

Versatile 1531

Chapter 1531: Roving Desert Beetles

—

The people of the European University Institute waited in a luxurious club. Mu Bai went to prepare the antidotes, while Heidi was busy collecting the information about the species of demon creatures they might encounter during the adventure. They had no clue what the people of the European University Institute were doing. Perhaps they too were collecting information through their own sources.

“This is a club managed by the Golden Rose Clan. You can find it in the main cities, with a network of reliable and capable Mages. I believe someone will soon deliver the information about the young Medusa to us.” Ferrero was seated on a leather couch, smoking a cigar.

The man preferred to behave calmly and nobly at a time like this.

A manager of the club in a tuxedo came with some information. “Young Master, we’ve obtained some news from the people of the Magic Association. Someone has spotted a mature Medusa with the young Medusa. They were last seen around the Bargo Land.”

“Ferrero is as impressive as usual. Having power can really save us a lot of trouble. Meanwhile, someone is going around like a headless fly without doing anything useful,” Galba chuckled.

Zhao Manyan opened the map and glanced at Bargo Land. He soon burst out laughing.

Chad said with a wry smile, “The Bargo Land covers over eighty kilometers. Where do we even start looking for the young Medusa? You can easily buy information like that at the Hunter Union.”

“Humph, it’s still better than you guys who don’t even know where to look at all!” Ferrero grumbled.

“What should we do now? I don’t even dare to drink water now. We are really going to be tortured to death if we don’t find any reliable news soon,” Zoey sighed.

Everyone had grim faces. They had only arrived in Cairo a short time ago, thus they were not familiar with the environment yet. They only had limited sources of information available to them.

“It’s at the Sunset Shrine,” Mo Fan blurted out as he came into the room. His face was brimming with confidence!

Everyone looked at him. Their first reaction was not bursting into joy about finding the right location, but they were filled with strong doubts instead.

Why was the Sunset Shrine necessarily the place they were looking for? Although the Sunset Shrine was located in Bargo Land, he could not just blindly point at a spot on the map, right?

“Humph, you don’t have to share the information that you’ve obtained from a random hooker in a run-down place with us. It’s going to get us killed instead!” Ferrero said disdainfully.

“I don’t really care if you believe it or not, Heidi, Old Zhao, Green... Mu Bai, we’re heading out now. We don’t have much time, we have to reach the Sunset Shrine in four days. There are a few nests of demon creatures nearby, so it won’t be easy sneaking into it,” Mo Fan ordered.

“Mo Fan, are you sure it’s at the Sunset Shrine?” Zoey looked at Mo Fan and asked seriously. “Where did you get the information from?”

“The Hunter Union, I’m a six-star Hunter Master,” Mo Fan said.

“Ha, boast all you want, how can you possibly be a six-star Hunter Master? My uncle is a Super Mage, yet he’s not even a six-star Hunter Master!” Zoey smiled. She assumed Mo Fan was joking.

Mo Fan had already taken out his badge while Zoey was still talking.

It was impossible to fake the Hunter Badge; the stars on it were the only proof he needed. Mentor Vani purposely went closer to see if Mo Fan truly was a six-star Hunter Master. His expression changed tremendously.

It was not difficult to become a Hunter Master with their current strength, but it was a completely different story to reach five stars and above. The points from completing a few quests were not enough; they had to have some other achievements that no one could lightly accomplish, too!

Mo Fan had gone from four stars to six stars after solving the mystery of the Drowning Curse. Otherwise, even five stars would be extremely difficult for him to reach!

“The information is approved by Cairo’s Hunter Union, it’s very credible!” the old manager in a tuxedo stated after glancing at the paper Mo Fan was holding.

Ferrero rolled his eyes at the old manager in a tuxedo. The man abruptly realized Mo Fan was not his Young Master’s friend, and found himself in an awkward position.

“If he’s a six-star Hunter Master, there shouldn’t be any problem. We’ll head out tomorrow morning, or... we should have everything we need,” Vani said.

“What ‘tomorrow’?! We are going now! The young Medusa isn’t a quest NPC, it won’t wait at the same spot waiting for us to form a party to take it out. The information we have is the latest too! It’s best if we go now and find it before it goes somewhere else!” Mo Fan exclaimed.

He was utterly speechless about these people’s attitudes. If the young Medusa ended up going back to its nest because they waited until tomorrow morning, they would lose their only chance of obtaining a Tear of Medusa!

“Mo Fan is right, we should head out as early as possible. The longer we are under the Curse, the more dangerous it will be,” Zoey agreed with him. That being said, she was still shocked that Mo Fan was a six-star Hunter Master. The rank of a Hunter Master was a clear representation of their capabilities!

“Let’s head out now!” Chad agreed.

Chad had already prepared the Camel Beasts. They were a must when traveling in the desert. Otherwise, the Lamias were going to be on their tail all the time!

General Fenna provided them with some assistance, too. She had found a kind of medicine with cleistogenes as the main ingredient that could temporarily get rid of the effects of the Curse.

However, the medicine was a double-edged sword. It could provide a person temporary relief from the Curse of the Medusa's Eyes, but once its effects wore off, the effects of the Curse would worsen significantly. It basically meant if they could not find the young Medusa before the end of the medicine's effects, they might die or lose their minds in but a week!

It was a trip of no return, but luckily they had found the right direction. They now had a good shot at finding the young Medusa!

—

"Old Zhao, go buy some Roving Desert Beetles," Mo Fan whispered to Zhao Manyan.

"What for?" Zhao Manyan asked with a confused look.

"Just do as I say, but don't let the others know, especially the people of the European University Institute," Mo Fan said.

Mo Fan had shared the location of the young Medusa, but there was no way he would tell them this other piece of information. The people of the European University Institute were clearly unreliable. It was better for him to hold back the secret!

It was not the first time Zhao Manyan had colluded with Mo Fan. He immediately knew Mo Fan had a backup plan in mind. He left for the market when the others were not paying attention to him.

Roving Desert Beetles were not that common. They were mostly dried and consumed as medicine. Zhao Manyan spent some money buying a box of them and secretly placed it in his storage ring!

Chapter 1532: Sunset Shrine

The Bargo Land was the spacious land between Cairo and the Great Pyramid of Giza, spanning over a hundred kilometers. The land had always been the field of battle between humans and the undead, a war that had been going on for thousands of years.

The undead in the Bargo Land never stopped coming, the reason behind it very simple. Since the battle kept going, there would be a lot of deaths, and thus a lot of new undead rising. It was a never-ending loop constantly happening across Egypt!

There was a long gradient starting around seventy kilometers from the Great Pyramid of Giza. The slope was like the hand of a compass, identifying the time when the deathlight would start shining.

Every sunset, if anyone stood at the edge of the Sunset Valley and looked up, they would see the sunlight spreading across the valley perfectly, making it look like a sparkling golden sea.

Unfortunately, the spectacular phenomenon only brought boundless fear and uneasiness to the people of Cairo. When the sunlight disappeared from the valley, the deathlight of the Pyramid would start pouring down on the Bargo Land, like a flag representing the Kingdom of the Dead...

The deathlight followed the routines of day and night, just like the sun and the stars. The duration of the dazzling sunlight down the Sunset Valley constantly changed over months and years, but normally, every five years, there would be a time when the deathlight would last longer than usual, and that was normally when the greatest battles between Cairo and the undead took place!

They were currently in the Black Season, the five-year time when the deathlight would last the longest. The enemy challenging the city of Cairo was the Pyramid of Khafre, the second-largest Pyramid in Egypt.

The real undead had not shown up yet. Currently, only the two main demon species in Egypt, the Gorgons and the Medusae, were active. The real torture for the Egyptians was only beginning as the Black Season arrived!

--

At a unique spot in the Sunset Valley stood an ancient shrine that was part of some ancient cultural heritage.

The Egyptians were similar to the people living along the Yellow River and the Yangtze Plain who had worshiped the totem beasts. They used to rely on the protection of special creatures. The Sunset Shrine was one of the greatest altars for the ancient Egyptians to offer their sacrifices to their god.

Then came the era of the pharaohs, who overthrew the ancient civilization and established a magic civilization in Egypt. However, after they turned into undead as they died, they would not give up their control over the golden land.

The Sunset Shrine had existed for a very long time. It was magnificent, yet extremely run-down. It had been a while since anyone set foot into it, mainly because many Hunters had died strange deaths before they could get close enough to the Sunset Shrine.

“Rumors say that the spirits of the ancient gods have abandoned us humans because the pharaohs abandoned them first. Anyone that comes close to the shrine will be punished,” Chad said as they were walking.

The Sunset Shrine had all kinds of rumors and mysteries that had remained unsolved to this day. There were people that went exploring inside the Sunset Shrine, but they discovered that the Sunset Shrine was an endless maze, similar to the pyramids. If an ordinary person set foot inside it, they would never come out again. Some barely escaped from the place, but they all ended up with empty hands.

“Is this Sunset Shrine related to the Pyramids?” Mo Fan asked.

The group had reached the Sunset Valley, and were only around twenty kilometers away from the Sunset Shrine. It was currently sunset, so they just happened to see a red sun setting up the slope. It looked like they would eventually reach the sun if they kept heading up the slope!

The Sunset Shrine happened to stand in the same direction as the sun. From afar, it looked like the shrine was built for a god of sun. It was quite likely that the ancient god whom the Egyptians once worshiped was somehow related to the sun.

Mo Fan remembered that before Greece was ruled by the Parthenon Temple, the Greeks used to worship ancient gods, too. The Tyrant Titans were said to be the descendants of the ancient gods. He could not help but wonder if the ancient gods in Egypt were related to the ancient gods in Greece.

As a matter of fact, these gods were most likely some powerful creatures in the past, just like the Totem Beasts in China!

When the era of magic came, many countries overthrew these ancient civilizations and chose to believe in their own magical power instead.

“It is said that the deathlight is the power of the ancient gods that the pharaohs stole. I’m not too sure how they were related, but we all knew the pharaohs overthrew the civilization worshipping the ancient gods,” Chad said.

“Is the ancient god still inside the Sunset Shrine, then?” Mo Fan had to ask.

Chad’s brother Benz burst out laughing. He explained, “There’s no god in Egypt anymore, not even the descendants of the gods. Isn’t China the same as us? You no longer have the Totem Beasts... the Sunset Shrine is just a cultural heritage, and has most likely become a Medusa’s nest.”

They suddenly heard the cry of an eagle as they approached the Sunset Shrine. Mo Fan lifted his gaze and saw a white eagle diving at him.

Just as Mo Fan was feeling confused, the white eagle opened its claw and dropped a tube.

Mo Fan belatedly remembered he had a Hunter Mistress providing him with assistance remotely. She would relay her latest findings to him immediately via the Messenger Eagles.

The Bargo Land had no mobile coverage. A mobile phone would only serve as a watch and a torchlight here. The only way to relay messages was using this ancient method!

Demon creatures would not attack the Messenger Eagles, so they were perfect for delivering messages to travelers in the wild.

Mo Fan opened up the tube. There was a document inside.

“What does it say?” Zhao Manyan asked.

“She says that the rumors about the people dying close to the Sunset Shrine is real. The bodies of anyone who gets within three kilometers to the Sunset Shrine will start to rot. They haven’t figured out the reason behind it. She’s asking to us to be more careful!” Mo Fan read out the information from the Hunter Mistress, Anna.

“Maybe they are just exaggerating?” Mentor Vani wondered aloud.

Mo Fan shook his head. He showed a photograph attached to the document to Vani.

Mentor Vani glanced at it, examining the picture of a severely rotted Hunter’s body. It was so badly decayed that only his eyes remained on his face.

“The photograph means that the rumors are real. Three kilometers... are we within three kilometers of the Sunset Shrine now?” Mu Bai said.

“But... what could be the cause of it?”

“Let’s worry about that later. If the ancient civilization vanished a few thousand years ago, it’s unlikely that such a strong Curse is still around. Besides, aren’t the Medusae active around there? I doubt the ancient god is particularly friendly toward them!” Mo Fan chose to keep going. He did not hesitate just because of the new information.

Chapter 1533: Burning Evil Eye

The Sunset Valley was not part of the battlefield. In fact, it was located behind enemy lines. They purposely took the long route around a huge canyon to reach their destination. General Fenna had provided them with the safest path.

Cairo was currently in a defensive position. It was unlikely they would try to ambush the demon creatures from behind. They were only hoping for the fighting to end, instead of starting new battles.

Unlike the battlefield, demon creatures did not actively roam around behind their own armies, but their density was still quite high. The group would stumble into a powerful creature every one or two kilometers.

Fighting the creatures was only going to attract more attention. Luckily, the group mainly consisted of elites. They knew how to preserve their energy and avoid the demon creatures as they made their way toward their destination.

“Did you notice? They are squads patrolling close to the Sunset Shrine. Each of the Silver Snake Warriors is leading a bunch of snakemen soldiers. I don’t think they are just roaming around. Let’s try to avoid them,” Chad noticed, pointing at some demon creatures ahead.

The Silver Snake Warriors were completely covered by silver scales. They looked like armored warriors riding snake-like beasts from afar. These Silver Snake Warriors rarely invaded human territory, as they were the most loyal guards of the Medusae!

The Silver Snake Warriors were no weaker than Brutal Sword Death Servants. Mo Fan’s group would have no trouble taking them out, but they would be exposed the moment a fight started. They would then have to take on huge groups of Silver Snake Warriors!

“We have come to the right place. They are a lot of Silver Snake Warriors here,” Benz said softly.

“They are patrolling very frequently. How are we supposed to get inside the Sunset Shrine?” Zoey asked.

“That’s easy. These Silver Snake Warriors are particularly fond of the Sunset Demon Mice. I saw a nest of demon mice nearby. We can find a way to lure the Sunset Demon Mice here and make them run around the Sunset Shrine. These Silver Snake Warriors will instinctively chase after them. We should be able to find an opening!” Chad replied swiftly.

The Sunset Demon Mice were not very powerful, yet the snake beasts still struggled to catch them, since the demon mice were innately good at running away from them.

However, it was very easy for humans to catch them. They just needed to smoke them out with the Poison Element and trap them with Ice Lock and Plant Magic traps. The pack of Sunset Demon Mice immediately became bait to lure the Silver Snake Warriors away!

The Silver Snake Warriors would hold their positions most of the time, but these Sunset Demon Mice never failed to drive them crazy. They could not stand the sight of these dumb fat demon mice wandering in front of them!

The plan was a success. The group sneaked past the area the Silver Snake Warriors were patrolling. The black silhouette of the Sunset Shrine under the dim moonlight gradually entered their vision.

The ancient ruins of the Sunset Shrine were monolithic. The site contained over thirty structures of different sizes, each with a spacious garden and a watchtower. The structures spread across the place in a fixed pattern, making the Sunset Shrine feel more like a dilapidated ancient city. The collapsed beams, the half-exposed halls, the weeds crawling all over the place, and an altar that was covered by plants... not a single thing was preserved.

“What now?” Vani seriously had no clue what the plan was.

“We wait, until the morning,” Mo Fan said.

“Why?” Ferrero asked.

“Just do as you’re told. Feel free to leave if you don’t want to,” Mo Fan grunted.

Ferrero was displeased by the reply, yet did not say a word.

The group hid inside a hall covered in debris and rocks. They had no idea what the hall was built with. The place actually looked quite new, and did not feel like it had been around for a few thousand years. It looked as if it had been exposed to the wind and rain for only a few hundred years.

The ancient ruins of the Sunset Shrine were quite sturdy. Most ancient ruins would only have some foundations or a few rocks left after a few thousand years, but the Sunset Shrine’s framework remained standing even today. It was a lot bigger than they had imagined.

Benz kept scratching his back, as if he was being bitten by some poisonous bugs.

The others did not take note of it at first, but when Benz kept scratching it every few minutes, Chad realized that something did not feel right.

“Benz, your back is about to fester!” Chad exclaimed.

“My back is itching a lot... aren’t you guys feeling it too?” Benz asked.

“Now that you mention it, it does feel...” Sofia said awkwardly.

Zoey immediately went behind Sofia and checked on her back. She noticed some red marks with bumps like chickenpox. Her condition was slightly better than Benz, but she was obviously poisoned too!

“I...I think I can feel it too...” Zhao Manyan said.

The strange condition continued to spread among the group, as if it was contagious. Even Mo Fan had itchy bumps on his arms!

“Are we Cursed by the ancient god?” Vani recalled the Curse that was said to befall anyone within three kilometers from the Sunset Shrine.

As soon as Vani mentioned the Curse, everyone immediately panicked as they recalled the horrible corpse they had seen in the photograph.

“Stay calm. No Curse can last for a few thousand years, let alone one with such a huge area of coverage. There must be something we missed,” Mo Fan said.

“But we haven’t come into contact with anything!” Zhao Manyan exclaimed.

Mo Fan looked up, and stared at the moon with an eerie green glow hanging in the sky.

“Don’t tell me you’re considering the moonlight poisonous?” Heidi asked when she saw Mo Fan staring at the moon.

“The letter Anna sent me mentioned that they suspected the wounds on the rotten body were caused by some kind of Light Magic, but the victim clearly went to the Sunset Shrine at night, and the only light here is from the moon,” Mo Fan replied.

“How could the moonlight cause this? Unless there’s some evil energy hidden in the moonlight that we aren’t aware of...” Heidi said.

“I believe that thing there might be the cause of it,” Mo Fan pointed at a tower further away.

The tower was over forty meters tall. There was a huge hole in it, with something glowing inside. Zhao Manyan had believed it held some kind of treasure, but he did not dare go any closer, as they were too many Silver Snake Warriors nearby.

“Let’s go take a look?” Heidi suggested.

“Yeah,” Mo Fan nodded.

It was difficult for the whole group to move around. Some of them were now suffering greatly from the festering. Mo Fan only brought Heidi and Sofia, who was also a Shadow Mage, along.

Heidi was a Sound Mage. She could keep a lookout for the demon creatures nearby with ease.

Mo Fan and Sofia had no trouble sneaking past the Silver Snake Warriors with the Shadow Element, they just needed to conceal their presence. These Silver Snake Warriors that had not reached the Commander-level were unable to detect their shadows.

They flitted past a few gardens overgrown with weed and looked up the pitch-black tower. The glow it was emitting felt quite eerie!

“Don’t...don’t you think it looks like an eye?” Sofia asked in a trembling voice.

“It is an eye!” Mo Fan said confidently.

Heidi's night vision was not as good as the two Shadow Mages, yet she was covered in goosebumps when she heard Mo Fan and Sofia mentioning that the thing glowing on the tower was actually an eye. How was an eye so big and glowing? What kind of creature was it?

"I've seen something similar before," Mo Fan went on.

Mo Fan remembered there was something like an eye in the Ancient King's imperial tomb, called the Wicked Eye Copper Mirror.

The Wicked Eye Copper Mirror's uses were very odd. Han Ji had mentioned that it was made using the Light Element and the Chaos Element.

Mo Fan referred to it as an ancient surveillance camera. It was not difficult to understand how the Wicked Eye Copper Mirror worked if he considered it a combination of the Light Element and the Chaos Element.

The thing on the tower was not a living creature. It was something evil, similar to the Wicked Eye Copper Mirror, and was fixed into the tower. When the light it emitted was mixed with the moonlight, the moon turned an eerie green in the eyes of those looking at it.

"It must be the Burning Evil Eye," Mo Fan said.

"Burning Evil Eye? What's that?" Sofia asked curiously.

Heidi was also staring at Mo Fan. She was extremely curious about how Mo Fan knew these things. He definitely did not look like the knowledgeable kind to her!

"I read about it in an ancient manuscript in Greece. In the early days, when humans had just invented magic, their ways of using magic weren't mature yet, so they used the organs of dead ancient beasts to forge some defensive artifacts to stop demon creatures from invading their cities. This Burning Evil Eye was quite popular back then. It's similar to a light barrier, but it doesn't stop the enemy from entering. However, the light will destroy the enemy's cells inside the barrier. The longer the enemy stays inside it, the greater the damage. It seems like the guy that died to the Curse of the Sunset Shrine was actually killed by this Burning Evil Eye instead!" Mo Fan declared confidently.

"How did you learn all that?" Sofia asked with a confused face.

"It's normal to prepare myself before coming here. I read about these things in some old books," Mo Fan replied loftily.

The God of Death in Greece, Egypt's national beast, and the Totem Beasts in China; it seemed like every ancient civilization was tied to these sacred beasts in some ways. Therefore, when Mo Fan was convalescing at the Parthenon Temple, he had read a lot of books about the European countries and the countries to the south of the Aegean Sea. The books at the Parthenon Temple had historical records that were not disclosed to the public. Mo Fan just wanted to see if the Totem Beasts had any ties to the sacred beasts in foreign countries, while learning about their ancient civilizations at the same time.

Greece and Egypt were tied closely together, and it seemed they had even once clashed with one another because of the Burning Evil Eye!

Chapter 1534: Found A Treasure!

“What should we do then? Should we go up there and cover up the eye?” Sofia asked.

“Yeah, but there should be some powerful creatures around here. You two will lure them away, I’ll head up there and see if I can turn it off,” Mo Fan said.

Heidi and Sofia nodded, heading off separate ways.

Sofia used her Shadow Element to move closer to the pitch-black tower, but before she reached it, she heard a loud snort, followed by a strong black gust surging across the area.

“A Great Commander-level creature is here!” Sofia blurted out.

She was indeed a high-achiever from the European University Institute. She quickly cast the Nyx Regime to extend the reach of her Fleeing Shadow. In the Nyx Regime, the speed of Fleeing Shadow was comparable to Blink. Furthermore, it was difficult to track a Shadow Mage in the Nyx Regime.

Mo Fan was too far away to see the Great Commander-level creature that Sofia had encountered. He only saw the creature extending its oddly-shaped wings and lunging out from an ancient structure that was still intact.

The creature was obviously a Shadow Element creature, too. Sofia had made a careless mistake. The Nyx Regime would strengthen the Shadow Element of both ally and enemy! Heidi quickly entered the Nyx Regime to defend Sofia from the creature with oddly-shaped wings after seeing the pinch she was in.

“It seems to be a Nyx Blood Bat. I was wondering why there weren’t one or two guards looking after a piece of treasure like this!” Mo Fan went a little closer and was finally able to catch a glimpse of the creature.

The creature was extremely ugly. Bat demons were among the ugliest of all species. The bats that people normally saw were extremely small. A Nyx Blood Bat that was over ten meters long was easily every normal person’s nightmare. A single glance was enough to make them faint.

The Nyx Blood Bat’s speed was insanely high in the Nyx Regime. Sofia had forgotten about that possibility in her panic. Luckily, Heidi made it in time. They slowly nullified the danger by working together.

Mo Fan did not put too much attention on them. Heidi needed more experience. If she had been constantly at the brink of death like him, her strength would easily be on par with his. Mo Fan did not want to disturb her training.

Mo Fan sneaked over to the pitch-black tower and easily made his way to the top using the irregular spots along its walls.

“Ouch, that hurts!” Mo Fan was thinking of removing the Burning Evil Eye with his hand, but he noticed his arm rotting ten times quicker than before. The skin was already beyond recognition.

“The closer I am, the deadlier the burning is. That being said, I will gladly claim this abandoned piece of treasure!” Mo Fan could not care less about the danger.

His demon flesh was extremely handy at times. If it was a weaker Mage trying to do this, their whole body would have rotted before they could even reach the top.

Mo Fan clenched his teeth and forcibly snatched up the Burning Evil Eye!

The Burning Evil Eye was just like a defense mechanism. Once it was shut off, it would no longer emit the poisonous light. Mo Fan was familiar with its nature, so he was daring enough to snatch it right away!

The Burning Evil Eye was as big as a basin. Mo Fan’s face was almost rotted before he finally removed the eye from its socket. Luckily, it was only set inside the socket and guarded by a Nyx Blood Bat. Otherwise, they would have had to flee from the place immediately!

“I should bring it back to New Fanxue City and aim it at the shallow waters. It will burn any sea monster that comes close... hehe, perfect!” Mo Fan immediately tossed the Burning Evil Eye into his Space Ring.

The evil light was gone when he made it back to the ground. Sofia and Heidi were still fighting the Nyx Blood Bat.

“It seems like Mu Ningxue was right, it’s important to read books!” Mo Fan mumbled to himself.

The two girls had not had a clue what the Burning Evil Eye was. They were frightened by the powerful ancient artifact, but Mo Fan was overjoyed when he realized what it was! He did not expect to find such a valuable piece of treasure at the dilapidated shrine so quickly!

Mo Fan had sneakily had Sofia and Heidi leave by asking them to lure the demon creature guarding the Burning Evil Eye away, just so he could snatch the treasure for himself!

“The evil light has disappeared!”

“Let’s go, this Nyx Blood Bat is too hard to kill. We’ll only attract the attention of other demon creatures at this rate,” Sofia said.

“Mm, time to go!”

“Did you destroy the Burning Evil Eye?” Heidi asked while running.

“Yeah, it was better to destroy it considering how harmful it is. Otherwise, some other Hunters might die to it again,” Mo Fan replied without blinking.

“That’s great!”

—

After they had regrouped with the others, the Nyx Blood Bat was still pursuing them relentlessly. Mo Fan had stolen its treasure. How could it possibly give up the chase so easily?

However, it was obvious that the Nyx Blood Bat was not friendly with the snake demons. The snake demons were not stirred up by the antics of the enraged Nyx Blood Bat. It seemed the snake demons were not the only species residing at the Sunset Shrine...

The Nyx Blood Bat kept chasing after the three, but they had a whole group to back them up, including the Super Mage, Mentor Vani. They did not have any trouble taking out the Nyx Blood Bat.

They did not attract too much attention, either; Heidi suppressed the Nyx Blood Bat with her Space Element, giving the people of the European University Institute the chance to prove themselves. After a series of powerful spells that did not produce too much noise, the Great Commander-level creature was brutally killed.

“Is anyone’s body rotting still?” Mo Fan asked.

“Not anymore! Mo Fan, you’re so impressive! How did you know it was the cause?” Chad had to ask.

“It’s nothing really, many strange incidents have a reason behind them. You will learn the truth once you find the key to it. With that thought, nothing is scary anymore,” Mo Fan replied loftily.

“Look at you, aren’t you just lucky for discovering it?” Ferrero harrumphed coldly.

“Sure, I’ll let you handle it if we find ourselves in any trouble again. Otherwise, can you automatically shut your mouth up for five minutes while I’m talking?” Mo Fan immediately riposted.

Mo Fan had a strange habit: he had zero tolerance for half-wits!

“I can handle it, I’ll show you how capable the students of the European University Institute are!” Ferrero declared.

“Let’s hope you won’t put our lives in danger,” Mo Fan immediately shot him down.

“Are you treating me like a three-year-old!?”

“Alright, that’s enough, we should be working together in a time like this. Now is not the time to argue between ourselves,” Mentor Vani cut in.

Mo Fan was in a good mood after finding a valuable artifact. He did not want to waste further time on the idiot.

Chapter 1535: Young Medusa

The rotting was not caused by poison. Everyone was fine after they were no longer being exposed to the light of the evil eye. They treated their injuries with the medicine they brought along while waiting for the sun to rise.

Mo Fan did not tell anyone how to track the young Medusa. When it was almost dawn, Mo Fan secretly asked Zhao Manyan to set the Roving Desert Beetles free, and waited for his news.

Not long after, Zhao Manyan returned with a happy face.

Mu Bai had a hint of disgust when he saw the look on Zhao Manyan’s face. “Do you really have to be so happy after taking a piss?”

“What do you know!?” Zhao Manyan glared at Mu Bai.

When the three came close together, Zhao Manyan took out something that looked like a string of silk. It was stained with a strange substance, but it was still smooth and beautiful.

“What’s this?” Mu Bai had to ask.

“The hair that the young Medusa has just shed. She’s very close to us! Mo Fan, are you sure the total sum in the reward pool for the Tear of Medusa is three point seven billion?” Zhao Manyan said.

“Three..three point seven...” Mu Bai blurted out in surprise.

“Shhh!” Mo Fan and Zhao Manyan both signaled him to keep the voice down.

Mu Bai withheld the shock in his heart. He lowered his head and whispered, “Is it really three point seven billion?”

“It is, for some reason, even the Giant Female Snakes have been granted Medusae’s power too! They can also cast the Eyes of Vengeance on their enemies. We are not the only people put under the Curse. Many people are waiting for the Tear of Medusa!” Mo Fan informed him.

“Aren’t you going to tell the people of the European University Institute?” Mu Bai said.

“What is that nonsense? Why would I bother sharing the money with them? How much is everyone going to get if we split the money among all of us? Besides, they should be grateful to us for helping them to get rid of the Cruse. Do they seriously think they have a share in the reward too?” Mo Fan said.

“That’s right, they are so useless, they can’t do anything apart from boast!” Zhao Manyan said.

“How about Heidi?” Mu Bai said.

“Heidi is a little innocent, so it’s better not to tell her first. Otherwise, she might let the cat out of the bag. We’ll tell her at the end,” Mo Fan said after a moment of thought.

“Mm,” Mu Bai nodded. He also agreed not to share the reward with the people of the European University Institute!

“Tell me where the spot is, I’ll go have a look first. We’ll leave right away if I can catch it. If I can’t, we’ll ask the others for help. That Super Mage Vani might still be useful to us,” Mo Fan said.

The people of the European University Institute were not weak, especially Mentor Vani, who had one of his Elements at the Super Level. He might be able to lend them a hand if anything happened.

However, if Mo Fan could do it himself, he had no reason to ask the others for help. It was better to keep the fortune to himself!

The three did not move out together, as it might make the people of the European University Institute suspicious. Mo Fan pretended like he was going to scout the area. He asked the others to stay there and wait for him patiently.

Mo Fan followed Zhao Manyan’s instructions and went past a few broken-down structures. He found more hair of the young Medusa under an altar that was covered in plants.

The hair was quite valuable. Mo Fan gladly put the hair he had found inside the Space Ring, and set another Roving Sand Beetle free to continue searching for the hair of the young Medusa.

Mo Fan had the Dark Noble Mantle. It was extremely easy for him to move around without gathering any attention. Even if an adult Medusa was around, Mo Fan could still perfectly conceal his presence and avoid getting into a fight.

Zhao Manyan told Mo Fan that the young Medusa seemed to be alone. There was no trace of adult Medusae or the Silver Snake Warriors around.

“I’m in luck for once!” Mo Fan blurted out in joy.

He had taken a look around and did not see any snake demons nearby. The nobles among the snake demons had asked their subordinates to guard the perimeter, yet they did not allow those low-level creatures to hang around in the area they resided in.

An intense battle was still going on at the front line. Perhaps the Medusae did not expect humans to come so deep into their territory!

The Roving Sand Beetle stopped in a hall well lit up by the moonlight, its ceiling no longer around. The little creature was munching something like a string of silk excitedly.

Mo Fan picked it up and discovered it was the hair of a Medusa. Most importantly, it was still warm, indicating that the hair had just been shed recently!

Mo Fan was extremely excited. Three point seven billion was almost within his reach! He did not expect to earn such a great fortune on his trip to Egypt. He could finally buy some useful magic equipment with the money!

A petite figure suddenly moved past in the hall. She seemed to have noticed Mo Fan’s presence. She quickly hid in a corner covered in shadow.

The moonlight peeked into the ceiling like a veil, yet it stopped right before the corner. Mo Fan was unable to see the figure in it, yet he noticed a pair of glittering eyes!

“Come out here, I know you’re in there... let’s make a deal, either you make yourself cry and shed me some tears, or I’m going to beat you up!” Mo Fan walked closer and stared at the eyes.

Mo Fan was sure that there were no adult Medusae in the vicinity!

There was no sign of the Silver Snake Warriors too. Zhao Manyan had already made sure of that. This young Medusa was pretty daring to come out here alone. It allowed Mo Fan to take advantage of the chance!

“Big brother, are you a bad guy?” a timid voice came out from the corner.

Mo Fan was startled.

What the heck was going on now!?

The young Medusa could speak human language?

“How did you learn to speak?” Mo Fan was curious. She was speaking in standard English!

Even though the Medusae were a hybrid species of human and snake, and some of them had an appearance and intelligence very similar to that of a human, they usually behaved more like demon creatures over the past thousands of years. They were not humans!

Why did the young Medusa know how to speak? Her voice was so pleasant, like the soothing sound of a chime in some bamboo woods.

“Big brother, I...I’m human,” the little girl said.

“Bullshit, come out from the shadow, let me look at you,” Mo Fan said.

The young girl slowly moved out from the corner. The moonlight shone upon smooth skin that was like a delicate jade.

She slowly lifted her gaze. Her thin hair slid to the side. Her face was so pretty that Mo Fan’s heart skipped a beat upon seeing it. Her pair of huge sparkling eyes were looking at Mo Fan pitifully...

“She’s really human?” Mo Fan was stunned. He stared at the young girl.

The young girl did not dare to come out any further. She was only wearing some ragged clothes. Her skin was smooth, but some parts did seem a little dirty.

Her body was shivering, she seemed to be feeling a little cold. The collarbones under her pale neck were alluring. Her delicate appearance was perfect for earning pity from others.

“What the hell happened? Why are you here!?” Mo Fan struggled to believe it.

“Brother, I’m not the Medusa, I was caught here. She likes to eat the heart of young girls. She has eaten all the girls from the same village as me. I think I’m the next one...” the girl said with a trembling voice.

“You were kidnapped?” Mo Fan said.

“Mm, a group of people came to our village. They told us they were Mages, and would teach us magic, so they brought a few of us talented ones from the village, but they were lying. They were keeping a young Medusa. When she transforms every week, one of us had to die,” the little girl said.

“Some people are raising a young Medusa? Who are they?” Mo Fan asked with astonishment.

“I don’t know either, they keep kidnapping people to feed them to the young Medusa... brother, are you a good person?” The little girl seemed a little scared. Her eyes were staring at Mo Fan.

“I won’t call myself a good person, but I won’t hurt you. Do you know where the young Medusa is?” Mo Fan asked.

“She went to drink some water, at the lake not far from here...” the little girl said.

“Alright, I’ll go take a look,” Mo Fan said.

“Brother, can you save me from this place? I don’t want to be eaten,” the little girl begged.

“Ugh... alright,” Mo Fan could not afford to leave the innocent little girl behind.

He reached his hand out to help the little girl up. The little girl was cowering in the corner. Mo Fan could only see her body and her face.

The little girl grabbed Mo Fan's hand and cautiously rose to her feet. Her eyes were staring at Mo Fan with an alert look at all times...

Mo Fan suddenly pulled with a great force, dragging the little girl out from the shadow so she was exposed under the moonlight.

"HAHAHA, do you seriously think I'm that stupid!?" Mo Fan burst out laughing. He quickly sealed her movement off by injecting the Dark Material into her body!

To think that a little girl would appear out of nowhere in a place like this, and only dared to reveal half her body to him. Wasn't it obvious that the other half of her body would look like a snake's?

How could Mo Fan possibly believe in her nonsense? Even if she could speak the human language, Mo Fan was quite confident that she was the young Medusa. The Medusae were good at tricking people. They could even cast illusions on their enemies to make them believe they were women. Mo Fan was not the naive young man that believed in fairy tales anymore. There was no way he would be tricked by such lies!

Mo Fan was laughing at how naive the young Medusa was, trying to trick him with such a petty lie.

However, he heard someone crying.

The little girl had burst into tears.

Mo Fan was still grabbing at her hand. He looked at her lower body...

Skinny buttocks, slender legs, and the mysterious little garden that he could not afford to look at directly...

"This...this..." Mo Fan was stunned once again. More precisely, his mind completely went blank.

It was not a snake!

It was not the body of a snake!

It was indeed the body of a young girl!

The young girl was terrified. She was crying out loud, yet she did not dare to resist since Mo Fan was extremely rough with his pull.

"Are you really a human?" Mo Fan blushed.

He did not think she was actually a little girl instead of the young Medusa. He was sure that he was not being tricked by an illusion. Everything he saw was real!

"I'm sorry, I'm sorry, I thought you were lying, I thought you were the young Medusa..." Mo Fan quickly apologized.

Mo Fan immediately felt his head hurting. In that case, the young Medusa was indeed feasting on humans, and she enjoyed eating little girls like her if it could aid her growth. Most importantly, a group of Mages was kidnapping the little girls for the young Medusa!

This will certainly all go smoothly, and the girl is not involved at all.

Chapter 1536: The Snake Demoness of the Desolate Lake

The little girl's cry had completely taken Mo Fan by surprise. Mo Fan was pulling her with enormous force, since he had assumed the young Medusa was trying to set him up. If he was a little crueler, he might even have torn the little girl's arm off. Luckily, he was not that violent.

However, the little girl was in great pain. On top of that, she was not wearing anything. If anyone witnessed what had happened, they would assume Mo Fan was trying to do something unforgivable to the innocent little girl!

"I'm really sorry, little girl, can you stop crying? Please trust me, I'm indeed not a good person... no, that doesn't sound right, but I'm not the kind of bad person you think I am. I thought you were the young Medusa. I didn't expect to stumble into a beautiful girl like you in a place like this. It was much more likely that you were a demon creature," Mo Fan tried to apologize.

Luckily, the little girl was able to calm down quickly. She held back her tears and stared at Mo Fan with huge teary eyes. Mo Fan immediately blushed, while feeling extremely awkward.

"Good, don't cry yet. If you didn't lie to me, I promise I'll bring you out of here, but you have to tell me where the real young Medusa is. Are the bad guys with her still?" Mo Fan asked.

"I...I don't know. The young Medusa went to the lake to drink water. The Mages left after bringing me here," the little girl said.

"What's your name?" Mo Fan said softly. He was afraid that the girl would burst into tears again.

"Apas," the little girl said.

"Oh, where are you from?" Mo Fan asked.

"I'm from Karagana Island. The people on the island plant herbs as a living. The herbs are sold to Egypt and Greece. The chief of the island doesn't allow the people to leave. I was very interested in becoming a Mage, so I went against her will and was tricked by these people," Apas said.

Mo Fan had heard of Karagana Island before. It was an island that did not belong to any country, located in the Aegean Sea between Greece and Egypt. The island was protected by the Shoreline Alliance and was populated by religious people that did not interact much with the outside world.

Mo Fan heard Xinxia mention a few times that the Karagana Island was a gorgeous land of herbs. It did not have a single flower, yet it was even prettier than the sea of flowers in Provence. Unfortunately, Xinxia was busy preparing for the election. She did not have time to spare to travel to Karagana Island as their honeymoon trip.

Mo Fan was more convinced that Apas was not lying when she mentioned Karagana Island.

As a matter of fact, it was unreasonable for such a pretty little girl to show up out of nowhere in a place like this, but both the little girl's appearance and her explanation of where she was from did not have any problem at all.

The Medusae did look similar to humans, but they were unable to get rid of their snake bodies. Their upper bodies were no different than humans, but their lower bodies had to resemble that of a snake. Therefore, Mo Fan knew he had made a mistake when he saw the little girl's slim legs.

"Cover yourself with this and follow me; we'll go look for the young Medusa first!" Mo Fan took off his jacket and gave it to her.

The jacket was huge for the little girl; she could wrap it around like a dress to cover herself. On a side note, Mo Fan had also seen something he was not supposed to, which further convinced him that he had stumbled into an actual human instead of a snake demon!

"Thank you..." Apas slowly lowered her guard after sensing his friendliness and chagrin. Her dirty face had an anticipating smile now that she finally had the chance to leave this place.

"Is this the right way?" Mo Fan asked.

"Mm, it is!" Apas nodded. She followed behind Mo Fan with quick little steps.

Mo Fan would occasionally turn around to look at the little girl. For some reason, he was still a little bit worried that Apas would extend poisonous fangs from her tender lips and bite him on the neck while he was not paying attention to her...

But the truth was, Apas was not a Medusa. She was just a weak little girl. Her body might be slightly stronger than ordinary girls since she had Awakened her first Element, but she was still completely helpless on her own!

—

Mo Fan followed Apas' instructions and soon came upon a lake.

The surface of the lake was overgrown with weeds. If its surface had not been shining in the moonlight, one might even assume it to be a grassy area.

A soft noise came from the lake... the hissing sound of a snake.

Mo Fan turned around once again to look at Apas.

Apas' eyes were wide open. She was biting her pale lips to stop herself from making any sound, and was very cautious with her breathing, too.

"She's here, I can smell her," Apas said softly.

Apas seemed to be sensitive to odors. The women on Karagana Island, who were constantly dealing with herbs, might have developed a special ability...

Mo Fan went a little closer and also noticed a rotting odor.

“Stay here, I’ll call my friends over,” Mo Fan said softly.

Mo Fan parted the bush and saw a long silhouette around a hundred meters away. It was lying on its side atop a boulder, moonbathing beside the lake.

The moonlight was shining on it. Mo Fan saw a slim upper body and the reflective scales of its extremely long lower body. It extended from the boulder to the ground and further curled up in a half-circle!

Its upper body did resemble that of a young woman, but the lower body of a snake was utterly terrifying. It seemed to be very fond of its own looks. It kept pouring water on itself from its hair to its stomach, then its firm snake’s body...

A young Medusa!

It was really a young Medusa. Mo Fan no longer had to worry about Apas lying to him.

He must have read too many stories and watched too many movies. Apas did not have anything that resembled a snake. She was clearly not the cunning young Medusa!

“My friend’s blood must have gotten on her. She’s not too fond of being covered in blood...” Apas said with a trembling voice.

Apas had the urge to break into tears again as she recalled her friend that had been eaten!

“Don’t worry, I will avenge your friend. However, this creature is very fast. There are a lot of Silver Snake Warriors only two kilometers away. I’m not confident enough to catch it on my own. Hang on, I’ll call my friends over,” Mo Fan said.

“Do you have a lot of friends?” Apas asked.

“Mm, quite a few of them, and they are all experts,” Mo Fan nodded.

“That’s great!” Apas was even more convinced that she was safe now.

—

Mo Fan had already told Zhao Manyan about his plan. His Dark Material could be used as a signal for help.

Zhao Manyan could follow the Dark Material to find him. Mo Fan was not sure if the Mages that were helping feed the young Medusa were around. He had asked Zhao Manyan to bring along the people of the European University Institute as a safety precaution!

“They will be here soon.” Mo Fan kept staring at the young Medusa while talking softly to Apas, helping her overcome the fear in her heart.

To his relief, not only was Apas a beautiful girl, she was very disciplined, too. She did not bring any trouble to him.

Mo Fan heard movements behind him, and sensed his Dark Material approaching.

“Mo Fan,” Zhao Manyan whispered, suppressing his voice. He sounded like a vengeful spirit.

“Keep it down!” Mo Fan signaled.

“Wow... Who’s this gorgeous little girl?” Zhao Manyan came up to Mo Fan and saw a little beauty kneeling beside Mo Fan. She was wearing some revealing clothes, and a man’s jacket was wrapped around her legs like a dress, revealing her slender legs and alluring body. Zhao Manyan, who had a slight fetish for little lolis, could feel blood running in his nose!

Jerk, Mo Fan was seriously a jerk!

“She was kidnapped to be fed to the young Medusa. I happened to save her from the bad guys. You idiot, can’t you just keep quiet? If you alert our target, I’ll chop you up and feed you to the snakes instead!” Mo Fan grunted.

“Oh, why do you always have the good things to yourself? Little girl, come here, you are safe with me...” Zhao Manyan said with a harmless face.

Apas promptly moved closer to Mo Fan in fear. After what she had been through, she subconsciously relied on the first person that had provided her with a sense of security. In Apas’ eyes, Mo Fan was the only good guy, and everyone else was a bad guy!

“Ask the people of the European University Institute to flank her. We can’t afford to let her escape. The young Medusa might not be stronger than us, but she’s pretty good at running away,” Mo Fan said.

Even as Mo Fan was talking, his Dark Material was slowly weaving through the weeds. The young Medusa enjoying her bath under the moonlight was totally unaware that she was slowly being surrounded by Mo Fan’s Dark Material.

“They already went ahead. They shouldn’t mess it up,” Zhao Manyan said hopefully.

Everyone’s life was currently tied to the same string. None of them wanted anything to go wrong at a time like this!

“The moment we make our move, the young Medusa is going to scream and alert the Silver Snake Warriors. It will take them less than two minutes to reach here, which means we must catch her in a minute and a half and figure out the right way to escape,” Mo Fan said.

Mo Fan was not an idiot like Zhao Manyan; he wanted to make sure everything was sorted out first!

Catching the young Medusa was not difficult, but as soon as they showed themselves, the Silver Snake Warriors in the Sunset Shrine and further away were going to converge on them like a fierce tide. The Silver Snake Warriors could easily devour them down to their last bone before their hands grew warm from touching the young Medusa!

Therefore, the key to the plan was how they were supposed to leave the place after getting their hands on the young Medusa!

“Head southwest, there’s a long tunnel there. It will lead us out of the Sunset Shrine. We’ll then clear a path from there.” Mu Bai had already found the best escape route. He had even marked the path with a fluorescent powder so they would not miss it!

Chapter 1537: Operation Catch!

“You little piece of shit, take this!”

Ferrero’s voice suddenly came from the other side of the lake as Mo Fan and Mu Bai were still discussing their escape route. They immediately saw sturdy rocks rising up from the water and forming a cage to trap the young Medusa!

“F**k me, why did that idiot act now!?” Mo Fan, Zhao Manyan, and Mu Bai blurted out at the same time.

How stupid was that guy? Not only was he trying to get himself killed, he was dragging everyone else into the mess, too! Mo Fan was seriously regretting his decision of joining hands with these unreliable teammates who were as stupid as pigs!

“I’ve trapped her!” Ferrero smiled, as if he had achieved an impressive act that could possibly save mankind. He was only waiting for flowers to be thrown at him and rounds of applause!

It turned out that a person could really be influenced by the people they hung around with for a long time. Mo Fan was seriously impressed by how smart Ferrero was!

What did he think a Medusa was?

The Eyes of the Rock Demon was actually a spell that mimicked the Medusa’s stare! Did he seriously think the Advanced Earth Spell was going to trap a snake demon with the ability to control the soil and the ground?

The young Medusa’s angry screech echoed throughout the Sunset Shrine. In just a few seconds, similar cries returned from all directions. It was like all the fireworks and firecrackers when the clock hit twelve at the New Year. There were only a few cracks at the start, but they were soon followed by a series of deafening blasts!

“Quick, do it now, we can’t let her run away!” Mo Fan decisively jumped out of the bush. He flew across the lake while the Dark Material in the vicinity swiftly gathered toward the young Medusa. The entire lake had turned into Mo Fan’s Dark Swamp Domain!

“Damn it, why did it turn into mud!?” Ferrero grumbled anxiously.

His Earth Element was naturally ineffective against the Medusa! With a single glance from the young Medusa, his sturdy cage of rocks had turned into a pile of silt. The cage collapsed and scattered on the ground!

Luckily, Mo Fan had established his Dark Swamp Domain. It completely sealed the young Medusa in a maze of darkness before she could flee into the bushes. She had completely lost her sense of direction!

“Don’t use the Light Element. My Nyx Regime can trap her for now! Quick, use any powerful spell that can suppress her. We only have a little over a minute left!” Mo Fan yelled at the others.

The Light Element would drive Mo Fan's Nyx Regime away. Even the slightest gap would allow the young Medusa to flee!

"I'll seal her off!" Mentor Vani finally made his move. However, he did not cast a Super Spell.

Vani was a Super Earth Mage, but his Super Earth Spell was not going to do anything to the young Medusa, either. He cast an Ice Spell instead. An icy coffin appeared above the young Medusa, who was running around wildly in the darkness in panic. The strong energy froze the young Medusa and the whole area she was in!

"Ice Lock: Chain Formation!" Mu Bai immediately summoned icy chains after seeing someone had already cast the Icebound Coffin.

The thick chains of ice wrapped around the Icebound Coffin and formed two walls to trap the young Medusa as soon as she forced her way out of the Icebound Coffin.

The frost of the Icebound Coffin spread continuously, leaving the young Medusa no way to escape. Her tail was already covered in layers of ice!

"Will Cannon..." Heidi spread her arms and focused her Will on the young Medusa.

"Don't kill her, we need her alive!" Mo Fan quickly stopped Heidi when he noticed she was trying to use a powerful attack.

Mo Fan had witnessed the strength of Heidi's Will Cannon. Even the Giant Snake Demoness had almost died to it in a single blow. The young Medusa was clearly weaker than the Giant Snake Demoness. There was no way she would survive the hit!

Heidi obediently followed his instructions. She quickly withdrew her Will and focused on the noises in the surroundings.

"We are going to be surrounded soon!" Heidi said.

"She's still resisting, does anyone have other spells to suppress her? Use it now!" Mo Fan exclaimed.

"Man-Eating Plant!" Zoey finished Channeling her Plant Magic.

A Man-Eating Plant covering an area over a hundred meters square rose up from the dark swamp close to the walls of ice chains. Its rows of sharp teeth resembled the jaws of a great shark, and it swallowed the chains, the Icebound Coffin, and the young Medusa with a single bite!

"Let's go!" Zoey said decisively.

"You got her?" Mo Fan was startled.

"Yes, my Man-Eating Plant will put her to sleep. Don't worry, I won't kill her!" Zoey said.

Mo Fan glanced after the enormous Man-Eating Plant that had swiftly sunk into the ground in shock. It turned out that Zoey was the real ace of the European University Institute. The enormous Man-Eating Plant could even swallow some Great Commander-level creatures!

"Time to go, follow the fluorescent light on the ground. Someone clear a path ahead!" Mo Fan said.

"I'll do it!" Mentor Vani agreed promptly.

The environment was not suitable for Earth Magic, thus the Super Earth Mage was not any stronger than the students when his Earth Element was not available.

"Apas, climb onto my back," Mo Fan squatted down. Apas, who was hiding behind a rock, quickly grabbed the jacket that she had wrapped around herself like a dress and jumped onto Mo Fan's back, wrapping her arms tightly around his neck.

"Big brother, are we going to die? There are so many snake men out there!" Apas asked worriedly.

"Don't worry, I'm very strong, we won't die! Besides, I'm going to find the scumbags that kidnapped you, too! They must be punished!" Mo Fan turned around and smiled.

Apas felt a lot more relieved, staring at Mo Fan's face from the side. She dug her head into Mo Fan's back.

"Mo Fan, should I carry her instead?" Zhao Manyan asked while they were running.

"Piss off!" Mo Fan snapped. What was Zhao Manyan even thinking in a situation like this? He was the one that had stumbled onto the little beauty. How could he possibly allow Zhao Manyan to harm her?

"Zoey has the young Medusa..." Mu Bai said thoughtfully.

"I know, we'll worry about it after we've found a safe place. We'll have to decide if we are going to join hands to fall out with them according to the situation..." Mo Fan said.

"What falling out?" Heidi was slightly behind Mo Fan as she asked quietly.

"Keep an eye on our rear!" Mo Fan told Heidi.

Heidi frowned. She had a feeling that Mo Fan was hiding something from her...

"Our operation will be quite successful if we can make it out of here," Zhao Manyan suddenly said.

"You better not say something like that in the wild," Mu Bai said superstitiously.

"I agree!" Mo Fan swore aloud...

Chapter 1538: Fleeing From the Snakes

Silver scales glowed brightly under the moonlight, resembling large groups of warriors in silver armor approaching from all directions!

"Follow the fluorescent lights, don't stray off the path, or else you won't make it out of the Sunset Shrine!" Mu Bai reminded them once again.

The dilapidated structures were scattered along the slope, their layout very confusing. They would easily lose their way if they took the wrong path!

Three Silver Snake Warriors that had climbed up to the top of a black structure with the help of the vines along the wall jumped down. Each of their six arms was holding a thin spike around three meters long. Three Silver Snake Warriors meant eighteen pikes! They danced in the air while slashing down in a spiraling motion.

The spirals descended rapidly, forcing everyone to dodge to the side. The slashes barely missed some of their toes!

“Defend yourself, don’t just run!” Mo Fan yelled while running in the middle of the group.

If they kept running, the enemy could just attack recklessly. Not many of them could survive the continuous rain of attacks coming at them!

Not every Silver Snake Warrior had pikes for weapons. When the group arrived at one of the exits, a Silver Snake Commander over twenty meters tall was holding two heavy bone hammers with its six arms!

The heads of the hammers were obviously the skull of some enormous beasts. The Silver Snake Commander held each hammer with three hands. It leapt into the air and smashed the ground in the middle of the group. The terrifying hammers easily broke shattered the ground to pieces!

“Blink!” Heidi immediately cast the Space Spell when she saw the group about to lose its formation. “Come here!” she yelled.

The others quickly gathered toward Heidi after seeing the silver light.

When everyone was close enough, Heidi immediately activated the spell. The group swiftly vanished after the silver light reached its peak inside the collapsing building.

The Silver Snake Commander’s hammers had left an enormous hole on the ground, but it was not as clumsy as it seemed. It turned its head and immediately noticed its targets around a hundred meters away! It immediately let out a cry.

A dense show of silver flickers appeared in the air as a huge number of Silver Snake Warriors jumped up. They had surrounded Mo Fan and the others in some tall woods.

The woods did not cover a large area. The remains of old structures could still be seen nearby. Many Silver Snake Warriors were climbing up the trees; whether they were coming from the front, above, the trees, or off the roofs of the structures, their shiny silver scales were everywhere!

Spiraling slashes swept at the group and sliced the tall trees into logs. There was barely any room left to dodge the attacks, but Sofia was able to cast her Water Magic in time. The Water Curtain came down from above and protected the group like a huge umbrella.

Zhao Manyan and Galba cast their Earth Magic simultaneously to build rock barriers against the deadly attacks!

“Follow me!” Zhao Manyan yelled.

Zhao Manyan ran at the front of the group while extending his arms to both sides. A brown light shone while he was running.

Two sturdy walls of rocks emerged from the ground on both sides of him to block off the enemy and set up an escape path for the group. As he sprinted forward, the thick walls continued to rise in the direction he was running to.

“Keep up, keep up!” Mentor Vani shouted at the students of the European University Institute.

The Silver Snake Warriors and their attacks were blocked by the walls of stone. The group was basically running inside a canyon leading them straight to the woods outside the Sunset Shrine!

“Look out behind!” Heidi yelled.

Mo Fan turned around and was surprised to see the Silver Snake Commander coming up along the path that Zhao Manyan had built. The creature’s speed was insanely terrifying. The distance between them was reduced to only two hundred meters in the blink of an eye.

Someone fired a spell at the Silver Snake Commander, forcing the creature to slow down. However, as soon as the distance increased by a little, the enraged Silver Snake Commander tossed its hammer at the group!

“My turn!” Mo Fan immediately put Apas down on the ground when he saw the hammer flying at them in a parabola. He took a step forward!

Mo Fan clenched his fist while letting out a wild cry, before throwing a punch at the hammer.

His fist erupted into flames. The Meteor Scarlet grew rapidly as Mo Fan hurled it forth. It turned into a meteorite flying right at the bone hammer!

BANG!

The meteorite fist smashed the bone hammer into white dust scattered across the ground, together with the embers.

“It’s settled, let’s go!” Mo Fan withdrew his fist and smoothly lifted Apas, who was staring at the blast with a blank face and carried her on his back. He immediately caught up with the others ahead without turning his head around.

The Silver Snake Commander was crying angrily behind, but the ground had turned muddy all of a sudden, lowering its speed significantly. A few moments later, Mo Fan and the others managed to run away from the demon creatures!

“Big brother, you are so strong,” Apas’ eyes flickered with admiration after witnessing how Mo Fan was able to nullify the enormous snake’s attack with ease.

“It’s nothing,” Mo Fan said.

“Can you teach me magic if we can make it out alive?” Apas asked with anticipation. She did not seem to be afraid anymore.

“What are you talking about!?” Mo Fan said.

“Ah, I’m sorry,” Apas said timidly.

“Of course we are going to make it out alive. The person that can kill me wasn’t even born yet. You’ll be fine as long as I’m still alive!” Mo Fan declared.

Saving beautiful girls had always been the main reason why he wanted to learn magic and become stronger!

“So can I learn magic from you?” Apas had a happy smile again.

“Of course you ca... f**k, how dare you ambush me, piss off!” Mo Fan noticed seven Silver Snake Warriors showing up out of nowhere in the direction he was heading into in the middle of his sentence.

The snakes were concealing themselves amid the bushes. They did not engage the others that had already gone ahead, purposely waiting for Mo Fan since he was the last in the group. How stupid were they, challenging the strongest person in the group to a fight!?

Lightning descended from the sky and turned into sparks, like the blow of a heavenly hammer. The seven Silver Snake Warriors were struck by deadly bolts of lightning as soon as they tried to pounce on Mo Fan!

The area trembled under the lightning, and the Silver Snake Warriors were knocked flying by the blow. They landed far away, twitching uncontrollably from the electric shock.

“Big brother, behind us... there are a lot of them!” Apas took a quick look backward and immediately ducked her head under Mo Fan’s shoulder.

“Don’t be scared, you will see how they are going to die!” Mo Fan turned around. His brow furrowed as purple lightning flickered in his eyes.

“Sky Lightning Claw!” Mo Fan lifted his hand high and grabbed at the sky.

Dark lightning came down imperiously. The lightning bolts bundled up like dark claws of a demon, tearing at the Silver Snake Warriors!

The demon creatures screamed in agony. The twelvefold damage amplification of the Lightning Tyrant was too much for the Warrior-level creatures to handle. Even the smallest lightning arc of the Sky Lightning Claw was enough to pulverize the Silver Snake Warriors!

Many Silver Snake Warriors died instantly, significantly reducing the pressure coming from behind. Apas’ mouth remained wide open as she turned around this time. In her eyes, a single Silver Snake Warrior was already so scary, yet to her surprise, a strong Mage could easily slaughter these fierce-looking creatures!

“Don’t give up so easily, live and work diligently, and one day, you will be able to eliminate the enemy that brings you pain and suffering with ease,” Mo Fan patted Apas on the head after seeing the astonishment on her face.

“Mm, I know!” Apas nodded, as if she was going to remember the words that Mo Fan had casually come up with.

Mo Fan eventually regrouped with the others. To his surprise, the others in the group were quite powerful too. The Silver Snake Warriors had no chance of stopping them with their current numbers.

Mo Fan and Heidi were in charge of the rear. Heidi was mainly responsible for stopping the Silver Snake Warriors from getting closer. Her multitasking ability was perfect for constantly keeping an eye on the enemy and stopping them from threatening the group at close range. Mo Fan, on the other hand, was unable to fight the enemy in close combat, since he was carrying Apas, so he was only casting powerful ranged spells. Heidi forced the Silver Snake Warriors to approach the group from a certain direction, allowing Mo Fan to play the role of a magic cannon and blow the demon creatures up.

Mo Fan continued to massacre the enemy pursuing them while Vani focused on clearing the path ahead. The students of the European University Institute fired their spells at the demon creatures at will. The group soon managed to travel two kilometers away from the Sunset Shrine.

“Don’t let your guard down, the Silver Snake Warriors are still coming from every direction. They are calling more of their species to flank us, too! We aren’t safe yet!” Chad, who was in the middle of the group, reminded everyone loudly.

Chapter 1539: Little Beauty

Chad’s attempt to lure the demon creatures away with his Summoned Beast had taught the group a viable approach for the operation. They had purposely caught a lot of Sunset Demon Mice and trapped them all inside a cave before coming to the Sunset Shrine.

The group followed the trail of fluorescent powder and soon reached the cave where the Sunset Demon Mice were trapped.

“Quick, Ferrero, give me your precious heirloom!” Mu Bai said.

Ferrero unwillingly took out the remaining Magical Dew and poured it on the Sunset Demon Mice.

These Sunset Demon Mice, who usually fed on remains of undead, were soon fleeing aimlessly through the Sunset Valley while emitting an alluring scent.

Sunset Valley was crawling with snake demons, not just the Silver Snake Warriors. There were countless snake mountains, too. If every snake species was attracted by the scent, it would turn into the greatest chase scene ever in the Sunset Valley!

The snakes heavily relied on their sense of smell. The group could temporarily conceal their scent, yet it was impossible to remain hidden for too long. Therefore, using the demon mice to distract the demon snakes was the best option they had!

Each demon mouse carrying the smell of the Magical Dew could attract hundreds of demon snakes. The group would have a chance to escape as long as they were not surrounded by demon creatures!

“What now?” Galba seemed quite nervous.

It was Galba’s first time doing something so thrilling. He was so nervous that he was going to wet his pants. It was difficult to imagine how the group of students that initially came here for training was now catching a young Medusa in their own backyard!

“They don’t know we are here. Let’s hold our position and let them chase after the demon mice for now,” Chad said.

Chad was sweating bullets, too. He was only an Intermediate Mage, yet he had risked his life and come here with the others. Even a single Silver Snake Warrior could kill him easily. However, if he made it back alive, he could easily boast about it to his friends for the rest of his life!

The cave was initially the demon mice’s nest. A pungent rotting smell lingered there after Mo Fan and the others had invaded it, perfect for concealing their scent. The Silver Snake Warriors would be attracted by the special scent that the demon mice were trailing after they lost sight of the group, and hopefully be tricked into believing that the demon mice were the humans that kidnapped the young Medusa.

The Silver Snake Warriors had overwhelming numbers, especially in the vicinity of the Sunset Shrine. If Mo Fan’s group did not use a little trick, they would end up being surrounded by the snake demons. Therefore, their best option was to wait at the most dangerous place until the snake demons were gone, increasing their odds of leaving in one piece.

“Should we get the tears from the young Medusa first?” Ferrero asked impatiently.

It was his first time seeing a Ruler-level creature that was still alive. He wondered how much the young Medusa would worth if he auctioned it!

“Let’s wait, the snake demons might be able to pick up the young Medusa’s scent,” Zoey demurred.

The young Medusa was still in the Man-Eating Flower’s stomach, helpless and completely vulnerable. Their first priority was to escape from the snake demons!

The group had no choice but to wait inside the cave until the snake demons lost their calm.

—

“Gur...” a strange sound broke the silence in the underground cave.

“There’s something here, look out!” Ferrero immediately rose to his feet. He looked around him nervously.

“Sor...sorry, it...it’s my stomach growling...” Apas said softly, blushing.

Mo Fan finally realized Apas must have not eaten for a long time. He quickly gave her some food that he kept in his personal Space after warming the food in his palm. An aromatic smell soon replaced the foul odors in the cave.

Apas had not eaten for a few days. She fixed her eyes on the food, drooling as soon as she picked up the scent.

“Here,” Mo Fan gave Apas the food.

Apas was too embarrassed to eat in front of the group. She hid behind Mo Fan and dug her head into the food like a starving little cat.

“Where did you find her?” Vani asked with a confused face.

“In a run-down structure close to the young Medusa. That reminds me, there are a bunch of evil Mages serving the young Medusa. I don’t know what they are up to, but we should be careful,” Mo Fan said when he recalled what Apas told him.

“Why would anyone serve the demon creatures? Aren’t they worried they might be eaten!?” Sofia said.

“There are all kinds of maniacs in this world. I wonder if they know we have caught the young Medusa. We are in danger if they are still around,” Mo Fan murmured.

“The young Medusa feeds on little girls’ hearts to maintain her youth and beautiful appearance. Many cities have the same folk tales about it. I always thought it was something that the older generations had come up with to advise young girls not to go out alone, but it’s actually real... the worst thing is, it’s actually humans like us doing it!” Chad was enraged too.

Apas finished eating while the others were discussing the topic. She wiped her lips with the dirty sleeves on her clothes.

Heidi took pity on her. She took out some clean clothes from her Space Ring and gave them to Apas so she could change into them.

Apas changed into the fresh clothes with Heidi’s help, and also washed her face.

The girl who had looked like a little beggar immediately turned into a foreign little beauty with an outstanding appearance. She seemed to have the lineage of Greeks and the European countries to the north of the Aegean Sea; smooth olive skin, tall nose, and a small but good-looking mouth. Her facial features were very natural. She was surely going to be a great beauty that could easily make a man’s heart race in a few years!

It would be a waste if such a beauty was eaten by the young Medusa!

“By the way, Apas, do you remember what the people that kidnapped you looked like?” Mo Fan asked.

Apas shook her head. She said with a soft voice, “I only remember their outfits.”

“It feels like the Silver Snake Warriors have spread out,” Sofia said.

“Should we wait a little longer?” Galba said.

“We can’t afford to wait any longer. These snake demons are not complete idiots. They are going to realize that we’ve lured them away with the demon mice. We have to go now, and head to the place where we stumbled into the snake mountain. It’s a lot safer to return to Cairo City along that path,” Old Chad said.

“Got it, let’s set out at once.”

The others rose to their feet, no longer cowering in the corner. They fled in the direction of the long defensive ravine in front of Cairo City.

The direction they were planning to take had a lower density of demon creatures. Their chance of making it back to the city alive solely depended on whether the snake demons were going to find them or not!

Chapter 1540: Escorting Troop

The plan was a success. After the high-level Silver Snake Warriors were lured away by the demon mice, the rest of the low-level creatures had no chance of stopping the group of Advanced Mages from running away.

They made it out of the Sunset Valley soon afterwards. They were only forty kilometers away from reaching safety in Cairo City!

The outskirts of Cairo were crawling with scorpion demons. Their senses were extremely sharp, and since most of the areas were covered in sand, the high-level creatures were able to detect anyone walking on the sand. They had to travel on the Camel Beasts.

They had kept Camel Beasts on standby before they went to the Sunset Valley. Chad was very experienced. He had gathered the Camel Beasts in a pit under a sand dune and scattered some white salt across the area. The scorpion demons were not interested in the Camel Beasts, so when the group arrived, the Camel Beasts were still in the same spot.

It was tricky to settle a bunch of beasts down in the wild for a few days.

“Quick, we have to hurry; we’ll be safe once we reach the line of defense at the ravine!” Benz blurted out nervously.

Everyone mounted the Camel Beasts. These creatures were not as quick as the people had imagined. However, they could not afford to use their magic to speed up, as it would only bring them more trouble!

— —

After traveling ten kilometers, the group noticed irregular sand pits ahead. The ground had little arcs that seemed like waves rolling forward, but the irregular sandpits were like strange holes across the surface.

The sandpits were huge, the size of a lake, some them looking like pitch-black holes. They were mostly the works of the scorpion demons. These demon creatures were fond of destroying the layers of sand and soil. When a heavy creature walked past them, they would fall into the pits and suffer serious damage from them. Inside the pits were countless holes, from which thousands of little scorpions would appear and feast on the creature while it was struggling in pain. A creature that was five times bigger than the scorpion demons would only have a pile of bones left in under half a minute!

The sandpits that had already collapsed were not much of a threat, but the hidden pits concealed by a layer of thin sand were nothing but deadly traps!

“It’s fine for us to walk on the sand, but they are going to collapse if the Camel Beasts walk over the pits. You must all listen to me from here on. Falling into the pits won’t necessarily cost you your life, but it will slow us down! The scorpion demons are going to pursue us relentlessly too!” Chad told everyone. It was his third time explaining the same thing to them.

The hidden pits were quite terrifying, many Hunter squads had died to them. Chad was an old mercenary. He was able to tell where the hidden pits were, so his Camel Beast was leading the way, and the others followed the trail he blazed.

“Chad, we should be close to the ravine after crossing these pits, right?” Vani asked.

“Yes!” Chad nodded.

“Snake! Snake!” Sofia pointed to the side with a frightened look.

The scream gave the others a great fright. They immediately looked into the direction that Sofia was pointing to, but they only saw a long curled branch on the ground. It did resemble a black snake, yet even if she did see it wrong, an Advanced Mage like her had no reason to be scared of it.

“Sofia, what are you doing? It’s just a branch,” Ferrero said.

“I...I don’t know, I was scared all of a sudden!” Sofia let out a relieved sigh.

Mo Fan glanced at Sofia and said, “Maybe the effects of the Potion are running out?”

“The Curse of the Snake Eyes?” Zhao Manyan was startled.

“Wouldn’t the Curse attract every snake in the wild to us!?” Zoey blurted out.

“That doesn’t sound good!”

“Quick, get the young Medusa out, we need her Tear now!” Mo Fan said.

Zoey nodded, and Summoned the Man-Eating Flower.

The Man-Eating Flower burst out of the ground and slowly opened its enormous petals. The young Medusa was sleeping inside it, having only minor injuries.

They moved the young Medusa out from the plant. They all gasped when they saw the connection between her long tail and her feminine upper body. It was most of them’s first time observing a Medusa at such a close distance.

“How are we going to get her tears?” Zoey asked with a confused smile.

“I don’t know, either!” Chad looked at the others with a wry smile.

Everyone was lost all of a sudden. They wondered if they should wake the young Medusa up, but the creature was surely going to be lots of trouble as soon as she woke up. However, how were they supposed to get her tears if they did not wake her up?

No one knew how to get the young Medusa’s tears, nor had they heard about a demon creature that shed tears.

“We are wasting our time here!” Mu Bai snorted.

The effects of the Curse had worsened, and they had not reached safety yet!

The group was trying to figure out how to get their hands on a Tear of Medusa while heading toward the ravine. They did not wake the young Medusa up, since they were unsure if the young Medusa was able to alert the snake demons without them knowing.

—

“I...I think I saw someone ahead,” Vani said. He was leading the way at the front.

“We haven’t reached the safe zone yet. Why would there be anyone out in the wild?” Mo Fan asked with a confused look.

“They are in military outfits,” Vani said.

“They might be part of an escorting troop. The military will send out patrols out of the safe zone to eliminate the threats in the vicinity of the city, especially along the supply routes,” Chad blurted out in joy.

They were still quite a distance away from the safe zone. Cairo was currently taking a defensive stance, thus the army was holding their positions along the line of defense. The escorting troop was the only people that would come out of the city in a time like this.

Chad did not expect them to be so lucky to stumble into a troop that was out of the city to escort some supplies. They could return to the city safely by following the escorting troop.

“That’s great then, let’s go to them now!” Vani let out a relieved sigh.

Anyone would be overjoyed to stumble into humans instead of demon creatures in the wild. The effects of the Curse had not returned yet, nor were the snake demons currently on their trail. They should be able to reach Cairo safely!

—

The escort troop had quite a few people, numbering around two hundred Battlemages. The soldiers that were chosen to come out to the wild were mostly elites. Otherwise, if they only had numbers, it might end up attracting more demon creatures to them instead!

The two hundred Battlemages were heading toward them too. The two groups of people met eventually.

The troop was led by a man in a sandy white military outfit. His face was covered by a mask. Not only was the mask handy for blocking the sand, it could also protect the wearer from poisonous gas when soaked in some kind of chemical beforehand.

The Battlemages in white outfits also saw Vani and the others. They were being extremely cautious, and were immediately on alert.

“We are friendly, we are Hunters!” Vani quickly told the soldiers.

“Where did you come from?” someone among the Battlemages asked in Egyptian.

Old Chad quickly replied, “We are from New Suez, can you let us tag along?”

The soldier whispered to a Battlemage with disheveled hair and a thick beard beside him. After a while, the soldier lifted his gaze and said, "That's fine, but since we are escorting valuable resources, we aren't sure if you are bandits trying to rob us. Therefore, if you want to come with us, we'll have to Seal off your minds as a safety precaution."

"Well... we aren't weak either, we might be able to lend a hand if anything happens. I don't think it's necessary to seal off our minds?" Vani said uneasily.

"You don't have to worry if anything happens. My men will destroy anything that tries to stop us. We are soldiers on a mission. We must guarantee the safety of our goods. If you aren't willing to comply, feel free to go on your own," the soldier said.

"Let's listen to them; they are soldiers, they are clearly more experienced than Chad. It's a lot safer to stick with them," Sofia spoke up.

"I think it's better to go on our own," Mo Fan said with a worried look.

The troop was very strong; Mo Fan could tell just by sensing the auras each of the soldiers was emitting. However, if their minds were sealed off, they were no different than normal people. Mo Fan only had a sense of security when he had access to his magic.

"Do you think you are stronger than the army?" Ferrero said with a disdainful look.

"We are almost there anyways."

"Let's follow the army, the effects of the Curse will be back soon. If we don't make it back to the city and find a way to get the Tear of Medusa in time..." Heidi said.

"Alright," Mo Fan fell into deep thought. He noticed that he was the only person that was against the idea.

—

The group Sealed off their minds. A soldier inspected them and proceeded to cast Giant Shadow Spike on them to make sure their minds were Sealed completely.

"Captain Saks, we are good to go," the soldier said with a gesture.

—

"Big brother, what's going on?" Apas rubbed her eyes and asked.

It had been days since Apas was able to get some sleep. She had quickly fallen asleep on Mo Fan's back after eating some food. Mo Fan placed her on the Camel Beast. She must have woken up after the group stopped moving.

"We stumbled into a troop of Egyptian soldiers. We can follow them back to the city," Mo Fan told her.

"Oh... does that mean we are safe now?" Apas smiled. She raised her head to look at the soldiers that had brought her hope, but her smile froze immediately. Her eyes were gradually filled with terror!

Mo Fan saw Apas shivering in fear, and tensed.

“Big brother, the people that kidnapped us... they were wearing the same outfit as them!” Apas whispered in a trembling voice.