

Black Iron 401

Chapter 401: Good News

In Eschyle, buildings that were made of rocks or cut into mountains existed everywhere. This city was built on the mountain. As a result, the most common bluish white dolerites became the primary raw material of all the buildings here. Many people even directly chose to build buildings on huge dolerites.

Those buildings ranged from small roadside stores with a size of 10m high to skyscrapers 100 m in height which rested between the mountain bodies.

Being different from those made of reinforced bars and cement, these buildings cut from rocks maintained the exterior lines of rocks or mountains. If not for the doors and windows, people would barely be able to distinguish them from common rocks or mountain bodies.

With these buildings, this city was filled with a wild and exotic ambiance.

Corresponding to this exotic motif, there was a wild feeling to the heavy business atmosphere and barbaric civilization. On the roadsides, people could see brands of firms and commercial organizations everywhere. Even though it was raining heavily, people carrying various weapons could still be seen all over the streets. Most of the men on the streets would carry a very remarkable weapon. Even women and kids were carrying sabers and swords. It was really Zhang Tie's first time seeing such a city.

In the heavy rain, Zhang Tie flashed through the relatively quieter alleys and streets. Being covered by the sound of raindrops, he didn't catch anyone's attention. It was too common for a traveler to move hurriedly in the rain to seek shelter in Eschyle City.

Knowing that he had been tracked by people from Magical Snake Island, of course, Zhang Tie would not simply wander around without any target. Instead, he needed to find a place to change his appearance.

In about 10 minutes, Zhang Tie had already found a barber shop in a relatively quieter and narrow street.

Because of the heavy rain, there were few people on the street. As no guest was in the barber shop, the 40-odd-year old year barber was sitting inside the store lazily and watching the lines of raindrops flowing down the eaves with a glass window in front of him.

When Zhang Tie came to the door of the barber shop, he shook off raindrops from his waterproof raincoat before walked inside.

"Do you want to take shelter from the rain? Take a seat at your will. If you want to read a newspaper, take it from the table. But be warned, its three days old." At the sight of Zhang Tie coming in, the barber told him casually.

Zhang Tie replied with a smile as he undid his raincoat and his luggage before putting them behind the door, "I need a haircut!"

"You need a haircut?" After glancing at Zhang Tie, the barber immediately became spirited. He then asked Zhang Tie to sit in front of the mirror as he covered a cloth over Zhang Tie.

"Which hairstyle do you want?"

"Just make it look common. But it should be remarkably different than my current look. I like new things!" Zhang Tie replied casually.

"Okay!"

Under the barber's flying scissors, Zhang Tie's hair became much shorter than before. Now, Zhang Tie looked much more energetic.

After looking in the mirror, Zhang Tie nodded then asked, "Can you dye hair?"

"Yes, I can!"

"Dye my hair then!"

"But your blonde hair looks nice!"

"Hmm, I want a new fresh color." Zhang Tie scratched his head as he explained. People from Magical Snake Island might not have his photo. Additionally, fewer people knew him here. Therefore, it would be very difficult for people from Magical Snake Island to find him based on his look or hairstyle. According to his rich experience, after slightly changing a part of his look, he would easily avoid their spying.

"You young people really like being distinctive. Tell me, which color do you want? My dye is made of the juice of special colorful peals and rootstocks from the Ice and Snow Wildness. It'll cost 4 silver coins. Plus the hairdressing fee, you need to pay me 4 silver coins and 50 copper coins!"

"No problem."

"Which color do you want? Any color is available here!"

Zhang Tie remembered that many people had beige hair. Therefore, he answered, "Beige!"

"It might require 2 hours to dye your hair!"

"No problem. I have enough time." Zhang Tie revealed a smile as he picked up a newspaper in front of the mirror. At the same time, the barber started to make dye for him.

When the barber started to dye Zhang Tie's hair, Zhang Tie saw an alarming title on the 4th page of the newspaper "Eschyle Daily"—

—Animal Tide Threatened the Rhizotomists on Grey Hill, Felt Mongers Rubbed their Palms

It had been a long time since the animal tide broke out last time. Packs of iron-teeth Hyenas also started to wander around the Grey Hill. In the latest 2 weeks, Adelais Business Group which owned the most of the medicine business of Grey Hill had lost 40 more rhizotomists because of the attack of iron-teeth hyenas. Some rhizotomists of other business groups on Grey Plain are also missing. According to the witnesses, people have found the tracks of the iron-teeth hyenas in the regions where those rhizotomists went missing. Some rhizotomists who survived claimed that they had been attacked or followed by iron-teeth hyenas. At the same time, it was also heard that some villages near the Grey Hill also have missing people and domestic animals.

Because of the animal tide on Grey Hill, the prices of snow ginseng, golden knotweed, red grass, cinnabar and bloody caltrop started to rise in different degrees this week in Eschyle Herbs Trading Center. According to an insider of Eschyle Herbs Trading Center. Because of the changing continental situation recently, herbs trading grew hot in the Ice and Snow Wilderness as the demands of various medicines started to increase greatly. If the animal tide on Grey Hill was not curbed, many business groups would suffer losses.

However, when many people in the Eschyle Herbs Trading Center were worried about the animal tide, the felt mongers became excited. Because the fur of iron-teeth hyenas was always the best raw material of quality leather-armor and lining of senior helmets. In this month, the supply of its fur also surpassed its demand.

Adelais Business Group was reaching an agreement with the Eschyle Herbs Trading Center and some felt mongers to recruit pioneers and free warriors to deal with the animal tide on Grey Hill. After killing an iron-teeth hyena, a pioneer or a free warrior could not only sell its fur to felt monger but also gained extra 6 silver coins from Eschyle Herbs Trading Center.

The only condition was above LV 3.

Those who'd like to apply for it could inquire it from Adelais Business Group on Iron Bear Avenue. The first batch of applicants would set off from Eschyle on August 13th.

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Zhang Tie skimmed over the news. Even the barber behind him had not noticed that Zhang Tie was reading the newspaper. After reading it, Zhang Tie looked unchanged yet his heart raced. 'Hah, good news from a good place! I'm craving the taste of Iron-teeth hyena seven-strength fruits. Animal tide! Heihei, I love it...'

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Two hours later, the rain stopped. With a new colorful hairstyle, Zhang Tie dropped 5 silver coins before left the barbershop. When he reached a hidden place, he put his water-proof raincoat, package and sleeping bag into Castle of Black Iron before he took out a common long sword and carried it.

The status as a pioneer was just a nominal cover for him in the Ice and Snow Wilderness. Now that this cover had been identified, if he remained a pioneer, he would put himself in a greater danger. Therefore, Zhang Tie had to change his mind.

After doing this, Zhang Tie was only carrying a common long sword around his waist and looked like a young free warrior. After asking for the whereabouts of Iron Bear Avenue, he started to walk towards where the Adelais Business Group was located.

Actually, it was very necessary for Zhang Tie to cover his status in these 2 hours. He had not noticed that it was 2 people who were tracing him, instead of 1. It was safer and more skilled to trace a person by 2 people. One was responsible for gazing at the target while the other was responsible for gazing at his partner. In this way, even if one was exposed, the other one could pass the news.

After knowing that Zhang Tie had killed 2 LV 9 roundtable warriors of Magical Snake Island, the 2 spy who received the order to trace Zhang Tie chose this safer and more skilled way.

After the second spy realized that he had lost the target, he became very flurried. Thinking of Magical Snake Island's punishment to those who failed their tasks, he gritted his teeth and set Zhang Tie into a greater trouble...

When the rain stopped, a team of policemen of Eschyle Police Office had arrived at the location in the alley where the guy was killed...

Chapter 402: Being Wanted Once Again

As the only city in the Ice and Snow Wildness, Eschyle's ruling system was as established as that of other cities. Additionally, its ruling system was very powerful as this city was also where the civilization collided with savagery in this age.

Those powerful tribes in the Ice and Snow Wildness were formed by the righteous swordmen who came here for business from the Ewentra Archipelago and people from all walks of life with different ambitions. In order to rule this city, they had to establish a powerful ruling system. However, in the complete ruling system, the most powerful, threatening deterrent was obviously the deterrent of violence.

As a deterrent to violence, the police station of Eschyle City was different from policemen in other places. Policemen of Eschyle City were also called bounty hunters. Few people who committed crimes in Eschyle City could escape from those bounty hunters. The complete Eschyle City and the port area were under the management of policemen of Eschyle City. After leaving this territory, even if one killed a person, one would have nothing to do with them.

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After the rain, the alley had been surrounded by yellow cordon while a team of policemen in black uniforms were investigating the spot of the murder. From the scene, they could conclude that the killer was definitely a powerhouse. After realizing that a LV 6 fighter was killed so easily, all the police felt they were facing a powerful enemy.

"It's tricky..." After squatting beside the dead body for a short while, a police in black boots finally waved his head as he stood up. "Someone grabbed his neck before stabbing him. The lethal wound was between the 5th and the 6th ribs..." After picking himself up, the police imitated Zhang Tie's movement precisely. "The dagger was thrust through here, causing a 4 cm-long wound. However, it didn't touch the bones inside his body. He moved very fast and smooth and almost reached his heart. The killer is experienced who must have killed a lot of people. Given from his fighting strength, he should be at least LV 8, or even LV 9!"

Hearing these words, the head police frowned. "It's truly chaotic in Eschyle City recently. As too many foreigners arrive here. Few of them are docile..." After saying this, the head police turned around and asked one person beside him. "You say you've seen his look and his name?"

The guy being asked was that person who followed his partner in the alley.

"He's a pioneer that's about 18 years old. After knowing that a ship would reach the harbor this morning, Perse and I then waited at the harbor. You know, sir, we jewelers like to cooperate with these

pioneers who always sell us good things. Additionally, most of those pioneers coming to the Ice and Snow Wilderness these days would not enter Eschyle City. Therefore, Perse and I came here to try our fortune. We waited at the harbor for an entire morning..." As he explained, the person rolled his eyes.

"Tell me the key part..." The police waved his hand impatiently.

"Yes, sir; yes, sir..." The guy licked his lips. "That person disembarked the Polar Light. As he caught sight of Perse and me, he went directly towards us..."

"Did you know each other at the beginning?"

"Of course not. He had seen our gestures which indicated that we were here to purchase pieces of jewelry and valuables. That's why he walked towards us. You know those pioneers are very smart. They always communicate with each other through a set of special gestures. After doing business with them for a long time, we also learned a bit."

"What's next?"

"Then, he told Perse that he wanted to sell something. Being afraid of robbery, he requested for the trade to be performed downtown. When he walked towards us, I heard some pioneers call his name, Peter Hamplester."

"A 17-year old pioneer call Peter?"

"Right. At the beginning, given his young age, Perse and I didn't take precautions against him. Therefore, I told Perse to trade with him downtown while I wanted to stay in the harbor for other business. Finally, all the passengers had left in several minutes. By then, the rain grew heavier. Therefore, I hurriedly ran into downtown to seek for Perse and take a look at the new item that he purchased. When I was queuing up outside the city gate, I caught sight of Perse and that person walking into this alley. At the moment, I predicted that something bad would happen. When I came here, I have seen Perse lying here. However, the killer had disappeared together with Perse's 100-odd gold coins..."

"You mean you've not seen the one killing your partner and you are the only witness?" As the police investigated, he slightly narrowed his eyes.

"Erm...as you say!"

"Do you remember what that person looked like?"

"Yes, I remember! If you can arrest him, I'd like to provide 1000 gold coins as a reward!"

"According to your description, the pioneer called Peter could only be wanted as a criminal suspect. As to whether he had committed a crime, we need a further investigation. You go back to the police station together with police Posse. Remember to describe the suspect's look carefully so that we could send the order for an arrest..." The head police waved his head as he arranged another person to bring him back to the police station.

The moment that guy left, the police had moved one step forward, "The guy was lying. I found many problems in his words!"

"I know, but at least one point was right. This incident is definitely related to that young pioneer called Peter. However, as so many foreigners come to Eschyle, we need time to look for him. No matter what, we can have a reward!"

"But that guy might be tricky!"

"Tricky?" The head police revealed a proud smile. "This is the Ice and Snow Wildness, the territory of the Slav bear tribes. Only figures like Samaranth could enjoy the word "tricky". That guy is just a small pioneer. Do you think he's a knight? I don't care whether he's LV 9 or LV 10. As long as he dares to challenge the rules of the Ice and Snow Wildness, a great number of people would like to deal with him!"

"I heard a news from Elzida Mountain..." After looking around and seeing nobody, that police lowered his voice.

"I don't know! At the beginning, Elzida said the man who could reunite our bear tribes would come here first the moment he arrived at Ice and Snow Wildness. Therefore, the IronBear tribe chose to build Eschyle City here. No Slav wanted to present wilderness to him when he arrived here. This legend has been spread in the Ice and Snow Wildness for several hundred years. However, nobody had seen that man at all! Go prepare the order for arrest! Oh, what's the name of that pioneer being wanted?"

"Peter Hamplester!"

"Another one called Peter? What a sh*t name!" The head police tilted his mouth.

"Yup!"

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The efficiency of the police station of Eschyle was very high. Only after 1 hour, an order for arrest with the image of "Peter Hamplester" had been distributed to all the other places of the city.

It was a class 3 arrest order, which was mainly targeted at those criminal suspects whose crimes had not been confirmed. Therefore, the police requested to catch Zhang Tie alive, instead of "dead or alive" on a class 2 arrest order or "kill on sight" on a class 1 arrest order.

The reward on the order for arrest was 1050 gold coins, 1000 of which were provided by the party of the victim while the remaining 50 were from the fixed subsidy of the security tax for such pernicious cases in Eschyle City. The person who provided a clue could gain 80% of the reward. If anyone who could catch the criminal suspect alive, he could gain 90% of the total reward. If he killed the criminal suspect before sending him to the police station, he could only gain 40% of the total amount.

1050 gold coins was not the highest reward in the history of Eschyle, yet it was definitely not a small figure. The highest reward in the history of Eschyle was 1,250,000 gold coins on a class 1 arrest order. Rewards on arrest orders usually ranged from dozens of gold coins to hundreds of gold coins. Even seeing the least amount of reward, most of commoners and policemen across Eschyle would be excited with racing hearts and widening eyes.

The one said he remembered Zhang Tie's look truly told a lie. When he was in the yard, he only glanced at Zhang Tie once from afar. Although he could remember Zhang Tie's back and clothes very clearly, he

could not remember the details of Zhang Tie's look at all. As a result, the image on the arrest order drawn by professional in the police station was only 70-80% similar to Zhang Tie's previous image.

Zhang Tie didn't know that he was wanted on the same day.

In order to deal with the animal tide on the Grey Hill, Adelais Business Group employed many low-level warriors. The iron-teeth hyena was a low-level mutated wild beast which was only 1 level higher than a common wild wolf and hyena. Therefore, this wild beast's attack power was limited. With a weapon, even a LV 3 warrior could deal with several iron-teeth hyenas at the same time. Additionally, as the reward was very low, fighters with higher levels would never do this job at all. Therefore, only those pioneers and warriors who were under LV 6 would do this job for that bit of money.

Now, almost all the pioneers across the Ice and Snow Wildness were heading for the Hadelia Glacial Crack, including some low-level fighters. As a result, the Adelais Business Group could employ fewer people to hunt iron-teeth hyenas on Grey Hill.

If a person with a high level attended such a task, it would be too attractive. Therefore, in front of the recruitment point, Zhang Tie fabricated a lie.

"I'm LV 4!"

"Young man. I have to warn you that, iron-teeth hyenas are not that easily dealt with. We are recruiting people above LV 3. Although we provide you benefits, if you are killed, we will not compensate. Even if you are injured, the Adelais Business Group could only compensate you for some medical expenses"

Hearing this, Zhang Tie stayed still for a second before revealed a smile, 'Do I look too young to be LV 4? Perhaps, for most commoners, a LV 4 person who looks 17 or 18 years old is truly too outstanding. If I keep staying in Blackhot City, I could at most reach LV 2. I'm afraid that only Glaze could reach LV 3.'

"But I'm truly LV 4 now. Additionally, I've hunted dozens of wild wolves. I'm responsible for my decision!" Zhang Tie explained confidently.

"Well, here's the employment agreement. Press your fingerprint here!" After glancing at Zhang Tie for a short while, the director pushed a form in front of Zhang Tie.

"Do I need to show my ID certificate?"

"Hah, nobody needs that in the Ice and Snow Wildness!" The director responded with a sinister smile.

Hearing this, Zhang Tie pressed a fingerprint on that form without any hesitation.

"Oh, what's your name?"

"Hoy!" Zhang Tie instantly fabricated another name, 'I'm here for seven-strength fruits. All the other things are not that important. As I don't need to pay tax for a new name, neither do I want to be found by others, I will change myself completely then...'

Zhang Tie soon realized his intelligence.

After application, Zhang Tie was arranged to be placed in a small inn in downtown by the Adelais Business Group. He would set off next morning. Soon after he came to the inn, Zhang Tie had seen some police investigating guests in the inn with orders for arresting "Peter Hamplester"...

Chapter 403: The First Destination

The one standing together with the policemen was a director of the Adelais Business Group at this inn.

"All the guests living here are warriors who were recruited recently by the Adelais Business Group to deal with the iron-teeth hyenas on Grey Hill, nobody would care about a LV 8 or LV 9 suspect at all." As the director accompanied the policemen to investigate the guests one by another, he kept explaining something to the policemen. When he passed by Zhang Tie, the director glanced at him, "Hoy, your room is No. 4 on the 2nd floor. Don't run around after supper. The business group will distribute your equipment to you after supper. If you don't get the proper weapon, don't complain about others!"

"Who's he?" A policeman glanced over at Zhang Tie before he looked at the arrest order in his hand. Zhang Tie still looked a bit similar to the pioneer Peter Hamplester. Thankfully, Zhang Tie had changed his hairstyle and the color of his hair in a short period of time. Additionally, he was a free warrior instead of that pioneer. Therefore, the difference between his current look and that image on the arrest order was greater than the similarities.

That policeman also looked a bit confused.

"He's Hoy, a LV 4 warrior recruited by our business group." The director of the Adelais Business Group at the inn explained. Even he had noticed the order for arrest, he still didn't connect Zhang Tie who was going to Grey Hill to make money with the guy who was wanted with a reward of 1050 gold coins. "There are some more people upstairs, I will take you there."

That police glanced over Zhang Tie's face once again before he followed the director upstairs.

Although Zhang Tie pretended to be calm, he still glanced at that order for arrest in the policemen's hands out of curiosity. At the same time, his heart raced. It was really out of Zhang Tie's wildest imagination that he could get into such trouble the moment he arrived at this place.

If what he did to that guy in the alley was seen by someone by chance, it wasn't strange for him to be a wanted man. Although the alley looked hidden, there were buildings on its two sides. Therefore, Zhang Tie was not sure whether someone had witnessed what happened from afar through the windows. If this truly happened, the witness might have reported this to the police.

'However, the name Peter Hamplester is on the arrest order, which indicates that the one who reported this to the police was nobody else but a member of Demon Snake Island in Eschyle City. Only these people know my previous name and what I've done. Additionally, it must be two people that followed me instead of one. The second spy must have followed the first one out view.

Since they couldn't find me themselves, the lackeys of Demon Snake Island finally chose to look for me with the power of the police after judging the current situation.

Based on the image on the arrest order, it indicates that the lackeys of Demon Snake Island have not figured out my true look. At least for now. However, this situation is temporary. Even the lackeys of Demon Snake Island don't have my photo at the present, they still have many ways such as inviting a professional artist to fix my image precisely based on others descriptions.

If they dispatch someone to kill me, they must know how I look. As I've already met one guy from Demon Snake Island in Bluesea Castle, it's very simple for that guy to describe my image. Being limited to communication means in this age, although Demon Snake Island could not pass my image here now, they could change the current situation in a couple of days.'

Zhang Tie analyzed his current situation calmly and clearly before finally coming to the conclusion, 'I have to leave Eschyle City right now. If I stay here, I might encounter the killers from Demon Snake Island. Additionally, I have to escape from the police's investigation, which would disrupt my plan.'

Zhang Tie didn't think that he was qualified to challenge the ruling orders of such a strange and powerful city despite being able to defeat most of common LV 9 fighters. Especially if he was taken advantage of by those b*stards from Magical Snake Island, it would be a needless sacrifice.

'Thankfully, the Adelais Business Group would organize them to leave Eschyle City tomorrow. I only need to stay here for half a day at most. It should be okay. If I set out tomorrow with the others, it would be less suspicious than leaving right now.'

As he considered it, Zhang Tie entered room No. 4 on the second floor without any concern.

Of course, the Adelais Business Group only arranged those low-level warriors to live in tidy and clean rooms instead of any high-end rooms. In room No. 4, besides Zhang Tie, there were another five people, who were all low-level warriors recruited by the Adelais Business Group whose ages varied from 20 to 30 years or so.

The moment Zhang Tie entered the room, he had smelt the stimulative odor of sweat and feet. Thankfully, born at the bottom of society in Blackhot City, Zhang Tie had adapted to such a bad environment as he had experienced group living several times.

More than 80 low-level warriors recruited by the Adelais Business Group these couple of days were living in the inn. As they would set out tomorrow, they all returned to the inn tonight, causing it to be very boisterous.

Zhang Tie only introduced his name to his partners in the room. He looked very indifferent while the others also replied him with a solemn look or a sinister smile. Therefore, Zhang Tie was soon pushed out by the other five people.

Zhang Tie only smiled inside as this was exactly what he needed. The moment he arrived at Grey Hill, he would leave the Adelais Business Group as he didn't want to bring his trouble and possible dangers to these commoners who had nothing to do with him. Zhang Tie knew that these people only wanted to make a few gold coins and it was not necessary for them to be involved in his own business.

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After supper, the Adelais Business Group finally distributed the equipment to these temporary "mercenaries".

The alleged equipment was just a light leather armor and a great number of weapons.

Zhang Tie found that the leather armor was only made of common material covered with iron sheets. It was worth 70-80 silver coins at most. Although there were so many weapons, each of their value was almost as same as that of this light leather armor. They could be used to deal with common wild beasts, however, their endurance and sharpness could not hurt fiercer animals. Huaiyuan Palace would not equip its troops with such weak weapons.

"Each one could have one set of high-quality leather armor. Additionally, each of you could choose one quality weapon. These are from the Adelais Business Group. When you arrive at the Grey Hill, anyone among you could kill 50 iron-teeth hyenas would have this set of leather armor and the weapon that he has chosen as his best reward!"

"Finally, those who perform excellently among you will have the chance to join the armored guards of the Adelais Business Group and become a member of the Adelais Business Group officially. Therefore, please don't just take this task as a job. Instead, you should treat it as an opportunity to change your destiny. As long as you have the chance to be a member of the armored guards of the Adelais Business Group, you will gain a better training and a higher compensation. Besides that, you will have a higher social position. You will not be a small figure anymore. You will be a member of the Adelais Business Group."

When they distributed weapons, the director of the Adelais Business Group boosted their morale while standing on the freight car being loaded with weapons. Hearing that they could choose weapons freely, a great number of people surged forward at once.

Everybody rushed towards the heaviest and most valuable weapons. As a result, Zhang Tie was pushed aside. Finally, Zhang Tie only chose a common long spear.

Early the next morning, Zhang Tie left Eschyle City together with the other warriors who were recruited by the Adelais Business Group in leather armor with a long javelin in hand.

Seeing the truck exiting the city gate, Zhang Tie finally let out a sigh inside.

The truck kept moving towards the north. After 5-6 hours, it arrived in a small town at noon. The road in front was so poor that wheeled vehicles could not pass. Therefore, after a simple lunch, they started to head north on foot. When most of them could not hold their breath, a grey horizon finally appeared in front of them.

'Here's the Grey Hill...'

Zhang Tie finally let out a sigh. Watching the grey horizon, Zhang Tie was a bit excited about seeing so many seven-strength fruits from the iron-teeth hyenas. 'After traveling tens of thousands of miles since I left Huaiyuan Prefecture, I finally arrive at the first destination...

That evening, everybody just camped in the wild.

Early the next morning, when the director of the Adelais Business Group organized this new force to start hunting for iron-teeth hyenas, he couldn't find Hoy. However, his leather armor and weapon were lying tidily in his tent. Besides, there was a brief note under a gold coin.

Thanks for the kind treatment of the Adelais Business Group, this gold coin is for my lodging and travel fee.

Reading this note, the director of Adelais Business Group scratched his head out of confusion...

On the same morning, Dawson, the fighter from Demon Snake Island disembarked. After taking a deep breath, he grinned, exposing the gold-capped teeth all over his mouth.

Chapter 404: What A Freak!

The wind blew over that undulant Grey Hill, creating green waves over the meadow. Everything seemed so quiet and harmonious.

It was afternoon while the sun was hanging high. Some mature deer were wandering among those low buckthorns on one side of the meadow. Lowering their heads, they were enjoying the sweet and juicy berries on the buckthorns. For all the animals in the Ice and Snow Wilderness, this was the best season in of the year.

The wind breezing over the meadow, causing the one-man high weeds to rustle. Meanwhile, the wind also brought other sounds and smells.

Seemingly feeling something, some of the wild adult deer suddenly grew still as they raised their heads to look around. Soon after that, they started to escape out of panic.

The moment they started to speed up, air-breaking sounds had arrived. In a split second, there were javelins inserted in the deer's previous location. One of the deer's neck had been pierced. With a wail, it fell to the ground.

At this moment, 7-8 teenagers in leather hides rushed out of the meadow and started to chase after the other escaping deer.

"This one is dead. Go chase the others..." The teenager in the front shouted loudly to guide the other teenagers. Receiving his orders, all the other teenagers passed by the dead deer. At the same time, they pulled out their own javelins from the ground before chasing after the escaping deer.

These teenagers were only looked to be around 13 years old, however, they had grown very robust. This was especially so in running. In such a short distance, they had shown their amazing explosiveness and speed. As a result, the distance between the escaping adult deer and these teenagers remained unchanged.

As they ran, those teenagers threw out their javelins. The javelins constantly inserted into the soil closely after those escaping deer, driving the deer to run faster. After throwing all of their javelins, they finally hit another one and caused it fall to the ground.

However, the teenagers didn't care about the prey. Instead, they kept chasing after the rest of the deer.

The teenagers chased after the rest of the deer out of the buckthorns when the land in front became plain and vast at once. Therefore, the deer sped up, leaving the teenagers farther behind.

However, besides javelins, those teenagers had another weapon—stumbling stone.

"Prepare the stumbling stone..." The head teenager shouted while all the rest took out their stumbling stones. As they kept running, they waved their stumbling stones rapidly.

"Release!" Following after the head teenager's stumbling stone, all the other teenagers threw out theirs.

With great centrifugal forces, the stumbling stones flew towards the rest of the deer at speeds that were much faster than the teenager's running speeds, causing strange sounds "wuh" in the air.

Most of the stumbling stones failed, except one which wrapped around a deer's legs, causing the deer fall to the ground.

With cheers, the teenagers instantly surrounded the deer that was struggling to stand up. As was imagined, the teenagers immediately pressed it on the ground. At the same time, they tied its limbs with the rope of the stumbling stone.

"Hah, a female one. We can bring it back to the village..." A teenager exclaimed happily, "We will have deer milk to drink!"

"Choy, you are really my good elder brother. Why not tell your family members to marry Ada to me when she grows up? She's 6 years old. I will wait for her another 10 years. All the villagers said she would grow up as a great beauty!" A teenager joked.

"Piss off!" The teenager called Choy waved his fist. "My Ada will at least marry a bear-killing fighter. My dad said that. Don't mention it until you become a bear-killing fighter!"

Saying this, the boy called Choy glanced at the head teenager, Evan, the only one who could become a bear-killing fighter in the future in the eyes of the villagers.

'Do dad and mom want to marry Ada to Evan?' The teenager called Choy came across a strange thought. No way! Even Evan and I are friends, I will not allow him to take Ada away from me. I will also practice hard to be a bear-killing fighter so that I could protect Ada!

As Ada's elder brother, the moment Choy thought about that Ada might be taken away by a man, he would feel that something precious was taken away from. Therefore, in a split second, he made up his mind to become a powerful bear-killing fighter.

"Prepare your things, we need to leave here as soon as possible. It's too far away from the village." The teenager called Evan prepared his javelin as he looked around vigilantly, "We have to walk a long way before we came back to the village. We have to go back before dusk. We'd better not meet any iron-teeth hyenas on the way back..."

After gaining a big harvest, they were all very happy. Hearing Evan's words, they all quickened their movements. The teenager called Choy directly lifted the restrained deer onto his back. Although with over 50 kg on his body, he could still walk easily.

They then returned the way they came. After rapidly killing the remaining two wounded deer, the teenagers prepared to go back to village jubilantly.

This place was still over 30 km away from the village. If they sped up, they could return to the village before sunset.

Because the soil and rocks here looked grey, from afar, this place was wholly grey except for those being covered with plants. Nobody knew why. There was only one old saying that the soil and rocks on the surface were buried underground over hundreds of millions of years. After the catastrophe, they turned upside down because of heavy geological movement.

Because of this, the soil here contained some rare elements and nutrients. Therefore, some special plants with high value grew here. Although not being suitable for all plants, all the plants here were growing pretty well. Some mutated plants could also be discovered here.

Additionally, even in winter, the surface temperature here was still higher than that in other places. Some plants that couldn't grow in other places could still grow here, making it a marvelous place.

Although this was not the only place in Ice and Snow Wilderness, as this place was only over 300 km away from Eschyle City, it had become the most famous warehouse of medicinal materials across the Ice and Snow Wilderness.

Take the buckthorns that the teenagers had passed when they chased after the deer as an example, even the roots, stems, leaves, flowers and fruits of common buckthorns were of high medicinal and edible value, not to mention the mutated hockthorns over the Grey Hill, which contained a higher value.

Especially the buckthorn oil found here which was the best and the most expensive across the whole Waii Subcontinent. Besides being one of the most important exports of Eschyle, the buckthorn oil in the Ice and Snow Wilderness was almost the necessity in each pharmacist's lab or warehouse of raw materials.

While taking turns placing the prey on their backs, the teenagers rapidly moved on the Grey Hill. In only 1 hour, they had walked 7-8 km. Those who didn't carry the prey would hold weapons and guard the team at the front and the rear.

Through long-term cooperation, these teenagers had been tacit with each other. They knew when to shift. Only Choy among the teenagers who had made his firm decision to be a bear-killing fighter just now stuck to carrying one deer back to the village independently. He treated it as a chance to train himself.

As the old Chinese saying went——What you are afraid of always happen. Only after 1 hour, the teenagers had encountered the thing that they were concerned most——they were followed by a pack of iron-teeth hyenas.

Iron-teeth hyenas were very sensitive to the scent of dead animals. They were known as sharks in the Ice and Snow Wilderness. An iron-teeth hyena could smell the blood of the other animals from 1-2 km away. They would finally find their prey from the source of the scent.

At the beginning, there were only 5-6 iron-teeth hyenas behind them. Seeing those teenagers who were carrying their prey and their weapons, they kept a distance.

These iron-teeth hyenas looked like dogs, however, their heads were shorter and rounder than that of common dogs. Besides this, they had wider skulls. Additionally, their forequarters were stronger than

their hindquarters. These iron-teeth hyenas had coarser and harder body hair. With the help of brown spots over their bodies, they could easily hide in the background color of this Grey Hill.

Certainly, if you treated them as common dogs, you would definitely be torn into pieces by them, leaving even not a single bone. It was no joke. Everybody across the Ice and Snow Wilderness knew that iron-teeth hyenas had powerful and sharp teeth and excel at grinding hard bones so that they could lick the marrows inside the bones.

Marrow was the favorite food of iron-teeth hyenas.

Each of the iron-teeth hyenas following those teenagers was longer than 1.6 m. They looked smart and fierce.

After being chased by the iron-teeth hyenas for several minutes, Evan decisively sent an order.

"Drop a deer!"

Although they were reluctant, they quickly dropped a deer. This way, they could move faster. Meanwhile, the iron-teeth hyenas would slow down their speed.

'We'd better escape from these iron-teeth hyenas in this way.'

After dropping one deer, each teenager prayed inside. Nobody knew the terrifying iron-teeth hyenas better than them.

After dropping the deer, the teenagers started to run as another one took over that alive deer from Choy.

Soon after they sped up, they had heard the terrifying sounds of bones being ground by teeth.

The teenagers didn't escape from the iron-teeth hyenas. After less than 5 minutes, more iron-teeth hyenas had appeared behind them. This time, the figure rose to 20-30, instead of 5.

At the sight of so many iron-teeth hyenas, all the teenagers turned their faces. They knew that they were in big trouble. Iron-teeth hyenas liked to hunt in packs.

This time, without Evan's order, all the other teenagers had dropped the remaining two deer. After that, they used all their strength to run. Even Choy didn't say anything at this moment. They all knew that life was the most important. If they lost the female deer, they could catch another one, but if they died, they would have nothing. The number of iron-teeth hyenas behind them had surpassed their ability to deal with.

They hadn't imagined that they would encounter the animal tide. They hadn't ever seen so many iron-teeth hyenas near their village before. They were still in the regular hunting range of their village. Previously, when animal tide broke out, this area was still threatening to those wild beasts. However, so many iron-teeth hyenas were not only threatening them but the whole village.

The teenagers tried their best to run towards the village. Being breathless, before they were 2 km away, they had seen those iron-teeth hyenas watching them with ferocious eyes behind them...

People could never run as fast as iron-teeth hyenas in the wild. If they kept running, they would finally get tired and have their last bit of energy exhausted.

The iron-teeth hyenas behind them had started to scatter as they intended to surround the teenagers from both sides.

At the sight of a mountain cliff in front of them, Evan shouted at once, "Gather over there, we have to get into formation"

Several minutes later, the teenagers stood close to each other as they leaned against the mountain cliff. They were holding their weapons tightly and waiting for the great pack of iron-teeth hyenas to surround them up.

Watching those iron-teeth hyenas, all the teenagers' faces turned pale. They knew that they would finally be killed this time. The only concern was that how many iron-teeth hyenas they could kill before death.

"Choy, you can consider it, I mean it!" The teenager who joked with Choy over 1 hour ago added at this critical moment.

"F*ck, can you talk about it later?" Choy glared at the b*stard.

"Sh*t up!" Evan growled.

When those iron-teeth hyenas moved closer to them, the teenagers' palms had been full of sweat. At this moment, they heard an obviously surprising voice.

"Wow, so many babies, you are all mine..."

This voice with a great surprise was like from a grave robber, who exclaimed as he opened a coffin and watched a great pile of treasures inside or a traveler who had been in a desert so long time finally saw a vital oasis.

Hearing this voice, Evan and Choy both became stunned. At this scene, this voice was truly dumbfounding. What was more confusing was the word "babies"! 'Where are the babies? The iron-teeth hyenas or something else?'

As they thought they were suffering from an acousma, they heard another euphonious sound, which was very like a buzz or a faintly jarring sound of friction between grinding gears.

Along with this sound, a spray of sprouting blood happened to one of the iron-teeth hyenas. At the same time, its body was penetrated through with a metal bolt, causing a huge hole in its body.

The metal bolt was so powerful. After penetrating through that iron-teeth hyena, it was completely inserted into the ground. Watching such a great strength, the teenagers were dumbfounded.

From then on, the teenagers started to hear increasingly denser buzzing sounds, about 3-4 times per second. Each buzz would cause a spray of sprouting blood on one of those iron-teeth hyenas. The iron-teeth hyenas then fell to the ground one after the other with blood and flesh exposed all over.

What happened just now was really too fast. Not to mention these teenagers, even those iron-teeth hyenas hadn't realized what happened. Before the other iron-teeth hyenas realized what was happening, 17-18 of them had been killed...

The teenagers watched one guy rushing down the hill from afar, who was holding a huge crossbow. They had not seen such a strange crossbow at all. The eccentric buzzing noises were coming from that crossbow.

As he rushed towards them, the guy kept shooting those iron-teeth hyenas, one bolt for one head. What he did really scared the teenagers. In a blink of an eye, a few more iron-teeth hyenas had been killed. As a result, the remaining iron-teeth hyenas who were gazing at the teenagers just now instantly turned around to escape. However, the man seemed as if he hadn't seen the teenagers at all. Without greeting them, he directly chased after the iron-teeth hyenas with the strange crossbow.

In a wink, some more sprays of blood were seen on the escaping iron-teeth hyenas.

"Babies, stop..." That man kept shouting at the same time...

The teenagers then exchanged glances at each other, "What a strange person..."

Chapter 405: Partners

A couple of minutes later, Zhang Tie carried that heavy crossbow back to the place of these teenagers with a big smile.

At this moment, Zhang Tie felt like a ferocious beast seeing a grand meal or like a whoremaster seeing the brand prostitute in a brothel. He was so happy that he even wanted to hum a song.

This time, he killed the whole pack of 28 iron-teeth hyenas. Plus those he killed yesterday and this morning, he could get one more ripe iron-teeth hyena's seven-strength fruit on the small tree. The moment he thought that he could eat another seven-strength fruit, Zhang Tie felt so cold taking a bath in the ice spring in hot summer.

He made the right choice to be here. Only arriving here after 3 days, he was going to eat the 2nd seven-strength fruit.

Watching him smile, those teenagers felt very strange. Therefore, as Zhang Tie walked towards them, they all gazed at him nervously instead of being relaxed after the death of those iron-teeth hyenas.

As they were in the wild, encountering such a weird person, all the teenagers felt flurried inside. Now that he could kill all the 20-30 iron-teeth hyenas in a wink with that terrifying weapon, he could also easily kill them.

Nobody knew whether he was their enemy or a friend.

When Zhang Tie was closer to them, he noticed them panic. He then knew what they were concerned about, Zhang Tie was not angry about that. If he was one of those teenagers, he would also be alert in that case. As these teenagers were born in Ice and Snow Wilderness, they were used to be hostile against

everything. Therefore, it was normal for them to be precocious. This also explained why they came out for hunting at such an earlier age.

After placing that heavy crossbow on the ground with its muzzle against the ground, Zhang Tie revealed a smile, "Are you all right?"

Watching this, these teenagers finally looked reassured.

"Yes. Thanks for your help. We are okay! If not for you, we might be in a great danger!" Evan replied.

"It's easy. I was just doing that by the way!" After saying this, Zhang Tie lowered his body and pulled one bloody bolt out of the ground. After cleaning off the mud and blood stains, he put the bolt back into one of his bolt containers over his waist.

When Zhang Tie collected his own metal bolts, those teenagers exchanged glances with each other before came close to help him. In a short while, they had helped Zhang Tie collect all the metal bolts.

Those metal bolts were very heavy. Although having been used by Zhang Tie, they still looked like new ones after being cleaned as no scratch could be seen on them. All the teenagers were amazed about this.

"Oh, can we know your name?" After helping him collect all the bolts, Evan courageously asked Zhang Tie, "As you've saved us, we will have to pay you back!"

Finding these teenagers interesting, Zhang Tie then replied, "I'm Peter, what about you?"

"I'm Evan!"

"I'm Choy!"

"I'm Tavnov!"

"I'm Zoan!"

...

All the 8 teenagers then started to introduce themselves while raising their chests.

After introducing themselves, everybody then felt harmonious with each other's atmosphere. At this moment, those teenagers were not cautious about Zhang Tie anymore. After all, seeing Zhang Tie's fighting strength, if he wanted to kill them, he didn't even need to talk so much with them. Additionally, they didn't think that they were valuable to Zhang Tie.

After taking the crossbow from ground, Zhang Tie looked at the weather and asked, "Evan, where do you live?"

"Right in the Kurgan village over 10 km away!"

Zhang Tie knew that the village that they referred to was the smallest tribe on Ice and Snow Wilderness which was only surrounded by barriers and a cob wall. Except for Eschyle, above 99% of people on Ice and Snow Wilderness were living in the form of tribes. In this place, tribes were divided into different ranks. The tribe with the highest rank had a population of over a million of those tribes that can be hung

as the tribal totems. The alleged Kurgan village was actually a small Slav tribe which only contained less than 2000 people.

"As there are some dangers in the wild, I'm not sure whether you will meet other iron-teeth hyenas on your way back. So I decide to accompany you back in case of emergency!"

Hearing this, all the teenagers felt that Zhang Tie was a kind person.

"Erm...do you need these iron-teeth hyenas?" One teenager named Basa hesitated a moment, asked Zhang Tie while pointing at those iron-teeth hyenas on the ground.

"I don't need them. If you can take them back home, I will gift them to you!" Zhang Tie replied generously. He truly didn't need these iron-teeth hyenas. He had tried to eat their meat 2 days ago. Although they were edible, their meat was too fishy and oily that made Zhang Tie disgusted even now.

As for their furs, even Zhang Tie was frugal, he would not choose to exchange those furs for only a few silver coins from those felt mongers. At this time, Zhang Tie was also not sure whether the message that he had left Eschyle after changing the name was exposed or not. After all, besides those people from Magical Snake Island, even that barber who had cut his hair in Eschyle might also leak his trace. It would be very risky for him to contact any business group in Eschyle at this moment. After all, over 1000 gold coins was not a small amount for many people.

After a round of choices, each teenager finally selected one iron-teeth hyena respectively before stepped on the way back. Zhang Tie just stayed with them as a bodyguard.

As they walked, they started to chat with Zhang Tie. Zhang Tie also learned much information about the Grey Hill.

"Peter, you're so sharp. Are you a bear-killing fighter from Eschyle City to deal with the animal tide here?" Choy peeped at Zhang Tie's terrifying metal crossbow as he asked with a special brilliance in his eyes.

On the way back, all the teenagers kept staring at Zhang Tie's weapon. It was really their first time to see such a sharp weapon. Being different from common metal crossbows that they used to see, Zhang Tie's weapons could release fire with great destructive force. The moment its bolt touched an iron-teeth hyena, it would penetrate through its body at once. Furthermore, the metal bolts that matched this crossbow were also not common.

"I'm not a bear-killing fighter!" Zhang Tie waved his head. He knew what did Choy mean by bear-killing fighter. They were a special Slav fighter on Ice and Snow Wildness. All the bear-killing fighters were above LV 6; however, not all the fighters above LV 6 were bear-killing fighters. The key point to be a bear-killing fighter was to master the maniac ability to increase his fighting strength in a short time. With the help of the maniac ability, a common fighter could increase his fighting strength greatly in a short time so that a LV 6 bear-killing fighter might defeat a common LV 7 fighter or a LV 7 bear-killing fighter could challenge a common LV 8 fighter.

"You are not a bear-killing fighter?"

Zhang Tie's answer made all the teenagers surprised.

"Of course not!"

"Why are you here then? It seems you're being interested in hunting iron-teeth hyenas!" Out of great curiosity, Choy put it straightforwardly without being afraid of violating Zhang Tie's privacy.

"Actually, I'm a devoted follower of the school of patron!" As this was not Zhang Tie's first time to fabricate it, he had been looking very devoted and easygoing as he told him. Zhang Tie found that when he took the school of patron as an excuse, he could explain what he had done easily. This excuse was as useful as tiger balm. No matter what he had done, as long as he connected it to this school, he could make his deed full of righteousness, "It's the fundamental rule which the school of patron always used to maintain the balance between the basic laws of the mother nature and all the species. I think the animal tide on the Grey Hill could influence the balance between species and the mother nature, here come I!"

"Ah, you're also a member of the school of patron?" Evan watched Zhang Tie with widening eyes, "Another man of the school of patron also came to our village several days ago!"

Hearing Evan's words, Zhang was stunned. After leaving Blackhot City, it was Zhang Tie's first time to hear the news of another member of school of patron. For this mysterious school, Zhang Tie knew nobody else than the benign, Grandma Teresa. The moment he heard this teenager's words, Zhang Tie also became curious.

"Wuh, what did that person come to your village for?"

"I don't know. He left after talking with uncle Zieg in our village for several hours!"

...

"Why did school of patron dispatch a member to a small village on Ice and Snow Wildness?" Zhang Tie kept thinking about that before he arrived at the village.

After over 10 km, a team of men who were all elder than 20 years old with weapons in their hands encountered Zhang Tie's group on the way.

"Evan, Zoan, it's so nice to see you are safe!" An elder and stronger man instantly let out a sigh the moment he saw those teenagers. He ran towards them, "As too many iron-teeth hyenas appeared in a place not far from the village, uncle Zieg let us to find you and accompany you back as soon as possible!"

"Hmm, we've met over 20 iron-teeth hyenas just now. We almost could not come back!"

"What happened?" Hearing this, those youths instantly held fast their weapons, "But where are the iron-teeth hyenas?"

"Thanks to Peter, we've killed them all. If not, we've been chewed!"

Hearing Evan's introduction, those youths stared at Zhang Tie seriously.

"Evan, if so many people have been here to protect you, I will leave. See you later!" Zhang Tie smiled as he prepared to leave and eat his latest seven-strength fruit.

"It's almost dark. Why not take a rest in the village? If uncle Zieg knew that we let you go, he would definitely beat us and blame us for being impolite to you..." Evan urged.

"That's it..." All the others agreed with Evan almost in unison.

"You've saved the lives of 8 men in Kurgan village. Therefore, you are our most honorable guest. Please come with us and taste our Buckthorn wine!" One of those youths invited.

Thinking of that member from school of patron who came to Kurgan village several days ago, Zhang Tie then nodded firmly, "Well, I'd like to taste your Buckthorn wine!"

Seeing Zhang Tie being that straightforward, everybody burst out into laughter.

On the way back, Evan and the other teenagers told those youths how they met Zhang Tie and how Zhang Tie saved them. Hearing the whole process, the team of youths glanced at Zhang Tie with respectful looks. Some of them even wanted to challenge Zhang Tie as what young men would always do when they see their peers being better than them.

Zhang Tie was about 3 years elder than Evan and the other teenagers yet was 3 years younger than those youths. Some of the youths felt that Evan was exaggerating when he described how Zhang Tie killed 20-30 iron-teeth hyenas himself. According to Evan and the other teenagers, Zhang Tie might have become a bear-killing fighter now. However, a bear-killing fighter of 17-18 years old had not been seen in Kurgan village for a long time.

"Peter, is that huge weapon in your hand a heavy crossbow? You killed over 20 iron-teeth hyenas with it just now?" A youth named Burman asked straightforwardly.

Zhang Tie had seen so many people like Burman. Actually, he felt much easier to get along with such a person, "Yup, You want to have a try?"

"Sure!" Burman rubbed his hands full of excitement.

Zhang Tie then passed it to him with one hand. Seeing Zhang Tie moved it so easily, Burman also prepared to receive it with one hand.

"It's a bit heavy. Are you sure you want to take it with one hand?" Before releasing the crossbow, Zhang Tie warned Burman out of kind intention.

Burman replied with a cold harrumph as he seemed being unhappy about being belittled by Zhang Tie.

Watching Burman's look, Zhang Tie directly released his grip after seeing that Burman had held it fast.

However, the moment Zhang Tie released his grip, Burman had turned his face. With a tilt, he almost fell to the ground together with that heavy crossbow. Before he tumbled over, he roared as he hurriedly took over that heavy crossbow with the help of another hand. Although he finally saved his face, his face had already turned red due to sudden strength. Although Zhang Tie could walk freely with this weapon, he could only barely carry it.

"Argh, Burman..." At the sight of this, the other youths responded with dumbfounded looks at the same time, "Isn't this weapon light in Peter's hand? How come Burman look so embarrassed! Burman has a great strength!"

"How come..." Burman looked at Zhang Tie amazingly, "This...this crossbow is...at least 300 kg..."

"What? 300 kg? How come!? Even it's made of steel and iron, it would not be that heavy!" Another youth shouted as he also stretched out his hand, "Give it to me, I will have a try..."

When Burman passed that heavy crossbow to the other youth, the latter one also turned his face, "Damned, It's really...too heavy...how come!?"

All the youths then crowded round to have a try. However, after trying it, everybody looked at Zhang Tie as if they saw a ghost in the daytime.

Even Evan, Choy and the other teenagers came over and tried it. However, for those teenagers, that heavy weapon of over 300 kg was absolutely out of their endurance. As for those teenagers, 1 people could barely hold it fast; 2 people could not even carry it; 3 people could barely carry it.

As they imagined how Zhang Tie moved agilely with this weapon, they all worshiped Zhang Tie so much.

"Peter, how come is it so heavy?"

Touching his nose, Zhang Tie replied, "I don't know why. I didn't make it. But I know that a material called aerosiderite was used to make it. With that material, the key arcualias that could sustain stress would not be worn even after being used for tens of thousands times."

Hearing Zhang Tie's explanation, everybody understood it. Some youths who knew how to use such a heavy crossbow tried to put it on the ground by foot before trying to load on a bolt with the help of the hydraulic sliding bar. However, although with blushes on their faces, they failed to press the sliding bar to the bottom.

Watching them being that hard, Zhang Tie directly took over the crossbow. With one hand on the handle, he pinched that hydraulic sliding bar and dragged it back so easily. With a low sound of "kacha" and an euphonious buzz of the rotating gears, Zhang Tie had loaded on one bolt.

Watching Zhang Tie, those youths completely gave up their challenging thoughts...

Before sunset, Zhang Tie accompanied them to their village...

Chapter 406: It was Strange

Kurgan village was in a plain valley. A small river flowed by the village while the mountain slopes on both sides of the village were covered with Buckthorns.

The whole village was surrounded with wooden barriers and mounds as high as one adult person. On the side of those barriers and mounds were some simple yet practicable wooden embrasured watchtowers.

The sun was going to set off while some columns of smoke were rising from the village.

The moment Zhang Tie and the other teenagers and youths moved closer to the village, they were immediately seen by the watchdogs on the embrasured watchtowers.

"All the members of Evan's team and Burman's team are back! With 8 iron-teeth hyenas...", one of the watchdogs had screamed with full of pleasure the moment he saw them.

Hearing this voice, some more sounds drifted from inside the village while many younger kids ran out; meanwhile, they kept calling "brother", "brother". When they came to search those who arrived, they started to pull the corners of those people's garments; some of them even surrounded the iron-teeth hyenas on the backs of Evan's team. Drooling, they even urged to make clothes with the furs of iron-teeth hyenas. What a boisterous scene!

All the villagers had coarse skins and robust figures. This was the feature of aboriginals who lived in Ice and Snow Wilderness for so long. Everybody here looked a bit shabby. All the rooms in the village were 1-storey cabins. 2-3 cabins being surrounded with wooden barriers would form a house with a courtyard. Although, it was still filled with cheers and laughter, especially after those hunters came back.

After being introduced how he saved 8 teenagers for Kurgan village, Zhang Tie undoubtedly became the most popular one in this village.

Uncle Zieg, the head of Kurgan village brought Zhang Tie into his own house. After that, the family members of the 8 teenagers sent their dried meat and Buckthorn wine there to express their gratitude to Zhang Tie.

The villagers here were too pure and simple which moved Zhang Tie to a certain degree. After taking around the village, Zhang Tie knew it was not rich here; however, the food that the villagers gifted him were the best that they could afford across the village.

Took dried meat as an example, on the way back to the village, Zhang Tie knew that Evan's team were carrying those iron-teeth hyenas back to pickle their meat. For Zhang Tie, it didn't taste good; however, for those residents in Ice and Snow Wilderness, it could not be wasted. Now, they kept those bad-taste meat of iron-teeth hyenas at home and brought Zhang Tie with the especially yummy meat of deer and pheasants.

Zieg, the village head of Kurgan was a tough man of 50-60 years old. After experiencing so much in Ice and Snow Wilderness, he looked elder than his real age. Therefore, Zhang Tie could not identify his real age.

There was a deep frown on Zieg's forehead. However, he still stood straight; besides, he was taller than 2 meters with thick shoulders. Zhang Tie felt that he was a responsible person the moment he saw the village head.

After giving the food to his wife to process them in kitchen, Zieg started to chat with Zhang Tie at the stony table in the courtyard.

Zieg's wife made two cups of hot water for them. Seeing the yellowish green leaves floating over the golden water, Zhang Tie blinked with an amazed look. "Are they tea leaves? No way! How come tribes in Ice and Snow Wilderness be so luxurious?" A pack of tea leaves would definitely be much more expensive than one same pack in Blackhot City!

Zhang Tie took up his cup and sniffed. It smelt a bit different from that tea water. However, it also had a faint plant scent. After blowing it, Zhang Tie took a sip but it felt a bit sour beside refreshness.

"Are they tea leaves?" Zhang Tie asked.

"These are not tea leaves from the east. These are the leaves of Buckthorns that we made ourselves!" Zieg narrowed his eyes as he also took a sip with a pleasant look, "Both people and domestic animals would grow fat if they always eat it. With those Buckthorns over the mountain slopes outside the village, nobody of Kurgan village had starved to death during the past 200 years...people could always survive on Buckthorns!"

The village head of Kurgan said proudly.

"This thing really tastes nice!" Zhang Tie smiled. After sipping twice, Zhang Tie imitated Zieg as he chewed the Buckthorn leaves forcefully. Actually, Zhang Tie was not used to drink expensive tea drinks. He felt it being nothing different than the "wild spring" that served by the senior of Huaiyuan Palace. Although a cup of "wild spring" might be more expensive than all the Buckthorns over the mountain slopes, Zhang Tie didn't think it was great as he didn't measure the value of an item in terms of money. He had deeply formed this value since he was in Blapei.

Seeing Zhang Tie eating all the Buckthorn leaves without any hesitation, Zieg revealed a big smile as he erected his thumb towards Zhang Tie, "You are the real friend of Kurgan village!"

Zhang Tie had almost figured out the personalities of these residents in the Ice and Snow Wilderness. All of them were very straightforward and generous as they kept gratitude deep in their mind. If you treated and respected them well, you would gain twice the simple respect and warm treatment; however, if you dared to find them trouble, you had better be ready for fighting them to death.

Zhang Tie liked them.

After thinking for a while, Zhang Tie decided to put it straightforward what he desired most in Kurgan village.

"Before I came, Evan told me that a member of school of patron had been here several days ago. Can you tell me about him? As I'm also a devoted follower of school of patron, it's really out of my expectation to hear another member of the same school in Ice and Snow Wilderness!"

"Wuh, you're a follower of school of patron?" Zieg, the village head glanced at Zhang Tie with an amazing look.

"Right, I was a devoted contributor of school of patron when I was in Norman Empire. When I saved Evan's team, I told them I'm a devoted follower of school of patron; therefore, Evan told me about that one member of our school came here several days ago!"

Hearing this, Zieg didn't doubt anymore, "He was a powerful wild patron from school of patron; he was here to survey the animal tide over the Grey Hill!"

Hearing this, Zhang Tie was really shocked as it was his 2nd time to hear the title "wild patron". When he was attending the survival training in Wildwolf Valley, Zerom told him for the first time that wild patron of school of patron had a great ability to control animals. It was a very powerful and mysterious profession! Zhang Tie had not imagined that he could hear such a person here.

"Is there anything special with this animal tide?"

Now that it could attract a wild patron's attention, this animal tide was definitely special.

"The last animal tide broke out 7 years ago; however, it breaks out now. That's how it's weird!" Zieg frowned his forehead.

"Why?"

"According to the record of animal tides over Ice and Snow Wilderness, the distance between 2 animal tides was about 12-15 years. Ice and Snow Wilderness was too huge that so many ferocious wild animals would increase their population greatly after a fixed period, namely animal tide. It was nothing strange to see an animal tide at all; however, this animal tide is only 7 years after the last one. That's how it is strange! This had never happened in Ice and Snow Wilderness at all!"

"Only because of this?"

"Of course, there are some things more strange!" Saying this, the frown on Zieg's forehead deepened, "Previously, animal tides of different species didn't break out at the same time. For instance, when iron-teeth hyenas broke out its tide, the other living beings such as huge wolves on Wilderness and hell-magical rats would not break out their tides at the same time; instead, they would break out by turns. However, this time, I was told that many living beings broke out their tides at the same time across Ice and Snow Wilderness. What's more, the magic arts on the bloody territories outside many tribes and villages became ineffective..."

"Bloody territory?"

Realizing that Zhang Tie didn't know what was bloody territory, Zieg started to explain to him.

'The alleged bloody territory is magic art that shaman flamen applied in Ice and Snow Wilderness with the fresh blood and lives of some wild and dangerous living beings. The only function of this magic art is to drive those dangerous living beings away from the villages where tribes live in and protect those villagers invisibly.

A magic art of bloody territory only targets at one wild beast. In the surroundings of some larger tribes, there are always multiple magic arts which could prevent some dangerous living beings from hurting commoners.

Taking Kurgan village as an example. Over 4 decades ago, a shaman priest once applied a magic art of bloody territory to iron-teeth hyenas which always appeared nearby the village, although we had experienced animal tides some times over the past 4 decades, we didn't even see a single iron-teeth hyena within 10 km of our village.

However, this time, not knowing whether because the magic art lost its effect or those iron-teeth hyenas had been driven mad, 10 km was not a safe range for us to stay away from iron-teeth hyenas anymore.

Besides Kurgan village, many other places had encountered this problem.'

Chapter 407: A Great Ambition

Hearing Zieg's explanation, Zhang Tie also started to consider about this abnormal situation. Combining with the above points, this animal tide was truly too weird. No wonder one wild patron of school of patron was attracted here.

"What did that wild patron find?"

"I don't know. He stayed over one night in Kurgan village to inquire about what I've told you. After that, he left!" Saying this, the village head recalled something, "Oh, he has a pet, a very huge black eagle. Before I saw him off, that huge eagle directly landed on the ground from sky, startling me a lot."

A weird animal tide, a wild patron of school of patron who came here to investigate with a huge black eagle. These clues reminded Zhang Tie of that attack from iron-beak ibis on the way back to Huaiyuan Prefecture by airship. Because of the attack from those iron-beak ibises, many airlines above Waii Sub Continent had been greatly influenced, some were even stopped.

"Is there any link between the two events?"

Zhang Tie sensed a bit danger instinctively. However, it was not a negative event for him; instead, it was easier for him to form seven-strength fruits. Therefore, he didn't think too much about this event.

For Zhang Tie, whatever happened in the future, he had to keep increasing his fighting strength in the first place.

It was a grand supper. Zhang Tie had not tasted such yummy food before he came here, especially the Buckthorn wine which was brewed by the villagers themselves, absolutely unforgettable.

It was a simple process to brew Buckthorn wine. Being similar to the brewing process of wine, picking off Buckthorns, cleaning them and crumbling them into pieces; after that, mix them with sugar and ferment the mixture in wooden barrel. Zieg said that everybody across Ice and Snow Wilderness could brew Buckthorn wine, each of them grew up drinking Buckthorn wine. Not only did it taste good, but also made people healthy. People here almost didn't get sick at all.

If it was before, Zhang Tie would have been amazed about this; however, now, Zhang Tie knew it clearly that those aboriginals were actually fermenting. Although these people might not know what was ferment, they had found the way to obtain a great amount of ferment in Ice and Snow Wilderness so easily and instinctively.

People here seemed inseparable from Buckthorns. All the items; Buckthorn tea, Buckthorn wine, Buckthorn oil and the Buckthorn twigs was stored for tiding over winter and were closely related to their daily lives.

Even the Buckthorns being planted outside the village had formed a barrier to this village. Standing neatly in lines like guardsmen, these Buckthorns could prevent wild beasts coming close to this village from all directions to a certain degree. As a result, those wild beasts could only move closer to the village through special accesses that people had prepared. In this way, villagers would be able to notice the traces of huge dangerous wild beasts entering the village much easily.

Besides, Buckthorns could fertilize the soil. After being planted with Buckthorns for some years, the previous barren farming land could be grown with vital plants like soya beans and provide grains for

people. Villages across Ice and Snow Wilderness usually inter-plant wheat among Buckthorns and could always have big harvests.

Living conditions and quality of life of these people was influenced by this plant. It could be said that without Buckthorns nobody across Ice and Snow Wilderness could survive here.

This common plant had become the most important guarantee of local residents. Buckthorn fruits and leaves were edible and easily stored. Additionally, as the main fuel of the local residents, they could help people tide over the long winter. Besides, it was the most important cash crop here. By exporting Buckthorns, people here could gain gold coins as payment. Finally, by growing them, people could fertilize their soil and further expand their living space. It was hard to imagine how people would survive here without Buckthorn.

At the dining table, Zieg introduced the functions of Buckthorns. Hearing those words, Zhang Tie instantly came across a thought, "I'm wondering whether it would be more marvelous after a round of mutation and evolution in Castle of Black Iron."

The moment it hit his mind, Zhang Tie had become excited. Such a sense of achievement of creating a species was really cool. When Zhang Tie was imagining about the new Buckthorn that might have greater effects, another thought flashed across his mind and struck him like a lightning bolt, causing him stiff all over at once.

"What if Ice and Snow Wilderness is covered with the new Buckthorn and those residents could get a better life brought by the new buckthorn?"

Zhang Tie started to quiver faintly as he remembered what he had learned in the book 'General History of Man Kinds' in Huaiyuan Palace.

Before catastrophe, the agents and lackeys of demons among humans were applying this scientific means to control the quality of grains over this planet before influencing people's agricultural production. After that, humans were actually under the control of demons and their agents and lackeys among humans.

The grain seeds provided by demons to humans were poisonous. The toxin was not the common chemical; instead, it was a more terrifying gene virus. Grains were growing with that gene virus. After entering people's body, it could regulate their genes and DNAs, reducing their life expectancy and making them frail and sick, even making them slow-witted and infertile. By replacing people's grain seeds, demons were actually castrating humans, causing them losing their ability to fight demons. If humans eat those poisonous grains, they would definitely be ruled by demons in the end.

At that age, Chinese were under the conspiracy of demons and suffered a lot before finally woke up. After that, Chinese led the rest of humans to resist demons and became the pillar of humans of the 2 holy wars.

"If I could get a new Buckthorn, of course, I would not poison the aboriginals with it; however, given that these people could not survive without Buckthorn, I can have a greater influence over Ice and Snow Wilderness by controlling them with the new Buckthorn like how demons ruled humans by the poisonous grain seeds. It's of the same logic."

If it was before, Zhang Tie might not have such a great ambition; however, this time, the moment this thought flashed across his mind, it had started to grow and extend wildly like weeds in his mind.

Seeing Zhang Tie becoming absent-minded, Zieg thought that Zhang Tie didn't like these food as he asked him out of concern, "Don't like this?"

"Wuh, of course not!" Zhang Tie responded with a smile, "When I heard about the functions of these Buckthorns, I was thinking about taking some seeds back as a memory!"

"You want the seeds of Buckthorns?" The village head asked.

"Is there any in the village? If not, I can collect some outside!"

Zieg then burst out into laughter and generously replied, "The last thing that you cannot get from Kurgan village is Buckthorn seeds. As they are used for squeezing oil, many Buckthorn seeds are piling in the mill. We've got several hundreds kg. You can take as many as you will. If you tell me where you live, I can have some young men carry them to your place!"

"I only need a small pack, about half a kilo!"

"Hassan, go get a small pack of Buckthorn seeds from the mill for Peter!" Zieg touched his grandson who was only about 6 years old.

Hearing this, his grandson glanced at Zhang Tie before nodded and scuttled outside. After a short while, he already came back with a pack of Buckthorn seeds which weighed about 1 kg...

Gazing at those seeds, Zhang Tie faintly narrowed his eyes, "Although it's low for Buckthorn seeds to mutate and evolve in Castle of Black Iron, If I could input different number of merit values, aura values and basic energy storage into the 300 Buckthorn seeds, which are divided into different groups, I might finally gain a whole new Buckthorn seed."

Thinking of those Buckthorns over Ice and Snow Wilderness which would be "docile" to him in the future, Zhang Tie revealed with a smile.

After supper, it was already dark. Zhang Tie learned a lot about Ice and Snow Wilderness from Zieg. At this time, Evan and the other teenagers came here to invite Zhang Tie to attend their bonfire party.

"Go, evening belongs to you, young man. Actually, there are only young men at the bonfire party. We old people do not go there!" Zieg also persuaded.

Without any hesitation, Zhang Tie agreed pleasantly. It was still a period of time before going to bed. As they were all young, Zhang Tie didn't mind attending it.

Hearing Zhang Tie's response, all the other teenagers became joyful. Before leaving, Evan pointed at Zhang Tie's heavy crossbow which was placed against the wall, "Can we take that huge thing there? So many people want to take a look at it!"

Zhang Tie instantly took his crossbow. Seeing that, everybody burst out into laughter.

The bonfire party was held in the middle of the village. Each night, this place would be the world of young persons and kids in Kurgan village. They set a big bonfire in the vacant place; meanwhile, they sat

around the bonfire to chat, drink, sing, dance and share their achievements on the very day; besides, these adolescents wrestled and challenged their peers on fighting skills. What a boisterous scene!

Those diligent girls who helped their family members do farming works in the daytime would also come out in the evening. They sat and joked with boys, being not bashful at all.

Smaller kids ran around the bonfire as they caught fireflies or played hide-and-seek game.

Those married ones or elders would not attend such a party at all. Therefore, these young men felt free doing whatever they wanted here.

According to Evan, such parties were held everyday as long as weather permitted or nothing special happened. These young men would kill time here each night. All the young ones would like to attend this party.

Before arrival, Zhang Tie had already seen the fierce blaze from afar and heard the laughter of these young people.

When he arrived there, Zhang Tie found about 400-500 people over there. The atmosphere was boisterous and free. The age of these people ranged from 5-20-odd years old. The younger ones were even running here and there with naked butts. Everybody here looked relaxed and pleasant.

Zhang Tie noticed that more than 20 young men spared a region on one side of the bonfire as they threw javelins towards a scarecrow being covered with hide which was standing dozens meters away. They were so hyper.

This was more an open-air party than a bonfire party that every young people would like to attend each night in Kurgan village. Zhang Tie as an average person who grew up in a small city had not imagined about enjoying such a special treatment by attending parties and exchanging with familiar peers each night. Young people in cities often went to bars. However, the atmosphere and feeling in bars could never match that of here. Not to mention that Zhang Tie was very poor when he was in Blackhot City and couldn't afford bars at all.

At this moment, Zhang Tie started to admire about the night life of the youth in Kurgan village. They didn't spend even a penny on attending this party; yet their happiness and freedom could not be bought by many people.

Zhang Tie's arrival didn't arise any surprise. Those young men didn't welcome him with any special audible and visual effects; instead, they all acted as casual as before. Zhang Tie then followed Evan's team into that circle formed by Burman's team whom he met at the sunset. After that, they started to chat with each other happily.

The heavy metal crossbow that Zhang Tie took here seemed being more attractive than himself. The moment those young men caught sight of such a huge weapon, they instantly surrounded it and wanted to have a try.

After teaching them how to adjust the moment gear of that hydraulic sliding bar, Zhang Tie handed it to those young men. Many people then tried to take it up one by another.

Those who could take up this crossbow stared at Zhang Tie with full of admiration; however, those people who could not take up, would not feel too embarrassed either; instead, they only felt a bit bashful as they would always laugh in a benign way.

Evan shouted that with this crossbow, a bolt could penetrate through an iron-teeth hyena before completely sunk into the soil with its full strength. With Zhang Tie's consent, some more young men crowded in and wanted to have a try.

When in trial shooting, almost all the young people in the village crowded over here.

They tested its power at the point where they threw their javelins. Zhang Tie told some of them to place 3 scarecrows in a row 40 m away.

Because nobody could take up that huge weapons and shot horizontally like Zhang Tie, they carried it onto a wooden vaulting horse which was about 1 m high. After fixing that metal foot stool with the help of the vaulting horse, they triggered the crossbow.

Burman was the first. He firstly inserted a metal bolt clip into a slot under the crossbow. After that, he forcefully pulled the sliding bar 8 times consecutively before finally made it with a sound of "kacha". He then placed it over his shoulder against the fold-able handle of the crossbow and triggered the bolt in a few seconds.

Almost nobody had heard the faint buzz; however, they saw 3 targets exploding at the same time.

"Wow..." All the young men in Kurgan village uttered a scream as this crossbow's power was out of their imagination.

"Even Eschyle City could not make this..." A teenager sighed with emotion, "I've seen the heavy crossbow in Eschyle City. They could not match its power and craftsmanship at all!"

"It might cost a lot!" Evan watched that crossbow as he asked Zhang Tie with sparkling eyes.

"Hmm, probably!" Actually, even Zhang Tie didn't know the price of this heavy crossbow. Because he took it away from the warehouse of the Zhen's Mansion in Heavens Cold City. It was absolutely a imported good from other continents. He had 10 more heavy crossbows of the same kind in Castle of Black Iron. After arriving at Grey Hill, Zhang Tie found this weapon was the most efficient weapon in killing iron-teeth hyenas; therefore, he took one out of Castle of Black Iron and kept using it.

Zhang Tie thought this crossbow should be worth 400 gold coins or so in Huaiyuan Prefecture. It might be more valuable in other places. In a contrast, the price of a Faerie-Dragon T9 sports car was only 500-odd gold coins. Based on this, the price of such a crossbow was truly expensive.

After Burman, almost all the teenagers above 12 had a try one after another. Even those girls couldn't wait to join them.

It was such a boisterous and happy party. Zhang Tie performed as an interpreter of weapon and a coach on teaching the young men in Kurgan village to manipulate this heavy crossbow. After all, the crossbow was like a big-bore heavy weapon before catastrophe, which was rarely seen. However, this weapon became a big toy in this bonfire party, making everybody excited.

After playing with his peers innocently for such a long time, Zhang Tie also felt very happy.

...

The bonfire party didn't come to an end until midnight. As the flames gradually became lighter, those young men returned to their homes.

Zhang Tie was arranged by Zieg to sleep in the only public room of the village. It was a cabin built by the villagers. If any family could not hold their relatives or guests, they could arrange them in the public room. The wild patron from school of patron also slept here that night.

As was imagined, Zhang Tie didn't complain about the treatment at all. Actually, he found that this public room was even better than most of private cabins in the village. Additionally, although the quilts here were not new, they were very clean and carried the smell of sunshine. The villagers especially prepared them for Zhang Tie.

...

When all the households in Kurgan Village died out their lamplights, Zhang Tie, lying on his bed, was intending to enter Castle of Black Iron to taste the latest seven-strength fruit. However, at this moment, he heard faint footsteps from outside the cabin, which stopped Zhang Tie's intention at once.

"It's been so late! Who's that?"

"Bang, bang, bang..." After a short while, someone finally knocked at his door.

When the second round of knocks drifted in his ears, Zhang Tie got off the bed instantly and opened the wooden door.

It was a beautiful girl of 18 years old who was wearing a cloak made of bear's fur. Zhang Tie could even smell the fragrance of flowers from her, which indicated that she had just taken a bath.

"She's familiar. I've met her today; oh, she's Evan's elder sister..."

Before Zhang Tie uttered, the girl had revealed a smile as she walked inside. After closing the door, she took off her cloak, sending it sliding onto the wooden floor. At the same time, a perfect white, naked body was present in front of Zhang Tie...

Chapter 408: Impulsion and Enlightenment

After taking off her cloak, Evan's elder sister closed her eyes. Meanwhile, she started to pant faintly with undulant breasts in a nervous way. After doing this, she was waiting for Zhang Tie's next action.

However, she had not imagined that Zhang Tie wouldn't embrace or further violate her; instead, he put that bear-fur cloak which contained her body fragrance back on her.

When she felt what Zhang Tie was doing, she opened her eyes at once. With a dumbfounded look, she felt bashful all over as her face blushed.

"Don't...you like me?"

Being a bit bashful and somewhat nervous, the 18 year old girl asked with a faintly quivering voice.

"Are you Evan's elder sister?" Zhang Tie stared at her with a smile, "You're very beautiful, but I'm not used to be treated in this way after saving people. Evan doesn't know that you are here, right?"

Evan's elder sister bit her lips as she waved her head.

"If Evan knew about this, he would be very sad! If a man could not even protect his elder sister from making such a sacrifice, he would have a sense of failure deep in his mind; this would not be good to his later development. Have you thought about this?"

"But Evan expects to be a bear-killing fighter!" Evan's elder sister lowered her head while feeling bashful looking straight into Zhang Tie's clear eyes.

"I know. On the way back to Kurgan village, I've already been told that each teenager here dreamed to be a bear-killing fighter!"

"However, very few people in the village could guide him. Uncle Zieg was also a bear-killing fighter; however, as he's old and has suffered a heavy wound, he has lost the greatest power as a bear-killing fighter. On the other hand, there are so many teenagers in the village; therefore, he could not pay special attention to Evan. I know that you have such a power. Although you're not a bear-killing fighter, you're very powerful; you're even more powerful than uncle Zieg. You could give Evan enough guidance and help him realize his dream. I can do anything for my younger brother! I'm doing this to extend my gratitude and pray..." after saying this, Evan's elder sister raised her head and gazed at Zhang Tie with a brave look.

Zhang Tie became silent for a second as he watched this woman seriously, "On the way of cultivation, the only shortcut is enlightenment; however, it requires very rigid conditions; fortune and talent. Even for me, it's very hard to gain enlightenment. Each step forward is at the price of countless sweat drops and fresh blood. As I have to leave next morning, even if I guide him in such a short period, it would be useless!"

With a sound of "dong", Evan's elder sister knelt down in front of Zhang Tie at once with tears in her eyes. Raising her head, she gazed at Zhang Tie, "Can you take Evan away? Just let him accompany you. You can take him as a servant and guide him when you're free. I know that he would be very safe with you as no wild beasts across Ice and Snow Wildness could hurt you. Additionally, he likes to stay with you. You must have seen that his eyes were filled with worship when he looked at you. Evan's mother had died soon after she delivered Evan. At age 7, he lost his father. It was my first time to see him watching a man with that look. I know it would make you inconvenient, but you could guide him for 3 months. I'm deeply convinced that by following you for 3 months, he could learn more than he could gain in this village for 10 years. As I'm his elder sister, for his development, I'd like to do anything that I wish to satisfy you, if there is. Whatever it is, I'd like to do anything for you. I also like to be your mistress..."

Zhang Tie was really moved by Evan's elder sister's love to Evan...

Receiving no response, Evan's elder sister moved 2 steps forward with her knees. When she moved close to Zhang Tie, although with tears in her eyes, she still revealed a charming smile reluctantly, "I've not been touched by other men; but I know how to satisfy you. You can have a try..."

Saying this, she had bravely started to undo Zhang Tie's waistband with quivering hands.

"You don't need to do this!" Zhang Tie stopped her hands instantly as he waved his head. The girl exerted her utmost effort, only to not move even a bit. Feeling this, her tears flew out at once.

Zhang Tie then glanced at the door as he said, "Evan, come in, don't stay outside!"

Kneeling down in front of Zhang Tie, Evan's elder sister became stunned. She turned around and found the door had been pushed open as Evan was looking at her with tears covering his face outside the door.

The moment she stared at Evan, the girl hurriedly sprung up from the ground. At the same time, Evan rushed in. Hugging his elder sister, he burst out into tears.

"Evan, your elder sister is talking useless. I can not help you to be a bear-killing fighter..."

"Elder sister, I don't want to be bear-killing fighter any more..." Evan cried.

"Pah..." The girl pushed him away as she smacked him. At the same time, she scolded him with tears, "If you say this for the second time, I will go die right away. You better tell me, you're destined to be a bear-killing fighter!"

"Yes...I...I'm destined to be a bear-killing fighter!" Evan cried.

Hearing this, she embraced Evan once again as they cried again.

Watching them on one side, even Zhang Tie felt like crying. It was hard to learn fighting skills and secret knowledge even in Blackhot City, not to mention a wild village in Ice and Snow Wildness.

In Ice and Snow Wildness, teenagers in larger tribes would have more chances and better conditions. By contrast, teenagers in smaller villages like Kurgan would be too hard to be outstanding. Even though there were bear-killing fighters in this village, they would not stay in the village; instead, they preferred to challenge themselves in the outside world. That been said, nobody would like to guide teenagers like Evan in the village.

Zhang Tie didn't persuade them until Evan and his elder sister finished crying, "You go back first; leave Evan here, I'd like to say something to him!"

After glancing at Zhang Tie with a sophisticated look, Evan's elder sister gritted her teeth before she left, leaving Zhang Tie and Evan in the cabin.

"You have a good elder sister!" Zhang Tie told Evan with a sophisticated look, "I won't belittle her; she's doing right! I could feel her selfless affection to you!"

"Thanks!" Evan lowered his voice, "She's the best one in my eyes!"

"Hope you could think this way! If you want to be a bear-killing fighter, I can give you a chance."

Hearing this, Evan's eyes gleamed at once.

"Watch me carefully. I only perform one time. Whether you can learn something from it, it depends on you!" After saying this, Zhang Tie calmed down as he posed a starting gesture of Iron-Blood Fist.

Closing his eyes, Zhang Tie recalled all the fierce fighting moments that he had experienced in both real lives and trouble-reappearance situations since he started to cultivate Iron-Blood Fist.

There were total 36 free hand movements of Iron-Blood Fist. However, Zhang Tie had spend countless blood, wounds and virtual lives on cultivating each free hand movement...

He gradually immersed his physical and spiritual energy into that fierce and invincible sensation; nothing exists, me or substance, life or death, come or go...

Being destructed in mind, everything became quiet...

At the beginning, Evan felt a bit strange as he didn't know what Zhang Tie meant by that starting gesture. However, watching Zhang Tie entering that strange state both physically and mentally, Evan's face gradually turned pale.

In a split second, Evan started having an illusion. He felt that he was not in that common cabin anymore; instead, he was in a hell full of bloody sea. Heavens collapsed, ground broke, fire columns burst out of the ground and shot directly into the sky, causing the sky to turn red all over. Meanwhile, the thunders and lightnings fell on the ground like rain, quaking the earth like a broken huge drum. It was like the end of the world as it was spread with fierce and terrifying demons and ghosts, who were fighting and swallowing each other...

The moment he entered this illusion, Evan's heart was held by a powerful hand at once. As a result, he felt breathless. In such an end of the world, he felt that he was as trivial as a piece of duckweed in that endless bloody sea, a sparkle in one fire column or an ant under the foot of a huge mountain-like demon. He felt nothing but weak and despair in this world...

When Evan felt that he was to be crushed into pieces by the scene, he saw a giant between the heavens and the land whose frame was as irresistible as a steel mountain, even in the end of the world.

Standing in the bloody sea, that person stared up at the heavens while the whole bloody sea started to quiver, boil and boom under his feet...

Suddenly, that figure moved.

The moment he stepped out his feet, the whole world became quiet. Under the foot of that giant, the entire bloody sea was like puddle. Being sprayed in the air, the bloody sea turned into a thousands-m high bloody tsunami and rolled in all directions...

Numerous demons and ghosts then rushed towards him...

Numerous thunders and lightnings boomed him...

Numerous fire columns tilted towards him...

At this moment, a fist appeared between the heavens and the land which started to destroy everything...

...

The moment Zhang Tie entered that state, Zieg, the village head who was living 100 m away had sprung up from his bed like being poured in a basin of charcoal fire although he had fallen asleep.

After springing up from his bed, Zieg's eyes gleamed as his skin turned a bit red. Meanwhile, the veins underneath his skin crept irregularly like earthworms. Breathing quickly, Zieg looked over himself with an amazement, "What the hell? How come the source of madness like a spring which had withered for a long time suddenly became so active?"

Zieg knew that it was not because that he had recovered, which enabled him to possess the previous ability of being mad; instead, it was because that his source of madness was stimulated and influenced by a power Qi field and special spiritual field. He sensed it like how a nail was magnified after being rubbed with a magnet. With the influence of those powerful Qi fields and special spiritual fields, the source of madness in bear-killing fighters bodies would also be driven mad.

After closing his eyes and sensing it for a short while, Zieg put on his clothes. He then left his home rapidly towards that public room.

...

After performing that whole set of 36 free hand movements, Zhang Tie opened his eyes.

At this moment, Evan had been oozing sweat all over his forehead as his face turned pale.

Zhang Tie didn't ask about Evan's enlightenment; instead, he turned around and took out the book "Iron Blood Fist" from Castle of Black Iron through his luggage and put it onto Evan's hands.

"What you were watching just now is described in this book. I've already performed the whole set of fist to you, including my recognition. It depends on you how much you obtain from it. This fighting skill is very difficult; yet once you make it, you will be unrivaled!"

Evan tightly held that secret knowledge as he stared at Zhang Tie with a sophisticated and appreciative look.

"Can...can I call you master?"

Hearing this, Zhang Tie became faintly stunned as this special Chinese appellation had been spread among many humans; in many places, it was almost like "godfather". It was out of Zhang Tie's imagination that people here could also use this word.

"Yes, you can!" Zhang Tie nodded as he saw Evan becoming excited.

"Can I allow other people in Kurgan village to learn this fighting skill?"

"Of course you can. But, you'd better be careful as this fighting skill is the secret knowledge of the imperial household in Norman Empire!" Zhang Tie told Evan as what Captain Kerlin had told him. At this moment, Zhang Tie finally understood the mentality of Captain Kerlin, like what Captain Kerlin thought. Zhang Tie also hoped these small kids to survive themselves. Compared to their lives, a secret knowledge was nothing important at all.

However, from Evan's question, Zhang Tie noticed that this boy was purely innocent. Like Zhang Tie, Evan also like to share his goods with his partners.

"Perhaps, I'm destined to meet these teenagers in Ice and Snow Wildness!"

Zhang Tie told himself.

...

When Evan left Zhang Tie's cabin, he still felt like he was dreaming. Putting the book in his coat, he was recalling that illusion that he watched in Zhang Tie's cabin right now.

Of course, Evan knew what he saw just now was not a real existence but an impact to his spirit when Zhang Tie performed that set of fist. It was really a sharp impact. Like what really happened, it directly involved Evan into the spiritual situation of Iron-Blood Fist.

In the darkness, a tall figure had already stood in front of Evan. Being flurried, Evan almost hit the person.

"Uncle Zieg!"

"This fighting skill is the greatest one I've seen. I've heard about that before. Peter has already showed his spiritual realization on this set of fist to you. Do you know how precious it is to perform the essence of this fist in front of others?"

"Is it very precious?" Evan asked out of curiosity.

"Even though we sell all the valuable goods in Kurgan village, we will still not afford that performance!" Zieg heavily patted onto Evan's shoulder as he added enthusiastically, "Treasure it!"

Evan instantly became dumbfounded...

After deeply glancing at that cabin of Zhang Tie, Zieg then turned around and disappeared in the darkness; however, Evan's eyes became more determined at this moment...

...

Zhang Tie knew that Zieg had come to the outside of the cabin just now and knew that he was imparting Iron-Blood Fist to Evan. Now that village head didn't come in, Zhang Tie didn't feel it necessary to invite him in. They both knew how to deal with that.

The cabin recovered silence. Zhang Tie didn't enter Castle of Black Iron this time as he was really afraid that he would be seen by someone, if he came out of Castle of Black Iron. If that really happened, it would be a great trouble! Therefore, he decided to eat the latest fruit when he returned to his wild settlement.

Lying on the bed, Zhang Tie recalled the enlightenment of the performance. Not only Evan, even Zhang Tie had a further enlightenment about Iron-Blood Fist.

Fist was will!

A sudden enlightenment flashed across Zhang Tie's mind...

...

Chapter 409: Encounter

Zhang Tie left Kurgan village before dawn without bidding farewell to anybody. Besides, he also left that heavy metal crossbow and more than 200 metal bolts in that cabin.

He knew that Zieg was clear about his intention.

This was his gift to those villagers. With this equipment, even though there was no powerful fighter in Kurgan village, they could improve their fighting strength a lot, on dealing with various dangerous wild beasts in Ice and Snow Wilderness. Perhaps this weapon could save lives in the village sometimes.

This metal crossbow was the most powerful single-handed heavy weapon of this era! Even if Kurgan village could afford this, they could hardly buy one in Ice and Snow Wilderness.

Zhang Tie was deeply impressed by everything here, including Evan, Evan's elder sister, those innocent and straightforward teenagers and that joyful bonfire party.

Zhang Tie liked this place.

Additionally, Zhang Tie had gained a lot here.

The aspiration on mutated Buckthorns, the burning ambition, his further enlightenment on the essence and meaning of Iron-Blood Fist and the information about this animal tide and the wild patron from school of patrons, each of the above achievements was more than 1000 gold coins, which could never be matched by an icy weapon.

"Now that I've gained so much here, I will leave something here as payment." Zhang Tie thought.

Therefore, he left the book "Iron-Blood Fist" and that expensive heavy metal crossbow which could greatly increase the defensive capability of this small village...

"It felt good to serve others!"

When the first ray of sunlight cast on the ground at the dawn, Zhang Tie was standing at the top of a hill on the side of Kurgan village as he gazed the village. At this moment, he felt relaxed.

He noticed that Evan had already gotten up in the early morning and was practicing the lying-tiger movement, one of the basic movements of Iron-Blood Fist in the courtyard. Seeing Evan becoming that diligent, Zhang Tie felt reassured.

At this moment, Evan's elder sister was walking out of her cabin. Due to female's amazingly precise intuition, the moment she came to the courtyard, she looked towards the top of the hill where Zhang Tie was standing.

Although it was about 500-600 m away, she could still see Zhang Tie standing over there.

At this moment, Zhang Tie also saw her. However, Zhang Tie just revealed a smile; knowing that she couldn't see him, he turned around and trotted away...

Seeing Zhang Tie left, Evan's elder sister instantly dropped off her tears. Although she didn't make love with this man, but her heart had been filled with the shadow of this man.

"Peter" Evan's elder sister muttered.

...

After leaving Kurgan village, Zhang Tie started to run over the hills. Only after half an hour when the sun completely rose above the horizon, Zhang Tie had already been more than 20 km away from Kurgan village and arrived at the wild vast depopulated area on Grey Hill.

After finding a secret place, Zhang Tie took out another same heavy metal crossbow from Castle of Black Iron.

This weapon was like a huge set square. With a wholly sealed metal structure, it was 1.4 m in length and 1.6 m in width. Besides, its charger was connected externally. A great amount of special alloy were used on its key parts which ensured its long service life and great power. However, this greatly increased its weight—312 kg. Zhang Tie saw this net weight with no charger on the operating manual.

If this weapon was matched with those recycled metal bolts and charger which was made of the same super powerful metal alloy, its standard total weight in fight would be 375 kg; this number had surpassed that of "Man's Certificate"—358 kg.

This weapon was covered with camouflage matte paint which was hidden in the wild. It was especially suitable for fighting on hills. By choosing this weapon, Zhang Tie could not only increase the efficiency of killing iron-teeth hyenas but also improve his fighting strength invisibly.

When he came here on the first day, Zhang Tie ran over the Grey Hill the whole day and felt a bit tired. However, after taking the first seven-strength fruit that he reaped here, Zhang Tie felt much relaxed by running the whole day with this huge weapon. What a great effect!

After taking one seven-strength fruit, it took him about 10 hours to completely digest and absorb it. At this moment, Zhang Tie looked at the sky, "If I take it now, I would have to waste today. I'd better kill some more iron-teeth hyenas in the daytime and take one seven-strength fruit at night."

"Being patient is a virtue!"

Zhang Tie warned him once again. After that, he forcefully swallowed his saliva and started to wander over Grey Hill with that huge weapon.

Only after 1 hour, Zhang Tie had met a boar among the paper mulberries. After easily killing that boar, Zhang Tie broke its body and spread its fresh blood and innards everywhere. After that, Zhang Tie climbed onto a tall paper mulberry with this weapon and awaited there for his prey.

Through these days of hunting, Zhang Tie had already found iron-teeth hyenas' habits. This animal was very sensitive to odors. Once they sniffed the bloody odor or smelly rotten meat, they would come for that from afar. This greatly increased Zhang Tie's hunting speed.

The first batch of 8 iron-teeth hyenas arrived here after 20 minutes. What was waiting for them was needless to say.

The second batch of iron-teeth hyenas made Zhang Tie wait over 3 hours. When the sun was at the highest point in the sky, this batch of 11 iron-teeth hyenas finally arrived.

After hunting 19 iron-teeth hyenas with that dead boar, Zhang Tie was a bit satisfied.

As too much fresh blood of iron-teeth hyenas was covering here, for cunning animals like iron-teeth hyenas who were very sensitive to the fresh blood of their kind, they would not come close easily.

After killing the 2nd batch of iron-teeth hyenas, Zhang Tie carried that huge weapon as he dragged the disgusting dead boar being surrounded with flies and moved towards another place rapidly.

That boar weighed about 100 kg. Although it was nothing for Zhang Tie, it was really disgusting. After killing it, Zhang Tie even broke its intestines and exposed it under the sun for a while. What a stink!

After running less than 20 km with that dead boar, Zhang Tie almost vomited by its stink, not to mention those humming flies around it. Zhang Tie had never been surrounded by so many flies ever since he was born.

However, Zhang Tie stood it for the latest seven-strength fruit.

After running several kilometers, Zhang Tie finally loosed his grip. After staying away from the previous location, Zhang Tie threw the boar onto the Buckthorns. He then awaited quietly over 100 m away.

Before the sun almost set off, Zhang Tie killed another batch of 16 iron-teeth hyenas in total with the help of this dead boar.

Zhang Tie had not imagined that he could kill 35 iron-teeth hyenas today. Therefore, he felt pretty satisfied. He estimated that after killing another 10-odd iron-teeth hyenas, the 3rd seven-strength fruit would grow ripe.

This speed was really skyrocketing. However, this also indicated the terror of the animal tide over Grey Hill. A dead boar could attract 30-40 iron-teeth hyenas in one day. What a easy job! If it were another common LV 2 or LV 3 warrior, he would have long lost his life facing so many iron-teeth hyenas in one day.

After chasing and killing the last iron-teeth hyena, Zhang Tie returned to his original place. Previously, he thought about taking one hind leg back to roast it at his foothold; however, at the sight of those eggs of flies which were surrounding the boar, Zhang Tie finally gave up his plan although he was a tough man.

"Alright, no more trouble. I will eat some frozen meat of that huge deep-sea monster. Roasted huge deep-sea monster also tastes good." Zhang Tie muttered.

After one day's work, Zhang Tie was covered with the smelly odor of the boar.

With this stink, Zhang Tie returned to his foothold on the Grey Hill.

When he came back, it was fully dark.

The foothold was on one bank of a big river over Grey Hill. The river's width changed from 1 mile to 800 m. With limpid river water, it flew undulating across the greater part of the Grey Hill towards the ocean 50 km away.

After coming to the riverside, Zhang Tie took off his clothes quickly and took a bath. After cleaning off that stink, Zhang Tie returned to his foothold.

The foothold was in a mountain cave on the riverside.

After picking up some dried firewood and weeds, Zhang Tie entered the cave and started to set a fire. After that, he took out a piece of flesh from that huge deep-sea monster and started to roast it...

20 minutes later, the flesh started to suffuse a exquisite fragrance, making Zhang Tie drooling. The moment Zhang Tie wanted to eat it, he raised his ears as he took up that heavy crossbow and targeted it at that entrance.

"Wow, someone is here..." A voice sounded outside the entrance. At the same time, a pioneer walked in. At the sight of Zhang Tie's weapon, he became stunned remarkably. After a short while, he responded with a kind smile as he shrugged his shoulders. Meanwhile, he revealed a mouthful of golden teeth, "After seeing the fire here, I came here. As it's dark now and I cannot find any suitable place in the neighborhood. Can I sleep one night here?"

...

Chapter 410: Empty City Tactic[1]

Zhang Tie watched that person with faintly narrowed eyes, "Come in, this place is enough for two people..."

Hearing this, that man walked in. After glancing at Zhang Tie's heavy metal crossbow, he intended to walk close.

Zhang Tie then pointed at a place over 10 m away with his heavy metal crossbow, "If you're a pioneer, you should know the rules among pioneers. You can sleep over there and set a fire yourself with those dried firewoods. As we don't know each other, in case of conflict, you'd better stay away from me. I'm as timid as a rabbit. Besides, I would always sleepwalk. I'm afraid of hurting you if you are too close to me!"

Hearing Zhang Tie's explanation, that person's smile froze at once. Whereas, after a short while, he revealed a smile once again, "You're right!" After that, that man picked some dried firewoods and weeds from the ground in the mountain cave and started to set fire by his windproof lighter at the place over 10 m away from Zhang Tie.

Although that person was a bit far away from Zhang Tie, he faintly blocked the entrance. If Zhang Tie wanted to leave the mountain cave, he had to pass by that person.

After that person set a fire, the kebab of huge deep-sea monster being on Zhang Tie's metal bolt had turned golden and was dripping oil onto the bonfire. As a result, the flame below grew higher, causing the sound of "Zra, Zra".

The fragrance in the mountain cave grew richer.

During this process, Zhang Tie and that person just looked at each other, causing a bit weirdness in the silence.

After cooking the kebab well, Zhang Tie took it up. Blowing it slightly, Zhang Tie started to eat it. Even though he was eating the kebab, he still didn't drop his heavy metal crossbow; instead, he put it on his legs, setting the mouth of the crossbow faintly towards a place 10 meters away.

"Little brother, what are you eating? It smells good!" That person licked his lips.

"Hmm, this is a fish I got from the river outside. It does not look bad!" Zhang Tie fabricated. At the same time, oil dripped off his mouth corners. "Flesh of huge deep-sea monster is truly yummy; it makes my stomach warm and very comfortable. After eating it, my tiredness and sense of hunger gradually faded away. The chef is right. the energy of Qi and blood in the flesh of huge deep-sea monster is very beneficial to human body."

"I've not eaten anything today. Can you share me with that kebab, little brother?" that man smiled, exposing a mouthful of gold-capped teeth. "

"Oh, sorry, the flesh is only enough for myself. If you are hungry, you better get something from outside. As a pioneer, it should not be a problem to get some food!" Zhang Tie kept engulfing the cooked kebab, sparing no face to that guy at all. He even didn't glance at him.

Hearing this, that guy with a mouthful of gold-capped teeth twitched his eye corners at once before smiled. After that, he took out a piece of jerked meat and started to roast it above the fire. At the same time, he sighed with emotions, "Alas! I could only eat my own food! But my food is not as savoury as yours. Your meat smells like that of top cuttlefish in the deep sea! How come cuttlefish exist in the freshwater river outside!"

Zhang Tie also responded with a smile. After sweeping the last piece of kebab, Zhang Tie cleaned his mouth as he put away his metal crossbow, "It's nothing strange at all. Perhaps I just encountered a foolish cuttlefish that swam along the river from the sea! Actually, this place is not far from the ocean..."

"Cuttlefish is not foolish. They are actually the most clever and ferocious hunters in the ocean, especially some mutated and evolved ones. If they truly swim against the current and enter this river from the ocean, they must be chasing after their preys..." The "gold-capped teeth" explained with a smile as he stared at Zhang Tie. Being reflected by the fire in front of him, his teeth radiated metallic gleam, making Zhang Tie feel chilly, "Do you know what those smart and powerful cuttlefish would do after they catch their preys? Hehe, they would always not kill the preys right away; instead, they enjoy the process to kill the preys. At first, they would bound the preys tightly with tentacles; then, they gradually corrode preys' limbs with gastric acid. Finally, they start to eat their preys one bit after another. A cuttlefish could even survive 1 week with a fat prey!"

"Wow, is that true..." Zhang Tie also smiled, "Besides feeling disgusted about those cuttlefish, I don't think that they are that sharp. Although some cuttlefish look huge and sharp, as long as you cut off their tentacles, they would not be able to move any more. Like what I've seen on the passenger liner that I took. I watched how a sword sage cut off the tentacles of a huge deep-sea monster one by another and finally turn it into a pile of dead flesh floating over the sea!"

"Do you mean Samaranth, the Star and Moon Sword Sage?"

"Yes! I fought a huge deep-sea monster together with him. At the critical moment, I gave him a little help by shooting the huge deep-sea monster to death with the ballista on the ship. From then on, we know each other! Mr. Samaranth feels that I am very brave. But to tell the truth, I am really brave..." Zhang Tie said with an easy and honorable look.

"You know Samaranth?" Saying this, the "Gold-capped Teeth" didn't smile anymore as he stared at Zhang Tie, seemingly wanted to judge whether Zhang Tie was telling a lie.

Without changing his look, Zhang Tie watched "Gold-capped Teeth". At the same time, he broke a small wooden spike from a withered Buckthorn twig on one side and started to pick his teeth with it in a casual way. Meanwhile, he peered at "gold-capped teeth" with a disgusting and proud look, "Is that strange? You will see him right away. When you see him, you can also talk about that story about cuttlefish to him. Mr. Samaranth hates cuttlefish the most. I think he must be interested in that story!"

Hearing this, "Gold-capped Teeth" rolled his eyes as he glanced at the entrance, "Hehe, your story is very funny, but everybody knows that the Star and Moon Sword Sage is heading for Haidela Glacier Crack in the south of Ice and Snow Wilderness for the pieces of Star of God!"

"Dare you bet?" Zhang Tie maintained his look as he stared at "Gold-capped Teeth" with a scornful look, "If the trace of a sword sage could be known by everybody, is he qualified to be a sword sage? Mr. Samaranth is going to Haidela Glacier Crack; however, before going there, he wants to prepare something on Grey Hill. Perhaps, he believes in me; therefore, he wants me to give him a bit help."

"What help?" "Gold-capped Teeth" asked.

"You don't need to know about this! Perhaps, if you think that Mr. Samaranth could treat you well, you can ask him!" Saying this, Zhang Tie casually took out his pocket watch and glanced at it, "Sword Sage would come at any time. You can wait here for a while!"

Hearing this, the "Gold-capped Teeth" changed his face. He had fully lost his calmness. He glanced at the entrance before focused on Zhang Tie with ferociously gleaming eyes. However, he became a bit hesitated at the moment as he became wholly flurried inside.

"gold-capped teeth" stood up from the ground immediately as he stared at Zhang Tie with eyes full of killing intent, "How do you know that I'm from Demon Snake Island?"

"Nonsense, please think about it with your cuttlefish-like brain. What's the time now? How come pioneers still stay on Grey Hill?" Zhang Tie stared at "gold-capped teeth" with a disdainful look. At the same time, he pointed his heavy metal crossbow towards "Gold-capped teeth", "If not to help Mr. Samaranth here and was promised to be taken to Haidela Glacier Crack, I would never stay in this hell place. As a pioneer, I'm here to hug sword sage's thigh[2], what are you motherf*cking here for? Are you also here to help sword sage?"

"Only this?"

"That's how I say you are as stupid as a cuttlefish..." Zhang Tie sneered, "At the sight of a stranger walking in with a heavy metal crossbow, no pioneer below LV 7 would still dare to walk inside a wild mountain cave and ask for one night. The reason lies in that you think you are more powerful than me and this heavy metal crossbow could not pose any threat to you. However, it's impossible for pioneers with such a high rank and fighting strength to not go to Haidela Glacier Crack at this moment!"

"This explanation is not persuasive. Perhaps, I'm just a pioneer and don't want to go to Haidela Glacier Crack and I just stay here due to other reasons!" "Gold-capped teeth" urged with a confident look.

"Even though you think you can surpass me on fighting strength, what if you fall asleep? After you fall asleep, if I want to set you up, I only need to trigger my crossbow in such a short distance. You would not be able to respond to it at all. Therefore, I've known that you're lying when you said that you were going to live one night with a stranger who's holding a heavy metal crossbow."

Zhang Tie sneered, "Nobody, if he's normal, would be able to sleep well in such an environment. Perhaps you could really rest here one night; but it must happen after you are killed or ensured that I do not have to resist; instead of being pointed by my crossbow. Therefore, I have already got 2 hidden meanings the moment you entered the mountain cave and told me about your intention: you are sure that I cannot threaten you tonight; you've already known about my real fighting strength and are here for killing me. You've not planned to let me survive me tonight. Besides b*stards on Demon Snake Island, I have no other enemies at all. Facing a person who knows me better than others and wants to set me up while not being afraid of being revenged, I could not find anybody else but those from Demon Snake Island. You only want to kill me, but why do you make it so sophisticated!"

Gritting his golden teeth, he glared at Zhang Tie. He had not imagined that his well-planned performance was full of loopholes in front of Zhang Tie since the beginning. Like a brand standing on his head, even his status and motive was seen through by Zhang Tie at once. To be honest, this made "gold-capped teeth" a bit self-abased. As a result, he grew more hateful towards Zhang Tie.

"I suggest you to not waste your brains with that poor intelligence, not to mention any ambience or personality. Bandits and killers like you are all scumbags. After catching sight of your targets, you should directly go kill them! Never dream about making any plot. I beg you, please!" Zhang Tie's sharp words completely destroyed the self-esteem of "gold-capped teeth". It seemed that Zhang Tie was in the advance position.

"I'm Dawson, a round-table warrior in Demon Snake Island. Do you think that I dare not to kill you?" Dawson stared at Zhang Tie as he moved one step forward.

"If you want to die, you can have a try!" Zhang Tie still looked calm.

"By what; your crossbow or your fighting strength as only a LV 9 fighter?" Dawson urged as he moved another two steps forward, intending to launch the attack at once.

"I've told you that you better not rack your cuttlefish-like mind. If you insist on doing that, you could only have two results: the first one is that you kill me and will be killed by Mr. Samaranth, unless you think that you could escape from a sword sage in Ice and Snow Wilderness; the second one is that Mr. Samaranth will kill you when you are fighting me!"

"How come Samaranth follow your order?"

"Of course a sword sage would not follow a trivial person's order. I'm not allowed to control his will; however, what if he feels that his dignity is violated or being irritated by someone as his good plan is destroyed? Additionally, do you think that the Star and Moon Sword Sage likes you b*stards from Demon Snake Island?" Zhang Tie then added, "I'd like you to guess whether I am postponing time for the second result?"

Hearing this, Dawson became startled instantly as he understood something. In a split second, he had already moved back to the entrance. After throwing a ferocious glare at Zhang Tie, he turned around

and intended to escape. At this moment, Zhang Tie triggered his crossbow ferociously towards him. Seeing this, Dawson twisted his body in a weird way to avoid from Zhang Tie's first wave of bolts.

Zhang Tie followed him closely while shooting at the latter consecutively with his heavy metal crossbow, preventing Dawson from leaving.

As the speed of the bolts could hardly reach that of sound in the air, they could hardly threaten a LV 10 strong fighter. With some flashes, Dawson had already been dozens of meters away as he soared towards Zhang Tie, "Wait there, brat..."

"Peh..." After chasing him out of the cave, Zhang Tie spat ferociously towards Dawson's back as he jumped up and swore, "You timid b*stards. You only know about bullying weak people, yet fearing powerful ones. If you are back, I will show my shooting skills with my crossbow. F*ck!"

Dawson from the distance was so furious that he almost spat out blood. In a few seconds, he had disappeared in the mountain woods hundreds meters away.

After seeing Dawson disappearing in the mountain woods, Zhang Tie felt his back wet and cold in the night wind.

Some of those words were real, some were not. He truly had identified that Dawson was from Demon Snake Island at the beginning. As for the contents about the Star and Moon Sword Sage, he fabricated them all.

Actually, since Dawson walked out of that mountain cave, Zhang Tie had been scared so much that his back even oozed cold sweat. He had not imagined that he could be blocked by a member of Demon Snake Island in a mountain cave in such a short period. As a person whose comprehensive fighting strength was a bit greater than a common LV 9, if he was blocked by a LV 10 strong fighter in that narrow space, Zhang Tie knew that he would not even survive 2 minutes in a fight.

Since he was in the Dragon Cave of Hidden Dragon Island, Zhang Tie had already experienced the gap between him and a LV 10 strong fighter. After these days' cultivation, although he had made progress and had eaten a Iron-Teeth Hyena Seven-Strength Fruit, Zhang Tie still felt that the gap could not be narrowed in such a short period. He had no confidence in defeating Dawson.

At that moment, when those thoughts flashed across Zhang Tie's mind, Zhang Tie had determined to take the pre-emptive move himself; otherwise, he had to die tonight. When he could not win a fight by fighting strength, he could only depend on his high intelligence.

Thankfully, Zhang Tie was the winner. He fabricated a story about the Star and Moon Sword Sage which even convinced himself. With the help of his calmness and perfect performance, Zhang Tie finally scared Dawson away.

Of course Dawson didn't leave too far away. Zhang Tie knew that such a sharp figure would never be scared too far away only by his words. Zhang Tie knew that Dawson must be observing him in a hidden place in the woods to judge his words. If Dawson was sure that the Star and Moon Sword Sage wouldn't appear there or Zhang Tie was intending to escape, he would flash out right away.

Watching that broad river outside the mountain cave, Zhang Tie revealed a smile. Now that Zhang Tie knew that he was being chased, how come he not prepare anything in advance? That was why he set his foothold on the riverside, which was his greatest guarantee.

Before leaving his foothold, Zhang Tie determined to give another ferocious blow to that b*stard. Although this blow could not hurt Dawson's body, but it could disturb his mental and spiritual state, enabling him to not be calm when facing Zhang Tie in the future. Overall, the more flurried that b*stard was, the safer Zhang Tie would be.

Looking at the direction where Dawson escaped towards, Zhang Tie laughed his head off on purpose; at the same time, he hammered his chest and stomped his feet...

In this evening, Zhang Tie's laughter's might even be heard miles away. Zhang Tie was sure that Dawson could definitely hear his laughter's while observing what Zhang Tie was doing.

"B*stard from Demon Snake Island. You are Dawson, right? You are really as timid as a rabbit. You've been so scared by such a fabricated story about the Star and Moon Sword Sage, huh? How dare you be a killer? Roll back to your mom and eat some more breast milk, hahahaha..." Zhang Tie added, "I know you are still in the neighborhood. You rubbish! You coward! Besides your gold teeth, can you find something else as hard as it in your body[3]? Your brains are really as foolish as that of cuttlefish. Even a trivial cuttlefish is much braver than you. I really don't know whether your brains are filled with bullsh*t or paste. Remember to be a bit smart next time. Don't believe in anybody else like an idiot next time! You wait here for the Star and Moon Sword Sage, this grandpa will not accompany you. Wait here, I will chop off your head sooner or later!"

After saying this, Zhang Tie jumped into the river. Besides sprays, no more sound was left.

The river was still babbling while the two bright moons on the sky were smiling like a ripped mouth; they were watching what was happening here...

Ten more seconds later, with a growl from the distant woods, Dawson reappeared. He rushed towards that point where Zhang Tie jumped into the river. After taking a serious look, he also intended to jump in; however, with a hesitation, he roared, "Peter, I will peel off your skin..."

...

Half an hour later, Zhang Tie climbed onto the opposite river bank full of pebbles about 70 km away. Even Dawson stood here, he would never believe that someone could swim against the current for 70 km in half an hour. This was Zhang Tie's greatest advantage.

There were also all sorts of dangers in the river, especially in the evening. On the way, Zhang Tie had met more than 10 huge crocodiles which were longer than 5 m and some huge carnivorous fish. Although they swam faster in water and wanted to have a close touch with Zhang Tie at the sight of him, they were all easily lagged behind by Zhang Tie. In order to not leave any clue to Dawson, Zhang Tie didn't kill them; although they swam faster in water, compared to Zhang Tie, they were like tortoise in front of rabbit on land.

After reaching the opposite bank, Zhang Tie found a tree hole of a huge red willow. The moment he drilled into the hole, he instantly entered Castle of Black Iron...

"Castle Lord, Welcome to Castle of Black Iron..." Heller was greeting him...