has already ceased to exist.

"So if the Pyro Company falls as well, the entire Central Plains will have to face the expeditionary army as they march straight in. The Kong Consortium has already had a wave of refugees who are trying to flee farther south. But if the Pyro Company gets wiped out, it'll be useless wherever they run to."

Just as P31921 had said, a large number of Kong Consortium residents and refugees had started fleeing southwards.

Some people did so because they were afraid of war, while others fled because they could not find food to eat.

The Pyro Company had taken away all the supplies that could be collected from Strongholds 31 and 32. At this moment, those stronghold residents could not buy any food even if they had the money. They could only choose to leave the strongholds and find another way to survive.

In less than half a month, the tree bark in Strongholds 31 and 32 would be stripped bare!

Ji Yi thought for a moment and said, "But we came to the North out of our goodwill. Surely you can't treat a group of students like that."

P31921 shook his head. "I know they all did it out of kindness, but emotions are useless in war. The Pyro Company only seeks to achieve results."

This was probably why a lot of people hated the Pyro Company. The students were clearly here to deliver material assistance, yet they were made to suffer. However, the Pyro Company did not think they had done anything wrong.

Thus, regardless of how hard Ji Yi tried, he still did not manage to change the students' situation in the end.

In the Trinity Institute's vehicle, Liang Ce and Meng Nan's relationship started to rapidly warm up due to him carrying her on his back to escape.

As soon as they got into the truck, the two of them started whispering to each other. It was so sweet the others were sick.

This made everyone realize what the sayings "the pavilion closest to the water enjoys moonlight first," "true love blooms in adversity," and "distant water can't quench a nearby fire" really meant.

No matter how much Meng Nan liked someone else, she would not be able to go against the feelings that arose in her from being in danger.

As they chatted and Meng Nan saw no new breakthrough in their relationship, she took the initiative to apply some hand lotion onto her hand. Then she exclaimed, "I've squeezed out too much. Liang Ce, give me your hand. I'll apply some of this lotion for you too. Look at you, your hand is all chapped."

Then Meng Nan took Liang Ce's hand and started applying the lotion for him. This was the first time Liang Ce had held hands with Meng Nan. He got excited and confessed decisively, "Actually, Meng Nan, I've always wanted to tell you that I've liked you for a long time. Ever since we started our internship together, I've been watching you quietly. Will you be my girlfriend?"

Meng Nan restrained herself for a moment. "But I'm not pretty. Look at those female students from Qinghe University. They're so pretty."

Liang Ce expressed his loyalty. "Don't worry, I only like those who aren't pretty!"

Meng Nan was confused.

Ren Xiaosu was speechless. Yang Xiaojin was speechless. Wang Jing was speechless too.

Everyone in the vehicle was dumbfounded. They had not expected Liang Ce to answer that way!

Meng Nan was just slightly restraining herself from appearing too enthusiastic. If he had just praised her a little more and said something nice, wouldn't the matter have been settled?

With a whoosh, Meng Nan retracted her hand and said coldly, "In the past, I didn't have any criteria for choosing a partner. But after I met you, I told myself I won't ever accept someone like you!"

Ren Xiaosu sat next to Yang Xiaojin and muttered, "I'm still a little better than him...."

Chapter 870: Little black book

Perhaps Liang Ce was thinking that the two of them were moving too fast, so he personally poured a bucket of cold water over his relationship with Meng Nan.

As the convoy leisurely drove north, Ren Xiaosu thought to himself that he had not given Liang Ce any advice this time. Liang Ce was self-taught and purely gifted.

When they passed by Mt. Dashi, the large convoy took a break there and got reorganized.

The camp where they rested was the site where P5092 had set an ambush for the barbarians to attack. Ren Xiaosu was very familiar with this place, but he wondered where all the barbarians' corpses had gone.

After getting out of the vehicle, everyone could hear the Pyro Company's soldiers discussing as they smoked, "I heard that Commander P5092 killed over a 100 barbarians here. Apparently, the barbarians were in such despair. I didn't expect Commander P5092 to have anticipated an attack by them on the camp."

"I would rather know what those two snipers look like..."

Ren Xiaosu and the others did not get out of their vehicle. However, the Qinghe University students could not wait to get out of theirs to move around. When one of the students heard the Pyro Company's discussion, he suddenly said, "I wonder where I can receive sniper training at. I'd like to become a sniper too."

But when a Pyro Company soldier heard that, he laughed. "If you want to become as good as those two snipers, you'll have to be blessed by Heaven. It's not something you can become just because you want to."

The Qinghe University student was a little annoyed. "Can't I just train harder? I can take hardship too, y'know!"

"You don't understand." The Pyro Company soldier shook his head with a smile. However, he did not explain any further.

Only those who had truly fought in battle and received military training would understand that hard work alone was not enough.

The reason why those two snipers were able to control the battlefield was due to their combined talents across many aspects. They were not only accurate in their sniping but also able to predict where the barbarians would appear each time. This secretly surprised all of the Pyro Company's soldiers, and they felt this was what true skill was.

The forward operating base was only about a 100 kilometers away from the front lines. After traversing a small section of mountain road, they would reach the highway the Pyro Company had built. As such, the convoy would reach the front lines within a day.

When they set off, P31921 told Ren Xiaosu they would get to the front lines by that afternoon.

If that small section of mountain road was repaired, it might even be faster and they could get there within two hours.

In the late afternoon, before the sun could set, Ren Xiaosu could already see from afar the towering New Great Wall in front of him.

The Great Wall meandered along the horizon towards the east and west until its ends could no longer be seen. It was such a magnificent sight that it made people feel a sense of pride.

Within the Great Wall were military encampments that joined up like vast oceans. The Pyro Company soldiers were moving around while countless “civilian laborers” continued building the defensive line below the Great Wall.

Tower crane after tower crane rose into the clouds while laborers used the incomplete scaffolding outside the long walls to navigate along the cliff walls.

Ren Xiaosu had never seen such a magnificent sight before in his life. He suddenly felt that the “miracles” he had seen in the past paled in comparison to this front line and the military bases at the Great Wall.

If one did not see such a magnificent structure rising from the ground with their own eyes, it would be very difficult to believe that this was built through the power of humanity.

Actually, there wasn't much technical skill involved. It was just a defensive fortification purposely built for the threat of the barbarians. It was just that the collective will of this project was astounding.

When he arrived at the base, Ren Xiaosu was surprised to see P5092 waiting at the entrance. Initially, Ren Xiaosu thought he was here to receive the supplies. But later, he realized P5092 did not even look at the supplies and was heading straight for him instead.

While the other Trinity Institute members were still feeling a little lost, Ren Xiaosu had already jumped out of the vehicle and walked up to shake hands with P5092.

P5092 looked extremely smart in his neatly ironed military uniform.

P5092 smiled and said, “It's been a long journey. I was wondering when we would meet again, but I didn't expect to see you so soon.”

Ren Xiaosu said excitedly, “It's really great to see you again!”

P5092 was taken aback. He looked at Ren Xiaosu whose expression did not seem to suggest any pretense. Could it be that he really wanted to see him? But why?

Ren Xiaosu had been wondering if he should encourage P5092 to join the Prosperous Northwest. What if he were too late and P5092 had died at the front lines?

Now that P5092 was right beside him, Ren Xiaosu could slowly plan his move. It would only be another day before the seal on his powers was broken. Perhaps it might be a little difficult to protect a group of people from not dying, but it would be too easy to ensure one person's survival.

P5092 started making small talk with Ren Xiaosu. “I've heard about how you treated the patients at the medical center at the rear. Thank you very much. I suddenly think it was a very wise decision to conscript you from the South.”

“Don’t mention it. It’s a doctor’s duty to treat and save people. I’m just a normal surgeon,” Ren Xiaosu said modestly.

P5092 smiled and said, “Now that you’ve arrived at the front lines, does this sight scare you?”

“Of course it scares me.” Ren Xiaosu nodded and said, “Y’all better fight this war well. Otherwise, we won’t be safe even at the rear.”

P5092 stared at Ren Xiaosu’s expression and sneered mentally. *‘Afraid? Like hell you’re afraid! Keep pretending! No matter how well you pretend, I’ve already seen right through you!’*

However, the reason why P5092 asked that was because he wanted to see Ren Xiaosu put on a front.

P5092 smiled and said, “I came here today to give you all a special welcome. But as I’ve got my military duties to fulfill, I really don’t have much time to play host to you. I have an ID here that I applied for you temporarily. With it, you can freely move around in the base as you like.”

Ren Xiaosu was stunned. He watched P5092 hand him an ID.

The ID was a little black book that was not even the size of a palm. When he opened it, there was no photo inside and only a red stamp on it. It was the official seal of 3rd Division’s headquarters.

Ren Xiaosu was unsure of what the ID could be used for. But based on P5092’s description, it seemed like it was very powerful.

“Thank you then.” Ren Xiaosu smiled and said, “I happen to want to take a look around the camp as well.”

“Alright, I’ll get going first. Please make yourselves at home.” After that, P5092 turned around and left. Just as he had said, he was way too busy with the war that was about to begin.

To be honest, his deputy commander and the combat staff officers were very surprised that P5092 would purposely spare some time to meet with Ren Xiaosu. Everyone was thinking at the same time and wondering why Ren Xiaosu was so important.

The Pyro Company’s troops led Ren Xiaosu and the others to the 3rd Division’s field hospital. On the way there, Ren Xiaosu suddenly took out the little black book and asked the soldier next to him, “Your commander gave me this. He said that I can move around the base as I please. Is that true?”

He realized the soldier who was being questioned had suddenly become respectful. “Yes, sir! As long as you hold this ID, you can move around 3rd Division without any restrictions.”

Ren Xiaosu muttered in his head, *‘This little black book has such great power, huh? I’m even getting addressed as ‘sir’ now?’*