

Versatile 301

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Chapter 301: The Team's Collapse

Returning to the church, the duo discovered that the whole area was a total mess, with ravines everywhere. The energy of various Elements lingered in the surrounding air.

It was obvious that the battles had come to an end. However, they could not tell where the group had gone!

"Ningxue, are you alright?" Lu Zhenghe was the first to appear. He immediately came forward. His gaze immediately turned hostile when he saw Mo Fan with his hand on her shoulder. He said in a cold tone, "I'll take care of her from here!"

Mu Ningxue could not be bothered by the two. She found herself a corner to rest up.

Lu Zhenghe continued to stick to her like a fly. He a completely different person than when he was commanding the group. Liao Mingxuan was speaking the truth, after all...

Mo Fan went to look for the others. He had no idea how his gorgeous Mu Nujiao was doing. After all, she had been living together with him. He held himself responsible for her safety.

Instead of finding Mu Nujiao, he ended up bumping into the fatty Luo Song.

Mo Fan grabbed the fatty by his collar. Before he could say anything, Luo Song burst out crying, "Brother, have some mercy on me! I was almost killed by her. She's right there. I think she's awake. She's been murmuring to herself..."

Luo Song was indeed in a miserable state. From his energy level, it appeared that he had almost used up all his magical gear, too. In terms of cultivation, Mu Nujiao had mastered her Intermediate Magic and was clearly a lot stronger than him.

Mo Fan soon found Mu Nujiao standing in a pile of bushes. The plants nearby were clearly all her work. She looked slightly lost, and her gaze was hollow. The main difference was the red mark on her forehead had vanished, giving her back her usual noble appearance.

"Jiaojiao, are you alright?" Mo Fan went up to her. He took off the Focus necklace and hung it around Mu Nujiao's neck.

Mu Nujiao's pupils displayed some emotion. It was fear, as if she had just woken up from a nightmare. She was experiencing the aftershock.

"Don't be scared, I'm here." Mo Fan slowly pulled Mu Nujiao's soft body into his arms. He was trying to warm her terrified little heart with his masculine body warmth.

Mu Nujiao did not show any reaction to being hugged by Mo Fan. Normally, she would be enraged.

"What..what happened to me?" Mu Nujiao asked with a stunned look.

She was unable to recall what she had done. She only remembered Luo Song was slandering the Mu Family and picking on their past. It made her furious, but she totally forgot what happened afterwards.

"Your mind was being controlled, but everything is fine now. Come, you'll feel better with a hug. Come closer," Mo Fan said.

Mu Nujiao finally raised her head. Her previous scared expression was replaced with a hint of doubt.

At last, Mu Nujiao realized something. She instantly blushed, which made her extremely adorable, leaving Mo Fan with a stunned face.

Mo Fan felt like he was being bewitched, being at such a close distance and capturing her attractive scent. Although he was not extreme enough to force himself upon her, he would not mind kissing her pink face and sexy lips.

"Asshole." Mu Nujiao pushed the jerk who was taking advantage of the situation away.

She was experiencing a similar feeling to Mu Ningxue. If she still had the energy, she would hang him up and beat the crap out of him. Wasn't he supposed to be more gentlemanly?

Mo Fan felt extremely pleasant, as he had spent some enjoyable time with the two goddesses. Mu Ningxue's skin was exceedingly smooth and soft, the touch of her felt incredibly good. Mu Nujiao's shoulders were rounder, with a pleasant body scent, giving her a different charm.

"Where are the others?" Mu Nujiao switched the topic to prevent the atmosphere from turning awkward.

"I don't know, I wouldn't care about their life and death," Mo Fan said indifferently.

"How can you say that?" Mu Nujiao rolled her eyes at him.

"Come, take this back. It was a close call when we were killing the Bewitching Magic Spider. However, I wasn't willing to use your lucky charm." Mo Fan gave the orb back.

Mu Nujiao also returned the Focus necklace to him. She blushed again when she heard Mo Fan describing it like they were exchanging love tokens between them. She immediately walked off, not willing to continue talking with the shameless prick.

She was still feeling absent-minded. Her heart had been acting weird after being teased by Mo Fan...

Mo Fan and Mu Nujiao soon found Zhao Manting and Bai Tingting.

They were unharmed, but Zheng Bingxiao was severely injured, as he was struck head-on by Zhao Mingyue's Intermediate Fire Magic. He was almost roasted alive.

Bai Tingting was trying her best to treat his wounds. She had no idea if he could make it.

Even if Zheng Bingxiao made it, he would feel extremely hopeless knowing that he had almost died to an ally instead of a demon beast.

The infighting had left everyone injured and consumed by extreme fatigue. Most importantly, the trust between the students no longer existed. Song Xia was unconscious, Zheng Bingxiao was heavily burned, and Xu Dalong's arm had been bitten off...

The group was a complete mess. Everyone was sitting in different groups, just like before they lost control of their minds.

"Let's retreat. We'll go back at dawn," Zhao Manting proposed.

"I can't stay here any longer, either," Luo Song agreed.

"Our mission is still ongoing, we can't leave now..." Lu Zhenghe immediately panicked, as if he was scared that the group would leave.

"Mission my ass, I almost lost my life. Either way, I won't be staying here any longer," Xu Dalong snapped furiously.

His arm was bitten off by Lu Zhenghe's Violent Mark Wolf. He thought Lu Zhenghe had gone too far with his attack, even though he was bewitched.

As for Ming Cong and Liao Mingxuan, who were deeply under the bewitchment, the former had totally disappeared. Liao Mingxuan was fine, but he was only sitting in a corner with a weird expression.

Since Liao Mingxuan regained his wits, he had been acting strange, even worse than he was bewitched.

As for the vanished Ming Cong, no one was in the mood to search for him, as they were all weary. They would try searching for him during the daylight tomorrow. It was the most they could do.

Everyone was having trouble looking after themselves. They were not in the mood to care for others.

No one had expected to stumble into such a deadly beast that was able to control their minds, nor expect that the elite group of students would collapse in just one night.

Chapter 302: Kill'em All!

Liao Mingxuan sat beside Mu Ningxue. He did not lose control of himself, but he was worn out after holding off Liao Mingxuan and Xu Dalong.

He wanted to talk with Mu Ningxue, but she had been quiet the whole time. He had no idea how he could break the silence.

He raised his head and began to think of some way to make conversation. Suddenly, he saw pairs of snowy-white wings on the dawn-lit horizon. The wings were approaching the group at a steady pace, their faint glows embellishing the dull sky.

Lu Zhenghe felt a surge of joy, but immediately pretended he had seen nothing.

The wings landed, instead of flying straight into the desolate city.

Their landing spot was not too far away. They should be arriving in their area soon. Lu Zhenghe intentionally checked his surroundings, searching for Mo Fan.

Coincidentally, Mo Fan, Mu Nujiao, Bai Tingting, Zhao Manting, and the others were walking towards him, too. Mo Fan was the first to break the silence, "Since no one has the mood to continue the mission, should we head back now?"

"We still haven't found Ming Cong." Mu Ningxue said.

"Forget it, he was killed by Liao Mingxuan accidentally out." Xu Dalong blurted out.

Liao Mingxuan shivered when he heard the accusation. He pointed at Xu Dalong and screamed, "That's a bloody lie!"

"Just admit it, everyone lost control of themselves. One of the two of you would die," Mo Fan added mercilessly.

"Liao Mingxuan, did you kill him?" Mu Ningxue inquired.

"I...I didn't mean it. I can't control myself at all..." Liao Mingxuan was on the verge of breaking down. He plunged his hands into his hair as if he were trying to pry open his head.

Ming Cong was his best buddy, but who knew that he would be the one killing him. Even his corpse was distorted beyond recognition.

"Pack up. We're leaving." Mu Ningxue did not question any further. She gave the orders as the team's captain.

None of them had the courage to continue with the mission after the series of events. The abandoned city was way more terrifying than they had imagined. Heavens knew how many of them would still be alive if they tried to accomplish their mission.

Everyone was tired. Most importantly, they were scared.

Everyone was already intimidated after they stumbled into the Pseudomorphing Demon Beast. Now, the Bewitching Magic Spider had set them fighting one another. Liao Mingxuan even ended up killing Ming Cong. Even though he had fallen the deepest into the bewitchment, the group still could not believe it.

After packing up their stuff, the group went and found Ming Cong's corpse, and decided to bury it. They used Earth Element magic to quickly set up a solid grave for him. It would stop his corpse from being dug up by the demon beasts.

The severely injured Song Xia had regained consciousness. Her abdomen was still covered in gauze, and she looked extremely tired.

She was very lucky to have survived, so she did not expect much from the group. All she wanted was to return safely with the others.

Zheng Bingxiao was in a terrible state, too. Bai Tingting had used up all her energy saving him. She still had no idea if his life was still at risk.

Everyone in the group was ambitious when they set out for the adventure. They thought they could easily conquer the desolate city, but they were thoroughly beaten after they had only investigated a few spots. They had thoroughly experienced the cruelty of the demon beasts' territory.

Being an elite of the Pearl Institute or the most talented student of the Imperial College made no difference. Even surviving in the wild alone was utterly difficult for them.

Despite being treated as influential figures in the schools, despite dominating the rest of the students, despite hearing lots of tales about the outside world from the elderly, they didn't know how useless they were until they experienced it first-hand. The dead stayed dead, and the wounded were wounded.

None of them were convinced of the result. As the top students of the whole nation, they each had a certain level of pride in their hearts, which they could only swallow back down as they dragged their exhausted bodies back in the direction they had come from.

The training had proven to be too difficult.

Slowly, the group walked out of the city.

The sky was well-lit, and birds were chirping in the woods nearby. The pleasant melody helped weaken the appalling atmosphere.

Looking ahead, they could see the same railway overgrown with moss and weeds. It extended into the distance through the woods, and would eventually lead them back to the city that could be called paradise.

Everyone was in a rush to get back; back to somewhere with living people, back to their cozy homes.

The students were about to follow the railway when a group of people approached from the woods. They were wearing the same uniforms, which was similar to Battlemages. However, the colors were totally different.

The group consisted of about thirty people. Each had a white giant eagle on their side. The eagles had bulky chests and sharp gazes. Their folded wings were touching the ground. If they fully spread them apart, they would be ten meters across, at least!

Mo Fan had seen these Heavenly Eagles before. They were the beasts that the Battlemages usually tamed.

It was said that only powerful magicians with the Psychic Element were able to tame a beast. Even though they could not force them to assist in battles, they were perfect for transportation.

"Battlemages? Are they here to save us?" The two girls Zhao Mingyue and Qingqing were excited seeing the Battlemages.

It felt great just seeing someone alive.

"Something's weird about their uniforms..." Zhao Manting pointed out.

"They must be here to save us. Such a relief, they might be able to save Zheng Bingxiao." Peng Liang blurted out in joy.

Lu Zhenghe stood there and avoided eye contact with the group.

The Battlemages continued to walk toward the group. Their leader was a man with thick brows, holding a pipe between his lips.

The man was wearing a camo windbreaker. The eyes under his thick brows quickly scanned the students, before stopping at Lu Zhenghe.

Lu Zhenghe cast a glance in Mo Fan's direction, as if he were trying to tell the man something.

Commander Lu Nian nodded slightly and slowly raised his right hand. He gave an order to the Battlemages behind him, "Those who we have no interest in, kill'em all."

Lu Nian spoke in a relatively calm manner, as if he were asking them to be taken away.

However, he was ordering them to be killed!

Even Lu Zhenghe was stunned when he heard the order. He immediately forced a smile and said, "Brother, have you mistaken? They are students from the Pearl Institute and the Royal College. We're only here on training."

"That's why they have to be silenced. I don't want anyone to know what has happened here." Lu Nian said in a relatively calm tone. His decisive attitude served as an indication that there were countless lives lost in his hands!

A strong murderous intent burst out from the people behind him. They were all soldiers, with a strength of at least the Intermediate Level. Their eyes locked onto the naive students like a hungry pack of wolves eyeing a herd of sheep.

The atmosphere had thoroughly changed!

Zhao Mingyue and Qingqing were about to say something to the Battlemages when they realized a few ice chains had suddenly appeared under their feet!

The chains penetrated their bodies while they were in a totally defenseless stance. The silver-white ice chains were instantly dyed red with fresh blood.

The ice chains pierced through their bodies. Blood sprayed everywhere. The two lively girls were instantly turned into two icy corpses on the ground...

It was utterly shocking. The students could not believe what they had just witnessed!

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Chapter 303: The Evil Battlemages

The group of students felt a surge of numbness across their whole bodies!

The Battlemages had always been their protectors in their eyes. They were a symbol of justice and strength.

However, the Battlemages they had stumbled into today could be referred to as devils!

They showed no sign of empathy. The two girls from the Pearl Institute were considered future pillars of the nation. Even if they had different identities, they were still two living humans. Just like many people, they believed they could always trust a Battlemage.

Their lives were lost within the blink of an eye. The eyes of the two close friends were still wide open. They had survived the extreme training of the desolate city. They were even thinking of enjoying themselves a warm bath when they arrived home. Unfortunately, they had stumbled into a bunch of devils wearing the uniforms of Battlemages, who had forced them to bid an everlasting farewell to the world!

"It's a storm cloud, watch out!"

Someone among the group cried out, which prompted the group to glance upward. They saw a giant stormy cloud appearing in the sky above them.

A series of lightning bolts flickered within the stormy cloud. Their speed was not as rapid as Mo Fan's Thunderbolt, but he had somehow sensed overwhelming Lightning energy rumbling inside the cloud.

"It's a third-tier Thunderbolt! Dodge it quick!" Mo Fan let out a scream.

Following his cry, a loud clap of thunder echoed in the clear sky.

The sky was already well-lit, but as the lightning struck downward, it further illuminated the surroundings!

A rapid lightning arc struck mercilessly down on Zhao Manting's head.

Zhao Manting used his fastest speed to cast the Sacred Shield Protection. A golden light shield was summoned to protect himself.

Another lightning arc descended from the sky. This time, it was targeting Zheng Bingxiao, who was already severely injured. There was no way he could defend himself in his current condition.

The eyes on his scorched face opened wide. He could see the lightning arc falling right onto him.

BANG!

Zheng Bingxiao, who had just barely survived his previous injuries, instantly turned into a crimson shower. It was impossible to differentiate between the flesh and blood.

It splattered onto Zhao Manting's body, who was standing right beside him. His eyes were open wide as they filled with fear for the very first time.

Did the bloody mess on his face, his clothes, and under his feet all belong to Zheng Bingxiao?

A night ago, Zhao Manting was still fairly impressed by Zheng Bingxiao when he Summoned his Giant Earth Fusion Golem. However, he had now turned into a bloody mess.

The lightning arcs continued to drop onto the group of students at an increasing pace. It was most likely due to two Lightning Magicians casting Thunderbolt simultaneously.

The Lightning Strikes wildly attacked the group of students continuously.

Most of the students possessed a few pieces of equipment which could protect themselves for a brief moment. However, the power of the third-tier Thunderbolts was way too overbearing for them to handle. Eventually, the Lightning Strikes began to shatter their defensive equipment into pieces...

"Help, someone...AH!!!"

A lightning arc struck Xu Dalong's arm. His bulky body was disintegrated instantly, just like Zheng Bingxiao.

Rains of blood poured down on the group. They showered over Lu Zhenghe, who was already fully stained with fresh blood.

Lu Zhenghe's face was smeared with blood from his teammates Qingqing, Zhao Mingyue, and Xu Dalong.

His whole body was trembling. He did not even have the courage to look at Lu Nian's face.

Lu Nian had always been a close brother to Lu Zhenghe. His brother was extremely caring of him. He would always find a way to get the things he desired. Since Lu Zhenghe had lost his father in the early years, he had seen his brother Lu Nian as half a father.

However, he never thought his brother was such a demented murderer.

Lu Nian had asked him to leave signals along their journey. He told him that he was on a critical mission, so Lu Zhenghe had agreed without hesitation. He had left the signals along their journey so Lu Nian could track them down.

To his surprise, his brother was here to butcher them all!

Was he still the brother he knew?

"Idiot. What are you waiting for? Do you want to die with them too?" Commander Lu yelled.

Lu Zhenghe was scared to die, especially when he saw his friends dying beside him.

Even though he could not believe that his brother was a murderer, he subconsciously obeyed the order given by the man who had raised him. He believed that he would not harm his own little brother.

Lu Zhenghe turned around and glanced at Mu Ningxue. He was planning to bring her with him.

However, a bolt of ferocious lightning struck the ground beside him, as another targeted Mu Ningxue. Lu Zhenghe hesitated when he saw Bai Tingting falling to the ground after losing her defensive equipment.

"Come here at once!" Lu Nian snapped.

The roar was like an order to Lu Zhenghe. He finally turned around and ran toward the Battlemages.

He clearly knew that he would be massacred just like his friends if he did not start running.

"Trying to escape? I'll drag you with us since we're all going to die!" Mo Fan was infuriated. He finished casting the Lightning Strike in an instant.

From the midst of the lightning arcs, Mo Fan aimed his Lightning Strike at the fleeing Lu Zhenghe. It was significantly thicker than a normal third-tier Lightning Strike. The dark purple arc quickly conducted across the ground and caught up to Lu Zhenghe's feet.

Lu Zhenghe did not see it as a threat. How could an insignificant basic level Lightning Strike do any harm to him?

However, when the thick lightning arcs crawled onto his body like crackling pythons, the paralysis effect was double that of an ordinary Lightning Strike. It completely locked him down, to his disbelief.

Even if Mo Fan had a Spirit-grade Lightning Seed, it was impossible for a basic level Lightning Strike to have such power.

Lu Zhenghe could not move at all. He looked helplessly at his brother Lu Nian with a pale face, hoping that he would come and save him.

Unfortunately, someone else was faster.

Mu Nujiao had finished casting her Plant Magic. Her vines quickly tangled Lu Zhenghe's legs while he was still paralyzed by Mo Fan's Lightning.

The vines instantly dragged Lu Zhenghe back, slamming right into Mo Fan's body, which was engulfed in flames.

Mo Fan had thoroughly transformed into a blazing demon. He furiously grabbed Lu Zhenghe's neck. The fury in his eyes was on the verge of bursting out.

"Son of a bitch, ask your people to stop the attacks. Otherwise, I'll burn him to death alive!" The flames on Mo Fan's body became even more vigorous, as if they were going to lunge at Lu Zhenghe in the next second.

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Chapter 304: I'll Let One Live

Lu Nian grimaced.

He was considering whether he should wait to give the order until Lu Zhenghe made his way to their side. However, he ended up giving out the order from impatience.

In his eyes, they were only a bunch of students who had yet to experience a real hand-to-hand battle in a war. Normally, they would not be able to react after experiencing a great shock.

To his surprise, the kid with the name Mo Fan was able to react so quickly. He was smart enough to use Lu Zhenghe as a hostage.

On the other hand, Lu Zhenghe was a complete idiot. Everything would have been fine if he had made his way to their side right at the beginning.

"Bro...brother, save me!" Lu Zhenghe cried out.

Lu Nian was decisive at killing without showing any mercy. He could tell that Mo Fan was the same as him, too. The Rose Flame was on the verge of lunging at Lu Zhenghe, and Lu Nian was confident that Mo Fan would kill him instantly once he made the decision.

"Interesting." Lu Nian took a sip from the pipe. He waved his hand to signal his group to cease fire.

Lu Nian could not allow his brother to die here. He had spent years in the army, thus he never had the time to set up a family for himself. Lu Zhenghe was a lot younger than him. He was basically the last

member of their family. Lu Nian knew he would be on trial very soon. He could not care less about his own life, but Lu Zhenghe should not die here.

At the same time, he could not show that he was actually concerned about his brother's life.

As a matter of fact, if he were left with no choice, he would still sacrifice his brother's life, as he was trying to achieve something magnificent. He would be the one who changed the world if the plan succeeded.

Any sacrifice he made would be so worth it in the end!

"Who do you think you are, listen up. I, Liao Mingxuan, am the son of Liao Feng from the Magic Association. If you dare kill me today, I'll make sure your entire family dies with me too!" Liao Mingxuan burst into a hysterical scream.

"Oh?" Lu Nian raised his eyebrows. His eyes suddenly emitted a brown flicker.

Liao Mingxuan who was yelling and screaming suddenly fell silent.

He could not make any noise. His body had become stiff. He could not even move any of his fingers.

His body was covered in a layer of grey-white substance. It started with his toes, and eventually spread across his entire body.

The substance spread even faster, like cement being dried in the sun within a short period. The only problem was, the substance was spreading on Liao Mingxuan's body, which meant that any part of his body that was covered in the grey-white substance would be turned instantly into stone!

Liao Mingxuan tried to break free, but he was thoroughly turned into a statue in just a few seconds!

"Someone like him is even worse if left alive." Lu Nian took another sip from his pipe. He was acting indifferently, as if he were just getting rid of a piece of paper.

The anesthetic tobacco entered his lungs, giving a slight relief to the pain from his back. It helped clear his mind too.

He glanced at Mo Fan who was still holding his brother as a hostage. He looked like a rusty blade stained with blood, highly unpredictable, but extremely dangerous.

"Tell me, what do you want." Lu Nian said in a calm tone.

"Maybe we should ask you what you want instead. We don't even know you. Why are you trying to kill us?" Mu Nujiao flushed with anger.

Her body trembled as she spoke. It was obvious that she was scared, but she forced herself to calm down. It was eerie that their enemy could kill without any sign, which made him extremely difficult to deal with. Luckily, Mo Fan was able to seize their lifeline in time by controlling the traitor Lu Zhenghe.

"You must be Mu Zhanxing's granddaughter. You're quite brave...If I told you that your grandfather agreed with our plan, what would you feel?" Lu Nian burst into monstrous laughter.

Lu Nian was not in a rush. After all, his people had his target surrounded.

It would be better if he could let Lu Zhenghe live. After all, he was his only brother. If not, he would not mind killing them all to prevent new problems from cropping up unexpectedly.

Even though they were only students, most of them had quite a formidable background. It was better to pretend the group was wiped out during training. That way, the people behind them would have no clue who to interrogate, since they were all dead!

"Now, let's do a deal. I'll let someone live in exchange for his life. You make the call." Lu Nian did not sound like he was negotiating, as if he had total control of the situation.

Mo Fan frowned. He could not read the devil's mind at all. Most importantly, Mo Fan had no clue why they were killing them. Did someone happen to stumble into some kind of secrets that they were trying to keep? Otherwise, why would they go so far to silence them?

"The girl beside you is quite adorable. I'm sure that you two are close. You let go of that idiot Lu Zhenghe, and I promise to spare her life." Lu Nian grinned, showing his filthy teeth.

"You'll spare the five of us. It will be me, him, her, her, and her. I don't care what you do to the rest." Mo Fan demanded.

Mo Fan's decision immediately scared the shit out of Luo Song, Shen Mingxiao, and the others. They almost dropped to their knees before him.

Peng Liang and Song Xia stared at Mo Fan in disbelief. They were on the same team with him, so they never thought he would abandon them without a second thought.

"I said it, only one!" Lu Nian's voice turned cold.

"It will be me then," Mo Fan blurted out without hesitation.

"HAHAHA, such an interesting kid." Lu Nian burst out laughing.

This time, it was Bai Tingting, Zhao Manting, and Mu Nujiao staring at Mo Fan in a great shock.

They never thought Mo Fan would actually abandon them too.

"I tried my best." Mo Fan said with an apologetic tone.

"I don't mind. If it weren't for you, I'm already dead now." Bai Tingting forced a smile. Everyone could tell she was reluctant to say it.

Mu Nujiao bit her lips. Her mind was telling her that Mo Fan had made a reasonable decision. Anyone would react the same way. However, she could not help but feel miserable in her heart. For a second, she imagined that Mo Fan would say her name instead.

"Mo Fan, you are such a disappointment. That being said, if I really were to die here, I hope you will kill that son of a bitch for me in the future..." Zhao Manting said with an absolutely ugly smile.

"Even if you didn't say it, I'll kill him myself," Mo Fan replied.

Lu Nian tapped his pipe while casting a dismissive side glance at the despairing students.

"Are you done with your last words? Let Lu Zhenghe go now. Otherwise, not a single one of you will be spared." The Commander said.

"I've already said it. Let me go." Mo Fan repeated.

"Too bad, you're the last one that will be allowed to leave among them," Lu Nian said with a grin.

Mo Fan was stunned. He stared at the lunatic in front of him with a blank face.

Were they from the Black Vatican?

No, even though they were vicious, it was obvious that they were not related to the Black Vatican. They looked extremely calm on the surface, as if they knew they were no turning back after what they had done...

The question was, what were they planning to do?

These people were too strange!

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Chapter 305: The Best Test Subject

"If that's the case, I won't trade your brother's life for any of us. I just want to know the truth. I'll let your brother go if you tell us why you're acting like the Black Vatican. At least, your secrets will still be buried here in the desolated city."

Lu Nian was quite surprised.

He was not surprised by the kid's sudden change of mind, but rather because the kid looked fairly composed, even though he was asking for his life to be spared before. Anyone else would have dropped to their knees and begged instead.

"Is he trying to drag the time out?" Lu Nian murmured.

With his profound experience, Lu Nian quickly determined that Mo Fan was trying to waste time. However, he could not figure out the meaning behind it. No one would come to such a desolate place to save them. Besides, with the strength they had displayed, they could not even handle his subordinates, let alone defeat him, an Advanced Magician!

Lu Nian finally accepted Mo Fan's condition after a slight hesitation.

It was definitely worth it to trade his brother's life by just talking. Lu Nian did not doubt that the students would drag his brother along with them if they were killed. He was too familiar with the final pride and urge to avenge themselves of weaklings prior to their deaths.

"There's an experiment..." Lu Nian began to narrate in a calm tone, "It might be the only way to stop humans from deceiving themselves."

"For the sake of mankind? How brilliant. What does that have anything to do with some students doing their training? Are you telling me that we have to be silenced because we've witnessed your shameless experiment? The problem is, we've seen nothing!" Mo Fan said.

"Shameless?" Lu Nian took a sip from his pipe and said with a smile, "Not at all. Every contribution to mankind in the past has always involved sacrifices. It's true that many have died in the experiment, and your lives are only a drop in the ocean. However, the difference it will make when it succeeds is a completely different story. We will no longer live under the domination of the demon beasts. In fact, we can even destroy their habitats..."

"Then, by all means, go ahead with your ambitious plan. Why are you butchering us here instead?" Mo Fan mocked him.

"What's the difference between your indiscriminate killing and the assholes from the Black Vatican? Stop trying to sound so noble!" Peng Liang gathered up his courage and cursed them.

"Humph, what do students spending their time in ivory towers know about the outside world? Your teachers will only tell you the victorious battles we've fought. I bet no one has told you the number of lives lost in the battles against the demon beasts. How many cities were destroyed... Humans pretend to be the rulers of the world, with more heroes being born to save the people, ensuring that the civilians can live a peaceful life.

"Absolute nonsense! Those who have yet to experience a battle will never understand. Humans are only struggling to survive as they reproduce mindlessly. They think humans will become stronger with each generation.

"Little do they know, when the number of humans reaches a certain point, the demon beasts will then hold a feast. They will feast upon us, and yet be conservative. They won't eat us all, since we won't be able to reproduce if none of us are left. They wouldn't be able to hold a feast anymore. Wars? They are only the signs that the demon beasts are hungry, and there are enough humans to be their food," Lu Nian said.

Lu Nian did not smile as he delivered his speech. His face was filled with anger.

He had fought against demon beasts in real wars. He knew more of the truth than students who only lived in ivory towers.

Mo Fan could feel his heart sinking.

The words had completely toppled their values. It was almost like a brainwashing script given by the Black Vatican, if it were a little bit more extreme.

If the calamity of Bo City was only a small depiction of what a real war looked like, Lu Nian was most likely speaking the truth.

However, Mo Fan never thought humans were as petty as Lu Nian had described, especially how he mentioned that the demon beasts were only letting the humans survive to guarantee their food supply!

In other words, humans surviving until now was not because of how well the Magicians were protecting them. It was only a conspiracy set up by the demon beasts so they could continue to feast on them.

Was it real? Mo Fan could not tell.

"Humans have the ability to live on, invent, and reproduce. It doesn't mean we are great. It only means that we are more suitable to be raised as livestock. They don't even need to worry about feeding us," Lu Nian laughed grimly.

As a matter of fact, he enjoyed delivering the speech.

When he first joined the army, he also thought the Magicians were the guardians of mankind, stopping the invasion of the demon beasts. In the end... he realized how insignificant humans were when facing a pack, a horde, or even a kingdom of demon beasts!

His view of the world was crushed in the battles. As such, he felt an indescribable pleasure when it was his turn to destroy the students' view of the world too.

"What you've said is tied to the whole of mankind, but what does it have anything to do with us?" Mo Fan redirected their attention back to the topic.

He was not interested in discussing the big picture. He only wanted to know why Lu Nian would not spare his life.

He had never met him in his life. He had never heard of this experiment, either.

"The experiment is about..." Lu Nian paused for a moment. It would not be much of a secret soon. Having this thought, he continued, "A new Element!"

"What did you just say?" Mu Nujiao and Zhao Manting exclaimed.

Lu Nian's lips curled upward as he repeated, "A new Element. If it succeeds, we will be the inventor of a new Element!"

"When Magic was first discovered, it gave us the power to challenge the demon beasts. The problem was, after tens of thousands of years, the Elements we have awakened are nowhere enough. We did get a glimpse of hope when the latest Element, the Light Element, was awakened. However, that's clearly not enough. We need stronger Elements."

Lu Nian's eyes flickered with excitement.

If he were a calm, decisive killing devil before, he was more like a lunatic obsessed with his passion now.

His insane, zealous behavior was something that Lu Zhenghe had never seen before. His madness was thoroughly concealed by his calm exterior appearance.

"Are you telling us that you guys are planning to invent a new Element?" Zhao Manting blurted out in disbelief.

"That's right. Do you really think I'm actually out of my mind?" Lu Nian smirked.

"But...how..." Zhao Manting had no idea what to say.

"You, Mo Fam, are the best test subject for the new Element!" Lu Nian pointed at Mo Fan as if he were looking at a perfect specimen with an extreme passion.

"Me?!" Mo Fan pointed at himself.

"Yes, you, because of your Double Innate Elements!"

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Chapter 306: The Life-Risking Arrow!

The best test subject?

Because of his Double Innate Elements?

Mo Fan's mind swarmed with more questions. According to what Lu Nian had mentioned, they had experimented on countless people, and the test subjects were basically dead. What they were doing was probably inhumane, otherwise, they would not be so secretive about it.

Why would having Double Innate Elements make him the best test subject? Why would the new Element be related to his Double Innate Elements?

Mo Fan had been reluctant to expose his Double Innate Elements, as he was worried that something like this would happen. However, a paper could never wrap fire. It was only a matter of time until his talent was exposed. He hadn't thought he would be targeted this quickly, as he had only shown his Double Innate Elements quite recently, let alone be targeted by a bunch of demented Battleimages.

"What does my Double Innate Elements have anything to do with the new Element?" Mo Fan asked.

"Let him go first," Lu Nian was not stupid.

"You tell me, and I'll let him go." Mo Fan said.

"Do you think I'm a three-year-old? You're dead regardless. Release him, and I'll give you all a quick death. If the new Element is a success, we might even carve your names on a monument," Lu Nian said.

Mo Fan knew that Lu Nian was running out of patience. He turned around and glanced at Mu Ningxue.

Mu Ningxue nodded.

The flames engulfing Mo Fan's body slowly died down. He loosened his grip on Lu Zhenghe's neck.

Lu Nian continued speaking with a smirk. "The test subjects only managed to survive for a brief period. On top of that, they would also lose their ability to think rationally, as their bodies could not handle the burden from the process. They would die instantly once the efficacy of the test drug ran out. It felt like all their life force was depleted within a short period of time. We have never had a single survivor since the start of the experiment."

Lu Zhenghe walked toward his brother while trembling in fear. He was scared, as he was still in range to be burned into ashes by Mo Fan's attack. His brother would not be able to save him in time.

"Such a sinister experiment! You're treating human lives as if they had no value!" Mu Nujiao snapped.

"Whatever you think, the experiment was actually inspired from observing some mutated parasitic beasts..." Lu Nian added. At this stage, he could not care less if the experiment was described as inhumane. Even if the Magic Association banned the method, they would not give up. They were so close to succeeding. Once it worked, the world would no longer be in the control of the magicians.

"Parasite beasts. You're using living humans as their hosts?" Mo Fan's heart shuddered. He immediately recalled the Mother Scale Skin Phantom.

The Mother Scale Skin Phantom had turned a human into a monster. Normally, these monsters would have strong combat capabilities. Ordinary magicians were no match for them.

It fit the condition of losing rational thought!

"You don't need to know the details. Don't harbor a grudge against us. Many people died peaceful deaths, or should I say, meaningless. Many were killed by the demon beasts, very saddening. Meanwhile, you are dying for the birth of a new Element, such an honorable sacrifice..." Lu Nian paused in the middle of his sentence.

Lu Nian was finally a safe distance from him, thus there was no point wasting any time further. His priority was to kill the others, and bring the one with Double Innate Elements back so they could proceed with the experiment.

"The next time I see you, I'll trample you to the ground and spit on you. You're a f**king crossbreed between your close relatives. You can dream about your ambition in hell!" Mo Fan burst out cursing.

Lu Nian did not treat it seriously. He burst into laughter and said, "If you managed to survive the experiment...Kill them!" Lu Nian waved his hand and gave the order.

An overwhelming icy aura was unleashed behind Mo Fan's position.

Her snowy-white long hair drifted elegantly. Her glamorous face was filled with anger as her gorgeous figure floated in a suddenly frosted area!

"Ice Crystal Bow!"

Mu Ningxue had instantly transformed into an icy goddess. A magical bow which could turn the entire place into a frosty kingdom appeared between her extended arms!

The snow blew wildly, the frost spread rapidly, the ground froze at an insane pace, and even the clouds had turned icy!

She lifted her icy gaze as she drew a deep breath. Mu Ningxue never thought she would be using the Ice Crystal Bow twice within twenty-four hours. She could feel the energy inside her body being drawn empty, to an extent that she could even feel her life force being completely drained away by the Ice Crystal Bow.

However, she had to take the risk.

Mo Fan was trying to earn her some time. The moment he held Lu Zhenghe as a hostage, Mu Ningxue realized that the whole group would be wiped out if they failed to react in time.

Mo Fan instantly understood her intention after seeing her gaze. Going against such a powerful troop of Battlemages led by an Advanced Magician Commander, their only hope was the Ice Crystal Bow.

If she were to put her life at risk, the arrow she summoned could erupt with a power similar to an Advanced Magic!

"Domain...A Soul-graded Ice Seed, impossible...This is impossible!" Lu Nian opened his eyes wide and burst out screaming.

A Soul-graded Ice Seed and an Ice Crystal Bow which could unleash an attack similar to an Advanced Magic. The arrow alone posed a great threat to Lu Nian's group.

As the Domain spread toward the Battlemages, they could sense their bodies being frostbitten. The casting speed of their Intermediate spells became extremely slow. Even Lu Nian's Advanced Magic was affected.

The arrow continued to take form. Its body began to appear.

This time, the Ice Crystal Arrow that Mu Ningxue produced felt even stronger than the one before. The production phase alone had stirred a shocking icy storm around her.

Standing at the eye of the storm, Mu Ningxue drew the bow's string back fully.

As she released the arrow between her fingertips, a sharp tone, like the scream of an icy storm, went off!

Killing for no reason but a ridiculous ambition, disregarding human lives like the Black Vatican; his words had completely infuriated Mu Ningxue!

Even if firing the arrow cost her her life, she would drag these bloody murderers to death with her. They were not worthy to wear the sacred uniform of the Battlemages.

The arrow flew in a perfectly straight line in parallel to the ground. The ground, trees, stones, and even the air completely froze as it flew by.

Lu Nian was quick to respond. He immediately dodged aside.

The Ice Crystal Arrow pierced through the air with a howl and struck the chest of a Battlemage who was casting the Lightning spell.

The arrow did not penetrate its target, but exploded as its tip made contact with the target's chest.

Endless ice flowers blossomed, an astounding sight, the entire place covered with frost and ice crystals.

The light at dawn was supposed to wake the world up and signal the birds to sing out with pleasant melodies. However, as the explosion ceased, the whole place fell into a dead silence. There was no sign of life, as if time were frozen too.

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Chapter 307: Soul-Grade Ice Seed!

The ice clouds floating in the air suddenly peeled off and turned into a glacier crushing down on the woods.

As the woods were already frozen, the weight of the glacier thoroughly shattered the trees to pieces. The broken ice scattered across the ground.

On the frozen land, vivid and lifelike ice statues stood silently. Their faces were dominated by fear. Some were frozen up while aligning their Star Patterns.

They never thought an Intermediate Ice Magician would be able to summon an Ice-type Bow Magical Weapon with such outstanding power, nor did they expect a student of the Imperial College would be able to maneuver a Soul-grade Ice Seed at her age. Her Domain alone had overwhelmed their whole troop, including an Advanced Magician!

The arrow was utterly astonishing. Even Mo Fan, who had recently witnessed its power, had not expected its true strength to be this terrifying.

But, why would Mu Ningxue have such power that clearly did not belong to her, hiding inside her?

Her silver long hair was disheveled. The imposing, imperial expression on her face was replaced with a debilitated look, as if her soul had been drawn away.

The Ice Crystal Bow broke into pieces after a soft crack, and fell off from her hand.

Mu Ningxue could no longer stand. She slowly fell backward.

Mo Fan immediately caught her in his arms. Her body was extremely cold, like a corpse. Not a single hint of heat could be felt.

Mo Fan quickly felt her pulse and let out a relieved sigh after confirming that she was alive. If she were to die here, he would never forgive that lunatic Lu Nian and his ridiculous ambitions!

"Quick, run!" Mo Fan blurted out glancing at the students.

Mu Nujiao, Bai Tingting, Song Xia, Zhao Manting and the rest were still experiencing a great shock after witnessing the power of the arrow. They finally collected their wits when Mo Fan yelled at them.

It turned out that Mo Fan was buying some time for Mu Ningxue so she could fire the arrow. They glanced at Mu Ningxue whose life was at risk, not knowing how to express their gratitude.

"Wait, bring Mu Ningxue with you. They are here for me. Zhao Manting, take good care of them, and..." Mo Fan glanced at Mu Ningxue, who could fall into an eternal sleep anytime. He could only express his concern with a brief demand, "No matter what happened, don't let her die."

Zhao Manting nodded heavily and brought the students away with him.

Mo Fan did not hesitate further. He glanced at Lu Nian, who had almost broken free from the ice, and the rest of the soldiers who were not completely frozen...

Clenching his teeth, he turned around and ran toward the desolate Jinlin City, which was still plagued by monsters.

It was impossible for Mu Ningxue's arrow to wipe the whole troop out. It would only buy some time for them to run away.

Knowing they were trying to hunt him down, Mo Fan was not left with many options.

The enemies had Heavenly Eagles and an Advanced Magician. He would definitely be caught if he were to flee aimlessly.

The only place that would increase his odds of surviving was the desolated ruins of Jinlin City.

The city was overrun with countless demon beasts. They were strong enough to kill a Magician instantly, not to mention their capabilities of making the Magicians fighting against each other. He had to rely on them to get rid of his pursuit!

"Mo Fan is heading into the city."

"What difference would that make?"

"We have to split up. They are trying to silence us. We'll be wiped out if we stayed together."

"Then...we'll be leaving first." Shen Mingxiao and Luo Song almost wet their pants.

They had nothing to do with the mess at all. Now that they had the chance to escape, they could not care less about the others. If those evil Battlemages caught up to them, they would be done for. They were still young, they did not want to die!

"Then...I'll be taking Song Xia with me." Peng Liang mumbled.

Song Xia was utterly exhausted. There was no way she could escape on her own. It was quite a relief that Peng Liang was willing to look after her.

Zhao Manting glanced at the half-dead Mu Ningxue, the injured Bai Tingting, and finally Mo Fan, who was fleeing towards the ruins of Jinlin City...

"You three, come with me!" Zhao Manting made up his mind.

He was slightly regretful that he had promised Mo Fan to look after the three girls. He was afraid to die, too. He wanted to run away like an unscrupulous coward, just like Luo Song and Shen Mingxiao. However, when he recalled how Mu Ningxue had put her life at risk to save them, and how Mo Fan had left on his own so he would not drag the others into the mess too, there was no way he could leave the girls and run for his own life.

A while later after the students fled, the ice crystals under the bright sunlight finally cracked open.

Commander Lu Nian was the first to break free from the ice. He had managed to apply a layer of protection around himself. The frost might be powerful, but it was not enough to inflict any serious damage to an Advanced Magician.

His face had turned blue after being exposed to the cold. His grim face was enough to imply how furious he was!

They had been tricked by a bunch of students!

However, as a Commander, killing them was as easy as killing poultry with their legs tied up...

Did they really think they could run away?

They had drunk fresh demon beasts' blood and destroyed their nests before. And now, they couldn't handle a bunch of students who were only on their first training mission?

"You guys, go after those who are trying to escape. I want them alive!" Lu Nian said to the soldiers who managed to break free from the ice first.

"Affirmative!" The soldiers were not weak either. They quickly prepared themselves and rushed off in the direction Zhao Manting and the others had fled into.

"The rest of you, come with me. How could we lose our most important test subject?" Lu Nian glared at the desolate city and gave the order to the rest of the soldiers who were regaining their feet.

"Commander, I'm afraid they won't be able to wake up," the female advisor said.

"Then destroy them."

...

The remaining ice statues were knocked into pieces. The tiny shattered pieces were mixed with the blood and flesh of the soldiers they contained. When the ice melted, it would be impossible to tell whose corpses were they.

Seven statues were destroyed in total, which meant that Mu Ningxue's single arrow had instantly killed seven talented Intermediate Magicians.

Commander Lu Nian continued to wear an expressionless face, but it was definitely a humiliating defeat for them.

The ice on the ground was crushed as they marched forward. The devils who had stripped off their sacred wind jackets never thought of giving up.

Now, it was not a matter of silencing the students. Their priority now was to seize the kid with Double Innate Elements.

He was their hope to invent the new Element!

When the time came, he would be their ace to overcome everything, including the demon beasts who had been dominating the world for millennia!

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Chapter 308: Tyrant Earth Lizard

It had all happened too quick, not to mention how strange the whole situation was.

Mo Fan tried to calm himself down as he was running. He began to review the whole incident.

First of all, these people were not from the Black Vatican. They were only targeting him because of his Double Innate Elements.

They were carrying out an experiment that involved a new Element. However, they could not allow the experiment to be exposed. In other words, the new Element was most likely their own wishful thinking.

He remembered that the birth of a new Element required a very long exploration. Most importantly, he would have to seek the approval of magical society, particularly the Magic Association.

The Magic Association had never announced any experiments about a new Element. Therefore, it was highly possible that they were inventing some evil magic that involved sacrificing human lives, similar to the terrifying curses that the Black Vatican was passionate about that turned living humans into Cursed Beasts.

Either way, any experiment that involved using human lives as sacrifices was considered evil magic. The one that stood out the most was the Black Vatican's evil magic, which could turn people into Dark Beast Monsters.

Lu Nian had also mentioned that the experiment was inspired by the parasite demon beasts. Therefore, it was highly possible that the new Element involved turning humans into monsters.

Indeed, if it were similar to the Mother Scale Skin Phantom, who could infect others with its blood and turn them into Scale Skin Phantoms, the overall strength of the human race would significantly increase... as long as they could still retain their rational thinking after mutating into the monsters.

In conclusion, the new Element must be related to some kind of mutation. To that extent, the Mother Scale Skin Phantom was most likely some mutated monster that had escaped from some secret lab!

Mo Fan did not want to become a test subject. Although he did consider himself an alien as he had come from another world, it did not mean he was willing to sacrifice himself as a test subject just to make the world a better place. Besides, it was only a one-sided statement from Lu Nian, heavens knew if they were actually inventing some evil magic like the Black Vatican.

"I wonder how Mu Ningxue is doing. She should be alive still. Hopefully, Bai Tingting is able to save her life." Mo Fan began to worry.

When he was bewitched, he had revealed to Mu Ningxue some of the secrets in his heart.

Just like words spoken when drunk, they might be the truth, or just him being sentimental.

Either way, it was obvious that he was still constantly thinking of her. She had put her life at stake to save the group. Mo Fan would not easily forget her bravery.

That evil Lu Nian was totally inhumane. He would have to kill the bastard with his own hands.

And that son of a bitch Lu Zhenghe, who had dared to leave signals to draw the lunatics to them. He wasn't sure if Mu Ningxue's Ice Crystal Bow had ended up freezing him to death. Otherwise, he would not mind digging the bastard's heart out. Unbelievable!

Mo Fan escaped into the ravaged city. He could sense the devils chasing after him.

Luckily, they did not dare to attract too much attention, due to the current residents of the city. It gave Mo Fan a better chance at escaping.

Mo Fan was going straight to the places he assumed to be dangerous.

He was on his own, thus his movement was much nimbler than Lu Nian's group. However, the hide-and-seek would eventually come to an end. He would have to rely on the demon beasts in the city to lower their numbers.

"It should be this way. I'm hoping the Razortail Drakes will be more kind to me," Mo Fan mumbled.

While he was investigating the places on his own, he had accidentally trespassed into the territory of the Razortail Drakes. It was a half-dried, half-swampy area located right at the center of the city. Many of the buildings there had sunken into it.

Many species had set up habitats in Jinlin City, but most of them considered the swampy areas forbidden, as they were the territories of the Razortail Drakes, who were the dominating species of Dongting Lake.

The city used to be occupied by the Razortail Drakes Horde. The information given by the school was not reliable enough. The Razortail Drakes had not fully withdrawn themselves from the city. At least a pack of them had stayed behind!

Mo Fan was running straight toward the Razortail Drake's territory. It was the most dangerous place in Jinlin City, and the only hope of staying alive he had.

A swamp overgrown with reeds was within visible distance. The place looked perfectly normal compared to the other areas. The only odd things were the roofs of seemingly half-meter tall structures sticking out from the water.

It was deadly quiet. Not a single cry of bugs could be heard from the piles of reeds. That being said, the bubbles rising to the surface of the swamp was a good indication that the place was not as dead as it seemed.

The Swift Star Wolf let out a deep breath. It was staring sharply at a lump of mud beside the swamp.

"What are you looking at...F**k me!" Mo Fan bit his tongue when he suddenly saw the lump of mud moving all of a sudden. A giant mouth with fangs lunged in their direction. Its throat was so big that it could swallow a grown man whole.

It was a disguise. The demon beast knew how to camouflage itself!

Its skin had the same color as the mud and its texture blended well with the dried mud. Mo Fan would never know it was there as long as it lay stationary on the ground.

Luckily, the Swift Star Wolf was alert enough. It quickly leapt aside, dodging the bite. Otherwise, the strength of its jaws could tear a human in half instantly.

The Razortail Drakes were classified into different grades.

Their Servant-class was generally referred to as a Giant Lizard Beast. They were the size of a mature crocodile with a lizard's head. The frills on both sides could expand like umbrellas, and their tails were another third of their bodies' length.

The Warrior-level Razortail Drakes had another name: Tyrant Lizards!

The Tyrant Lizards had different Elements, including Fire, Poison, Ice, Earth...

This particular one that knew how to camouflage itself was obviously Earth Element. Its body had blended in perfectly with the background. It was impossible to notice it without really sharp eyes. Any living thing passing nearby would be eaten with a single bite, without understanding how they were killed by a lump of mud.

The sinister fangs of the Tyrant Earth Lizard let out a clank as its eyes sprang open. They were the size of human fists, and looked like they were almost popping out.

Its crawling speed was surprisingly fast, too. It scuttled toward its prey, dragging its heavy body across the ground.

The Tyrant Earth Lizard was extremely cunning. It pretended to be lunging at them. When the Swift Star Wolf reacted by jumping sideways, it whipped its body around and smashed its tail right in the direction the Swift Star Wolf was moving to.

The Swift Star Wolf was knocked flying in the air. Its body flew over ten meters away.

Mo Fan was sent flying too, slamming right into a pile of reeds.

A few bones in the Swift Star Wolf's chest had broken, as Mo Fan swore he had heard a loud crack from its chest.

The Swift Star Wolf let out a furious roar. It totally ignored its broken bones as it rolled up from the ground. Its eyes emitted a cold flicker of light.

"We don't have time to fight. The devils are chasing us behind. We have to go deeper, and see if we can bait more of these Tyrant Lizards to kill some of them." Mo Fan shouted to the Swift Star Wolf.

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Chapter 309: The Nests of the Giant Lizards

Moving forward, the swampy areas here were even broader. Even the places where the roads used to be had completely caved in.

The Swift Star Wolf was considered a nimble beast, but was forced to be extremely cautious with each step he took.

The Swift Star Wolf was running along, currently on top of a collapsed building. The roof was around a hundred meters long. The area below the building had reverted to a swamp, and in order to continue forward, he had to jump from this building to the balcony of a residential building ahead.

The two buildings were a certain distance apart, hence the Swift Star Wolf needed to sprint to build up momentum.

With a burst of speed, the Swift Star Wolf sprang forward like a dark blue arrow being fired.

It took less than a few seconds to cover the distance of a hundred meters before reaching the edge of the roof.

He jumped into the air and swept across the gap between the two buildings, drawing a blue arc in the air.

"There!" Somewhere nearby, a soldier shouted out while pointing at the two buildings.

A few soldiers who had the Wind Element rushed towards the building from the ground. They were trying to chase after Mo Fan when they realized the place ahead was covered in a huge swamp with black bubbles rising to the surface.

No entry!

They would sink incredibly fast in the swamp. Even using Wind Track was not enough to guarantee they would reach the other side safely. Most importantly, there were definitely a lot of Giant Lizards living in this area. Their strength was a lot higher when fighting in their territory than on the surface.

"Don't let him escape!" the female advisor Jiang Yi in the grey-white uniform shouted.

Two soldiers with Earth Element came up to them, and tried to clear the path with their magic.

The Earth Wave was indeed efficient against the swamp. It gradually split the mud aside in the middle, revealing a walkable path.

The problem was, the mud was extraordinarily heavy, and it covered a huge area too. It would take them some time just to clear a path to the other side.

Even though it was only the distance between two buildings, they had no choice but to chase after their prey slowly.

Meanwhile, Mo Fan rode the Swift Star Wolf, which continued to leap between the roofs. The buildings in this area had yet to collapse, but the entire place seemed to have sunk down into the swamp. Luckily, the Swift Star Wolf was quite an athlete, able to jump nimbly between the buildings as they ventured deeper into the swamp.

The Swift Star Wolf let out a soft groan as he landed on top of a balcony.

Fifteen years ago, Jinlin City's development had just started booming. There were not many high rises with elevators, so most of the residential buildings were not too tall. Most of them were around the same height, making them the perfect springboards for the Swift Star Wolf.

"Why are you crouching?" Mo Fan asked in a confused tone when he felt his body dropping down.

"Awooo~" the Swift Star Wolf cried out in a low tone, as if it were telling the idiot Mo Fan that it was not him crouching, but rather that the whole building was sinking rapidly.

Mo Fan looked sideways and realized that the building they were on was indeed a floor lower than the next building.

"Jump quick! Otherwise, we will be buried together with the building!" Mo Fan told the Swift Star Wolf urgently.

The Swift Star Wolf did not dare to hesitate further. He immediately took off after seeing that the building was sinking rapidly.

As the Swift Star Wolf leapt into the air, Mo Fan was able to tell from his outstanding physics calculation that the Swift Star Wolf was most likely going to slam into the side of the building ahead.

The sun was shining brightly above them. He could not even see a single shadow around him, thus the Fleeing Shadow was out of the question.

Luckily, the Swift Star Wolf's claws had a strong grip, and managed to hold onto the edge of the building.

The Swift Star Wolf was holding onto the edge, while Mo Fan was holding onto the Swift Star Wolf's hair. The wolf and the man were casually hanging in the air.

Under them was a vast swamp like an ocean. Most importantly, a swirl had just appeared right below them, and from it a Tyrant Giant Lizard with a body around twenty meters long opened its mouth wide. Its deep throat was like a tunnel...

It was waiting, waiting for Mo Fan and the Swift Star Wolf to fall, to drop right into its esophagus.

The Swift Star Wolf strenuously pulled himself up and managed to gather a foothold on the roof.

Mo Fan quickly took a glance at the soldiers chasing behind him. He realized that they were advancing at a rather quick pace too, as they had Earth Element Magicians clearing the path for them instead of using the roofs.

Heading forward, more Giant Lizards began to appear. No matter which direction he was looking, he could see packs of them swimming in the mud.

The Battlemages were quite close to catching up to Mo Fan. However, they went from moving in a straight path to being blocked by endless Giant Lizards rising up from the mud. From afar, they looked like a bunch of crocodiles making their way toward the prey that had trespassed into their territory.

Echoes of magic blasts rang out. The group of Battlemages was way stronger than the students. The Servant-class Giant Lizards had no chance of getting close to them due to the attacks of continuous Basic Level Spells, with occasional Intermediate Spells. Mo Fan had only traveled slightly further when the whole pack of Giant Lizards was completely massacred.

The Battlemages were well-trained and greatly experienced with battles. It would take more than a few hundred Servant-class beasts to pose any threat to them.

"Strange, what's that devil up to?" Mo Fan was curious, staring at the Battlemages from afar.

The Advanced Magician Lu Nian was also on the pursuit at the start, but he had somehow disappeared from the group.

After spending a brief moment observing his surroundings, Mo Fan realized that Lu Nian was nowhere to be seen. The female advisor was in charge of the group of Battlemages chasing after him.

The advisor's strength had reached the peak of the Intermediate Level, having perfectly mastered the third-tier Intermediate Magic. Her strength would be comparable to Tangyue in the past.

The rest of the soldiers possessed a similar strength to himself. They could cast the second-tier Intermediate spells with ease.

Mo Fan could barely handle one or two of them on his own. He had zero chance of going against thirteen Battlemages at the same time.

The Swift Star Wolf's gaze suddenly sharpened as it stared at the area ahead alertly.

The place ahead was supposed to be a rather busy zone of Jinlin City in the past. The buildings were half-standing in the swamp. Parts of the roads and pedestrian paths were still walkable. However, there was something strange from the clear gap between the buildings, as if there were countless of eyes watching them.

"Are you saying that there are more than ten nests ahead?" Mo Fan asked.

The Swift Star Wolf nodded.

His instincts were telling him about the danger lying ahead. Once they proceeded ahead, they would have a very small chance to survive!

"Consider it a bet, at least we can still drag those bastards to death with us." Mo Fan clenched his teeth and decisively stepped forward into the dangerous area.

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Chapter 310: Razortail Drake

Mo Fan rode on the Swift Star Wolf as he landed on a wide street filled with rubbish and mud.

The street was around two kilometers long. It most likely used to be one of the main streets of Jinlin City. The surrounding buildings were relatively taller, and consisted of office buildings and high-rises.

The buildings were corroded with some strange-looking mud. They looked like construction frames without any windows. The buildings were severely ramshackle, with broken pieces scattered nearby...

As he followed the street for a hundred meters, Mo Fan soon discovered a cement wall blocking the path ahead. The height of the wall was similar to the buildings nearby, blocking vision like a huge dam.

The Swift Star Wolf quickly reminded Mo Fan that the place after the wall was extremely dangerous.

With his enemies catching up behind, Mo Fan headed up the slope of the wall without hesitation. However, when he reached the top, a giant hill suddenly took up the entirety of his vision.

Why would there be such a tall hill right in the middle of the desolate city?

After taking a closer look, Mo Fan instantly shivered.

It was not a hill at all. It was actually a nest built with dried mud. The nest was located right at the busiest place of the city. It was over a hundred meters taller than the tallest skyscraper in the city, and seemed to almost have reached the clouds.

The hill was densely packed with holes. There were so many of them they would make one's scalp numb from trypophobia.

Each of the holes was a den of the Giant Lizards. Mo Fan was already intimidated when the Swift Star Wolf mentioned that there were more than ten of their nests ahead. However, when he cast his eyes over this nest that was taller than a skyscraper, he immediately felt the urge to leave.

Screw the adventure to the lion's den, screw the slim chance of surviving he thought he had. If all the beasts inside this nest were to come out, they could easily destroy Jinlin City all over again.

"No, something isn't right. I don't feel that many auras...Could this be the leftover habitat for the Giant Lizards, as most of them have withdrawn to Dongting Lake? It is only an empty shell?" Mo Fan soon calmed down.

It was Mo Fan's first time witnessing a demon beast's nest. The visual impact of it was comparable to witnessing a skyscraper made by humans.

Most importantly, Mo Fan noticed that the dried mud was actually mixed with vehicles, light poles, advertisement boards etc. The hive was not purely made of mud. It was mixed with a variety of objects, including corpses...

"If all that's left is an empty shell, or maybe there are a few of Giant Lizards living in it, I might still have a chance...Oh mama, it's that guy!" Mo Fan was in the midst of his murmuring when he saw a pair of giant wings extending out at the peak of the hive.

Mo Fan took a closer look and realized that the movement of the wings felt like a simple stretching. A giant red head was hanging right beside the hive. Its mouth was half-open, with drool flowing out like a water tap.

It was the Commander-level beast that had killed the Pseudomorphing Demon Beast with a single bite, an Advanced Razortail Drake!

The Razortail Drakes bore great similarities to the dragons of the West. They had originated in a different country. The Razortail Drakes were considered a subspecies of the dragons who had moved to Dongting Lake sometime in the past, and had dwelled there for hundreds of thousands of years, becoming an intimidating species of demon beasts.

In the past, Mo Fan had only seen magical beasts like dragons and flying vipers in movies. In contrast, this giant Razortail Drake with wings and a big fat tummy was right in front of him. He could easily tell that the Razortail Drake was a crossbreed between some dragons.

This Razortail Drakes's primary lineage was the lizards, but the wings were clearly inherited from the dragons, thus they were known as drakes. Their strength was most likely higher than the Darkwing Wolf which had conquered the trading building of Bo City, since the Razortail Drake was distantly related to the dragons!

A small tornado was spinning in the air. The giant Razortail Drake was deep asleep. Its snoring was loud as thunder, while its breath alone was as strong as the power of a Wind Magician.

It was quite terrifying knowing that a beast which could be described as a Grim Reaper was currently sleeping on top of the nest.

Luckily, he was still a distance away from it. Otherwise, Mo Fan would not have had the courage to move hastily, recalling how the Pseudomorphing Demon Beast was killed almost instantly by the beast...

Mo Fan and the Swift Star Wolf proceeded to the area where the nest was located. The places nearby were totally dry. Not a single beast could be seen around. It was most likely that the Giant Lizards were resting in the hive, and only moved out at night, as they were nocturnal.

The Lizards were not afraid of sunlight, but they preferred gloomy or rainy days.

As he continued along the street, Mo Fan noticed his enemies climbing over the cement wall behind him.

He saw the female advisor Jiang Yi in her grey-white uniform, followed by a group of Intermediate Magicians. They seemed to be clueless of fear while they were on the chase.

"Where are you going to hide this time!" Jiang Yi's ugly face was wearing a cold grin. It was not acceptable for Battlemages to go through so much trouble just to hunt a student down!

"I'm not planning to run either," Mo Fan shrugged, as if he had given up.

"Do you think you have a chance to escape by using confusion? Just to let you know, these Giant Lizards aren't strong enough for us to treat them seriously!" Jiang Yi smirked.

"Is that so? How about those inside the nest?" Mo Fan grinned.

His right arm was already engulfed in flames. He did not fire the Fiery Fist at the Battlemages, but aimed at the bottom of the nest instead.

The Fiery Fist was like a small meteorite. It swept across the air and landed accurately at the base of the hive.

Due to the size of the nest, the force of the punch was only enough to shake some of the caves close to the base of the hive.

However, the movement alone was more than enough to startle every Giant Lizard at the bottom of the hive. Countless heads began to pop out from the holes as they uttered agitated cries while glaring at the intruders.

It had been many years since something alive had made its way here. They could feel their stomachs rumbling, as they had not tasted human flesh for quite a prolonged period!