

## Versatile 331

### [Versatile Mage](#)

#### Chapter 331: He's a Soldier!

"So, you're trying to take my money?" Zhang Xiaohou glared at the two.

The plump owner and Da Jin laughingly said, "What are you going to do about that? I never thought anyone would hand over their diamond card that easily. Kid, did you come from some deep forest on a mountain? Is this your first time in a big city?"

The owner had never seen someone so dumb.

Likewise, Da Jin had been scamming people for many years, and yet he had never seen anyone who would believe a stranger so easily.

Nine million, consider it the fee he had paid for a life lesson. If not, he might even lose his life next time!

"Then you shall not blame me for showing no mercy." Since Zhang Xiaohou had confirmed that they were trying to scam him, he would not need to be kind to them.

The military had made it clear that no soldier was allowed to fight ordinary civilians or Magicians, unless they were involved in criminal acts like scamming or violence.

"Huh, trying to pick a fight now? Do you really think we're just a simple magic shop? Da Niu, Er Niu, San Niu, Si Niu, come out here. Some guy is trying to cause trouble here. Beat him up and throw him out!" The owner yelled at the back of the store.

Four men in singlets soon appeared. Among them, the one called Da Niu had a strong magical aura. It was obvious that he was not just a Basic Magician.

"Someone asking for trouble again...Yo, it's a youngster this time. You should leave if you're smart enough. You don't want to pick a fight with me, it would be painful." Da Niu laughed.

"That's right, our big brother here is a famous hunter. He managed to kill a Warrior-level demon beast with a team before. A kid who will wet his pants from a Servant-class demon beast like you should just go home and drink your milk!"

The group of five ridiculed Zhang Xiaohou straight away.

Zhang Xiaohou did look slightly naive, like a student who had yet to go out in society. A person like him was the easiest to intimidate.

"Should I be impressed?" Zhang Xiaohou smirked as he glanced at the shop owner. "The diamond card you're holding onto, three million inside it is from a piece of equipment which I just sold. As for the remaining six million, it's from killing twelve Warrior-level demon beasts and two hundred and thirty-one Servant-class demon beasts. In the army, the demon beasts that we kill on our own belong to us."

The four thieves were stunned for a second. They inspected Zhang Xiaohou once again, before bursting into loud laughter!

"HAHAHAHA, HAHAHA, this is so funny! I'm dying!"

"Did this kid seriously say he has killed Warrior-level demon beasts on his own? It took us four Intermediate Magicians and twelve Basic Magicians to kill a Tyrant Lizard, and you're shameless enough to say you've killed twelve of them? You're the biggest bluffer I've ever met!" Da Niu could not hold back his urge to laugh.

The kid was at most twenty years old. There were only a small amount of twenty-year-olds who were Intermediate Magicians in the whole nation, and each of them would only be found in the renowned families, or the best schools. Why would any of them be running around like this dumb kid?

"Enough with the nonsense. Let's beat him up and throw him out!" Er Niu, who was wearing a giant earring, said.

Zhang Xiaohou didn't waste any more time. He took a few steps backward.

He was not afraid of them, but worried that the beam above him would crush him when the battle broke out.

"Kid, allow me to show you the true strength of an Intermediate Magic. I'll show you what a Star Pattern looks like!" A magical aura burst out from Da Niu's body, as Stars appeared under his feet and began to align themselves.

"You're too slow!" Zhang Xiaohou grinned. His Wind Element Star Pattern had already completed when his opponent's Star Pattern had only completed by a third!

He was so quick at casting the magic that even Er Niu, San Niu, and Si Niu were still in the middle of casting their Basic Spells when he finished accumulating his Intermediate Energy!

"Wind Disc!"

Zhang Xiaohou hesitated for a moment before deciding against the urge of casting the second-tier Wind Disc.

"Tornado!"

A wild gust appeared under Zhang Xiaohou's control, quickly turning into a powerful tornado!

The area it covered grew, and it swept everything in the shop into it, shattering the glass cabinets as it did so.

The strong updraft of the tornado lifted Da Niu, who was also an Intermediate Magician, into the air.

"Oh my...Oh mama!" The plump owner and Da Jin were terrified by the tornado. They quickly fled to the back of the store.

However, there was no escape, as the tornado uprooted the walls and drew the other three Magicians into the air, too...

The street was usually quiet at this time, but the surrounding neighbors were shaken when they saw the tornado destroying the magic shop!

The wind was strong enough to uproot a whole house, let alone humans!

The entire magic shop crumbled. Zhang Xiaohou, who was standing inside the tornado, quickly withdrew the spell, as he was worried that it would injure the innocent nearby. That being said, the people inside the shop were totally dazzled by it!

The shop no longer had its previous appearance. The ground was covered by shards of glass. All that was left was an empty shell.

Zhang Xiaohou stepped on top of the debris and went up to the plump owner and Da Jin without glancing at the other Magicians, who were looking at him as if he were a devil.

"My diamond card!" Zhang Xiaohou did not want to kill someone. As a matter of fact, the civil liability of a Magician when dealing with an unethical seller like the shop's owner would be fairly minimal.

The plump owner was covered in pieces of glasses and his clothes were torn. He had cuts and bruises all over.

He tremblingly handed the diamond card back to Zhang Xiaohou.

Both the shop's owner and Da Jin were shaking in fear throughout the whole process. They initially thought Zhang Xiaohou, who looked like he was in his twenties, was a Basic Magician. Therefore, he would not be a problem for Da Niu and the others. To their regret, the four magicians were defeated with a single attack...

The shop's owner totally believed that he was able to kill Warrior-level demon beasts on his own now. The strength that this kid had displayed was even more terrifying than some of the aged hunters he knew personally!

"This is my badge. I don't want anyone to know that I'm in Biyi City. Once the people of the Magic Association show up, just tell them that you made the mess yourself." Zhang Xiaohou received the diamond card and kicked the plump owner.

"Sol...soldier, you're a soldier..." The owner was dumbfounded!

That's right, he did mention something about the army...

This was the end. He was messing with a soldier! His life was screwed.

The plump owner glared at Da Jin as if he were saying, "You dumb fuck, why did you bring a soldier here! All the Magicians that are trained by the military are freaks!"

Da Jin felt like bursting into tears.

He had never seen such a young soldier in Biyi City!

It wasn't a huge fish that they had hooked, it was a giant white shark!

## [Versatile Mage](#)

### **Chapter 332: Bumping into a Woman**

Xizhao Valley was a small valley made up of low-lying ground, and had an extraordinary glow to it under the sunlight when the sun was setting. Some say that it was due to a unique plant species here, which

would blossom briefly every evening. The fascinating tale had attracted quite a number of adventurers here to take photos of it...

However, the truth was horrifying enough to make anyone's scalp go numb. The real reason was that when the fertile soil here reached a certain temperature at sunset, the Giant Lizards whose skin secreted a layer of oily slime, would crawl out from their swamps and lie in the valley. Their skin was usually rough, but the layer of oil would reflect the sunlight like crystals, thus the valley shone brightly, as if it were filled with sparkling treasure.

A long time ago, there were tales about the hidden treasure waiting to be discovered in this mysterious valley, waiting for brave Magicians to dig them up. However, after a significant amount of Magicians were killed, many people were disgusted by the truth when the mysterious, beautiful veil was torn apart.

Humans gradually distanced themselves from Dongting Lake as the beast horde continued to expand its territory. Many had moved to the safer cities, and so the ugly tale of Xizhao Valley was still being spread among their descendants...

On a muddy road leading to Xizhao Valley, a group of fully-equipped hunters slowly made their way towards the dangerous place.

It was currently evening. Xizhao Valley was emanating a beautiful shine, as usual. Perhaps if the truth were not known, it would turn out to be a great attraction, as the shine emitting from the valley was too astonishing.

"Believe me, there must be some treasure in Xizhao Valley. I'll bet my dick on it." A red-haired young man tapped his chest and said.

"Yo, watch your mouth, there's still a woman in our group!" A man wearing a bandana said. He purposely cast a side glance at the woman wearing a tight-fitting outfit, who had joined the group halfway through the journey.

The woman was wearing a pair of army-green pants. The loose cut was unable to conceal her big booty, while her long, firm legs, which were perfectly straight even though she was not wearing high heels, totally thronged the men's minds with lewd thoughts...

Maybe because of the slightly warm temperature, the woman had taken off her jacket. She was only wearing a black chest binder. Her outstanding bust had caused the men who were experiencing a great burst of hormones to excuse themselves into the woods to provide relief for their physical needs. Otherwise, they were scared they would be committing a serious criminal offense here in the wild, not to mention the group consisted of famous Magicians and hunters...

The busty woman did not seem to be bothered by the comments. She had used a wooden branch to tie her hair, as if she had forgotten to bring her hair clip, exposing her face and neck, which were covered in fragrant sweat. Deep cleavage could be seen down her neck, a very attractive sight. Her rather simple and casual look somehow highlighted her wild personality, and was causing a great itch in the men's hearts!

"By the way, this woman is pretty daring too, coming to the valley of Dongting Lake on her own. She was lucky to bump into us. If it were a group of dishonorable hunters, they would most likely rape her and kill her before dumping her body in the wild, and no one would care at all," the leader, Liang Dachui, said to his friends nearby.

"Leader, please don't bring that up. If not, I could turn into the dishonorable person you are describing. The lady is too hot!" Huang Zhuosi could not help but peek at the woman again.

Their boss coughed loudly. "Can we talk about business!? The treasure in Xizhao Valley will surely make us rich," the red-haired man said with a stern look.

The five men, with Liang Dachui as their leader, were part of the Dachui Hunter Group. Everyone was an Intermediate Magician. The group was a relatively famous Hunter Group in Biyi City. Their success rate at looting treasure, bounties, or mercenary work was rather impressive.

They were told by their informer that there was some treasure in Xizhao Valley, estimated to worth millions or more. As such, the group immediately decided to try their luck, despite the challenging journey so far.

To their surprise, they had bumped into a female hunter on her own, who seemed to have lost her way. The group conveniently brought her along, seeing that her strength was rather outstanding, too. She was also heading to Xizhao Valley. She had told them that she was not interested in the treasure, and was only trying to investigate the area for some strange reason.

Everyone in the group was fairly experienced, thus no one was worried that the woman was trying to trick them. The only problem was, they had wasted too much toilet paper after bringing her along. At this rate, they would have to use stones and tree branches to clean a certain body part when needed...

"We're almost there. We should come up with a plan first. I don't think we should barge in the valley straight away. It will take us more than seven days and nights just to wipe out the Giant Lizards on the way here," the red-haired Magician who was in charge of planning their strategy said.

"Give me the map," the woman said.

"Li Man, are you an analyst too?" the red-haired man asked with a hint of interest.

"I'm normally in charge of settling problems," Li Man said.

An analyst was the mastermind of the team, in charge of planning their strategy. Once it was approved by the captain, the whole team would stick to it. A Hunter Group without a brilliant mastermind would usually end up dying in the wild, regardless of how strong they were. Having outstanding strength alone was useless without a certain level of intelligence and experience!

"The sky is turning dark. We'll be entering the valley tomorrow evening."

"Evening? Hong Niao, didn't you say that's the time when the Giant Lizards would come out from their caves? Aren't we presenting ourselves to them if we head in at that time?" Huang Zhuosi asked.

"That explains why you're not the mastermind!"

The captain Liang Dachui had great faith in Hong Niao's capabilities. He immediately agreed to follow his plan.

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The following evening, the Hunter Group appeared at the east of the valley. They were taking a path which seemed rather dangerous, but in the end, not a single Giant Lizard was insight. It totally puzzled Huang Zhuosi.

"How do you know there's no beasts here?" Huang Zhuosi asked.

"Aren't they a fan of sunbathing? If you look closely, you will realize that the west of the valley has a lower height than this area. Most of the Giant Lizards will be sunbathing there instead, thus this side will be clear," Hong Niao said confidently. He could not help but glance at the woman called Li Man as he spoke, trying to detect any hint of impression from her eyes.

Sadly, Li Man had a stern look naturally, thus she did not show any reaction.

She did not seem to be interested with the treasure in the valley, but she was intrigued by the corpses of the Giant Lizards they found along the way. She went up to the dead bodies and mumbled, "Punctured by lightning, instant death... I'm getting closer to my target!"

### Chapter 333: The Deathbringer of Dongting Lake

"Strange, there are some scattered corpses here," said Hong Niao, who was relatively observant.

"It's normal, since the Giant Lizards always fight one another for territories or partners. Come, we're one step closer to our treasure. HAHAHA, we'll all be rich once we get our hands on the Flowing Mud!" Huang Zhuosi, who was rather insensitive, burst into laughter.

Everyone's expression turned weird when they heard his shout. They subconsciously glanced at the woman called Li Man.

"Idiot, you've exposed the Earth Element Soul Seed that we are looking for. The Flowing Mud is a high-quality Earth Element Soul Seed. The estimated market price is around thirty million RMB. I swear I'll skin you alive if you screw this up!" the captain, Liang Dachui, glared at Huang Zhuosi.

Huang Zhuosi let out an awkward smile. He cast a glance at Li Man and realized that she was only glancing at them indifferently. It seemed like she was not too interested in a Spirit-grade Soul Seed like the Flowing Mud.

As they arrived at the valley, they immediately saw its astonishing brilliance. The golden sunlight of the setting sun had laid a golden rug across the Giant Lizards, which were wriggling as they moved. Not only was half of the basin filled with them, even the slope of the mountain was crowded with the Giant Lizards. From afar, it looked like the entire place was covered in gold!

"Holy crap, how many Giant Lizards are there!" exclaimed Hong Niao when he witnessed the spectacular sight. Instead of admiring the view, he could feel his scalp going numb.

If they somehow ended up being surrounded in the valley, they would be like sheep entering a pack of wolves, with no chance of surviving.

"Captain, are you sure we're going in?" Huang Zhuosi felt like retreating when he saw these many Giant Lizards.

The treasure was important, but everything would be in vain if he lost his life here!

"I...I also think that it's too risky," the others agreed

"We've already come this far. Don't worry, Hong Niao's plan will surely work," said Liang Dachui with a deep breath, although he looked quite nervous too.

Luckily, the valley was fairly spacious, thus there were quite a few hiding spots for them. Otherwise, even a few extra lives would not be enough for them to barge into the demon beasts' valley.

Li Man split up with the Hunter Group when they arrived at the valley.

She was quite interested too, but it would not make sense if a Commander were to take advantage of them after they had invested great effort in collecting the information, coming up with a plan, and risking their lives to acquire the Earth Element Soul Seed.

Li Man followed the trails of the corpses. The Hunter Group agreed to split up, knowing that she was looking for something else.

They were more interested in the treasure, since what kind of woman would they not be able to find when they had the money?

However, soon after the group entered the valley, a nimble figure followed along their trail.

He glanced at the group of hunters and the female Magician who had split up, and quickly inspected the corpses on the ground. In the end, he chose to go after the female Magician.

The person was none other than Zhang Xiaohou, who had left the army to infiltrate Dongting Lake on his own.

As a matter of fact, he had followed Wang Dachui's group all the way from Biyi City. The experienced hunters had never noticed his existence along the journey.

Zhang Xiaohou was mainly in charge of tracking and spying in the army. He was considered a special forces soldier among the Battlemages, although it was closely related to the two Elements he had.

"Brother Fan, I'm very close to finding you!" Zhang Xiaohou felt even more confident when he saw the causes of death of the corpses nearby.

Li Man continued her search, following the corpses. She believed that she was very close to finding the Deathbringer of Dongting Lake.

The term had appeared in the Hunter Union when a large number of Giant Lizards were found dead close to Dongting Lake. When the hunters discovered the Giant Lizards all had similar wounds, they referred to their killer as the Deathbringer of Dongting Lake.

Li Man was the representative from the military sent to investigate the matter. Dongting Lake had been a sensitive and dangerous area for quite some time, so she was not willing to overlook any tiny detail, just in case it turned out to be a new Commander-level demon beast, or something even more dangerous. It would become a great threat to Biyi City!

“Strange, my legs feel heavy. I don’t think my stamina should be this bad, even though it’s been a while since I was last out on the field...” Li Man had no choice, but to find a dry spot to rest up after walking past a swampy area.

She quickly took off her boots to check her legs.

“Damn it, why was I so careless!” Li Man finally discovered the reason. Her feet were somehow poisoned by the swamp. Her jade-white feet were dyed purple.

Li Man was reallocated to Dongting Lake quite recently, thus she was not very familiar with the environment. As such, she did not put too much attention on her precautions toward poisonous substances.

“This doesn’t make sense, I’m already following the advice given by my comrades. Besides, with my cultivation, there’s no way I would be poisoned so easily. Could this be an unknown poison...Where did it come from, such a strong poison!” Li Man anxiously sat down on the rock.

She immediately applied all the antidotes she had brought with her, but she was surprised when none of them was effective against the poison, which continued to spread up her legs!

The swamp was a mix between Water and Earth Elements, thus she tried using the respective antidotes, but none of them worked.

This is bad!

Li Man was not afraid of demon beasts. She would not mind killing any of them that she stumbled into.

However, poison was definitely troublesome to deal with. She was clueless about it, and she was not well-prepared for this adventure. She had no idea what to do in her current situation.

“The hunters must have gone far away... Should I fire a signal to ask for help? The army would send someone over...but if they knew I failed to accomplish the mission just because I’ve been poisoned, everyone would laugh at me. Those old jerks never liked me intervening with their business at Biyi Headquarters to begin with!” Li Man clenched her teeth and gave up on the thought.

She tried other ways to cleanse the poison, but its strength totally surpassed her expectations.

When the purple poison made its way to Li Man’s knees, she finally regretted her idiotic decision.

The poison was definitely nothing ordinary!

As the sky fell darker, Li Man began to feel dizzy. It would be rather difficult for her to send a signal now.

She would need to make some preparations before firing the signal. Otherwise, a normal signal would just expose her location to the demon beasts. Li Man leaned against the cold rock and panted heavily.



The poison continued to spread in her body. Li Man could no longer move. She could hear distant cries of the Giant Lizards around her as her eyelids fell heavily.

She had no idea if her spot was concealed enough. All she could do was to pray that the Giant Lizards would not notice her, otherwise...

Just as Li Man was falling unconscious, she felt a strong electric current passing in front of her. It struck a Giant Lizard crawling toward her, and instantly killed it.

Li Man's heart skipped a beat.

How bad exactly was her luck? Not only was she immobilized because of some strong poison, the Deathbringer of Dongting Lake just had to show itself now, too!

Most of the Giant Lizards had died after being punctured by lightning. Li Man was confident that the figure coming closer to her was the one she had been searching for!

Chapter 334: The Wolf-like Youth

In a shabby cave, a man in ragged clothes sat like a caveman besides a vigorous bonfire. On the other side lay a woman with a shocking bust, whose chest was pulsing steadily.

The woman's army green pants had been taken off, revealing her pink underwear. The rather small piece of cloth was unable to completely conceal her plump booty, which was completely exposed and looked even more alluring under the illumination of the fire.

Cave, bonfire, a man, and a woman, such a set-up could easily provoke anyone's wild imagination.

"Why would a woman even come to this place?" the man murmured.

"Mm..." The woman let out a soft moan. Suddenly, the atmosphere in the cave became drier, as the sound of someone swallowing a mouthful of saliva was heard.

"Crap, I forgot to put her pants back on..."

As soon as the thought crossed the man's mind. Li Man regained consciousness. She checked her surroundings with a blank face after her eyes sprang open, and discovered a man with long hair, like a caveman staring at her. She immediately gathered her focus and began casting magic subconsciously.

"You are poisoned." The caveman smiled, exposing his teeth. His canine teeth were quite sharp, like two swords hanging in the air.

"You're a... Hunter?" Li Man asked in a calm tone as she collected her thoughts.

The reason she had stuttered for a moment was because the man looked too similar to a caveman. Even a hunter who was in extremely bad condition would still look better than him. She could not tell how long he had been staying in the wild.

"More or less, at least I won't be able to leave this place in a short period of time," said the man with a smile.

“Did you save my life?” asked Li Man.

“Yeah, the poison you caught is quite tricky. It took me a great effort to cleanse it when I caught it myself. However, your body is a lot stronger than I thought. I assumed that you would be unconscious for at least seven or eight days,” said the man.

“Thanks, I’m not this careless usually,” explained Li Man.

“Why would a woman like you come to such a dangerous place on your own?” asked the man.

“Aren’t you on your own, too?” Li Man returned the question. Her eyes were filled with the pride of an independent woman.

“You’re right, so you’re here for the treasure in the valley?” added the man. His eyes peeked at her at times.

Li Man shook her head. She recalled the lightning she saw prior to falling unconscious, before taking a closer look at the man in front of her, “I’m here to investigate the thing that has been killing lots of demon beasts recently.”

“Oh, I see...” The man shifted his gaze as he switched the topic. “As long as you’re not here for the treasure. Too many have died because of it.”

“Too many have died?” Li Man was startled.

“Yeah, where do you think the poison come from? I’ve tried to warn a few groups, but they totally ignored my advice,” the man said.

“This valley isn’t normal.” Li Man frowned. She recalled how she was poisoned and the uneasy feeling she had when the group first arrived at the valley.

She was an Advanced Magician and she still came so close at losing her life, let alone the Hunter Groups!

Crap, Dachui’s group was still clueless about the danger. Hopefully, they were not poisoned as she was. Otherwise, the whole group would be dead by now.

“It will take some time until your poison is cleansed. You should hide in the cave for the time being,” the man said.

“Why are you here?” Li Man asked.

“To collect some stuff...” The man smiled mysteriously.

“Have you had enough?” Li Man’s expression turned dark as she glared at him.

“Err... I’ll excuse myself. Please put your pants on, I’ve already dried them for you!” The man awkwardly left the cave.

Li Man had totally run out of patience. During the conversation, she already gave him hints to leave the cave. To her surprise, he sat there throughout the whole conversation!

If it weren’t for the fact that he had saved her life, she would never forgive him for taking her pants off!

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When the man returned, Li Man had already put on her pants. Her eyes were staring at the bonfire as she tried to figure out if the man had done something to her.

She briefly checked her body. Her sensitive parts seemed perfectly fine... her hymen was already broken. As a female Battlemage, she had already given her virginity to the intense training in the army. It had nothing to do with a man.

“Can I ask you a favor?” Li Man glanced at the man who was walking towards her.

Li Man could not help but murmur in her heart, exactly how long has he been living here? His hair almost reached the ground. His canine teeth were like a wolf’s fangs. If it weren’t for his seemingly ordinary human face, she would have thought that he was actually raised by a wolf, like in the film *A Werewolf Boy!*

“I don’t have much time,” the man rejected her straight away.

“I haven’t told you what it is yet!” said Li Man protested in an angry tone.

“Sis, I don’t have any time to spare. My life is still at stake here,” the man said.

“Whatever you are doing, I can help you, but I hope you can send a message to the Hunter Group that has just arrived here. Tell them not to go any deeper. Their lives are at risk,” Li Man said.

Li Man had a fairly good impression of the group. Even though they were quite lecherous, she had gotten used to people staring at her like that.

“I...I should have just set up a noticeboard there! The thing in the swamp at the center of the valley has already been injured. However, several groups of Magicians have been so keen to give the thing a warm hug lately. I can’t stop them!” complained the man.

Li Man fell into deep thought.

It was likely that there had been news spreading around about the Earth Element Soul Seed. As a result, many Magicians had come to search for it. To their surprise, the valley was nothing but a trap, taking countless lives. On top of that, it was impossible for the people to learn the truth, as most of the groups were completely wiped out after coming here. As a result, more people would just come here and end up dead.

If even an Advanced Magician like her had failed to protect herself properly, any other group would surely be killed!

“How do you know the thing is injured?” Li Man was slightly suspicious of the man.

Most of the people would have died halfway into the valley, and yet this guy seemed to be perfectly fine living here.

Besides, she did sense that the Deathbringer of Dongting Lake had appeared before she fell unconscious. How did she end up being saved by this man? Was she under an illusion?

“Err... that’s none of your concern,” said the man.

"I still don't know your name."

"Oh, you can call me Fan Mo."

"You seem rather familiar with this place. I don't want to see more people dying, and they are all Intermediate Magicians... Let me help eliminate the thing in the valley, too." Li Man said, staring at the extraordinary young man with a stern look. The military had the obligation to get rid of any potential threat. Since Li Man was a Commander, it was a responsibility which she could not avoid.

Mo Fan was stunned. He began to inspect the woman whose tone was slightly dignified.

"I do have a plan to kill it, but I don't think it's plausible with the two of us. We still need someone nimble enough to lure the poisonous beasts away," said Mo Fan.

"There was a guy tailing us when we were entering the valley. I'm sure that he was using the military's way of tracking enemies and concealing his presence. I'll find him," Li Man said.

"It won't be good enough, either. We need someone strong enough, who could kite a Commander-level demon beast... (sigh) forget it, let's give it a try. You should find the guy first. Just making it clear, don't try to take the thing I need. Otherwise, you all will be dead soon," said Mo Fan.

"I'm not interested in it," Li Man said in a rather calm tone.

### [Versatile Mage](#)

#### **Chapter 335: The Giant Beast in the Swamp**

"Sigh, such a pity for her to leave like that. Captain, why didn't you say anything? I don't think it would hurt to let her stay." Huang Zhuosi's mind was still filled with the woman's deep cleavage. He just could not understand how her skinny waist was able to support her incredible bust. Guess she trained herself a lot in the wild...

"Can your brain be useful for once? Aren't you aware that something isn't right here!" Hong Niao snapped furiously.

"Something isn't right?"

"There isn't a single Giant Lizard here!"

"Isn't that good news?" said Huang Zhuosi.

"F\*\*k me, is your brain full of shit? The density of Giant Lizards in this place is estimated to one every ten square meters! However, we've not seen a single one along the way, what does that imply!?!...It means there's something so terrifying here, that all the Servant-class Giant Lizards are too scared to get close!" Hong Niao was absolutely furious. Why did he decide to join a bunch of brain-dead teammates?

The group finally realized that something was indeed out of place here. They quickly scanned the darkness around them.

The center of the valley was an uplifted area. If the swampy area, which took up seventy percent of the valley, was considered a lake, the uplifted area could be described as an island in the middle of the lake.

They had stuck to their plan and come all the way here without stumbling into any danger. They were so close to reaching the area. The information they received had mentioned that an Earth Element Soul Seed, Flowing Mud, was right in the middle of the valley.

There was indeed a strong Earth Element presence nearby. There must be a Soul Seed being nurtured in the middle of the swamp!

They had put so much effort in just to acquire the Soul Seed. As such, any potential danger was treated as everything would be fine as long as they were careful enough.

They couldn't help it, as the Soul Seed was too huge of an incentive to them!

"We're here. What should we do now?" asked Captain Liang Dachui.

"I'll investigate our surroundings first," said Hong Niao.

The group of hunters had reached the land in the middle of the swamp. Their surroundings were still clear of Giant Lizards. Maybe they had gone somewhere else to take a nap...

Hong Niao took out an aluminum container. He explained to the group while setting up the special tool, "This is an Element Detector. By inserting it into the ground, we'll be able to distinguish the ratio of Elements within a kilometer. This land is soaked in the swamp, thus it should be showing a balanced ratio of brown, which represents the Earth Element, and blue, which represents the Water Element. If the result leans towards dark brown, it implies that the area is strong in the Earth Element, therefore the Soul Seed should be within a kilometer of the device."

"Alright, we're Magicians, not scientists. We don't need to know the details," said Huang Zhuosi impatiently.

Hong Niao wore a disdainful look. Who told you that Magicians don't need to use their brains? Who said that Magicians don't need to learn how to use different tools?

"Mm? This is strange!" The result was out fairly quickly. Hong Niao blurted out staring at the blank screen on the Element Detector.

"What is it?" asked Captain Wang Dachui. The rest of the team came closer too, eager to know if there was any treasure nearby!

"Why doesn't it show any color? Didn't you say it's supposed to be brown and blue?" Huang Zhuosi went up to the device and stared at the empty screen.

Hong Niao was confused too. He quickly checked the device.

Why isn't there any color?

It is just ordinary land. The device should at least show brown, but why is it showing nothing? Didn't that mean the land is not showing any Elemental reaction? This doesn't make sense scientifically... no, magically!

"Is this thing broken?" Huang Zhuosi laughed. He was never fond of devices like that

"Impossible, let me try again," said Hong Niao. If it was land, it should have Earth Element's reaction...

Either the device is broken, or this ground...

"By the way, do any of you feel that we're rising?" someone blurted out among the group.

Hong Niao, who was about to use the device again, suddenly had a pale face. The hands holding the device began to tremble violently...

The device was not broken, but it still failed to detect any reaction.

Everything in the world was basically made of some Elements, but the only thing that would not show a reaction would be... a living thing!

A roar so powerful that it could shake the entire valley erupted suddenly!

The sound was extremely close to the group, it felt like it was occurring right beside their ears. Their eardrums were almost destroyed, while they felt like their brains were about to explode!

The first one to realize the truth was Hong Niao, whose mind was instantly overwhelmed with fear. He could not even move his body.

Following the roar, the land in the middle of the swamp rose rapidly!

It escaped the swamp and rose into the air. The giant body previously concealed under the swamp was exposed. It was huge enough to stir a great tide in the middle of the swamp!

The land began to tilt sideways as the giant black beast stood up. As it stood up, the island turned out to be its backbone!

The earth and mud rapidly came loose from its giant body. Its massive stood under the dim night sky. As the moonlight shone upon the enormous silhouette, the part which was exposed above the mud resulted in an epic scene!

The tiny humans on the giant beast's back were utterly terrified. They never thought they were actually stepping on the back of a giant beast...They completely lost their minds!

Some who were quicker in response immediately cast spells to aid their escape.

However, the beast was long aware of these intruders' presence. With just a slight shudder, it shook the humans off its back with ease.

Its movement was not too quick, but its size was enormous. A single step from it was able to cover the distance of a Wind Magician's Wind Path.

Liang Dachui, Hong Niao, Huang Zhuosi and the rest never thought they would be stepping into the jaws of death themselves. Even Magic could not save them as they fell through the air...

Everything had happened too quickly!

The place fell silent fairly quickly. The group of elite Magicians had only seen the giant beast's backbone, before they were devoured by darkness without a hint of struggle!

For a few seconds, there were screams and shouts, but now, the giant black beast was slowly sinking into the swamp again.

The entire place returned to calm, as if nothing had actually happened...

### Versatile Mage

#### **Chapter 336: Holy Shit, Xiaohou?**

Somewhere in the distance, on top of an old tree growing away from the rest of the plants, a fairly skinny young man was sitting on a branch. His eyes were wide, as he could not believe what he had just witnessed in the center of the swamp.

His teeth started grinding subconsciously. It took him quite some time before he could collect his thoughts. He even stared at the ground below him, which was overgrown with weeds...

After taking a close look, Zhang Xiaohou was confident that it would not rise all of a sudden. Half of his shirt was soaked with cold sweat.

What the hell is wrong with this place!

Zhang Xiaohou was utterly terrified. He was planning to track the corpses, but considering that he would not be able to move freely in the valley, he decided to tailgate the group of hunters while maintaining a certain distance from them.

To his surprise, the whole group was wiped out within a few blinks of an eye!

The hunters, consisting of Intermediate Magicians, were considered an elite group, but had just been wiped out so easily!

Not knowing if he should feel lucky or pessimistic, Zhang Xiaohou somehow lost track of his direction. The valley was scarier than he had imagined. The enormous creature at the center of the swamp had definitely surpassed the Warrior-level.

Should he leave the valley at once, or...

Damn it, how could he leave before finding the person he was looking for!

He would just avoid going to the center of the swamp at all costs! The giant beast would most likely stay in its area due to its incredible size!

Clenching his teeth, Zhang Xiaohou immediately left the area. The further he was away from the swamp, the better!

"F\*\*k me, are you being serious now? The Giant Lizards are returning to their lair at this time?" As Zhang Xiaohou was about to leave, he saw the Giant Lizards, which were supposed to be gathering to the west of the mountain, were instead making their way toward him.

The group of beasts seemed to be taking a stroll after enjoying a satisfying bath, and were on their way back to their nest to call it a day. It was definitely bad news for Zhang Xiaohou, as he just happened to be close to their nest.

As a matter of fact, the valley would normally be empty for two to three hours, as the Giant Lizards would gather on the west of the mountain. They would show up on time like housewives turning up to dances being held at the public squares {TN: yes, this is a thing in China}, living their quality lives.

The Hunter Group had planned to finish their job within this gap of two to three hours. Regardless of if they succeeded or not, they would leave instantly once time ran out, and would resume the operation the next day.

Unfortunately, none of them expected there to be an enormous beast hiding at the center of the swamp!

Zhang Xiaohou was out of luck to bump into the housewives... err, the Giant Lizards when they were returning to their nest. He was clueless about the Giant Lizards' regular routine. He assumed they would stay on the west side of the mountain until daylight.

Seeing more Giant Lizards crawling toward him, Zhang Xiaohou felt his scalp turning numb. He immediately used all his capabilities to flee for his life.

---

The swamp to the south of the valley was poisonous. Not only was the poison able to spread rapidly, its gaseous substance could also permeate through a living thing's skin.

The creatures residing in the swamp were totally immune to the poison, while outsiders trespassing in this area would most likely end up like the countless corpses at the bottom of the swamp.

"You're still not cleansed from the poison. Why are you following me?" Mo Fan was left speechless, glancing at the stubborn woman.

"I'm fine, but are you sure that disgusting fruit is enough to resist the poison?" asked Li Man.

"Of course, otherwise, I would be dead by now," answered Mo Fan.

"We should find the group of hunters as soon as possible, then try to find the Wind Magician," said Li Man.

"If they executed their plan tonight, they are most likely dead by now. As for the guy you mentioned who was hiding in the dark, to find him in such a huge valley..." Mo Fan lowered his body to cross the wall sticking out above him. He paused his sentence as soon as he made it to the other side.

Li Man followed behind and lowered her body to pass through the gap below the wall. She took over Mo Fan's sentence, "He should be nearby...Err..."

Mo Fan was staring blankly ahead at the swampy area. He saw a large group of Giant Lizards chasing after a skinny young man who was sprinting in front of the beasts.

The young man seemed to be unaware of the gap under the mountain wall. He had stumbled into a dead end. His eyes flickered with firm determination.



"You assholes, your Grandpa Hou is definitely going to beat the shit out of you!" Knowing there was nowhere left to run, Zhang Xiaohou took a deep breath and prepared himself to have a lengthy battle with the Giant Lizards until daylight.

There were at least seventy Giant Lizards chasing after him. They were significantly larger than the usual Servant-class demon beasts. Their only weakness was their slow movement speed. They were trying their best to catch up, despite only being a hundred meters away. Their grinding teeth could not wait to tear the seafood apart. Well, the swamp was their habitat, so humans who lived on the shore were considered their seafood.

"Is he the person you were talking about?" Mo Fan tried to take a closer look at the person, but all he could see was a shadowy figure.

Li Man nodded after also taking a glance. "Most likely."

Li Man was lost in her thoughts. She assumed that they would need some time trying to find the person. To their surprise, they had somehow bumped into him as soon as they got closer to the valley. It was just too coincidental.

"Hey, I wouldn't want to have a rumble with them! There's a path here, come quick!" Mo Fan waved at the idiotic young man from the gap below the mountain walls.

Zhang Xiaohou turned around and saw a wild-looking man and the mysterious woman who was with the group of hunters before.

"Oh, coming!" Zhang Xiaohou crawled his way toward the gap below the wall.

---

The Giant Lizards were unable to make it through the gap, so they had given up on the chase.

The trio continued to move in the pitch-black darkness. Zhang Xiaohou was the first to break the silence, "Thanks for saving my life."

"Don't worry about it, we do have something to discuss with you, too... By the way, friend, your voice sounds familiar..." Mo Fan responded in the dark.

"Strange, your voice sounds familiar to me, too!"

The two had just walked out from the dark as they spoke. Four eyes stared into one another as the moonlight shone upon their face.

A soft breeze caressed their faces. A crow somewhere in the mountain let out a weird caw...

"Holy shit, Xiao Hou?"

"Brother Fan!"

Chapter 337: Kill the Giant Beast in the Swamp?

“Hell yeah, Brother Fan, I knew you were not dead!” Zhang Xiaohou gave Mo Fan a great hug, although his body was soaked with smelly mud.

It had been two years since they had bid each other farewell in Bo City.

When Mo Fan learned that his friend had come specifically just to look for him, he felt a surge of warmth rising in his heart.

Mo Fan knew how dangerous Dongting Lake was, and yet Zhang Xiaohou was willing to come on his own. He was quite speechless about his friend’s recklessness.

Returning to the cave, Li Man fell asleep, as the poison in her body was not cleansed yet.

“Oh right, Brother Fan, this is for you.” Zhang Xiaohou slowly took out two containers from his backpack and shoved them into Mo Fan’s hands.

“What are these?” Mo Fan took a glance at the containers, but he could not tell what they contained.

Mo Fan was rather familiar with the containers. They were commonly used to contain Soul Essences.

“There are two Soul Essences inside. Boss Zhan Kong told me that your soul is in a critical state, and you’ll need a huge amount of Soul Essences to maintain it. I brought two Soul Essences from Biyi City along my way here...” Zhang Xiaohou blurted out in excitedly.

Knowing Mo Fan was still alive was the most exciting good news to Zhang Xiaohou. After all, he had treated him like his own brother.

“Where did you get the money from?” Mo Fan held the two containers. He could feel something flowing in his eyes.

Mo Fan was barely able to retain his normal appearance since his soul had a breakdown. However, the Demon Element was extremely unstable. He did not dare to return to the safe zones yet, not until his soul was completely stabilized.

However, he could not help but admit that it was quite lonely living out here.

Mo Fan was incredibly touched knowing that Zhang Xiaohou had come all the way here looking for him, and yet had still prepared two Soul Essences for him.

It was true that Mo Fan was in desperate need of Soul Essences, which was the main reason he stayed at the valley here in Dongting Lake. He had no choice but to maintain his fragile soul with a huge amount of Soul Essences, and the source of them was the Giant Lizards...

He had no idea how many Giant Lizards he had killed so far, and how many Soul Essences he had acquired. As a matter of fact, Zhang Xiaohou’s Servant-class Soul Essences were no longer effective for him. However, when he recalled that his bro had come all the way here just to give him the Soul Essences, he could feel his eyes getting wet...

Mo Fan always thought he was a heartless person, but surprisingly he was incredibly touched by Zhang Xiaohou’s actions.

“Money is never the problem. Besides, I’m more or less a soldier now. By the way, is your body okay now? I was so worried when I heard the details from Boss Zhan Kong!” Zhang Xiaohou asked him.

“Take these back. Sell them and get yourself a piece of good defensive equipment.” Mo Fan did not want to take the gift.

Although the gift was not too useful for him, the intentions behind it mattered more than anything else, especially to someone like Mo Fan, who had been living a lonely life in the wild for more than three months. The Servant-class Soul Essences would still work, but Mo Fan could easily acquire them. Zhang Xiaohou had most likely spent all his savings on the two Soul Essences.

“I already have some equipment. Boss Zhan Kong told me that you need lots of Soul Essences. Just make them count, since I’ve managed to find you. Brother Fan, just focus on treating your injury, I’ll gather the Soul Essences for you. To be honest, those Giant Lizards are nothing against me. I’ve also taken a Soul Container from the army. I know it’s rare to find Soul Essences, but I can kill a lot of them. I believe it would eventually appear...” Zhang Xiaohou had come prepared. Judging from the things he had brought, he was definitely planning to stay for quite a long time.

“You little prick, alright, stop boasting how capable you are now. I do have my own hands and legs. What do you think I’ve been doing for the past three months?” cursed Mo Fan.

“That’s right, let’s kill the beasts together. With us working together, I believe even the Deathbringer of Dongting Lake has to clear a path for us, HAHAHA!” Zhang Xiaohou burst out laughing.

Mo Fan smacked his lips. He was hesitating if he should tell Zhang Xiaohou the truth about the Deathbringer of Dongting Lake.

On second thought, he decided not to tell him the truth, so he would not destroy his confidence. Besides, Zhang Xiaohou had come at the perfect time, as he desperately needed a helper.

Mo Fan had been camping in the valley for a few days. His target was actually the monster at the center of the swamp.

It was a Commander-level demon beast, which was currently injured. Mo Fan had no idea how it was injured, but he did fight against it in his demonized state, thus he was confident that he could kill it.

Mo Fan desperately needed a Commander-level soul, either a Soul Remnant or a Soul Essence.

The injured Commander-level demon beast was Mo Fan’s only hope. Otherwise, if the Demon Element were to lose control again, his soul would definitely crumble, as it would no longer be able to endure the overwhelming burden.

The Demon Element did give him incredible strength, in exchange for the energy from his body and soul. In fact, Mo Fan did not run away from Zhan Kong because he had lost control of his body, but rather because he clearly knew that the military would not be able to provide a sufficient amount of Soul Essences for him, thus he had decided to find them himself.

With the help of the Little Loach Pendant, Mo Fan could easily collect Soul Essences. All he needed to do was kill demon beasts!

He was able to collect Soul Remnants, which would eventually be refined into Soul Essences.

If he were lucky enough, he could even get Soul Essences straight away, which definitely would aid his recovery.

To Mo Fan's surprise, the first Soul Breakdown almost cost him his life. Mo Fan had no choice but to massacre the demon beasts in his demonized state.

The number of Giant Lizards at Dongting Lake was already overflowing. The military had plans to control their numbers, and had been encouraging Magicians and hunters to eliminate them.

Mo Fan just happened to have no choice but to do a kind deed for society, and somehow ended up as the infamous Deathbringer of Dongting Lake.

If his predictions were on point, he would experience a strong Soul Breakdown around a week from now!

Mo Fan had awakened four different Elements, thus there were a total of four Soul Breakdowns. He had survived the previous three, but his guts were telling him that the final one would be significantly stronger than those before.

The Little Loach Pendant had refined lots of Servant-class and Warrior-level Soul Essences for him.

However, Mo Fan still felt like he needed a Commander-level soul to increase the odds.

A Commander-level demon beast had a higher chance of dropping a Soul Essence. Even if the injured Commander-level demon beast ended up not dropping a Soul Essence, its Soul Remnant would still contain a significant amount of energy.

Killing a Commander-level demon beast was not an easy task, even though it was already severely injured.

Mo Fan began to run out of patience. Once the Commander-level demon beast recovered from its injury, there was no way Mo Fan would be able to kill it, even with the power from his Demon Element.

Luckily, Zhang Xiaohou had come so far to look for him, and there was also a potentially powerful female Magician here to help him, increasing his chances of killing the Commander-level demon beast!

"We're going to kill the monster at the center of the swamp," Mo Fan straight away made his intention clear.

"THE WHAT NOW?" Zhang Xiaohou's eyes went wide as his thoughts filled with the image of the Hunter Group being swallowed alive by the giant shadow!

### [Versatile Mage](#)

#### **Chapter 338: A Perfect Plan**

The Giant Lizards were amphibious. They could live in caves, sleep in the mud, were able to live off vegetables, and feast on meat at other times. Such an all-around beast species was troublesome to deal with. It was difficult to find their weakness due to their strong adaptability. It also meant that their reproductive ability was fairly outstanding.

There were only a few Giant Lizards here forty to fifty years ago, and now... they were enough to queue up for a sunbath.

One thing for sure, the creature hiding at the middle of the swamp was also a kind of the Giant Lizard species.

The Razortail Drake which Mo Fan had seen before was a Giant Lizard mixed with the lineage of dragons. In comparison, the one he was targeting now had no wings, and its size was significantly bigger than the Razortail Drake...

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Over the past few days, the trio was trying to figure out a plan to kill the enormous beast at the center of the swamp.

Li Man had returned from her regular exploration with bad news. Two groups of hunters were planning to enter the valley soon. Li Man had blocked the entrance they were planning to use, so she had barely delayed their plans by a day or two.

"Looks like we'll have to make our move tomorrow," said Mo Fan.

They would not be able to stop the hunters from feeding themselves to the beast. Besides, that would ruin their ambitious plan of killing the beast.

Furthermore, Mo Fan felt that if they were to wait, the beast's shell would regrow fairly soon.

In the weak illumination from the bonfire, Mo Fan started drawing on the ground with a stick as he laid out the plan.

"Firstly, the Xuanwu Lizard is our biggest problem. Even though it was severely injured, its strength is still too much for us to handle. We can't attack it without making sure that everything is in place. It is our main target, and it is an expert at disguising itself. Don't judge it by looking at its enormous size, I can assure you that it has a higher intelligence than the Magicians that it has eaten alive." Mo Fan drew the beast's position on the soil.

Zhang Xiaohou nodded heavily.

The Xuanwu Lizard was indeed very cunning. It never attacked just when the Magicians showed themselves. It waited patiently until they stood on its back. The groups of hunters were quite experienced, and were fully prepared, too. If it were a normal encounter, one or two of them would be able to escape. However, they were completely wiped out in an instant.

"We have no hope of defeating it on our own. However, there's something that could turn the impossible into the possible." Mo Fan drew another area of the swamp with the stick.

The zone was where Li Man was on her own before, the exact place where she was poisoned without her knowing it.

Mo Fan glanced at Li Man and saw that she was in deep thought. He chuckled and said, "That's right, the Xuanwu Lizard is not the only thing living in the Xizhao Valley. There's also a very strong poisonous bug."

"Brother Fan, are you implying that we should have the poisonous bug attack the Xuanwu Lizard?" Zhang Xiaohou's eyes flickered.

They had zero chance of winning if they fought the Xuanwu Lizard head-on. It was clearly a Commander-level demon beast, and even an injured Commander-level demon beast could kill them instantly.

But it would be a different case if they had some external help.

Li Man cast a surprised glance at Mo Fan. She hadn't thought this caveman would be so daring.

It was something that hunters used a lot, to have some beast do their dirty work. As such, they would be the ultimate winner of the situation. Not many people would dare to use it on a Commander-level demon beast, as they would end up being eaten if they made a careless mistake.

"Have you gathered enough information about that poisonous bug?" asked Li Man.

"Almost," answered Mo Fan.

"Almost?" Li Man pull a long face.

"Either way, it's useful in this situation." Mo Fan was not willing to explain further. "The plan is simple; we'll lure the poisonous bug to the Xuanwu Lizard. Its poison is strong enough to weaken a Commander-level demon beast. All we have to do is let the Xuanwu Lizard kill the poisonous bug, and we'll utilize its poison to kill the Xuanwu Lizard."

Zhang Xiaohou nodded quickly. He was utterly convinced that the plan would work. He asked after a slight pause, "So, who's going to lure it to the gigantic beast?"

Mo Fan and Li Man did not respond. The cave suddenly fell silent, apart from the crackling noise from the bonfire.

Zhang Xiaohou pointed at his nose and said in a rather stiff tone, "You're asking ME to do it?"

Mo Fan and Li Man nodded simultaneously. Neither of them had any convenient movement abilities, while on the other hand, Zhang Xiaohou had both the Wind Element and the Earth Element, and he had learned useful techniques in tracking enemies and concealing his presence in the military. He was definitely the perfect candidate for the difficult mission.

Zhang Xiaohou knew he had nowhere to escape to. He murmured under his breath, "Why do I feel like you both reached that conclusion before this?"

"We will bring the poisonous bug and the Xuanwu Lizard to this specific location. Therefore, we need someone luring the poisonous bug, and another person baiting the Xuanwu Lizard." Mo Fan poked at a spot close to the center of the swamp with the stick.

Zhang Xiaohou nodded.

On second thought, Zhang Xiaohou was puzzled. He blurted out, "So what's next after we bring the poisonous bug and the Xuanwu Lizard there? Aren't we going to be flanked from both sides? We're going to be killed first in between them!"

The plan was perfect, but its execution was bizarre.

The biggest problem of baiting the demon beasts to fight one another was to ensure a safe escape from the situation. Did they really think the beasts would just run into one another and battle fiercely while the bait simply turned a corner and ran away?

Enough with the jokes, this wasn't filming a movie. It did work for the female protagonist in Jurassic Park IV, but Zhang Xiaohou would not dare to use the same trick himself.

"That's the question," Mo Fan coughed and pointed at the spot he poked before.

"Have you thought why we're luring them to that specific location?" Mo Fan sternly said, "Li Man and I have investigated the surroundings. There's a cave at the end of this path. Below it is a dried underground passage, which runs under the entire valley, including the bottom of the swamp, to the center of the valley." Mo Fan drew another path, which connected to the swamp at the center.

Zhang Xiaohou immediately came to a realization and blurted out, "Brother Fan, so you're saying that someone will be receiving us there?"

"That's right. Once we lure the Xuanwu Lizard and the poisonous bug to the spot, the ground there is rather fragile. A few destructive Intermediate Spells would blast a hole open. It will then drain the mud like a vortex, and we'll be able to ride it and make our way to the underground passage..." explained Mo Fan.

"HAHA, a crafty escape! The demon beasts will fight one another, and we'll even have the time to change into clean clothing before retrieving our loot! Muahahaha!" Zhang Xiaohou burst into great laughter.

Brother Fan is as intelligent as usual. It turned out that everything was under his control all along!

As the two were filled with excitement, Li Man was silent throughout the entire discussion.

Overall, the plan did seem viable.

But here came the problem. If Zhang Xiaohou was assigned to lure the poisonous bug, who was going to bait the Xuanwu Lizard?

## [Versatile Mage](#)

### **Chapter 339: Little...Little Poisonous Bug?**

The underground passage was just a narrow cave located a layer below the valley. The swamp was on the surface, and below it was an underground river with a layer of rock in between.

Li Man had donned all her equipment and was traveling in the underground cave on her own. The light from her watch could only cover a limited distance. Luckily, she and Mo Fan had made some markings along the walls, indicating the specific location she was at relative to the surface.

The task given to her was not too complex. Both Li Man and Zhang Xiaohou were Battlemages, so they had brought along some useful devices apart from their daily needs.

"Li Man, have you arrived at your position?" Mo Fan's distorted voice appeared in her ear.

Li Man readjusted her earphone and responded, "I'm underground now, but the signal is weak. I can't hear what you're trying to say."

"Time is running out, the Giant Lizards are almost done with their daily public square dance," said Mo Fan.

They had to make their move when the Giant Lizards were away taking a sunbath, thus they would not have enough time to wait until each step was completed. They had to move simultaneously!

"Start luring the creatures, I'll be there soon," Li Man said. She had just arrived at the second-to-last marking that they had put down before. She was very close to reaching her designated position.

"Alright, I guess we have no choice. Remember, use all you have to blast it open!" Mo Fan reminded her.

"Oh, I guess I should make the hole big enough for the two monsters to fall down here, too?" Li Man asked in a calm voice.

"So you do have a sense of humor!"

Li Man's pink lips curled upward. As a matter of fact, if she were to use an Advanced Magic, she could easily blow a hole big enough for the two monsters...

---

Up on the surface, Zhang Xiaohou, who had already eaten plenty of the disgusting fruits, was holding his position.

He started to feel nervous when he saw that the sun was setting on the horizon. He kept on telling himself: Wake the poisonous bug, bring it to the spot, wait for Li Man to blast the ground open, and drop down following the spiral... It isn't complicated at all, and not dangerous, either!

"Houzi, we're ready... By the way, the military's communication device is pretty impressive. You can even use it in the wild," Mo Fan's voice crackled over the com.

"It's being driven by the Magicians' energy. We can hide our energy well, thus it won't attract the attention of the demon beasts easily," said Zhang Xiaohou.

"Mm, it's about time. Go and wake the little poisonous bug up. I'll wake the big lizard up," said Mo Fan.

"Sure thing!" Zhang Xiaohou nodded as his gaze firmed. He quickly scanned this section of the swamp, with its extraordinary colors.

The swamp here was separated from the big swamp in the valley. It was the territory of the poisonous bug. Both of the demon beasts would usually mind their own business.

Zhang Xiaohou had eaten the fruits that were an antidote to its poison. He boldly went up to the swamp and cast Earth Wave, stirring the mud like a giant tide.

"Come on, come on, don't force me to use an Intermediate Magic on you!" Zhang Xiaohou yelled at the swamp.



As long as the water was mixed with mud, Zhang Xiaohou could control it with his Magic. As a result, the previously calm swamp was stirred into great chaos, throwing the mud everywhere.

Zhang Xiaohou was told that the poisonous bug was quite a tyrant. It would surely chase after those disturbing its cozy nap, although Zhang Xiaohou had no idea why Mo Fan knew that.

Finally, a response! Zhang Xiaohou stared at the tide of mud that was rising up high into the air in a spectacular manner.

The mud rolled like black boiling water, splashing wildly into the surroundings, before pouring back down on the ground in front of Zhang Xiaohou like a downpour...

A long body sprang out from the muddy water. At a single glance, it looked like a giant python had whipped up from the bottom of the water into the air. However, the body had giant limbs on both sides!

A pair of the giant limbs extended out onto the surface. There was a thirty-meter tall tree right on the shore there, and it turned out to be the same height as the giant limbs!

One pair, two pairs, three pairs... Seven pairs...

Half of its body was still buried in the swamp, but there were already fourteen limbs exposed!

An ugly head with a pair of snapping mandibles, like a pair of giant scissors, popped up from the mud. It opened its bloody mouth wide and screamed at the tiny human staring at it from the land.

The scream was followed by a powerful gust of wind driving into Zhang Xiaohou's face with splashes of mud. Zhang Xiaohou stared at the huge creature with a blank face.

"Little...little poisonous bug?"

Zhang Xiaohou could feel a billion voices cursing and swearing inside him!

Can anybody tell me what is little about it? I'm smaller than the hair on its leg!

A centipede, a Gigantic Swamp Centipede...

Normally, a centipede would be proud of itself if it was the length of a human's finger. As for the centipede in front of him... A human was not big enough to fill the gap between its teeth!

Zhang Xiaohou was utterly lost. He said to Mo Fan with a trembling voice, "Brother...brother Fan, I've woken...woken it up."

"Then why aren't you running!?"

Zhang Xiaohou almost had the urge to give up on the spot, but considering that his Brother Fan would never send him to the jaws of death, he immediately tamped down the fear in his heart!

Wind Track!

Earth Wave!

Zhang Xiaohou cast the two speed-increasing abilities at the same time, and turned himself into a little mouse running across the mud.

Luckily he was already a certain distance away from the little centipede - Oh no, it should be a centipede that had been cultivating for more than a thousand years - Otherwise, he would have been crushed into pieces instantly when the beast made its entrance...

Zhang Xiaohou was incredibly fast on his feet, way faster than the average Intermediate Magician. He knew how to stack the Wind Tracks to increase his speed further, and knew how to use Earth Wave to fill in the gaps between the Wind Tracks to make sure that he was consistently at his highest speed possible.

The problem was, there was no way two legs were able to outrun a gigantic centipede who had fourteen giant limbs on only half of its body...

Zhang Xiaohou felt like he was dead meat. He did not dare to turn around, but continued to sprint forward with tears running down his cheeks.

The mud rolled with such great force that the momentum of it hitting the stacked rocks nearby was enough to shatter them into pieces. The giant centipede chased after the human fiercely. It looked like the creature did not have any ranged attacks; otherwise, a single spit would have easily killed Zhang Xiaohou!

Chapter 340: The Real Appearance, Xuanwu Giant Lizard!

*" Houzi, is it still chasing after you?"*

"I...I don't know, I can still hear it." Zhang Xiaohou was actually not in the mood to talk.

*" Take a peek!"*

"I... " While running, Zhang Xiaohou slowly turned his head around.

With a single glance, Zhang Xiaohou realized that his vision was almost filled up by the giant centipede, especially its ugly, savage head. A few more glances would cause his scalp to turn numb.

Suddenly, Zhang Xiaohou noticed something important.

Although the giant centipede was chasing madly after him at a crazy pace, its body, which was around a hundred meters long, was now totally exposed as it leapt across a ridge of stone on the ground...

The first half of its body had fourteen limbs, but the other half had none!

It was not because the giant centipede was the product of some weird mutation. Zhang Xiaohou could clearly see the cuts and bruises on the second half of its body, which implied that it had somehow lost half of its limbs!

It was a centipede with half of its limbs amputated!

No wonder the beast had not eaten him alive yet! Due to the lack of limbs on the second half of its body, it had completely lost its ability to maintain its balance. It kept on crashing to the sides, either gouging out huge ravines or sliding into the muddy pools. It would be agile at times, but slow as an ox the rest!

“Brother Fan, this giant centipede is injured too!” Zhang Xiaohou blurted out in excitement.

*I knew Brother Fan wouldn't let me down!*

*” Mm, be careful. Although that guy has no ranged attacks, you will be in grave danger if it manages to slam into you with its head. Oh, I forgot to mention too. The antidote fruits that I had you eat before, they aren't really fruits. They were the eggs that the giant centipede laid. Therefore, it should be able to smell the scent of its kids on your breath. Don't worry about it not chasing after you, just keep on running, ”* Mo Fan replied, while panting heavily on the other side of the coms.

Zhang Xiaohou was stunned for a moment.

Worry my ass!

A disgusted feeling welled up inside him. Zhang Xiaohou never thought Mo Fan would set his teammates up like this! It turned out that none of his words were true, apart from the fact that the thing could be used as an antidote.

*Crap, the ground ahead is running out!*

Zhang Xiaohou realized there was a huge mud pool in front of him. He would need to travel more than two hundred meters across the water before reaching land.

He took a glance at the giant centipede chasing after him, which was only a hundred meters away... Holy crap, it was pretty much just the length of itself away!

There was no way Zhang Xiaohou would be stopping now. He only hoped that the mud was viscous enough and had a high percentage of Earth Element. Otherwise, it would be the end of things if he ended up sinking into the muck!

Clenching his teeth, Zhang Xiaohou maintained his speed and continued to cast Wind Track and Earth Wave at the same time as he made his way across the mud.

The Wind Track formed a lengthy airflow across the two-hundred-meter long pool of mud.

The Earth Wave surged forward and used the mud to create a path. Zhang Xiaohou manipulated the mud in the water and forced the lumps to gather rapidly, quickly contracting and forming a muddy path across the surface of the pool...

Boss Zhan Kong had told him before that if a Wind Element user was fast enough, he could sprint across the surface of water.

The viscosity of mud was significantly higher than water. Surely it would be easier to run across it than water, right?

Zhang Xiaohou had completely put his life at stake trying to pull off such a difficult move. A unique glow wrapped around his legs as he prepared to use his magic Boots, which served as his final trump card. He was doing everything he could just to stop his legs from being caught in the mud.

“Oh wow wow wow wow~~~~~!”

Zhang Xiaohou sprinted across the pool while screaming at the top of his lungs. A clear path surfaced in the middle of the pool, splitting the muck aside. If it weren't for the visually dominating centipede chasing right after him, he would not mind showing his new move to his friends!

"Brother...Brother Fan, I'm almost there... F\*\*K ME!"

Zhang Xiaohou saw a giant black moving mountain rising ahead of him, just as he was about to reach his destination!

Zhang Xiaohou had only managed to see the rough silhouette of the creature the other day, as the place was too dark. Now, under the last of the sunlight, he could finally see the true appearance of the giant lump of meat. He could feel his heart shattering into pieces from shock.

It was an Xuanwu Giant Lizard!

The Xuanwu Giant Lizard had a fairly flat giant shell on its back. The Hunter Group had mistakenly assumed it to be even ground when they stepped onto it.

The body of the Xuanwu Giant Lizard was even bigger. The whole swamp was trembling as it moved. Zhang Xiaohou was still a distance away from the gigantic beast, but it felt like it was right in front of him due to its overwhelming presence!

This guy was way more terrifying than the giant centipede!

"Brother Fan, are you sure they will be fighting one another?" Zhang Xiaohou's throat throbbed as he spoke in a rather unbelieving tone.

"I've fed it the centipede's legs. They should be fighting soon." Mo Fan responded in a confident tone.

"...Brother Fan, what exactly have you been doing at this place!" Zhang Xiaohou felt like dropping to his knees in front of Mo Fan.

"They were both severely injured, and I found a way to get rid of the centipede's poison, so it won't pose any threat to us. The Xuanwu Giant Lizard's movements are slow due to its injury. Otherwise, we would be dead by now," Mo Fan replied.

As the two drew closer to one another, the two giant creatures which could stir the swamp into great chaos were on the verge of crashing into one another.

However, between them stood the humans who had infuriated them. Their first priority was to get rid of the pests, before handling the conflict between themselves. As such, the two giant beasts totally sealed off their escape routes. They would talk later when the two bold little mice were dealt with.

"Li Man, Li Man, the vortex, blast the layer of rocks open now!" Mo Fan quickly screamed to Li Man through the communication device, who was standing by in position.

Zhang Xiaohou had arrived at the little sandbank. The only thing he could do now was to pray for the vortex to appear in time.

Right below the sandbank where Mo Fan and Zhang Xiaohou were racing, Li Man shone her torch at the moist layer of rocks above her.

Since it was possible for the mud to block the hole after it was blasted open, Li Man had to wait until the two were in position before making her move.

“Plummeting Rays!”

A blinding golden Constellation spread out elegantly in Li Man’s surroundings. Li Man had no intention of preserving her energy. She instantly cast an Advanced Magic.

She had to blow the layer of rocks open in one blow. Any further delay would result in the two little humans being eaten alive by the two monsters.

Plummeting Rays was the Advanced Spell of the Light Element. More than a hundred rays of light were summoned after the Constellation was completed. If the Magician altered the shape of the rays into sharp weapons, they would turn into powerful piercing laser beams!

The Plummeting Rays turned into countless light arrows under Li Man’s control. The arrows were as dense as a heavy downpour, penetrating the layer of rocks from beneath...

The rocks were shattered almost instantly. The rain of arrows soon created a ten-meter wide hole on the surface.

It was just about the right size, as the mud would not fill the hole quickly, while preventing the two monsters from breaking through.

“Mm? What’s going on!” Li Man frowned all of a sudden.

She had cast an Advanced Spell, as she was worried that the layer of rocks was thicker than she had expected. To her surprise, the light arrows seemed to have trouble penetrating the entire layer!

*It doesn’t make sense, the rocks shouldn’t be this solid!*

She was already using an Advanced Spell!

*” Sis, please tell me you’re not pulling a prank on us? Where’s the vortex you promised us? We’re doomed!”* Zhang Xiaohou’s pleading voice blurted out from the communication device, followed by the shrieks of the two monsters.

“Something’s weird about the rocks... I see, the Earth Element Soul Seed! The Soul Seed, Flowing Mud... It’s hidden right in the layer of rocks!” exclaimed Li Man.

*” Are you for real ?”*

*” What are you so excited for!”* Mo Fan’s scream burst out from the device, *“Screw the Soul Seed, blast it open right now with all you have !”*