

## Versatile 1281

### [Versatile Mage](#)

#### Chapter 1281: The Government is the Biggest Winner

“I don’t know it.” The old woman’s voice turned cold suddenly. She turned her head way, as if she was unwilling to speak any further.

Mo Fan, Zhao Manyan, and Lingling were utterly confused by the old woman’s reaction. It was obvious that she had seen the Totem Seal before; why did her attitude change all of a sudden?

“Grandma, just tell them if you know something. They aren’t bad guys,” Chen Yi blurted out. Even she knew her grandmother was lying.

“Humph, one may know a person for a long time without understanding their true nature. Either way, I have never seen it before. You can stay here if you want. I’m tired.” The old woman closed her eyes. She did not say a further word.

There was nothing Chen Yi could say to convince her grandmother. The others subconsciously exchanged glances with one another.

Left with no choice, Chen Yi led them into the house and cleaned up rooms for them to stay in.

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“Where’s Little Flame Belle? It’s been a while since I last saw her,” Chen Yi asked after finishing up with Mo Fan’s room.

“She’s sleeping. She’s about to enter the Adolescent Phase. I’m running short of funds to buy enough Soul-grade Fire Seeds for her, so I’ve come to see if I can earn some quick money,” Mo Fan said.

“The Adolescent Phase already?” Chen Yi sounded a little excited. “Tell me if you need anything! I’ll try my best to help. I’ll talk to my grandmother too. Maybe it’s something she doesn’t want to remember.”

“It’s fine if she isn’t willing to talk. We meant to look for the clues ourselves. We just didn’t think we would find one so quickly,” Mo Fan said.

“Take your time; you can stay here as long as you want.”

“Alright!”

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Mount Kunyu had always been an attraction in Yantai, but its outer slopes to the south were occupied by demon creatures.

The inner mountain was located within the safe zone. The natural ecosystem on it was well preserved, as both the government and the Magic Association were working together to look after it. The place had lots of rare plants and herbs, and because of the weather, the herbs on Mount Kunyu were useful in producing special medications. The Bone-connecting Ointment was a popular product of Mount Kunyu.

It was common for Mages to lose their limbs in fights against demon creatures. Even though a Healer was able to fix their limbs back up, not every group would have a Healer with them. As such, the Bone-connecting Ointment was a necessity for Hunters. If their hands were torn off by demon creatures, they just needed to apply the ointment on the cut and wrap the hand in place with bandages. It would connect the hand back in five days, and on the seventh day, they would already be able to move their hand. The wound would heal completely in ten days. It would be even more effective if a Healer was treating the wound with the Bone-connecting Ointment.

As such, even if it meant investing lots of human resources, the government insisted on protecting Mount Kunyu at all costs, just so they could continue to produce the Bone-connecting Ointment!

The far side of Mount Kunyu was a dangerous place. Unlike most cities, the other side of Mount Kunyu was a mountain ridge ruled by a powerful demon creature. It was referred to as the King of Beasts of Mount Kunyu. Its strength was comparable to the Silver Skyruler of the Nanling Mountains.

Yantai was safe not because the place was well-defended like Hangzhou, but because the King of Beast on Mount Kunyu was not as invasive as the demon creatures of the Nanling Mountains. For many years, sea monsters were the main threat to Yantai's safety. They hardly had any cases where the demon creatures on Mount Kunyu invaded the city.

The demon creatures on the outer Mount Kunyu did not bother troubling the humans, but the humans liked to explore their territories in return, especially when the job looking for demon crests was put up. Many Hunters formed groups to hunt demon creatures on the mountain. The government was worried that it would provoke the powerful creature on the mountain, so they started restricting the Hunters!

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“What in the world, I've heard of restricting the numbers of vehicles or tourists, but I've never heard of restricting Hunters hunting down demon creatures! How long do we have to wait until it's our turn!?” Zhao Manyan cursed.

There was only one path leading to the other side of Mount Kunyu. Any other route involved making their way through poisonous valleys with rough terrain. It was easy to enter the valleys, but extremely difficult to get out. Therefore, the path that the government had built was the only possible way to hunt for demon crests on the far side of Mount Kunyu.

To their surprise, the bridge leading to the outer Mount Kunyu was crowded with people. Many had Hunter badges. There were also teachers leading groups of students and members of the Magic Association. It was like the other side of Mount Kunyu had suddenly become a mountain of gold that everyone wanted a piece of!

“We can't help it; a dungeon with good loot is always packed with people!” Lingling said. She was clearly an experienced gamer.

Mo Fan walked up to the soldiers on duty and showed them a different identification while explaining why he was here.

“You’re helping the Chairman?” the soldier asked suspiciously.

“Yeah, you can think of us as archaeologists. We didn’t expect to bump into a huge crowd during the ‘festive season’,” Mo Fan said.

“Very well, you and your team can skip the queue and enter the far side of Mount Kunyu. Be aware that the place is very crowded now. The number of people is greater than the number of demon creatures. If anything happens, the rescue team will have trouble reaching you, so just be cautious. Don’t go too deep into the mountain!” the soldier warned them.

“Don’t worry, we can look after ourselves... but is this really a wise thing to do? The people are rushing into the mountain like ducks. Isn’t the other side of Mount Kunyu the territory of a powerful creature? If it goes mad, wouldn’t the people of Yantai and soldiers like you suffer instead?” Mo Fan said.

“You didn’t know?” the soldier asked.

“Know what?” Mo Fan said.

“That creature is dead,” the soldier said.

“Dead?” Mo Fan was stunned. His face was filled with surprise.

“Yeah, we don’t know how it died, but some Hunters did take pictures of its remains. The other side of Mount Kunyu has turned into a mountain of gold after the creature died. Why did you think there were so many Hunters here?” the soldier said.

“I see,” Zhao Manyan seemed to have realized something. He told Mo Fan, “It looks like the government and the Magic Association are planning to sweep the other side of Mount Kunyu into the safe zone, so they have been spreading the job about the demon crests around to attract Hunters here. The Hunters are pretty much cleaning up the mountain for free as they are exploring it. Once the other side Mount Kunyu is free of demon creatures, the Magic Association and the government are going to make a fortune!”

Lingling nodded in agreement. “The local government is pretty smart. They can’t afford to swallow the whole mountain of gold themselves, so they decided to share it instead! The Hunters will get the loot, while the government claims the mountain. The corporation will get the demon crests, and the influx of people will also help the economy...”

“That’s absurd!” the soldier blurted out after hearing their discussion.

Zhao Manyan and Lingling exchanged smiles with one another. They knew they had guessed it right after seeing the soldier’s reaction.

What a nice move that the government was using; hopefully the Hunters would get what they came for. Otherwise, they were basically doing volunteer work for the government and the army!

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“Chen Yi, Chen Yi, I didn’t expect to see you here!” A well-dressed man came up to them. Either the man was too tall, or he was too full of himself, as he liked to lift his chin when looking at people.

His chin was soon facing Mo Fan and Zhao Manyan, since they seemed to be quite close to Chen Yi. They did not look like they were just ordinary friends to Chen Yi. The man asked, “And they are...”

“He’s my brother, Zhao...” Chen Yi introduced.

“Zhao Xiaotian!” Zhao Manyan replied.

Mo Fan and Lingling were left speechless instantly. What the heck was the name Zhao Xiaotian? Was he seriously trying to act cute when he was coming up with a fake name? Why didn’t he call himself Zhao Ritian instead!?

*{TL Note: ‘Ri’ is a slang for f\*\*k, and ‘Tian’ means sky (or Heavens). So ‘Ritian’ can mean f\*\*k the sky!}*

Chen Yi was amused by the name. She proceeded to introduce Mo Fan and Lingling.

“Are you all heading to the other side of Mount Kunyu too? Is it just the few of you? Why don’t you come with us? My uncle is a Vice Elder of the Penglai Magic Association. He’s leading the team so the younger generation like us can learn from him. Why don’t you join us? You will learn a lot from it!” the man said passionately.

“I already promised them...” Chen Yi said.

“What promise, they aren’t any slots left for today. The soldiers won’t let you pass if you don’t come with us. Let’s go, my uncle is different from those novice Hunters. He’s very familiar with the other side of Mount Kunyu. He likes studying history and collecting stuff. Collecting demon crests is just one of his hobbies,” the man kept talking.

“Actually, we’ve already obtained...” Chen Yi was going to say that they already had the permission to pass.

However, when Mo Fan heard the Vice Elder of the Penglai Magic Association was interested in archeology too, he immediately interrupted, “Chen Yi, we should follow them since someone experienced is leading the group. It’s better than us wandering around aimlessly like headless flies!”

“Sure, if you say so,” Chen Yi nodded.

The tall man immediately cast an unfriendly gaze at Mo Fan.

Chen Yi was obviously hesitant to accept his offer. She was even going to reject it, but she immediately agreed after hearing what this new man said. The tall man was utterly displeased. Wasn’t Chen Yi too obedient to the man? Did she keep rejecting him because of him, too?

Humph, just in time! He would show Chen Yi his true strength during the journey, so those that were outwardly attractive but worthless inside would feel embarrassed to even compete with him, Wang Hua!

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“Why did you bring more people here?” the aged Mage of the Penglai Magic Association asked in a displeased tone.

“Uncle, you’ve met Chen Yi before. She’s the teacher of Basic Mages in our Magic Association. She’s going on an adventure with her friends. Since there aren’t too many of them, and they didn’t have anyone experienced leading them, they are interested in coming with us so they could learn from you,” Wang Hua quickly explained.

Wang Hua moved closer to the aged Mage and said, “Uncle, Chen Yi is the girl I’m interested in, just do me a favor. Her father is no ordinary person, either. It might help you if it works out.”

“Humph, just tell them to behave themselves. I don’t want them to hold me back!” the aged Wang Dakuo answered with a snort.

Wang Hua immediately smiled. However, he quickly regained a stern face as he warned Mo Fan, Zhao Manyan, and Lingling, “You all better keep up with the group and do as you are told. It’s fine if you aren’t strong, but don’t you dare stir up any trouble!”

“Don’t worry, we know that... ah, it’s so lucky we managed to follow an experienced team around. I bet we are going to score high in our homework this time, lucky!” Zhao Manyan exclaimed.

Wang Hua grinned after hearing Zhao Manyan’s words. He smiled disdainfully and said, “This adventure is more than enough for students of ordinary Magic Institutions to score a high mark. If you behave well, I might even ask my uncle to stamp your document. I bet the teachers at your school are going to be very impressed!”

“Really? Brother Wang Hua, you have my thanks!” Zhao Manyan smiled. His acting was so good that the others were left completely speechless.

Chapter 1282: The Danger Behind the Giant Purple Linden

Wang Hua enjoyed being fawned upon by Zhao Manyan, especially when he learned that Zhao Manyan and Chen Yi were close relatives. He definitely needed Zhao Manyan’s help to improve his image around Chen Yi.

It would be great if he managed to win Chen Yi’s affection. First of all, Chen Yi was definitely his type. He had been trying to win her over for some time. On top of that, he did not expect an ordinary-looking Mage like Chen Yi to have such a formidable background. Her father in Shanghai was extremely rich, and was also a member of the renowned Zhao Clan!

Wang Hua did not understand why Chen Yi would bother living here when she had such a wealthy family, but nevertheless, he had to take hold of the opportunity!

“Is your friend close to your sister?” Wang Hua asked.

“Not really, but I think she has a good impression of him,” Zhao Manyan said.

Zhao Manyan was not lying. He knew Chen Yi admired Mo Fan. As for whether she had any affection for him, Zhao Manyan believed if Mo Fan flirted with her, she would not reject him...

Wang Hua immediately frowned. It was clearly not good news!

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The mountain range extended continuously into the distance, covered by thick woods and deep valleys. The trunks of the trees rose into the blue sky. Normally, a sight like this was only possible deep in a mountain that would be crawling with demon creatures and no sign of humans around, but it was less than a hundred kilometers away from Yantai City. It was a great surprise!

The group followed Wang Dakuo's lead and hiked past the deep valleys. They would occasionally see a few demon sparrows flying between the branches in the canopy while letting out alarmed cries, but it was more common for them to bump into Hunters chasing demon creatures in the mountain.

Luckily, the mountain and the forest were pretty big. As they ventured deeper, it became more unlikely for two groups of people to be caught staring at one another with astounded faces when they were expecting danger to show up.

"It really feels like the Hunter Competition," a plump man in the group said.

"Guo Muzhuang, we almost forgot that you've taken part in the Hunter Competition before. Weren't you disqualified shortly after the competition started? I heard you fainted after being scared by someone's Summoned Beast. HAHAHA," Wang Hua replied.

The others burst out laughing too after hearing Wang Hua's words.

Guo Muzhuang immediately blushed. He argued, "At least I took part in it. Were you even qualified for it?"

"We are from the Magic Association. Why would we bother taking part in the Hunter Competition?"

"We are paid better than those uncivilized people. We didn't have to eat and live in the wild, either. Do you really think we would be jealous that you are a Hunter who once took part in a Hunter Competition?" a man named Chen Binbin, who seemed to be quite close to Wang Hua, spoke up.

Speaking of the Hunter Competition, Mo Fan was once interested in it, too. However, he somehow missed it after he was caught up in the calamity of the Ancient Capital, and was preoccupied with the World College Tournament.

It was quite a pity. Mo Fan did think of taking part in the Hunter Competition. It would be a great place to demonstrate his strength!

But then again, the people of the Magic Association did not seem to have much respect for the people of the Hunter Union. It just did not happen in certain places.

Most members of the Magic Association had great power, since they were in charge of the Awakening and development of Mages, and the distribution of resources. The Magic Association was like the law enforcer among Mages. Strictly speaking, the Hunters were under their jurisdiction, too!

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“Stop making noise.” Wang Dakuo was a reserved man. The others immediately went quiet after his curt order.

He knelt down and picked up a stalk of grass from a bush that resembled the ball-shaped tail of a rabbit. He observed it closely.

“Blue and white like a brick, with the shape of dandelion and a stem like a screw; it must be the Dandelion Grass!” Lingling appeared beside Wang Dakuo out of nowhere. Her voice disturbed his thoughts.

Wang Dakuo was about to lose his temper, but was startled when he realized what Lingling had just said. He blurted out sourly, “Why would a little girl like you know about the Dandelion Grass?”

Lingling snatched the Dandelion Grass and blew at it. The blue-white seedheads flew into the sky like snowflakes, and drifted deeper into the woods.

“We should be able to find the Giant Purple Linden by following them!” Lingling declared.

Wang Dakuo was stunned. He never thought a girl around the age of ten would be so familiar with the secrets of the Dandelion Grass!

The Dandelion Grass was no different than the other dandelions on the mountain, but if it was blue-white with a stem that resembled a screw, it meant that the Dandelion Grass was feeding on the oil of the Giant Purple Linden. Therefore, once they found the blue-white Dandelion grass, it meant they were getting closer to the Giant Purple Linden!

The seedheads of these Dandelion Grass were attracted to the Giant Purple Linden. In the absence of wind, the drifting seeds would be able to guide them to the Giant Purple Linden!

Only avid scholars would know the connection between the Dandelion Grass and the Giant Purple Linden. Wang Dakuo was initially planning to show off in front of the younger generation while mocking the Hunters for trying to look for a Giant Purple Linden aimlessly in the woods. To his surprise, Lingling had ruined it all!

How could he possibly show off how knowledgeable he was if a ten-year-old girl already knew it? He let out an awkward cough and urged the rest of the group to follow him.

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Without any surprise, the group managed to find a Giant Purple Linden by following the blue-white seedheads of the Dandelion Grass. They saw a Giant Purple Linden standing out among the trees across a fault. Under the sunlight, its complicated branches reflected a purple light, while its leaves had a stunning purple glimmer, as if they were breathing!

“So this is the Giant Purple Linden. It’s so pretty!” Chen Yi marveled at the sight.

“The tree has several thousand leaves. There isn’t much difference between the leaves in the canopy and the other leaves, how are we supposed to find the leaves that are the demon crests?” a Maga in the group asked.

“The demon crests of every Giant Purple Linden are different, so many people think it’s almost impossible to identify them. However, if you spend some time observing a Giant Purple Linden, you will be able to tell which leaves are the demon crests. They will only grow on certain branches that secrete tree oil, so the first thing you have to do is to find the oily branches!” Lingling pointed at the Giant Purple Linden. There was indeed a branch that seemed to be covered in a layer of waxy substance. It was difficult to notice without looking for it on purpose.

Wang Dakuo’s expression darkened, but he did not interrupt.

“What next? There are still almost a thousand leaves on a branch!” Mo Fan pressed.

“Put the seedheads close to the branch. The leaves that they are circling are most likely the demon crests,” Lingling pointed at the seeds of the Dandelion Grass.

“That’s if we can find the Dandelion Grass in the first place!” Wang Dakuo coughed.

Guo Dazhuang followed Lingling’s instructions. He climbed up to the Giant Purple Linden and sprinkled a bunch of seedheads of the Dandelion Grass. He soon locked his eyes on a leaf.

He plucked the leaf from the branch. The Giant Purple Linden immediately emitted purple light and a rustling noise.

Guo Muzhuang quickly backed away and regrouped with the others, panting heavily.

“Elder, I feel like something is watching me. I think there’s something guarding the tree,” Guo Muzhuang said.

“The Giant Purple Linden is normally protected by the creatures that reside close to it. The demon crests aren’t that important to the Giant Purple Linden, so it doesn’t really affect the tree if you pluck them. The creatures are more interested in the fruits of the Giant Purple Linden. As long as you don’t touch the fruits, the creatures will just turn a blind eye,” Wang Dakuo said.

“Oh, it scared the shit out of me. Does that mean our operation isn’t dangerous at all?” Guo Muzhuang said.

Wang Dakuo shook his head, “The Giant Purple Linden is like a shelter for demon creatures. Not every demon creature prefers to avoid troubles. Some fierce creatures will try to kill you as soon as you are within a thousand meters of the Giant Purple Linden, let alone give you a chance to pluck its leaves!”

“Seriously?” Guo Muzhuang broke out in cold sweat.

“If you’re scared, I’ll pluck the leaves next time,” Wang Hua said. He was obviously trying to show off.

“Mm, Wang Hua is stronger, so he can handle himself better if there’s any danger. However, keep in mind not to use your magic unless it’s necessary, and don’t step into the vicinity of the Giant Purple Linden recklessly. It might bring greater trouble to the rest of the team,” Wang Dakuo advised.

“Isn’t it easier if we do it together?” Chen Binbin asked with a smile.

Wang Dakuo glared at him and snapped, “Just do as you’re told!”



“Alright... I got it!” Chen Binbin’s expression darkened. He had no idea why Wang Dakuo had to be so angry at him.

Mo Fan was curious when he heard Wang Dakuo being so serious all of a sudden. He subconsciously looked at Lingling.

Lingling was about to speak when they heard a cry of agony from a certain direction.

The cry echoed among the woods, sending chills down the spines of the group. What exactly happened to the person that had uttered such a ghastly cry?

“Let’s check it out!” Wang Dakuo said unhappily. He led the group in the direction of the cry.

The others quickly followed. They could feel a breeze coming from the same direction they were heading to. They felt uneasy when they noticed a strong scent of blood!

“It turns out there’s more than a Giant Purple Linden here,” Lingling said.

“Shouldn’t it be safe if we just collect the demon crests?” Mo Fan said.

“Even though the demon crests aren’t that important to the Giant Purple Lindens, there’s still a chance for a tragedy to happen if people are too careless. You shouldn’t underestimate the danger that a Giant Purple Linden can attract. Even you might struggle against it!” Lingling said.

Chapter 1283: The Scary Hillmen

“Ah~!”

The scream took everyone on the team by surprise. The man named Chen Binbin quickly went over to the beautiful girl with shoulder-length hair and asked in a panic, “What is it? What’s wrong?”

“It’s an arm!” The beautiful woman pointed at something hanging on the tree branch with a pale face.

Lingling was nearby too. She raised her head and saw an arm with blood dripping from it, torn off around the elbow. The cut was imperfect; she could still see the tendons and vessels dangling from it!

“Silence! As a Mage, even if you discovered a corpse that has been torn to pieces, you can’t afford to be making any sound under the circumstances!” Wang Dakuo glared at the woman.

The other young Mages had grim faces, too. They had spent most of their time working in an office. Even though they had seen dead bodies before, they had never seen anything so gruesome. They could not help but wonder what happened to the owner of the arm.

“It’s a demon creature with outstanding physical strength,” Lingling said as she inspected the torn arm.

Chen Binbin had a strange expression. Even he did not dare look straight at the arm. How could the little girl have the courage to study it so closely? Chen Binbin felt uneasy when he imagined the person being torn into pieces.

“Elder, maybe...maybe we should just get out of here,” Guo Muzhuang proposed worriedly.

“How could we turn a blind eye at someone that needs our help?!” Wang Dakuo snapped.

He immediately led the way. The others had no choice but to follow him when they felt danger approaching.

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“This must be his head,” Lingling suddenly called out.

The beautiful woman walking beside Lingling was dumbfounded. She screamed and immediately backed away.

Lingling moved the giant leaf blocking the view aside. There was indeed a head lying on the ground. Most terrifyingly, the torn skin under the head was irregular too. It even had lots of stretch marks, as if it was twisted and ripped off with brute force!

“Twisting, tearing, and bite marks... it’s most likely a Hillman!” Lingling told Mo Fan.

Lingling was not referring to the people living in hills or mountains. A Hillman was a kind of demon creature. They looked similar to humans, but they had fangs like wild boars, skin like a tree, and paws like a bear. They could not use magic, but they were one of the strongest demon creatures physically.

They were extremely quick and good at ambushing their targets. They always killed their targets in the most gruesome way, tearing their prey to pieces.

The Hillmen normally resided in primordial forests. There was a huge horde of Hillmen in Shennongjia. It was quite a surprise to find Hillmen here on Mount Kunyu!

Wang Dakuo did not disagree with Lingling’s speculation, as he had noticed some large footprints on the ground. The Hillmen were not that much bigger than a human, between two to four meters tall. Only Hillmen would leave such large footprints behind, since a Hunter with a massive build would be wearing shoes!

Cries in the distance implied that there were still people alive ahead. The group continued forward, but the beautiful woman that came with Chen Binbin was too scared to go any deeper.

She had only seen something being torn into pieces on the TV, and the remains were still in good condition. However, the remains she had seen after coming here were just too horrible. She was completely overwhelmed by fear.

“I’m not going, there’s no way I’m going any deeper into the forest!” the girl said in tears.

“We have to go now, or we’ll be left behind,” Chen Binbin dragged the girl along while watching the others fading into the distance.

The rest of the team had gone ahead. The trees were dense and thick. It was extremely difficult to regroup with the team once they were around a hundred meters apart. Chen Binbin was having difficulties dragging the girl with him. He broke out in cold sweat as soon as he heard some movement nearby.

"I'm going to die because of you!" Chen Binbin snapped furiously. He simply left the woman behind and hurriedly went forward to catch up with the others.

"Don't leave me behind!..."

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The scent of blood thickened. Mo Fan and Wang Dakuo were leading the way. As soon as they spread some bushes open with their hands, Mo Fan immediately caught a glimpse of a human figure with muscular arms and legs covered in fresh blood...

"Assh\*\*\*, where do you think you're going!?" Wang Dakuo yelled furiously. He immediately chased after the Hillman.

The Hillman quickened its pace when it sensed a strong presence approaching. It quickly wove through the trees and vanished.

Mo Fan did not chase after the creature. He looked down and saw a bloody pile of organs. He recognized some intestines too, he just could not tell if they were human.

Mo Fan had gotten used to seeing blood and gore, but he was still spooked by how brutal the Hillmen were.

The others had caught up too. Some vomited when they saw the remains on the ground. Even Hunters would be troubled by the sight of it, let alone these Mages who rarely came to the wild.

"Where's the Elder?" Guo Muzhuang asked.

"He went after the Hillman. He's too quick, I can't keep up with him," Mo Fan said.

"Ah? How could the Elder just leave us behind? What should we do now?" a Maga named Zhong Mi cried out.

"Why is it only the few of you? Where are the rest?" Mo Fan looked behind him and realized Zhao Manyan, Chen Binbin, and the beautiful woman were not around. He remembered they were not far behind the team just a moment ago.

Chen Yi turned around and was shocked when she failed to see the others behind them.

"Why...why didn't they stick with the team!?" Wang Hua sputtered in agitation.

"AHHHH!!!" A piercing cry suddenly came from the direction they had come from.

The cry was full of agony, like someone being tortured. It immediately sent chills down everyone's spine.

"It...it sounds like Hu Duo!" Zhong Mi said in disbelief.

"Did something happen to her?"

Everyone's face turned pale as they recalled the corpses torn into pieces and the remains stacked up in a pile.

“Phew, phew, I finally caught up to you guys. How fast were you guys running...” Chen Binbin finally showed up. He was panting heavily.

As soon as he caught his breath, he caught a glimpse of the pile of remains on the ground and subconsciously took a closer look at them. He immediately vomited after realizing what it was. He could not even speak a single word for a long time.

“Wasn’t Hu Duo with you?” Guo Muzhuang’s eyes widened.

“Ah? I was afraid to be left behind, so I went ahead while she followed behind me. What about her?” Chen Binbin said.

“You...you son of a b\*\*ch, I won’t forgive you if anything happens to her!” Guo Muzhuang snapped. He quickly headed back in the direction of Hu Duo’s cry before everyone made up their minds.

“Don’t go alone!” the skinny man with Guo Muzhuang yelled. He clenched his teeth and went after Guo Muzhuang.

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The others stayed put. The person they were relying on, Wang Dakuo, had gone deeper into the woods. They might completely lose contact with him if they kept wandering around aimlessly.

Meanwhile, Zhao Manyan and another girl were separated from the group. Mo Fan was not worried about Zhao Manyan’s safety. He could easily look after himself. He was more worried about Hu Duo, whom Chen Binbin had left behind. It was too dangerous to be alone in such a dangerous place!

“Hillmen are quite intelligent for demon creatures. Even the low-level Hillmen know how to work together to hunt down their prey...” Lingling said.

“Did the Giant Purple Linden summon them here?” Mo Fan asked.

“It’s hard to say. I believe the Giant Purple Lindens are only willing to provide shelter to creatures that are more neutral. I don’t think they will accept Hillmen, who have to eat a few living creatures every day,” Lingling answered.

“Speaking of which, we heard a lot of cries before, like a whole team was being attacked, but if we combined all the remains we’ve seen so far, it’s only a single person...” Mo Fan said.

“Say, is now really the time to discuss it? I bet the creatures have eaten everything else!” the pale-faced Chen Binbin exclaimed after he finally calmed down.

“It just felt very weird...” Mo Fan said.

While Mo Fan was talking to Lingling, there was a sudden movement in the bushes nearby. Everyone immediately turned to the bushes and tensed. They subconsciously drew Star Orbits and Star Patterns of different colors.

In the end, a slimy beautiful woman walked out of the bushes. The group was surprised to see Hu Duo!

The girl was still lost in her thoughts, like she had yet to recover from a fright. She asked timidly when she saw everyone looking at her with blank faces, “What...what’s wrong?”

“Did you encounter something along the way?” Mo Fan quickly asked when he realized something did not feel right.

“No, I was just scared. I thought I lost you guys just then. Chen Binbin didn’t wait for me either...” Hu Duo said.

“But...but we heard your...” Zhong Mi said in disbelief.

“I didn’t make any noise, I was scared it was going to attract the creatures to me. I was covering my mouth all the time...” Hu Duo looked confused too.

Mo Fan and Lingling immediately exchanged uneasy looks with one another!

“Crap, Guo Muzhuang and the other guy might have walked into a trap!” Mo Fan said.

“What the hell is going on?” Wang Hua was utterly lost.

“I’m afraid the Hillmen know how to imitate our voices. I’m afraid Guo Muzhuang and the other guy are in trouble!” Lingling said in an oddly confident voice.

### [Versatile Mage](#)

#### **Chapter 1284: The Disagreement in the Team**

Mo Fan initially planned to chase after Guo Muzhuang. However, he realized that if he left, he would be leaving the girls including Lingling, Chen Binbin, Zhong Mi, and Hu Duo in Chen Binbin and Wang Hua’s hands. Chen Binbin was clearly unreliable, considering how he had left Hu Duo behind. As for Wang Hua, Mo Fan did not feel the man was reliable, either.

1Meanwhile, he had no idea where Zhao Manyan was and how he was doing either.

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Besides a stream in the forest, a handsome man was leaning against a tall tree while staring provokingly down at the cleavage through Guan Xixi’s collar. The cleavage between the two ‘meatballs’ was stunning, but Zhao Manyan did not stare at it for too long. As an experienced ‘ladykiller’, he knew he should be looking into the girl’s eyes in a moment like this, even when he was more interested in the woman’s huge and soft breasts. It was important to look into the woman’s eyes and convince her that he was a man of heart instead of a man of pure desires!

On the other hand, it seemed like Guan Xixi was not that experienced. She was fully blushing from being teased a little.

“Err, shouldn’t we be sticking with the team? I did hear some...some terrifying sounds,” Guan Xixi said softly.

“It’s fine, don’t you trust me?” Zhao Manyan said confidently.

“But...but we’re in the wild,” Guan Xixi’s voice softened further. Her breathing intensified.

“Isn’t this perfect? The beautiful mountains and trees, and a woman so beautiful that I will never forget her with the slightest glance. I have to say, I’m never this impatient, but I just can’t control myself after I saw you. Please forgive me for dragging you here all of a sudden...” Zhao Manyan said sincerely.

Zhao Manyan and Guan Xixi were well behind the team even before they discovered the torn arm. As such, they were utterly clueless about the entire situation.

Zhao Manyan had a very handsome face. His prince-like temperament as he spoke gently could easily overwhelm any inexperienced girl. It definitely convinced Guan Xixi, who lowered her head in embarrassment.

Zhao Manyan knew it was his chance to secure the second base... perhaps he could even score a home run here in this beautiful forest. He had spent half a year recovering from his injuries on a deserted island. He did not even see a single female turtle, let alone a woman. He had been polluting the ocean instead of spreading his seeds across the world!

*{TL Note: You can search for ‘baseball metaphors on sex’ on Google if you aren’t aware of what ‘second base’ means here.}*

He could finally release the primitive force he had been saving up for half a year. Hell yeah!

Zhao Manyan lowered his head. His heart was roaring like a beast, yet his actions were like a gentleman...

**BANG!**

A thud came from a trunk nearby. The girl immediately opened her eyes alertly since they were still in the wild. She glanced into the direction of the sound in fear.

The girl completely lost her mind after a quick glance. It was a bloody leg...

It seemed to be a human’s leg. It was still wearing pants and a shoe, but it was empty above the knee!

“AHHHH!!!” Guan Xixi screamed at the top of her lungs. It felt like her spirit had faded away.

Zhao Manyan’s face immediately darkened. He turned around in displeasure to see what had intervened with his business, but all he saw was a leg.

He looked further ahead and saw a man covered in blood crawling out of the bushes toward them with his hands. Zhao Manyan was shocked when he saw that the man had lost his lower legs!

The man had left a trail of blood over half a meter behind as he continued to drag himself forward. To their surprise, they knew who he was. It was Guo Muzhuang, who had gone to pluck the demon crests before!

“It’s...it’s Muzhuang!” Guan Xixi was mentally stronger. She did not lose her calm like Hu Duo. She had recognized Guo Muzhuang, even though his face was covered in blood!

Guo Muzhuang desperately crawled out of the bush. A bulky figure suddenly leapt out from it. It had a beastly human face with fangs of a boar. Its huge paws like those of a bear were holding his the other missing leg.

It took a huge bite of the leg, like a caveman biting a lamb shank. The only difference was, it was the leg of a human instead of a lamb! The sight of it was gruesome enough to make a person's scalp turn numb!

"Holy crap, what the hell is that!?" Zhao Manyan cursed.

"Help...help me..." Guo Muzhuang was struggling to speak, as his mouth was filled with blood. He was staring at Zhao Manyan and Guan Xixi in fear, his eyes pleading!

"Light Protection!" Zhao Manyan immediately cast a Light Spell when he saw the monster about to attack the man. A golden light shield appeared and protected Guo Muzhuang.

The Hillman was not satisfied yet, and was infuriated by the light shield separating it from its food. It jumped over Guo Muzhuang, and went right at Zhao Manyan!

"I will give you a month's time. If you can break through my defense, I'll f\*\*king cook my own meat and feed it to you!" Zhao Manyan finished casting another spell while he was speaking. A circle of rocks Summoned with the Eyes of the Rock Demon formed a thick barrier around the Hillman.

The thick barrier completely surrounded the Hillman. It went berserk and attacked the barrier, but it did not even budge. The barrier trapped the creature like a cage.

"Save him quick," Zhao Manyan told Guan Xixi.

Guan Xixi nodded. She quickly moved over to Guo Muzhuang.

Guo Muzhuang had lost his lower limbs. Luckily, the monster had only torn Guo Muzhuang's legs off. Apart from the excessive amount of blood he was losing, his vital parts were still intact. Guan Xixi quickly took out the Bone-connecting Ointment and applied it to the wounds to temporarily stop the bleeding.

Guo Muzhuang was extremely weak. Him being a Mage had given him a glimpse of hope to survive. Any normal person would be dead by now after suffering his injuries.

"He's in bad shape. He won't live for long if we don't find a Healer soon," Guan Xixi said.

"I'll carry him, let's regroup with the others first," Zhao Manyan said.

"Mm."

—

The two found the spacious area where the rest of the team were. Guan Xixi let out a relieved sigh when she learned that the others were fine.

"I found him on my way here. What's going on?" Zhao Manyan placed Guo Muzhuang down. The Bone-connecting Ointment had closed up the wounds and stopped the bleeding.

However, Guo Muzhuang had lost too much blood. He would die still without the help of a Healer.

Guo Muzhuang feebly looked at Hu Duo and said, "Hu...Hu Duo...it's good to...to see that you're fine!"

"Did you go looking for me?" Hu Duo had completely forgotten her fear after seeing Guo Muzhuang's condition.

“Where’s the other one?” Mo Fan asked Zhao Manyan.

“There’s another one?” Zhao Manyan was stunned.

The others immediately fell silent. Another guy had gone after Guo Muzhuang too, but Zhao Manyan had only saved one of them. It was likely that the guy...

“I’m sorry, I didn’t know. I came here straight away because his injuries were too serious,” Zhao Manyan sighed.

If Zhao Manyan knew there was another guy, he would have tried his best to save him, too. It was a human life, after all.

“I’ll go look for him. Old Zhao, look after the girls,” Mo Fan said.

Mo Fan was at ease now that Zhao Manyan had regrouped with the team. Otherwise, he would not dare to leave the girls after learning how cunning the Hillmen were.

“I’ll go with you,” Chen Yi said.

“Chen Yi, we should wait for the Elder here. If anything happens again... the guy is most likely dead. You can tell just by seeing what happened to Guo Muzhuang!” Wang Hua seemed a little frightened.

“We can’t just leave him behind, since we haven’t found his corpse. He’s only in trouble because he was trying to help Hu Duo!” Chen Yi said.

Mo Fan was not in the mood to waste his time talking to the others. He quickly headed in the direction that Zhao Manyan mentioned. Chen Yi immediately went after him. She seemed nervous.

Wang Hua did not dare to go with them. However, his face gradually darkened when he saw Chen Yi leaving with Mo Fan.

“Humph, trying to act tough; he’s going to die for sure!” Wang Hua snapped.

“Wang Hua, how could you say that? You didn’t dare to help, yet you’re still sneering at him!” Zhong Mi snapped, displeased by Wang Hua’s reaction.

The others were not unreasonable. They were impressed that Mo Fan had the courage to step forward and volunteer his help despite the risks involved.

“Do you seriously think the guy is still alive after seeing what happened to Guo Muzhuang? The team is just going to get split up now that he has wandered off. It’s only going to get us killed if we keep splitting up. He’s just an amateur who has no clue what he’s doing, yet he’s trying to act tough!” Wang Hua rebuked.

1The others did not dare say a word.

Zhao Manyan looked at Wang Hua with a cold smirk. He chose to be quiet.

“How long can he last for?” Zhao Manyan asked Guan Xixi, looking at Guo Muzhuang’s pained expression.

“Not more than two hours,” Guan Xixi said.



“It’s going to take us half a day if we turn back now. It’s meaningless to just wait here. We’ll have to find the other teams. If they have a Healer, Guo Muzhuang might still live,” Zhao Manyan said.

“Are...are you kidding now? The Elder already told us not to wander off. Heaven knows how many Hillmen there are around this area. We should just wait for the Elder here!” Chen Binbin said.

“So you’re just going to watch Guo Muzhuang die then?” Zhao Manyan demanded.

“I didn’t say that, I’m just stating the facts. There’s no chance we can find the other teams in this forest. Even if we did, it’s unlikely they would have a Healer!” Chen Binbin said.

“Go look for other teams yourself if you want!” Wang Hua snapped coldly.

“How could you do this? Why can’t we just go together? Those Hillmen are trying to split us up on purpose, which means they won’t dare to attack as long as we are together... Hu Duo, don’t you agree?” Guan Xixi said.

Hu Duo had a complicated look. She occasionally glanced at Guo Muzhuang, but she finally moved closer to Chen Binbin and said, “I think... it’s better to wait for the Elder here.”

Chen Binbin placed his arm around the girl’s shoulder and said, “Yeah, we can’t afford to place the rest of the team in danger for the sake of a dying man.”

### [Versatile Mage](#)

#### **Chapter 1285: Skin That Looks Like a Human s**

Mo Fan and Chen Yi proceeded into the direction that Guo Muzhuang had mentioned. They discovered the remains of a person, but they could not tell if it belonged to the guy they were looking for.

“It must be him. I remember seeing him wearing a bracelet,” Chen Yi glanced at the corpse left in the bushes and said softly, “I thought it was going to be a normal adventure. I didn’t think something so scary would happen so quickly.”

“It seems like the government didn’t really investigate the mountain thoroughly. These Hillmen are brutal and like to feed on humans. They are no weaker than Warrior-level creatures, and they know how to work together to set up traps for their prey, too. Hopefully, there aren’t too many of these Hillmen in Mount Kunyu. Otherwise, many inexperienced Hunters are just going to fall into their hands,” Mo Fan said.

After burying the man’s corpse, Mo Fan and Chen Yi took the same way back.

Neither was that good with directions, so they ended up going to a different place. They noticed a purple light glittering in the distance. It was like a sacred tree in a primordial forest mentioned in a fairy tale!

“There’s a Giant Purple Linden here too!” Chen Yi blurted out in surprise.

“This Giant Purple Linden is more aged. Its crown is almost touching the ground,” Mo Fan noticed.

Since they were standing quite a distance away, they could only see the tree's leaves at first. However, they halted in their track after taking a few more steps forward. They stared at the patches of grass covered in fresh blood surrounding the Giant Purple Linden!

There was blood and remains everywhere. Some were in such bad shape that it was impossible to tell if they belonged to a human. However, the backpacks, clothes, and torn limbs clearly indicated that they were most likely humans!

"My Heavens!" Chen Yi's face turned pale. Even she lost her calm, despite how experienced she was. She leaned against a tree nearby and started vomiting.

Mo Fan frowned. Some young Hunters would have fainted right away upon witnessing the 'colorful' sight.

"Many have died here. It seems not every cry we heard was the Hillmen imitating us, but the cries of the victims that fell into their hands," Mo Fan said.

"What...what exactly is going on here!?" Chen Yi was completely lost for words.

Chen Yi was clearly scarred by the gruesome sight. Mo Fan decided to tell her something even more disgusting, hoping that it would help to clear her mind.

Mo Fan saw the others quarreling as they regrouped with the team.

"Any luck?" Zhong Mi quickly asked.

"We only found this," Mo Fan placed the bracelet that was stained with blood on the ground.

Everyone's face immediately paled.

Chen Binbin strongly disagreed with the suggestion of leaving after seeing the bracelet. He insisted on staying put until Elder Wang Dakuo returned.

Most of the others wanted to stay behind too.

"We can't just watch him die," Zhao Manyan said with a sigh, looking at Guo Muzhuang.

"We'll try to find a Healer then," Mo Fan said.

Guo Muzhuang was still holding onto his last breath. There was an excellent chance he would survive if they could find a Healer. Therefore, there was no reason for them to watch him die in pain.

"I think it's better if we leave this place. Mo Fan and I saw another Giant Purple Linden not far away from here. The area was stacked with corpses," Chen Yi said.

"But...but if we keep wandering around aimlessly, we won't be able to regroup with the Elder. He should be back any time now!" Chen Binbin exclaimed.

"Humph, just go if you want. Make sure you don't end up as a skeleton somewhere," Wang Hua said.

"Let's just stick with Mo Fan and Zhao Manyan. They are just as strong as the Elder," Chen Yi said.

"HAHAHA, are you seriously comparing them with the Elder? They are just pretending to be heroes!"

1—

The team ended up splitting into two. Mo Fan did not force the others to come with them. They had to try and save Guo Muzhuang. As such, Mo Fan and Zhao Manyan decided to part ways with the others.

Zhao Manyan was carrying Guo Muzhuang, whose lost legs were roughly sealed, on his back. Guan Xixi chose to stick with them, too.

“Lingling, everything that happened so far has been unbelievable. The information we gathered never mentioned anything about the Hillmen,” Mo Fan said.

Mo Fan was quite bothered by the corpses around the Giant Purple Linden. It did not feel like the Hunters were searching for treasure, but that they had walked right into a trap that the demon creatures had carefully planned!

“The Hillmen aren’t from around here. As a matter of fact, whenever a territory loses its ruler, lots of demon creatures would come and compete for it. I just didn’t expect a dangerous species like the Hillmen to come all the way to Mount Kunyu too! I believe it’s necessary to alert the government and the army, so they can call off the Hunters who came to try their luck,” Lingling said.

Not every Hunter was as strong as Mo Fan and Zhao Manyan. Zhao Manyan could take out a Hillman easily because he was an Advanced Mage, not to mention the training he had gone through...

Meanwhile, most Hunters that came to Mount Kunyu were only in the Intermediate Level, or even lower! Mages below the Intermediate Level clearly had no chance against the Hillmen, and would end up dying brutally. Even the Intermediate Mages did not necessarily stand a chance against the Hillmen.

A group of seven Intermediate Mages with a certain level of synergy could barely handle a Hillman. Unfortunately, the Hillmen knew how to work together, too. They even knew to imitate, terrorize, and split up their prey. Most people that came to Mount Kunyu were Hunters, but somehow Mo Fan believed that the Hillmen were the real hunters instead, since many Hunters had ended up as a grand feast to them!

“The problem is that we don’t really know how many Hillmen there are. If there’s only a bunch of them, most experienced Hunters wouldn’t even care. These man-eating Hillmen are the least of their concerns, compared to the chance of earning a few hundred thousand yuan with every few steps,” Zhao Manyan said.

Lingling did not want to risk more innocent lives. Almost seventy percent of the groups that came to Mount Kunyu could not handle the Hillmen. She felt uneasy whenever she thought about the people being brutally eaten by the creatures.

“Yeah, I guess what we say doesn’t really matter. The government and the army wouldn’t give up their plan to cleanse the mountain so easily, and the Hunters aren’t going to give up their chance of earning a fortune,” Mo Fan said.

“Let’s just focus on finding a Healer,” Chen Yi said.

—

Mo Fan summoned the Flying Creek Snow Wolf, who could easily pick up the scent of humans.

They soon stumbled into a group of Hunters who seemed to have earned a lot from the adventure. However, when Mo Fan mentioned the Hillmen, they all shook their heads and said they did not stumble into them.

It was a pity that there was no Healer in the group of Hunters. The chance of Guo Muzhuang surviving became slimmer.

Left with no choice, they continued to look for other teams. They were used to having a Healer with them when they were on the national team. However, as they kept searching for a Healer in the woods while watching Guo Muzhuang dying, both Mo Fan and Zhao Manyan realized how cruel it was to watch a person who had a chance to live dying slowly just because they could not find a Healer.

As a matter of fact, Mo Fan and Zhao Manyan had spent most of their time in reputable schools or teams with elites. It was not difficult for them to recruit a Healer, considering how strong they were. Some Healers would even take the initiative to approach them...

Unfortunately, Healers were extremely rare among Hunters, even the more famous Hunter Groups.

It was more appropriate to say that Guo Muzhuang had no chance of surviving. If he was lucky enough to find a Healer, it would probably be because he had done a lot of good deeds in his previous life!

— —

“Brother Mao, those young Mages said there are Hillmen around here. Do you believe them?” asked a man in a green shirt in the group of Hunters that Mo Fan had just stumbled into.

The Hunter referred to as Brother Mao glanced into the direction that Mo Fan and his crew were heading. He spat on the ground and said, “Is it your first time out in the wild? Haven’t you heard that some novice Hunters like to spread rumors to scare their competitors away?”

“Huh? Why would they do that?” the man asked confusedly.

Brother Mao slapped the man on the head and snapped, “Are you as dumb as a pig?”

“Rumors are normally scarier than the truth. I bet their description of how the Hillmen were torturing and eating humans brutally is just something they came up with, or perhaps they heard it from someone else too. They are just trying to scare some Hunters away, so they could secure more loot,” a girl wearing a pair of glasses with black frames said with a strange grin.

“I see, I see, how cunning were they, I almost fell for it...ah, hang on, I did see that the man they were carrying had lost his lower legs...”

“Are you stupid? They must have infuriated some creatures guarding a Giant Purple Linden, and the man ended up losing his lower limbs. Isn’t that pretty common?”

“You’re right. They must be jealous after seeing the others with the demon crests, so they started spreading rumors around.”

“Xiao Bao, you only became a Hunter a few months ago. There are lots of things to learn still. Don’t just believe everything someone tells you!” Brother Mao stood in front of the group and gave his piece of advice.

“Brother Mao is right!”

Brother Mao continued forward. He was about to tell Xiao Bao the common tricks that Hunters usually used against their competitors when he accidentally stepped into a pond of water.

Luckily, Brother Mao was pretty nimble. He turned around and did a cool side flip to avoid the pond while stabilizing himself.

“Holy shit, why didn’t any of you warn me...” Brother Mao blurted out. However, he was stunned as he looked down.

His eyes widened. His face was filled with fear. The pond was not filled with water, but the blood, remains, and organs of humans. Most terrifyingly, when he spread the bushes nearby apart with his hands, he saw a piece of skin hanging in the air. It was covered in blood, and it looked like it belonged to a human!

### Versatile Mage

#### **Chapter 1286: They Should All Go to Hell!**

—

“Is it this way? Are you sure you picked up the scent of a girl’s perfume?” Mo Fan asked the Flying Creek Snow Wolf.

The Flying Creek Snow Wolf nodded confidently.

“Why do I feel like you’re pretty good at picking up the smell of perfume?” Mo Fan cast a side glance at the wolf.

The Flying Creek Snow Wolf howled, insisting that he had no interest in humans. He proceeded to tell Mo Fan that he already had a mate in the Summoned Beast Plane, a female wolf with beautiful blue hair...

2They continued searching for other teams under the Flying Creek Snow Wolf’s guidance.

It was already the seventh team they had found. If Mo Fan did not have a medicine specifically made by Xinxia that helped Guo Muzhuang to live for another hour, he would be a corpse by now.

—

There was a stream slowly flowing down the mountain. Liu Xiaojia was the student of a nearby Magic Institution. It was her first time going to the wild for training with her mentor. She was extremely nervous, even though she was only getting some water from a stream not far away from the team.

Normally, it was the men who were responsible for getting water. However, since she was feeling a little guilty for not doing much on the team, she volunteered for the job instead!

“Creatures of Mount Kunyu, please go easy on a little intern like me, please don’t come and find me...” Liu Xiaojia murmured in her heart.

However, as soon as Liu Xiaojia filled up the bucket, she saw a huge head covered in white hair poking out from the bushes, followed by a handsome-looking wolf-like creature with hair as white as snow!

Liu Xiaojia closed her eyes and screamed at the top of her lungs. Her voice echoed through the woods.

The others on the team immediately ran over after hearing the scream.

“Se...senior, help...help me!” Liu Xiaojia was about to burst into tears. She did not even dare to move while facing the enormous white wolf.

“Quick, call the mentor over!” the two boys yelled to alert their mentor. Not long after, a Mage in his fifties showed up.

The man was a little bald, his body covered in a magical glow. He was obviously ready for battle, but he froze as soon as he saw the creature that was approaching Liu Xiaojia!

“Com...Commander-level!” The teacher’s voice began to tremble. It was his first time standing so close to a Commander-level creature!

“Quick, run as far as you can! It’s a Commander-level creature. Split up and run...” the bald teacher turned out to be quite responsible. He gathered his courage to step forward while yelling at his students.

The students were dumbfounded. A Warrior-level creature was already extremely terrifying to them. They never thought they would attract the attention of a Commander-level creature when they just wanted to get some water!

“Don’t panic, it’s fine, he’s my Summoned Beast!...” A young man in a light-colored T-shirt leapt out from the bushes in the nick of time. After briefly explaining things to the group, he kicked the Commander-level creature in the head under the astounded gaze of the others and snapped furiously, “Why the hell are you running so far ahead? You already scared a whole team away last time!”

A Summoned Beast looked very similar to a demon creature. Even though the Flying Creek Snow Wolf was not showing any hostility, its Commander-level aura was still too overwhelming for Mages below the Advanced Level!

Not long after, Zhao Manyan, Lingling, Chen Yi, and Guan Xixi showed up too. They shook their heads helplessly after seeing how terrified the group of students was.

“Off you go, I’ll Summon you out again later!” Mo Fan sent the Flying Creek Snow Wolf back to the Summoned Beast Plane.

He could not understand why the Flying Creek Snow Wolf was so excited. He only asked him to lead the way, not stick his face close to someone. To think such a stupid wolf managed to find a girlfriend!

“Was...was that really your Summoned Beast?” The teacher was wearing a rich expression as he let out a relieved sigh.

“I’m sorry, we are in a rush because someone’s life is in danger.” Mo Fan pointed at Guo Muzhuang on Zhao Manyan’s back and said, “Is there a Healer here? He’s almost at his limit.”

“Liu Xiaojia is a Healer, but I doubt if she can still use her magic, seeing how terrified she is,” one of the boys snickered.

“I can do it!” Liu Xiaojia instantly retorted confidently.

“I’m leaving him in your hands then!” Mo Fan asked Zhao Manyan to place Guo Muzhuang down. He placed some leaves on the ground.

Liu Xiaojia came over. She stared at Mo Fan for some time and finally asked, “Was that your Summoned Beast?”

“Yeah, he’s a Flying Creek Snow Wolf,” Mo Fan said.

“Is your father the Chairman of a Magic Association?” Liu Xiaojia asked.

“Excuse me?” Mo Fan was utterly confused.

“If not, why would you have a Commander-level Summoned Beast? You seem to be around our age. A Commander-level creature can take on around eight Advanced Mages at the same time. Does that mean you’re an Advanced Mage too? You’re so strong, so your father must be someone very impressive,” Liu Xiaojia concluded.

“My father is just a normal person. He’s not a Mage,” Mo Fan was left speechless.

“So are you an Advanced Mage?” Liu Xiaojia asked.

“Yes.”

“Ah, how did you train then? I’ve only reached the Intermediate Level, but you’re already in the Advanced Level. Our teacher is only an Advanced Mage too, but he was asking us to run for our lives just now. I’m pretty sure he doesn’t stand a chance against your Summoned Beast...” Liu Xiaojia went on.

Mo Fan’s face darkened, “Girl, could you please save this man first?”

—

Guan Xixi let out a relieved sigh when she saw Guo Muzhuang slowly regaining his vitality.

His life was no longer in danger. He had regained consciousness after the healing eased his pain.

“Am...Am I dead?” Guo Muzhuang glanced around him. His face was filled with surprise when he realized he could now feel his body, except for his lower legs!

He managed to survive!

Guo Muzhuang could not believe it. He looked at Mo Fan and Zhao Manyan...

He thought about his classmates Chen Binbin and Wang Hua, whom he had known for eight years, and Hu Duo, who had completely broken his heart. He then looked at Mo Fan and Zhao Manyan, whom he had just met not long ago. He soon broke into tears while expressing his gratitude to them sobbingly!

“There’s no point thinking about a woman like her. Rest up after you’re back and become stronger!” Mo Fan let out a sigh when he saw the man sobbing. He patted him on the shoulder.

Guo Muzhuang had only ended up in his current state because he was trying to save Hu Duo. It was the main reason why Mo Fan was not willing to just watch him die.

The truth was, the most painful thing to him was not being tortured by the Hillman and losing his lower limbs, but seeing the girl whom he risked his life to save deciding to stick with that timid man just because of his background. Guo Muzhuang even thought it was better for him to die at that moment...

Guo Muzhuang was completely disappointed with his friends in just a few days’ time.

“You guys saw a Hillman?” the teacher asked curiously.

“Right! Guo Muzhuang, what happened back then? Tell us,” Mo Fan said.

Guo Muzhuang trembled in fear as he recalled the incident that had happened recently. However, he still managed to gather his courage to tell everyone the tragedy, “Shounan and I followed the sound. We felt like Hu Duo was very close to us, but four human-like creatures with fangs like wild boars showed up. They grabbed Shounan first, tore his arms off, and ate them...”

Some of the students could not bear hearing any more.

“You’re saying that they didn’t kill Shounan right away, but tore off his limbs when he was still alive? They then dug out his organs... when he was still alive too?” Mo Fan repeated.

Guo Muzhuang’s face was covered in blue veins. He had been held firmly by another Hillman. He had watched how the other three Hillmen tortured Shounan to death...

He would never forget the expression on Shounan’s face when he was breathing his last breath!

“Tearing off their limbs and torturing them to death... I’ve always heard how brutal these Hillmen are, but I never thought they would be this brutal!” Lingling said furiously.

“It’s very rare to see such cruel demon creatures. Even though it is common for demon creatures to feed on humans, most of them either kill the people first or just swallow them right away... These Hillmen seems to be familiar with our body structure. They will purposely avoid the vital organs and slowly torture their prey to death. They will even eat your limbs and organs right in front of you,” Mo Fan murmured.

The way the Hillmen treated their prey was totally unacceptable. The people were already spooked after listening to Guo Muzhuang’s description. They could not imagine how terrifying it would be to witness it happening in person!

“Those things should all go to Hell!” Lingling said.



“They are extremely cunning. They know some people in a team are stronger, so they will lure them away from the team first to make them more vulnerable... I swear if I get my hands on them, I’ll let them have a piece of the same pain that they like to inflict on their prey!” Mo Fan harrumphed coldly. As someone who liked to use violence against violence, there was no way he was going to go easy on these Hillmen!

“I think it’s better to tell the government as soon as possible. The Hillmen are too dangerous. We don’t even know how many Hunters are going to fall at their hands, considering the number of people that have come for the demon crests. Many of them are too inexperienced. They won’t stand a chance against the Hillmen!” the teacher, Mr. Gao said seriously.

Mr. Gao was furious after learning that they were other people being tortured by the Hillmen while they were speaking!

“We can’t let them do as they please. We must think of a way to lure them out,” Zhao Manyan said thoughtfully.

### [Versatile Mage](#)

#### **Chapter 1287: The Brutal Hillmen**

Guo Muzhuang’s condition slowly improved, but it would take a long time for his legs to regrow. After learning there were a lot of Hillmen in the area, Mr. Gao decided to head back to the city with his students and alert the government and army about what was happening.

However, it would take at least half a day to make it back to the other side of Mount Kunyu. Many people were going to die by the time the government reacted to the situation!

—

“There’s a Giant Purple Linden ahead,” Lingling said to the others.

Mr. Gao did not bring all the students with him. He only brought a few that were quicker, to ensure that they could alert the authorities as soon as possible. As a result, Mo Fan and Zhao Manyan had to take care of the rest.

Mr. Gao was more than willing to leave his students with Mo Fan after seeing the Commander-level Flying Creek Snow Wolf.

“Let’s go and take a look,” Mo Fan said.

It was very likely that there would be other Hunters at the Giant Purple Linden. The group noticed something different as they approached the Giant Purple Linden.

“It seems like there are other Hunters around here,” Liu Xiaojia leaned forward and looked around.

“We’ve already come so deep into the mountain, yet it’s still so easy to stumble into different groups of Hunters. How many Hunters are there on this mountain?” Zhao Manyan wondered.

It was a huge Giant Purple Linden. There was normally more than one demon crest on a Giant Purple Linden. Some mature Giant Purple Lindens would have two to four demon crests. The Giant Purple Lindens they had encountered so far were all above a hundred years old, with tall trunks and deep roots into the ground. This one's branches were like an enormous umbrella covering a huge area.

Most Giant Purple Lindens had a strong demand for nutrients from the soil, so it was unlikely to see other plants nearby. The place was a spacious clearing that only tenacious weeds could survive in!

There were around fifteen people in the area. They were obviously from two different Hunter Groups. They seemed to be competing for ownership of the Giant Purple Linden.

Colorful lights resembling different Elements from both sides clashed with one another, followed by a fierce wind, rolling waves, and shifting terrains. The force produced by the collisions continuously swept in all directions.

"Both sides are being serious!" a male student exclaimed.

Both sides were mostly using Intermediate Spells. The two groups were pretty strong. The battle had been going on for a while, and each side already had a few injured!

"These people are so dumb," Lingling said.

"It's pretty common. Humans die in pursuit of wealth, just like birds die in pursuit of food," Chen Yi said.

"The Giant Purple Lindens are quite friendly to all creatures, including humans. They won't really mind humans taking their demon crests, but that doesn't mean they are harmless. They have their own sense of danger, too. If they are too many humans around, and their spells start to threaten the Giant Purple Linden, it will send out a signal attracting the attention of the demon creatures residing around it. These people still have the mood to be fighting one another; they are going to suffer the consequences soon!" Lingling informed them.

Lingling's words immediately reminded Mo Fan of the warnings that Elder Wang Dakuo gave the others. He strongly insisted that only one person was allowed to retrieve the demon crests from a Giant Purple Linden, in order to prevent disasters from happening!

As Lingling expected, they soon heard roars of demon creatures coming from different directions. Even the surrounding trees were bending forward at the powerful roars.

The Hunters were busy fighting one another, and were utterly clueless about the approaching danger. Liu Xiaojia was a kind girl. She quickly ran over to warn the Hunters, yet they completely ignored her, unwilling to give up on the demon crests!

"Forget it, it's none of our business," Mo Fan said.

Mo Fan was not that interested in their competition. Liu Xiaojia already did her best to warn them. If they still did not want to leave, they would have to bear the consequences themselves!

Mo Fan was definitely not a Buddha. He could not care less about people that wanted to get themselves killed. There were just too many idiots out there, taking into account the huge population of his country!

They proceeded in another direction to continue their search for the Hillmen. They soon heard cries of agony coming from the area they had just left.

Zhao Manyan came to a stop. He looked back in the direction of the Giant Purple Linden and harrumphed coldly, "They asked for it!"

"Should...should we head back? They sound like they are in agony!" Liu Xiaojia said softly.

"They are all grown-ups. They should be ready to bear the consequences of the choices they made. We aren't from the Red Cross." Mo Fan did not have the intention to turn back.

Lingling came to a stop too. She turned to Mo Fan and asked, "Do you feel their cries sound..."

Mo Fan halted in his tracks and listened carefully. He soon realized the cries sounded like they were being tortured, instead of the cries right before their death. They were cries from deep within one's soul after being tortured continuously!

"Could it be the Hillmen?" Guan Xixi asked worriedly.

"Damn it, let's head back!" Mo Fan cursed. He could not help but wonder why he had to keep wiping people's butts on their behalf.

— —

The group hurried back to the Giant Purple Linden. It was the same spacious area. The Giant Purple Linden was still swaying in the wind at the center, but there were lots of ghastly corpses lying where the Hunters were previously fighting!

The place was covered in blood with torn limbs scattered across it. Mo Fan and Chen Yi had witnessed something similar before. It was clearly the work of the brutal Hillmen!

Some of the students began vomiting. They had only heard it from Guo Muzhuang before, but it was ten times scarier and more disgusting when they actually witnessed it in person!

"The rest of them were dragged into the woods!" Lingling followed the trail of blood along the ground and pointed at the trees in another direction.

Mo Fan immediately led the way, running into the woods.

The trees were smeared with blood. As soon as Mo Fan ran into the woods, he immediately saw a tall hairy figure. It was laughing piercingly while jumping around, like it was celebrating a party.

The monster was dragging a Maga with its muscular right hand!

The Maga's clothes were shredded. The creature was holding her ankles while dragging her across the ground. Fresh blood was pouring out from her stomach, leaving a smeared trail behind on the grass!

The girl had pale skin and alluring curves, but was covered in blood. Even her hair was dyed red by her own blood as she was dragged across the ground.

The girl's screams echoed in Mo Fan's ears. Mo Fan completely lost it when he saw the girl's face twitching in pain, her back was rubbing against the ground and the hollow look in her eyes!

He saw the plea in the girl's eyes, the look when she saw a glimpse of hope, begging him to save her. Mo Fan had seen the same look many times, yet every time he saw it, his chest would burn with rage!

Mo Fan would not be so mad if the Hillman had killed the girl and dragged her body away. After all, humans were not excluded from the cruelty of nature. However, the girl was clearly still alive, yet her blood and entrails were pouring out continuously as she was being dragged along the ground. Any person would not be able to keep calm after seeing it!

"You son of a b\*\*ch, die!" Mo Fan used Blink to catch up to the Hillman celebrating its victory. Its ugly face was filled with shock when Mo Fan intercepted it. It had clearly never seen a human using such strange magic.

However, the Hillman soon grinned cruelly. It tossed the girl aside while slowly revealing its rock-hard muscles!

"Die!" Mo Fan chuckled. He Cast more than ten lightning bolts, each tens of meters long. The dark lightning bolts sprang forward and punctured multiple parts of the Hillman's body!

The Hillman tried to dodge them, but Mo Fan was just too good at controlling his magic. The lightning bolts were surprisingly quick, too, with a strong paralyzing effect. The Hillman froze on the spot as the lightning strikes continued to land on it!

"Have a piece of these!" Mo Fan was utterly infuriated. He perfectly controlled the damage of the lightning strikes.

The lightning went inside the creature's body and destroyed its organs. Mo Fan purposely avoided the vital organs just so the creature could suffer more!

"AHHHH!" The Hillman's cries of agony were similar to a human's. Even its soul was in great pain, tortured by Mo Fan's lightning. It was exactly what Mo Fan wanted!

*-You're cruel? Let's see who's crueller!-*

Chen Yi caught up to Mo Fan and said, "Mo Fan, forget it, just kill it!"

"Humph, go to Hell!" Mo Fan strengthened his lightning. A strong Lightning Spell with its damage amplified twelvefold sent the Hillman flying over a hundred meters away.

The creature slammed heavily into a tree, turned into scorched meat. Perhaps the Hillman never thought a species as strong as it would be killed so easily by a human!

"Miss, don't be afraid, I'll treat your wounds now, hang in there!" Liu Xiaojia quickly went up to the girl.

Her heart was burning with rage when she saw how the girl's belly had been torn apart. What these Hillmen did was unforgivable!

The girl was feeble and in pain. She looked at Mo Fan gratefully. It was likely that she would do anything just to repay Mo Fan's kindness. After all, she had already wanted to die when the Hillman was torturing her by dragging her across the ground.

Chapter 1288: I Will Hunt the Hillmen

The girl's injuries healed fairly quickly with the help of a Healer. Liu Xiaojia's Healing Element was surprisingly impressive.

The girl's wounds had started to mend. She was now covered by Mo Fan's T-shirt, and had yet to fully recover from her shock.

It was not her first time going on an adventure as a Hunter, but it was definitely her first time experiencing anything so bizarre.

Many Hunters thought death was the worst possible outcome when facing demon creatures, but there were times where death was far from the worst!

"Where are the others?" Mo Fan asked.

Mo Fan remembered there were more people than the bodies left behind. There had to be others who were still alive...

"That way, there are around three or four of them that are still alive!" The girl pointed at the gray woods.

"Rest here. I'll slay those Hillmen and save your friends!" Mo Fan said.

Mo Fan quickly cast the Summoning Spell while he was talking. A great wolf with snow-white hair leapt out from a lunar-white crack, leaving a trail of frost across the ground with an imposing aura.

Mo Fan jumped onto the Flying Creek Snow Wolf's back before taking off at a crazy speed, disappearing into the woods in the blink of an eye.

— —

The rest of the group had envious looks as they watched Mo Fan's handsome back fading into the distance.

The guy was around their age, yet how was he so cool and flashy!?

"Mo Fan is so strong. He killed the Warrior-level monster like it was just a little creature..." the male students exclaimed.

Liu Xiaojia's eyes were brimming with admiration. It was her first time seeing such a powerful Mage around her age. Most importantly, he looked so handsome when he was angry. He was overflowing with masculine charm!

"Speaking of which, these Hillmen are showing up too frequently. It feels like they are showing up at every Giant Purple Linden," Zhao Manyan said to Lingling, looking at the tall Giant Purple Linden behind him.

"Mm, I'm afraid the Hunters have become the hunted instead. It seems these Hillmen are well aware of our greed. They know we will keep showing up at the Giant Purple Lindens, so they just need to wait at the Giant Purple Lindens and ambush us, or find a way to split the teams up, or strike when two groups are at their weakest state after fighting one another. Either way, they are like a bunch of hunters waiting

for their prey to lower their guard. I'm afraid there will be more casualties on Mount Kunyu than we thought!" Lingling agreed.

"Let's hope Mr. Gao is able to convince the government to send some backup. The situation should improve once the army intervenes and evacuate the Hunters that are here for the money. They thought it was a great chance to earn some quick money, yet it turned out to be a slaughter!" Lingling sighed.

Hillmen had been showing up close to the Giant Purple Lindens to ambush the humans that had come for the demon crests. It had proven to be very effective.

Most groups were not strong enough to face the Hillmen. Even those that were strong enough still struggled after they were set up by the cunning creatures!

—

The Flying Creek Snow Wolf took a deep breath, searching for the scent of the Hillmen.

Due to their brutal habits, it was a lot easier for Mo Fan to track them down. The Flying Creek Snow Wolf was able to capture the scent of blood in the air easily, allowing him to locate his targets.

The Flying Creek Snow Wolf was much faster than the Hillmen. Mo Fan soon noticed a few bulky figures after following the scent trail for a few kilometers. The figures were carrying some incomplete bodies on their shoulders. Mo Fan couldn't tell if the people were still alive!

Mo Fan completely lost his temper when he saw the Hillmen and smelled the stench of blood lingering in the air!

"Shadow Imprisonment!"

A few shadow daggers appeared in Mo Fan's hands and slowly vanished in the air. They soon reappeared close to the three Hillmen!

The daggers nailed the shadows of the Hillmen accurately, sealing off their waists and necks and greatly impairing their movement.

"Get your ass over here!" Mo Fan split his will into three parts, grabbing at the Hillmen. It forcibly lifted the creatures into the air and dragged them back to him.

The Hillmen shrieked like apes. They tossed their prey down and tried to flee for their lives, but these Warrior-level creatures had no chance of breaking free from Mo Fan's Shadow Imprisonment and Space Magic!

"You enjoy torturing humans when they are still alive right? I guess I'll burn you alive, then!" Mo Fan snapped.

Mo Fan strengthened the Shadow Imprisonment. The creatures could not even struggle. Mo Fan further applied Gravity Space to the creatures. The three Hillmen could not even budge.

Mo Fan soon set up a burning 'hanging post'. The flames slowly rose and crawled onto the Hillmen.

Mo Fan perfectly controlled the temperature of the flames, so they would not burn the creatures to death too quickly, maximizing the pain they had to go through!

As Mo Fan was about to strengthen the flames to inflict more pain on the Hillmen, a figure over three meters jumped out from the bush to his right and swung its sharp claws at his chest!

The creature's speed when moving and striking was so fast that it looked like a brown blur flickering past. It immediately threatened Mo Fan!

"Awoo~!" The Flying Creek Snow Wolf was no mere decoration. He leapt and pounced on the Hillman while it was still in mid-air. He was providing cover while Mo Fan was busy 'roasting' the creatures.

"Well done!" Mo Fan complimented the wolf.

He set up the flames and quickly headed to the people, having no idea if they were alive or dead. He should be saving the people first.

There were three of them, two men and a woman. They were from the two groups of Hunters that were fighting one another. The two men had their limbs torn off. The Hillmen had most likely done so to prevent them from fighting back.

The woman was still in good condition, and was barely injured. She was only unconscious from overwhelming fright.

It was a great relief amid the misfortune. Mo Fan was quite confused why the Hillmen did not tear her limbs off like the others...

The three Hunters were still alive. If he was any slower, the Hillmen would most likely have dragged them off to a remote cave and enjoyed torturing them slowly. It was obvious that the Hillmen were not killing humans just to fill their stomachs. They were torturing humans to entertain themselves!

The Flying Creek Snow Wolf howled. An icy gust swept past, knocking down all the trees within a hundred meters.

A Hillman over three meters tall was moving nimbly among the falling trees. It managed to dodge the Flying Creek Snow Wolf's attack.

It continued to back away while staring at the three Hillmen that Mo Fan had set on fire. It quickly realized how tough of an opponent the Flying Creek Snow Wolf was. It jumped onto the trunk of a tree and held on like an ape.

The Hillman was surprisingly quick when it was moving between the branches and the trees. Even the Flying Creek Snow Wolf was having a hard time catching up to it.

The Flying Creek Snow Wolf howled furiously and knocked down the trees acting as obstacles. Unfortunately, the Hillman was just too quick. It glared at Mo Fan and the Flying Creek Snow Wolf before quickly disappearing into the woods!

"Stop chasing, that creature is pretty tough. It's a Commander too!" Mo Fan called the Flying Creek Snow Wolf back. He was having difficulty carrying the three people on his own, so he needed the Flying Creek Snow Wolf to do the manual labor.

Mo Fan quickly used Blood Serums and Bone-connecting Ointment to treat the Hunters' injuries. It was enough to help them live until they regrouped with Liu Xiaojia and the others.

“Let me go, let me go!” the woman who was barely injured suddenly screamed and Summoned a strong blast of wind.

The wind flew right at Mo Fan. She was so terrified that she could not even tell who was friendly!

“Calm down, you’re fine now.” Mo Fan waved his hand and shattered the woman’s Wind with his Telekinesis.

The Wind Maga was stunned. She did not expect the man to nullify her Wind Disc just by waving his hand!

The woman soon noticed the three Hillmen burned into charcoal. She let out a relieved sigh and thanked Mo Fan.

“I already warned you guys, but none of you listened. There are times when you shouldn’t be so greedy. You still have other chances to make money, but you only live once,” Mo Fan sighed. This woman was actually quite lucky considering what happened to the other girl and Guo Muzhuang...

“They are all dead... what exactly are these things?” The woman burst into tears.

“They are Hillmen, a species that enjoys torturing humans. The previous ruler of Mount Kunyu is dead, so lots of demon creatures have come for the Giant Purple Lindens. To these creature’s delight, the Hunters kept feeding themselves to them! Therefore, these Hillmen ended up holding a feast by hunting the Hunters, after learning their patterns,” Mo Fan explained.

The woman opened her mouth in disbelief.

However, after what she had gone through, and seeing her two teammates with their limbs torn off, she had no choice but to accept the truth.

“We’ve already sent someone to alert the government and army,” Mo Fan went on.

“Then what are you doing here still? Aren’t you supposed to be running too?” The woman seemed a little confused.

Mo Fan looked at the Wind Maga. He had to admit that she was a beautiful woman. She had a ponytail and an attractive face, while her skin was as smooth as milk. Mo Fan would definitely go crazy if such a beautiful woman died a horrible death at the hands of the Hillmen!

“Why should I be running?” Mo Fan stood up. He looked at the burned remains of the Hillmen and said sternly, “It will take the government and the army some time to reach here, so before that, I will kill as many Hillmen as I can!”

The woman looked at Mo Fan with a blank expression.

She did not expect such words from a man who seemed younger than she was. However, she felt he was strong enough to make good on his boasts. Otherwise, how did he manage to save her and her teammates from the Hillmen?

Chapter 1289: The Grassland



It did not take long to reconnect the torn limbs with the help of Healing Magic. The Intermediate Healing Spell was quite efficient at healing bones. Liu Xiaojia did not expect to have so many chances to practice her Healing Spells at Mount Kunyu. She was still a little intimidated whenever she thought about how brutal the Hillmen were.

“I saw a three-meter-tall Hillman with brown hair like an ape and slightly longer copper fangs,” Mo Fan informed the others when they caught up to him.

“A Bronze-Fang Hillman, it’s a Commander-level creature. These Hillmen use their fangs to assert superiority among themselves. The low-level Hillmen are slaves to the high-level Hillmen,” Lingling confirmed.

“There’s even a Commander-level Hillman here? That means ninety percent of the groups that came in here are going to end up in misfortune!” Zhao Manyan exclaimed.

“Mm, I don’t think the government can send reinforcements in time,” Chen Yi said.

“By the way, I also found these,” Mo Fan handed some demon crests to Lingling and said, “These Hillmen seem to be using the demon crests as a bait. Those three that I just killed had fifteen demon crests! They might have taken them from the people they killed. I think they know they can use the demon crests to bait people!”

“It’s like the bait for fishing!” Still a little girl, Lingling was seriously speechless at how brainless grown-ups could be. She said, “I never thought that human Mages would be treated like this one day. Too many people are blinded by their greed! We’ll be taking these demon crests to compensate us the huge amount of effort we’re putting in.”

Mo Fan grinned when he heard that Lingling had no intention to give the demon crests back.

“I’ve tagged the Bronze-Fang Hillman with my Shadow Element. I have decided to pay their den a visit after escorting you all to safety,” Mo Fan said.

The Wind Maga looked at Mo Fan and opened her mouth; she had something to say. “Our group wasn’t even that weak. We wouldn’t have ended up like this if we didn’t step into their trap... count me in if you’re planning to hunt the Hillmen down,” the Wind Maga said.

“Yeah, we can help too,” Liu Xiaojia and the others said.

“I don’t need too many people. I believe there would be a lot of Hillmen at their den. Zhao Manyan and I will have difficulty protecting everyone if too many of you came along. Liu Xiaojia, you will come with us. Is anyone a Shadow Mage here? I just need one. The rest of you, get to safety as soon as possible,” Mo Fan said.

Mo Fan noticed that the Hillmen could not sense the Shadow Element. The Fleeing Shadow, the Giant Shadow Spikes, and the Shadow Imprisonment had proven to be very useful.

A Shadow Mage had the ability to look after themselves, so Mo Fan only allowed students with the Shadow Element to stay, and the Healer, Liu Xiaojia.

The beautiful lady with the Wind Element was not bad, either. She was most likely an Advanced Mage, but she was not yet skilled at casting Advanced Spells. It was likely that the Bronze-Fang Hillman was the one that had knocked her unconscious.

— —

The two Hunters that had recovered were in charge of escorting the students. They should not have much problem making it to safety. Mo Fan also realized that the Hillmen did not dare take on a group of people. There were many groups that had fallen into their traps in pursuit of the demon crests, so they had not had to risk their lives taking on the intact groups.

Mo Fan, Zhao Manyan, Lingling, and the rest went after the Bronze-Fang Hillman, following the mark that Mo Fan had left on it previously.

“I was wondering why you let the Commander-level Hillman run away. It turns out that you’re only releasing the fish back to the pond so you can get them all,” Zhao Manyan smiled.

Mo Fan was clearly more cunning than the Hillmen!

“Huh? Did you really let it go on purpose? Didn’t it manage to run away from you?” Liu Xiaojia asked, blinking her eyes.

Liu Xiaojia was like a curious little kid, asking whatever question that crossed her mind. Mo Fan was a little scared to answer her question. Speaking of which, Mo Fan was speechless when he realized who was with him.

Chen Yi, Guan Xixi, Liu Xiaojia, the Wind Maga Lan Luo, and the gorgeous little Lingling; why was he with a bunch of girls again!?

To be honest, Mo Fan was more used to doing cruel things like this with vicious and merciless blokes, someone like Ai Jiangtu...

The Seal of Darkness had left a trail that only the Mage that had implanted it could sense. Mo Fan just needed to follow the trail to locate the Bronze-Fang Hillman. Since Mo Fan’s Shadow Element was at the Advanced Level, the Seal of Darkness could last for quite a long time. It would still be around after three days!

— —

“Seriously, how far did that creature run? We’ve already crossed a few ridges,” Zhao Manyan complained, a little worn out from the journey.

It was not suitable to fly around the mountain, or Zhao Manyan would have long taken out his flashy golden wings.

“I’ll give you all a little help.” Lan Luo drew a Star Pattern, laying a trail of wind on the path the group was taking, making it easier for them to traverse the difficult terrain.

Mo Fan did not dare Summon the Flying Creek Snow Wolf either, since his level was relatively high among the demon creatures. His presence would easily scare the Hillmen away.

After crossing yet another tall ridge, the trail of the Seal of Darkness led them to a spacious valley.

Most valleys in the mountain had beautiful thick forests, with a strong presence of the ancient times, like those in a drawing. However, this spacious valley was totally different. When they looked down at the valley from the high ground, they were surprised to see a huge grassland. The grass was very tall. The waves flowing across them as they swayed when the wind blew were stunning. It was like the waves on the surface of a green lake...

“There must be a Giant Purple Linden here,” Lingling said confidently.

They followed the path into a canyon, two mountain walls high up on the sides. Their view opened up after they reached the end of the canyon. A spacious grassland entered their vision. They could not even see the end of the valley!

The grass was surprisingly tall, around two to three meters. It felt like they had been shrunk down as they walked through the grass. They had to lift their heads to see the cobs swaying in the wind.

The cobs blocked off vision ahead. They could barely see a distance of six meters around themselves. Even the slightest sound would make them feel uneasy as they were walking through the grass. The Hillmen had indeed found a very remote place to build their den!

The group spread the grass apart and proceeded forward. Zhao Manyan could not help but ask, “Are we getting close?”

“It’s not too far now, but it will be very easy for us to get split up if a fight happens here,” Mo Fan said.

The grassland was too spacious. It would be fine if the grass only reached their ankles, since they could easily see their teammates and any approaching enemy with a quick glance. However, the grass was taller than they were. Their vision was more limited than walking in the woods...

“Give me a second,” Zhao Manyan felt an urge to empty his bladder. He did not say it too obviously since there were more girls in the group.

He split up with the team and went further ahead to make sure he did not ruin Guan Xixi’s impression of him. He made sure he was far enough to prevent the others from hearing him peeing and unzipped his pants...

The sound of him peeing was pretty loud. Zhao Manyan had been holding his bladder for some time. He even had the urge to hum joyfully the moment he turned on the valve.

The stalks nearby suddenly swayed. Zhao Manyan immediately turned around as soon as he heard the sound.

In order to take a closer look, Zhao Manyan used his other hand to spread the grass. He immediately saw a hideous face behind it!

It was a ghastly face with fangs like a boar exposed to the air. The two bloodshot eyes in particular were oddly frightening!

“Screw you!” Zhao Manyan cursed after he was given a great fright. His right hand adeptly moved ‘little Zhao Manyan’ back into his pants before pulling the zip up. Meanwhile, his other hand started casting a Water Barrier between him and the Hillman...

Ideally, Zhao Manyan thought he could set up his defense in time. To his surprise, the zipper somehow caught ‘little Zhao Manyan’ for a brief second. He immediately felt a sharp pain from his lower body. The Star Orbit of the Water Barrier — one of the most basic spells — broke at its sixth Star!

The Hillman raised its sharp paw. It clearly had no intention to go easy on him!

Zhao Manyan cursed under his breath and subconsciously rolled to the side with his years of experience fighting demon creatures. He barely dodged the attack of the disgusting Hillman.

Zhao Manyan rose to his feet and took a deep breath. He quickly sorted out the problem of his lower body, furious now!

“I’m going to pluck your fangs out!” Zhao Manyan snapped. “Sky Waterfall!”

Zhao Manyan cast his spell angrily. White rolling waves suddenly poured down from the sky and descended rapidly on the Hillman. The unstoppable waves struck the creature fiercely!

The white waves rolled more than ten meters away. The Sky Waterfall instantly broke many of the bones in the Hillman’s body. It did not even have a chance to cry out in pain.

The strong waves swept forward. A certain area of the grassland even sank down at the strong impact. Mo Fan and the others quickly came over and heard Zhao Manyan cursing wildly!

—

The Sky Waterfall lasted for half a minute. The Hillman lay still on the ground. Most of its bones were broken by the fierce waves. It was almost dead.

“He’s an Advanced Mage too,” Lan Luo was dumbfounded, seeing the area that had been destroyed by the waves.

Even though Zhao Manyan had only used an Intermediate Spell, the sight of the Sky Waterfall was just too shocking. The spell had killed the Warrior-level Hillman almost instantly! Only an Advanced Mage with a Soul-grade Water Seed could possibly achieve the feat!

“That thing dared to ambush me when I’m trying to empty my bladder,” Zhao Manyan withdrew the huge puddles and went up to the half-dead Hillman. He kicked at the creature’s limp body.

“These things have always been cunning,” Mo Fan agreed.

“This place is a natural hunting ground for them. The grass is just too thick. They can easily sneak up to their targets. Even if a whole team of Mages was here, it would be hard to tell if anyone is missing from the team. Most importantly, it’s extremely difficult to save the people who get dragged away!” Lingling judged after analyzing the situation.

## Chapter 1290: White Burial Flowers

A desert was scary because it was hard to tell if anything was hiding in the sand, resulting in people entering the territories of demon creatures unknowingly and being wiped out. It also meant there was no place in a desert that was perfectly safe.

Likewise, the valley of tall grass was incredibly dangerous, too. The grass grew taller than their heads. The sky that a person standing in the grass could see was only the size of a palm. They had to spread the dense grass to move forward too, and since they were surrounded by grass, they were unlikely to notice if something was approaching them...

"Let's hope none of the other groups are here." Chen Yi felt uneasy the more she thought about Lingling's analysis.

"Considering how cunning the Hillmen are, I believe they will try their very best to lure the Hunters here. It's the perfect slaughtering ground," Zhao Manyan said.

"If I was a Hillman..." Mo Fan murmured. However, he immediately had an uneasy feeling as soon as he said it. He turned to Lingling.

Lingling was initially confused, but she soon realized what Mo Fan was worried about seeing the look in his eyes.

"Lingling, why were you so sure that there's a Giant Purple Linden here?" Mo Fan asked.

"First, the Yu Grass. There's no other plant that can grow near a Giant Purple Linden, apart from this kind of grass. This grassland mainly consists of the Yu Grass, the same kind that we saw growing around the Giant Purple Lindens that we've discovered so far!"

"But why is this Yu Grass so tall?" Zhao Manyan had to ask.

"I'm not sure, perhaps some kind of mutation?" Lingling answered.

"Is that so?" Mo Fan wondered.

The Yu Grass was everywhere. Mo Fan was worried if it would attract the other Hunters here.

"There's another important reason too; didn't I already explain before?" Lingling said.

Mo Fan was struggling to recall it. He was about to ask when he noticed something white floating past in the blue sky.

The cobs of the grass had blocked off their vision. Even when they lifted their heads, their vision was still limited. Mo Fan initially thought it was just a white cloud, but when he looked up, he immediately realized he had seen it before!

The white flossy things were like little fairies flying under the blue sky. Mo Fan stared at the endless white dandelions drifting past in the air...

"The Dandelion Grass, I mentioned it before. Their seedheads are attracted to the Giant Purple Linden. I noticed quite a few of them heading toward this place before we even entered the valley," Lingling stated, looking up into the sky.

Mo Fan frowned and said to Zhao Manyan, "Something doesn't feel right. Old Zhao, lift me up into the sky!"

Zhao Manyan was overjoyed. He finally had a reasonable excuse to show off his flashy wings.

He summoned his golden wings. The spectacular Wing Magical Equipment stunned Guan Xixi and Lan Luo immediately. They had rarely met any Mage that could afford Wing Magical Equipment!

"Stop being a show-off. Hurry and lift me up. Something bad is going to happen!" Mo Fan said.

Zhao Manyan soared into the sky bringing Mo Fan with him. The grassland gradually became smaller below them. To Zhao Manyan's astonishment, the valley was even more spacious than he had imagined. He still could not see its end even after reaching a height of five hundred meters!

"This place is so huge!" Zhao Manyan exclaimed.

Zhao Manyan noticed something floating in the sky. They were white like clouds, but not as huge. They were a lot thinner, and were only visible with the blue sky as the background...

"Go higher," Mo Fan said.

They continued to rise, reaching a height of a thousand meters, but they still could not see the end of the valley. However, they were incredibly shocked when they saw countless white seedheads drifting in the wind...their numbers kept increasing!

The white seedheads were coming from all directions. They could even see them being lifted up into the sky before heading toward the valley!

"What's going on here? Why are there so many Dandelion Grass puffs..." Zhao Manyan was confused.

"Can't you see they are all heading in the same direction?" Mo Fan said.

"I think so; it's the same direction we're heading into, somewhere deep in the valley!" Zhao Manyan said.

"Do you think the Hunters on the outside of Mount Kunyu can see what we are seeing?" Mo Fan said.

"Of course they can, there are so many of them. They are definitely going to see it unless they are blind," Zhao Manyan replied. He realized something after finishing the sentence. He looked at Mo Fan with wide eyes...

Mo Fan could not find any words. It seemed like nature had really placed them at the bottom of the food chain this time!

—

The white Dandelion Grass floated in the sky above Mount Kunyu despite the absence of wind. They were like a pack of white birds migrating slowly...

The sky above Mount Kunyu was clear and blue. As more and more white seedheads rose into the sky and headed in the same direction, as if something was summoning them, they made a stunning magical

scene, a view that was only possible in a place brimming with a primordial aura like the outer slopes of Mount Kunyu!

However, the danger concealed by the spectacular view was sending a great chill down Mo Fan's spine!

Many Hunters were not experienced enough to identify the Dandelion Grass, but even the most inexperienced Hunters on Mount Kunyu knew they should follow any white seedheads they saw drifting in the air. These white puffballs were like adorable little fairies guiding them to the treasure they were searching for. They could not afford to miss out on the opportunity!

Lots of Dandelion Grass kept flying into the Valley of Yu Grass. It was quite obvious that every Hunter in the outer Mount Kunyu would immediately make their way to the valley following the Dandelion Grass...

Mo Fan had followed the Seal of Darkness he had tagged the Bronze-Fang Hillman with here. The Commander-level creature was most likely making its way back to the Hillmen's den.

Zhao Manyan was ambushed by a Hillman not long ago. Even though there was only one of them, who could possibly tell how many Hillmen there were in this spacious valley, which was as complicated as a maze?

The stunning view was not a blessing from Heavens to the Hunters, it was the white flowers displayed at a giant cemetery!