"Let's keep playing. I've only lost 1000 so I'm not worried at all. I am sure I can win in the next round!" Qi Xiaoyun stated confidently as he decided to continue the game with Chen Hao.

Chen Hao was overjoyed when he heard him. Not only was that guy offering him free money, he was asking for it. He could not be blamed for whatever happened to him next.

One should never be lenient when dealing with such a person.

Thereafter, the two of them picked up the dice and started to shuffle them.

Qi Xiaoyun glued his eyes on Chen Hao but he failed to notice anything out of place. For some unknown reason, he felt that Chen Hao had something up his sleeves but he could not pinpoint it.

After shaking the dice for a while, the two of them put them down at the same time.

In this round, Chen Hao's throw had four 2's and a one, called a Five of a kind.

Meanwhile, Qi Xiaoyun had four 3's and a

2.

Both of their throws turned out to be rather satisfactory. When Qi Xiaoyun saw the number on the faces of his dice, he immediately smiled in relief. His smile was imbued with a sense of confidence.

"Come on Xiaoyun, you should make the bid first!" Chen Hao told Qi Xiaoyun.

Qi Xiaoyun blurted out, "Four 2's!"

Implementing the same tricks, Qi Xiaoyun made a bid contrary to what he really had to fool Chen Hao. Unfortunately, he would end up losing to Chen Hao this round again.

"Four 3's!"

Of course, Chen Hao would not fall into his trap. Instead, he bidded the numbers of Qi Xiaoyun's throw directly.

When Qi Xiaoyun heard him, his brows creased slightly.

He was pondering how Chen Hao would know about his throw. However, he soon brushed away the thought and assumed

Chen Hao was just making a wild guess.

"Five 2's!"

Thereafter, Qi Xiaoyun spoke up again.

"One more, six 2's!" Chen Hao immediately yelled.

Qi Xiaoyun was stunned when he heard him. He did not expect Chen Hao to make his bid so quickly without any consideration.

Both of their bids consisted of six numbers of the same and it was getting riskier and riskier. If he were to carry on, he was afraid Chen Hao would ask him to reveal his throw.

Therefore, Qi Xiaoyun was left with one option—revealing Chen Hao's throw.

"Alright, I want to see your dice. I don't believe you really have six 2's!" Qi Xiaoyun directly revealed his throw and challenged Chen Hao confidently, staring at him.

To his dismay, the outcome was contrary to what he had expected.

"So sorry, Xiaoyun, my throw actually does match six 2's. Not only that, I have a Five of a kind!" Chen Hao declared proudly.

Bam!

Qi Xiaoyun was dumbfounded.

It never occurred to him that Chen Hao had a Five of a kind. No wonder he was bold enough to make such a bid. It seemed like it was all part of his plan.

He had suffered a great loss.

"Well, a bet is a bet. I will admit my defeat!" Qi Xiaoyun could only say so earnestly before fishing out five one-hundred bills from his wallet and handing them to Chen Hao.

Chen Hao took the money and handed it to Zhen Ji who was standing behind him.

"Here you go, Zhen Ji, please keep the money for me. It's rare for Xiaoyun to be so generous!" said Chen Hao to Lady Zhen with a smile.

Upon hearing Chen Hao's words, Qi Xiaoyun was so furious that he nearly

puked out blood.

Deep down, he was livid yet he could not do anything because he had lost. If he lost his temper, he would be deemed a sore loser. Obviously, he would not allow himself to suffer such a humiliation.

After all, he had only lost a total sum of one thousand and five hundred. This was peanuts to him.

"Do you want another round, Xiaoyun?"
Chen Hao looked over to Qi Xiaoyun and asked. Looking at the outcomes, he doubted Qi Xiaoyun would continue to play with him.

"Of course, let's carry on!".

Qi Xiaoyun was a gambler by nature. It appeared that he would never feel content until he managed to win a round.

Chen Hao was rather pleased to hear that as he was curious as to how long Qi Xiaoyun could keep up.

"Great. But Xiaoyun, you proposed to play this game earlier. Now, it's my turn to make a suggestion. After all, we have to give

other games a try, don't you think so?" Chen Hao suggested while staring at Qi Xiaoyun.

"I agree, Buddy. What game would you like to play?"

Qi Xiaoyun agreed to his suggestion without hesitation. No matter what Chen Hao wanted to play, he had to beat him at all costs.

"In that case, how about we guess each other's throw?"

"The rules are simple. We each have five dice and we have to guess each other's throw. If your guess is more accurate than mine, you will be the winner. If you lose, you will have to pay the difference between your guess and the real throw. Let's do 100 for one point, is that all right?"

Chen Hao explained the rules of the game to Qi Xiaoyun.

After listening to Chen Hao, Qi Xiaoyun thought the game was interesting. Hence, he agreed to play without giving it much thought.

"All right, no problem!"

With that, the two of them picked up the dice and started to shake them.

Frankly, for those who liked to gamble, they would easily get addicted to such games. Coincidentally, Qi Xiaoyun was one of them.

After shaking for a while, the two of them placed the dice on the table and covered them.

"Why don't you make a guess first!" Chen Hao offered.

"My guess of your throw is 25 points!" He made the guess immediately which was inclined toward a higher figure.

Meanwhile, Chen Hao spoke up and said, "For me, I guess your throw is 19 points!"

Although he already knew Qi Xiaoyun's exact points, he could not say it as it was. He had to make his guess slightly higher or lower than that. One thing was for sure —he had to make a better guess than Qi Xiaoyun's.

After that, the two of them revealed their throw.

When the dice was revealed, Chen Hao's throw was 20 points whereas Qi Xiaoyun's was 16 points.

According to the difference between their guesses and the real throw, Chen Hao emerged as the winner as his guess was higher than the real throw by a mere three points while Qi Xiaoyun's guess was higher than the real throw by five points.

"Xiaoyun, it seems like it's you who needs more lessons!" Chen Hao teased with a grin on his face as he looked at Qi Xiaoyun.

Qi Xiaoyun's mood was extremely gloomy. He was sure that Chen Hao was experienced in playing this game. That was why he deliberately suggested playing it with him.

Yet, since they had already begun the game, he had no excuse to stop as it would be rather embarrassing. For him, his reputation was of the utmost priority.

He immediately fished out 500 from his

pockets and handed it to Chen Hao.

Qi Xiaoyun started aching at the loss of another 500. He had not won a single cent and had always been on the losing end. No matter how rich he was, he would still feel bad over his continuous defeat.

This was not Chen Hao's fault as it was Qi Xiaoyun who insisted on playing. He brought this on himself as he had deliberately asked for it. Out of so many people, he had to mess with Chen Hao.

"Monitor, do you still feel like playing?"
Chen Hao asked once again as he stared at him.

After losing twice in a row, of course Qi Xiaoran would refuse to continue.

He was sure that Chen Hao was hiding some of his skills; a fact he finally discovered. Also, he realized that Chen Hao had pretended to be a loser. Because of that, he underestimated him and ended up in such a debacle.



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Wait! I Have Something to Say!



Send a Gift to the Writer!

"Hehe, I'm not playing anymore. I'm going to go use the bathroom," Qi Xiaoyun said with a light grin to Chen Hao.

"Okay!" Of course, Chen Hao would not expose his true intentions. Instead, he nodded his head in acknowledgement.

With that, Qi Xiaoyun immediately got up and made a beeline for the bathroom.

Finally, he managed to escape Chen Hao's grasp. He would never be bold enough to mess with him again.

Very soon, the classmates reunion party ended smoothly.

Chen Hao left the hotel together with Zhen Ji and drove home.

"Chen Hao, it seems like Qi Xiaoyun was fooled by you left, right and center, huh!" Once they reached home, Lady Zhen commented with amusement as she smiled at Chen Hao.

"Hahaha!" Chen Hao instantly burst out laughing at Zhen Ji's comment.

"He was the one who messed with me in

the first place. Of course, I would not go easy on him. What's more, aren't you delighted to see him get fooled by me?" said Chen Hao to Zhen Ji in between laughs.

When she heard him, Zhen Ji nodded her head and replied, "Of course, I am overjoyed. That guy has been pestering me ever since our days in the university. Finally, someone managed to put him in his place!"

In fact, Lady Zhen was pleased with what Chen Hao had done during the reunion party. He had helped her settle a troublemaker.

She believed that Qi Xiaoyun would stop pestering her in the future.

Creak!

At that moment, Lei Lie opened the door and walked out of his room.

"Chen Hao, Zhen Ji, you guys are finally home!" Lei Lie greeted the two when he saw them.

"Lei Lie, it's already late. Why aren't you

resting?" Lady Zhen asked, puzzled.

"I-I was waiting for the two of you to come back. I have something from Mr. Fan for the two of you," Lei Lie explained immediately, answering her question.

"Something from Mr. Fan? What is it?"
When Chen Hao heard him, he was
perplexed and immediately asked Lei Lie
about it.

Lei Lie returned to his room and took out a box which he handed to Chen Hao.

"It's this box right here and I have yet to open it. It came with a letter which I assume was written by Mr. Fan and meant for you," Lei Lei said as he looked at Chen Hao.

When Chen Hao heard him, he immediately took the box and opened it.

As soon as he opened the box, he found a perfume sachet inside. A soothing and pleasant scent emanated from it.

"Wow, the aroma is so sweet. What is this? Why would Mr. Fan send a perfume sachet to you?" Lei Lie was stunned as soon as he

caught the scent. He asked Chen Hao, his curiosity piqued.

Chen Hao's brows immediately furrowed and his face filled with distress.

Noticing the change in his expression, both Zhen Ji and Lei Lie could sense that something was not right. This perfume sachet probably signified the occurrence of an upcoming important event.

Chen Hao did not answer Lei Lie. Instead, he opened up the letter addressed to him from Mr. Fan and started reading it.

After he finished reading the letter, the furrow in his brows grew deeper.

"Chen Hao, what happened? What's going on? You look awful!" Lei Lie asked immediately out of concern as he had never before seen such an expression on his face.

"Indeed, Chen Hao. What did Mr. Fan say?" Zhen Ji asked inquisitively.

"This perfume sachet is the Ghosts Attracting Scent, used specially to lure ghosts out. Mr. Fan said he is going to a

place called the Ghost Clan in order to discover their secrets. He sent me this sachet as an invitation to join him. I've made a pact with Mr. Fan before that we would send each other this sachet as a signal in the event something important had happened!" Chen Hao explained to them.

After hearing Chen Hao's explanation, realization dawned on the two. As it turned out, the perfume sachet was a signal.

"Does that mean something good has happened?" Lei Lie asked in astonishment.

Chen Hao shook his head and answered, "It's not that simple. I've heard about the Ghost Clan. It's a place filled with lifethreatening perils and dangers. It seems like Mr. Fan felt the need to make a trip to the Ghost Clan after facing some kind of trouble."

Under normal circumstances, Chen Hao and Mr. Fan would never send each other the perfume sachet.

Once it was sent out, it meant that something significant had happened and one of them was in desperate need of help

from the other.

"When should we set off?"

"Tomorrow morning at nine!

Chen Hao announced the time of departure as they were short on time.

"Zhen Ji, Lei Lie, please wake Zhou Nuo up and pack up your belongings. You will all be leaving with me tomorrow morning!" Immediately, Chen Hao gave out instructions to Lei Lie and Zhen Ji.

This time, the matter was of great importance. Therefore, it went without saying that Chen Hao would bring the three of them together with him as many hands make light work.

"Okay, I've got it!" Zhen Ji agreed to his request without further ado as she had no problem with his plan.

Thereafter, Chen Hao and the other three started packing up their bags at home in the middle of that night in preparation for their journey tomorrow.

Of course, Chen Hao had insomnia that

night.

The next morning, the four of them woke up early.

After washing up and having a simple breakfast, they began their journey.

According to their plans and pre-arranged schedule, Chen Hao would tell Lei Lie to drive to the entrance of the coastal highway where Mr. Fan would be awaiting him.

After half an hour on the road, the four of them reached the entrance of the coastal highway.

They were greeted by the sight of an elderly man dressed in a black windbreaker and a black hat, a crutch made of sandalwood in his hand. Just by one glance, they were sure that the man was Mr. Fan.

Chen Hao asked Lei Lie to park the car beside Mr. Fan.

Thereafter, he alighted the car and personally welcomed Mr. Fan.

"Mr. Fan!" Chen Hao called out his name with reverence.

"Hello!"

Mr. Fan replied calmly before he was brought to the front passenger seat with the help of Chen Hao.

Then, Chen Hao hauled Lei Lie out of the driver's seat and asked him to take the seat at the back as he would drive the car himself.

There was not a problem with Lei Lia's driving skill. Chen Hao did this because only he and Mr. Fan knew the way to the destination they were heading to. They were worried Lei Lie would take a wrong turn and end up lost.

"Mr. Fan, is there anyone else joining us?" Chen Hao posed the question to Mr. Fan before they set off.

Mr. Fan shook his head slightly without a word. He leaned against the back of his seat in silence.

With the sunglasses on Mr. Fan's face, one could see neither his eyes nor his face

clearly. Therefore, no one had any idea whether his eyes were opened or closed.

After that, Chen Hao started the engine and stepped on the accelerator and drove toward the entrance of the coastal highway.

"Lei Lie, it's going to take more than ten hours for us to reach our destination. The three of you should take a rest first. Since everyone woke up very early in the morning, I bet you guys are exhausted!" On the journey, Chen Hao made the suggestion.

The three of them nodded their heads in agreement.

Once they were on the highway, they could not stop to rest, save for detours to rest stops.

Before long, the three of them fell asleep while leaning against the back of their seats.

The inside of the car sunk into silence.

Chen Hao focused his attention on the road ahead and did not chat with Mr. Fan.

This arduous journey which lasted more than ten hours was extremely tiring for common folk. Yet, it was a very simple task for Chen Hao as he did not feel tired at all.



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Wait! I Have Something to Say!



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Only at eleven at night did Chen Hao and the rest arrive at the Green Realm.

The territory of the Ghost Clan was nestled deep in an ancient forest of the Green Realm. From the ancient times up until today, few had made trips into the forest to search for the Ghost Clan.

Fortunately, some of the hotels and inns were still operating late at night, providing Chen Hao and the rest with a place to stay and rest.

After Chen Hao had paid for the lodgings, he let everyone settle down in their own rooms as they had to make their way to the Ghost Clan's territory the next morning.

The next morning, the five of them woke up early, checked out of their lodgings and drove toward the ancient forest.

After forty minutes on the road, the car had to be parked at the foot of the mountain as it could not get through the dense forest. Then, the five of them continued their journey on foot.

They made their way into the ancient forest after collecting their bags.

"Wow, the air is so refreshing here! It feels good to be away from the hustle and bustle of the city once in a while!" Lei Lie commented aloud as he walked.

Indeed, the environment in the forest was much better compared to the city. The air was invigorating and they basked in the scent of trees and plants.

After walking for half an hour, the five of them arrived at a village.

The village was built by the members of the Ghost Clan. The people who came and went were the members of the clan and they had very peculiar culture and customs.

The five of them entered the village.

Their presence immediately drew the attention of the members of the Ghost Clan. Everyone put aside their work at hand and got up to size the five of them up, their eyes wary

"Who are you people?" The next second, a man dressed in a leather jacket walked out and blocked their path. He interrogated them as he glared at the five of them.

The five of them immediately came to a halt.

"Hi, nice to meet you. We are merchants from the city," Chen Hao greeted the man before them with a smile.

"Humph, merchants? Don't even try to fool me. I've seen many of your kind from the city. Just say it! Are you guys going after the treasure hidden inside the forest?" The man snorted and challenged in a hostile tone.

When Chen Hao heard him, a furrow formed in between his brows. It seemed like the members of the Ghost Clan were much more difficult to deal with than he expected.

"Lei Lie, take out the food!" After a brief pause, Chen Hao gave Lei Lie the instruction.

Immediately, Lei Lie responded to his request and took out all the edibles he kept in his knapsack before handing them all to Chen Hao.

Taking the food, Chen Hao then held them out to the man before them.

"We really are merchants and came here to barter for some of the goods and local harvests here. Look, these are the goods we have brought!"

Chen Hao quickly offered an explanation to the man as he did not want the man to sense that anything was out of place.

When the man heard him, he loosened up and took the food from Chen Hao before checking them all out.

In the blink of an eye, the rest of the members of the Ghost Clan made a beeline over and encircled the five of them.

The five of them suddenly became the most popular people in the entire village.

However, that also meant the supply of food they brought with them was exhausted all at once.

Lei Lie and the three of them could not help but worry.

Without the food, what would they eat to survive after going deeper into the woods?

"Get out of my way!" At that moment, a

deep voice could be heard.

A man with a bulging belly ambled over with a group of shabbily dressed underlings.

"Hey, people from the city. What have you guys brought here?" asked the man with the bulging belly.

Just by taking one glance at them, Chen Hao was sure they were always up to no good. They must be some sort of bullies or bandits in the village.

Of course, Chen Hao did not want to get too involved with them. With a smile, he answered, "Just some food. They have all been bartered away by the rest of the villagers."

Upon hearing this, the man with the bulging belly lifted his head.

"Let me introduce myself. My name is Fu Mo and I am the leader of this village. Since you guys have arrived at this village, you have to give me some gifts in honor of our first meeting. Otherwise, I will make sure the five of you will have a hard time staying in this village!" Fu Mo introduced

himself before he started threatening them.

It seemed like that guy was trying to extort some money from them.

Although he claimed to be the leader, he was just a hooligan who only had the guts to bully people who were naive.

Yet, Chen Hao and the rest were not pushovers. Chen Hao would not allow the bunch of guys to bully them.

"Hey, those two ladies are rather gorgeous!"

At that moment, Fu Mo fixed his gaze on Zhen Ji and Zhuo Nuo who were at the back. His mouth broke into a sinister smile as he gazed at the two girls for a prolonged length of time.

At the sight of this, Chen Hao quickly walked over and stood in front of Zhen Ji and Zhuo Nuo. Staring at Fu Mo, he said, "Sir, we're just here to do business. Since we have sold all our wares, we should get going!"

With that, Chen Hao reached out and

nudged Zhen Ji and Zhou Nuo who were still behind him.

"Hold on!"

"Did I allow all of you to leave?"

"Did you guys hear what I just said? I said that you guys have to give us something before you're allowed to leave. Otherwise, don't even think of leaving!" Fu Mo said angrily as he haughtily glared at Chen Hao, not taking Chen Hao seriously at all.

When Chen Hao heard him, his face darkened at once.

That guy really was asking for it. It seemed like he was set on fighting Chen Hao headon despite Chen Hao giving them a chance to back down.

Well, in that case, Chen Hao would not go easy on them. How dare he mess with him? He must have been tired of being alive!

"What would you like us to give you then?" Chen Hao turned around slightly and stared at Fu Mo as he posed the question.

"Hehe!"

"Either you give me all the money you guys have, or leave the two ladies behind!" Fu Mo suggested as he stared at Zhen Ji and Zhuo Nuo with a wicked expression.

"What if I refuse to do both?" Chen Hao countered.

"Damn it, can't you understand what the f*ck I am saying? If you refuse, I will slaughter each and everyone of you right now!" Fu Mo threatened, his declaration filled with foul words.

Smack!

The next second, Fu Mo's entire body was flung out a great distance.

That was right, Chen Hao had taken action.

Fu Mo's words were so offensive and he actually dared to eye Zhen Ji and Zhou Nuo. In that case, Chen Hao felt obligated to teach him a lesson.

At the sight of their leader being attacked, his underlings came to their senses and

charged toward Chen Hao.

Without hesitation, Chen Hao attacked using his legs.

Bam! Bam! Bam!

With a few kicks, Chen Hao had subdued all of Fu Mo's underlings.

Despite being so weak and vulnerable, they had the guts to mess with Chen Hao. What a dumb move.

Lei Lie and the rest stood at a corner and watched everything in silence. They knew that as long as Chen Hao was there, they would be safe.



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Wait! I Have Something to Say!



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Chapter 888 The Accident in the Middle of the Night

Night fell and the pitch-black surroundings plunged into silence.

In the courtyard, the five of them sat around a bonfire.

On top of the blaze hung a large piece of meat.

This was kept inside Chen Hao's bag and was not taken out as he had reserved that for their dinner. He would never give all the food to the villagers.

Fortunately, the five of them managed to have a good meal with the piece of meat.

"Chen Hao, do you think Fu Mo and his men will come looking for trouble again?" Lei Lie asked Chen Hao worryingly.

"Don't worry. Let's take turns to keep watch for the rest of this night. You can sleep for the first two hours and then take my shift. We will be aware if there is any danger!" Chen Hao comforted Lei Lie before making the suggestion.

After all, they were not familiar with the place and its surroundings.

The only way to go was for the two of them to take turns and keep watch. In this way, they would be able to stop Fu Mo and his men from ambushing them.

Zhen Ji and Zhou Nuo were of the utmost importance to him. He would never allow them to get hurt or injured in any way. He had to keep them, as well as Mr. Fan, well-protected.

When Lei Lie heard his suggestion, he immediately nodded his head in agreement as he had no problem with it.

Up until the middle of the night, Zhen Ji and Zhou Nuo slept together beside Chen Hao whereas Mr. Fan was meditating alone at one corner.

Lei Lie fell asleep leaning against one of the poles.

Chen Hao was the only one left awake. He sat in front of the fire and gazed at the sky.

The sky in the forest was a breathtaking sight. A bright crescent moon hung high in the sky, radiating silver moonlight.

Dazzling stars were scattered all over the sky, enchanting to look at.

Being able to witness such a view in the forest was a soothing and rejuvenating experience. Such a view could never be seen in the city where only neon lights and streetlights could be found.

The night was a peaceful one.

Nothing happened throughout the entire night.

It seemed like Fu Mo and his men knew their limitations and did not come to stir up trouble in the middle of the night.

The next morning, a commotion could be heard from the outside.

Chen Hao woke up immediately and went to check out what was going on. A group of villagers were busy having a discussion around a well. Judging from the awful expression on their faces, something bad must have happened.

Curiously, Chen Hao made his way toward the villagers.

At the sight of Chen Hao, the villagers surrounded him immediately.

Chapter 888 The Accident in the Middle of the Night

"Was it you?" questioned one of the villagers as he pointed at Chen Hao.

Chen Hao's face filled with confusion and shock as he had no idea what had happened.

"What's going on?" Chen Hao asked in confusion.

"Humph!"

"Since Fu Mo offended you yesterday, did you kill him?" The villager pointed at him and at the well as he interrogated Chen Hao fiercely.

After Chen Hao heard him, he stepped forward to check out the well.

He saw Fu Mo's body floating on the water inside the well.

Chen Hao was surprised at the sight. He had never expected Fu Mo to die, and to die inside a well on top of that.

"H-How did he die?" asked Chen Hao in bewilderment as he looked at the villagers.

"Aren't you the one who killed him? You're

still pretending to be in the dark. Other than you, who else started a feud with him yesterday?"

All the villagers pinned the blame on Chen Hao.

"I didn't kill him. I spent the previous night inside that house without leaving!" Chen Hao made a simple clarification.

Nonetheless, he understood that his words were not sufficient to convince the villagers.

The best way to clear his name was to find out the true cause behind Fu Mo's death.

No wonder Fu Mo had stayed silent last night and didn't look for trouble. As it turned out, he had died inside the well.

Although the karma bit back, this retribution happened all too soon.

"Stop talking for now. Let's retrieve his body first!" Chen Hao instructed the villagers.

At that, the villagers worked in tandem and retrieved Fu Mo's body.

When the body was brought up, he saw that Fu Mo's face had been disfigured beyond recognition. It was as though his face had been scratched by sharp claws.

Chen Hao squatted down and did a meticulous check on the body in order to find out the cause of death.

After his examination, he discovered a bloody wound on Fu Mo's throat which had caused his death. Because of that wound, he died of excessive bleeding.

"I suppose the creature who assaulted Fu Mo was something with claws. Therefore, I am not the one who killed him. Just take a look at his throat. Obviously, that wound was caused by sharp claws. How would I be able to do that?" Chen Hao looked at the villagers as he explained.

The villagers found Chen Hao's analysis to be logical and coherent. Immediately, they dismissed the thought of Chen Hao being the murderer.

However, how on earth did Fu Mo get killed? What had happened the previous night? Also, where had all Fu Mo's underlings gone? Everything remained a Chapter 888 The Accident in the Middle of the Night

mystery.

"This is bad!"

"This is horrible!"

"Someone has died!"

At that moment, a young villager dashed toward them and yelled as he ran.

At the sight of the anxious young villager, all the villagers were flummoxed.

"What happened? What's going on?" One of the villagers asked the young man.

"F-Fu Mo's men have all died inside their house!"

Everyone could not help but tremble at his news as none of them had expected such an occurrence.

Subsequently, Chen Hao immediately followed the villagers to where Fu Mo's underlings stayed.

They reached a dilapidated courtyard where all the bodies of Fu Mo's underlings were sprawled on the ground. All of them Chapter 888 The Accident in the Middle of the Night

died in the same way; they had wounds on their throats which were similar to Fu Mo's wound.

After Chen Hao took a look at them, he realized that all of them were killed by the same person.

"What on earth has happened?"

"Exactly... How did something like this occur?"

"C-Could it be the ghosts that got out from the forest?"

"No way, that's impossible!"

At that moment, all the villagers started making wild guesses and speculations.

Chen Hao ignored all that the villagers had said. He made his way back to his lodgings immediately.

Lei Lie and the rest already woke up.

When they saw Chen Hao come in from the outside, Lei Lie spoke up, "Chen Hao, where did you go so early in the morning?" Chapter 888 The Accident in the Middle of the Night

"Mr. Fan, please follow me!"

Chen Hao did not answer Lei Lie. Instead, he spoke to Mr. Fan beside him.

When Mr. Fan heard him, he immediately followed Chen Hao out.

Out of curiosity, Lei Lie joined them and followed closely behind. Although he had no idea what had happened, judging from Chen Hao's expression, he was sure that it was something serious.



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Wait! I Have Something to Say!



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Quickly, Chen Hao brought Mr. Fan to the well.

"Mr. Fan, please take a look. He was attacked by some unknown creature yesterday and died in this well right here!" Chen Hao informed Mr. Fan as he pointed to Fu Mo's corpse on the ground.

When he saw this, Lei Lie was taken aback.

"Chen Hao, isn't this Fu Mo, the person we saw yesterday? H-how did he die?!" Lei Lie instantly shouted in surprise, his face full of shock.

To think that they had met only yesterday, only for Fu Mo to die the next day. This was way too sinister and strange.

Chen Hao didn't bother with Lei Lie's question. Instead, he fixed his gaze on Mr. Fan.

After staring at the corpse in front of him for a while, Mr. Fan finally said something.

"This is the work of the Ghost Clan!"

"The Ghost Clan?" Chen Hao said in shock

after hearing that.

"That's right. Only those of the Ghost Clan have claws so sharp they can kill and maim someone beyond recognition. If you look closely, there are bite marks on this corpse's neck. That means that the blood of this body has been drained!" Mr. Fan continued describing.

"Mr. Fan, are you saying that there are people from the Ghost Clan currently in the mountains surrounding us right now? Why did we remain unscathed yesterday night?" Chen Hao asked Mr. Fan curiously.

After hearing Chen Hao's doubts, Mr. Fan opened his mouth and started explaining further. "That's because the Ghost Clan is afraid of fire. Yesterday, we built a campfire, which was why they did not dare to barge in recklessly. I suspect that this person was attacked because he snuck out in the middle of the night and was hence targeted by the Ghost Clan."

After hearing Mr. Fan's explanation, Chen Hao finally understood that everything that had happened was done by the Ghost Clan.

"We shouldn't stay here for too long. We have to evacuate, immediately!" Mr. Fan reminded Chen Hao.

After that, Mr. Fan turned to leave.

Chen Hao took one more look at Fu Mo's body on the ground before he brought Lei Lie back.

After they returned and tidied up, Chen Hao led Lei Lie and the others away from their lodging and into the deep old forest of the mountain.

Chen Hao and the others made no announcement of their departure, lest the villagers found out. If that had happened, the five of them would not be able to leave.

Soon, Chen Hao and the others entered the forest.

Along the way, the five of them scanned the forest surrounding them, constantly on highly alert.

"Chen Hao, what do you think these Ghost Clan members look like?" Lei Lie asked Chen Hao curiously as they walked along in the forest.

Chen Hao wasn't entirely sure because he had never seen anyone of the Ghost Clan, either.

"Mr. Fan, what do you think?" Chen Hao asked Mr. Fan.

"Those of the Ghost Clan have very sharp fingernails just like the claws of an animal which can tear through a human's skin easily. Their favorite thing to do is feast on blood and are extremely sensitive toward the slightest smell of blood!" Mr. Fan explained to Chen Hao.

Basically, the Ghost Clan were vampires and lived off blood.

"Since they're such terrifying creatures, why are we going to find them?" Lei Lie asked Chen Hao in confusion.

When they heard Lei Lie's question, neither Chen Hao nor Mr. Fan answered him. That was because at that point in time, only Mr. Fan and Chen Hao knew the reason why and they couldn't disclose it to the other three. Only after they found the leader of the Ghost Clan could they come clean with everything.

However, before that happened, the five of them had to watch out for any attack by the Ghost Clan.

After walking for a while, they heard a commotion coming from a nearby cluster of trees which caused a big ruckus.

Chen Hao and the others immediately stopped in their tracks and looked cautiously at the cluster of trees around them.

Suddenly, a group of people dressed in tiedyed clothes emerged from the trees and surrounded Chen Hao and the others.

"Chen Hao, who are these people?" Lei Lie immediately asked Chen Hao in a small voice.

Chen Hao shook his head slightly, his brow furrowed. To be honest, he didn't know who these people were, either.

However, based on their clothes alone, these people were not to be underestimated.

Right after that, a man with a crew cut walked out of the crowd and came up to

Chen Hao and the others.

"Who are you people?" the man with the crew cut asked as he stared at five of them.

"We are merchants who came here to have some fun!" Chen Hao immediately responded.

"Merchants?" The man with the crew cut found Chen Hao's answer suspicious.

"That's impossible. You all can't be merchants because this place is not somewhere that merchants would come to visit!" The man with the crew cut immediately shot down Chen Hao's claims as he glared at Chen Hao coldly.

"Then, who are you guys? Why are you all in a place like this?" Chen Hao countered with another question to the man with the crew cut.

"We are here to find those of the Ghost Clan!" The man with the crew cut did not hide his intentions and answered Chen Hao honestly.

"You all are here to find the Ghost Clan,

too?" Chen Hao exclaimed in surprise. He would never have thought that these people had the same goals as they did.

"You as well?" the man with the crew cut asked, staring at Chen Hao suspiciously.

After speaking, the man with the crew cut indicated for his people to put down their weapons.

"Let me introduce myself. My name is Zhang Lie, and I am the leader of this team!" The man with the crew cut reached out his hand to Chen Hao as he introduced himself.

Once Chen Hao heard that, he instantly reacted by reaching out his own hand to shake Zhang Lie's. "My name is Chen Hao!"

"Who would have thought that all of you are here to find the Ghost Clan, too!" After some brief introductions were made, Zhang Lie started chatting with Chen Hao.

Chen Hao nodded slightly before turning to look at Mr. Fan who was standing behind them. When he noticed that Mr. Fan did not have much of a reaction, he relaxed.

This indicated that Mr. Fan did not feel much hostility toward Zhang Lie and his underlings.

"Do you guys know the rough location of where the Ghost Clan is?" Chen Hao asked Zhang Lie.

Zhang Lie took out a map from his pocket and opened it up to show Chen Hao.

"Right now, we're over here and the Ghost Clan is in this mountain. We will have to dig a tunnel through the mountain to reach the Ghost Clan's territory when we get to it. That's the only way we can enter the Ghost Clan's territory!" Zhang Lie explained to Chen Hao in detail.

When Chen Hao heard this, he realized that Zhang Lie and his men had come prepared. They had already planned everything in advance.

That was good. Since both of their groups wanted to find the Ghost Clan's territory, they could all work together.

After resting for a little while, Chen Hao, Zhang Lie and the others continued their journey.

This journey was going to take another two to three hours.

However, one would always reap what one sowed. Soon, they reached the preplanned spot.

"Chen Hao, this is it!" Zhang Lie indicated to Chen Hao.

Zhang Lie then waved his hand at his underlings behind him, signalling for something.



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Zhang Lie's teammates took some shovels and other tools out. After that, they started to dig into the ground beneath their feet.

"Chen Hao, digging the tunnel is going to take some time. How about we go to one side and take a break first?" Zhang Lie suggested to Chen Hao. Digging a tunnel was no easy feat as it was something that took a lot of time.

Having no objections to that suggestion, Chen Hao immediately nodded in agreement before returning to Lei Lie and the others.

"Chen Hao, do you really trust these people?" Lei Lie asked, looking at Chen Hao a little worriedly.

Chen Hao glanced at Lei Lie, understanding the real meaning of his words.

"Don't worry, I know what I'm doing," Chen Hao replied Lei Lie.

When he heard Chen Hao say this, Lei Lie no longer felt anxious or suspicious about anything. He trusted that Chen Hao had his own plans.

"Mr. Fan, what do you think?" Chen Hao asked Mr. Fan who had been sitting at one side.

Throughout the whole journey, Mr. Fan had barely spoken a word and was strangely quiet.

"Another team of people showing up just means a little extra help. However, we must still remain cautious!" That was all Mr. Fan said.

When Chen Hao heard that, he nodded in response.

After about two hours, a loud explosion signaled that the tunnel had been finally dug through.

Chen Hao and the others immediately got up and surrounded the area.

A huge tunnel loomed before them. The inside of the tunnel was pitch black and everything seemed to be swallowed up by the darkness.

"Two of you! Go in first and scout out the road ahead. The moment you find something strange, come back

immediately!" Zhang Lie turned around to instruct two of his teammates.

"Understood!" The two teammates nodded before they turned on their torchlights and walked into the tunnel.

The two of them held onto their torchlights and disappeared into the tunnel.

They emerged after a couple of minutes.

"Report! Zhang Lie, everything seems alright inside. It is safe to enter!" the two teammates announced in unison after they emerged.

"Alright! Everyone, remain alert, be careful and don't make any sudden movements. Let's go!" Zhang Lie commanded loudly after hearing their report.

"Understood!" everyone replied the moment they heard Zhang Lie's orders.

"Come on, Chen Hao. Let's enter the tunnel together!" Zhang Lie said to Chen Hao.

Chen Hao nodded slightly before following Zhang Lie into the tunnel along with Mr. Fan, Lei Lie and the others who were following closely behind.

Right after they entered, they saw various colourful drawings on the stone walls on both sides of them. They could tell at first glance that these drawings contained a long history behind them.

"Mr. Fan, can you tell what these drawings are about?" Chen Hao turned and asked Mr. Fan curiously.

Mr. Fan took one look and said, "The drawings speak of the history behind the Ghost Clan and their development, illustrating their rise and fall. Everything is described clearly on here. It seems like this is definitely the Ghost Clan's territory!"

When they heard Mr. Fan's words, Chen Hao and the others were instantly overtaken with excitement.

After so much hard work, they had finally reached the Ghost Clan's territory.

"Based on the corpses of those who were killed yesterday, there should still be remaining members of the Ghost Clan. They are going to pose a huge threat to us so it is important that everyone stays cautious!" Mr. Fan reminded them.

Those of the Ghost Clan had little to no contact with anyone from the outside world; they were solitary creatures and held immense hatred toward those from the outside world. The moment they met anyone of the sort, they would instantly attack them. Moreover, they were so swift that one would not even realize that they had been killed.

"Mister, don't worry. We don't back down easily, either. All of us are very skilled in fighting. Those of the Ghost Clan surely won't dare to take us lightly!" Zhang Lie, who was walking at the front of the procession, seemed nonchalant. He smiled confidently as he answered Mr. Fan.

Mr. Fan made no response toward Zhang Lie's claims.

After walking for some time, the crowd finally walked out of the tunnel. This tunnel was about a few hundred meters long so they walked for about ten or more minutes, constantly scanning their surroundings as well as what was beneath their feet. There were all kinds of broken, jagged stones on

the ground. Had they not worn shoes as they walked, the bottoms of their feet would have been pierced through by the stones.

After the group walked out of the tunnel, they reached a huge hall. There was a roulette wheel in the center of the hall that looked extremely sinister and mysterious.

"Damn, to think that there could be a space this huge inside of a mountain!" Lei Lie exclaimed in surprise as he looked around him. This was much bigger than the tombs they had seen in the Ghost Realm. As expected, the Ghost Clan was very mighty.

The crowd started to look at their surroundings curiously.

Chen Hao and the others decided to approach the roulette wheel at the very center.

"Chen Hao, do you know what this roulette wheel represents?" Lei Lie asked Chen Hao curiously after glancing at the roulette wheel, hoping for an explanation from him.

"This is the Ghost Clan's Day and Month

Roulette Wheel. It's specially made and used to calculate time!" Without waiting for Chen Hao to explain, Mr. Fan had already spoken.

"Day and Month Roulette Wheel? Why do they need to use this to calculate time?" Lei Lie asked, confused. He wanted to get to the bottom of things, it seemed.

"They aren't calculating just any regular period of time. They're calculating the time between their feeding sessions!" Mr. Fan immediately added.

When Lei Lie heard this, goosebumps started to rise all over his whole body.

That meant that those of the Ghost Clan used this roulette wheel to calculate the time they had between each feeding. Once the time came, they would need to feast on fresh blood. This sent chills down the spine of anyone listening.

"Zhang Lie! There's a pearl here, and it's detachable! It has to be worth a lot of money!" one of Zhang Lie's team members yelled loudly to Zhang Lie. Then, he reached out his hand toward the pearl on the stone wall.

"Don't touch it!" Chen Hao immediately yelled in warning.

However, it was already too late. That team member had already plucked the pearl off of the stone wall and was holding it in his hand. He looked at Chen Hao strangely, not understanding why Chen Hao was so agitated.

Boom!

Instantly, the entrance to the hall was blocked by a huge boulder that had crashed down.

"Be careful!" Chen Hao shouted again before he quickly shielded Mr. Fan and Lei Lie, tackling them to the ground.

Right after that, countless arrows shot out of the stone walls surrounding them.

Several of Zhang Lie's team members hadn't even gotten the chance to react before they were hit by the arrows, then collapsing in a pool of blood.

At that moment, everyone was pressed against the ground. Not one of them dared to lift their head to take a look for they

were deathly afraid that an arrow would pierce through their skull.

This was beyond everyone's expectations. To think that there were booby traps in this place!



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After a long while, silence fell around them.

No more arrows shot out of the stone walls, meaning that the booby trap had ended.

"Phew! My god, Chen Hao, who knew there would be booby traps in here!" Lei Lie raised his head and sighed heavily before he spoke to Chen Hao with a voice full of terror.

To be honest, no one had expected that.

That man who had removed the pearl had been shot by dozens of arrows and had collapsed in a widening pool of his own blood. There had to be at least fifty arrows in his body; he really died in a horrible manner.

That was the aftermath of carelessly touching things.

"All of you, listen up! Don't touch anything or do anything stupid!" Zhang Lie stood up and scolded his team members angrily.

At Zhang Lie's orders, they all nodded and agreed. None of them dared to move

carelessly and stayed rooted in place, not daring to move a muscle.

None of them dared to do anything recklessly as they had no idea what kind of booby trap they might trigger. If not, their doom would be unavoidable.

"Chen Hao, what do we do now? Our exit has been completely blocked!" Zhang Lie turned and asked Chen Hao.

Their entrance had been blocked by a huge boulder, meaning that they had no way of leaving the way they came. Their only available option was to find another exit in this place.

"These cave-like structures have to have an exit if they have an entrance. It's just that this exit is harder to find!" Chen Hao immediately reminded Zhang Lie.

"Let's search around this place first. There has to be an exit!"

After hearing Chen Hao's words, Zhang Lie had no objections and started to lead his people around the temple to search for an exit.

On the other hand, Chen Hao and the other four stood before the roulette wheel. Then, Chen Hao and Mr. Fan started analyzing the roulette wheel before them.

"Chen Hao, there seems to be some kind of mechanism that can be triggered down here!" Right at that moment, Lei Lie found something and immediately reported to Chen Hao.

At that, Chen Hao immediately knelt down and saw what Lei Lie had been talking about. The mechanism appeared to be circular.

"Chen Hao, if I'm not wrong, that mechanism should be the key to triggering this roulette wheel!" Mr. Fan said to Chen Hao.

When Chen Hao heard this, he lifted his head and directed his gaze to Mr. Fan.

Chen Hao always believed whatever Mr. Fan said.

Since Mr. Fan had said so, Chen Hao certainly wouldn't have any problems with it.

Immediately, Chen Hao twisted the circular trigger.

Clack! A crisp sound rang through the air.

Right after the mechanism had been turned, Chen Hao and the others quickly stepped back a few steps, only to see the roulette wheel right in front of them start to spin.

This caused everybody around them to become extremely alert as none of them knew what would happen next.

After a while, the roulette wheel stopped after turning 180 degrees.

Boom!

Right after that, the stone wall that the roulette wheel was facing opened up, revealing a doorway.

Everyone was taken aback at the sight.

"Let's go!" Chen Hao called out after seeing the door open. After that, he led Lei Lie and the others through the doorway.

Zhang Lie also brought his own

teammates along and followed suit.

However, this was not an exit; it was merely an entrance to another palace.

Tall pillars held up either side of the palace, with a balcony on top of every pillar, and there was a mild flame flickering on each balcony.

"Damn, there's even a palace here? This place is even bigger than the one before!" Lei Lie exclaimed in surprise again.

"Everyone, be careful. Don't touch anything!" Chen Hao warned the crowd. He really didn't want any of them to get itchy hands and carelessly touch things.

"Chen Hao, what is all this? It looks really extravagant." Lei Lie asked Chen Hao curiously as he walked nearer to those balconies.

"These are the Eight Treasure
Countertops. They are specially lit for
sacrificial rituals. The candlelight on those
countertops can last for thousands of
years!" Chen Hao wasn't the one who
answered. Instead, Mr. Fan explained it to
Lei Lie.

After Lei Lie heard that, he was shocked. To think that there were such mystical things that existed in this world.

"Argh!" Right at that moment, one of Zhang Lie's team screamed loudly in anguish.

Right after he screamed, his whole body started to burn up. His skin was roasted to a crisp and his eyes turned into empty sockets before he melted into a pool of blood.

When they saw this, everyone looked terrified and quickly stepped away from the blood.

However, right after that, another team member experienced the same thing. In addition, there were black insects that resembled spiders appearing on their bodies.

Squeak! Squeak!

At that moment, their surroundings started to fill up with noise.

Chen Hao quickly looked around and discovered that countless inky black spiders were gushing out of the pillars and

the ground.

"Run!"

Chen Hao yelled before he led Lei Lie and the others deeper into the underground palace.

Zhang Lie was also following right behind him.

Very soon, Chen Hao and the others were surrounded by an innumerable amount of spiders. There was absolutely no way to escape.

"Chen Hao, what should we do now?" Lei Lie looked horrified as he asked Chen Hao anxiously.

Such a large amount of spiders was sickening. Everyone couldn't help but shiver as goosebumps appeared on their skin.

Even a single spider was terrifying, let alone a whole flood of them,

Chen Hao frowned and looked somber.

"Use fire!" Chen Hao yelled loudly.

When they heard Chen Hao's instructions, everyone took out any flammable items they had on them and lit them on fire before throwing them onto the ground.

However, despite the presence of fire, the spiders still remained. They couldn't hold back against the spiders for much longer.

At that moment, a few more members of Zhang Lie's team had already been invaded by spiders, melting into puddle after puddle of blood.

At that, Chen Hao and the others were panicked and terrified. They really didn't want to end up like them, and they certainly didn't want to melt into pools of their own blood.

Chen Hao's mind was spinning rapidly as he tried his best to come up with a solution.

"Zhen Mei, did you bring any cosmetic products with you?" Chen Hao asked Zhen Mei after some thought.

At this, Zhen Mei nodded rapidly and answered, "Yes, I have something. It's an insect repellent, but I don't know if it will be

useful to you!"

"Quickly, give it to me!" Chen Hao told Zhen Mei instantly.

Zhen Mei quickly took a bottle of insect repellent out of her bag and passed it to Chen Hao.

This bottle of insect repellent was specially bought by Zhen Mei for her to keep in her bag. She was planning on using it to repel some of the insects that lived in the mountains. Who knew it would become useful at a time like this!

Chen Hao took the insect repellent and immediately started spraying it wildly at the spiders surrounding them.

Just one spray and it was effective; the spiders immediately started to flee.



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"Chen Hao, we really must thank this lady. If it wasn't for her, all of us would have perished in here!" Zhang Lie thanked Chen Hao gratefully as he looked at him, still shaken.

Luckily, there was insect repellent in Zhen Ji's bag. If not for that, they would have been done for.

After that, Chen Hao broke the bottle of insect repellent apart and wiped the liquid inside it on his clothes and bags.

"All of you, take some of this and wipe it on your clothes! That way, you can repel the spiders!" Chen Hao yelled to everyone.

Hearing that, everyone instantly started following Chen Hao and started wiping insect repellent on their clothes as well as their shoes.

That way, the spiders would not come near them.

The danger was over for now.

"These spiders must have once been reared by the Ghost Clan. They reared these spiders so that they could extract

the blood from the spiders and use it for themselves once the spiders had sucked enough blood!" Mr. Fan explained.

"How terrible! How could they rear such terrifying things?!" Chen Hao also cursed after hearing that.

Only someone of the Ghost Clan would be capable of doing such a horrible thing.

Right after that, Chen Hao and the others started to inspect their surroundings.

"Zhang Lie, there's a stone door here!" At that moment, one of the team members yelled while running out from the inner parts of the palace.

When Zhang Lie heard that, he immediately led his team toward the inside of the palace.

Chen Hao and his group also rushed inside hurriedly.

Once they entered the palace, a towering stone door loomed before them.

"Push open that door!" Zhang Lie immediately commanded his team.

"Understood!"

At Zhang Lie's command, some of the team members walked forward and placed their hands against the stone door before they started pushing with all their might.

However, no matter how much they pushed, the stone door still did not budge and just stood there, unmoving.

"This stone door surely isn't one that can be opened by sheer force. There has to be a mechanism to open it!" Chen Hao immediately said after seeing them fail at opening the door.

After that, Chen Hao immediately started searching around for something that could open the stone door for them.

Just as Chen Hao had expected, he found a stone slab that could be pushed in on one of the stone walls around them.

Chen Hao pushed at it, hard, and the stone slab sunk into the stone wall.

Boom!

After the stone slab got pushed in, the

stone door started shaking before it lifted.

"Wow, Chen Hao, you really are a genius!" Zhang Lie immediately praised Chen Hao after seeing that.

As the stone door slowly rose, the scene behind the stone door was immediately revealed to everyone. Once again, they widened their eyes, stunned by what was behind the door.

There was a large glass mansion behind the stone door. There were two stone bridges leading up to it and the ground was laid with bluestone. At just the first glance, it was obvious that this was no ordinary mansion.

Everyone entered at once and stepped onto the stone bridge. There was no pond or rushing river under the stone bridge. Rather, there was a darkness that stretched on for what seemed like forever, striking fear into everyone's heart.

Soon, they arrived in front of the glass mansion and stood facing it.

"This house looks as if it has been here for quite a long time. If I'm guessing correctly,

this must be the heart of the Ghost Clan's territory!" Mr. Fan exclaimed after gazing at everything before him.

After a long and difficult journey, they had finally reached the deepest recesses of the Ghost Clan's territory. Indeed, they had paid a hefty price to get here.

However, very quickly, Chen Hao and the others found a problem. There was a large padlock on the door to this glass mansion.

When Zhang Lie saw this, he whipped around and commanded one of his team members.

"Come here and open this lock!"

At Zhang Lie's command, this team member immediately came forward and started taking some tools out of his fanny pack.

Clank! A clear sound emanated from the lock and it was successfully snapped open.

After the lock had been opened, Zhang Lie reached out to push the door open.

After that, they walked into the mansion together.

Once they entered, they realized that there was nothing there. There was only a round platform that was placed in the very center of the room, with four pillars surrounding it.

"What is all of this?" Chen Hao asked curiously.

"This must be where the Ghost Clan members come to cultivate. Take a look at this platform. This must be where only the leader of the Ghost Clan could sit!" Mr. Fan immediately explained.

Chen Hao nodded after hearing Mr. Fan's explanation.

"But there's nothing here at all! Could we have found the wrong place?" Zhang Lie frowned and asked in confusion.

There was nothing in this house. Apart from the four pillars, there was nothing valuable to be seen anywhere.

"That's impossible. This has to be the Ghost Clan's territory. No doubt about it!"

Mr. Fan instantly denied Zhang Lie's claim, very sure of himself.

At Mr. Fan's words, Zhang Lie could only believe what he said. However, his heart was filled with disappointment.

Very soon, Zhang Lie led the others away to search around the area.

Chen Hao and the others continued searching the house, trying to see if they could find anything from this round platform.

Meanwhile, Zhang Lie was exploring the area.

Zhang Lie led his teammates into a secret chamber from the other side of the house.

Once they entered the secret chamber, Zhang Lie and the others widened their eyes in astonishment.

That was because there were countless treasures and gold in this secret chamber. There was also a large pill furnace in the middle of the room, and next to it was a table that had many differently sized bottles placed on it.

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"Zhang Lie, there are so many precious pills here. Do we take all of these away?" One of his team members asked Zhang Lie anxiously.

"What are you saying? Of course! These pills are probably worth a pretty penny. These are all extremely valuable medicines!" Zhang Lie replied instantly after hearing that.

When they heard Zhang Lie's words, his teammates took action and started carrying away everything that they could hold onto, including the pills.

At that moment, Chen Hao and the others looked at what Zhang Lie and the others were doing in shock.

However, they did not stop them.

Their goal of coming here was very different from Zhang Lie and his team's. They weren't here for treasure or riches, which was why they certainly weren't about to fight over it with Zhang Lie.

"Chen Hao, these people are insane!" Lei Lie quietly muttered to Chen Hao.

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"Hehe, don't bother so much about that. We just have to mind our own business!" Chen Hao said with a light smile.

"They will get what they deserve. These treasures are all unholy items and have all been cursed. Anyone who thinks of taking them away will meet violent ends! We must never touch any of these treasures!" Mr. Fan reminded Chen Hao and the others with a serious tone.

"Mr. Fan is right. Chen Hao, Zhen Ji, Zhou Nuo, please be more careful. No matter what treasures you see or whatever precious items you come across, do not touch them, much less take them away!"



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Chen Hao also seconded the warning and reminded Lei Lie and the others.

There was no end to a human's greed. However, that didn't mean that greed couldn't be controlled.

Only those without a greedy heart could survive.

After about half an hour, the wide ground outside the mansion was covered in endless riches that was enough to fill two large trucks.

It was obvious that there were many treasures in the Ghost Clan's territory. No wonder this place was so tempting.

At that moment, Zhang Lie led his team out from the secret chamber.

"Chen Hao, these are all of the treasures that we found in the secret chamber. Both of us contributed in our journey here, so I will definitely split some of the treasures with you!" Zhang Lie smiled as he spoke to Chen Hao.

Chen Hao just smiled lightly before he replied Zhang Lie, "Zhang Lie, thank you for your kind intentions. However, these treasures were never our cause for coming

here. Please feel free to take all of the treasure."

Hearing Chen Hao's words, Zhang Lie was bewildered. He didn't expect Chen Hao to turn down his offer of these treasures.

If Chen Hao wasn't here for treasures, then why exactly was he here?

At that moment, Zhang Lie's became extremely curious as well as suspicious.

"Since you're being so kind, I will follow your wishes!" Zhang Lie thanked Chen Hao with a smile.

After that, Zhang Lie turned to leave.

"Zhang Lie, how could they be so indifferent toward the treasure? Why exactly did they even come here?" the team member following directly behind Zhang Lie asked.

"Hah!" Zhang Lie scoffed coldly and his expression darkened immediately.

"If they aren't here for these treasures, then that means that they really aren't here for it. Either that, or it means that there is something even more valuable than this treasure!" At that moment, Zhang Lie thought of the extreme.

Actually, Zhang Lie wasn't completely wrong with his guess. He still managed to guess one part of it.

Firstly, Chen Hao and the others certainly held no interest toward this treasure, and secondly, they did have an important reason for coming to the Ghost Clan's territory.

However, the thing that they wanted held no importance to Zhang Lie and the others.

Still, Chen Hao and the others had never thought that Zhang Lie would actually think of them in that way,

"Argh! A spider! A huge spider!" At that moment, a terrified scream rang out as one of Zhang Lie's team quickly scurried away.

Right after that, an enormous spider crawled out of the deep gorge below the stone bridge. It immediately started to attack Zhang Lie's team. Numerous small spiders followed it, surrounding Zhang Lie and his team.

When Chen Hao and the others saw this, they hurried forward, wanting to save them.

"Stop, don't go any further!" Mr. Fan commanded, forbidding them to go and save the others.

"Mr. Fan, why aren't you letting us go and save those people?" Chen Hao asked, not understanding.

"Look closely. These spiders aren't a threat to us at all and won't pay us the slightest bit of attention. They only rushed toward the others. This just goes to show that the curse of those treasures are starting to take effect!" Mr. Fan hurriedly explained to Chen Hao.

Chen Hao finally understood after Mr. Fan's explanation.

"Mr. Fan, are you saying that these spiders will only attack those who have touched the cursed treasures?"

Mr. Fan nodded.

At that, Chen Hao and the others were dumbstruck.

To think that something so terrifying still existed.

At that moment, Zhang Lie's team members were all being eaten up by the spiders. The giant spider was also gobbling up his team members left and right, tearing them to pieces before swallowing them. It was a horrible sight to behold.

"Chen Hao, save me!" Zhang Lie called toward Chen Hao who was standing at the doorway of the mansion.

"Save me!"

"Help us!"

All around them, Zhang Lie's team members started to yell desperately for help.

However, Chen Hao and the others couldn't do anything even if they wanted to. They had no way of saving Zhang Lie and the others.

It was all their own faults for being so greedy and touching the cursed treasures, and that was why they were met with such a terrible fate. This could all be chalked up to them reaping what they had sown.

"Argh!" Zhang Lie screamed in agony before he was ripped apart and tossed into the abyss by the giant spider.

On the other hand, Zhang Lie's team had all been dissolved into pools of blood by the small spiders.

Before they knew it, Zhang Lie and his team had been annihilated.

After getting rid of Zhang Lie and his team,

the giant spider glanced at Chen Hao's group.

They stared right back at the giant spider, exchanging glances.

However, the giant spider did not attack Chen Hao and his group. Instead, it took one last glance at them before returning to the deep abyss beneath the stone bridge, with the smaller spiders following suit.

This made Chen Hao and the others extremely surprised. They had thought that the giant spider would attack them, too. That really gave them a huge shock.

"Phew!" Lei Lie immediately sat on the ground and heaved a sigh of relief.

"Lord, that was terrifying. Chen Hao, Mr. Fan, thank the Lord we didn't touch all those treasures. If not, we would really be done for!" Lei Lie exclaimed to Chen Hao and Mr. Fan, still feeling a little terrified. He shivered just thinking about what happened just now.

Chen Hao and Mr. Fan walked toward the corpses and treasures.

"Hm? What is that smell?" Chen Hao went forward and asked curiously as he detected a mild scent.

"This is a kind of sandalwood. The Ghost Clan members use this especially to lure spiders. It looks like the so-called curse was because of this scent all along!" After sniffing the air, Mr. Fan instantly explained.

Chen Hao finally understood what happened.

"So, it seems like those people touched these treasures and the scent got onto them. That was why the spiders only attacked them! No wonder the spiders didn't feel the need to come after us. This was the reason why!"

Indeed, everything that existed was not completely real. That so-called 'curse' was just made up to scare people and there was a logical explanation behind it.

"Well, they can only blame themselves for being so greedy. If they weren't greedy, then they wouldn't have gone to touch all of these treasures, and these spiders wouldn't have attacked them!" Mr. Fan sighed helplessly.

The evil that we brought upon ourselves was the hardest to bear.

Oh well. Chen Hao didn't want to pursue this further. Some people were destined to perish. We could just chalk it up to Zhang Lie

and his team having bad luck, so it wasn't all that surprising that something like this happened to them.



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After that, Chen Hao and the others returned to the mansion.

Knock knock knock! A series of noises came from inside the mansion, as if someone was knocking on something.

"Chen Hao, do you hear something knocking?" Lei Lie immediately looked at Chen Hao and asked curiously.

Chen Hao nodded at him and answered, "Yes, I hear it."

Chen Hao and the others immediately started searching for the source of the noise around the house.

Very quickly, Chen Hao found the source of the noise.

It was not anywhere else but the round platform in the center of the room.

"It's coming from here!" Chen Hao called to the others while pointing at the platform.

The five of them immediately surrounded the platform and pressed their ears against it, listening closely.

Knock, Knock, knock, Knock, knock,

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When they pressed their ears against it, the knocking that was coming from within was even clearer, and the noises had a sequence to them.

"Chen Hao, could there possibly be someone down there?" Lei Lie thought of a possibility and immediately voiced it out to Chen Hao.

"Based on the noise, that isn't impossible!" Chen Hao showed affirmation to Lei Lie's guess. He thought it was very likely, since such an organized series of noises was something only a human could make.

"Lei Lie, take a look around and see if there's anything strange. Maybe we can open up this platform!" Chen Hao told Lei Lie after a short pause.

Lei Lie followed Chen Hao's orders and started doing as he said, quickly searching around the vicinity of the platform.

After a short while of searching, Lei Lie found something weird.

"Chen Hao, come and take a look!" Lei Lie called out to Chen Hao.

Chen Hao quickly walked over to Lei Lie and saw a ring on the platform in front of him.

There should be a chain of some sort connected to this ring and it seemed like it could be pulled out.

"All of you, stand back. I'll pull it. If anything goes wrong, evacuate immediately!" Chen Hao said to Lei Lie and the others. After that, he told them to retreat a few meters away from where he was.

After that, Chen Hao reached out to hold onto the ring.

At that moment, Lei Lie and the others held their breath as they focused all of their attention on the platform in front of them, already prepared to escape at any moment.

Chen Hao closed his eyes tightly before he pulled hard at the ring in his hand.

Clank! Clank!

The clanking sound of chains rubbing against one another rang out. The clear and resonant sound echoed throughout the entire mansion.

Not caring anymore, Chen Hao straight away pulled all of the metal chains out. There had to be at least a few meters of metal chains in there.

Clunk!

Right after the chains were pulled out, the platform split into two halves and opened up into a giant hole.

After the platform opened, Lei Lie and the others did not dare to go forward. All of them remained at one side, staring at the opening.

Chen Hao was very bold. He threw the chains onto the floor before he walked forward himself, going nearer to the side of the platform before looking down below.

When he saw what was down there, Chen Hao immediately frowned.

There was a strange creature covered in long hair locked up at the bottom; it seemed to be some sort of ape which looked very strong.

"Chen Hao, what is down there?" Lei Lie cautiously asked Chen Hao in a quiet voice.

Chen Hao waved at Lei Lie and the others, indicating for them to come over. He did not reply, instead asking them to come see for themselves.

When Lei Lie and the others saw this, they

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had no choice but to approach the platform and see for themselves.

"Mr. Fan, from your expertise, do you happen to know what this thing is?" Chen Hao asked Mr. Fan curiously.

Mr. Fan became silent as he fell into deep thought.

After a while, Mr. Fan finally started speaking. "This should be a Black Monkey. I remember a story that spoke of a Black Monkey that the Ghost Clan members reared. They used this monkey specifically to capture some people. It's very likely that this is that Black Monkey!"

When they heard Mr. Fan's words, Lei Lie instantly widened his eyes.

"Then, isn't this Black Monkey a vicious beast? Shouldn't we keep it locked up?" Lei Lie quickly asked Chen Hao and Mr. Fan.

Such a vicious Black Monkey certainly shouldn't be released. If not, it would certainly cause a ton of trouble.

However, Lei Lie spoke too late. The Black Monkey had long since gotten rid of its shackles and was just stuck under the platform. Now that the platform was open, of course the Black Monkey was going to escape.

Right after Lei Lie had spoken, the Black Monkey leaped up from the bottom of the hole. It actually managed to jump out of a hole that was quite a few meters deep, showing its amazing jumping ability.

Chen Hao and the others quickly dashed to one side and stared at the Black Monkey.

The Black Monkey also stared closely at Chen Hao and the others while using its fists to hit its chest repeatedly.

However, the Black Monkey quickly decided to run out and disappeared into the palace. It did not attack Chen Hao and the others at all.

This made Chen Hao and the others confused. The fact that the Black Monkey did not pose a threat to them was really quite unexpected.

However, this was a good thing to them. It was better to have one less problem than to have one more problem. The five of them had no idea how exactly were they supposed to fight this Black Monkey.

"Alright, let's quickly find an exit. We

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shouldn't stay here for too long!" Chen Hao told the others after a slight pause.

None of them knew what sort of dangers were around the corner.

Even though that Black Monkey and the spiders from before did not attack, that didn't mean that they weren't a threat to them.

If they were to stay here any longer, they might not have such an easy time anymore.

At Chen Hao's suggestion, Lei Lie and the others all agreed. They wanted to leave here quickly as well.

However, Mr. Fan looked completely calm. These situations were nothing to him and didn't look the slightest bit afraid. Instead, he looked relaxed and nonplussed.

Quickly, Chen Hao, Lei Lie and the others started looking for an exit.

However, they failed at finding an exit. What they found instead was a new entrance.

After entering this new entrance, another palace appeared before them.

There was a huge gold-laced sandalwood

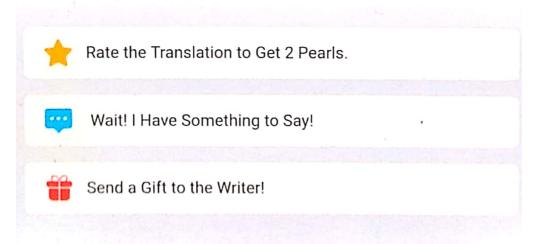
coffin in the middle of the palace. The four corners of the coffin were held up by chains, suspending the coffin in midair a few meters from the ground.

"Damn, to think that there's still somewhere so huge inside this place. This mountain is humongous!" Lei Lie couldn't help but exclaim as he widened his eyes.

This expedition was an unbelievable experience for him. He really was learning a lot about the unknown.

"This must be where the coffins of the ancestors of the Ghost Clan are placed. The one in this coffin must be the very first Ghost Clan member!" Mr. Fan said excitedly as he walked toward the coffin and started walking around it, observing the coffin.

"Mr. Fan, hasn't the first ancestor of the Ghost Clan been around for about ten thousand years?!" Chen Hao exclaimed with shock.



Mr. Fan nodded and said, "That's right. For the last ten thousand years, there were many people who wanted to find the coffin of the first ancestor of the Ghost Clan for this very reason—they wanted to find Ghost Pearl inside the coffin."

"The Ghost Pearl? Mr. Fan, you're here for that Ghost Pearl, aren't you?" Chen Hao asked Mr. Fan after hearing that.

"Yes, I came here for the Ghost Pearl. The Ghost Pearl of the Ghost Clan can give me the ability to have a new body," Mr. Fan explained.

After Chen Hao heard that, he had no objections. He had come here to help Mr. Fan in the first place, so he had no opinions on this Ghost Pearl.

"Then, let's open this coffin," Chen Hao suggested to Mr. Fan after some inspection.

Mr. Fan immediately nodded. He couldn't wait to get the Ghost Pearl.

"Zhen Ji, Zhou Nuo, stand off to one side. If anything strange happens, leave immediately!" Chen Hao told Zhen Ji and Zhou Nuo.

Zhen Ji and Zhou Nuo obediently walked

and stood beside the entrance. Not daring to move around rashly, they stared at Chen Hao and the others attentively.

"Come, Lei Lie, you go over there and take down the chains on those two corners. I'll take off the chains here!" Chen Hao told Lei Lie.

The two of them then started working separately to remove the chains at the corners.

Boom!

After the chains had been released, the coffin fell to the ground, kicking up a cloud of dust.

A coffin that had existed for more than tens of thousands of years would certainly have been covered in thick layers of dust and dirt by now, so it was no surprise that it stirred up such a big cloud of dust.

The next step was to open the coffin.

"Lei Lie, you stand over there. I'll push open the coffin from here and you focus on holding onto the lid, alright?" Chen Hao told Lei Lie.

"Alright, Chen Hao!" Lei Lie did not object

and obeyed Chen Hao's orders.

After that, Chen Hao forcefully pushed off the lid of the coffin.

Once the lid of the coffin had been pushed away, what was within the coffin was revealed right in front of their eyes.

In the coffin, along with many treasures that had been buried with it, there was a corpse so rotten the bones were starting to disintegrate.

Mr. Fan walked over and started to search the coffin.

"Where's the Ghost Pearl?" Chen Hao asked curiously.

"Ah, it's in his throat!" Chen Hao said after some inspection. There was a small protruding bump at the corpse's throat, as if something was stuck in there.

After making that observation, Chen Hao took out a small knife and slit open the corpse's throat.

After the throat was cut open, a blood red pearl showed itself. This was the legendary Ghost Pearl.

Chen Hao used his fingers to pluck out the pearl from the corpse's throat before passing it to Mr. Fan.

"Mr. Fan, this is the Ghost Pearl, right?" Chen Hao asked Mr. Fan.

Mr. Fan's hands trembled as he said excitedly, "Yes, yes! This is the Ghost Pearl! God, who knew it would be this well-preserved?"

However, right at that moment, the corpse that had been in the coffin suddenly disintegrated into a pile of ashes.

When he saw this, Chen Hao couldn't help but frown. He felt like something was a little off.

Mr. Fan took the Ghost Pearl and talked to himself excitedly as he walked away to a corner to admire it on his own.

Chen Hao and Lei Lie looked at each other and neither of them went after Mr. Fan. Besides, their task had finally been completed after much hardship. Since they had retrieved the Ghost Pearl, they could finally leave this godforsaken place.

"Alright, let's leave quickly!" Chen Hao suggested.

At Chen Hao's words, Lei Lie and the others had no objections. They immediately started packing up their things and prepared to leave.

However, Mr. Fan was standing to one side, unmoving. His body was shaking nonstop.

"Mr. Fan, we can leave now!" Lei Lie yelled toward Mr. Fan.

However, when Mr. Fan slowly turned his head to stare at him, his eyes were glowing blood red.

"Sh*t, Chen Hao! Look at Mr. Fan!" Lei Lie shuddered at the sight of Mr. Fan and instantly yelled for Chen Hao to come see.

When Chen Hao heard his shout, he hurriedly turned to look.

When he saw what was happening, he was startled as well. He did not expect Mr. Fan to suddenly become like this.

"Mr. Fan, what's happening to you?" Chen Hao asked Mr. Fan, his brow furrowed and his expression dark.

However, Mr. Fan was no longer the same man he was before. Right then, he was a bloodthirsty beast.

"Chen Hao, look! There's a bit of red light at Mr. Fan's throat!" Lei Lie yelled.

Chen Hao quickly glanced over and saw a red light shining out of Mr. Fan's throat.

Chen Hao understood immediately. It seemed that Mr. Fan had swallowed the Ghost Pearl, turning him into a bloodsucking monster and thus a member of the Ghost Clan.

Roar!

As Mr. Fan roared incessantly, blood poured from his open mouth.

In the next second, Mr. Fan sped toward Chen Hao and the others. It seemed like he saw Chen Hao and the others as his next meal and was thirsting after their blood.

Live human beings were the most delicious to those of the Ghost Clan, reason being their blood was always the freshest.

"Everyone, run! I'll fight him!" Chen Hao quickly yelled at Lei Lie and the others who were behind him before he rushed forward.

Lei Lie led Zhen Ji and Zhou Nuo away and hid outside, observing what was going on inside.

Chen Hao took out his Star Abyss Sword and slashed it at Mr. Fan.

Clang! A clear sound rang out from the blade. The Star Abyss Sword had failed to make even a dent on Mr. Fan.

At that moment, Mr. Fan's body resembled steel, impenetrable by both bullets and blades. The sword had no way of slicing through his skin.

How could the possessed Mr. Fan possibly recognize Chen Hao? He instantly swung an arm at Chen Hao.

Chen Hao reacted quickly and immediately stepped back to avoid Mr. Fan's swing.

Mr. Fan leaped forward and ran toward Chen Hao, wanting to tackle him to the ground.

Of course, Chen Hao wasn't going to give Mr. Fan the chance. He quickly lifted a leg and kicked Mr. Fan away.

However, this kick did not do much damage to Mr. Fan. It was barely enough to even scratch an itch.

Very soon, Mr. Fan staggered back up and opened his maw, chasing after Chen Hao even more viciously.

"Spirit Locking Chain!" Chen Hao shouted as he threw the chain toward Mr. Fan.

The Spirit Locking Chain instantly held Mr. Fan down, rendering him immobile.

After Mr. Fan had gotten tied up, he started to struggle crazily. If it were a normal rope, it would have already been torn.

Wasting no time, Chen Hao rushed to Mr. Fan's side. Then, he reached and jabbed Mr. Fan's throat with his finger.

With this one jab, the Ghost Pearl was spat out of Mr. Fan's mouth.

After the Ghost Pearl had been removed, Mr. Fan started to calm down and his eyes slowly returned to their original colour.

It seemed like it was definitely the Ghost Pearl that was behind this.

After a moment, Mr. Fan finally came to and woke up.

"W-What happened to me?"

"Mr. Fan, do you really not remember a thing?" Chen Hao asked Mr. Fan in confusion.

Mr. Fan shook his head, looking extremely confused. He did not remember a single thing that had just happened.

"Mr. Fan, why did you swallow the Ghost Pearl?" Chen Hao stared at Mr. Fan as he interrogated him.

If it wasn't for Mr. Fan swallowing the Ghost Pearl just now, then he wouldn't have become whatever it was that he turned into.

"I swallowed the Ghost Pearl?" Mr. Fan asked in bewilderment as he widened his eyes, staring at Chen Hao.

"That's right. You swallowed the Ghost Pearl just now and turned into some crazy person. You even started attacking us!" Chen Hao told Mr. Fan everything that had transpired just now.

Mr. Fan quickly stared at the Ghost Pearl on the ground in disbelief.

"I really don't remember anything. All I remember is you passing me the Ghost Pearl. After that, I don't remember anything else," Mr. Fan said seriously.

Chen Hao looked at Mr. Fan and felt that he was not lying. He decided to believe what Mr. Fan was saying.

It seemed like the problem was the Ghost Pearl. There had to be something wrong with it.

However, Chen Hao himself had also touched the Ghost Pearl. Why was he perfectly fine? Was this situation foreshadowing something sinister?

After resting for a while, Chen Hao asked Lei Lie to bring over a piece of white cloth and wrapped the Ghost Pearl in it before placing it into his own backpack.

Something as terrifying as this pearl shouldn't be carried around, exposed. After all, who knew what would happen next?

Soon, Chen Hao and the others finally found the exit and left the Ghost Clan's territory.

After they left, the five of them were no longer at the foot of the mountain. Rather, they were on the mountaintop.

Howling winds buffeted them as heavy snow fell around them.

"How could it start snowing in this place?!"

Lei Lie exclaimed after seeing the snow.

"Let's not care so much about that. First, we need to find a place to hide from the snow!" Chen Hao said to the others after glancing around.

After that, the five of them started to look around the mountain.

After a while of searching, they finally found a pitch black cave.

Chen Hao and the others quickly hid in the cave. It had become a full-blown snow storm outside, and the wind had started blowing stronger.

Luckily, the five of them found a suitable place to hide from the elements. If not, the five of them would have been buried in this huge snowstorm.

"Hm? Gosh, how stinky! What is this smell?" Lei Lie furrowed his brows and remarked once he stepped into the cave.

When they heard Lei Lie's words, Chen Hao and the others also detected a pungent, eyewatering smell. The smell was enough to make anyone's stomach churn and they almost felt like throwing up.

However, they had no other choice. All they could do was stay here and can only leave after the snowstorm ended.

"Let's just try our best to ignore it. This cave should be the residence of some sort of animal," Chen Hao said to the other four.

The five of them then sat down at the mouth of the cave, waiting for the storm to pass.

However, the snowstorm showed no signs of stopping anytime soon.

Before they knew it, the five of them closed their eyes and started to fall asleep. They had already stayed awake for a day and a night, and that obviously tired them out to no end.

Them taking a nap wasn't bad; the worst part was that they had zero clue about the thing that was living in the cave they were in.

After a while, two red dots appeared in the darkness of the cave.

The red dots flashed occasionally, resembling a pair of eyes.

Next, a huge white bear slowly padded out of the darkness.

The white bear observed Chen Hao and the others who were sitting at the mouth of its cave before setting its sights on Lei Lie who was the nearest to it.

At that time, Chen Hao and the others remained in their deep slumber, having no idea of the danger that was approaching them.

Lei Lie suddenly started snoring, which drew the attention of the white bear even more.

The white bear slowly approached Lei Lie and stuck its tongue out from its mouth before it started wildly licking Lei Lie's face.

"Hey, stop messing around, Chen Hao. Let me sleep for a while longer. Has the snowstorm outside stopped yet?" Lei Lie was unbothered as he reached a hand out to pat his face.

When his hand brushed against something furry and soft, only then did Lei Lie jerk awake. He sensed that something was wrong.

At that moment, Chen Hao and the others were already awake and extremely alert as they stared at what was happening. None of them could have guessed that this cave was home to a giant white bear. What was more,

the bear was so close to them they could sense the heat and scents coming from the white bear's furry coat.

Chen Hao quickly gestured to Lei Lie, signalling for him to not move rashly.

Lei Lie slowly turned his head around and met the giant white bear's gaze.

Instantly, he was petrified.

Roarl

The white bear suddenly roared loudly as it opened its gaping maw.

"Run!" Chen Hao yelled before he quickly dragged Lei Lie, Zhen Ji and the others up and rushed out of the cave.

It would have been better if they had not started running. The moment they ran, the huge white bear became excited. It was a carnivorous creature so of course it thirsted after fresh meat, especially living humans.

The white bear ran out of the cave and started chasing after Lei Lie.

Lei Lie instinctively looked behind him and experienced a sense of terror that he had never felt before when he saw the white bear

chasing after him.

"Oh my gosh, please don't chase me!" Lei Lie yelled as he ran for his life, his voice filled with dread. This was the first time he had ever gotten chased by a white bear. What bad luck he had.

Meanwhile, Chen Hao left Zhen Ji and the others in a safe place before he ran after Lei Lie.

"Lei Lie, run toward me!" Chen Hao yelled to Lei Lie.

When Lei Lie heard that, he instantly changed directions and started running toward Chen Hao instead.

Chen Hao had already unsheathed his Star Abyss Sword and was ready to kill this white bear.

At that time, Lei Lie came dashing toward Chen Hao.

"Lei Lie, leave it to me. Go and hide!" Chen Hao told Lei Lie.

Right as he finished speaking, the giant white bear had already arrived right in front of Chen Hao.

Chen Hao did not waste any time and immediately lifted the Star Abyss Sword in his hands.

Shink! The clean sound of a sword ripping through flesh sounded out.

The Star Abyss Sword slashed through the white bear's stomach. However, it only slashed through its skin and didn't injure the white bear in the slightest.

The white bear was truly enraged now. It trampled its claws on the snowy ground before it viciously started attacking Chen Hao once again.

In the blink of an eye, the white bear came right in front of Chen Hao.

The white bear lifted its huge paws and slammed them down forcefully in the direction of Chen Hao's head.

If he had got hit, even if he didn't die immediately, he would be spending the rest of his life in a hospital bed.

Of course, Chen Hao wasn't going to give it that chance.

He dropped and rolled under the bear, effectively making his escape. Then, he used the Star Abyss Sword to stab into the skin of the white bear's stomach.

This one jab successfully pierced through the white bear's stomach.

Roar! The white bear felt a piercing pain in its stomach and roared in pain.

However, this one stab was not enough to kill the white bear. In fact, it only made it even angrier. Before long, it started attacking Chen Hao even more ferociously than before.

The sight of a man leaping around and fighting a bear on a mountaintop was actually rather comical.

However, right at that moment, the white bear changed its target to Lei Lie and the others who were hiding off to one side. It immediately changed direction and charged right at them instead.

"Watch out!" Chen Hao yelled toward the four of them.

The four of them quickly dodged behind a large tree.

Boom!

The white bear crashed onto the tree and the huge impact caused Lei Lie and the others to quickly shuffle back.

Zhen Ji suddenly stepped on nothing and losing her balance, she started to fall into the valley below.

When Chen Hao saw this, he immediately charged forward and heavily kicked the white bear off the mountaintop and into the gorge below.

Next, Chen Hao prepared to save Zhen Ji.

However, because the soil around them was too loose, the two of them fell off the cliffside right after Chen Hao managed to grab a hold of Zhen Ji.

"Chen Hao!"

"Zhen Ji!"

When they saw the two of them fall into the gorge, Lei Lie and Zhou Nuo yelled after them.

4

After a long while, Chen Hao and Zhen Ji finally came to.

When the two of them woke up, they were shocked beyond belief. The fall did not kill them. Rather, they ended up snagged on a branch.

"Zhen Ji, are you okay?" Chen Hao asked Zhen Ji, concerned.

Zhen Ji nodded and answered, "I'm fine. It's just that my arm kind of hurts. I think I must have twisted it."

As she spoke, Zhen Ji massaged her arm.

Chen Hao quickly held Zhen Ji's arm and started inspecting it, gently pressing down on it here and there.

"You're lucky. No bones seem to be broken so it's probably just twisted," Chen Hao answered after inspecting it.

When she heard what Chen Hao said, Zhen Ji instantly felt better.

"How do we get down?"

Zhen Ji took a glance at the bottom of the gorge. They still had a long way to go before they could reach the bottom. Besides, the

bottom of the gorge was shrouded in darkness so there was no way that they could see anything that was down there.

"Wait, do you hear something?" Chen Hao said as he looked at Zhen Ji.

The two of them fell silent and listened closely to whatever sound that was coming from down there.

After a while, the two of them looked at each other in surprise before exclaiming, "Running water!"

"Yes, that's right. It's the sound of water! There should be a river down below!" Chen Hao nodded determinedly.

"You aren't thinking of doing what I think you are, right?" Zhen Ji asked Chen Hao une'asily as she caught sight of Chen Hao's expression, immediately realizing what he was up to.

Chen Hao smiled. Only someone like Zhen Ji could possibly understand what he was thinking about right off the bat.

"You know me. We have no other solution; all we can do is take this risk!" Chen Hao said to Zhen Ji.

At that height, they had no other way of going down apart from taking a gamble and falling, hopefully, into the river that seemed to run below.

"Alright, I'll listen to whatever you say!" Zhen Ji didn't object to Chen Hao's suggestion and instantly agreed.

She trusted Chen Hao with her entire being. Even if she died, she wanted to die next to Chen Hao. Besides, they might not even die anyways.

"Are you ready?" Chen Hao asked Zhen Ji with a glance.

Zhen Ji nodded firmly.

Right as he finished talking, Chen Hao held onto Zhen Ji tightly before diving headfirst into the abyss down below.

They fell at a rapid pace.

Splash!

After a few seconds, the two of them fell into the river and caused a huge splash.

As expected, they had taken the right risk. There was actually a river down below.

The river had saved their lives.

Chen Hao did not let go of Zhen Ji, holding onto her as he swam to shore.

At that moment, the two of them were completely drenched. The river was freezing as its waters were from the melted snow that ran down from the mountaintops.

Zhen Ji started shivering with cold.

Chen Hao knew that they had to find warmth immediately.

That was why Chen Hao wasted no time and ran into the nearby forest, carrying out a huge bundle of branches and bark. Then, he used the ancient way of starting a fire to get a flame going.

After a bit of fiddling around, a small flame was born and the wood was kindled in no time.

"Zhen Ji, come here, quickly. Take off your wet clothes so you can get some warmth!" Chen Hao quickly told Zhen Ji.

When Zhen Ji heard this, she approached and took off her wet clothes before sitting down next to Chen Hao.

Chen Hao immediately wrapped Zhen Ji in his arms, and the two of them sat by the fire to warm themselves and dry themselves off.

Zhen Ji stuck close to Chen Hao and her face flushed red.

In the flickering firelight, she looked adorable and lovely.

Chen Hao hugged Zhen Ji tightly, giving her a strong sense of security.

This feeling of safety was something only Chen Hao could bring to Zhen Ji.

"Chen Hao, it's so nice having you beside me!" Zhen Ji said with a smile while lifting her head to meet Chen Hao's eyes.

Chen Hao also smiled and pecked Zhen Ji on the forehead.

"I will always be by your side to love and protect you!" Chen Hao told Zhen Ji.

Zhen Ji immediately nodded. Of course she believed whatever Chen Hao said. As long as Chen Hao was by her side, there was nothing to fear.

After about half an hour, their clothes had pretty much been dried completely.

The two of them put their clothes back on and hurriedly left the forest.

They had to meet up with Lei Lie and the others quickly.

Chen Hao and Zhen Ji walking briskly, weaving through the forest.

However, right at that second, a black wolf suddenly emerged from the trees. With a gaping mouth, it leaped toward Chen Hao.

Chen Hao's reaction was even faster. He immediately balled his hand into a fist and aimed a punch right at the wolf's skull.

Woo! This wolf howled in pain before it collapsed and died.

Chen Hao's punch was not light. With the power of a thousand newtons, he had immediately killed the wolf with one punch.

Luckily, this wolf became their saviour, as it had brought the two of them a source of food.

"Zhen Ji, you're probably hungry, right? Have you ever had wolf meat?" Chen Hao asked Zhen Ji, glancing at her.

Zhen Ji was stunned and shook her head. Of

course she understood what Chen Hao was suggesting—they were going to eat this wolf.

"I've never tried it, as well. It's not everyday we get the chance to try wolf meat! Besides, we don't have anything else that we can fill our stomachs with, so this is a good solution!" Chen Hao suggested to Zhen Ji.



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Zhen Ji had no objections toward his suggestion.

Then, Chen Hao started cleaning the wolf. First, he cut off its fur. After all, wolf fur was valuable and could probably be sold at quite a high price.

After he washed it at the river, Chen Hao lit another fire and hung the wolf meat on top of it before slowly roasting it.

It wasn't good to run around on an empty stomach. It was better to plan only after they filled their bellies.

After twenty or so minutes, the wolf meat was finally cooked through so they could start eating.

Chen Hao cut a few pieces and placed it on a leaf before passing it to Zhen Ji.

The two of them began to enjoy the wolf meat as they sat under a tree.

"Wow, this wolf meat is really fresh and tasty. It's so different from pork!" Chen Hao exclaimed after taking a bite. This was his first time eating wolf meat and it was truly a one-of-a-kind experience.

As long as it filled their stomachs, who cared

E.,

what meat it was?

After a filling meal, Chen Hao and Zhen Ji tidied up and put out the fire before preparing to leave once more.

Rustle, rustle.

Right at that moment, the leaves started rustling around them, as if something was darting around in the trees.

Chen Hao was immediately on high alert. Pulling Zhen Ji with him, they quickly hid in a nearby bush.

The two of them had just hid themselves away before some strange skinny looking figures darted out of the trees. They surrounded the corpse of the wolf before they started feasting on it.

When they saw this, Chen Hao and Zhen Ji were shocked.

These creatures looked human but they were clearly not. Moreover, they are raw flesh and drank blood.

Could it be...

Instantly, a far-fetched thought popped up in Chen Hao's mind.

That was right. He was thinking that these creatures were the so-called Ghost Clan members.

"Chen Hao, what are those things?" Zhen Ji asked Chen Hao curiously.

"These are people of the Ghost Clan!" Chen Hao answered Zhen Ji immediately.

"Ah!" At that, Zhen Ji widened her mouth in disbelief, nearly gasping out loud.

However, they were still noticed by the Ghost Clan members.

The Ghost Clan members immediately became aware and started looking around their surroundings.

"Let's go, hurry!" Chen Hao knew that they had already been noticed and quickly told Zhen Ji to run.

Right as he finished speaking, Chen Hao set off running with Zhen Ji in tow.

The Ghost Clan members noticed Chen Hao and Zhen Ji and immediately started chasing after them, screaming hungrily as they ran.

As they thirsted after fresh and hot blood,

the sight of live human beings made them go crazy hunger.

Just like that, Chen Hao and Zhen Ji started running from the Ghost Clan's pursuit.

However, the Ghost Clan members were extremely fast. In the blink of an eye, they had already caught up to Chen Hao and Zhen Ji, surrounding them.

"Chen Hao, what should we do now?" Zhen Ji worriedly asked Chen Hao.

"Don't worry, I'm here!" Chen Hao comforted Zhen Ji.

Hiss!

The few members of the Ghost Clan glared at Chen Hao and Zhen Ji, their mouths constantly making noises.

The two of them had been targeted by these Ghost Clan members.

In the next second, the few Ghost Clan members started attacking Chen Hao and Zhen Ji, extending their claws and showing off their fangs as they rushed toward them.

Chen Hao unsheathed his Star Abyss Sword and quickly started slashing at them.

In a flash, the first Ghost Clan member that had rushed Chen Hao and Zhen Ji was sliced in half by the Star Abyss Sword, spewing blood everywhere.

When they saw this, the other three Ghost Clan members all retreated, not daring to move forward any further.

One of their own had been split into two. Obviously, they could tell how powerful the Star Abyss Sword in Chen Hao's hands was.

"Come at me! If you're not afraid to die, then come and attack me!" Chen Hao glared at the remaining three members of the Ghost Clan and said menacingly.

The three Ghost Clan members seemed to understand what Chen Hao had just said and quickly ran away.

Finally, the danger was gone. It seemed like these Ghost Clan members were rather cowardly as they ran away at such a mild scare.

"Okay, everything's fine now. We should leave, quickly, in case they decide to come back!" Chen Hao sheathed his sword and told Zhen Ji.

Chen Hao and Zhen Ji then hurried out of

this forest.

After about half an hour of trekking, the two of them finally exited the forest.

Once they left the forest, Chen Hao took out his phone and glanced at it. Finally, he had some reception.

When they were still in the forest, there was no cellular reception at all, making it impossible to contact Lei Lie and the others who were still on the mountaintop.

Now that they had some reception, Chen Hao quickly tried to contact Lei Lie as they needed to meet up again as soon as possible.

Beep...Beep...Beep...

A series of monotone beeps sounded out from the phone speaker; Lei Lie did not pick up the phone call.

Chen Hao then called him a few more times but Lei Lie still did not pick up the phone.

This caused Chen Hao to worry.

The fact that the call went through meant that he had reception. The only problem was that Lei Lie was not picking up his phone. There were two possibilities. The first was that Lei Lie and the others did not notice the phone calls; the second was that something had happened to Lei Lie and the others, explaining why they couldn't pick up the phone call.

To Chen Hao, these scenarios were both equally possible. However, the second scenario seemed to be even more likely.

Lei Lie was a phone addic; there was no way he wouldn't check his phone. Besides, if he had phone reception, he would certainly call Chen Hao.

However, it had been such a long time, yet Lei Lie had not called them. That was enough to tell Chen Hao that something had probably happened to Lei Lie and the others.

"Chen Hao, do you think Lei Lie and the others might be in trouble?" Zhen Ji asked Chen Hao worriedly.

Chen Hao frowned and looked somber. He nodded, indicating that he agreed with what Zhen Ji said.

"That is possible. We bumped into the Ghost Clan members in the forest. Who's to say that Lei Lie and the others didn't meet them as well?" "Huh? Then, could they possibly be..." Zhen Ji was taken aback at the possibility. And the worry in her heart grew.

"Don't worry. Mr. Fan is there. The Ghost Clan members probably won't act rashly with him around. Mr. Fan definitely has a way of fighting those Ghost Clan members!" Chen Hao comforted Zhen Ji. Actually, Chen Hao wasn't too sure about this, either. However, he didn't want Zhen Ji to be too worried.

They had better quickly find Lei Lie and the others.

After that, Chen Hao and Zhen Ji start looking for the others in the outer forest.

After a while, the two of them found a backpack that had been left behind. The moment they saw it, they had no doubts that it was Lei Lie's backpack.

There was also a handphone next to the backpack, which happened to be Lei Lie's handphone.

No wonder he didn't pick up the phone calls. It was because he had left his backpack and handphone behind.

Seeing all this, Chen Hao and Zhen Ji

instantly knew that Lei Lie and the others were in trouble.



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Bright and early the next day, Chen Hao brought Lei Lie out to the town.

"Chen Hao, where are we going so early in the morning?" Lei Lie asked Chen Hao in bewilderment.

He hadn't gotten any proper sleep these past few days and had just managed to go home and sleep on his own bed. However, he was woken up bright and early the next morning. This made Lei Lie feel really helpless.

"We're off to the Ghost City's Mystical Ancestors!" Chen Hao answered Lei Lie.

As they spoke, two of them reached the bottom of the tower of the Ghost City's Mystical Ancestors.

At that time, the Ghost City's Mystical Ancestors had all stopped working and the whole tower had been closed down. Of course, this was all because the Fire Ghost King was a wanted criminal.

If the Fire Ghost King wasn't wanted by the authorities, then the Ghost City's Mystical Ancestors would keep running as per usual.

And for that reason, many people lost their jobs.

Everything happened for a reason.

Chen Hao brought Lei Lie to the doorway of the tower and discovered that the door was chained shut. There was even a seal stuck to the door.

"Chen Hao, it's been sealed. How are we supposed to get in?" Lei Lie asked Chen Hao in confusion.

Chen Hao walked around and inspected the building before he brought Lei Lie to a vent at the back of the tower.

Chen Hao went forward and removed the lid of the vent before crawling in.

The two of them entered through the vent and kept crawling upward until they reached the bathroom of the third floor.

Chen Hao knew that the Fire Ghost King's bedroom was on the sixteenth floor, so he immediately rushed to the sixteenth floor.

Even after running all the way up there, Chen Hao did not seem tired at all and was not even panting.

However, Lei Lie was still far behind when Chen Hao had already reached the sixteenth floor. It was ten minutes before he finally reached the sixteenth floor.

The moment he reached the sixteenth floor, Lei Lie collapsed onto the sofa and panted heavily.

"Phew! Chen Hao, can we please slow down next time? I can't keep up with you!" Lei Lie said with an exhausted expression from his place on the sofa.

He really had no idea how Chen Hao managed to just run up sixteen floors. He definitely wasn't human.

However, Chen Hao had never been human; he was half human and half ghost. Besides, the inner workings of his body had long since mutated from a regular human being's. That was why this was no big feat to Chen Hao.

Chen Hao didn't answer Lei Lie. Instead, he started looking for clues about the Fire Ghost King in the bedroom.

When he heard what Zhen Ji had told him yesterday, Chen Hao knew that they could not wait for anything to happen any longer. They had to be the ones to take the initiative and make the Fire Ghost King come and find them on his own accord.

The only way to do that was to find something that would get the Fire Ghost King's attention. That was the only way that Chen Hao could catch the Fire Ghost King.

After searching for a long while, Chen Hao found something.

There was a wooden box placed in the Fire Ghost King's bedroom.

This wooden box didn't seem very out of the ordinary and seemed to be a very simple, old-looking box.

It was quite strange for someone like the Fire Ghost King to have such a box. That meant that this wooden box had to mean something special to the King but he had just forgotten to take it away.

After that, Chen Hao immediately opened the box.

There was an emerald jade ring placed inside the box. The colours of the jade ring had already faded quite a bit and it looked a little old, meaning that it had to have been around for quite some time. Chen Hao inspected the ring closely before he placed the jade ring back into the wooden box. He then placed the wooden box into his pocket, preparing to take it away.

"Who's there?" Right at that moment, a man's angry voice piped up from the doorway.

Chen Hao and Lei Lie immediately went on high alert and looked toward the doorway.

They saw Mr. Fan bringing someone in.

When they saw that it was Mr. Fan, Chen Hao and Lei Lie let out a sigh of relief. They had been assuming the worst.

"It's you guys! What are you two doing here? Also, how did the two of you even get in?" Mr. Fan asked Chen hao and Lei Lie curiously the moment he realized it was them.

The chief had already commanded for him to cease all contact with Chen Hao and had forbidden Chen Hao from helping them with this case. That was why Mr. Fan had no choice but to follow his orders.

"We're here to find clues!" Chen Hao replied Mr. Fan.

"I'm sorry, Chen Hao. You two can no longer take part in dealing with this case, so I would appreciate it if you all could leave now. If you two come in without permission next time, I will have no choice but to bring you all back to the station!" Mr. Fan warned

Chen Hao in a straightforward manner.

Chen Hao understood what Mr. Fan meant. He also understood Mr. Fan's methods and explanations. Besides, he didn't want to give Mr. Fan any trouble.

"Okay, I've got it, Mr. Fan!" Chen Hao nodded as he answered before he and Lei Lie prepared to leave.

"Wait!" Mr. Fan stopped Chen Hao.

"If you found any clues, please hand it over to us!" Mr. Fan reminded Chen Hao.

The corners of Chen Hao's mouth lifted in a sly smile. He shook his head, answering, "I'm sorry, Mr. Fan. I did not find any clues."

At that, Chen Hao led Lei Lie out of the tower.

What a joke. Why would Chen Hao give his clues to Mr. Fan?

When they left the Ghost City's Mystical Ancestors, Chen Hao brought Lei Lie back to his own headquarters.

When they returned to his headquarters, Chen Hao took out the wooden box that he had found in the Fire Ghost King's room and placed it on the table.

He opened up the wooden box and took the jade ring that was inside of it out.

"Chen Hao, what does this jade ring mean? Why did you bring it back?" Lei Lie asked Chen Hao curiously.

"Think about it. Would someone of such a high rank like the Fire Ghost King keep such an old ring around? Don't you think something is up with this ring?" Chen Hao asked Lei Lie.

When he heard Chen Hao's words, Lei Lie agreed with his logic, too.

"This jade ring must have been worn by an old person!" Zhen Ji walked over and said to Chen Hao.

"An old person? Zhen Ji, why do you say so?" Chen Hao asked Zhen Ji curiously.

"Just look at it. This jade ring already looks rather old. Besides, the patterns on it aren't even from this generation. My grandmother used to have a ring quite similar to this one, which is why I'm making that assumption!" Zhen Ji explained to Chen Hao.

When he heard this, Chen Hao instantly

understood.

That meant that the Fire Ghost King had a grandmother, and this jade ring was exactly what his grandmother had left him.

"Chen Hao, but... even if we have this ring, that doesn't mean that we can capture the Fire Ghost King, right?" Lei Lie asked Chen Hao, not fully understanding him.

"That's where you're wrong. This jade ring can really aid us in our search for the Fire Ghost Kind. Besides, I already know who his next victim is going to be!" Chen Hao told Lei Lie confidently.

After that, Chen Hao got up and walked out once again, with Lei Lie immediately following behind him.

"Lei Lie, you drive. Let's go to the Bureau of Human Affairs!" Chen Hao called out, tossing the car keys to Lei Lie as they went downstairs.



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