

## Apocalypse 261

Chapter 261: Supporting and killing each other

Talking Lady stood on the right, Red Hair on the left, and in the middle was a fierce-looking human.

Hou Yu never expected that he would bump into such a weird situation.

He was out to hunt, and things were going smoothly. Not only did he get ten level two crystals and 30 level one crystals, but he also got to taste a woman who was on her own. 2 months had passed, and he didn't care about morals. He played with her for over an hour.

But he failed to control himself and ended up killing her. At that time, he didn't care much about it, but after these few monsters surrounded him, he felt unlucky.

Why would he bump into such a situation if he wasn't unlucky?

The woman on the right hugging a cat was extremely beautiful. Her body was tall, and her black hair floated in the wind. She was the goddess in the hearts of many during peacetime.

Of course, if the cat and her foreheads didn't have black crystals!

What was the woman with red hair on the left? She didn't have crystals on her head, meaning she wasn't a zombie. But what were those red eyes? The vines that stuck out from her fingers. Although her body was hot, what was that ice-cold aura she gave out?

What kind of zombie mutations are these? What monsters are these? Why hadn't he seen them before?

Hou Yu was a three-star evolved and was the deputy of one of the strongest Ying City factions. He realized that he had bumped into a huge problem today.

He started to regret that he didn't bring men over. He wouldn't have ended up in such a dire situation if he ordered them around.

But he had his skills to evolve to three stars in such a short time. He took out a grey axe and a black pill he swallowed. Energy surged out, and his body grew a little bigger. His eyes also turned red, and even his skin turned thicker and rougher. It wasn't as bouncy and bright as before.

Hou Yu felt his heart hurt. This thing was called Barbaric Time Pill, which he got from a level two wheel. There were only three, and this was the last one. One made him a two-star evolved; one allowed him to kill his competitor to become the deputy leader of Wings of Justice and get a job scroll. He used the scroll and some resources to become a three-star evolved. He planned to use this last one to get to four stars. After all, this thing was most useful to three-star evolved. Now that he was forced to use it, no matter what the outcome was, that clouded his future path to four-star with uncertainty.

The pill would increase the strength of his body, significantly increasing his strength and defense. But it would reduce his speed and agility. Moreover, there would be strong side effects. The pill would last for half an hour, but he would end up in a ten-hour of weakness. His evolution effects would disappear, and he would become a defenseless average person.

So he knew he had to solve his problem within half an hour. If not, one zombie would be able to kill him quickly.

Ying City had an enormous amount of zombies, and not only couldn't they be finished, but the number of zombies increased daily. Survivors would gain a lot of crystals every day, but only a few could reach three stars. Even in a first-rate city like Ying City, Hou Yu was very famous.

Fame in the apocalypse correlated with strength. Hou Yu wasn't afraid when he faced level three zombies. Even when he had a few helpers, he would hunt them down.

But today, before he attacked, the two women that trapped him here between two buildings attacked first.

What terrified him was that the black hair zombie spoke-- Attack!

Hou Yu saw the vines from beneath the red hair woman's feet surge toward him. The bricks were pushed up and shattered. The stones along the way all broke.

Although the vines were on the ground's surface, they were swift and under him in just a blink.

Due to his using the pill, his brain reacted, but his body didn't follow up. The moment he lifted his leg, he was wrapped by the vine. He heard the red hair woman smile.

He felt a chill down his spine. He even felt like this red hair monster was the ghost of the woman he had killed, and she was here to claim his life.

The axe that he raised sliced down towards the vine.

He felt a cold wind down his back and had to give up on his slash. He waved his axe towards his back.

He glanced at a black figure, knowing it was the level three black cat. He roared and hoped to kill the black cat with one hit. At least he had to injure it, making it much easier for him to deal with the two women.

The black cat meowed, and then it spun in the sky. Its speed that went against gravity increased, and its cold claws were right behind his head.

He bit his teeth and decided not to dodge. He was confident in the defense that the pill gave. He roared and charged towards the red hair.

Attacking the black hair would restrict his legs, but striking the red hair wouldn't.

Intense pain spread from his back, and he knew the level-three cat injured him. He didn't care, and he continued to charge.

Red hair smiled, and then she opened her hands to shoot vines from all her fingernails.

Those vines were different from those in the ground. These were short and straight. They were around 20-30 centimeters long.

Hou Yu didn't care about anything; he wanted to split her.

The vines spread out and shot out like wooden spikes.

He felt some wind from behind him. That black cat jumped above him and waved its claws down.

Hou Yu wanted to dodge, but his cumbersome body only allowed him to sidestep. He knew that he had underestimated their attack. The pill increased his defense but was not enough to block these weird attacks. That was because the wooden spikes had pierced into his body.

His strength was lost, and his axe couldn't hit the woman. He turned his head and saw the black hair three meters from him. The sharp threads of hair stabbed him.

A second later, his body was covered in spikes and black hair. His axe was dropped on the side, and his arms hung powerlessly. In the last moment of his life, he regretted two things.

One was not using the pill to flee. The second was that he had used the job scroll to trade for a three-star evolution potion.

When he died, the two human figures pounced beside him. Each bit the two sides of his neck and sucked the blood that had enormous power in it.

A moment later, Hou Yu's body turned into a dry corpse. The two women who worked together to kill the enemy glanced at each other before they started to fight.

Under the sunlight, red hair's skin became more and more shining. The black crystal of the Talking Lady also started to turn green.

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Right when these two rare beings worked together to support while also killing each other after, Ye Zhongming led Young Master Yun and headed into Ying City.

Chapter 262: Relatives

"I have arranged the men and decided on the location to monitor."

Young Master Yun met Ye Zhongming in a seed company in the suburbs of Ying City. Although he didn't know why his new boss would select this location, he didn't ask. He even helped his boss to clear this seed company's storage.

The scenes of those weird vines appearing beside his boss during the day of the battle and he guessed that his boss had a plant-related job.

"Did you tell them not to alert people?"

Ye Zhongming squatted behind an abandoned car to observe the situation ahead before asking Young Master Yun softly.

"I told them. The binoculars you prepared allow us to stare at Lou Family from a few hundred meters out. If the suspicious figure you say appears, we will monitor him and also find their base."

Ye Zhongming nodded.

All signs showed that Lou Family and Soul Merchants had a close connection. In his last life, Soul Merchant was a giant everyone had to look up to. It was an infamous organization, and if possible, Ye Zhongming didn't want to offend them before he got stronger.

But things went against his wishes. He didn't want trouble, but they found their way over. Moreover, it looked like their faction included the Cloud Peak region.

Since they couldn't have peace with them, Ye Zhongming had to be prepared. Young Master Yun and his Hungry Tiger Cavalry made him realize that he could try to find the fellow willing to sell his soul for interest.

As for why he wasn't willing to use people from Cloud Peak, he was being safe. If Soul Merchants found out, it would cause Hungry Tiger Cavalry some problems, and wouldn't expose himself. After all, only Young Master Yun knew that Hungry Tiger Cavalry had joined Cloud Peak.

Apart from that, Ye Zhongming had limited manpower, and this area would restrict his future development. Nurturing a faction that he could control now would undoubtedly help him in the future. Another benefit would be that he held another gachapon to radiate Cloud Peak's powers outside.

Ye Zhongming brought Young Master Yun to this Ying City networking event because he was from Ying City. Although Ye Zhongming lived here in his last life, that was a few years later. The city had changed. The other reason was to observe Young Master Yun and decide on his potential.

"You are a Swamp Wizard?"

Young Master Yun exclaimed and nodded, "Right, Boss, how did you know?"

"I saw you use your job skill that day."

During the battle with the horde, Young Master Yun used one of the skills-- Lethal Swamp. A level three zombie fell into it, and Ye Zhongming saw it.

"Where did you get the job scroll from?"

"I got it from a colored gachapon in the cement factory. We got our few job scrolls and used most of our crystals there. If not, we would have a two-star evolved."

"But the wheel exploded for some reason."

Young Master Yun was terrified when he thought about what had happened that day. If not for him being outside, he would have died.

"The colored gachapon is dangerous; the black region can't be touched." Ye Zhongming casually said.

"This job is good, but it consumes huge mental energy. I use the skill once and need a week to heal up. Just thinking about it makes my head hurt."

Ye Zhongming naturally knew that. The Swamp Wizard was a job with a weakness as it consumed too much mental energy. Moreover, as it was a wizard, the job user's physical strength would reduce, and the overall mental strength would job. It was early days, and his job level wasn't high. If his level increased, his body would get weaker and weaker, and he would end up like bones. His mental energy wouldn't rise much and only maintain at a stage where he could use just one skill.

Survivors found some relevant skills and equipment to support this job, for example, Mental Fountain, which could increase mental energy. For instance, some bloodlines could reduce the adverse side effects on their bodies.

But no matter what, this job was strong, and each skill was powerful. Young Master Yun was fortunate.

The two of them walked forwards, and Young Master Yun saw how strong Ye Zhongming was.

The density of zombies and monsters in Ying City was terrifying. These mutated monsters could be seen everywhere. You might turn a corner and bump into some.

Moreover, their evolution levels were much higher, with more level-two zombies. You would often see dozens or a hundred level-two zombies gathered together. Without Cloud Peak's strength, Young Master Yun felt it was better that they didn't try.

But his boss just charged and slashed with his blade. He was swift, and very few level-two zombies could keep up. Their talent skills missed. Moreover, his boss was very cunning. He slashed and killed for a while before he disappeared. When he appeared, he was already on the other side. A 30-zombie-strong group was dead in just ten minutes which meant Young Master Yun tongue-tied.

Ye Zhongming's strength increased after he reached three stars. He just needed some slight strategy, and he would be able to deal with such a small group of zombies.

Of course, he couldn't do such things often. If a level three zombie heard the commotion and tied Ye Zhongming down, the other two would immediately drown him.

At night, a quarter of a district was away from the meeting area. They would be able to arrive before the deadline of noon of the following day.

The night in the city, they belonged to the zombies and mutated lifeforms. Even Ye Zhongming, a three-star, didn't dare to be too arrogant. Young Master Yun observed for a while before selecting a building to be their camp for today. The building wasn't tall and was near the other buildings. They could use their evolved bodies to jump if there were any dangers.

But the moment they arrived on the roof, another group climbed up, and both sides were at a standstill.

Killing people and stealing their items was too common in the apocalypse.

"Wait, don't attack!"

A middle-aged man charged out and told his men not to be rash. He also told Ye Zhongming to place his weapon down.

"Little Yun, is that you?" That guy stopped both sides before walking over.

Young Master Yun was stunned. Little Yun was a very female nickname, and it had been long since he was called that. Only his own family would call him that.

The sky was dark, and they could only see him clearly when he walked over. Young Master Yun's eyes opened wide, and he shouted, "Uncle?"

The middle-aged man was Young Master Yun's uncle and relied on his family to do business. Since they were young, they had a close relationship. He thought he had died and didn't expect to meet him here.

"Where is father? Where is my father? How is he?"

Young Master Yun did take a risk to go home, but there was nothing but blood and flesh on the floor of his villa. He realized it should be his father, uncle, and a few relatives. He left Ying City with sadness.

Who knew he could bump into his uncle, who should have been in the villa then?

Didn't that mean that his father...

Young Master Yun was suddenly extremely nervous and was afraid of hearing bad news.

"He is fine; Brother-in-law is fine; he is in our base now!"

Young Master Yun teared up right away. Young Master Yun didn't understand what it meant to know the value of something before he lost it, but now it was something he held closely to his heart.

At this time, the ten people on his uncle's side walked over. The leader was a two-meter-tall guy who squinted his eyes to look at Ye Zhongming, who looked defenseless and like a rookie. He then ignored him and glanced at Young Master Yun, who had a rifle with a silencer.

"Old Jia, he is your relative?"

Old Jia was Young Master Yun's uncle. Hearing this guy call him, he wiped his tears and turned back, "Right right, Team Leader Lin, he is my nephew. I thought he was dead and didn't think I would bump into him here. Look, can I..."

He reluctantly took out a level one crystal and placed it into that guy's hands.

He scoffed and kept it, "You can bring them back, but you need to tell them the camp's rules. Don't blame me for not reminding you if they do anything wrong."

Old Jia nodded, "Okay, I will tell them. Team Leader Lin you don't have to worry."

"Also, we will set up camp here today. Tell them to find some food for us." Team Leader Lin said before ignoring their reaction; he just sat there to chat with his men.

Old Jia slapped his nephew's shoulder helplessly. But he noticed that his nephew was looking at the teen beside him with... Some respect.

Old Jia was shocked. His nephew lacked skills and only knew how to enjoy life. But he was arrogant and was not even afraid of his parents. Why does it look like he respected this person?

Ye Zhongming squinted and thought about it before nodding toward Young Master Yun.

Chapter 263: part 1- Ying City Faction Leaderboard

"Little Yun, how are you these days? You don't know how worried your dad and I were after the apocalypse descended. A kid like you who didn't know everything at all being outside alone, we... Your father's hair turned white."

Old Jia walked down the stairs while saying towards Young Master Yun. Young Master Yun didn't show impatience at all and just smiled and listened.

Some time had passed since the apocalypse began, and that was enough to change the personality of any person. Young Master Yun wasn't the spoilt brat from before and was now a good warrior trained by the zombie horde.

Young Master Yun also understood that his uncle told him this because he cared about him. It also relieved the awkwardness of being chased out to get food.

Everyone knew how dangerous it was to find food in Ying City.

But Young Master Yun didn't mind. With the boss by his side, what problem couldn't get solved?

"Wait."

The three of them walked to the entrance when Ye Zhongming stopped the two of them and told them to stop moving.

Old Jia wanted to say something, but his nephew stopped him. Two seconds later, they heard some footsteps.

The three saw a guy stumbling over through a window on the first floor. Although his body wasn't very stable, he was quicker than normal humans. Ye Zhongming was experienced, and with just one look, he knew this should be a one-star evolved.

But a bunch of zombies were following behind this one-star evolved. There were a few hundred of them. All of them weren't evolved and were just regular zombies.

Young Master Yun and Old Jia were shocked. This was a dead zone; a collapsed high-rise building blocked the path ahead.

That one star evolved wasn't familiar with this place, and he ran over here in a panic.

Looking at the 17-18 meter tall ruins ahead, that one star evolved cried out in despair.

Although regular zombies weren't quick, there was not enough time for the injured one-star evolved to climb over these ruins before they arrived.

But he didn't want to give up. He climbed upwards. Although there were places where he could grab, numerous poles and stone pieces were sticking out. He had to decide where to place his foot on. The horde slowly surrounded him. These zombies didn't care how to climb; they just climbed over one another. They allowed their bodies to be pierced through. Under substantial mental pressure, the one star evolved and didn't hold tightly and fell.

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Zombies grabbed his ankle right away and pulled him back. The one star evolved struggled, and each fist would smash one zombie's head. But simultaneously, the other zombies would rip off some flesh from his body.

Bones could be seen on his back and legs in just half a minute. After which, the horde drowned him.

The three looked on quietly as they saw the zombie horde eat the evolved. One of them directly evolved to a level two zombie before casually leaving.

When it was at the road entrance, a red figure charged. A mutated bird bit that level two zombie and flew into the air. Before the zombie could react, it tossed it onto the wall of a building. The huge momentum and strength turned that zombie into peat paste. The mutated bird flapped its wings and quickly ate that level-two zombie's essence.

This was the apocalypse. Evolved were getting stronger, zombies were getting stronger; other mutated lifeforms were getting stronger too. The merciless killing of one another became the new stable but mysterious ecological chain. Apart from some who were extremely strong, if not, such a situation would continue.

Ye Zhongming had never considered such things before about why mutated lifeforms would kill one another. Why were survivors still stubbornly living?

This was his second life, and such questions were stuck in his mind. He chose a path that he felt could lead him to answers and would continue to take this path. He hoped that one day he could personally reveal the secrets of the apocalypse.

This goal was distant, and the path toward it was covered in vines and holes, but he would continue to take this path.

Until... He found the answer.

The three of them walked out carefully. Based on what Old Jia said, there were two supermarkets up ahead. However, survivors had entered them before, but many things were still left there. If they were lucky, they could find some food. But there were zombies and mutated lifeforms around, so they had to be careful.

Ye Zhongming observed when he got close and gave up on forcefully entering. At least a thousand zombies were gathered within a few hundred meters of the supermarket. A mutated Orchird was blooming at the second-floor window of the supermarket. Even if he was a three-star evolved, he wasn't going to risk his life for some food.

Thus, he faked like he was looking in Young Master Yun's bag before he took out five packets of biscuits and a few cans. He told Old Jia not to take the risk and eat those that they brought.

Old Jia's impression of Ye Zhongming got much better. He knew these things could trade for a good gun or more than eight crystals with his faction. Or let the most beautiful girl in the faction sleep with him for a week.

They returned to the roof. When those people were still discussing how that one star evolved and was eaten by the zombies, they saw the three returning with some food. Their eyes opened wide. There were many zombies in the city and relatively fewer mutated lifeforms. So when hunting, it was rare to see mutated lifeform corpses, and there wasn't a chance to eat meat. Now that they saw the canned meat, they were highly excited.

"Old Jia, the few of you did well." That leader took the food and started to eat. The others split the rest, while the three didn't even get a bit.

Young Master Yun was furious. Only two of them evolved. Young Master Yun felt he didn't need the boss to fight. He alone could wipe them out. He wanted to kill them, but Ye Zhongming stopped him. Ye Zhongming then pulled him to the corner of the roof.

"Boss, this bunch...."

"The apocalypse is like that." Ye Zhongming only ate level two and above mutated animal meat, so he wasn't interested in such normal food, "We will follow them and



find your father. Then you can make arrangements. He can go to Cloud Peak or stay with your Hungry Tiger Cavalry. There is no need to have a conflict with them."

Young Master Yun was touched. He knew the boss was considering him; if not, these people were no different from ants.

"I know."

Young Master Yun kept silent and rested on the wall to speak with Ye Zhongming. Old Jia saw that he wouldn't get any food, so he returned in disappointment and apologized to the two of them.

Ye Zhongming took the chance to find out about Ying City. He was trying to gain some confidence before the event.

This event was a great chance but also an opportunity for vicious people to get rich. Although he didn't think there would be people who could threaten him, it was better to be prepared.

"If we want to talk about Ying City, there are four strongest factions." Hearing Ye Zhongming and his nephew ask him for information, Old Jia spoke excitedly. He lifted four fingers and said, "Renxing Battle Squad, Fierce Roar Battle Squad, Olive Green Assault Team, and Star Beauty Company."

Ye Zhongming nodded. He had heard of these names from Yuanshang. That invitation card was real and reliable.

"The strongest is Renxing Battle Squad. They are all evolved. At the start of the month, they had an operation at the train station in the south and killed a nest of rats. They got a few dozen level three crystals and hundreds of level two crystals. There was also an uncountable amount of level one crystal."

Young Master Yun smiled and knew that his uncle was exaggerating things. Cloud Peak wiped out the horde, and they still gained many crystals. Could there be more than twenty thousand rats in that nest?

"Now the leader of Renxing Battle Squad Bai Feng is a three-star evolved; he also has a job. There are other three-star subordinates under him and a handful of two-star. The others are one star."

Young Master Yun looked at his boss and smiled, but he said nothing.

"The other three factions are slightly weaker but also strong. All of them have three-star evolved."

"So many three stars?" Young Master Yun couldn't help but ask. His boss just turned three stars, so how did all these factions have three-star evolved already?

Old Jia said with certainty, "Right, Little Yun, you don't know, but Ying City was covered in blood for two weeks to get the three-star potions. Those factions went mad. Anyone who could provide the location of a three-star mutated lifeform would be given a level one crystal. Every level three

lifeform was a huge battle with many deaths. Of those few factions, Olive Green Assault Team lost half their members to get the three-star potion! The other factions aren't much better."

#### Chapter 263.5: Ying City Faction Leaderboard

There was fear in his tone, and it is evident that those scenes left a deep impression on him.

"This, aren't they using human life to get a three-star evolved?" Young Master Yun frowned and asked.

"Of course, if not?" Old Jia felt like his nephew was overreacting, "The wheel is so annoying. To evolve you need to kill lifeforms stronger than yourself. If you don't use life to trade then how will you evolve? Those small factions want to trade lives but don't have a chance!"

Ye Zhongming was calm, and all of these were normal to him. The resources of an entire squad would be focused on a handful of people. They would get strong and then give the others some benefits. Many people in the apocalypse understood, but no one could change it. If they left the team, they wouldn't have a chance to benefit from it, so they could only stay and get exploited.

"There are around ten second-rate factions, for example, Wings of Justice, Bleeding Lamp Battle Squad, Teen Mercenary Group, Peace Country, etc. A few of them also have three-star evolved but are weaker. For example, Wings of Justice. They were a strong faction before, but they lost many members when killing level three mutated lifeforms, so even if they had three-star evolved, their core is too weak."

"There are even more third-rate factions, so there is no point talking about them. Oh, right, there is a list regarding the strength of survivors. Do you want to listen?"

He didn't care about their reaction and continued, "First is Renxing Battle Squad, second is Star Beauty Company, Third is Fierce Roar Battle Squad, fourth is Olive Green Assault Team, fifth is Wings of Justice, sixth is Peace Country, seventh is Teen Mercenary Group. Eight is Ying City Jail, the Ninth is Bleeding Lamp, and the tenth is Burning Rage Squad. Hehe, that is the one your father and I are in. 11th... 31st is Sha Sha's Battle Squad. 32nd..."

Old Jia listed the top 40 with one breath.

Young Master Yun asked, "Ying City Jail? That isn't in Ying City, right?"

Old Jia nodded, "It is not within the city but within the Ying City range. People say they are strong, which is why they are included. Many factions around are ranked too. For example, there is Cloud Peak, a famous tourist location we visited before. I heard that the group there is also strong and ranked 41st."

Young Master Yun looked at the boss and couldn't hold his laughter, "Cloud Peak 41st? Shasha's Battle Squad 31st?"

Old Jia was stunned and thought, "Those are the rankings. It refreshes every half a month, and there are two more days to the new refresh."

Ye Zhongming felt connected with the rankings as such rankings appeared in all sorts of regions in the past. Mainly when survivors got more connected, everyone discussed and paid attention to these rankings.

In his last life, Ye Zhongming's squad was ranked within the top ten. Ye Zhongming was also around 100 in the ranged strength rankings and was quite strong.

But he wasn't a big figure in the province and even in the country.

But the faction he was in before hadn't appeared yet.

Moreover, Ye Zhongming heard that there was a solo strength leaderboard in his last life that only nine-star evolved and super factions could enter. But it only spread among the higher levels, so Ye Zhongming was unsure of the exact rankings.

On the other side, Leader Lin ate the food and shouted good night to Old Jia before he fell asleep.

Young Master Yun could tell the position his uncle had in this team.

No wonder. Old Jia was weak and didn't have weapons. He would get chased away if he didn't do the team's tiring jobs.

Old Jia stood helplessly and walked to the side of the roof to be the sentry. He didn't dare to talk to his nephew anymore. If the leader saw it, he would get beaten up.

Ye Zhongming told Old Jia to nap for the next half of the night. Young Master Yun's uncle wasn't young anymore and wasn't evolved. He had to do many tough jobs, so his body wasn't in a good state. Seeing Ye Zhongming choose to take over his job, he was grateful and thanked him profusely.

Ye Zhongming sneakily shoved a beef jerky into his hands. This was level two mutated boar meat, and Old Jia didn't recognize it. But after eating, his body would become much stronger.

Old Jia was even more grateful to Ye Zhongming and felt that Little Yun had made a good friend.

Young Master Yun lay on the side. He was awake when Ye Zhongming got up.

They didn't face any dangers at night. In the morning, Leader Lin told them to find food again. This time Ye Zhongming took out two bags of bread, which delighted them.

Old Jia's team belonged to Burning Fury Battle Squad, and they came out to find higher-level lifeforms. They didn't need to fight and just had to note the exact location. Hunting was the role of the elite squad. The other job they had was to gather level-one demon crystals.

The team moved around nearby in the morning and recorded the level-two mutated lifeforms before heading back to the base. At 2 pm, they returned to the base.

As the tenth-ranked team in Ying City, their camp was in a leisure square within an old district. The squad used bricks, cement, or abandoned cars to block the buildings. Each window was blocked too. They used the buildings as walls to build a decently stable base.

They climbed a short wall using a firefighter ladder and entered the base. The standard apocalypse base entered their eyes.

Many people greeted Leader Lin and asked about what they gained during the trip.

Apart from three elite teams, they had close to 20 average teams. Each team had a competitive relationship. Warm greetings contained an intent to probe.

Ye Zhongming followed the team, and as a foreign face, he attracted attention. Leader Lin said he was there to find someone, so others stopped asking. Such a thing often happened with the other factions too. Many people started to find their relatives once they could survive well.

But Ye Zhongming felt weird about the group; some were furious and uneasy.

Someone walked out from the center of the camp. It was a group of five, and that caused the camp to quieten down.

“Who is this?” Leader Lin looked at the outsider that walked out from the higher-class resting area.

“Jill Warrior Squad that is ranked 23rd.”

“What is this bunch of madman doing here?” Leader Lin had a look of fear, and he shuddered.

“What else? For that invitation card. Since the prince got in trouble, everyone discovered our Burning Rage situation. Our strength dropped, and we will be outside the top 30 when the rankings refresh. They were fortunate and found a three-star potion so their rankings would rise. They think they have the right to go to the trading event. They didn’t dare to touch the other top 20 factions, so they are here to bully us.”

That person was furious, but there was nothing he could do. Jill Warrior Squad was stronger than them, and that was a fact.

Old Jia took a look, but as a normal survivor, he had no right to join in. He told Leader Lin he would bring his nephew to find his father, so he chased them away like flies.

Ye Zhongming looked at the proud Jill Warrior Squad and followed Young Master Yun and Old Jia away.

“Little Yun, your father and I live in the warehouse ahead. Although conditions aren’t good but at least it is safe. Your father and I take turns hunting; if lucky, we can get a crystal to trade for many days of food. Our life here is quite good.”

The three of them walked and arrived at the warehouse. They could see many gathered at the entrance from afar, and people were cursing.

“Damn, do you still think you are as powerful as before? Let me tell you, you are nothing! I take a bottle of water, and you dare to spit at me? Are you tired of living? Speak, will you kneel?”

“Kneel your head!”

A man shouted. Young Master Yun was stunned when he heard that voice, and his face flushed red. He charged toward that voice.

Ye Zhongming squinted and followed behind slowly.

#### Chapter 264: Lend me your team (1)

Taking this gap that Young Master Yun created when he pushed everyone, Ye Zhongming managed to see what was happening at the entrance. A group was dragging a middle-aged man whose face had obvious beating wounds. Two of them even kicked his bent knee to force him to kneel.

Young Master Yun punched that guy and hit the two that were kicking that middle-aged guy.

“Aiya, what are you doing?” Old Jia naturally wasn’t as quick as the two evolved, and when he arrived, he saw his brother-in-law on the ground and covered in wounds. They were fighting a small group of people.

Ye Zhongming felt helpless seeing Young Master Yun fight but knew this was how people who just evolved fought. Their bodies evolved but fought without a strategy, relying solely on their bodies. Their fighting skills were actually no different from ordinary people.

Such a situation would slowly disappear as the apocalypse progressed. Survivors would learn from lessons to better utilize their bodies and the strength they got from evolving.

This team that lived here should be one of the stronger Burning Rage teams. Seeing a foreign kid find trouble, they didn’t hold back, and the others started to attack him. Young Master Yun was instantly on the back foot.

Old Jia was kicked by the group, holding his waist as he tried to climb up. Seeing Ye Zhongming stand there, he shouted, “Help, Little Yun. If not, he would get beaten to death.”

Bases at the start of the apocalypse were the same as survivors not knowing how to use their bodies, everything was in a period of adaptation, and they weren’t used to things. There weren’t any rules regarding beating people to death. The base leaders wouldn’t punish a team just because they killed a stranger. So if Young Master Yun died, then it would be for nothing.

Old Jia was anxious. He pounced beside Ye Zhongming and wanted him to help. Although this weak-looking kid couldn’t do much, at least he could take hits and damage. Maybe Young Master Yun wouldn’t die as a result.

Ye Zhongming looked at Old Jia. He didn’t say a word, and he didn’t move either.

Young Master Yun was one-star evolved, and he had a job. He was also a warrior that passed the horde. He was disadvantaged because he was anxious that his father was beaten up. Once he collected himself, he could easily defeat these people.

He had no potential if he needed Ye Zhongming’s help dealing with a team with two one-star and seven ordinary people.

“Damn, this kid has such a good gun? It is mine now!”

The guy that forced Young Master Yun’s father to kneel snatched the gun he dropped, and greed flashed in his eyes. After which, his gaze toward Young Master Yun was dark and sunken.

“Kill him! He dares to spoil my matters; he is asking to die!”

Old Jia saw that Ye Zhongming wasn't moving, so he could only charge forwards. But with his strength, he was beaten in less than two seconds.

More and more people gathered. The commotion here shocked many people.

Young Master Yun started to fight back.

He suddenly grabbed a leg that kicked at him. That person fell towards Young Master Yun, and then he was kicked aside, dropping the person at the side.

He stood up and aimed at another, preparing to hit him down. Young Master Yun gave a heavy fist to his face.

He went all out this time.

Hungry Tiger Cavalry was now under Ye Zhongming. He had mutated animal meat with him when he left, so his fist was much heavier than normal one-star evolved. His target was also a normal person. He couldn't cause his head to explode, but it was easy to snap his neck. He hit that person, and half his face collapsed.

The others were stunned, this... The person died?

Although people from Burning Rage would die daily, few of them would be killed by other humans. Only the captain and the leaders would do that, which would happen occasionally.

But now, this stranger had killed someone, which was a huge issue.

Although Young Master Yun wasn't as arrogant as before, he still had that bit in him so that he could kill quickly. He continued to charge, and a moment later, he killed four of those who attacked him. One of them was an evolved.

Young Master Yun took out the dagger he hid on his waist and stabbed the throat of the evolved.

The death of one person vs. the death of four was different. The same was the death of an evolved compared to an average person's death.

The news spread quickly throughout the squad, and many people ran over.

The leader was shocked by how vicious this stranger was. He raised a gun and wanted to kill Young Master Yun.

But Young Master Yun was wary of him and tossed his dagger into his heart.

The others scattered, and no one was within ten meters of Young Master Yun.

Old Jia was stunned. His nephew, who he didn't have high hopes for, who only knew how to play with girls, who only knew how to spend money and drive expensive cars, he was so strong now?

His father also sat up and looked stunned as he saw the son, who he thought was dead, kill people for him. His eyes felt wet, and he suddenly realized that the apocalypse wasn't too bad. His son had grown up.

But Young Master Yun's father realized something. He struggled and grabbed the arm of his son, who was looking at him with teary eyes, "Go, go, you killed someone. If you don't go, then it is too late."

Young Master Yun calmed his father down and glanced at Ye Zhongming. He was confident when he saw his boss's calmness and smiled in disdain, "Don't worry, let's go together."

Young Master Yun was not afraid of everything with the boss by his side. Burning Rage was top ten in Ying City, but who was his boss? Who was Cloud Peak? Young Master Yun felt like they could compare to Renxing Battle Squad. A tenth place might even get wiped out by his boss.

Old Jia and Young Master Yun's father pulled him, but they couldn't drag a one-star away.

"Young Master Yun is right; it is okay." Ye Zhongming saw the two old anxious men and just said casually.

Young Master Yun stopped caring and took out two evolution potions he passed to them, "Father, uncle, inject them!"

This stunned both of them and also those around them.

The stranger took out an evolution potion? Two at once?

Burning Rage Battle Squad could rank top ten before they had losses, but they only had a few dozen evolved, which took out a tenth of the camp. An evolution potion was a dream for everyone. This bald young man took two out at once!

Many evolved team leaders were tempted, and they glanced at his bag.

The group split up, and a person walked over. The leader was a 25-year-old teen. He glanced at the corpses, and Rage appeared on his face. He pointed at Young Master Yun and shouted, "Kill them!"

Ye Zhongming frowned and said calmly, "You want to kill before asking about the situation. You can do that to enemies but isn't that a bit out of hand to do it to people from the camp?"

That young man turned towards him and scoffed, "Also him!"

The people who followed him charged without saying anything. They used daggers and blades. Seeing their moves, they were all evolved.

These people should be from the elite squad.

"Second Young Master, listen to my explanation." Old Jia shouted and wanted him to take back his orders.

But before he said anything, Old Jia was dazed. That young man, around his nephew's age, appeared before the Second Young Master and grabbed his neck!

"Also... Me?"

Killing intent surged in his eyes, and he was about to crush this bully.

"This friend, please show mercy."

Chapter 265: Lend me your team (2)

A muscular guy with a grey jacket walked over with a thick bandage around his waist.

Ye Zhongming glanced and sniffed the scent of a two-star evolved.

"Boss!"

“Boss!”

“Brother Bao!”

People around quickly greeted this muscular guy close to 50 but looked like a 40-year-old man.

The person called Brother Bao stopped three meters from Ye Zhongming and spread his arms, “This friend, sorry that this kid offended you. I shall apologize on his behalf, and I am willing to make compensation.”

The others were shocked when they heard the boss say that.

Burning Rage was top ten in Ying City. Although they couldn’t wipe everyone, very few dared to offend them. Brother Bao was very famous, and even Renxing Battle Squad’s Boss Bai Feng was polite to him.

But who knew he would lower himself towards this kid who might not have graduated from university? Not only would he not care about him killing people, but he would also compensate him. What was going on?

Every if he controlled Second Young Master, did he dare to attack? Was he not afraid that Burning Rage would rip him to pieces?

Ye Zhongming had an idea. He relaxed his arm, allowing Second Young Master to breathe, but his face turned red. His eyes were bloodshot, but he didn’t dare to struggle if he offended the person who controlled his life.

Brother Bao’s eyes lit up when he saw Ye Zhongming do that, “Let’s talk in my room; I have some Western wine. Let’s talk while drinking?”

He instructed his men, “Why are you clearing this place up? Tell the chef to make a few good dishes. I am going to drink with this brother!”

Although his men didn’t understand, they were orders, so some people went to the chef.

Brother Bao walked beside Ye Zhongming and slapped Seonc Young Master, “Ignorant fool, scram to the side.”

“Brother, please be kind and let go. You are a three-star evolved and can sweep this place. Don’t waste your effort on my kid. I apologize on behalf of him, also....”

Brother Bao looked at Old Jia and Young Master Yun’s father, “I will provide their potion as compensation for today. If you are unhappy, then we can discuss it.”

Three-star?

The people were stunned. This weak teen was a three-star evolved? When the Second Young Master heard those words, he became well-behaved. He lowered his head and stood behind his father.

Old Jia and his team were more shocked—especially Leader Lin. Thinking about how he ordered this three-star evolved around, he felt lucky to be alive. His back was covered in a cold sweat.

Young Master Yun looked at his father and uncle, who were in disbelief, “My boss.”

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Different from the abandoned warehouse, Brother Bao's living area was much better. A few people sat around a round table. Brother Bao and Ye Zhongming were at the main spots. Beside Ye Zhongming were Young Master Yun, his father, and his uncle. Brother Bao had his son and another person. He was the leader of another elite squad Peng Tai from the introductions.

Second Young Master apologized to Ye Zhongming, and he just waved to move on. This made Brother Bao relax. He poured wine for Ye Zhongming before talking to him.

This person was calm. His behavior was one of a strong and successful person during peacetime. Ye Zhongming didn't say anything. Young Master Yun's father was the one that spoke with Brother Bao. The two talked and seemed close.

"Jill Warrior Squad."

Ye Zhongming suddenly said a name that sent the atmosphere to a freezing point. Rage flashed on Brother Bao's face, and they said, "Brother heard about it previously. Right, those people came here and wanted my invitation card. If not for them being afraid of me going all out, they might have stolen from me!"

"If big brother... They won't be so arrogant. One day I will personally wipe this bunch out!"

Second Young Master scoffed coldly and clenched his fists. If Jill Warrior Squad didn't anger him, he wouldn't have been so hot-tempered at the warehouse and nearly offended a three-star evolved.

Ye Zhongming touched his ears and asked, "Allow me to be impolite, how did the prince...."

Brother Bao smiled, "Nothing impolite, my son is not a price; the others just call him that for fun."

"Haiz." He sighed and continued, "A few days ago, we saw a building, and many level-one and two monsters flew out. They saw many weird plants in the fifth story. Apart from branches, they had a grey sac that beat like a heart."

Ye Zhongming sat up straight.

"There were many of these flying monsters, around a few hundred. Every day they would head out to hunt zombies and humans. They would eat a portion and bring some back to the building for these plants. My men risked their lives to observe and see that those flying monsters would appear from those sacs after some time. Most are one-star. The thickest tree would give rise to level-two monsters!

Ye Zhongming's eyes lit up. He didn't expect that he could find such a chance to get rich.

"One day, one tree could give birth to one level-one monster. That biggest tree would give birth to one level-two monster after three days."

Brother Bao drank the wine in his cup, "The trees are level three. We found 20 by ourselves. This is a huge fortune along with the level one and two monsters. They blinded me and ignored the dozen men that died when scouting. I brought people over to try to get rich."

“I thought the level three trees weren’t terrifying, and we could just run up to cut them to death. My big son was three-star evolved and had a group of men, so we were confident to deal with those level one and two monsters. So we went all out, but who knew...”

He described the battle process, but Ye Zhongming knew what had happened as he had met such a monster.

When Brother Bao finished, Ye Zhongming placed his cup down, “Brother Bao, I don’t need the potions for your compensation.”

The others looked at Ye Zhongming and didn’t know what he meant.

“Just lend me your team.”

Chapter 266: Deep Abyss Ghost Nest

Time before dawn during the apocalypse felt darker than the abyss.

Screams spread in the skies above Ying City. Along with it was the gory scent that didn’t dissipate even with the wind blowing.

These things reminded the breathing humans that this was the apocalypse. They weren’t commoners, but they were survivors.

Brother Bao led his men to lay in ambush in a home furniture shop. They looked at the flying monsters in the sky.

He had led the group to wait here for an hour. The sofa, which would cost white-collared workers three months’ pay to purchase, was now hot from his body heat, but he still didn’t get the signal to attack.

But he wasn’t anxious as that person said before he left that when the first streak of light descended, that would be the time for them to make a move.

As for borrowing his team, Brother Bao knew that he had no choice. Since his eldest son died, he learned how to judge the situation. Thus, when the guy whose smile gave off a killing intent told him to set off overnight, he led his team.

Nighttime during the apocalypse was always something that humans avoided.

But that person led all of them here peacefully, which made Brother Bao confident in this operation.

Right. Even when he agreed to lead the team here, he didn’t think this building was one that this kid could clear. He felt like this guy would end up like his eldest son.

But he still came as he felt some hope, just that the need for a miracle this time was much larger than before.

“Brother Bao! Here!”

Jiang Tai shouted, which caused him to bounce up from the sofa. He went near the window to look outside.

There was a streak of red on the horizon that was slowly turning bright.

“Move!”

Brother Bao gave an order, and Burning Rage charged out from the shop. Many of them had lighters that they lit up. Then extinguished, then lit up again.

One could instantly hear the sound of monsters flying.

“Head to that building!” Brother Bao charged into the building on the side. There was a bank server room there that was suitable to defend.

Burning Rage cleared 30 meters of this 50-meter distance before the first monster flew toward them.

Battle rang out.

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Ye Zhongming stood on the roof, and when he saw the light, he turned around and walked into the building.

The monster that swallowed Brother Bao’s son was Deep Abyss Ghost Hive, a special alien monster. They were previously known as the living plague.

A mother body would first appear, giving out a gas that could cause illusions. Once other lifeforms walked into the gas, they would have illusions. If they got close to the mother body, it would kill them and use them as nutrients.

This mother body would start to reproduce. It would use the giant nests on its branches to give birth to the lifeform-- Blood Swallow.

This flying being flew exceptionally quickly and had a strong attack. They also had a skill that made use of soundwaves. They weren’t large. A level three and four Blood Swallow was only the size of a dog. A level one and two one sounded like a mature cat. Ye Zhongming hadn’t seen any of them that were above level four.

As the Blood Swallows knew how to fly and the soundwaves would stun. With their mouths and sharp claws, humans and zombies were in danger when they faced them.

But they had their weaknesses which were their bodies. A level three and four Blood Swallow could be killed by a full-strength strike of a two-star evolved. So in front of survivors with special skills and strong mental energy, they were the best source of demon crystals.

But at the start of the apocalypse, there weren’t many humans that could threaten the Blood Swallows.

After the Deep Abyss Ghost Nest produced enough Blood Swallows to protect the mother body and hunt for food, they would reproduce in another way—the new Deep Abyss Ghost Nests or the child.

These child would proliferate after absorbing enough nutrients, mature quickly, and produce Blood Swallows. Apart from being unable to give birth to new children, they were just as terrifying as the mother body.

Based on what Brother Bao scouted, this building had over twenty of these nests and could produce 20 swallows daily. After these few days, the number of Blood Swallows would be more than when they scouted.

Ye Zhongming came to the seventh floor carefully. After he entered the building, he held his breath. From how Burning Rage's men died mysteriously here, he guessed that the Deep Abyss Ghost Nest evolved the illusionary gas into a poison, so he had to be wary of it.

Fortunately, he could hold his breath for a few minutes with his three-star evolved body.

He heard some sounds when he was on the sixth floor. The Deep Abyss Ghost Nests made a squirming noise and also the sound of Blood Swallows flapping their wings. There was also the sound of the 'fertilizer' captured previously.

Ye Zhongming got to the 5th story and used the rising sun to see the black or dark brown colored nests.

There were 20 of them, and those giant sacs were squirming. Each move would spit out a green gas from its few pores.

Ye Zhongming was found out right away. They might not have sharp senses like other animals, but when the danger was so close, they could notice it. If not, they wouldn't be called the living plague.

A dozen Blood Swallows pounced from all corners toward him.

The moment they noticed him, Ye Zhongming started his attack.

After becoming a three-star evolved, Flaming Blade was much stronger, and its effect on these plants improved. Even the rising sun outside couldn't mask the glow from his blade.

The Blood Swallows and Deep Abyss Ghost Nests in his way were split into two!

Ye Zhongming was like a demon. He didn't hold back at all, slashing time after time.

A group of them were killed.

Brother Bao's idea was good. The nests were here, and they just had to kill them. But they didn't have the understanding that Ye Zhongming had. He held his breath the moment he entered. If not, he would have lost before things even began. They also didn't have strong attacks like he had that could wipe out many enemies in a short time to reduce the dangers they faced.

So they lost. Even a three-star evolved died here. As for Ye Zhongming, he could kill everything here.

Ye Zhongming wiped out half of the 20-30 nests with two blades. He wanted to end the fight, but his eyes flashed, and he noticed a woman standing before him.

En? Xia Lei?

This beautiful woman who dared to joke with Ye Zhongming walked over and pressed her body onto him. That exquisite body's touch could send a guy crazy. More surprisingly, that woman grabbed his hand and pressed it onto her chest.

At that moment, there were more sounds behind him. He glanced and saw Liang Chuyin. Half her body was on his back. That face buried into his neck, and a warm tongue followed his muscles up.

Comfort surged from his feet up to his head!

This wasn't it. For some reason, Mo Ye appeared behind Xia Lei and smiled at Ye Zhongming like never before. She smiled while starting to undress!

These three women who were the first to follow Ye Zhongming were doing all sorts of alluring motions.

It was as if Ye Zhongming had placed his guard down, and he allowed them to move over and tease him.

Suddenly, the blade about to drop to the ground flicked up, and he used Flaming Blade ahead. The light and flames instantly covered the three women.

Chapter 267: Another level four

There was the ear-piercing sound of metal rubbing. Xia Lei, Mo Ye, and Liang Chuyin disappeared, and things returned to normal.

The third Flaming Blade killed all the Deep Abyss Ghost Nests on this floor. The Blood Swallows, whose strongest was level two, were dead and didn't threaten Ye Zhongming.

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Only the giant mother body was alive. Its sac was sliced, and green liquid flowed out from inside. In the liquid was an unborn Blood Swallow that struggled to get up. But its immature body caused its hard work to go to waste.

There was also a green crystal on the thick stem sliced open.

Everything that happened previously had an explanation.

This mother body evolved after eating Brother Bao's three-star evolved son and became four-star. Its abilities improved. Those illusions could affect humans through their skin even without them breathing. Ye Zhongming couldn't defend against that and was affected.

Fortunately, he came to his senses.

The reason was that this nest was too eager to kill Ye Zhongming. When it controlled his mind and used his memories to create the illusion, he wanted to create all the women in his life. Xia Lei and Liang Chuyin would do things like that but not Mo Ye. Ye Zhongming picked out this flaw and woke up from the illusion.

Although he took only half a minute to kill the nests, and the illusion only lasted a few seconds, he was still terrified.

He was unafraid to fight head-on against strong enemies like the Throat Locker. At least now that he was a three-star evolved, he was confident that he could battle a four-star evolved. He was more afraid of these weird skills that caught him off guard. If not for him coming back to his senses quickly, he would fall deeper into the illusion and get ripped into pieces by those Blood Swallows that were close.

But his gains were good too.

Ye Zhongming knew that the Mother Body summoned those Blood Swallows out hunting, so he quickly kept all the crystals here. He dug the level four crystal and a white piece of matter in the center of its roots. That was its essence, and there was a special use for it.

Some Blood Swallows were already flying back, and seeing the trees that gave birth to them die, they charged furiously at him. They used their soundwaves at him.

Ye Zhongming was prepared and used Blood Stepping Boot's Quickness skill to charge to the staircase. Although he was affected by the soundwave, he managed to get out unscathed.

These Blood Swallows wouldn't let the enemy go and continued to charge. But what they faced was the shots from the Explosive Mechanic.

In a narrow staircase, such an attack was destructive.

.....

Brother Bao was terrified downstairs as those flying monsters were too scary. There was a considerable number of them, and they were quick as lightning. Their flying speed was so fast that a two-star evolved like him couldn't react. Ten of them died in just a short while, two of which were evolved.

For so many to die in just two minutes, he wanted to flee.

But these monsters flew away and became hot-tempered.

Young Master Yun rushed over and saw the anxious Brother Bao. Coincidentally, Ye Zhongming sent a signal too. After the group entered the building, Brother Bao was shocked by what he saw. The weird plants that were his nightmare were all killed. The flying beasts that had caused them a huge problem now covered the entire floor.

Young Master Yun was not shocked at all. His boss could kill a four-star zombie when he was two-star evolved. Now that he was three-star, what was surprising that he could kill this same-level tree monster?

Brother Bao was emotional and ran to the dead mother tree. He raised his axe and hacked at it. His son died here, so he was naturally furious about it.

He told Young Master Yun to collect the crystals, and once Brother Bao vented all his anger, he handed the middle-aged man a can of coffee.

He wiped his tears and drank it all.

"Boss, 330 level one crystal, 18 level two."

Young Master Yun passed them to Ye Zhongming.

"Give the level-one crystals to Brother Bao."

Brother Bao was stunned when he heard that. Honestly, he was happy that he could take revenge for his son even though they lost a few men. When they hunted level-three monsters, they suffered even more deaths. Poisoning people who were alive so that zombies could eat them. Use lives as bait for level-three monsters to enter an ambush. Burn entire buildings or force one star evolved to hug level-three lifeforms to jump into acid.

Brother Bao had done all of that before. No conscience? That might be true. But other factions did that, too; if not, how could they kill a level-three lifeform?

Ye Zhongming forced him here, and he didn't consider getting any reward. He was even prepared for Ye Zhongming to abandon him and for him to have to flee with his son.

He saw the demon crystals that Young Master Yun passed him and was stunned. He was considering whether or not the young guy would kill him if he took it.

"Jill Warrior Squad took your invitation card, but are you interested in making a trip there with me?"

He took out his card and waved it at Brother Bao, who was at a loss for words.

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Trade Walking Street was one of the most prosperous regions in Ying City. During peacetime, there would be people here, even late at night.

But such a place would be a death zone during the apocalypse. The number of zombies wiped out all hope of life.

Even now, two months after the start, there were still dense zombie hordes here that were moving about slowly, like how the prosperous crowds moved around here during peacetime.

This was the place that Renxing Battle Squad had set; it was the roof of a building here.

Without some strength, you couldn't even get close to this place.

At that moment, all the leaders of the strong factions in Ying City moved towards the location.

Chapter 268: Showing their skills

Bei Feng stood on the roof, followed by five of his men.

He looked at the dense horde, and he was a little stunned. He recalled how he held hands with a girl and walked these streets, how they shared a Hagen Daaz ice cream, how they enjoyed time here without spending a single dollar. It was as if all of this had happened yesterday.

A zombie would occasionally raise its head; its eye sockets were empty. It wasn't that it saw the humans on the roof; it was just a spontaneous motion that woke Bai Feng up.

His life, people from before, and emotions from before were all gone. It was the cold apocalypse now.

He had a gentle gaze, but that was now turned into determination.

"Boss, someone is here."

Bai Feng glanced and saw a person flying into the building on the east.

Right, he was flying. But he wasn't flying; he was carrying a simple flying device.

He wasn't swift, but he was stable and quiet. This meant that the chance of the device being noticed by animals and plants was low, so naturally, it was much safer.

"Teen Mercenary Group's leader Lei Dongbao."

Bai Feng's lips curled up, and thought about those twenty-year-olds who were very arrogant. He felt like such a way of appearance suited them.

"Boss Bai, since we worked together to kill that level three mutated cockroach, it has been days since we met."

Lei Dongbao flew over and landed on the roof. He switched off the flying device and smiled as he walked to Bai Feng's side.

"Seems like Dongbao has gained a good thing." Bai Feng looked at his flying device and also at the pouch he had on his waist.

Lei Dongbao smiled, "I did, but it is nothing much compared to you."

Bai Feng stopped and then looked towards where he flew from, "Seems like you don't trust me."

The boss of the Teen Mercenary Group was not surprised that the strongest person in Ying City had realized that he brought his men. "Of course not, just that you called so many people over; there are so many random people, so of course, I am afraid."

"Hong long!"

A giant machinery roar spread from another street. A heavy mixer charged over like a beast that squashed all the zombies along the way. Their blood and meat covered the road.

"Old Li..." Bai Feng and Lei Dongbao were stunned. They looked at the two mixers drive over and saw five people jumping out. They threw out grappling claws and climbed up quickly. After doing it twice, they were on the roof.

"Hello, Boss Bai, isn't that Little Dongbao?" A guy covered in grease with a beard waved his greasy hands at the two leaders.

"Can all of you give me a second? I will tell him to drive it away."

He reached his head out and waved towards the mixer that was now empty but was still rumbling. The car started to move forwards. It was a few hundred meters out a few moments later, and the engine stopped. A bunch of zombies were attracted by it, but they would not gain anything from chasing it.

Bai Feng and Lei Dongbao looked at one another; while they were disdainful of how he appeared, they saw envy in each other's eyes. This Old Li was a mechanic before the start of the apocalypse, and he gained a job called "Driver." He had great control of cars. The Fierce Roar Battle Squad had the best tools in the entire Ying City. They were ranked in the top three because of that job.

At the same time, people were exclaiming. They turned their heads and saw a person fly over.

This flight was different from Lei Dongbao. This was more of a jump. He relied on momentum and not other forces.

Everyone looked at where he came from and saw a dozen people in another building. In the middle was a giant trampoline, and a person was jumping on it. He jumped faster and faster and suddenly exerted strength. He followed the tracks of the first person and shot over.



Lei Dongbao laughed, “This is the Silver Cake Battle Squad ranked 15th, right? I heard that most of them came from the gymnastics team. How funny. Are they going to jump over one by one? This distance... It is a hundred meters; are they not afraid they would fall?”

Bei Feng looked at the trampoline and said, “No, only a two-star evolved would be able to cross this distance accurately.”

Oh? Old Li brought his men over and heard Bai Feng say he was slightly interested in that trampoline.

When Silver Cake Battle Squad’s five men were here, squads who got the invitations appeared one after another in different ways. Some snuck their way up; some used ropes. Some rode flying pets—some used job skills. There was even a person that used a tightrope.

They used all sorts of methods, but to a certain extent, it showed the ability of their teams and themselves.

These things were precious information. Bai Feng chose this spot so that he could understand the various factions. It was a smart move.

“Yi, isn’t that Sha Sha? Why is she here?”

Lei Dongbao saw a woman slide over from one of the metal ropes and was slightly shocked.

Renxing Battle Squad invited the top 20 factions and passed a few cards to trading factions. But Sha Sha’s Battle Squad was not one of them. Honestly, even if they were ranked 30th before, it was because of her beauty. However, she had an ugly birthmark on her face.

“We sent it to her yesterday. After the rankings updated, her battle squad is 20th.”

“20th?” Lei Dongbao was shocked, “She is rising quickly.”

“I heard that she got a bunch of one-star potions.” Bai Feng replied. He didn’t care much about those who were low-ranked. He knew that they were just side characters.

Seeing her bring people over, some factions with connections with her greeted her.

Bei Feng looked around and frowned slightly.

“What is it, Boss Bai? Is everyone here?” Star Beauty Company’s CEO Li Liancheng asked.

“One more, if they don’t come within three minutes, then we won’t wait for them...”

Before he even finished, there was some shock in the group. Bai Feng glanced and saw a 20-person team appear below.

They looked at their equipment, and their brows furrowed.

Sha Sha, looking quietly, saw a young face within the group and was shocked.

That young man raised his head coincidentally to see Sha Sha. He smiled and even waved.

Chapter 269: Rainbow Gate auction

“They are from... Burning Rage.”

A faction leader took a look and was slightly uncertain.

He knew that Burning Rage had suffered considerable losses in an operation, and their top person had died. They were probably ranked outside the top twenty in the new rankings. They also heard that Jill Warrior Squad took their invitation card, so they now have no cards.

Not many people knew about this, but there were a few. They looked at Jill Warrior Squad, and they had a feeling that a conflict would happen today.

“Are they planning just to kill their way over?”

“Looks like it, they are... Too arrogant!”

“They are asking to die. This is the city center, there are at least eight thousand zombies here, and many are high-level. They are so brazen; are they not afraid of being drowned by the zombies?”

“But look at their equipment. They are all grey, and they are uniform. Grey Protective Gear and also a grey blade! Just these equipment alone are worth many evolution potions.”

“I didn’t know that Burning Rage had all these. Did they meet a Smith?”

“Maybe they nurtured a smith?”

“With their strength, can they? Only Boss Bai and Star Beauty can afford to raise a Smith; can a Smith even bother about anyone else? That is one of the strongest jobs in the apocalypse.”

“But did you notice? They are very well trained. They stuck close to the walls and didn’t make a sound. Only the zombies around noticed them. Moreover, their uniforms are very tight, and they covered the human scent. There is also zombie blood on it so that they wouldn’t draw the horde.”

Many factions discussed. Many people who didn’t understand what was happening also learned from those conversations. Their expressions towards this swiftly approaching battle squad changed.

Some admired their courage, respected their brains, and admired how they used the most ordinary but shocking way of appearing.

Some were envious that they could get such good equipment and were moving like a strong military force.

But some scoffed at them and didn’t care much about this team.

The team was efficient and chose a perfect angle to enter the battlefield. They found a way to sneak to this position before charging out. It looked reckless but was close to the building, just a few dozen meters. They crossed this route and entered the building along with their efficient kills.

Everyone here had lived for two months in the apocalypse and were the small portion of evolved who had adapted. They knew that this simple action needed courage, strength, and foresight. If any of them made noise or tried to flee, they would get surrounded and ripped into pieces.

Burning Rage dropped to 23rd in the latest rankings, but even that was too low for them. Many factions in Ying City had such strength, but why didn't they choose to appear like that? It was because they weren't as confident to do it as well.

A few minutes later, the stairs up to the roof were pushed, and this team appeared in front of everyone.

"Scoff."

Jill Warrior Squad's member saw Brother Bao and laughed coldly. Even after Burning Rage showed them the right way of fighting as a team, this wasn't very impressive to them. How could they hand over their invitation card if they were that strong?

Sha Sha looked at Ye Zhongming, who was unassuming in the team. She didn't know why he would appear and be with Burning Rage, but she knew things would be exciting today.

She looked at Young Master Yun, whom she had fought alongside. She frowned and was slightly unhappy.

Those two had been working together, but they excluded her! Although they might not be doing anything good, they didn't invite her!

Sha Sha looked at Ye Zhongming's white face and wanted to bite it.

"Since everyone is here, then let's go." Bai Feng saw Brother Bao hand an invitation card over, His expression changed slightly, but he didn't say anything and clapped his hands.

He then walked to a side and moved his right hand. A colorful oval gate appeared. Many people retreated instinctively and were wary of this strange thing.

"Rainbow Gate?!"

Ye Zhongming's eyes opened wide. He recognized it right away.

This was a short-distance teleportation tool that needed mental energy. After activating it, one could teleport to a specific location.

Rainbow Gates had different teleportation distances. The most common one was around 2 kilometers, and there would be a cooldown time after you fixed a location.

Although this was support equipment, it was really useful. Ye Zhongming, who had seen many good things in his last life, was tempted when he saw this.

"I will go first, and then my men will be last, then will everyone be at ease?" Knowing they were wary, Bai Feng smiled, "This time, we are just using things we don't need to trade for. We do need to raise our strengths and speed up our evolution. This is good for everyone. I won't try to con all of you, don't worry."

He walked in. Next were factions that were close to him. Other people hesitated.

“Go, enter.”

Ye Zhongming said softly to Brother Bao, and he led his men first. He was filled with respect toward Ye Zhongming. He instantly switched equipment for two of his teams, making everyone listen to his instructions. When they killed the zombies, it was because Ye Zhongming was instructing them. His orders were very detailed, so you didn’t even need to think and just had to follow instructions. He told you to lift your blade and slash and when to walk. It was so simple.

Those on the roof saw Such a simple act as something perfect. Brother Bao respected Ye Zhongming for that.

Seeing that others entered, more people started to walk in. In just a while, the busy roof was empty.

Brother Bao was dazzled as the scenes changed. He saw that he was in a huge meeting room. He looked out the window and saw that this was the top floor of a skyscraper.

Many people were busy, and Bai Feng stood behind a wooden desk.

Bai Feng told everyone to sit before saying slowly, “I have told you the goal for this event so that I won’t repeat it. Let me tell you the procedure; we will have an auction. Renxing Battle Squad will start, the highest bidder wins, and the currency will be demon crystals.”

“Then we will follow the latest rankings to auction things off. You set the price, and others bid.”

“After this, it would be a free and easy trading time. You can say what you need, and people with other needs can raise their trading conditions. As long as you agree, you can trade. Of course, you can bid if many people are interested in one thing. I don’t care.”

After saying that, Bai Feng flicked his fingers, and 20 girls in black skirts walked in. They gave each leader water and a cigarette before standing at the side. This made the auction seem more high-class.

“Then let me take the lead.” Bai Feng smiled. His man carried a tray and placed it on the wooden platform before him.

“This is the first thing I would like to auction.” He took off the cloth covering the tray.

Chapter 270: Time to pick up spoils

Oh?

Many people looked at the tray and saw a red stone.

“This is something our Renxing Battle Squad got during an adventure. We don’t know what it is but we can sense its heat. It is probably useful for some job users, so we will use it to open the event.”

The others started to discuss. No one recognized this item, so no one started to bid.

“Do you know what this is?” Sha Sha sat directly next to Ye Zhongming, which attracted the gazes of many people. She observed that his eyes lit up, so she guessed he recognized the red stone.

“The base price is 200 level-one demon crystals or two level-one potions. Does anyone want it?”

Bai Feng shrugged, but he didn’t seem too disappointed. After all, each faction took out things they didn’t need. But evolved could sense the heat from inside, so Bai Feng took it out to try his luck.

“Bid.” Ye Zhongming said softly, and Brother Bao raised his hand.

Bai Feng nodded, “Brother Bao is bidding; what about the rest of you? Will anyone add to the bid?”

They weren’t professional auctioneers, and there was no need for any rituals, so the auction was casual.

The others discussed but no one bid. Jill Warrior Squad, who hated Burning Rage, didn’t cause trouble. After all, demon crystals weren’t money but things they used human life to trade for. They couldn’t joke around with it.

“Okay, then this stone with magical energy would belong to Burning Rage.”

Ye Zhongming smiled and knew that his gains today were what he expected. He was more knowledgeable than everyone else, so that he could pick up some spoils.

This red stone was a nature gem, a fire element nature gem. It was the same as the water and ice ones he had previously.

The nature gems were useless for most survivors at this stage. After all, humans hadn’t evolved to that level. But Ye Zhongming was an exception as he had the Nature Staff. This allowed him to use the nature gem.

Although he didn’t know what the fire element gem would do, ice, fire, and lighting were all attack skills. That made up for him not having any ice-element gems.

Moreover, although this was a one-time use item, for him to buy it for just two evolution potions was very cheap.

This also considered the difference in how many demon crystals they needed. As Ye Zhongming had the Basic Elimination Technique, he would choose gachapons that needed fewer crystals to get his potions. After eliminating one option, he would get more potions than others. The increase in chance meant he would need a few dozen to get a potion, while others required a hundred.

Two potions were just around 150 crystals for him. Others needed 200 crystals to purchase this, but he needed 50 less.

“What is this?” Sha Sha asked. She was curious about this stone.

Ye Zhongming pouted. It was tough to explain this. Moreover, he didn’t think there was a point in telling her.

“Mysterious!”

Seeing that he didn't reply, she crossed her arms, making her chests appear bigger. That attracted more perverted gazes.

"Next." Bai Feng was surprised that this unknown stone would get sold. He didn't think two evolution potions were cheap. He was a practical person. This thing might be useful in the future, but it wasn't now. So it was worth trading for something he could use now.

Another tray but this time, it wasn't covered. Everyone saw what was on it right away.

A shining key!

The moment he saw it, his blood started to surge.

Secret Realm Key!

Ye Zhongming got one of these on the first day of the Apocalypse, and it was still in his secret space. He didn't expect to see another one here today!

Secret Realm was something that was still really mysterious ten years later. Other people didn't know any information about the key besides those with the key. Each person with a key would become one of the strongest in the Apocalypse.

The only thing Ye Zhongming knew was that the thing the key opens would be filled with unknown dangers. Although he got a key, he hadn't used it. With his current three-star strength, he wasn't confident walking out of the Secret Realm.

But another one appeared. Moreover, he sensed an intense energy fluctuation. It was obvious that this key had been used.

Who used it? Could this thing be sealed again? Who owned it, and why were they selling it?

Ye Zhongming didn't expect such a thing on a low-scale trading event.

"This is the Secret Realm Key. Although I know its use but I can't solve its mysteries." Bai Feng had a face filled with regret, "Everyone has heard of Blue Bay Battle Squad, who was stronger than us, but they suddenly disappeared."

Most people knew about this. Blue Bay Battle Squad was the previous boss of Ying City. When they were around, Renxing Battle Squad was like a little brother. They were sneak attacked at night, and nearly all their members were lost. They rose like a meteor and fell like a meteor too.

"Some of their members were absorbed into my squad, which belonged to them." His gaze toward the key was different from when he saw the stone. He was very reluctant to sell it.

"Honestly, this was why Blue Bay Battle Squad was wiped out. They used this key and noticed that the things within were not something they could go up against. They could only flee. But only 1% of the people who went in survived."

Many people were shocked by the news. They had never heard of equipment that would cause one to face an enemy. This was even the first time that Ye Zhongming had heard about it.

“Boss Bai, this item is a problem, so why are you still selling it?”

A faction leader shouted, and many people agreed.

This thing caused the strong Blue Bay Battle Squad to collapse, so weren't they trying to con people now?

Bai Feng expected the question and calmly explained, “High risk means high reward. This thing is dangerous, and even I don't dare to enter. But what if you pass the dangers? What will you get? Higher-level potions? Stronger job scrolls? Overpowered skills? Who knows?”

He waved, “Apocalypse, gachapon... It is just a gamble of luck. Since that is the case, since we can even gamble with our lives, then why can't we gamble with this?”

His voice was loud, and he was determined, “Not only do I want to sell this to someone who dares to gamble something that I don't dare to, it won't be cheap. The person who wants to gamble needs to pay two... Two-star potions!”