

Versatile 2441

Chapter 2441: Imperial Bodyguard Assigned by the Government

“Girl, why can’t we talk properly? Why did you have to greet me with powerful spells!?” The blond man was soaked in cold sweat.

Hua Yuezhu was surprised. She did not expect the hoodlums nowadays to know magic and be so good at it!

“Die!” Hua Yuezhu did not stop attacking despite her surprise. If an Advanced Spell was not going to do the job, she would use a Super Spell, then!

Zhao Manyan was initially pleased with himself, but his jaw almost fell onto the carpet when he saw a brilliant Star Palace taking shape beside the woman.

What did I even do to her?

“Yuezhu, what are you doing!?” The door swung open behind her, and a tanned face poked out.

“General, this pervert dares to take liberties with a soldier! I have the right to execute him on the spot!” Hua Yuezhu exclaimed.

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“Do you think we are still in Beijiang? Not only is your Super Spell going to kill him, it will kill everyone in this building too!” Zhang Xiaohou shouted at her.

Hua Yuezhu did not dare disobey her superior. She canceled the Super Fire Spell, but her chest was heaving with rage, like it was about to burst open.

Zhao Manyan was stunned. Were the prostitutes all Super Mages nowadays?

“Huh? Brother Zhao?” Zhang Xiaohou instantly recognized the man from his eye-catching blond hair and handsome face.

“Zhang Xiaohou!” Zhao Manyan recognized the tanned face too.

(Cough cough!) “Brother Zhao, you never change do you?” Zhang Xiaohou looked at Hua Yuezhu before looking at Zhao Manyan. He immediately realized what had just happened.

“She...” Zhao Manyan pointed at the fierce woman.

“My imperial bodyguard, Hua Yuezhu,” Zhang Xiaohou smiled, and invited Zhao Manyan into his room.

“Goddamn! You’re doing fine! Does our country assign generals such heroic and dashing female bodyguards? I’m joining the army!” Zhao Manyan was so jealous that his drool was about to pour out of his mouth.

Hua Yuezhu's skin was not as pale as the women living in the city, but her bearing was too unique!

Zhao Manyan remembered Nanyu being a relatively gorgeous soldier, but her beauty was more on the neutral side. Hua Yuezhu might have had an imperious bearing, but it did not affect her charm as a woman. She was taller than many men, too! Not only would it not destroy men's self-esteem, it would wake up their desire to conquer her.

Zhao Manyan was not the kind to ask every woman he saw on the street to name their price. He had extremely high standards, indicating Hua Yuezhu was a true beauty. Her beauty did not come from the luxurious cosmetics available in a city. She was more like an unyielding flower blossoming in the middle of the wild!

"Yuezhu, he's my brother. He was just joking with you. Don't mind it," Zhang Xiaohou told her.

"Humph!" Hua Yuezhu did not believe it was a joke, and left with her chin in the air.

Zhao Manyan felt awkward. Was his eyesight getting worse, or was he driven by the sperm in his brain?

"Why didn't you tell us you were in Shanghai?" Zhao Manyan asked him.

"We are only stopping by for two days. We have to leave for our next mission soon, so I was thinking of finding you guys next time. I didn't expect us to meet here!" Zhang Xiaohou was very excited.

After they had parted ways in the Qinling Mountains, Zhang Xiaohou had been sent to Beijiang. His phone reception in Beijiang was not great, and he had not contacted Mo Fan for a long time.

"Mo Fan even mentioned you to me not long ago," Zhao Manyan patted Zhang Xiaohou's shoulder.

"It sounds like Brother Fan has missed me." Zhang Xiaohou was ashamed. He had not told Mo Fan how he was doing after he went to Beijiang because of the poor phone service there.

"Yeah, he said that we might hear about your death one day after we woke up. He told me to retrieve your remains if I received the news."

The feeling of shame in Zhang Xiaohou's heart vanished.

Beijiang was indeed more dangerous than Qinling Mountains.

Zhang Xiaohou had volunteered to go to Beijiang after eliminating the threat from the Qinling Mountains. He was literally associating with demon creatures and sleeping with them. It was a miracle he had survived his term there!

Mo Fan was not necessarily wrong to say that.

"Are you still a Major General, or a full General now?" Zhao Manyan asked curiously after he recalled Hua Yuezhu's words.

"Beijiang's General was slain by a Ruler Hound that had trespassed into the safe zone. I was the acting General for some time. They officially promoted me to a full General after I killed the Hound," Zhang Xiaohou confirmed.

“Does that mean you have eliminated the threats from both the Qinling Mountains and Beijiang?” Zhao Manyan knew a lot of confidential information, and was familiar with the troubles the military was having. Zhang Xiaohou had relieved some huge pressure from the military’s back by maintaining security at the two infamous places.

“Hehe!” Zhang Xiaohou laughed.

“Impressive! You sure deserve to have an imperial bodyguard like her.”

“Brother Zhao, you should stop having weird thoughts. Hua Yuezhu is the daughter of a famous general. She’s not necessarily weaker than me, she just lacks experience and achievements. She has a lot more potential than me. She’s only been assigned to me so she can climb the ranks quicker,” Zhang Xiaohou said humbly.

“Then you have even more reason to take her down. Oh, I got carried away from talking to you. Come with me, Mo Fan and Mu Bai are up on the rooftop!” Zhao Manyan told him.

“Did they invest in stocks?”

“What are you talking about? They are drinking on the rooftop. The air is fresher there for us to enjoy our drinks. Don’t tell me you can’t drink because you are leaving for a mission soon?” Zhao Manyan asked.

“It’s fine, we are here to buy some tamed beasts and rest for a few days.”

“Oh? Is the military interested in the dragon beasts?” Zhao Manyan raised his brows.

Zhang Xiaohou shook his head.

Heavenly Eagles were the standard tamed beasts for China’s military. The system of breeding Heavenly Eagles was mature. Only those at Zhang Xiaohou’s rank needed a higher-level tamed beast, as the Heavenly Eagles were no longer useful for them.

“I heard several rich countries in the Middle Eastern have already ordered the dragon beasts in huge quantities. The supply isn’t going to meet the demand,” Zhao Manyan told him.

“Brother Zhao, is Brother Fan interested in the dragon beasts, too?”

“We are just looking around. I might consider bidding if they have a nice Inferior Dragon. As for Mo Fan, he used to fancy the thought of having a dragon as a mount, but he hasn’t been that interested lately. He only came to broaden his knowledge,” Zhao Manyan answered.

The two had reached the rooftop while they were talking.

The area was open. There was a bar on one side, closer to other buildings. The other side was closer to the sea and had plenty of seats. It was relaxing to have a few drinks while enjoying the sea breeze.

However, Mo Fan and Zhao Manyan had always been free and unconstrained.

They were suddenly in the mood to have a barbecue, so they moved the wooden chairs to the beach and set up a barbecue stand. The smoke had filled the bar, and the number of people had dropped significantly. It was now more like a barbecue stall beside the road.

“Look who I brought!” Zhao Manyan called out.

Mo Fan was fanning the charcoal with a flyer promoting the dragon beasts.. His mouth dropped wide enough to fit a whole chicken wing when he saw Zhang Xiaohou.

Chapter 2442: Selling Dragons

“Brother Fan, aren’t you a Fire Mage? Why are you going through so much trouble to start a fire?” Zhang Xiaohou laughed.

“Don’t you know that the fish you catch yourself always taste more delicious? Otherwise, why wouldn’t I just buy them from the market?” Mo Fan explained.

Zhao Manyan suddenly put on a deep grin and added, “I like eating fish, too. I usually fish myself, but I occasionally buy from the market because it offers a lot more options!”

“Is that why you always hook up with prostitutes?” Mu Bai mocked him.

“Shut up, you don’t even know what a fish tastes like. Why are you acting so proud?” Zhao Manyan retorted.

Zhang Xiaohou chuckled, as Mu Bai was not wrong. Zhao Manyan had asked his imperial bodyguard to name a price not long ago!

“Stop arguing, have a taste of the chicken wings. It’s my secret recipe!” Mo Fan served everyone two chicken wings. The four of them immediately feasted on them.

Their lips were covered in oil. It did not matter if the hot chicken wings had burned their tongues, as they just had to take a sip of their cold beer. Words could not describe how satisfying it was.

It was getting late, but the fire on the beach was burning even brighter.

The four had a lot of drinks, lying on the sand instead of going back to their rooms. They all eventually fell asleep.

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The sunlight sprinkled on the beach early in the morning and painted the calm surface of the sea with a hint of scorching red. The whole sea was soon blazing red, with waves rolling across its surface.

The four hungover men crawled to their feet and went back into the hotel to have breakfast.

The exhibition was happening at eight. They had almost overslept!

Luckily, the exhibition had just begun by the time they reached the venue.

Mo Fan initially did not have much interest in the dragon beasts, mainly because he was too poor to afford them.

However, he had already sold the booty the little cub had offered to him, and had received the full sum while he was drinking last night. He now had some funds to bid for a dragon beast that pleased his eyes.

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“Ladies and gentlemen, we are now showing you a Groundfang Dragon!

“Even though it’s only a Pseudo-dragon, its body is covered in sturdy bone armor. Its bones are as strong as an Inferior Dragon! It does not know any magic, but it’s an adept fighter. It’s the perfect beast for charging into enemy lines and fighting in close combat.”

The Groundfang Dragon had a fierce appearance. Sharp bony spikes covered it from its horns to its tail. The Pseudo-dragon could easily crush any Commander-level creatures!

Many of the Mages who were present would have no trouble defeating the Groundfang Dragon, but it was extremely difficult to tame it so it would take orders from a human, especially after it was sold to a buyer.

Taming demon creatures had always been the specialty of Psychic Mages!

“What do you think?” Zhao Manyan asked Mo Fan.

Mo Fan shook his head. The Groundfang Dragon seemed to be a powerful creature, but he didn’t think it could withstand a single Lightning Spell from him.

Even if he only used it as a mount to travel long distances and pursue an enemy, he did not think he would feel comfortable while riding it.

Zhang Xiaohou shook his head as well. He would be disappointed if the exhibition was only auctioning Pseudo-dragons.

He was more concerned about the mobility of the dragon beasts. The Groundfang Dragon could not fly!

“The Groundfang Dragon is unstoppable if it’s used as the vanguard of an army...” Hua Yuezhu mentioned for them.

As she had expected, many factions were interested in the Groundfang Dragon. They ended up submitting some huge orders for it.

The exhibition was not selling the dragons in small numbers, but in bulk. The buyers could even reserve the amount they wanted every year!

For example, a renowned clan in the north bought thirty of the Groundfang Dragons in stock, and it had ordered another thirty Groundfang Dragons for next year!

The dragon taming clans in England were supplying dragons in huge numbers. Their dragon taming skills were worth more than gold and silver mines!

“This is the Triumphant Eagle Dragon.

“It’s Tamed Level has reached six stars. Not only has it inherited the powerful wings of the dragons, it has also inherited the bravery of the eagle species.”

The Triumphant Eagle Dragon had an eagle's crest instead of draconic horns. Its claws were similar to those of demon eagles, but its chest, back, and wings resembled a Western dragon.

It was also a Pseudo-dragon, but the soldiers with Zhang Xiaohou opened their eyes wide.

"Six stars? Isn't that the same level as our Heavenly Eagles?" the middle-aged imperial bodyguard escort to Zhang Xiaohou asked.

"How did the English do it? How are they able to tame these creatures with a draconic lineage?"

The stronger the lineage of a demon creature, the harder it was to tame them!

Western dragons were the hardest creatures to tame, being naturally aloof and fierce. The real dragons saw themselves as superior to humans. The crossbreeds that had inherited a dragons' lineage would also inherit the dragons' unruliness and disdain toward other species.

"General, that Triumphant Eagle Dragon is a lot stronger than our Heavenly Eagles. Should we make an order?"

"Let's wait for now," Zhang Xiaohou demurred.

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"The next one is the highlight of our exhibition. Have a look!"

The crowd immediately focused their attention on the stage.

The attendees thought the tamed beasts would be tied in magic chains as a safety precaution. However, the dragon that appeared next did not have any chains on it. Its saliva was even dripping from its exposed fangs. The guests in the front row almost fainted in shock!

The creature was the size of a small hill. Its scales were like well-refined armor plates, expanding and contracting as the creature was moving. The sturdy scales did not hinder its movements at all.

Its wings were wrapped in draconic skin, its visible bones brimming with power. The wings attached to the creature's back were also connected to its front claws!

Its lower limbs were thick, like the limbs of a huge lizard, but their bright scales made them look more impressive than the rough skin of a clumsy and ugly reptile.

The audience held their breaths as the creature was brought onto the stage.

Was that just a dragon beast? It was more like a real dragon!

Its body, wings, claws, and scales were similar to those of a drake. Most importantly, its imperious Aura made it feel like the owner of the exhibition, instead of just a tamed beast that was being displayed!

"Holy crap, is Ayleen's clan selling drakes now?" Zhao Manyan exclaimed.

The creature was a lot smaller than a drake, but it had clearly exceeded the level of a Pseudo-dragon. It was a lot closer to the level of a true drake than most Inferior Dragons!

Chapter 2443: Can't Afford

"This is a Flying Dragon. Its Tamed Level is six stars too, so there's no need to be afraid of it. It's even more obedient than some of the Summoned Beasts.

"Of course, it might be stronger than some Contracted Beasts when it fights. It's the greatest work of the master of England's dragon taming clans!

"The Flying Dragon is going to make history once we reveal it to the world!

The emcee did not reveal the details of the Flying Dragon's strength, physical attributes, defense, and fighting capacity. The people just needed to know it was a tamed Flying Dragon!

The Flying Dragon would be a hot-seller if it was to be offered for a Contracted Beast, but it was currently being sold as a tamed beast. It had overturned everyone's understanding of the tamed beasts!

Tamed beasts could establish a master-servant relationship with anyone, allowing Mages who were not Summoners to control them. In other words, anyone could take the Flying Dragon and ride it, just as long as they could afford it!

Even a Summoner had difficulties making a dragon-blood a Contracted Beast. If Mages who were not Summoners had a chance to own a Flying Dragon, it would have a huge impact on the Summoning Element, and the whole field of magic!

"The world is about to change. Ayleen's clan is going to evolve into a dragon clan and rule over the world!" Zhao Manyan exclaimed.

Mo Fan took a deep breath too.

He remembered when he was still at the Aorus Sacred Institute, and a student had asked Sharjah why she was interested in Mo Fan's Theory of Combination Magic.

If Combination Magic was put into practice and became common, it would allow mankind to take a huge leap forward. Combination Magic would significantly increase the average strength of human Mages by giving their magic more flexibility.

Perhaps Mages would be able to modify their magic when they were only at the Basic and Intermediate Levels. Their spells would be more modular!

Similarly, the ability to tame dragons would give all Mages a chance to own a dragon!

Having a mount was no longer exclusive to Summoners. Anyone could now have a powerful creature as their mount, to protect them and fly everywhere they wanted. Would they have trouble destroying the demon creatures' kingdoms once they had enough tamed dragon beasts?

A man in a Chinese military outfit stood up and asked, "Is it just a prototype, or can we really buy the dragons now? Can you guarantee you can meet our demands if we place orders for the Flying Dragons?"

The man was most likely from a different division. He had to be highly ranked, too!

"If you are the highest bidder, the Flying Dragon is yours once you contract as its master with your blood. We will also disclose the price of the Flying Dragons soon and accept preorders across the world," the representative of the Bai Clan replied with a confident smile.

"Can you guarantee you will have the supply for all the orders?"

"As long as you can afford the price, we will deliver the goods within a promised period. The quantities are of course limited, but the Duchess ensured she has more than just a few Flying Dragons, and her clan will provide a certain number of Flying Dragons for the powerful factions around the world every year!"

"Unbelievable!"

The Bai Clan brought everyone to an open patio close to the ocean to showcase the Flying Dragon's strength. A few Super Mages volunteered to challenge the Flying Dragon.

After a few rounds, the guests were convinced that the Flying Dragon's strength was on par with an adult Inferior Dragon. It would be extremely useful when fighting against certain Ruler-level creatures.

Its ability to fly made it an absolute king of the sky, but most importantly, its scales had inherited the greatest ability of the dragons, immunity to magic!

The Flying Dragon was immune to all Elemental Spells below the Super Level!

It was a crazy ability. It meant the Flying Dragon could ignore the spells of a regiment of a thousand soldiers. The Flying Dragon would have been a nightmare to both the Wind Fleet Warships of the Brown Rebels or the Federation Army's Cross Chaos Formation if it had appeared in the battles in the Andes Mountain Range!

Everyone thought the Flying Dragon was the finale of the exhibition. Countless factions would be bidding insane amounts of money to buy a single Flying Dragon!

To everyone's astonishment, the host of the exhibition had provided seven Flying Dragons in total!

The first Flying Dragon was bought by the officer who had been the first to voice his concerns.

The second Flying Dragon went to to a core member of the Mu Clan.

The third and fourth were secured by the Zhao Clan.

Only three Flying Dragons were left. Hua Yuezhu clenched her teeth and bought one of them.

Zhang Xiaohou was a little hesitant because the price had been raised too high, but Hua Yuezhu insisted on bidding for it.

Mo Fan tried bidding for the sixth Flying Dragon, but he eventually gave up when he checked the balance in his account.

These people were too crazy, raising the prices as if they had robbed banks ahead of time. Each bid went up by at least a hundred million. Mo Fan would rather travel on foot or ask someone with magical Wings to give him a convenient ride!

“Only the last one left. Should we try and get it?” Zhao Manyan asked.

“We might be able to if we combine our money,” Mu Bai said with a wry smile.

These Flying Dragons were priceless. Zhao Manyan knew he had no chance of awakening the Summoning Element. He believed it was necessary to secure himself a suitable mount.

Unfortunately, Zhao Youqian had taken all his possessions, or he might have dared to bid for all seven of the Flying Dragons!

“I can consider it if we want to combine our money to buy it. After all, it has plenty of space to carry the three of us,” Mo Fan nodded.

“Mo Fan, aren’t you close with Ayleen? These dragons are imported from England and the Bai Clan is their dealer. There must be a lot of taxes involved. Why don’t we ask Ayleen and buy one from her ‘factory’? Surely it’s a lot cheaper,” Zhao Manyan proposed.

Mo Fan scratched his head.

If he had known Ayleen had such a formidable background, he would have fawned upon her more when he had the chance!

He might be close with Ayleen, but they were not close enough for Ayleen to sell the dragons at a crazily cheap price. The cost of taming these dragons had to be extremely high.

“Xinxia is closer to her. I’ll ask Xinxia to ask on our behalf,” Mo Fan offered.

“Zhang Xiaohou is richer than us. He bought the dragon right away,” Mu Bai reported.

Mu Bai had only finished the sentence when he heard Hua Yuezhu ask, “General, are we taking all the Triumphant Eagle Dragons, too?”

“Mm, all of them.”

“...”

Mo Fan, Zhao Manyan, and Mu Bai’s expressions complicated further.

In the end, working on their own had led them to live poor lives, while serving the country would give them riches that would last for their entire lives!

Only a setting that needed a lot of money like this would show who was the real povo!

“Say, how much do you think a Totem Beast would be worth? If we kidnap the Moon Moth Phoenix, can we get ourselves a nest of Flying Dragons?” Zhao Manyan wondered aloud.

Chapter 2444: Do You Want This?

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Mo Fan would have been lying if he said he was not interested after seeing the exhibition, but the Flying Dragons were too expensive.

Not everyone's family owned a gold mine and could afford to buy the Flying Dragons!

Zhao Manyan was obsessed with the dragons. He kept asking Mo Fan to contact Ayleen or Xinxia.

Mu Bai was also interested in the Flying Dragons.

Mu Bai was not a Summoner, but he was raising insects. Zhao Manyan had seen Mu Bai Summoning a creature that looked like a dragon. If he could mix a dragon's lineage into the creature, its strength would increase significantly!

"Look, Zhang Xiaohou now has a Flying Dragon, while his men have the Triumphant Eagle Dragons. How cool will they look when they are flying on their mounts!?" Zhao Manyan said jealously.

"Are you really that obsessed with dragons?" Mo Fan asked him.

"Of course, women, cars, tamed dragons... I like everything that I can ride on, especially the luxurious ones!" Zhao Manyan exclaimed.

"..." Mo Fan sighed. "I'll make a call. Mm, I think she is still up at this time."

Mo Fan counted the time difference with his fingers. Xinxia should be preparing for bed now. If he called at a different time, he would most likely reach the old woman Tata instead.

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"Xinxia."

"Brother Mo Fan," Xinxia always sounded energetic, but she sounded a little bitter this time.

Mo Fan had an awkward face.

He had just seen the logs on his phone. He had not called Xinxia for a long time. It sounded like Xinxia was about to turn into a resentful wife!

Mo Fan was not the kind who enjoyed long phone calls. He would visit Greece if he really missed Xinxia. He found a quiet corner to comfort Xinxia first.

The call went on for half an hour. Zhao Manyan came three times to check on him. He was starting to run out of patience.

"Enough chitchat, hurry up and tell her about the Flying Dragons!" Zhao Manyan yelled.

Xinxia heard Zhao Manyan's outburst on the other end.

Mo Fan sighed and finally told her about the exhibition.

The exhibition was clearly going to influence the whole world greatly. Mo Fan was still struggling to believe it. How had they obtained so many Flying Dragons and tamed them to be as obedient as the Heavenly Eagles?

The difference between the Flying Dragons and the Heavenly Eagles was quite vast. The Flying Dragons had a proud lineage, and it was extremely difficult to make them Contracted Beasts. How did they possibly tame the dragons with the Psychic Element?

The Black Vatican was powerful because they had mastered Cursed magic to control the Dark Beast Monsters, allowing everyone who joined the Black Vatican to become a Mage. Every member would be given a Dark Beast Monster to help them with their evil deeds.

However, the Dark Beast Monsters were incomparable to the Flying Dragons.

There were also the crossbreeds and Pseudo-dragons, too! Would the militaries across the world abandon their unique tamed beasts and make every soldier a dragon rider?

“Brother Mo Fan, if you really want a mount, the Parthenon Temple has a Half-Blood Crimson Dragon. Its Tamed Level has already reached four stars. Do you want me to send it to you after its Tamed Level reaches five stars?” Xinxia offered to him.

Mo Fan opened his mouth wide, having trouble thinking.

Why did he feel like a gigolo?

“What level is the dragon?” he asked despite himself.

“It’s a Drake,” Xinxia informed him.

Mo Fan coughed in shock. “Does the name Half-Blood Crimson Dragon mean it has half the lineage of a Crimson Drake? Is it stronger than a Flying Dragon?” he had to ask.

“Mm, half of its lineage is Drake, and the other half is Inferior Dragon. It’s in the Lesser Ruler Level now, but its Tamed Level isn’t that high,” Xinxia flipped through a file to confirm the information.

The Tamed Levels of a beast had a max of seven stars.

A Tamed Level of five stars was the lowest requirement for a Tamed Beast, but it was not allowed to come into cities. A Five-Star Tamed Beast might rebel or attack people if it was frightened.

Six stars was the safest level for a Tamed Beast. The Heavenly Eagles had a Tamed Level of six stars.

The revolt of the Heavenly Eagles in Hangzhou was a special case, and unprecedented.

Six stars was the international standard for a Tamed Beast. Such Tamed Beasts were allowed to enter a city after requesting certain permissions.

Seven stars usually referred to a Summoner’s beasts. Those Summoned Beasts were summoned with Dimensional Summoning, like Mo Fan’s old wolf. The Summoners had full control over them.

Contracted Beasts did not have a Tamed Level, as they were one with the Summoners. Their problems were their Summoner’s problems.

Six stars was already perfect for a Tamed Beast. People rarely went for seven stars.

Five stars was a qualified tamed beast. Four stars meant they would not take orders from humans. Three stars did not take the initiative to attack humans.

As for one and two stars, they were only pacified and could regain their savage nature at any time.

The Half-Blood Crimson Dragon was only four stars, meaning that its master had to expect the creature would simply ignore him.

“Brother Mo Fan, if you want, I can tame it for you, but I’ll need some time,” Xinxia went on.

Xinxia was indeed a Psychic Mage. She had to make sure nothing went wrong, thus she would tame the Half-Blood Crimson Dragon herself.

The Half-Blood Crimson Dragon was almost a direct descendant of a drake, so it had to be proud and aloof. Even the Great Muses of the Parthenon Temple would struggle to tame a creature to five stars. Xinxia would have to rely on the Soul of the Parthenon Temple to tame the Half-Blood Crimson Dragon.

“Forget it, you already don’t have enough time to rest,” Mo Fan shook his head.

He did not want Xinxia to waste her effort on a creature he was only going to use as a mount, not to mention Xinxia would have to use the Soul of the Parthenon Temple.

Xinxia had already given up her heart to bring Little Flame Belle back to life, and now shared a heart with Little Flame Belle. Mo Fan immediately turned down the offer when he heard she had to use the Soul of the Parthenon Temple.

It did not make sense to let her wife sell her blood for money just so he could drive a BMW!

“What about the Radiance Unicorn? Do you want that? Dragons aren’t the friendliest creatures. The Parthenon Temple’s Radiance Unicorn isn’t any weaker than dragons!” Xinxia asked him.

“Radiance Unicorns?” Mo Fan had never heard of the creature before, but Zhao Manyan and Mu Bai’s lips were twitching.

The Radiance Unicorns! They were the most sacred beasts in Europe. Most clans could not secure one, even if they spent all their fortunes!

Having a gold mine was no longer enough. They would have to own a country!

Speaking of which, the Parthenon Temple was one of the top three factions when it came to taming beasts. Why did they have to ask Ayleen?

“What about the Apollo Divine Bird?”

“...” Mo Fan didn’t know what to say.

“You don’t like that? What about the Lion Scorpion King?”

“...” Mo Fan still couldn’t say anything.

“I just took a quick look. We also have the Silver Moon Tyrant Titan, Five-Colored Zeus Peafowl, Poseidon Nine-Headed Snake, Shadow Unicorn, Athena Dragon Deer, and Quartz Wing Tiger...

“Brother Mo Fan, why aren’t you saying anything? Do you not like them?”

“I should ask Ayleen then. I guess all men like dragons!”

Luckily, Mo Fan did not repeat the names of the creatures, or Zhao Manyan and Mu Bai would have been foaming at the mouth right now...

Chapter 2445: Leading Dragon Beasts

Mo Fan believed it was fine being a gigolo at times. He just had to pick a random creature and ride it. No one would dare to look at him provokingly!

“Brother Mo Fan, I’ll think of a way,” Xinxia told him.

“No, it’s fine, the three of us are only looking for mounts. The Flying Dragon suits us best. We can switch to a stronger mount once we are stronger,” Mo Fan said quickly.

Tamed Beasts were not as reliable as Summoned Beasts. Even a Five-Star Tamed Beast might revolt if their master was not significantly stronger than them.

The stronger a Tamed Beast, the higher its intelligence. The chains binding their hearts would loosen up gradually as they spent more time with their master. They would eventually betray their master and escape one day.

Tamed Beasts could also not be stored in another dimension like Summoned Beasts and Contracted Beasts could, and they were not allowed in the cities if their levels were too high. If Mo Fan received a Five-Star Tamed Beast from Xinxia, he would have nowhere to keep it!

It would be easier if it was a Six-Star Tamed Beast, which he could just keep at Fanxue Mountain. He would have to live in the mountains away from the cities if he had a Five-Star Tamed Beast!

“Mm, it’s important to reach a Tamed Level of six stars,” Xinxia agreed on the phone.

It was important for a Tamed Beast to be obedient. The Parthenon Temple had few outstanding Six-Star Tamed Beasts. The Radiance Unicorns were the only Six-Star Tamed Beasts it had at present.

Unfortunately, the Radiance Unicorns were only willing to be mounts to those with the unique Blessing Aura of the Parthenon Temple’s Muses. Ordinary people had difficulties approaching Radiance Unicorns.

Xinxia had one to ride. Mo Fan had tried touching it, but the creature had regarded him with disdain.

Zhao Manyan quickly asked about the outcome after Mo Fan hung up the call.

It was inconvenient not having a reliable mount after reaching the Super Level. Mo Fan might be a Summoner, but the old wolf was from a different dimension. He was not on standby twenty-four hours a day. He had his own battles to fight in the Summoned Beast Plane.

Besides, the old wolf was more of a fighter. He was not good at rapid travel over land and water. He also lacked endurance compared to Tamed Beasts who were specifically trained to be mounts.

Mo Fan was starting to regret using his second Contract on Apas!

Not only was he unable to ride her, she kept playing mind games with him and only knew to act coquettishly around him. All his problems would be solved if he had a strong and reliable Contracted Beast instead!

“Ayleen invited us to her place,” Mo Fan relayed to them.

“Huh? Are we going overseas again? I haven’t even enjoyed myself after coming back,” Zhao Manyan half-prottested.

“I’m a Summoner, so I don’t really need a Tamed Beast. If anything, I can just find a flying creature with my Dimensional Summoning to make up for it,” Mo Fan said indifferently.

“Damn it, what do you mean? Fine, we’ll go! It’s just a renowned clan in England who’s even richer than my family! Do you think I’m scared of them?!” Zhao Manyan was desperate to get his hands on a Flying Dragon.

Mu Bai was more interested in the technology Ayleen’s clan had used to tame the Flying Dragons. He knew the technology would be confidential, but he might learn something when they visited Ayleen and in doing so expand his knowledge on raising his insects.

“I feel like Ayleen will need a favor from us,” Mo Fan commented.

“Well, we don’t have the money to afford the Flying Dragons, so we can only work for them. It’s nothing,” Zhao Manyan had to agree.

“Does that mean we might get ourselves a Flying Dragon each?” Mu Bai’s eyes glittered.

“She said she has another species that is better than the Flying Dragons that are being sold on the market...”

Zhao Manyan and Mu Bai immediately became more energetic.

“By the way, the government has canceled a lot of flights. We won’t be able to leave the country easily,” Mu Bai said after recalling the latest news.

“We’ll just ask Ayleen to arrange a private jet for us. Besides, we no longer have to worry about that once we have the Flying Dragons. We can fly wherever we want and visit any country!” Zhao Manyan exclaimed enthusiastically.

Ayleen was a true heroine. She immediately made the arrangements when she heard about the strict restrictions on international flights.

A Flying Dragon landed on a helipad at Fangxue Mountain the next morning. A middle-aged man in a butler's outfit was waiting for them.

"Are you three Duchess Ayleen's honorable guests?" the butler asked with a smile.

"Ugh... this private jet isn't bad, either!" Mo Fan had to admit.

"Come, let's pay England a visit!"

"We'll be crossing a few infamous mountain ranges, so the journey might be a little dangerous, but don't you worry, the Flying Dragon's presence will stop ordinary demon creatures from troubling us," the butler informed them.

"Sure, let's go!"

The land was spreading before them like a giant painting. Some gray-blue areas were occasionally visible meandering to the east.

Thick white clouds like a sea of bubbles were floating under them. It felt like they could just walk on the clouds while the bright sunlight was shining on them from above.

The air was slightly chilly, but it was fresh and clean compared to the air below the clouds.

The Flying Dragons were able to fly above the clouds. Even though they were covered in sturdy scales, their scales were almost combined with their skin. The strong cold wind could not inflict any damage on their skin, making it useful when flying at great altitude. They could also avoid the brainless demon creatures and prevent unwanted troubles.

"General Zhang, these dragon beasts are so much better than our Heavenly Eagles. The Heavenly Eagles have to rest and eat after flying for two to three hours. It was a waste of time and effort just to find a safe landing spot, but now, we can fly for a whole day after buying these Flying Dragons. We will arrive at our destination soon!" Advisor Tan Feng spoke up.

"Isn't that right? A bunch of Predator Demon Hawks just flew right past us. I was ready for a fight, but they ran away as soon as they saw the dragon beasts. It feels good to have green lights throughout the journey!" a soldier exclaimed excitedly.

"General Zhang, why are you so quiet?" another soldier asked.

Zhang Xiaohou collected his thoughts and looked behind him.

Even though the Triumphant Eagle Dragons were only Pseudo-dragons, they were covered in sturdy scales and had powerful eagle's claws. They were strong enough to lift an armored Commander-level creature a thousand meters into the sky!

The soldiers behind him were each riding a Triumphant Eagle Dragon. It was impressive when over fifty Triumphant Eagle Dragons were beating their wings and flying in pattern.

Zhang Xiaohou was quiet because he was recalling the dream he had a long time ago.

When he had first joined the army, his greatest dream was to become an officer, even if it was only the lowest rank. He just wanted to have a Heavenly Eagle as his mount!

He formed the dream when he saw Zhan Kong and his men leaving on their Heavenly Eagles to hunt the Darkwing Wolf.

But now, he was riding Flying Dragons and dragon beasts!

He was riding a Flying Dragon and leading his men on their dragon beasts!

Chapter 2446: The Bohai Dragon King

The terrain of northern China largely consisted of vast valleys. Zhang Xiaohou and his men were flying to the north along the coastline of the East China Sea. A meandering black line of mountain ranges was splitting the boundless land and the majestic sea apart.

White waves were splashing on the cliffs between the land and the sea. The waves gradually dissipated in ripples at the gentler spots, but rose over seven meters high at the stormier locations.

“The coastline is extending further to the east,” Hua Yuezhu pointed out.

“It means we are close to the Bohai Sea. We will soon arrive at Qinhuangdao.”

The dragon beasts had only stopped for a rest once between the journey from the Magic City to Qinhuangdao located to the north of Bohai Sea. Their endurance was significantly better than the Heavenly Eagles.

If their country had a dragon tamer clan like England, the whole military could turn over a new leaf!

“I can see the towns and villages. It’s strange how they still haven’t built dams along the coastline. I can still see people living there. Aren’t they afraid of the sea monsters?” a scout asked, puzzled by what he was seeing.

“The south is prone to typhoons, huge storms, and even tsunamis throughout summer. Most of the sea monsters have gathered in the East China Sea. The Bohai Sea is much less dangerous in comparison,” Tan Feng told him.

“But it’s still too dangerous. The coastlines across the world are currently under Orange Alert. Certain countries have even placed their coastlines under Blue or Red Alerts.

“Human territory is shrinking rapidly, and our agriculture is heavily impacted. Once the Headquarters Cities are finished, each of them will have tens of million people. What are we going to eat without land to plant food?” Tan Feng asked rhetorically.

The situation was looking grim for the country. The truth was, whenever the condition of the sea roughened, the sea harvest for the whole country would diminish. Every place would start running short on food, let alone when farmlands were also abandoned.

Therefore, certain agricultural areas were not evacuated, in order to stock up on as much food as possible.

—

“What’s down there?” Zhang Xiaohou asked.

“That should be Luning County. It mainly supplies seafood to the whole country. It’s managed by a conglomerate,” Tan Feng told his boss. He had done some research before coming here. He was quite familiar with Qinhuangdao.

“I wonder if it was my imagination,” Zhang Xiaohou murmured.

“What did you see?” Hua Yuezhu asked quickly.

Zhang Xiaohou pointed at a misty area close to the sea and said, “I thought I saw a residential building facing the sea over there. It was the wide and long kind, but...”

Zhang Xiaohou purposely ordered the Flying Dragon to reduce its altitude so he could take a closer look.

The buildings were like small building blocks from so high above. The streets were like tiny lines crossing paths with one another, so Zhang Xiaohou wondered if he was imagining things.

The Flying Dragon started descending from the sky. It held its wings straight and glided down. It was perfectly stable despite the strong air resistance.

“I think the building collapsed. There’s only debris left. Perhaps an Earth Mage has demolished it?” Tan Feng ventured.

“This area is currently under Orange Alert. Even if the buildings are abandoned, they are advantageous platforms for the Mages to fight sea monsters on. Why would they bother wasting their time and effort demolishing the buildings?” Hua Yuezhu spoke up, concerned by the fact.

Zhang Xiaohou shared the same thought. Every building close to the sea was a useful assembling spot for the Mages when they were fending off the sea monsters.

“General, look!” The head scout pointed in another direction.

It was some old gray buildings, but there were still clothes being dried on the balconies. The buildings were obviously occupied.

From their angle, they could see people, who looked like tiny sand particles from this height, running into the open outside the building.

The people were escaping from the building. It looked like they were moving very slowly because Zhang Xiaohou and his men were watching from such a great altitude.

The buildings started collapsing as huge clouds of dust were swept into the air. The buildings in the whole area had collapsed in just several minutes!

The buildings did not break or crumble, but the floors, walls, and pillars had all turned into powder. The dust being swept into the air looked like a giant ball from above.

“Is there an attack!?” Hua Yuezhu immediately exclaimed in alarm.

The buildings clearly did not collapse because they were being demolished. There were residents still fleeing from the buildings.

To their relief, the buildings had turned into powder as they were collapsing. Otherwise, the falling debris would have resulted in great casualties.

“Captain Tian, go check it out,” Zhang Xiaohou ordered.

“Affirmative!”

The head scout dove down with his Triumphant Eagle Dragon, leaving a spectacular spiraling flow of air along its trail.

—

The head scout returned after some time. He saluted and said, “General, I didn’t discover any demon creatures.”

Zhang Xiaohou was constantly observing the ground and the area. He also had not picked up any presence of sea monsters.

“What did the people say?” Hua Yuezhu asked sharply.

Tan Feng immediately glared at Hua Yuezhu. Hua Yuezhu realized she been too eager, and lowered her head like she had made a mistake.

“What did the people say?” Zhang Xiaohou repeated helplessly.

“The people said the same thing has happened in the past. The people would build wooden huts with coniferous trees on the beach and let the waves carry them away. Apparently, the Bohai Sea has a Dragon King that is fond of them. It would take away the huts to repair its undersea palace,” the head scout said.

“What Dragon King? There are only sea monsters in the sea!” Hua Yuezhu protested.

“Rumors of the Dragon King are common in the East and South China Seas, and the Bohai Sea. They each have a different version of the legend,” Tan Feng corrected her.

“So you are saying it’s a common phenomenon around here?” Zhang Xiaohou asked.

“Yes, according to the residents. They say a lot of people have forgotten about the old legend, so the Dragon King is angry at them. It has destroyed the buildings without hurting anyone as a warning,” the head scout said.

Zhang Xiaohou was completely puzzled at this point.

On the other hand, there were too many unexplainable phenomena in the world.. If the same thing had happened in the past, they would not have worried too much about it, as long as there were no casualties.

Chapter 2447: The Dragon King Culprit

Zhang Xiaohou was on a mission, and could not afford to stay for too long. He asked the head scout to regroup with the rest of the troop so they could continue on their journey.

The Flying Dragon beat its wings and flew higher into the sky.

The Flying Dragons usually flew at an altitude of over ten thousand meters, similar to most commercial flights, but not every creature could withstand the cold when flying at such an extreme altitude.

Zhang Xiaohou took a final worried glance at the ground as his mount was soaring into the clouds.

He could only see half of the land below because the thick clouds were obscuring things.

The gray buildings, as tiny as lego blocks, were scattered close to some gentle hills in the vast terrain. The area close to the mountains was most likely the main district of the county. The buildings were denser there than those close to the sea.

When the buildings were almost blocked off by the clouds, Zhang Xiaohou noticed round gray clouds engulfing some of those buildings.

The sky was silent as the strange phenomenon occurred on the ground. Zhang Xiaohou thought he was imagining things again.

“Dive down!” Zhang Xiaohou suddenly ordered.

His men had no idea what was going on. They only saw Zhang Xiaohou pulling the lead reins on the Flying Dragon. The majestic creature immediately dove from the sky!

The Flying Dragon did not fold its wings. It pulled its wings toward its tail, making its head and body into a long triangle. Its dive left two visible lines on both sides as its wings sliced through the air. It soon passed through the layer of clouds.

The others immediately followed and dove for the ground too, but the Triumphant Eagle Dragons were slower than the Flying Dragon. They were quickly left some distance behind.

—

Zhang Xiaohou gradually approached the ground. He could see the intertwining roads, patches of farmlands and wetlands, and people fleeing in panic.

However, he felt a shiver running down his spine when he noticed the buildings had all disappeared!

All the buildings were razed to the ground, as if they were destroyed by a celestial being. Their remains, now in the form of dust clouds, loomed over the district. Thousands of people were standing on the streets and staring at their surroundings like they were having a nightmare in total disbelief and fear!

Not a single building was left, including those with only a single story.

Even the strongest earthquake would not turn all the buildings into powder in just an instant. Most importantly, an earthquake would cause strong quakes and leave cracks in the ground everywhere.

However, the ground was perfectly fine without any sign of damage, yet the buildings of an entire county had all collapsed and turned into dust!

Zhang Xiaohou could not believe his eyes.

It would take a huge amount of power to cause such a terrifying phenomenon. Even a Great Ruler could not destroy the buildings so cleanly and silently!

However, Zhang Xiaohou did not notice anything strange as he searched the 'bald' county.

There was no sign of a powerful demon creature's presence and no trails had been left behind by the culprit. The whole county had effectively disappeared, but its residents were all unharmed.

Some of the people were living in taller buildings, but the hills of dust the buildings had turned into cushioned their falls and saved their lives.

"What...what exactly just happened? Don't tell me the Dragon King is real?" Hua Yuezhu blurted out after a prolonged silence.

If Hua Yuezhu had linked the phenomenon to the Bohai Dragon King, the residents who had been around for a long time would arrive at the same conclusion too.

The survivors soon dropped to their knees while facing the sea. They either lost their minds after being overwhelmed by fear, or were sincerely grateful toward the Dragon King for sparing their lives. Many were knocking their heads on the ground. It was quite a shocking sight!

—

The shocking incident in Luning County soon spread on the Internet.

There was no sign of demon creatures, and it did not seem to be caused by a Mage, either. It was like the work of a god, so more people started to believe the Bohai Dragon King was responsible for it.

Zhang Xiaohou could not stay in Luning County. There was nothing he could do since there was no sign of any demon creatures. He could not find any explanation for the incident, either.

However, Zhang Xiaohou could sense a strange atmosphere looming over Qinhuangdao.

The buildings were destroyed in virtually no time at all. What if the target was the people, who were far more fragile? Was it really a warning from the Bohai Dragon King? What would he do next to vent his wrath?

Zhang Xiaohou quickly reached Qinghuangdao City.

He was still lost in his thoughts. For some reason, he had a feeling the mission he had been assigned had something to do with the rumors of the Bohai Dragon King.

Beidaihe District...

Beidaihe was a coastal resort town, but not many people were visible enjoying their day on the beach, most likely due to the incident that shocked the whole country.

A black-bearded middle-aged man in a brown military coat was walking slowly along a scenic path. The sea breeze was caressing his beard.

"I heard about Beijiang. You did well," the man spoke.

"Chief, is the incident in Luning County related to our current mission?" Zhang Xiaohou asked attentively.

"Pretty sharp, aren't you? The wrath of the dragon king, huh? People always like to believe in rumors," the man sighed. "Xiaohou, what do you think?"

"I think it's terrifying. The cities are our foundation. The safe zones are established with relay stations, sentry towers, keeps, fortresses, and maritime battlefields on their perimeters. The coastlines are even guarded by dams, otherwise the sea monsters would be able to come and go freely. If something out there has the ability to turn them all into dust, the cities will soon turn into hunting grounds for the sea monsters and demon creatures!" Zhang Xiaohou judged.

"It seems like you are more alert than some of the old generals," the man smiled grimly.

The two kept walking along the beach. The man suddenly stopped and pointed at the sea and the islands within their range of vision. "How far can you see?" the man asked.

"Around a dozen kilometers."

"The water you can see now and the water further away are full of the culprits who destroyed Luning County. These things have always been in our territory. They are trying to destroy every defensive structure, dam, and building along our coastlines. Bohai is their nest. They are multiplying now, growing until they are strong enough to devour the Bohai, East, and South China Seas," the man declared with a slight hint of anger.

Zhang Xiaohou could sense his chief's Aura. The waves were rolling in the opposite direction, and the tide was retreating from him, too!

The man continued before Zhang Xiaohou could say a word, "The old clock tower in Shanhaiguan District has started its countdown."

Zhang Xiaohou was puzzled. He looked at the huge clock tower on top of a mountain in Shanhaiguan District. "Chief, what is the countdown for?" he asked.

"The arrival of a Forbidden Curse!"

Chapter 2448: Looking for Traces

Zhang Xiaohou had several guesses on what the mission was about. He also knew it was confidential and urgent.

However, he did not expect it would involve a Forbidden Curse!

The countdown for a Forbidden Curse. Wouldn't that mean the culprits in the Bohai Sea were so strong that they had to rely on a Forbidden Curse?

Forbidden Curses and ordinary magic were completely different. A Forbidden Curse was at least a hundred times stronger than a Super Spell, and that was only describing the initial damage a Forbidden Curse would cause. Most terrifyingly, a Forbidden Curse would often inflict irrecoverable damage on the surrounding areas and environment.

The power of Forbidden Curses had to be treated with extreme caution. They were usually treated as a last resort when mankind was at stake. The Magic Associations across the five continents and many countries had forbidden every organization, faction, country, and Forbidden Mages to use Forbidden Curses.

"Chief, will you be handling it?" Zhang Xiaohou could not withhold the shock in his heart.

They were going to use the strongest magic in the world! It did not matter what creature they were up against. It was going to perish for sure!

"The Ice Emperor will handle the Forbidden Curse. The Induction has already begun. We now need the coordinates for the Seal," the man said.

"Coordinates for the Seal?" Zhang Xiaohou soon realized why he had been called here.

The Induction of a Forbidden Curse was a massive process. Most Forbidden Mages were unable to complete a Forbidden Curse by themselves.

Forbidden Mages were usually the main Inductors. They needed other Inductors and magic Formations to provide the Forbidden Curse with an enormous amount of energy.

The Forbidden Curse did not involve a mere Star Palace made up of twenty-four hundred and one Stars. They would have to construct an imperial city full of shiny Star Palaces, meaning a lot of Super Mages would be involved!

Zhang Xiaohou was not an Ice Mage. None of his men were outstanding Ice Mages either, which meant his troop was called here for a different job.

"The trickiest part of a Forbidden Curse is its Induction. The whole Bohai Sea will be alerted during the Induction, but we have already made the necessary preparations. We will not allow the sea monsters to interrupt the process.

"After the Induction, the Forbidden Curse will need specific coordinates for its landing point."

The destructive might of a Forbidden Curse was immeasurable. Its power was just too overwhelming due to the Induction performed by a Forbidden Mage with the help of countless Super Mages, Advanced Mages, and Elemental Formations.

The Forbidden Curse had an insane coverage area, too. It might even trigger disastrous events like tsunami, landslides, earthquakes, hail, and volcanic eruptions.

It was difficult to tell how long the Forbidden Curse would last, and what level of Elemental Storm it would trigger and where it would go to.

A Forbidden Curse would also disrupt the stability of space and create a Black Hole. Even as the space was repairing itself, the Black Hole would devour everything within a certain range as it was shrinking.

They had to consider a lot of factors before using a Forbidden Curse, especially since every area of land was utterly precious to mankind. Once a Forbidden Curse was used, the whole place would be cursed and become uninhabitable!

Therefore, the coordinates of the Forbidden Curse's first impact point were crucial due to the uncertainties involved.

The Dragon King Culprits posed a huge threat to the entire coastline of their country. If the coordinates missed the Dragon King Culprits' nest, many of them would survive the Forbidden Curse.

However, if the nest of the Dragon King Culprits was too close to human territory, they would have to compromise and find the coordinates with the perfect balance between the safety of human territory and the damage the Forbidden Curse would inflict on the enemy!

The landing point of the Forbidden Curse! It was a tough mission for Zhang Xiaohou's platoon of Violet Imperial Mages!

"Xiaohou, even the main Inductor couldn't estimate the damage of the Forbidden Curse. Once the countdown ends, the Forbidden Curse will be released. Therefore, you must flee as soon as you find the coordinates."

"I promise I'll finish my mission!"

"I want you to complete the mission and come back safely!" the man ordered him.

"Affirmative, sir!"

Zhang Xiaohou was excited and a little uneasy when he returned to his troop.

It was the highest order he had been given since he joined the army. The safety of all of China was at stake, not to mention they were going to use the strongest magic in the world to resolve it.

He looked at the sea now covered in darkness. Many powerful creatures were hiding in the shadows and under the waves.

Even though Zhang Xiaohou had no idea what they were going up against, the fear in his heart gradually diminished after learning they were backed by a Forbidden Curse.

The stars were still glowing brightly in the sky. People always said the brightest star was the eye of a person who remained at the bottom of one's heart after they had left during one's childhood.

They would see the person's gaze when their heart was as calm as the night sky.

Zhang Xiaohou could only hug his head and cry in the past, but he now had the power to protect an entire sea!

“You should worry more about your own safety first next time,” Zhang Xiaohou murmured. He pulled his cap lower and headed for the brightly-lit camp.

The sun had just risen. The cold of the dawn mixed with the sea breeze greeted Zhang Xiaohou.

He washed his face to quickly get rid of his sleepiness and looked at the clock tower on the mountain.

The clock was adjusted to indicate days, meaning a complete cycle of the minute hand was equivalent to a day. A complete cycle of the hour hand would mean twelve days. The Forbidden Curse would take place when all three hands were pointing at twelve.

Only twelve days left until the deadline.

They did not have much time. They could not afford to waste a single second!

“General, we’ve received the information on the Dragon King Culprits. Should I read it out to everyone?” the Head of the Royal Guards inquired of him.

“Yes!”

The Flying Dragon beat its wings and took off into the sky, stirring up huge waves and strong gusts of wind. A group of dragon beasts followed the Flying Dragon and soared into the clouds.

The Bohai Sea’s coastline was extremely long. They had to keep searching along it all the way to Dalian.

Their information stated the Dragon King Culprits were residing close to the coastline. They might also be staying on the islands that were close to the mainland.

They could not exclude the swamps and wetlands, either. After all, the Dragon King Culprits were active in other areas than the Bohai Sea. Buildings were collapsing mysteriously in the East China Sea and South China Sea too, including the Magic City!

“Let’s go to Luning County first,” Zhang Xiaohou said after reading the information.

“Are we finally going after the creatures that are keeping the people around the Bohai Sea in constant fear? Humph, we’ll soon learn their secrets!” Captain Tian declared.

The Dragon King Culprits would definitely have left some clues behind after destroying so many buildings in Luning County. That being said, it was not going to be easy to look for the clues!

Chapter 2449: Advancing before a Forbidden Curse

The people in Luning County had started to move, but most residents were willing to build simple houses and stay behind out of fear and respect to the Bohai Dragon King.

According to their beliefs, they were asking forgiveness from the Bohai Dragon King!

When Zhang Xiaohou and his men returned to Luning County, they could see a lot of wooden huts had been built from coniferous trees along the beach.

The wooden huts were facing the sea. Some of them even had delicate carvings, bright paint, and blue lines on them so they would resemble the Dragon King's palace.

Most importantly, there were some wooden huts in a town close to Luning County. These huts were perfectly unharmed.

As a result, more people now believed in the practice of offering wooden huts to the Dragon King!

"What year is it already? Why are they so superstitious?" Hua Yuezhu scoffed.

"It's not really about being superstitious. Everyone was under great pressure after the terrifying incident. They are just trying to look for comfort through simple rituals. Not everyone truly believes the Dragon King is real," Tan Feng explained in a reasonable voice.

The land of the Linhai District in Luning County was around a hundred meters higher than the sea level. The dust the buildings had turned into was still covering its streets.

"General, you haven't told us what our mission is," Captain Tian inquired.

The rest of the troops were extremely curious, too. Zhang Xiaohou had met the chief in person. The mission given by the chief had to be unusual!

"The truth is, the military knows what is responsible for the incident," Zhang Xiaohou told them.

"So, are we going to look for its traces and take it out?"

Zhang Xiaohou shook his head, as he took out a confidential file. "We are going after a unique species. The military calls them the Dragon King Krill," Zhang Xiaohou informed them.

"Dragon King Krill?!" Everyone was astounded.

Did that mean Luning County had been invaded by demon creatures? Why didn't they see anything? What form did the Dragon King Krill take?

Zhang Xiaohou knew everyone was puzzled. He asked Tan Feng to collect a lot of seawater from the nearby beach.

Tan Feng was a Water Mage. He controlled the seawater and poured it into a pit surrounded by rocks.

"The Dragon King Krill are inside there," Zhang Xiaohou told them.

The others immediately went closer and stared at the water in the pit, but they did not notice anything unusual.

Was it possible that the Dragon King Krill were plankton, which were so small they were invisible to the naked eye?

Zhang Xiaohou took out a bottle of purple liquid and poured it into the pit. The liquid spread rapidly and dyed the water inside the pit purple.

However, a small portion of the seawater did not turn purple, retaining its initial color. It looked like a pillar of ant-sized creatures swimming around inside the purple liquid!

“What...what are those?” Hua Yuezhu blurted out in shock.

“These are the Dragon King Krill. Their bodies are transparent, like the water. They are almost invisible when they are moving along the ground, too,” Zhang Xiaohou answered, pointing at the creatures swimming in the purple liquid.

It was also Zhang Xiaohou’s first time seeing the Dragon King Krill. The military had given him information on the Dragon King Krill and shown him how to reveal them. Zhang Xiaohou was also surprised when he finally saw the strange transparent creatures with his own eyes.

In other words, the Dragon King Krill had already followed the waves and invaded human territory without alerting anyone!

The only relief was that these Dragon King Krill did not feed on humans. They were more interested in concrete and steel!

“They are vermin born in the oceans. They can severely damage our defenses and any buildings that are built with steel and concrete along the coastline. The Dragon King Krill in this pit can take down a ten-story building within a single day!

“There are countless numbers of these Dragon King Krill in the sea. We have also learned something terrifying. A huge army of Dragon King Krill will soon emerge from the Bohai Sea and destroy all our defenses and cities along the coastline in several months. The country will then be defenseless against the sea monsters.”

Zhang Xiaohou understood why the government had to use a Forbidden Curse after learning all the information about the Dragon King Krill.

The Bohai Sea was vast. Just ten tons of seawater alone would have one to three Dragon King Krill. According to the intel they had, there were dozens or even hundreds of Dragon King Krill in every ten tons of water close to their nest!

They were like an omnipresent army of ants eating away the final line of defenses that the humans were clinging to!

“This is insane. I just had a swim at the beach yesterday. I feel extremely uncomfortable now!” Captain Tian murmured.

“The information also says these creatures aren’t interested in living things... at least for now. However, ever since the sea level started to rise, a lot of sea monsters across the world have mutated. The white clouds of demon creatures which have been a huge threat in the Pacific Ocean are one example. I believe the military has decided to use a Forbidden Curse because the authorities are worried the Dragon King Krill might mutate, too,” Zhang Xiaohou went on.

Everyone was listening carefully and nodding, but their eyes widened when they heard the words 'Forbidden Curse'!

"General Zhang, did you just mention a Forbidden Curse?!"

"Mm, I did!" Zhang Xiaohou nodded. He informed his men about the Forbidden Curse after telling them about the Dragon King Krill.

Their mission was extremely challenging. Even though they were not the only troop of the Violet Imperial Battalion charged with searching for the right coordinates, they would constantly be on their toes after learning there was a countdown.

"If we don't leave in time, will we perish together with the Dragon King Krill?" Hua Yuezhu asked.

"Yes, so we have to plan our escape wisely as we are carrying out the mission," Zhang Xiaohou told them.

The soldiers fell silent.

They were basically walking on the edge when they were advancing before a Forbidden Curse!

Chapter 2450: Salted Blood

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The dragon beasts only ate raw meat. They might be powerful mounts, but it was troublesome to feed them.

A few soldiers brought back some demon creatures' meat from a nearby marketplace to feed them.

Tian Cheng came back with good news after the Flying Dragon and Triumphant Eagle Dragons were fed.

Not only was Tian Cheng a scout, he also specialized in tracking down demon creatures. He could locate the feathers, scales, skin crumbs, and worms that fell off demon creatures and analyze them to determine the species.

When they were in Beijiang, the Evil Hound Ruler kept moving around in the wilderness. If Captain Tian had not traced it down through its saliva, they would have had no chance of finding the Ruler-level creature.

Their mission was to look for the Dragon King Krill nest, but these creatures were as transparent as the water they lived in.

Their transparency was not the same as pure water. They could modify their transparency based on the cloudiness of the water, and since they were crustaceans, they could hide inside rocks too, making it difficult to track them down.

Zhang Xiaohou thought they would spend some time in Luning County to look for clues, but Tian Cheng came back with a piece of useful information.

“General Zhang, I’ve found some colored salt in the wetlands. The weather happened to be sunny and clear for the past few days, so the seawater had dried into salt.” Tian Cheng opened his palm.

Hua Yuezhu went closer to take a look, but she had no idea what she was looking at.

“Is there something special about this salt?” Zhang Xiaohou asked calmly.

“Yes, this colored salt is formed when waves are splashing on Salt Flower Rocks. The water erodes the rocks and turns into this seaweed-blue salt after it has dried,” Tian Cheng explained.

“But what does that have to do with the Dragon King Krill?” Hua Yuezhu had to ask.

“I’ve analyzed the Dragon King Krill and found the salt content in their body liquid to be several times higher than the salt level of ordinary seawater. It has even passed the highest soluble level, so I’m guessing the liquid is serving as their blood and providing them with energy,” Tian Cheng deduced.

Tian Cheng was a smart soldier. He immediately grabbed a few Dragon King Krill from the sea after having a thought. He discovered the Dragon King Krill could not live in freshwater after a quick experiment.

The Dragon King Krill would suffocate in ten minutes in water without salt, drowning as if they had no access to oxygen.

Most importantly, when Tian Cheng threw a few bricks, clay, and rocks into the water, the Dragon King Krill would eat them and turn them into a liquid with a higher salt level, allowing them to move freely and act more aggressively in freshwater.

Tian Cheng concluded the Dragon King Krill required a high level of salt. The oceans were the perfect cultivation factories for them, as they were rich in salt!

However, the salt level there was still not high enough for them. They continued to feed on rocks, concrete, and steel, and turned them all into salt.

“If these creatures can eat rocks, won’t they be unstoppable? This world will never run out of rocks and seawater!” Hua Yuezhu exclaimed.

“So they must have a great weakness, or they are selective eaters. Either way, salt is the Dragon King Krill’s vitality and energy. We can narrow down the search to islands and cliffs with Salt Flower Rocks. We should be able to find a lot of these Dragon King Krill,” Tian Cheng declared confidently.

The salt level of normal seawater was not enough to support the Dragon King Krill. They would most likely gather at places with a higher concentration of salt, and even build their nests there!

“We can try asking the locals and see if they know where to find Salt Flower Rocks,” Zhang Xiaohou agreed.

"I already did!" Tian Cheng took out a map of the Bohai Sea and its coasts. It had a few red circles on it already. "There's a peninsula with a lot of Salt Flower Rocks seventy kilometers from here. There are many villages and factories nearby, too!"

"Great, let's go!"

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The Salt Flower Peninsula was almost fully separated from the mainland. It was only connected to the mainland by a damp path. It did not even have a bridge for cars to access it.

The path was submerged under seawater most of the time after the rise of the sea level. Only part of it was exposed when the tide fell.

The peninsula was huge, with around thirty villages scattered across it. It also had five factories of various sizes. The biggest one had over a thousand workers.

There was no main road, highway, or rail connected to Salt Flower Island. There was only a damaged road leading to the damp path, so most people had no idea there were still so many people living on the peninsula.

"We would never have found this place if we hadn't learned of its existence from the locals," Tan Feng commented.

The peninsula was less developed than the coasts. It only had a wind farm as a source of electricity.

The white windmills were the most advanced structures on the peninsula. Mobile signals were extremely weak, let alone Internet coverage.

However, the people on the peninsula did not live a primitive life, having their own standard of living. Even though it was inconvenient to contact the outside world, the peninsula was not completely sealed off. It was just a little behind.

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Zhang Xiaohou and his men waited until it was dark before flying to the peninsula so they would not alarm the people. They found a small hidden canyon and left a few soldiers behind to look after the Flying Dragon and Triumphant Eagle Dragons. The rest of his soldiers followed Zhang Xiaohou to the peninsula.

"If they could build a bridge to this place, it might become a scenic tourist spot," a young female officer observed.

"Are you seriously thinking about developing tourism now?"

"Such a disgusting odor! Do you guys smell that?" a soldier with a sharper nose spoke up sharply.

Zhang Xiaohou took a deep breath and picked up a pungent smell. "Maybe it's the waste produced by the factories."

The group continued deeper. They could already see some lights.

The residents were a little scattered. There were a few households on top of a hill and several others at the waist of a hill. Some were located beside a road, while some were further away, hidden in the dense woods.

“I think there’s a factory there.”

“Captain Tian, bring some men with you and analyze the seawater. Tang Feng, bring a squad with you to investigate the factory,” Zhang Xiaohou ordered.

The group quickly split up to do their jobs, leaving only Zhang Xiaohou and Hua Yuezhu behind.