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Chapter 281: Entering the Desolate City

The journey ahead of them would involve traveling across mountains and rivers, and breaking through brambles and thistles.

Some who were following the latest hits hummed along the journey as they slowly advanced, following the railway. A few were immersed in thoughts about their future, but they eventually felt uncertain when they collected their thoughts, knowing that they were still in the midst of a dangerous adventure. None of them were in the mood to enjoy the pleasant scenery, as they knew they were in the demon beasts' territory.

Apart from the relatively thrilling experience at the tunnel, the journey had been rather peaceful. They had not encountered any similarly large groups of beasts since then.

With their current strengths, they did have the ability to look after themselves against ordinary demon beasts.

After spending more than ten days traveling, Jinlin City was finally visible in the distance.

They came up to another hill, which also had a tunnel the railway was leading into. This time, they decided to take an alternative route instead of going through the pitch-black tunnel.

They immediately saw a spacious basin when they arrived at the top of the hill. Plenty of foothills could be seen leading in the distance toward their destination.

In the north was a river with many bends and curves, eventually ending up running alongside the remains of a city, now overgrown with plant life. The river continued to extend into the distance and bent towards the east, towards the hill that the group had just crossed.

"That would be Jinlin City. It's only been fifteen years. How did it end up like this?" Zheng Bingxiao wondered, staring at the distant desolated city.

"It's pretty much expected, since the beasts were using it as a habitat. The houses, streets and roads would be in utterly destroyed. The plants are intaking their waste as fertilizer, so they can grow very fast. You will find the whole place crawling with moss, vines, and weeds," Qingqing said.

"Come, we should scout the outer area first and count the beasts roaming around," Song Xia suggested.

The periphery of the city was a big open plain surrounded by woods, and also one of the key places to be investigated. If there was any point in reconstructing the city, they had to know if the perimeter was occupied by the beasts.

Fortunately, they were not sent here to wipe out every single beast from Jinlin City. It was big enough to be described as a second-grade city. Even the perimeter alone was more spacious than they could have imagined, let alone the city that was now a den for the beasts. It would be quite impossible to restore it to a human habitat without a few army brigades.

After spending some time investigating the woods, the group was surprised to find out that they only saw a few individual demon beasts searching for food, instead of moving in groups.

In the end, the investigation around the city's perimeter was carried out smoothly. They marked the map grids with green ticks, implying that there were only a few beasts roaming in them.

"Let's head inside. We should finish our task and head back earlier. I feel quite uncomfortable staying out here," Luo Song proposed.

In fact, Luo Song had toned down significantly over the past ten days. Either way, he did not want to suffer any longer by staying outside of the safe zone.

"This kind of investigation will take quite some time. Besides, the places we are investigating are extremely huge. We have already marked the spots on the map, unless we are splitting up..."

"Splitting up isn't a rational decision." Song Xia shook her head.

If the seventeen of them could stick together, they still stood a chance against beasts that were inclined to move in groups. It would be a completely different scenario if they were to split up.

"We'll check one spot out at a time."

The seventeen people made their way into the desolated city. The road that was meant to be used for transportation into the city was fully blocked with rusted, abandoned cars. The way they had ended up was enough to illustrate how the people decided to abandon their cars to flee for their lives during the incident.

Things like cars were quite useless in a large-scale calamity, since they relied heavily on roads.

They began to see remains of houses after passing along the highways.

The main road had been broken apart. The cracks spread throughout the entire road, with plants growing in the gaps. It felt like the life force of the trees alone was enough to drill across the road.

The houses were entirely covered in dust, stacked densely together. Vines continued to climb upward and into the windows, growing thickly and leaving the inside in a total mess. The trees everywhere lacked someone looking after them, and seemed to be shrouding the heavens.

Currently, the students from both the Imperial College and the Pearl Institute were walking on the main road. They could hear occasional animal cries in the distance, explaining their alert expressions.

This residential area was the first place they needed to investigate. Judging from the data, it was highly possible that this area was previously the territory of beasts, as most of rooms had animal droppings piled up in a corner.

"I can't imagine what happened here. This used to be a city." Bai Tingting seemed to be quite sentimental as he sighed.

When a city was at its end, when you could not find a living person on the streets, a person would feel quite lonely and devastated. It was something that they had not experienced before.

Desolated was surely the best way to describe this city.

"We should find somewhere safe to settle ourselves," Shen Mingxiao proposed.

"We finally arrived at the city. We have to make sure we can escape easily. It should be near the edge, with some great defense..." Lu Zhenghe said.

"So where should we pick as our place?" Song Xia asked.

"Inside a building, we should use one as our base. Some of them are connected to the others, allowing us to escape easily," Lu Zhenghe went on.

"That's right, the taller buildings would also grant us a greater field of vision, which would be better for us when standing guard. Otherwise, it will be hard to tell if a large group of beasts is approaching."

"I think that one's not too bad." Mo Fan pointed at a building in the distance.

A large, blocky building stood firmly in the distance. It did not look too filthy, as if it had been occasionally washed by the rain.

Most importantly, the building seemed relatively fine compared to the other buildings. Not only did it have many floors, it had a magnificent aura to it, too.

"You do know how to pick the place..." Song Xia let out a smile as she identified the building on the map. "That used to be the city's Administration Hall!"

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Chapter 282: Definitely Not a Welcoming Place

The group drew closer to the Administration Building after passing several residential areas.

The Administration Building had three layers, each structured differently. The first layer was the Administration Hall, made up of several floors, rectangle-shaped and covering a huge area.

The second layer was a square-shaped section above the base. It was quite a contrast to the rectangular base below it.

The third layer was a few tall blocks above the square-shaped layer. It probably belonged to the business units that were not open to the public. The whole building somehow did not feel like it belonged there, as it stood out too much among the buildings nearby.

"This place is on our investigation list, too. However, I feel this Administration Building is kinda weird. Take a look at those plants; they are not growing toward the sunlight, but into the building instead..."

Mu Nujiao had the Plant Element. She took a closer look at the vines and scorched branches. The vines were as thick as a man's waist. They seemed to be growing into the base of the Administration Building and intertwining with the other vines in the hall.

The Administration Building was supposed to have plenty of sunlight. However, because of the vines, the light could no longer shine into the building, giving it an eerie atmosphere. It felt more like a forest of vines than a building.

Rows of chairs set up for the public were scattered everywhere. The whole place was full of dust. Moss could be seen spreading across the cracking windows. Boxes of documents had been dropped to the floor as the people freaked out during the invasion, now stained with weird liquid emitting a foul scent.

"One or two should keep an eye outside. The rest will head into the building," Lu Zhenghe advised the group.

"I'll stay!" Mo Fan volunteered.

"Me too," Bai Tingting said.

Lu Zhenghe and Song Xia glanced at the two before leading the others into the Administration Hall.

The fourteen students soon disappeared into the gloomy Administration Building. Only Mo Fan and Bai Tingting stayed at what used to be a garden in front of the building.

Mo Fan glanced at Bai Tingting and recalled the astonishing sight of the twin bobbing hills he had seen at the river. He could not help but have a thought, How is it possible for a girl currently in her twenties who doesn't have a boyfriend to have such huge boobs? Can her petite body really support the weight?

If Bai Tingting were aware of Mo Fan's thoughts, she would definitely agree that it was more dangerous for her to stay outside with this guy than going into the building with the group.

Bai Tingting was the Healer of the group, thus they could not afford to place her in danger. As such, it was reasonable for her to wait outside. With Mo Fan's strength, he could easily be her guardian.

"That's strange..." Bai Tingting seemed to have discovered something, and she slowly walked toward a bed of flowers.

"What is it?"

"There's a pack of food here that's only half-finished. Only part of it has started to rot, instead of the whole thing. Take a look for yourself." Bai Tingting put on a pair of gloves and picked up the pack from the ground.

Mo Fan went up to her and took a closer look. It did indeed look like a pack of jerky. The seal was already open, but the jerky itself looked quite normal. It did not look like it had been here for fifteen years...

Inside the overgrown Administration Hall, Lu Zhenghe and his Violent Mark Wolf led the way. The latter leapt onto a platform and scanned its surroundings with a sharp gaze.

The elevator was totally out of order, so they would have to find the stairs to reach the higher levels.

"There are a few traveling bags here. It seems like someone left them here." Liao Mingxuan said.

"They might belong to some hunters who visited here recently." Lu Zhenghe did not place too much attention on them. He led the group to the hall on the second floor.

The second floor was full of meeting rooms. The plants were even denser here. The entire hallway was nearly blocked by them...

As they proceeded forward, they did see an elevator with its door open. The vines could be seen extending into the shaft. Its parts were rusted, and were stained with some unknown colored liquid.

"The stairs should be just ahead." Lu Zhenghe was quite bold indeed, leading the group with his Violent Mark Wolf.

Lu Zhenghe had just started moving when Mu Nujiao, who was relatively observant, halted in her tracks. Her eyes were fixed onto the vines closest to the elevator's shaft.

"What is it?" Liao Mingxuan was always staying close to Mu Nujiao.

"It looks like something is stuck between them." Mu Nujiao pointed at the gap between two vines.

Liao Mingxuan finally had his chance to display his manliness. He reassured the lady while walking toward the vines and dragging the thing out.

As he got a closer look, his mind went blank as his face turned pale white.

A scalp!

Liao Mingxuan was holding a human's scalp in his hand, with the face still attached. Its long hair was hiding its face before, so Liao Mingxuan did not realize what it actually was.

The scalp had dirty black hair and its face was detached from the head. Its eyeballs were still hanging from the skin. Liao Mingxuan had not expected it would be something so bizarre.

"A dead person, it's a dead person's head!"

Zhao Mingyue, who was nearby, let out a scream. As the scalp was pulled out, they were able to get a closer look at the thing stuck between the vines. It was a skull, and definitely human!

The skin was filthy, but it had not rotted. The eyes looked rather alive, but the flesh was gone, and so was the blood. It was a corpse that had been sucked dry, and not longer than ten days ago.

"There's one here!"

"Here too!"

"What's going on? How did these people die here? Were they ambushed by some beasts..."

The group was flustered. Judging from the corpses and the objects scattered around. They were supposed to be a team of hunters, but they had somehow died a horrible death here!

"We've checked the place around. There wasn't any presence of beasts nearby," Shen Mingxiao said.

Mu Nujiao and Qingqing exchanged glances with one another as a bad feeling arose within them.

"These plants feel strange." Mu Nujiao reminded the others.

"What plants...That's weird, where did the path...Oh my god, the path we took to get in here is gone!" Xu Dalong, who was in charge of covering their rear, cried out in alarm.

Everyone turned their heads and realized the path they took had somehow been blocked by the vines. The gap was now too tiny for them to squeeze through.

Everyone was used to staying on guard for things that moved, and any hint of murderous aura from demon beasts. None of them had expected the plants to seal off their escape route out of nowhere!

The path behind them was blocked, but the problem was, they had only used it a moment ago!

"It's the plants, they can move!" Someone finally realized the terrifying truth.

"Run, quick!" Lu Zhenghe screamed out.

The building was overgrown with plants consisting of thick vines and branches, a team of hunters had died here quite recently, and now their path behind was blocked...

This Administration Building is definitely not a welcoming place!

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Chapter 283: Hunting Prey with Traps

The vines suddenly began to shift and move. Plants that were extremely careful to remain motionless just a moment ago suddenly made their move.

The thick vines contracted toward the center. The group felt like they had been trapped inside a giant machine. Its gears were initially rotating slowly, and now it had finally awakened after the engine was heated up.

The vines slowly gathered outside the elevator's shaft. Those in front altered their shapes into sharp thorn-spears, extending toward the group of students trapped by the vines.

"Holy crap, we're done for!" Luo Song shrieked.

He and Xu Dalong were the closest to the rear. The vines close to the stairs were still writhing as they formed layers of walls, blocking their escape. The walls were so thick that it would be almost impossible to break through!

"AH! AH!!"

Someone among the group uttered a terrifying scream. It turned out to be Song Xia, who had been stabbed by a sharp vine that had struck her from the side when she was aligning her Fire Element's Star Pattern.

The vine in the shape of a spear drove into her abdomen, dragging her into the air toward the walls.

Fresh blood splattered across the ground. Song Xia's mouth was totally filled with blood. She did not even have the strength to cry out.

Everyone's mind went blank when they saw her being dragged around like sugar-coated candy on a stick.

"What the hell are you all waiting for, run!" Luo Song screamed and totally ignored Song Xia, who was slowly being devoured by the plants.

"We need to save her."

"There's nothing we can do. She's done for!" Lu Zhenghe snapped coldly, trying to calm everyone down.

"Ice Lock!"

Mu Ningxue was the first to complete a spell. Her eyes were staring at Song Xia, who was being trapped inside the walls made of plants.

The icy chains swiftly sprang forward and wrapped around Song Xia tightly. Mu Ningxue held their other end and pulled with great force, dragging Song Xia out from the vines.

Song Xia had a terrifying hole reaching from her abdomen to her back. Her blood splattered across the whole place while she was being pulled toward the group, an awful sight!

The Ice Lock had managed to pull Song Xia back from the jaws of death. However, her injury was so severe that it was impossible for her to survive any longer. Her inner organs were damaged, and she had lost a great amount of blood...

"Ice Spread: Freeze!"

Mu Ningxue cast a spell again to freeze Song Xia's body. The frost rapidly covered the wounded young woman, sealing the wound to prevent her from losing any more blood.

The blood finally stopped flowing from the wound, but Song Xia was on her last breath, and lay on the ground in an extremely weak state. Her eyes were full of pain and unwillingness to die.

"Hold on there, I'll bring you out." Mu Ningxue looked into Song Xia's eyes.

Song Xia's eyes were still wide open. Fresh blood slowly flowed out from her mouth. She looked utterly devastating. She never thought she would almost lose her life here, and had never imagined that Mu Ningxue would be the person who saved her.

"I'll look after her," Mu Nujiao said to Mu Ningxue.

Mu Ningxue nodded before turning around and casting a cold glance at Lu Zhenghe.

Lu Zhenghe responded with an expressionless face. "I was considering the whole team."

"I'll give the orders from now on." Mu Ningxue was not willing to let someone like Lu Zhenghe, who had come from a military background, lead them. In such a person's eyes, other people's lives could be sacrificed at any time.

"Alright."

Mu Ningxue controlled the Wind Element and quickly made her way to the blocked path.

The same vine spear that had attacked Song Xia suddenly thrust in from the side without any warning, aimed right at Mu Ningxue's heart. If it landed, it would kill her instantly.

The vine struck forward at an incredible speed, leaving no time for the magicians to react, let alone giving them enough time to cast an Intermediate Spell.

Mu Ningxue had already prepared herself for this. With a thought, pieces of pentagonal ice rapidly appeared around her. They immediately attached to her clothes as if they were magnetic. In under a second, the ice chips formed an elegant frozen armor around Mu Ningxue.

The armor was elegant yet sturdy, turning Mu Ningxue into a princess clad for battle. Her elegance carried a hint of new imperiousness.

The frosty armor wrapped around her tightly. The incoming vine snapped as if it had just collided with metal, and was immediately withdrawn like an injured tentacle.

"Protection!"

Mu Ningxue controlled the chains of the Ice Lock to revolve around the group. The icy chains immediately flew toward those who were being targeted by the vines to protect them,

"Water Barrier!"

"Sacred Shield!"

"Water Barrier!"

The others could not afford to just stand there and watch. They immediately cast their defensive spells to protect one other.

"The walls are still collapsing. If they finish contracting, we will end up like the hunters. We have to find a way to break through!" Zhao Manting said.

"Does anyone have a Deathstrike Item? I don't suppose you're still not willing to use them at a time like this!" Mu Ningxue asked.

Her Ice Lock was only suitable for use as protection under the circumstances. It was quite impossible to use it to break through the thick walls of interwoven vines.

"Mu Ningxue, try to freeze the plants. That way, my Light Slash will be more effective!" Ming Cong shouted.

"Got it!"

Qingqing and Luo Song, who also had the Ice Element, immediately cast their Ice Spreads together with Mu Ningxue.

Due to the buff from her domain, the trio's Ice Spread was stronger than usual. The frost spread through the place swiftly, managing to freeze a few layers of the walls within just a few seconds.

"Rupture Light Slash!" Ming Cong summoned a golden saber with a thought.

The saber was made of hard light. The others immediately cleared a path for it when they saw it.

Deathstrike Magic Equipment like this was expensive. It appeared that Ming Cong's renowned family was willing to spend some money on him, just to guarantee his safety.

All Magic Equipment required energy to activate. Their maximum power would only be unleashed with sufficient energy.

The Deathstrike Magic Equipment that Ming Cong was currently holding was worth at least ten million RMB. Its glow was extremely fiery, preventing the plants from getting any closer.

As he slashed forward with the saber of hard light, the others only saw a crescent sun flying forward in a straight line, chopping the vine walls apart. It even set the vines on fire...

Even though it was only a slash, it managed to clear a wide path. The vines seemed to be quite intimidated by it, the ones that were not damaged withdrawing from it hastily.

"Nice one!"

"Quick, we need to go now! The vines are closing in!"

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Chapter 284: A Terrifying Giant Lizard!

Out in the garden, Mo Fan and Bai Tingting stared at the building before them with blank faces.

The vines coiling around the building began to wriggle as if they had come alive. It looked like they were trying to compete for the food they had just discovered.

It was their first time seeing such a sight, as most magicians were used to treating plants as something harmless. Even when the place was overgrown with vines, they were only keeping an eye out for anything alive. They had never expected that the entire plant was in fact a demon beast, and its vines and branches were as deadly as weapons!

"What should we do now? They are being trapped inside!" Bai Tingting exclaimed urgently.

The thick plant looked sturdier than the concrete walls. The group had already ventured deep into the building, so it would be extremely difficult for them to barge their way out. After all, the situation was similar to them jumping into a giant beast's esophagus.

"Look up." Mo Fan pointed at the second layer of the Administration Building, which was the giant structure above the base.

Bai Tingting raised her head and felt her scalp going numb.

She could see a giant, hideous brain sticking out from the structure!

The brain did not look the same as an animal's, but similar to the shape of a tree stool. If it weren't for the huge mouth that had suddenly opened up, no one would assume it to be something alive.

The stump-shaped brain took up almost the entire second layer. Its endless vines were like nutrition pipes connected to its throat. From afar, it looked like a demon covered in tree skins sucking at something!

"A Pseudomorphing Demon Beast!" Bai Tingting took a deep breath. She experienced a tremendous shock, as it was her first time seeing such a monster with her own eyes.

"Can someone tell me if this thing is a plant or a demon beast?" Mo Fan subconsciously took a step backward.

The thing was literally a demon. It was using the Administration Building as its disguise, and the place looked so calm and peaceful, luring other things to use it as a temporary rest stop.

The fact that there were no demon beasts roaming nearby was a clear indication that this place was extremely dangerous. Anything that was alive would surely find themselves falling into the demon's stomach, as it was basically a master of disguise. The unwary all ended up as nutrients for its growth!

"It's considered a demon beast with a purer lineage, extremely difficult to deal with once it's mature. Since it is scared of light, it will only reside in gloomy places... Somehow the Administration Building has become its natural habitat, which it could attach to as it grows, perfect for blocking the sunlight. Its preys would present themselves conveniently..." Bai Tingting was surely the top student in the subject of studying demon beasts. She had managed to recognize a species that even the public had rarely heard of from the official channels.

"I hope it's not Commander-level... I'll try attacking it with my fire." Mo Fan said.

"Don't provoke it. Fire isn't very effective against it. Even double the size of our team has no chance against a Pseudomorphing Demon Beast." Bai Tingting immediately stopped him.

"So they're pretty much dead?" Mo Fan was stunned.

"Most likely, they would be wiped out within ten minutes if the team did not have a Light Magician," Bai Tingting frowned.

She had decided to stay because of Mo Fan, as she had a rather good impression of the man who had saved her life. To her surprise, the random thought she had had prevented her from stepping into such a terrifying trap.

They were nothing the two could do. They would be committing suicide if they went inside. They could only wait and reinforce the group if managed to reach the entrance.

Mo Fan felt his heart sinking.

He could not care less about most of the others, but that did not include Mu Ningxue, Mu Nujiao, and Zhao Manting.

However, if Fire wasn't effective against it, and Lightning was also useless against plants, so there was nothing he could do but wait outside.

As the two were panicking, a black gust suddenly swept toward them like a tide, knocking the trees and everything else along the way aside.

The objects on the ground rattled as a rusted bike was blown into the air before smashing into one of the buildings nearby, causing pieces of metal to fly wildly.

Mo Fan and Bai Tingting were totally clueless as to what was happening.

Their breathing intensified as cold sweat came out. The two exchanged glances with one another and saw the fear and disturbed look in each other's eyes!

In the midst of the black tornado, a pair of giant wings enlarged as they moved rapidly toward the two!

Under the wings was the body of a giant lizard. Its thick skin was fully covered with lumps, all the way from its head to the tip of its tail. Its long tail was half-curved, and towards its end was a sharp edge which flickered sharply under the sunlight!

"Run!" Mo Fan blurted out.

The formidable aura alone had almost suffocated them. Those with a slightly weaker mental state would instantly fall unconscious. It was Mo Fan's first time experiencing such an overwhelming aura from a living beast, to an extent that his mind was swarmed with the urge to flee for his life.

Bai Tingting froze on the spot. She could only look at Mo Fan with a pale face...

Mo Fan grabbed her wrist. He could not care less about concealing his strength under such circumstances, and quickly cast Fleeing Shadow.

"Damn it, the alignment keeps failing." Mo Fan could not even cast the Fleeing Shadow smoothly. It only worked after breaking four times in a row.

Dragging Bai Tingting with him, Mo Fan turned into a puff of shadow and ran along the walls around the Administration Building. His shadow quickly moved to the street with shady trees.

After moving a great distance away, almost a street apart, the overwhelming presence finally became weaker.

"You...you have four Elements!" Bai Tingting stared at Mo Fan in disbelief, her mind totally blank.

"I'll explain it to you some other time." Mo Fan turned around and glanced at the Administration Building.

The giant lizard had already flown up to the third layer of the building, which consisted of an extended balcony. It circled above the building like an eagle...

Suddenly, it flapped its giant wings and dove toward the second layer of the building. Its mouth was wide open like a cave, its fangs were like stalactites hanging right above.

The giant lizard tore right at the structure, shattering the cement to pieces, like popping bubbles.

Its actual target was the brain of the Pseudomorphing Demon Beast. As its fangs bit down, the Pseudomorphing Demon Beast let out an ear-piercing scream across the entire city.

The vines wrapping around the entire building thrashed wildly, almost tearing the whole place down. The Pseudomorphing Demon Beast struggled violently, using its vines to wrap around the giant lizard.

Countless vines were drawn out from the windows of the Administration Building. They began to wrap the giant lizard like tentacles, trying to pull it away from its head.

Unfortunately, the vines were as fragile as spiderwebs to the giant lizard. It easily tore them apart with a casual rending before biting even harder. The Pseudomorphing Demon Beast was totally helpless against it...

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Chapter 285: The Top of the Food Chain

The Pseudomorphing Demon Beast finally could not resist the bite. Its brain was crushed into pieces between the giant fangs, while the rest of its body collapsed with the building.

The giant lizard began sucking up the liquid from the Pseudomorphing Demon Beast's brain, as if it were nutritious. It did not want to waste a single drop of it.

The dense plant life inside the Administration Building wilted swiftly. The Pseudomorphing Demon Beast died an incredibly fast death, like a goat whose throat was torn apart by a giant crocodile. Its struggle was completely in vain, and only quickened its death.

"It was... eaten." Bai Tingting face turned pale white, unable to believe what she had just witnessed.

Mo Fan was also shocked. The Pseudomorphing Demon Beast, which they had no clue how to deal with, had become another beast's food in just a matter of seconds. If the giant lizard were targeting them instead, didn't that mean they would lose their life instantly?

The giant lizard had a satisfying meal. It extended its wings, not having any interest in anything else around it and launched itself into the air.

As soon as the giant lizard left, the second layer of the Administration Building crumbled completely, together with the third layer...

The towering structure fell over lazily before crashing into the buildings nearby, bringing them down with it!

The impact was huge enough to alarm Mo Fan and Bai Tingting, as clouds of dust from the falling buildings spread all over the place from the impact...

Fortunately, the city was dead to begin with. Otherwise, the crumbling of the buildings would have resulted in countless deaths. After all, humans were like ants compared to the size of the buildings.

Inside the remains of the Administration Building, the ceiling continued to fall as the supporting beams broke into pieces.

Fourteen people desperately made their way toward the exit. Various kinds of defensive equipment and barriers made of water, light, and rock surrounded the group. Luckily, the base of the building was rather solid, and the crumbling had started on the second layer. Otherwise, they would now be buried alive within the building.

Without the plant walls blocking the way, everyone was able to move more quickly.

"We're almost at the entrance."

"Quick!"

"Thank God, we're out!"

The Summoned Rock Golem carried the frozen Song Xia on its shoulder, while the others were moving forward with Wind Track and Earth Wave.

The Administration Building had fallen to the side opposite the entrance, but they had clearly heard the impact. However, none of them had time to care about it as they rushed out of the building.

"We're over here!" Bai Tingting cried out in joy when they saw the group make their way out safely.

"Quick, save Song Xia, she's dying." Zheng Bingxiao ordered the Rock Golem to place Song Xia in front of Bai Tingting.

Bai Tingting could imagine how dangerous the situation was inside the building when she saw the hole through Song Xia's guts.

"Melt the ice." Bai Tingting did not dare to waste any time. She immediately cast an Intermediate Healing Spell.

The Healing Fairy was summoned. As the ice began to melt, the Fairy entered Song Xia's body through the hole.

Song Xia had totally lost consciousness. Her pulse was so weak that she might die any second.

Bai Tingting went all out with her energy output to produce fresh blood for Song Xia...

The damage to the internal organs was not fatal, but the loss of blood was. Song Xia's face was extremely pale. She might bid farewell to the world at any second.

"Damn it, who suggested us to come to the Administration Building. It almost cost our lives!" someone among the group scolded.

Liao Mingxuan glanced at Mo Fan and snapped, "Wasn't it you? Well, well, sending us to die while hiding out here yourself! How nice of you, Mo Fan!"

Shen Mingxiao and Luo Song immediately pointed their fingers at Mo Fan. They were hostile toward Mo Fan to begin with, thus they would not mind using such a great opportunity to belittle him.

Mo Fan was indeed the one that had suggested the group come here. Everyone had just escaped from the jaws of death, while Mo Fan himself was perfectly fine out here. It was reasonable for them to lose their tempers.

"I would have sealed the entrance off if I wanted you all to die." Mo Fan was never a kind person, so he merely responded with a cold smirk.

"Weren't you supposed to coordinate with us from the outside? Why are you hiding here? You're such a selfish scum!" Liao Mingxuan snapped furiously.

Liao Mingxuan's leg had also penetrated impaled vines during the battle. The extreme pain caused him to clench his teeth, he was only using it as a way to release his anger.

Bai Tingting was busy saving Song Xia's life, so she was too occupied to defend Mo Fan. On the other hand, Mo Fan had enough of these idiots' bullshit. Their voices alone were irritating enough.

"What happened? Why did the entire building collapse?" Zhao Manting asked.

"The beast at the top of the food chain in this city just saved your lives." Mo Fan said.

"What do you mean?" Mu Ningxue asked.

"It was a Razortail Drake. It just ate the Pseudomorphing Demon Beast alive," Bai Tingting explained after taking a deep breath.

Bai Tingting told the group how the Razortail Drake had appeared out of nowhere and killed the Pseudomorphing Demon Beast in an instant, leaving everyone with their eyes open wide and their jaws dropped.

Luckily for them, it was only interested in the Pseudomorphing Demon Beast. Otherwise, all of them would have died. From Bai Tingting's description, the Razortail Drake was at least Commander-level, as the Pseudomorphing Demon Beast, which was already considered a deadly threat to the whole group, could not survive even a single bite.

"Holy shit, I want to go home!"

"Same here, this place is too terrifying. What was Dean Song He thinking about sending us here? Look at the things that we've encountered so far! There's no way we are able to deal with them on our own!" Liao Mingxuan blurted out.

Song Xia had almost lost her life, and some of them were almost dragged away while they were barging out from the building. It was an extremely close call.

What was even more terrifying was the reason they were able to make it out alive was that a Razortail Drake had just eaten their would-be killer in a single bite. The entire building had collapsed just from that conflict. Who the hell would have the guts to continue the investigation?!

"Something is definitely wrong with the information that the Hunter Union has. The danger level of this place is way higher than what they told us! Or maybe we're just too unlucky, to stumble into such a terrifying beast when we just arrived here. We should still be able to finish our mission if we are more careful!" Lu Zhenghe immediately interrupted.

Liao Mingxuan and Xu Dalong looked at Lu Zhenghe strangely. They were surprised Lu Zhenghe would make such a daring decision after what the group had experienced.

"I don't think there's anything wrong with the information that the Hunter Union has," Zhao Manting spoke up.

"Are you serious? Look at the stuff we've encountered!"

"You just saw the corpses in the building. In simple words, the hunters who made it back alive didn't stumble into anything too bizarre, so they thought this place was relatively normal. As for those who did stumble into something extraordinary..." Zhao Manting paused for a moment before continuing with a wry smile, "Those who stumbled into powerful demon beasts are all dead. I don't think they were able to report back if they were all dead."

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Chapter 286: Leaving the Group

Either way, everyone agreed that they should find a safer place to rest up.

Song Xia had suffered a severe injury. Xiao Feng had fully recovered from his previous injury, so he could walk normally. However, it was difficult to tell how much time Song Xia needed to recover.

That being said, it was a huge relief that she was still alive.

"Luckily Mu Ningxue managed to freeze the wound in time to stop her from losing blood. Otherwise..." Bai Tingting said.

Song Xia, who had just regained consciousness, cast a thankful glance at Mu Ningxue, who responded with a nod.

"What should we do now?" Zheng Bingxiao asked.

Someone had already been severely injured, and several among the group had argued to retreat. The team no longer shared the same vision, so they were hesitant to proceed with the mission.

"No matter what, I won't leave now." Mu Ningxue said.

Mu Ningxue did not want to force the others to follow her decision. Even though they had come from different schools, they had come here to train themselves. It served as a test to their capabilities, thus they had no excuse to bail out now.

Mu Nujiao shared the same thought as Mu Ningxue. She came from a renowned family. She clearly knew that if a magician survived such an ordeal with their life at stake, it would have a great impact on the future growth of their cultivation.

Improving their strength was not something that could be done efficiently if they were only staying in the safe zones and meditating every day. The experience they acquired from battles was in fact the most important factor. She believed that if she were to leave now, it would be much more difficult for her to gather her courage to overcome the difficulties she would face in the future.

"Since Mu Ningxue has decided to stay, there's no way I'm leaving either," Liao Mingxuan said.

Mu Ningxue and Mu Nujiao were both women. If they were so determined to stay and complete the quest, the men would feel ashamed if they decided to bail out now.

However, Liao Mingxuan, Shen Mingxiao and Ming Cong continued to remain hostile toward Mo Fan. They were still accusing him of placing them in danger.

"Mo Fan, you better shut your mouth up from now on. I don't understand why the directors of the Pearl Institute let such a coward represent their school as an exchange student." Liao Mingxuan spoke roughly.

Ming Cong nodded in agreement, "If it weren't for my Deathstrike Magic Equipment, it would have been impossible for us to leave in one piece."

Mo Fan went up to them and stated grimly, "If you're looking for a fight, bring it on. I'll take both of you at the same time. I'll make sure to turn you both into cripples, so you can use it as an excuse to bail out."

In Mo Fan's eyes, it was not worth wasting his time on these two idiots.

Don't you chicken out if you're trying to pick a fight!

"Alright, that's enough! We shouldn't waste any further time. Let's head to the next location." Mu Nujiao rose from the ground and glared at Shen Mingxiao and Luo Song, who were about to cause a stir.

"I prefer not to hang around with some dogs who only know how to bark. You guys continue on to the next location. I'll investigate another spot myself. What the eye doesn't see, the heart doesn't grieve over. It will save us some time too." Mo Fan suggested leaving the team and investigating on his own.

Mu Nujiao immediately advised against it, "Mo Fan, it's too risky."

"That's right, it's safer for us to stay together. It will be hard for us to provide any support if you somehow found yourself in danger." Zheng Bingxiao said.

"Let him be. Humph, I would like to see if he's able to make it back alive," Liao Mingxuan spat.

"See, he said it himself," Luo Song said.

Mo Fan wasted no time and insisted on leaving the group.

Bai Tingting wanted to leave with Mo Fan, since she trusted him the most in the whole group. However, she needed to look after Song Xia. There was no way she would put Song Xia's life at stake just so she could leave with Mo Fan.

Zhao Manting was planning to go with Mo Fan too, but the latter rejected the offer and asked him to stay with the team.

"Since you've decided, do keep in contact with us. You will return to the team at once after you finish investigating the location..." Mu Nujiao knew Mo Fan had already run out of patience with the other guys. There was no better option.

"Don't worry, I'll be back soon. I'm not too keen to leave you with a bunch of ungrateful scum either," Mo Fan said.

It was reasonable for Shen Mingxiao and Luo Song to be hostile toward him. However, that Liao Mingxuan was only picking on him because he was jealous of his relationship with the girls.

He still has the mood for that even at a place where they could possibly lose their life in an instant! You can find scum anywhere in this world!

"Anyway, just be careful on your own." Mu Nujiao looked at Mo Fan. She understood that he had been crowded out by people of the group just because he had been standing out too much. She hesitated for a moment, before taking out a crystal orb from her bag and handed it to Mo Fan. "Take this."

"What is it?" Mo Fan asked with a confused look.

"A Crystal Guardian Orb. You can insert your energy into it once you're in danger, then break it into pieces. A defensive barrier similar to the Water Barrier will circulate around you. It should be able to protect you for quite a while," Mu Nujiao said.

"This thing... I suppose it isn't cheap, right?" Mo Fan felt a surge of warmth as he saw the sincerely concerned look on Mu Nujiao's face.

"You better bring it back to me in one piece," Mu Nujiao said sternly.

Mu Nujiao knew Mo Fan was a smart ass when it came to playing with words, and always had an indifferent attitude toward everything. However, after their life and death experience just a few moments ago, she knew that any mistake here could possibly lead to their deaths.

Mu Nujiao did not want anything to happen to Mo Fan. The Crystal Guardian Orb was a lucky charm that she wore all the time.

"Thank you, Jiaojiao. If I didn't make it back... you don't need to wait for me. Find yourself a good man," Mo Fan teased.

Mu Nujiao walked away before Mo Fan finished the sentence.

She suddenly lost interest in speaking to him any further. What does he mean by finding himself another good man? Does he think she is a rolling stone?

Wait a second, who would want to wait for him?!

Mo Fan left in satisfaction after teasing Mu Nujiao.

He suddenly realized that he was quite well-received by the women around him.

After splitting up with the team, Mo Fan returned to the collapsed Administration Building.

"I wonder if a rather unique beast like the Pseudomorphing Demon Beast would leave any Soul Essence after it died?" Mo Fan murmured.

Using the broken walls, Mo Fan nimbly climbed to the place where its brain was bitten off. He let out a sigh after searching through the debris.

It was either the Soul Essence had disappeared due to taking too long, or the Pseudomorphing Demon Beast actually did not drop any Soul Essence when it died. Mo Fan ended up empty-handed.

"Alright, Little Loach, stop shaking. Didn't I come back now? If I were to dig up the loot, wouldn't I have to share with the others? I don't mind sharing with Mu Nujiao, Zhao Manting, Bai Tingting, and Mu Ningxue, but those disgusting guys, do you really want to share with them? Well, it's all ours now!" Mo Fan exclaimed to the Little Loach Pendant on his chest.

Chapter 287: The Pseudomorphing Demon Beast's Seed

For some reason, the Little Loach Pendant was in high spirits when Mo Fan first arrived at the Administration Building.

Mo Fan had only decided to stay outside after planning to look for the thing that had excited the Little Loach Pendant. To his surprise, the terrifying series of events took place before he had the chance to search the place.

Besides, a group of hunters was recently eliminated inside the Administration Building. Was it a coincidence that they had come to the Administration Building? If so, why were they here in the city in the first place?

Was it because they had discovered something valuable?

Did they really think Mo Fan would choose to leave the team because he was pissed off at those idiots?

He was only planning to investigate what the place was hiding!

However, all that remained were a pile of debris and wilted vines. He had no idea where the thing that the hunters were looking for would be.

During this situation, the Little Loach Pendant once again resolved a huge problem for Mo Fan. As it was vibrating vigorously, it was also emanating a unique glow. The strength of the glow served as an indication of the distance between Mo Fan and the object.

Inside the dark collapsed hall, Mo Fan weaved through the wreckage on his own. Since he had the Shadow Element, he was not worried about the ceiling collapsing on him.

As he proceeded to the hall on his left, he saw a long passage stacked up with barren rocks. The entire path was almost blocked off, and the top was sealed off by the dead vines. If it weren't for Fleeing Shadow, it would be impossible for Mo Fan to make his way through.

Suddenly, a supporting beam that was on the verge of shattering collapsed and fell right onto Mo Fan. He let out a curse and swiftly dodged the incoming disaster with a tumble.

He did manage to dodge the beam, but it did not feel great when the dust blew onto his face.

The glow from the Little Loach Pendant had grown even stronger, which implied that he was getting closer to the treasure.

Mo Fan continued to take a few steps forward and realized that the glow had actually grown weaker. He took a few steps backward, and saw the glow becoming stronger, before falling again.

“Ah, this is it. Is it above me?” Mo Fan lowered his head and discovered that down was the correct way.

“Swift Star Wolf!”

Mo Fan opened a moonlit path and Summoned the beast to him.

The gallant and high-spirited Swift Star Wolf arrived from the other dimension. He let out a bright howl while unleashing his Warrior-level aura toward the surroundings, totally displaying his pride as a king of wolves.

However, when the Swift Star Wolf finally thought he was called here for an epic battle, his heartless master said, “Dig up this place!”

The Swift Star Wolf was totally left speechless. A Warrior-level Summoned beast was being ordered to be a digger. What a total waste of his talents!

But, the Swift Star Wolf’s claws were incredibly sharp, and so were very efficient when it came to digging. The cement ground was shattered with a few gouges, and in just a few minutes, a huge pit appeared in front of Mo Fan.

“Keep it up!”

Mo Fan jumped into the pit and discovered the glow from the Little Loach Pendant became brighter.

A while later, the roots of the Pseudomorphing Demon Beast began to surface. It was hard to tell how much area the roots actually covered underground.

Luckily, the dead roots were no match for the Swift Star Wolf’s claws. It continued to rip through the roots.

“Strange, it looks like the roots are wrapped around something.” Mo Fan realized something was out of place.

The Swift Star Wolf seemed to be aware of it, too. It quickened its digging speed, and the soil was hurled everywhere.

After the roots were dug up, a wide space was discovered, which was empty apart from a floating green light. It was difficult to tell what it actually was.

The Swift Star Wolf was rather impatient. He scooped out with his claw and retrieved the little glowing light from the space, which he presented to Mo Fan. The Wolf was waiting for him to acknowledge his hard work.

Mo Fan grabbed it and stared at it in confusion. Its appearance was similar to a glowing pea.

Mo Fan inspected it while murmuring, "What the heck is this, a glowing green pea...No, this isn't right, why would the roots be hiding a pea..."

Suddenly, a flash flickered in his mind as his expression rose with joy, "A seed! Ah, it must be a seed!

"But what kind of seed is it... Oh my, it must be the seed of the Pseudomorphing Demon Beast!

"The Pseudomorphing Demon Beast's strength is utterly terrifying when it matures. This seed must be similar to a beast's youngling, which means it can be fostered by a Summoner!"

Mo Fan's spirits instantly rose.

He had witnessed the capabilities of a Pseudomorphing Demon Beast with his own eyes. It was almost unbeatable among Warrior-level demon beasts. Therefore, he expected the seed to possess incredible value.

"I'll take it back. I'm sure that I can sell it off at an insane price!" Mo Fan slowly stored the seed of the Pseudomorphing Demon Beast away.

Although Mo Fan was a Summoner himself, and he had yet to decide on a Contracted Beast after he reached the Intermediate Level, the Pseudomorphing Demon Beast could be considered an option once it gained its self-awareness.

However, the Pseudomorphing Demon Beast was quite special. Mo Fan was not too much of a fan for things that took root.

The best way was to sell it, then use the money to bid for some suitable younglings at the auctions.

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Mo Fan felt incredibly pleasant after finding such valuable loot.

Mo Fan had almost gone bankrupt after spending all his savings on the evolving materials for the Summoning Element. He also still had a Shadow Element Soul Seed on his to-buy list, and its price was even higher than a Lightning Element Soul Seed. Mo Fan was clueless of where he would get the money from, but he had now found this seed.

Apart from the Soul Seed, the Contracted Beast would also require a huge investment.

There were not many beasts younglings being sold on the market. A Servant-class youngling would cost between one million to two million RMB. The Warrior-level younglings were even crazier, with a starting price of at least twenty million RMB. Regardless of their lineage, they were basically sold instantly most of the time.

The Pseudomorphing Demon Beast would have a rather high lineage among the Warrior-level demon beasts, but it was hard to tell if a plant-type demon beast would be valuable to the Summoners. At least, Mo Fan was not too fond of it himself.

"I should go back to the investigation point to pretend I'm working, just so they won't find it out."

Mo Fan was perfectly content with the discovery. He jumped onto the Swift Star Wolf's back and headed straight to his destination.

The Swift Star Wolf's speed was outstanding. The streets were overgrown with weeds and crowded with abandoned vehicles. The Swift Star Wolf was able to run easily along the roofs of the vehicles. Dilapidated buildings on both sides were quickly left behind, and the wind from the running inflicted a slight pain on Mo Fan's ears...

At such a rate, he would arrive at the inspection point in no time.

It was impossible for them to just sit at a spot and count the number of demon beasts nearby. The inspection involved placing a beacon that released a unique sonar wave at the specified location, and protecting it for three hours. The beacon would be able to collect the data needed regarding the disposition of the demon beasts.

On a side note, the sonar wave being emitted from the beacon was not perfectly stable. As such, certain types of demon beasts would be able to sense it. There was no guarantee that the beacon would still remain intact after three hours if it was left unguarded!

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Chapter 288: Go Big or Go Home

Drizzles were common in this season. Tiny raindrops fell from the mountain shrouded in a thick mist. The terrain was wet and muddy, and even the rivers were flowing with a stronger current. The sound of the waves could be heard from a great distance away.

The grey sky was boundless, nor was there a visible end to the mountain range. Curtains of rain hung between the sky and the ground.

In the midst of the cold rain, snowy white wings appeared out of nowhere, maintaining a certain distance from the ground as they glided through the sky.

The wings belonged to the Heavenly Eagles, the trademark tamed beasts of the Chinese military. They were mostly used as mounts, and were rarely involved in any kind of battles.

The Heavenly Eagles were one of the rare kind of Beasts that could be tamed using the Psychic Element. During the many battles between humanity and the demon beasts, humans had somehow discovered this rare species. They were willing to be affiliated with the humans, but they were not willing to fight for them.

More snowy white figures appeared. They were moving in an orderly fashion, with a hint of aura that could only be seen on Battleimages.

A man with an army coat draping over his shoulders on one of the Heavenly Eagles said, "Remember, from now on, you're no longer carrying the identity of a soldier. Everything that you do is no longer tied to the North China Military." The man had two small tufts of mustache and an ancient tobacco pipe in his hand. He would take a smoke every time he finished a sentence, just like normal breathing.

Not many people actually smoked with a pipe in this era, but it was just a habit that Lu Nian had gotten used to. His back was once torn apart by a Commander-level beast, leaving a giant wound which he could still feel a dull pain from. He had visited many experienced Healers, but none of them had proved to be useful. In the end, he could only rely on a special type of tobacco to slightly numb himself...

"Commander Lu, we are three hundred kilometers away from Jinlin City. There's a group of Blood-Puncture Vultures living close to Jinlin City. Should we engage?" The Advising Officer was a female Battlemage. Her eyebrows were almost joined in a straight line, not a good-looking woman.

"There's no need for that. We will travel on foot once we are close to their territory," Lu Nian said.

"Acknowledged!"

"Remember, only success is allowed for this mission!"

"Affirmative!"

In a rather unique bamboo pavilion to the south of the Imperial College, Song He, who was a fan of Chrysanthemum tea, was sitting on a futon and enjoying the pleasant scent from the teapot in front of him.

Suddenly, the door was push open with great might. The door made of bamboo swayed wildly, as if it were going to collapse.

"Who's there? Where's the manner at?" Dean Song He wore a frown.

"It's me, old man."

"Zhan Kong?" Song He raised his eyelids and stared at the not-so-young-anymore man in front of him in surprise.

Song He took a closer look and saw five fresh scars around the man's neck and chest. Only parts of the scars were revealed above his collar, it was difficult to tell how far the scars extended.

"Your wounds, if they were an inch higher on your neck, you might be dead now!" Dean Song He said with a slightly distressed look.

"I'm alive, that's all it matters. Unfortunately, they did ruin my perfect body." Zhan Kong tried to let out a relaxing smile.

"They must be from the Darkwing Wolf. Their claws were very sharp and have the ability to corrupt their target's blood. You will need a very long time to fully recover from the wounds," Dean Song He told.

"I'll slay that Darkwing Wolf with my bare hands one day... but I'm here for another matter." Zhan Kong had a stern look.

"What is it, don't tell me the South Military is interested in the kid with Double Innate Elements?" Song He smiled as he came up with the answer fairly quickly.

"What do you mean, if we're interested?! He's my sworn little brother! I was looking after him back in Bo City! I was worried about something when he exposed his Double Innate Elements a while ago..."

"Don't worry. Old Xiao and Qiu Yuhua were against it. Lu Nian did pay me a visit privately," Dean Song He informed him.

"That's exactly why I'm here. I've received news from an old friend in the North Military. A bunch of soldiers who were reporting to Lu Nian was discharged all of a sudden. Even Lu Nian himself seemed to have the intention to quit his position," Zhan Kong said.

"It's true that Commander Lu has been acting strange lately. Perhaps he's trying to find another path, as he could not get any higher in the military?" Dean Song He proposed.

"Hey, have you lost your edge because of your age? Lu Nian is doing this because he can then do something crazy without being restricted!" Zhan Kong said.

Dean Song He was startled, before he recalled something as he gathered his thoughts.

"Are you really suggesting he'll go that far?" Dean Song He inquired.

"And you're telling me it's impossible? Hurry up and tell me where the kid's at!" Zhan Kong shot back.

"He's with the training group!" Dean Song He replied.

"Does Lu Nian know about it?"

"He does!" the Dean answered helplessly.

"..." Zhan Kong was left speechless. He then blurted out, "Is your brain rusted? Lu Nian's subordinates are a bunch of maniacs who would do anything to achieve their goals. Why wouldn't you think that Lu Nian would do something crazy, even if it would cost him everything? They were all expelled so if they commit a serious offense, they won't necessarily bring shame to the Black Tortoise Regiment!"

"I never thought they would go that far! Quick, we can't waste any more time. We have to head to the Jinlin City at once. We can't let him do such a terrifying thing." Dean Song He exclaimed.

"Save some breath, old man, I'll go myself." Zhan Kong said.

"Yao Nan, the hunter in charge of that incident is here in the capital, too. I'll ask him to go with you. He has a Wing Magical Equipment. He can travel there fairly quickly." Dean Song He said.

"It's decided!"

Inside Jinlin City, close to a bunch of Boston Ivies, Mo Fan had changed into a black outfit and was sitting atop a stand-alone pillar. He was enjoying some delicious jerky, while watching the fight between his Swift Star Wolf and a Three-eyed Magic Wolf.

It was rare to bump into a familiar species in the abandoned city, and somehow it was a type that could sense the resonance of the sonar wave.

The Three-eyed Magic Wolf was incredibly huge, taller than the roofs of most of the buildings in the street. Mo Fan clearly remembered the first time he had bumped into such a gigantic beast with his classmates. He did not even dare to take an extra breath, just so it would miss his presence.

His mindset was completely different when he bumped into a Three-eyed Magic Wolf once again. As a matter of fact, Mo Fan could just let his Swift Star Wolf deal with it, instead of attacking himself.

Despite the fact they were both different species of wolves, the Swift Star Wolf totally saw the Three-eyed Magic Wolf as an unworthy opponent. It sprang forward and attacked with its fangs, teaching its opponent what a real wolf should be like!

Looking at the wounds covering the gigantic beast, Mo Fan could not help but grin.

The fact he could now easily handle the beast that he used to only be able to run away from was something to be quite proud of!

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Chapter 289: Slaughtering the Demon Wolves

"Awoooohh!"

In the midst of the intense battle, the huge Three-eyed Magic Wolf suddenly raised its head and let out a howl to the sky.

The sound echoed away into the distance. Clearly, it was not trying to execute a special move.

A while later, a great disturbance could be felt in the distance.

Since Mo Fan was sitting high up, he could see countless figures appearing from the buildings and the corners, moving into the open. They were moving toward the source of the Three-eyed Magic Wolf's howl like a black tide.

"Summoning the crew when it can't win? I thought this was meant to be a duel?" Mo Fan did not agree with the Three-eyed Magic Wolf's decision.

Putting his disdain aside, a pack of One-eyed Magic Wolves was charging toward them from all directions. One-eyed Magic Wolves focused heavily on their physical strength. The sight of them running had quite an outstanding visual impact. It felt like the entire area was shaking.

The number of the One-eyed Magic Wolves continued to increase. Mo Fan estimated there were at least fifty of them. Back in Bo City, such a pack of One-eyed Magic Wolves was enough to wipe out a huge group of magicians instantly.

Mo Fan was left with no choice. The device had been installed into the ground for over two hours, so his job was almost done. He had promised to investigate on his own. If he were to return empty-handed, he would have to suffer being mocked by Shen Mingxiao, Luo Song, Liao Mingxuan, and the others again.

Preserving his face was only part of the reason. Most importantly, Mo Fan had the urge to start a massacre now!

These pieces of shit, he once had no choice but to run away for his life when facing them. Now, he wanted some payback by butchering them. Otherwise, what was the point of him learning magic?

"Swift Star Wolf, you focus on that one. I'll handle the rest!" Mo Fan told him.

The Swift Star Wolf cleared his throat. He seemed to have something to say. Shouldn't Mo Fan be the one fighting against the boss, while he handled its subordinates?

Mo Fan jumped to the roof of the next building, which was overgrown with Boston Ivy. Half of the building had already collapsed, and a variety of plants had grown their way into it.

"One, two, three...seven. Very well. I'll let you keep one another in company in death!" Mo Fan wore a confident grin as he pictured the Star Pattern.

A few seconds later, he began to emit a strong fiery aura. He continued to release heat to his surroundings under his control, gathering on his right fist.

The energy condensed, his fist turning blazing red. A moment later, Mo Fan suddenly threw a punch, aiming at the street from the high ground.

The target spot was a corner on the street. Seven One-eyed Magic Wolves were running toward the source of the howl excitedly. They thought their leader had found some delicacies for them.

However, as they turned the corner, their vision was filled with a blazing curtain, as if a burning meteorite had just crashed in front of them!

The two One-eyed Magic Wolves leading the way were dumbfounded. They instinctively tried to turn around and flee, but instantly collided with the One-eyed Magic Wolves behind them.

The Fiery Fist landed, and the seven One-eyed Magic Wolves were thoroughly devoured by the Rose Flame. Those that were turned instantly into piles of black ash died a quick death, but those that were half-burned from the flame and suffered the impact from the Fiery Fist experienced the most pain. Even as they exhaled their last breath, they could not understand why their boss had summoned them here, just to die!

The One-eyed Magic Wolves here and the One-eyed Magic Wolves in the south by Bo City did not belong to the same horde. Unfortunately, someone here bore a huge grudge against their species!

Mo Fan had just eliminated seven One-eyed Magic Wolves with a single attack. The feeling of being able to crush his opponents' lives easily made him hot-blooded!

Those who had not experienced being hunted by the One-eyed Magic Wolves would never understand how excited Mo Fan was. Either way, he would kill every single one of them that he stumbled into today!

Two One-eyed Magic Wolves that were hiding pretty well in the shadows dashed out from the debris when they saw Mo Fan focusing on killing their comrades.

They opened their mouths wide, aiming to tear Mo Fan apart with brute force. They coordinated their attacks from both sides, leaving Mo Fan with no escape.

"Too slow, are you seriously trying to ambush me with that speed?" Mo Fan sneered.

With his current strength, it was too easy for him to detect the presence of a few Servant-class beasts. The experience he had collected from fighting against stronger beasts had gotten him used to their attack patterns. Even the Mother Scale Skin Phantom and the Cursed Beast that were infamous for their speed were unable to threaten Mo Fan's life. How could these One-eyed Magic Wolves possibly do it?

In Mo Fan's eyes, they were incredibly clumsy with their attacks!

As the jaws approached him, his body dissolved into a puff of black shadow, which rapidly sank into the portal between the layers of light and darkness.

In the following second, Mo Fan reappeared on the roof of a different building. He looked at the One-eyed Magic Wolves exchanging kisses while flipping his hand, which already had a blazing red flame burning on it.

"Enjoy your time together in the Fire!" Mo Fan threw the sparkling flame forward.

The flame drew a dazzling arc in the sky before landing at the collapsed building.

Keeping a clear count in mind, Mo Fan clenched his fist as if he were pushing the trigger for a time bomb, and the Fire Burst in the building exploded.

The buildings in this area were already on the verge of collapsing. The impact from the explosion was more than enough to topple it, burying the two One-eyed Magic Wolves together in the rubble.

Mo Fan quickly added the final touch with Burning Bones. The two One-eyed Magic Wolves were already having a hard time trying to get out from under the debris, and the flames of the Burning Bones placed them in a torturing pain. They kept on crying out in agony...

They were going to burn to their deaths!

Mo Fan was extremely skilled with the basic level spells now. He could utilize the different effects of the spells to maximize his damage output!

"Killing them all should be enough for another Soul Essence, right?" Mo Fan glanced ahead. The number of the One-eyed Magic Wolves was quite astonishing.

Mo Fan had collected quite a number of Soul Remnants throughout this adventure. He had improved five Stars of his Lightning Element after setting foot in this ravaged city!

He currently had over twenty Soul Remnants in his collection. The group did kill quite a number of Servant-class and Warrior-level beasts along their way here, after all.

"Awoooohh!!!"

"An Advanced-level One-eyed Magic Wolf! Nice, I'll start with you first!"

An Advanced-level One-eyed Magic Wolf was not easy to deal with, and it posed a greater threat to Mo Fan's safety. As such, Mo Fan was not too conservative with his energy when fighting against one. Purple-black electric arcs wrapped around his body, flickering sharply!

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Chapter 290: Completing the Collection

An Advanced-level One-eyed Magic Wolf was significantly faster and quicker to respond. Mo Fan knew that the cunning beast would dodge his Fire Spells with ease.

Therefore, he straight away went with a much simpler yet violent way, using the Thunderbolt that even an Advanced-level One-eyed Magic Wolf would not be faster than!

The purple-golden lightning struck down, triggering a spark in the air. On top of that, the effects of Qianjun made it look even scarier.

A single lightning bolt was enough to leave the Advanced-level One-eyed Magic Wolf with no chance to react, without the need for a follow-up attack. Its powerful body was shattered into bloodspray by the overwhelming power of the Thunderbolt.

A rain of blood fell down from above, sprinkling onto the rest of the One-eyed Magic Wolves nearby. Those who were rather timid totally lost their will to fight. The big guy was considered the strongest among them, and yet he was defeated by the human with a single spell. How powerful was this human?

"Lightning Strike!"

The merciless attacks were enough to highlight Mo Fan's hatred of the One-eyed Magic Wolves. Before the One-eyed Magic Wolves could recover from their shock, he lashed out with several forks of Lightning Strike to hamper the remaining One-eyed Magic Wolves.

When they lost their ability to move from the paralysis, Mo Fan swiftly attacked with three Fire Bursts!

There was not any skill that stood out in the series of attacks. He was blatantly killing them with the overwhelming power of Fire and Lightning.

"Something is glowing there? It's a Soul Essence, hahaha! I'm in luck, I've found another Soul Essence!"

Mo Fan was overjoyed. He had killed quite a number of Servant-class demon beasts throughout this adventure, but he'd yet to find any Soul Essences. He finally understood why the Stardust Magic Tool was so rare and expensive.

Only someone with four Elements like Mo Fan could afford to face so many beasts at once. The rest of the Intermediate Magicians who still had not mastered their basics had no choice but to run if they were fighting more than ten beasts at once.

That was another Soul Essence in the collection, which meant he could now refine his sixth Star!

In addition, after collecting the Soul Remnants of the One-eyed Magic Wolves that were still being slaughtered, they were most likely enough to form half a Soul Essence.

The Swift Star Wolf let out a roar and took a few hits so it could tear at the Three-eyed Magic Wolf's throat.

Following the bite, fresh blood splattered across the place like a spring. It was extremely striking.

The Three-eyed Magic Wolf held its throat with its claw. It realized that it stood no chance against the incredibly nimble Swift Star Wolf, and finally decided to flee for its life. It hurled a worn-out car nearby toward the Swift Star Wolf and ran into the distance.

"Trying to run?" Mo Fan was long aware of its intentions. A Shadow pattern appeared under his feet.

A Shadow Spike appeared before his chest. With a thought, it quickly vanished into thin air...

From the reflection of a puddle ahead, the shadow of something like a rapier swept pass silently.

As the Three-eyed Magic Wolf was fleeing into the woods nearby, its movement came to a sudden stop, as if something enormous had grabbed it from behind.

The Three-eyed Magic Wolf stomped the ground, which collapsed and sank beneath it, but its body was still held in place firmly in a weird manner.

"Finish it off quickly, its strength is rather high!" Mo Fan said to the Swift Star Wolf.

The Shadow Spike nailed to the shadow of the Three-eyed Magic Wolf loosened up due to its strength. Mo Fan had no idea how long the spike would hold.

The Swift Star Wolf sprang forward instantly. Unlike the Three-eyed Magic Wolf, which would leave a huge mark on the ground with each step, the Swift Star Wolf left no trail behind. It was indeed light as a feather and fast as the wind!

The Swift Star Wolf's fur fluttered in the wind. He gathered his strength as he ran forward. He was still twenty meters away from the Three-eyed Magic Wolf when he leapt into the air, his sharp claws emitting icy flickers.

He drove forward like the thrust of a sword. His claw left a flickering trail behind as it tore through the Three-eyed Magic Wolf's injured throat.

The Three-eyed Magic Wolf tried to raise its thick forelegs to shield itself, but the slash blatantly cut through them, too.

The two severed arms flew through the air as fresh blood spiraled out from the wounds.

The momentum of the slash was not halted by its legs. It continued on to slash through the same wound on the Three-eyed Magic Wolf's throat, turning it from a hole to a clean cut, severing the flesh and bone beneath.

Its head slowly fell off from the cut and dropped heavily to the ground, its body still being held in place by Mo Fan's Shadow Spike. As a result, a stiffened headless giant wolf was just standing there, totally losing its previous imperious appearance!

A few seconds later, fresh blood jetted out from the cut like a fountain. As the effect of the Shadow Spike slowly fell away, the Three-eyed Magic Wolf collapsed onto the ground like a small building.

The Swift Star Wolf, who was a clean freak, stayed far away from the corpse. He waited until the blood finished spraying all over the place before going up to the corpse of the Three-eyed Magic Wolf. He ripped open its chest and dug up its heart.

He swallowed his prize in one go. The inner organs of the same species of Beasts were incredibly useful for the Swift Star Wolf. As a beast that had grown up obeying the law of jungle, being merciful was never the key to staying alive.

Following the Three-eyed Magic Wolf's death, the One-eyed Magic Wolves totally lost their will to fight Mo Fan and his Swift Star Wolf. They immediately fled in all directions.

"You go and clean them up, I'll see if the Three-eyed Magic Wolf has anything valuable left." Mo Fan said to the Swift Star Wolf.

The Swift Star Wolf rolled his eyes like a human. I've dealt with their boss, and now that the battle has ended, why do I have to clean up still? Are you kidding me?

"You've already eaten the most valuable heart. Go on..." Mo Fan prodded...

He would surely be able to salvage some valuable loot from the corpse of a Warrior-level demon beast. If he were lucky to find some mutated bones, claws, or skin useful for crafting equipment, he could sell them off for quite a fortune!

Unfortunately, the Three-eyed Magic Wolf did not drop such rare loot, but he did find a mutated bone from one of the dead One-eyed Magic Wolves. He should be able to sell it for two hundred thousand RMB.

"The Soul Remnants still aren't enough?

"I've already strengthened the sixth Star. My Lightning Strike is about to rank up!

"Forget it, I should head on to the next inspection point. I should be able to collect enough Soul Remnants there..."

Mo Fan returned to the device and saw it beeping green, which indicated that it had finished collecting the data regarding the numbers of beasts within three kilometers. The next step would be bringing it back to the professionals so they could analyze the data.

The next inspection point was not too far away. Mo Fan followed the map and hurried his way over. I'm so close to collecting the seven balls to summon the dragon...Err, I mean, strengthening my Lightning Strike. I won't feel at ease if I don't complete it!

He had managed to complete the task that others would need to group up to accomplish!

That's the freedom he got from having a formidable level of strength!