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They fought hand-to-hand for fifteen minutes to the point the waves on the riverbed became turbulent. Amid the chaos, they finally killed the seriously wounded catfish bone demon. However, the three people also suffered injuries on different levels.

Rushing to the frontline as a meat shield, Alex's arm was almost completely severed, with ten or so fractured bones that had fallen out of his body.

Daya found Alex's scattered bones and handed them over to him. "The bone patterns can heal your injuries on your body. Your bones can grow back even if they have fallen off. The bodies of these two bone demons are too huge and a bit difficult to be moved, so we should just absorb them straight away."

Alex had no comments when it came to that.

In fact, the forbidden spell runes in his body had long been unable to hold back.

This was great fortune. Alex directly enveloped the fishbone with his soul power. The green bone patterns on it glowed faintly and twinkled, turning into a stream of light, and entered Alex's bones as nourishment before the forbidden spell runes absorbed it.

The fractures on his body healed at a visible rate, and the broken bones automatically grew as soon as they were attached.

Furthermore, he felt his bones evolving and growing rapidly, heading to a perfect state regardless of hardness and other aspects.

His bones were getting whiter to the point of spotlessness, yet the bone patterns did not show up. Daya and the Mystic Maiden of the Nine Heavens were absorbing the bone patterns as well.

Daya absorbed the man-faced spider's bone patterns, whereas the Mystic Maiden absorbed the ones from the catfish. Bone patterns of different species seemingly contained different energy, so different bone patterns should display different effects.

Alex noticed that Daya's initial gray bone patterns had disappeared. Replacing them were dark green bone patterns that twinkled on her bones as if they were breathing.

Mystic Maiden's bone patterns were mutating as well. It meant that they had previously acquired low-level bone patterns. After absorbing higher-level bone patterns, the original bone patterns evolved accordingly and developed into a higher grade.

Burp!

Daya burped unexpectedly, full from absorbing the bone patterns.

A string of green bone patterns appeared on her body, and her aura increased by more than double. She beckoned to Alex. "Hubby, come and absorb this. I can't go on. I've never had such a good time."

Afterward, she noticed that Alex's bones were flawlessly white, devoid of any bone patterns.

What she saw surprised her.

Alex said with a smile, "Don't worry. This is probably related to the cultivation techniques I practice. I can feel that the bone patterns have all converted into energy, and my bones are undergoing an unprecedented evolution."

He could accept the entire load of bone patterns. Even if he devoured more, the ancient runes would consume the energy. A portion of it would nourish his bones, and a portion, his soul.

Eventually, he kept a small bit and prepared to take them back to the others.

Mystic Maiden also stopped devouring the bone patterns. Since she was full and her soul power was at full capacity, she could no longer devour them quickly, needing time to rest and digest the energy. "With our massive gains this time, our bone patterns have evolved to a heightened level. I have a feeling that with this method, we can reshape our root bones and enhance our cultivation talent toward perfection," she said.

That would be stunning.

Human root bones were fixed in their mothers' wombs. In the cultivation world, there was a saying that one's root bones were predestined, and his fate could only be changed when he reincarnated. In other words, if one wanted to change his root bones, there was only one way-reincarnation.

Root bones had a more important foundation than spiritual roots. The root bones, however, could even be changed and evolved. So, this truly was changing fate by defying natural order.

In the end, each of the three people took a few root bones with densely packed bone patterns and planned to return to the cave.

"Wait a moment!" Alex suddenly said.

"What's wrong?"

"I suddenly thought of a question. This catfish bone demon is dead, but its lair shouldn't be too far away, right? How about we go look for it?"

"Aren't you afraid that there'll be a female catfish in the lair?" Daya asked.

Mystic Maiden blinked. "If that catfish still had companions, they would have popped out just now. So, this idea is feasible. There may be a grand opportunity."

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Like a white dragon entering the sea, the winding, turbulent river splashed countless waves and ran through the oversized forest without knowing where it was heading. The water on the river surface was unsettled, though it was still fine on the riverbed.

Alex and the other two people searched around the riverbed, looking for the catfish's lair. Alex even referred to the location through the tridimensional map in his sea of consciousness.

However, he noticed that the map in his sea of consciousness had changed and greatly differed from what he had seen last time. After scrutinizing it, he managed to understand it... The so-called tridimensional map was simply the induction formed by the runes of the Ten-Point Forbidden Spell. It could

seemingly sense the surrounding bone patterns. However, it wasn't an infinite distance.

According to the markers that represented the location of Shirley, Pigsy, and the others on the map, Alex estimated the range limit to be within a radius of one hundred miles.

It sounded like a great distance, but in fact, it was a stone's throw to "bone demons" like them.

After ten minutes or so, the few found a massive cave on the riverbed.

"Is it here?"

"I think they look alike. Who else would've designed this big hole other than that catfish monster?"

Alex and the others stared at the entrance for a while, especially Alex, who had activated his divine eyes to see through the cave. He gazed into its depths, but his divine eyes were severely restricted in this place. Not only was it limited in perspective, but they were also subjected to material interference.

This cave was so deep that he could see nothing within the space.

The Mystic Maiden of the Nine Heavens said, "I'll activate my talent, Concealment. Follow me, hold hands, and don't let go of them."

The three people put down the bones in their hands to prevent accidents from occurring.

Then, Mystic Maiden of the Nine Heavens grabbed Alex's hand. Daya, next to them, looked at the two people holding hands and said nothing.

Alex felt a little awkward. 'You chose me directly in front of Daya instead of her. Aren't you creating trouble for me?'

"Why didn't you pull Daya's hand?" Alex telepathized with the Mystic Maiden via divine sense.

It would be more embarrassing if he said it out loud.

Mystic Maiden unabashedly said, "I feel a little repulsive being too close with a female companion, just like you never had any male companions around you."

‘Huh..?’

Alex thought for a while. Had there been no male companions by his side?

In fact, male companions surrounded him the most when he was in school, all being his lackeys. However, since the change in his family, many lackeys stayed away from him, even wanting to trample him since they probably thought their statuses could be improved. Even since then, he had no male companions around him. However, his female companions kept increasing instead.

In fact, he had male companions as well.

They were Azure Storm, Sky Melvis, Nicholas Hudson, Danseur, and so on.

For some reason, however, these people kept a certain distance from him and rarely showed up at normal times... Thinking about it, he probably had too many female companions. He could not even accompany his women, so how could he have time to waste on his male companions?

The catfish bone demon’s cave was bottomless.

The three people kept walking down for ten or so minutes before they saw a stone chamber.

It was then that they looked at each other in dismay. It was simply all too shocking.

That catfish was huge, but the stone chamber at the end of the cave was about the same size as ordinary rooms humans lived in. It surely couldn’t live there!

“No one is inside, right?” Alex asked softly.

Daya said, “Could it be that bone demons can transform into humans as well?”

If true, this would be astonishing.

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They were, however, strangers to this world. Even if Daya had been here for two years, she had never seen any bone demons that could transform into humans nor bone demons that could speak and communicate.

“There’s a force field here!” Mystic Maiden exclaimed.

The three people were getting more surprised.

That catfish couldn’t have set up the spell formation, right?

Mystic Maiden of the Nine Heavens’ achievements in spell formations far surpassed Alex’s. After casually fumbling around for a while, she saw the trick of this formation. She then spent a minute cracking it open.

She stepped in. Alex and Daya followed closely.

Whoosh!

They seemed to have entered another dimension.

The water around them receded, and the dry and clean stone chamber was protected by the spell formation’s force field. Even the air was still fresh, with thick heaven and earth spiritual energy floating around.

Immediately afterward, they saw a person’s skeleton. Alex, fully vigilant, immediately took out the Golden Spear and stood in front of Mystic Maiden.

Satisfied with the display of his self-awareness, Mystic Maiden glanced at him in approval and said, “Take it easy. This person is already dead.”

There was no soul fluctuation.

Daya said, “Could this be someone who was gathering Buddhist relics and died here in the end?”

After confirming that no danger was around them, the three searched the inside. It wasn’t that large inside, all but a small stone chamber of about ten square meters.

Around were some household items, a bed, a table, and stools...

They even saw inscriptions on the wall.

“What’s written here?”

“It’s a writing that has never been seen before.”

Daya had memories of two lifetimes. Oh, no. That would be three lifetimes including this life. She was even once the Goddess of Nature and had come across countless types of writing. However, she was totally clueless about the strange markings before her.

“Do this person’s bones look a little weird to you?” Alex suddenly said.

If he had not mentioned it, they wouldn’t have paid attention, but as soon as he said that, the three began scrutinizing it.

As a result, they found a short tail behind the skeleton’s buttocks.

“This is either a demon with an incomplete transformation or a race from a different world,” Mystic Maiden said.

They then noticed that the person was wearing an ultra-fine ring on his finger. If they had not checked the differences between his bones and a normal human’s, they wouldn’t even have sensed it.

“Even if it’s a storage ring, it can’t be used here!” Daya let out a sigh at the big problem, just like that enormous bone demon just now. “It’s going to be really hard to move it without the storage ring.”

Nonetheless, the three exclaimed the next second.

“Is it really a storage ring?”

“It’s also a storage ring that can be opened!”

After scanning it with soul power, they discovered that a space as huge as a basketball court was hidden inside this tiny ring!

There were also many supplies inside, spiritual stones, medicinal herbs, and strange books. They even saw a peculiarly-shaped car that gave a vibe of some mysterious technology.

This was absolutely impossible to be a product of the Earth.

The three people then searched the stone chamber for a while to confirm there was nothing valuable. They even checked the bones of the corpse, but they did not see the presence of bone patterns. Mystic Maiden asked Alex to put on the ring before the three people left the stone chamber. They then threw the few bones from the cave entrance into the ring and went back to rejoin Shirley and the others.

Thus, despite the slight danger, they managed to gain fruitful rewards this time.

Most importantly, Alex had found a way to become stronger.

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“D*mn! What’s going on? You’ve scaled new heights, and your gray patterns have become green after going out for a trip?”

Piggy screamed when it saw Alex and the others who had returned to the cave, especially that string of green bone patterns on Mystic Maiden. This was a major change in level!

Alex smiled at it. He took out a huge bone covered with green patterns and shook it with a hand’s turn.

Piggy shouted excitedly, “Oh my, Boss, you’re so kind. You’re my forever...”

Before it could finish its words, Alex threw the bone at Shirley. Shirley grabbed it.

“Uh, this...”

“Boss, this... This is for me, right?”

Piggy was anxious.

However, Alex ignored it and said to Shirley, “You’ve worked hard. This is a little token of appreciation.” After saying that, he took out another two huge bones and put them next to Shirley’s feet.

Shirley looked up at Alex. Although she had no eyeballs and skin and her features were not visible, she had to be feeling excited and shocked at this moment.

“Ahh! Boss! Boss, I’m your faithful little brother! Hey, do you have any more? I want them too!” Pigsy was excited again.

However, Alex said, “No more! I told you before. ‘Don’t regret it if you don’t go there’!”

Noticing that it was a lost cause, Pigsy instantly snorted a few times. “Hmph! I, the old pig, don’t care about those rotten bones you picked from somewhere. Aren’t they just green patterns? I’ll pick up some golden bone patterns someday just so you people will get jealous.”

Clank!

Alex threw out two huge fish bones and gave them to Channing. There were green patterns on them as well.

Channing Henderson hurriedly hugged them and thanked Alex profusely.

Pigsy’s hyoid bone kept moving rhythmically. If he were to drool, it would’ve probably flowed all over the place. Eventually, it complained about him being heartless, disloyal, and deceitful...

Many of those present were joyful when they heard it.

Shirley took out a bone and shared it with Pigsy. “I’ll give you this. I have golden patterns on me, so the green one no longer works. They’ll just replenish my energy at most.”

This was a fact. The thing about the bone patterns was that they were highly amazing with distinct grades.

Alex did not tease Pigsy anymore. With a boom, he took out a half-cut spider and threw it on the ground. They had detoured and picked this spider son up. Fortunately, the other bone demons did not pick it up, so they were considered lucky.

Although it wasn’t as big as the old man-faced spider, it still occupied a huge area when placed in this cave.

There were gray patterns on it. It was an impressive gain.

However, they merely contained the green bone patterns as a guide for the future. Hence, it seemed very ordinary.

“Where did you take it from?!”

“Is your spatial magical treasure still usable?”

Shirley took a fancy to that thing as she stared at Alex in shock.

Alex shook his head.

Daya said, “We just found a storage ring...”

She sat next to Shirley and recollected the previous experience. She and the others were dumbfounded when they heard that, but they could also feel the danger from her words... Meanwhile, the human bones and storage ring inside the stone chamber of the riverbed had caused the entire matter to unravel more mysteries.

“Guys, guess. Are there any aborigines in this world?” Channing asked.

“Aborigines?”

The group froze, having never thought of such a question before.

Alex took out the items inside the ring one by one and placed them in the cave.

They were unsafe on the riverbed previously, and they didn’t get the chance to study the storage ring. Now that they had returned to this place, they could examine each item carefully. The most attractive thing was still that novel-shaped car with a vibe of mysterious technology.

“Could these be the technological products of another civilization?”

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“This is... A car, right?”

Nonetheless, the crowd could not even open the door even after studying it for a good while.

No one recognized the writing on the few books that had been taken out either. Since they understood nothing about the writing, they could only throw them back into the ring and ignore them in the end.

As expected, no green patterns showed up after Shirley absorbed the bone patterns. However, the golden bone patterns on her chest were visibly a little denser and more lustrous.

She burped and said, "I know where the man-faced spider's lair is. Do you want to go on another expedition?"

Alex had this idea long ago.

However, the man-faced spider had emerged to chase them. The path was clearly a little long, and he did not know where to find it.

He agreed to it as soon as Shirley said that.

However, there shouldn't be too many members. Having used her skill consecutively, Mystic Maiden was now mentally exhausted and did not want to move. Daya also said that she needed to recuperate.

Eventually, it was decided that both Shirley and Alex would go there as they could escape fast if they ran into trouble. After all, they both were now considered the strongest in terms of battle power. However, Pigsy did not want to lose the chance again, and it desperately wanted to follow them.

In the end, two people and a pig quietly left the cave. The process went smoothly. They reached the man-faced spider's cave half an hour later. Alex looked at the tridimensional map and found no bone patterns nearby. Then, he observed the surroundings with the divine eyes' X-ray vision and saw no danger either.

"There's no danger! We can enter it!"

Pigsy could not endure it, so it rushed inside upon hearing his words.

However, after a while, it screamed and rushed out again. Hearing how panicked his voice sounded, it seemed he had encountered a ghost. Once it

rushed out of the cave, it rolled on the ground and screamed wildly, begging Alex and Shirley for help.

They had just seen densely packed tiny spiders crawling all over its body. To make matters worse, they were gnawing on its bones.

Alex immediately summoned thundering flames and burned the small spiders away.

He just felt like laughing when he saw the wretched Pigsy.

“Alex Rockefeller, you scammer. Didn’t you say it’s not dangerous?”

“Look at this old pig. I’m about to become a roasted Pig!”

Pigsy was about to cry.

After the thundering flames burned it, its soul power was not only consumed, but even its bones were charred.

“At least there’s no danger to your life. They were just small spiders. You can only blame yourself for being so weak,” Alex said.

“What’s down there?” Shirley asked.

Pigsy said, “It’s all eggs. D*mn it! What had luck... But, I smelled a kind of fresh fragrance. According to my treasure-hunting experience, there must be something good inside the cave.”

“You aren’t trying to scam us deliberately because you’ve fallen for the trick, right?” Alex replied.

“It’s up to you to believe me.”

“Let’s go down together then.”

Pigsy shook his head, refusing to go at all costs.

Alex touched his chin and looked at the map again with the perceptive power of the Ten-Point Forbidden Spell runes. There was indeed no boss whatsoever, so he decided to take a look. With the thundering flames in his hands, he could drive the small spiders away.

Shirley, who was quite loyal, said, "I'll go as well."

In actual fact, she did not want to miss the opportunity.

The man-faced spider's strength was displayed there, so it made no sense that there was nothing good in the cave. She whispered to Alex, "I've seen a few high-level bone demons. There is usually incredibly good stuff near the lairs they are stationed at great immortal medicine, energy crystals, and immortal spring water."

Alex's eyes gleamed. "When we go back this time, let's talk over together. Let's grab them one by one."

As they spoke, the two people had already entered the depths of the lair and were about to reach the top.

At that moment, the small spiders went berserk again and rushed over. They were densely packed with an unknown amount. At the same time, Alex saw a green light flashing in the depths of the cave.

A tree was looming over there!

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"Hurry! Hurry! Hurry! Protect me! Protect me!"

They saw countless densely packed spiders rushing over, so white, some black, and some colorful. They weren't all just bones and carapaces, but they also had translucent mucus...

Most importantly, not only could these things jump, but they could even fly.

Shirley was so frightened she let out a mad shriek. She hid behind Alex and even jumped onto him.

Alex was helpless. "Shouldn't you have mentally prepared yourself when you came in? Why are you still afraid of these things?"

As he mocked Shirley, he summoned his thundering flames and formed a barrier, burning the spiders till they crackled and popped. In fact, with the

ability of the golden bone patterns on her chest, she shouldn't have been afraid of getting bitten such small spiders probably could not even bite through her.

Swoosh!

Many were burned to death when the spiders encountered the thundering flames, and those at the rear retreated.

Shirley jumped off Alex and said, "I hate these densely packed little things the most They're triggering my trypophobia."

Alex smiled without saying anything. He was very interested in that tree inside. Once he borrowed the burning thundering flames, the situation inside became even clearer.

To his surprise, he saw a pool in the depths of the spider lair. The pool was shrouded in a green light, but was in fact, all reflection. The real source of the light actually came from the strange tree in the middle of the water pool. The tree was only about five meters tall at most, but green light flowed on each leaf with a rhythm similar to the bone patterns. The entire tree exuded an energy that soothed people.

The golden bone patterns on Shirley's chest emitted a faint luster as if they breathed this kind of energy.

"What tree is this? Have you seen it before?" Alex asked Shirley.

Shirley shook her head as she also saw it for the first time. She stared at the tree in the water pool and said, "I feel that it's calling me."

As she spoke, she wanted to move forward and no longer feared the spiders.

Alex hurriedly grabbed her bone and dragged her back forcefully. "Don't be impulsive. This is a strange tree. It is as if it charms people."

After Alex threw her the reminder, Shirley glanced at the densely packed spiders ahead with slight lingering fear. She hurriedly cahned down and became more vigilant. Suddenly, she just felt something weird. She looked down, only to discover that Alex's hand was grasping her hip bones.

'This... Is a little unbearable.'

‘You can hold somewhere else? Why do you have to take that position deliberately?’

“Hey, where are your hands? Is this a place you can grasp?” Shirley’s tone carried strong dissatisfaction. If this were her normal flesh, this would be the position of her butt.

“Uh...” Alex smiled and let go of his hand. “Sorry. It’s your most obvious bone.”

“...”

If Shirley had flesh and blood, her current expression would be flushed.

The next second, Alex added, “You should wear a pair of pants.”

Shirley rolled her eyes vigorously. She had turned into a skeleton, so why would she be wearing pants? She couldn’t even hold it tip, alright? Besides, where would she find any pants in this world?

“How am I any different from you?” she snapped.

“Oh, I haven’t studied this carefully. I’ll compare them.” Alex bent down, turned his head sideways, and leaned towards her skeleton.

Although they had become bones, she truly could not bear that action of his.

“Pervert!”

Bam!

Shirley kicked Alex out, and he landed right in the sea of spiders. In an instant, the thundering flames ravaged, and streaks of lightning struck continuously.

All the spiders went berserk and squeaked in fear, staying away from Alex’s surroundings. A large wave even rushed out of the cave. Shirley was miserable, guarding the cave entrance without the thundering flames’ protection. Countless spiders impacted her, jumping onto her body and drilling through her. In an attempt to flee, some even directly burrowed into all sorts of gaps until they were stuck.

“Ah!”

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Shirley hysterically screamed for a while. She tried to get rid of those little things on her with all her might

Alex watched her bouncing and rolling around, violently impacting the ground to the point the spider lair almost collapsed. Speechless, he rushed over to help save her.

“Here, here, and here...”

“There are more here!”

The last man-faced spider was stuck between her thigh and hip bone, so Alex reached in and pulled it out bit by bit. It was a simply indescribable scene.

After everything was cleaned up , the entire spider cave was devoid of any living spiders. All the living ones had fled.

Alex sincerely suggested, “You should really wear pants. This is so bare. Such an awkward incident will happen sometimes.”

Shirley glared at him. “That goes without saying!”

She decided to wrap herself up with whatever she saw. Next, it was time to enjoy the profits.

The two people glanced at each other before slowly approaching the pool of water.

Shirley said, “You should try getting in first. I’ll help you keep watch at the side. If anything goes wrong, I can save you right away.”

Being a man, Alex naturally didn’t flinch, feeling it was a reasonable arrangement. After testing the water, Alex tried stretching his boney finger in. Despite the absence of nerves, he could still feel the chill. However, after the chill penetrated his body, he felt extremely comfortable. Even the hidden runes in his bones were chanting.

He enjoyed this feeling a lot. The pool’s energy could strengthen his bones.

“How was it?” Shirley asked.

“Well... It feels good.” Alex smiled at her.

Shirley had initially come here to seize the opportunity, fearing that Alex would snatch it all. Thus, she jumped into the water without hesitation. An overwhelming chill engulfed her the moment she entered, but it nourished her spirit and bone patterns.

“Alex, do you think this pool formed this tree, or did this tree form the pool?” Shirley said.

“I don’t know about that, but I know that Pigsy has missed the boat again!” Alex paid silent tribute to the old pig. “The man-faced spider chose to build a lair here probably because it wanted to guard this water pool and strange tree. Have you noticed that the flowing green light on these leaves is similar to the green bone patterns on that man-faced spider?”

Shirley nodded. She quickly interrupted him. “So, if we were to have given that man-faced spider more time, she could’ve evolved again. In the end, we took advantage of it.”

She beamed with joy as she spoke. The next second, she rushed over and pressed against the strange tree’s trunk.

Alex saw with his own eyes countless green light shadows rushing into Shirley’s body. Her aura skyrocketed in an instant. However, Shirley roared immediately, “Something’s wrong! This tree is a scam! Hurry up and run!”

Alex had been vigilantly eyeing this tree, and he had activated his divine eye. In that instant earlier, he clearly saw a black figure appear behind the tree in the pool, invading Shirley’s soul along with those green lights.

“Soul possession?” Alex muttered to himself.

He grabbed the Requiem Clock in his hand. Then, he forcibly penetrated his soul power into Shirley.

In the next second, the scene before him changed drastically. Surprisingly, he had arrived at a quaint courtyard.

‘Is this... Shirley Hancock’s dream world?’

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Alex was completely surprised. He had just rushed over to prevent that figure hidden on the tree from possessing Shirley, but the environment he saw turned out to be an ancient American styled courtyard.

Where was Shirley Hancock?

Where was that black figure?

“Mommy. Mommy, get up. Wake up. Don’t sleep anymore...”

“Mommy, you’re bleeding. So much blood...”

A child-like voice rang in Alex’s ears.

The voice came from the interior of the courtyard. It sounded like a little girl, her voice carrying a crying tone, fear, and a bit of something else.

Alex went over, only to be astonished.

In the courtyard’s room, he saw a young lady lying in a pool of blood. A large amount was still flowing from her chest, and there was a deep wound on her neck. Blood was all over her body and the ground.

A little girl, around three, knelt on the ground and shook the lady while crying and trembling. She was probably still oblivious to what death was but seemed to have understood something from that extremely desperate and fearful voice.

‘The childhood version of... Shirley Hancock?’

Alex was stunned.

From the little girl’s current look, he could see how she resembled Shirley a little. Hence, this was really her dream world, a disheartenment she once experienced.

The lady on the ground was her biological mother, but...

‘This is her dream world!’

‘This is her own demon!’

‘Where’s that black figure? Where’s it hiding?’

Alex walked over to find the black figure. He could not find it.

Was it hidden somewhere, or had it retreated outside?

The little girl kept crying and shaking her mother. Alex stood in front of her, but the little girl seemed to neither sense nor see him.

“Mommy, wake up!

“Mommy, I’m terrified! Dad isn’t home...”

The little girl’s pleading voice aroused Alex’s sense of compassion. If this was something that had really happened in the past, Shirley must have gone through hell. He reached out and gently stroked her head, but it was not that kind of real sensation as his hand went through her.

It was not real. He was just a bystander.

At this moment, the lady on the ground opened her mouth slightly and, surprisingly, woke up. She said with a smile, “Shirley, come here! Come a little closer! Let mommy take a good look at you!”

Alex froze.

This had to be fake, right?

The lady’s heart had been pierced, and her almost severed neck was spewing blood all over the floor, yet she was still alive and could speak?

Could she be an Earthly Immortal?

“Mommy. Mommy, you’re awake! That’s great!” The little girl was pleasantly surprised.

“Mommy is hurt. I’m bleeding a lot after bad guys bullied me. Shirley, are you willing to help mommy to keep mommy alive?”

“I’m willing, mommy. I want to be together with mommy.”

“What a good girl. Then, Shirley, if you offer your soul to mommy, mommy can be with you forever. Shirley, are you willing to do so?”

“Mommy, of course, Shirley is willing...”

Bong!

Just as little Shirley was halfway through her words, an earth-shattering bell suddenly rang next to her, frightening her to the point that she forcibly swallowed the rest of her words.

Of course, this was the ringing of Alex’s Requiem Clock. He was furious!

That. black figure of unknown origin surprisingly hid inside the corpse of Shirley’s mother. It wanted to use this method to get Shirley to personally agree to offer her own soul, a truly despicable swindler.

Bong!

Alex held the Requiem Clock and rang it again while facing the lady lying on the ground.

He even bellowed with the impact of soul power, “Shirley Hancock Wake up!”

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Bong! Bong! Bong!

A series of explosive ringing of the Requiem Clock finally forced out the black figure lurking in the lady’s corpse. That was still a black shadow, but a woman’s contour was visible.

She furiously screamed, “Abomination! How dare you ruin my important business?! Go to hell!”

The black shadow directly rushed toward Alex. However, Alex had the Requiem Clock in his hand. This was a holy Buddhist tool, and it shocked the black shadow to the point her soul trembled, and she couldn’t stop screaming.

Then, she ran, rushing out of the dream world.

Alex also sensed that the scene before him was changing. He had escaped the dream world and returned to the deepest part of the spider lair, standing in the chilly water pool.

“Shirley Hancock, wake up!”

Alex grabbed her hand and pulled her away from that strange tree.

Shirley woke up and shook her head. “What’s wrong with me?”

Alex said, “Your soul was almost possessed. This tree is strange. Hurry up and leave this water pool.”

However, the strange tree in the windless pool of water started moving on its own.

The green glow on its leaves fluctuated with greater intensity, like rotating neon lights. Eventually, all the green lights converged into a green chain, binding Alex at once. That black figure reappeared, flying out as she shouted, “Die!”

That was still the lady’s black shadow.

This time, she unexpectedly rushed into Alex’s soul. She spoke in a strange accent as if she was a foreigner speaking English. However, this was a soul state where he could sense the other party’s soul thoughts. Even if he did not understand her accent, he could perceive the meaning from her soul state.

“I’ve waited for countless centuries, and finally, a suitable human has come!” she growled. “I’ll never give up! I want to return! I want to go to the Pool of the Afterlife! Whoever dares to block me shall die!”

Alex was surprised. This woman’s speech revealed a lot of information.

Return where?

The pool of the Afterlife?

What were those?

However, he did not have time to think because the black female shadow had opened her mouth wide and tried to devour Alex's soul. Before she could do anything, what she saw next stunned her.

She saw a bridge.

She also saw a lively little girl in red with classical temperament in red standing on the bridge. The ancient bridge was bloodstained and exuded vicissitudes and sorrow over the years. She even saw a stone tablet standing next to the ancient bridge.

Three words were written on it, Persephone's Folly Bridge.

As Shelly stood on the bridge with her back facing the woman, she softly chanted...

"Forgotten River by Persephone's Folly Bridge!"

"Neither is there right or wrong in life, neither merit nor demerit in death!"

"You could have lived a decent life, yet you've chosen to bring demise upon yourself!"

The woman was finally moved. She looked at the ancient bridge in horror and exclaimed, "One of the three artifacts of the Infernal Hell, Persephone's Folly Bridge?"

As soon as she said that, a rusty chain rushed out of Persephone's Folly Bridge and shackled the woman's soul.

It was simply too simple a process. She had walked right into the trap!

"Wait, don't kill her first. I want to know this person's origin," Alex hurriedly tried to prevent Shelly from killing this person.

The woman whose soul had been shackled by the iron chain was scared witless. However, from Alex's tone, she knew he needed information before killing her.

She pretended to be tough. "Hmph, you want to get information out of me? Impossible, unless you let me out, and we can make a fair deal."

Alex shook his head. "You're not qualified to make a deal with me in my territory."

As Alex said that, he went forward and gently pressed his palm on her head. He activated the Soul Searching Art.

When Alex searched her memory fragments, he found some descriptions about this world. It was then that he shouted, "Crap!"

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When Shelly saw him reacting vigorously while searching the woman's soul, she could not help but feel overwrought. "What's wrong? What did you see?" she asked.

Alex slowly let his hand go.

Meanwhile, that woman was already in a muddled state after her main soul had received severe damage. The old iron chain of Persephone's Folly Bridge didn't intend to let her go and soon dragged her under the bridge.

Over there, the River Styx was surging.

Her soul immediately sank into the water without even having time to bubble on it.

Alex looked at Shelly. "The Pool of Afterlife. We can truly return to the mortal realm and reshape our flesh and blood vessels only if we enter the Pool of the Afterlife. And, this place is known as the Underworld."

Shelly froze for a brief moment. "I think I've heard of it somewhere..."

Alex said, "There's another important point. Each person who enters this place will be given a hundred years. They have to be reborn within that time, and those who fail can only wait to perish or borrow stuff to stay behind or snatch away someone else's qualification before rebirth, just like that woman earlier. Moreover, this place doesn't belong to a realm on Earth. Many still come in and consider this a place for trials."

Shelly walked down Persephone's Folly Bridge. Her beautiful eyes gleamed. If it weren't for her short figure, she would've surely been devastatingly beautiful. He wondered who she must've been in her previous life.

"I remembered something about the legend of the Underworld..."

"Do you really know about that?" Alex approached with great interest.

Shelly said, "I've only heard about it, and I can't guarantee if it's true."

Alex said, "Go ahead."

Shelly nodded. "Rumor has it that there used to be an intermediate station on the way to River Styx called the Underworld. A magistrate once enforced the laws here, but he later strayed into the demonic path, refined the entire Underworld into a demonic realm, and separated it from River Styx to jump out of the three realms. However, Dairaionji Temple suppressed him in the end... The Pool of Afterlife is indeed in the Underworld, but rumors were that it was the place the magistrate had demonized. So, I guess it won't be easy."

"A hundred years. The pool of Afterlife..." Alex frowned, but he soon calmed down.

He came here with a purpose to enter Dairaionji Temple and help his father resist the Soul Planting. Hence, he had to enter the Pool of Afterlife within a hundred years at all costs.

Alex exited the mind palace.

Shirley was shouting his name.

"What's wrong?" Alex asked.

"What's going on with you? I kept shouting at you, but you didn't even respond. I thought something must've happened."

Alex looked at her and said with a nod, "Something did happen. I almost died! Do you remember your previous experience? A woman almost possessed your soul. She disguised herself as your mother and asked you to offer your soul! You nearly promised her. Luckily I stopped you in time, but that b*tch targeted me and wanted to put me to death... I just survived a catastrophe!"

Alex explained in a grave tone, his expressions displaying a lingering fear.

Shirley really was moved after she heard that. "Alex Rockefeller, I owe you my life. Just forget what happened."

Alex was satisfied with her tactfulness. However, later, Shirley asked him a question. "What did you see in my memory?"

Alex froze. "Do you have any impression of it?"

Shirley shook her head. "It's very vague as a dream world, but I knew it wasn't. It's a memory of my past, but I can never remember it for some reason. My grandpa said that was a memory from when I was very young. Most people would forget that sort of experience, but I always feel that it's important to me."

Alex declined to comment and just replied with an 'oh'.

"You saw it, right? Tell me. You saw my mother. What kind of memory is that?"

"It's very simple. Your mother was sleeping..."

"And?"

"You wet your pants."

"Huh..?"

Shirley felt an impulse to smack him. "Impossible. I felt something thanks to that woman's soul possession. I believe I saw blood, a lot of blood..."

"That's normal, isn't it?" Your mother should endure those few days every month."

"Alex Rockefeller! I'll treat you as a friend from now on! Don't you let me down!"

When Alex thought of that desperate and helpless little girl in her latent memory, it was still unbearable to him. "It was really nothing. I didn't pay attention to it at that time either. I was busy looking for that humanoid demon..."