

Versatile 711

[Versatile Mage](#)

Chapter 711: Moth Woman

“Brother Mo Fan, the sun has risen.”

“I know.”

“About that thing, can we find the answer on Baidu?” asked Xinxia softly.

Mo Fan scratched his head and put down his phone.

Even saving the world was not a problem for him, yet when it came to becoming a real man, how did he not succeed after an entire night?

What had gone wrong? Xinxia had finally stopped struggling with her eyes closed and her lips sealed, but in the end, he had let himself down as he failed to put it in!

“Let’s take a snooze and go shopping in the afternoon to take our minds off. We’ll try it again at night?” Mo Fan finally compromised, asking Xinxia in a serious voice.

Xinxia nodded and squeezed her way into Mo Fan’s embrace with a hint of fatigue. She soon fell asleep, her hands hugging Mo Fan tightly.

When Mo Fan saw the girl fast asleep, he immediately took out his phone and went on Baidu again, trying to find the answer to his awkward question.

Sigh, they all mentioned something about the lack of foreplay... forget it, time to get some sleep. He was truly a failure as a man, it was better if he had simply died in the Ancient Capital!

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The sunlight around two or three in the afternoon was extraordinarily soothing. It shone down upon a small orange tree in the garden. The unripe fruits on the branches suddenly became lustrous.

Rapid footsteps could be heard coming from the streets, with the occasional giggles of young girls grabbing the attention of the residents, giving them an urge to peek out of the window to observe their youthful looks.

After dressing up, Mo Fan walked around the street with a totally different feeling compared to yesterday.

Xinxia was rolling the wheelchair herself. She was discussing some of the interesting tales about the ancient town with Mo Fan in a good mood. However, when they arrived at some stairs, she was forced to stop and look at Mo Fan with glittering eyes.

“Brother Mo Fan, can you stop thinking about that problem?” asked Xinxia with a serious yet embarrassed tone.

“Oh, oh, I wasn’t thinking about...” Mo Fan laughed and took a step forward, “Holy crap!”

Mo Fan lost his balance as he took an infirm step. Luckily, he was a lot more agile after he became an Advanced Magician. At least he did not fall on his face after tripping.

He quickly rose to his feet and patted the dust off his clothes. He finally realized that he had to lend Xinxia a hand. He quickly went up and carried both Xinxia and the wheelchair down the stairs.

Some girls nearby were giggling. Mo Fan quickly pushed the wheelchair and left the scene in embarrassment.

Xinxia asked Mo Fan to stop when they arrived at the back of an antique store.

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

“Look at the ground,” Xinxia pointed at the somewhat moist path.

Mo Fan glanced forward and saw dead little bugs on the ground. If he pushed the wheelchair further, he would be running over them.

Only Xinxia would notice things like these. If Mo Fan was on his own, he would simply trample them and feel disgusted because they would make his shoes dirty!

“Humph, the ones that drank my blood have probably started a plague, killing so many of them!” said Mo Fan with a hint of disdain.

“They look like moths, not mosquitoes. The ones in our room last night were moths too. They don’t drink blood,” corrected Xinxia.

“Who cares what they are... they are just an eyesore!” Mo Fan turned the wheelchair and passed by the little dead bugs before continuing forward.

Wuzhen had quite a lot of little alleyways and shops. Everywhere they went was like a different world. It turned out that the little things that each store was selling were popular among the tourists, which included some antique umbrellas, hairpins, scarves, bracelets, or some modern phone bags, purses, decorations and earrings. The girls could spend a whole day browsing the shops. The dazzling jewels urged them to buy all of them just so they could wear different sets every day...

“What’s going on, what’s going on here, get rid of those disgusting things on the ground. It’s affecting the customers. Why must you slack every day at work!” As soon as they went into a shop, they heard the owner yelling.

A young shop assistant wearing a gray felt cap clumsily took the broom and swept the things into the dustpan.

Mo Fan discovered that the things were flying moths the size of mosquitoes at a glimpse. It seemed like these things were everywhere they went today.

On second thought, it did seem perfectly reasonable. Wuzhen was built along a river, thus the air had fairly high moisture, perfect for little creatures like these flying moths. No matter how many couples were visiting the place, they were still no match for the flying moths’ speed at laying eggs.

“Greetings... oh, oh...” The shop owner was about to greet Mo Fan and Xinxia, yet a strange look appeared in his eyes when he saw Xinxia on a wheelchair. However, he quickly put up a smile and greeted them.

Mo Fan and Xinxia were already used to it. They simply ignored the look.

Xinxia proceeded to choose the hairpins she liked while Mo Fan browsed the shop indifferently. When he saw the corpses of the flying moths in the trashcan, he asked casually, “Hey boss, does your town have many of these things?”

“Yeah, they never stop appearing. The council has already organized a few disinfections, but these things show up again every spring. I hate them the most; I have a strong urge to spray them with insect repellent every time I see them!” replied the shop owner.

“I don’t like them, either,” said Mo Fan.

“(Sigh), who would like them? I remember there was a plague of them some years ago. There were so many moths that they were as dense as the haze in Shanghai and Beijing. The sky was completely blocked off by the moths. It was impossible to see anything. Everyone had to cover up tightly if they wanted to go outdoors. Even the smallest gap would allow them to squeeze into your clothes. Even though they don’t do any harm, it was simply disgusting!” complained the shop owner.

“That ridiculous?” said Mo Fan.

Flying moths as dense as a haze, how many moths would be flying in the sky?

“The disinfections are useless. I tell you that there’s a Moth Woman in our town, but no one believes me. One day, I was drinking with my friends until late at night. When I was walking on the street, I saw a woman with wings like a moth. Her physique was stunning, and she wasn’t wearing many clothes. Her legs were long and white. When I was about to get closer, a bunch of flying moths lunged at me to block my vision. The next thing I knew, she had already disappeared,” interrupted the shop assistant who was sweeping the floor.

The owner smacked the shop assistant on the head and scolded, “You still dare to mention it, you took my money and went drinking and gambling, and now you’re trying to cover it up with such a lousy excuse. I bet you’ve read too many stories, and went crazy thinking about women all the time!”

“I swear I’m telling the truth. Besides, I’m not the only one that says that in this town,” the shop assistant argued while running around the store.

“I’m not your uncle if I believe your nonsense! If I believed it, I would give you the shop!” The owner chased after the shop assistant.

“You’ve said it! I’ll find her tonight and take a picture of her. If she’s real, you’ll give me the shop!” said the shop assistant.

“Humph, go ahead!” snapped the owner.

[Versatile Mage](#)

Chapter 712: Substitute, Mo Fan

Drinking some alcohol, enjoying the night breeze, listening to some pleasant melodies, the two had a rather enjoyable night.

The highly-anticipated late-night slowly came. The moonlight shone upon the stone bridge like a layer of frost. However, a cloudy veil slowly loomed over the town. A soft flapping sound echoed in the sky above the town. The clear night suddenly turned cloudy, even the river was no longer clear as before...

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Mo Fan hardly ever had the chance to go on a holiday, a time without hunting down demon creatures, cultivating, training or being in the presence of magic. He was currently enjoying his vacation with his loved one in a pleasant town, just like an ordinary university student.

Time usually went by faster when it was more enjoyable. Six days were gone fairly quickly. The town seemed to have lots of secrets and interesting things waiting to be discovered, but the two had no choice but to continue during their next visit.

When Mo Fan was about to leave Wuzhen with Xinxia, he happened to spot a few City Hunters at the town entrance. Mo Fan was quite familiar with their logo.

“Did something happen?” asked Xinxia when she saw the City Hunters entering the town in a rush.

“Perhaps,” Mo Fan had no intention to be a busybody. The City Hunters were capable of settling the matter themselves.

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The two returned to Hangzhou by car. Mo Fan sent Xinxia back to school with a hint of reluctance.

Mo Fan was planning to see her off, yet the authorities were already urging him to report to the national team. He had no choice but to leave Xinxia in the hands of Tang Zhong, Lu Ping, Glorkian, and Digaeus.

“Glorkian, if anyone bullies her there, I’ll hold you responsible!” Mo Fan warned the golden-haired teacher.

“Don’t you worry!” Glorkian gave his promise confidently.

Mo Fan kissed Xinxia on the forehead and smiled, “Call me if you miss me,”

“Mmm, you too,” Xinxia nodded.

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Mo Fan felt lost, staring at the blue sky on the plane heading to the capital.

Perhaps it was because Xinxia had never been so far away since she came to stay at his home. Mo Fan could not stop worrying, knowing that she was going somewhere far away.

Perhaps his possessive desire toward her was too strong, so he was feeling extremely uncomfortable after parting with her.

On second thought, it was definitely a good thing for her. He would be leaving the country for quite some time. She now had something to keep her busy. It was better than living like a colorful sparrow kept in his overprotective cage...

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Upon arriving at the capital, the air was still as bad as before. The sky was shrouded by a gray-brown murk, preventing him from seeing the blue sky and the white clouds.

However, Mo Fan was a fairly optimistic person. He was about to embark on his journey of traveling across the world to distribute his seeds. When he remembered that he would be traveling to different countries, visiting some fascinating places, kicking the asses of some foreign dogs who were indulging in their sense of superiority, and picking up some foreign chicks, he could not help but whistle on his way to the national team.

As he arrived at the destination, he immediately saw five aged Magicians with dark expressions standing at the entrance.

One of the advisors was short with a fat belly, and glared at Mo Fan, who was carrying a shoulder bag. He snapped in an unfriendly manner, "So you're the substitute called Mo Fan!"

"I'm Mo Fan, but when did I become a substitute?" Mo Fan was startled. He looked at Dean Song He in confusion.

Dean Song He was aware of Mo Fan's situation, thus he smiled as he was about to give him an explanation.

To his surprise, Advisor Feng Li with the tiger stripes on his forehead said coldly, "You should be relieved that you are still a substitute when you joined through the back-door."

"Mo Fan, you didn't take part in the final phase of the competition. Even though you have enough votes and nominations, they still can't make you official because you were absent," Dean Song He explained to Mo Fan.

"Fine, substitute it is," Mo Fan shrugged and went over to the other candidates indifferently.

He had only taken a few steps when he was surprised at noticing a few familiar faces.

"Mo Fan, HAHAHA, I was going to say, there's no way you weren't on the list! Don't you forget about the promise between us!" Zhao Manyan was the first to come up to him. His golden hair was perfectly combed!

"Impressive, you actually managed to secure a spot," Mo Fan patted Zhao Manyan on the shoulder and exclaimed in surprise.

"What is there to be impressed about? He simply relied on the money of his family to secure the votes. He's no different than a substitute who has joined through the back-door like you," a voice from among the crowd exclaimed with a strong hint of jealousy.

“There are many people in the team, but only between five to seven of us will be participating in the competition. It’s fine that the extra spots are given to some rich asses. After all, we are supposed to get the best treatment since we are representing the national team in the tournament,” said a woman with a beauty mark near her lips.

Zhao Manyan felt extremely awkward upon hearing the words.

The truth was, he did manage to secure the spot through the financial support of his Zhao Family. The five advisors were clearly aware of it, too. In terms of strength and talents, Zhao Manyan was still a fair distance away from the others who were selected through the standard procedure.

“He’s fairly good-looking, maybe some of the Councilmen have some special interest, HAHAHA...” said a muscular man with a rough appearance.

The man was almost two meters tall. His muscles were about to burst his clothes open. He was like a beast with a human figure. Mo Fan wondered what Elements the man had.

“Brother, it looks like you aren’t too welcome here,” Mo Fan glanced at the three who commented.

The ones that uttered the remarks were a man with a powerful background, the woman with the beauty mark, and the beast-like man.

The others were not too bothered, as it was exactly what the woman with the beauty mark had mentioned. Only between five and seven people would participate in the tournament, but the team that was to go on training consisted of more than ten people. It was expected that someone had joined the team through some other methods.

Zhao Manyan had already made it clear. He was not planning to secure the spot through the school.

However, none of it mattered much to Mo Fan, as long as he was in the team.

The two did not come to earn glory for their country. Their goal was to spread their seeds across the world!

“Considering how handsome and rich I am, it’s normal for people to be jealous. I’m quite used to it already,” Zhao Manyan let out a self-mocking chuckle. Seeing that Mo Fan was didn’t care, he simply ignored the comments from the others.

The two joined the team with arms around each other’s shoulders. However, Mo Fan was surprised when he saw a man and a woman with stern expressions in the team.

The man was not much of a surprise. He was Ai Tutu’s brother, Ai Jiangtu, a Space Element expert. Mo Fan already knew that he was a seeded candidate of the national team, and he would most likely be appointed the captain.

However, Mo Fan was quite surprised to see the woman. He had met her before too, as she was none other than the female Commander he bumped into at the top of the mountain in the Burning Valley, Nanyu!

Nanyu had the same clean, short hair. Her handsome appearance made it easy for people to mistake her gender. It was not because her appearance was leaning towards the masculine, but her stern and

imperious aura completely covered up her charm as a woman. Despite that, instead of making her less appealing, it only gave men a stronger urge to pry open her heart.

[Versatile Mage](#)

Chapter 713: Getting Fresh

“It’s been a while,” Mo Fan smiled and greeted Nanyu.

Nanyu simply glanced at Mo Fan without any expression.

On the other hand, Ai Jiangtu nodded at Mo Fan as a way of welcoming him to the team.

“You two, hurry up and line up. Right there,” urged Dean Song He.

Mo Fan and Zhao Manyan went to the back of the line. It seemed to be the place for substitutes.

Zhao Manyan had already met Nanyu too. As they walked to the back of the line, he whispered into Mo Fan’s ears, “That girl is the second most difficult chick to pick up in this team!”

Mo Fan nodded in agreement. It was indeed challenging to tackle her down. Her pride and unyielding spirit as a soldier would easily crush any man’s dignity. Most importantly, even the girls would stand no chance against her peerless charm!

“Wait, second most difficult?” Mo Fan was startled. He glanced at Zhao Manyan who was wearing a perverted grin and asked, “There’s someone harder than her?”

“There, the one who’s also a substitute like us,” Zhao Manyan pointed at the girl who was standing all by herself, like an ice statue at the back of the line.

Mo Fan was busy talking to Zhao Manyan, thus he did not even notice there was someone standing at the back of the line.

Even though she was standing at the least remarkable spot, her long, silver hair was absolutely breathtaking. Her outstanding figure was covered in a tight-fitting long black dress with pear blossoms on it. Together with her pair of black heels, it was the perfect combination of iciness and beauty, like a black rose blossoming in a world of ice. Its loneliness and nobility granted it a deadly, seductive charm. It had a holiness that one could only observe from a distance, for fear of thorns covered in deadly poison!

Mo Fan could not see her from his previous angle. He immediately had a stunned expression when he took a closer look.

He did not even recognize her. His heart was beating fast, as if it was their first encounter!

Wasn’t...Wasn’t that his first wife!?

“There’s no smoke without fire... the girl is exactly the same as before, no different than a tightly-sealed ice crystal. Even anyone that tries to get close to her would be frozen to death, let alone trying to melt the ice in her heart!” whispered Zhao Manyan.

Zhao Manyan did try to approach and greet Mu Ningxue since they were both on the team that went to Jinlin City for training, but as he thought, Mu Ningxue simply acted like she had never met him before. He had no clue what kind of topic could possibly get her attention... apart from cultivation.

“Off you go, you mere peasants have no chance catching my goddess’ attention. She’s only acting like this because a perfect man like myself has already occupied her heart. Go talk with the others, I shall reunite with my first wife.” Mo Fan completely left Zhao Manyan aside.

Zhao Manyan could not care less, either. He would rather spend his time trying to pry open Nanyu’s steel heart than trying to touch Mu Ningxue’s icy heart. The difficulty to melt it was one reason, but on top of that, Mu Ningxue was even more dangerous than Nanyu. He had not forgotten the astonishing arrow she fired!

Mo Fan was a shameless man after all, and he simply went up to the girl.

Before Mo Fan could speak, Mu Ningxue calmly uttered, “You’re not dead still?”

“Oh Xuexue, the ‘still’ is completely unnecessary!” Mo Fan had an unpleasant look.

“Xinxia went to Greece?” asked Mu Ningxue.

“Mmm,” Mo Fan nodded.

“You should spend more time on her,” added Mu Ningxue.

Mo Fan opened his mouth wide.

Damn, the girl was a lot smarter now. She knew he would keep bothering her, thus she decided to strike preemptively!

Humph, she’s too naive if she thought mentioning about Xinxia was enough to make him leave. Mo Fan never felt guilty about dating two women at the same time!

He was far from an ambitious man[his only life goal was to marry both of them. The country had already started the two-child policy, it was only a matter of time until the two-wife policy was in motion, too! Otherwise, he would consider applying for Arabian citizenship, since they were not as fussy about having two wives!

“Let’s not talk about something so serious, everything will turn out for the best... by the way, since when did you become a substitute?” Mo Fan asked with a confused look.

Mo Fan remembered Mu Nujiao had already told him that Mu Ningxue had secured a spot in the preliminaries, thus she was very likely to become an official candidate.

Mu Ningxue was extremely talented. Even though she was slightly younger than most of the candidates in the team, it did not make sense for her to only end up as a substitute.

“Were you the one that killed Mu He?” asked Mu Ningxue in return.

“I guess I’ve killed him indirectly,” answered Mo Fan.

Mo Fan had completely messed up Mu He's plan. As a result, Salan ended up killing Mu He in anger. No one had seen it happening, but Salan could no longer keep his disguise. As Han Ji had mentioned, he was most likely trying his best to leave the country, so he had turned into an outcast.

During the time when Mo Fan was cultivating on Mount Hua, the government had cleaned up most of the Black Vatican's underlings in the country. It was likely that in the next ten years, the Black Vatican would hardly be able to set up an operation in China...

"It's quite terrifying," Mu Ningxue took a deep breath. Her voice expressed the fear she felt when she learned that the Black Vatican had even infiltrated her family.

"Yeah, but what's more terrifying is knowing that Salan has managed to escape the country. Not because he's still alive out there, but it has shown us how corrupt our country is. Otherwise, there's no way he could make it out of the country alive," Mo Fan sighed.

"You did great, you've avenged the people of Bo City," it was rare to hear a compliment from Mu Ningxue, which implied that she was indeed very impressed by Mo Fan's contribution in the fight against the Black Vatican.

"Oh... so you've become a substitute because of Mu He?" Mo Fan immediately came to the realization.

"It doesn't matter."

"True, it's only a matter of time until you become official again with your talents. Look at you, leaving your hands exposed in the cold weather. I'll help you to warm them up... oh, Ningxue, what kind of person do you think I am? I'm just concerned about you, why are you so angry? Quick, get rid of the frost floating in front of me, I'll let go of your hands right now. How narrow-minded, it's nothing worth mentioning."

Perhaps, it was the reason why Mu Ningxue had decided to strike preemptively.

She was not trying to stop Mo Fan from bothering him, but to stop him from getting fresh with her in the middle of the conversation!

Mo Fan stood close to Mu Ningxue. After all, he was a substitute too.

Mo Fan soon noticed a furious yet jealous gaze staring at him. It belonged to the man wearing a formal attire who had mocked Zhao Manyan before. Mo Fan had already learned that his name was Gong Yu from Zhao Manyan, one of the little shits that were interested in Mu Ningxue.

Mo Fan had always been open-minded. Although Mu Ningxue was his first wife, it did not mean that anyone else was not allowed to admire her.

Therefore, when dealing with Gong Yu or the others like him, Mo Fan learned that the most important thing was to have a proper attitude. Against people like him, all he needed to do was crush and trample them like dirt. It was as easy as that!

[Versatile Mage](#)

Chapter 714: Tough Training

“Everyone is here.” The advisor with tiger stripes slowly walked forward and glanced at the thirteen people in the line.

The team had thirteen candidates: ten official candidates and three substitutes; Mo Fan, Zhao Manyan, and Mu Ningxue.

“Actually, we should have departed earlier. It wasn’t necessary to wait for a mere substitute,” said Gong Yu indifferently, yet it was obvious that he was referring to Mo Fan.

Mo Fan smiled without refuting it. They would be going on a long training trip as a team. The training was said to last more than a year. Didn’t that simply mean he has plenty of time to deal with this little shit named Gong Yu?

“I strongly advise that no one make any noise once I start to speak!” snapped the advisor.

Gong Yu immediately shut his mouth.

“Your final goal is to compete with the national teams from other countries at the City of Canals, Venice, during what is known as the World College Tournament. The training isn’t just so you can get enough real combat experience and knowledge to prepare yourself for the tournament. You will also need to secure the entry ticket for the World College Tournament. There are almost two hundred countries participating in the World College Tournament, but not every country is qualified to appear on the dueling grounds in the City of Canals...” said Feng Li in a firm tone.

The five advisors took turns to give their advice. Everyone listened to their words very seriously.

There was no grand ceremony to send off the team on their trip. The truth was, no one knew when the team was departing for the training, nor would they know the list of students who were on the team. The candidates would only show themselves in public during the opening ceremony of the World College Tournament at Venice!

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The sky was blue and clear, the water was flowing freely...

Tides of white waves splashed on the successive coast reefs. It felt like the waves were teasing the rocks softly, instead of hitting them with great force.

Beside the jagged rocks was a little beach where a few fairly aged fisherman boats were floating.

The boats were extremely important to the fishing village nearby. The few families in the village relied on the boats to feed themselves. The waves would misbehave at times, hence they had to tie the boats down firmly, with lots of ropes!

“F**k, f**k, f**k!” an inharmonious voice echoed between the peaceful village and the beach.

“Mo Fan, calm down!” said Zhao Manyan.

“As the national team, they didn’t give us a single cent as the allowance, no private jet, no private coach, no hotel, they even froze our bank accounts. On top of that, they even forbade us from riding planes. What the heck! We’re meant to travel to Japan, are they seriously asking us to swim there?” Mo Fan yelled at the sky and the sea like a grumbling bitter woman!

Didn’t they promise him that food, accommodation, and entertainment would be provided? What about going on a vacation across different countries, enjoying delicacies and picking up chicks?

What did they mean by they are on their own!

They initially thought a luxurious cruise would be picking them up when they were brought to this remote fishing village. They would soon be dancing and drinking on the cruise on their way to Japan. However, after waiting for a day, the only boats by the shore were the wooden fishing boats!

Trying to cross the Pacific Ocean with a wooden boat, are you f**king kidding me!

They didn’t even have oars to row the boat!

“How typical for mediocre people to complain,” the woman with the beauty spot giggled. She was acting like she was above the common populace.

“Alright, Miss Jiang Shaoxu, can you please teach me how we’re going to Japan!” said Mo Fan.

“It’s obviously a test! We’re prohibited from taking a plane, nor are we allowed to take any transport that would require us to reveal our identity. But, we are Magicians, we should be able to find a way when we’re left here in a fishing village...”

“So, how do we go to Japan?” asked Mo Fan.

“A ship, if there’s a fishing village, there must be a port nearby. If there’s a port, there might be a ship heading to Japan. If I’m not mistaken, this part of the country is one of the common stops for ships that sail for Japan...” said Jiang Shaoxu smiled.

The woman really liked to smile. Each of her actions would display her charming personality of being friendly to everyone, yet her voice was filled with a hint of disdain.

Whenever she spoke, it was like she was referring to the others as mere commoners...

“Jiang Shaoxu is right, there should be a port nearby. Either way, we should try and get a map to pinpoint our location,” said Nanyu.

“Oh God, we don’t even have a map?” Mo Fan was on the verge of losing himself.

“There’s nothing we could do, the advisors have set us all up. They told us to leave everything behind, including our mobile phones. They told us that they are sending us to some special training, yet the helicopter brought us to this shitty place instead. No food, no clean clothes, no mobile phones, no computers, not even our identity cards!” said Zhao Manyan with a wry smile.

All their identities had been frozen. Most modern transportation in the country now required identification. They were basically the same as illegal immigrants. They had to avoid the police too, since

if they were caught, the police would summon the people responsible for the national team to free them. However, it would also imply that they had failed the training.

Failure would mean serious consequences to the candidates, as they were not the only ones chosen for the national team. There were other backup teams. If their team failed the training, the people in the backup teams would replace them.

In other words, there were plenty of substitutes for the national team!

The only place they could reveal their identity was the Chinese ambassador in Japan... it was their first destination.

This explained why Mo Fan was screaming furiously to vent his grudge. This was no training, this was the path of cultivation for a monk. It was nowhere close to the adventure that he had expected!

“By the way, even if we found a ship heading to Japan, doesn’t that mean we’ll have to smuggle ourselves in?” said Gong Yu.

“Yeah, so we better not get caught. If we got busted, we’ll have to reveal our identities, which means failing the training. Some of us are going to get replaced... and normally they would start from the substitutes,” Jiang Shaoxu looked at Mo Fan and Zhao Manyan cheerfully. Of course, she did not forget to glance at Mu Ningxue, too.

“Enough with the nonsense, let’s head over to the fishing village to collect some information,” said Ai Jiangtu.

Ai Jiangtu was appointed the team’s captain by the advisors, hence everyone was obliged to listen to him.

The group immediately stopped talking when Ai Jiangtu gave the order. They immediately headed to the fishing village.

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This training did catch Mo Fan by surprise, as he was totally unprepared for it. However, they were all Magicians, they should not have any problem finding a way.

Speaking of which, no one had even a single cent on them. Even finding their next meal was a problem, let alone sneaking into Japan...

[Versatile Mage](#)

Chapter 715: Fishing Village, Spotting of Sea Monsters

The little fishing village was not far away. After they crossed the little fences that were merely treated as decorations, the group immediately saw several old houses made of wood and rocks. The structures looked dull and wet from the erosion by the constant wind blowing from the sea.

The group of thirteen blatantly walked into the village. In the end, the people they saw in the village numbered less than their group. The kid who was crouching on the side playing in the mud blinked

rapidly, as if he had never seen so many young, attractive brothers and sisters. When the Magicians approached him, he quickly ran into a house and observed them from the window.

"It's you again, don't you think you can bully us just because we're poor and uneducated. I'm telling you, you wouldn't want to mess with me!" a tanned old man in wooden clogs rushed out with a giant oar in his hand.

The old man stood in the horse stance with glittering eyes and held the giant oar firmly, as if he was prepared to take them on.

A few other young men rushed out with tools under the old fisherman's lead.

In the end, there were only eight of them in total, numbering even less than the 'invaders'. Most interestingly, the young men's eyes widened, as if they had never seen such gorgeous women before.

Although the prettiest woman in their village, who they always fantasized about, had smooth and tender skin too, they totally forgot her after seeing the fairy maidens before them. Their skin was white like jade, their legs were breathtaking, their waists were slim, and their faces...

"Mister, is this some kind of understanding? It's our first time here, we just want to ask you something," said Ai Jiangtu.

"Stop putting up an act. You've built a few houses with concrete and tricked the villagers who lacked resolve over. You even urged them to convince us to move over, saying that it's for our own good. Too bad, I know you're just planning on taking our land!" cursed the old fisherman.

The group of Magicians was indeed well-clothed. After all, every candidate of the national team came from a relatively wealthy background. Even those from ordinary families could easily earn some money with their capabilities.

The old fisherman was able to tell their extraordinary identities. He did not believe anyone other than the cunning real estate agents would purposely pay their village a visit.

The Magicians were left speechless. It would not make sense to tell the villagers that they were kicked out of a helicopter, even though that was exactly what the advisors did to them.

"We're from an outing tourist group. We were simply following the shoreline here. We only came here to ask for directions, to see if there's a port nearby," explained Nanyu, reacting quickly.

"Outing tourist group? What is that?" asked the old fisherman with a confused look.

"Old man, it's a group of adventurous young men and women going on a trip to somewhere remote. The urbanites love it, saying that it's thrilling," said a skinny man.

"Oh, so you're not estate agents?" asked the old fisherman.

"Of course not, do we really look like one?" said Jiang Shaoxu with a smile, purposely giving the men a few seductive winks.

The men swallowed hard. It felt like their eyes almost flew into the cleavage that Jiang Shaoxu purposely exposed with her low-cut shirt.

“Well...sorry for that, you said you are trying to find the port, right? Just follow the shoreline across the bay for a few dozen of kilometers and you’ll see the Feiniaio Harbor soon,” said the old fisherman.

“Thanks, we should get to the port before nighttime,” said Nanyu.

The group nodded. They immediately headed into the direction that the old fisherman pointed to.

The villagers followed behind when the group set off. The men could not lift their gazes from the bouncing buttocks...

“Old man, we forgot to tell them about it,” said the skinny man.

“Right, quick, go and warn them,” said the old fisherman.

“I’ll go, I’ll go!”

“I’ll go, I can run faster, I’ll go...”

The group did not walk far when the skinny man caught up to them while panting heavily.

He finally caught up to Mo Fan and Zhao Manyan who were walking at the back of the group. He stopped to catch his breath.

“You walk pretty fast, I had to run so far just to catch up with you,” said the skinny man.

Mo Fan smiled. It was nothing strange since they were all Magicians. Even though they were walking, their pace was a lot faster than ordinary people.

“What’s wrong?” asked Mo Fan.

“Listen to me, there are rumors about sea monsters around here. Many places are under attack, so it’s better that you stay away from the shoreline along your journey. If you see the sea monsters, just run,” said the skinny man.

“Aren’t we inside the safe zone? Why would there be sea monsters still?” Jiang Shaoxu touched the beauty spot beside her lips and stuck her tongue out at the skinny man, as if she was trying to tease him.

The skinny man did not fall for it easily. He said sternly, “The sea monsters have been around for quite some time, but for some reason, the authorities have never sent anyone here to deal with them. I even heard that a few fishermen from the village next to us went missing after they went out fishing.”

“We’re not too scared of the sea monsters. Brother, why don’t you guide us to the port? I promise to reward you greatly,” Jiang Shaoxu tapped the man’s shoulder and said with a smile.

“Well...” The man hesitated for a while before saying with a nod, “Alright, there’s nothing to do in the village, since the chief doesn’t allow us to go fishing in the ocean.”

“What do you eat, if you can’t fish?” Mo Fan asked an important question.

“The stock we kept, but it’s only going to last a few months. I’ll have to ask around in Feiniaio City and see when they are going to send someone over to deal with the sea monsters. We can’t even go fishing if they don’t get rid of the sea monsters,” said the skinny man.

“That’s completely unnecessary. You just need to guide me there, and I’ll eliminate the sea monsters for you. It’s as easy as waving my hand,” said Jiang Shaoxu.

“I’ll bring you to the harbor; as for the sea monsters, forget it... they aren’t something that ordinary people stand a chance against. I heard Da Hu from the other village mentioned that the sea monsters were around five meters tall. A single bite from them could tear our boats in half, that’s scary!” said the skinny man seriously.

Jiang Shaoxu smiled without continuing the conversation.

The skinny man was called Liu Meng, a typical naive young adult who rarely left the village. It seemed like he was working as a fisherman with his family before completing his studies.

The villages along the shoreline were not wealthy. Many of the fishing villages were rather poor. On top of that, transportation was not as developed, thus the villages were quite feudal.

Jiang Shaoxu was unhappy. She thought with her charm, she could easily seduce a village boy. However, Liu Meng’s ability to control himself was beyond Jiang Shaoxu’s expectation. As a matter of fact, Mo Fan already noticed that even though Liu Meng was well-behaving, he would occasionally glance at Mu Ningxue in her black robe and black boots.

Mo Fan was not too bothered by Liu Meng’s pure admiration of beauty. However, considering someone like Gong Yu, who kept peeking with his perverted eyes, it would only be a matter of time until he dug the man’s eyes out!

Versatile Mage

Chapter 716: The Things that The Others Can’t Do

“I heard that people from the city have weak stamina, who will complain and ask for a rest after walking a few miles. I didn’t expect you all to be in such good shape, I’m already panting heavily, but none of you seems tired at all, not even a drop of sweat!” Liu Meng was utterly impressed.

Even the gorgeous girls in the group were still breathing normally, let alone the others. He did not understand why the villagers always mentioned that the urbanites were pampered. Everyone in the group had better stamina than him!

“Have you heard of Magicians?” Jiang Shaoxu was quite the stubborn one. It was obvious that she wanted to fully seduce the young man. As such, she was more than willing to talk to him and tease him.

“Magicians, of course, someone from our village managed to get enrolled in a magic high school. You couldn’t possibly imagine it, the decorations and the lights, he even married the prettiest girl Lanhua in the village. My uncle also told me that if I become a Magician, I can basically marry any girl in the village that I’m fond of,” Liu Meng spoke up excitedly. It was clear that he highly admired Magicians.

“The girl Lanhua you mentioned, was she as pretty as me?” Jiang Shaoxu twisted her lips in a seductive manner.

Liu Meng had never talked to a woman with such beautiful hair at such a close distance. His tanned skin blushed slightly as he said softly, “Not... not even close.”

“So I’m less pretty?” Jiang Shaoxu went closer and asked despite already knowing the answer.

“She...she’s not as pretty as you,” replied Liu Meng with a slight stammer.

“Liu Meng, let me ask you, if I’m a Magician, a very powerful Magician, does that mean I can choose whichever man I like in the village?” Jiang Shaoxu continued to tease the naive young man.

“I think...” Liu Meng had no idea how to answer the question.

While Liu Meng was lost in his thoughts, Jiang Shaoxu’s giggled like a vixen. Liu Meng was so nervous that he insisted not to raise his head, yet he had a strong urge to take a few peeks...

“What was the saying again... even the Saintess is no match for an otaku. This Liu Meng is done for, too young, too naive,” exclaimed Zhao Manyan beside Mo Fan.

Mo Fan nodded.

It was as Zhao Manyan had described. At the start, Liu Meng only dared to peek at Mu Ningxue secretly, but as Jiang Shaoxu kept teasing him, his lines of defense quickly collapsed. He would soon submit to the vixen and kneel before her tail.

Traveling a distance of around thirty kilometers by foot actually took some time.

Liu Meng had no idea that the group consisted of strong Magicians. Even their footsteps were enchanted with the Magic of various Elements, thus their pace was a lot faster than ordinary people.

Liu Meng was already running out of breath. However, Ai Jiangtu still felt like they were wasting too much time walking.

Unfortunately, they needed Liu Meng to lead the way. Otherwise, they would have left him behind long ago.

The group finally saw the bay that the old fisherman mentioned after spending half a day walking.

The bay was stunning. The only downside was the land was covered in weeds, as it was not properly taken care of.

They could see a few buildings as they went deeper inland. Most of them were tall structures curving around the bay, which perfectly showcasing the suites with a scenic view that the real estate agents liked to describe...

The buildings were freshly constructed, but the surroundings were a mess. Occasionally, they would see a bunch of construction workers doing some work nearby. It was very likely that the suites would be sold off at an incredible price based on the surrounding view and the modern development!

As they proceeded forward and crossed a hill, they immediately discovered a city situated fairly close to the ocean. Feinia City!

Feinia City was of average size. Its scale was a lot bigger than Bo City, yet it was nothing compared to the metropolis like Hangzhou, Shanghai, and Guangzhou.

“That’s the port you’re looking for,” said Liu Meng, pointing at Hai River that was flowing out to the ocean.

It was unusual for a port to be constructed facing the ocean, since accidents would happen if the water was not deep enough.

Feiniao Harbor was obviously an important trading hub. Many large ships were docked at the port. The river was extremely wide, leading straight to the vast ocean, with the other end extending far inland...

“This Hai River is quite fascinating. Normally, a port of this size would be found in a major city, but the place looks a bit cramped,” said Zhao Manyan.

As the next heir in line of the Zhao Financial Group, Zhao Manyan could easily analyze a situation related to development and economy.

In all honesty, the port was perfect; both the way it was flowing into the city or out to the ocean had made it an extremely important transportation tool, allowing ships of any scale to dock at the port.

Normally, with a port of this size, it was unreasonable for the people within two hundred kilometers to be living in poverty. It was strange that the villages and towns they passed by on their way here lacked development!

“Perhaps the city council is incompetent,” said Mo Fan.

“Impossible, even the worst city council can do better than this with such a nice port. If I had enough capital, I would invest in this port right away. I’d put in a huge investment to buy the land. It would easily bring me a great profit in just three to five years. Hell, I would even buy the whole city,” said Zhao Manyan in a serious tone.

“Tsk tsk tsk, as expected of Zhao Financial Group, demanding to buy a city straightaway,” said the beast-like man.

Despite the beast-like man’s appearance, he was extremely narrow-minded. It felt like he was always displeased about something, especially toward Zhao Manyan, who had bought his way onto the team.

“Business opportunity, don’t you understand?” Zhao Manyan harrumphed disdainfully.

“That’s enough, head over to the port and ask if there’s any ships going to Japan,” Ai Jiangtu interrupted the conversation and walked in front of the team.

“It’s useless even if we found a ship. There’s no way they would let us in without checking our identities,” said the beast-like man, Zu Jiming.

“Zu Zhebu, there are things that require you to use your brain,” Mo Fan smiled. He did not think finding a way to sneak onto the ship would be a huge problem for them.

“My name is Zu Jiming!” yelled Zu Jiming, black lines across his forehead.

“Mo Fan, do you have any idea how we can solve the problem of our identities?” Ai Jiangtu turned around and asked.

“Everyone has problems that they can’t solve, but as Magicians, we are more than capable to solve these problems for them. In such a huge seaport, I bet not everyone is living a carefree life...we’ll help these people, and in return, they will bring us to Japan, it’s that simple!” Mo Fan was a Hunter. He was well aware that capable Hunters or Magicians to hire were desperately needed in a city like this.

They were completely empty-handed. All they had left was their extraordinary capabilities. The best way to do so was by solving problems for people, be it working as Hunters or mercenaries.

“That’s easy for you to say. Who’s kind enough to send a few people without identities to Japan? Smuggling is a crime!” said Zu Jiming.

“That’s why we have to do things that ordinary people can’t do.”

Versatile Mage

Chapter 717: The Sea Monsters That Hindered the Growth of the City

A magnificent pair of twin towers fully made of steel glass stood at the center of Feinia City. It was the main headquarters of the famous Lin Group. They had built half of the new buildings in the city. They were simply the city tycoons!

Inside the Lin Group’s Building, a man with a mustache in a purple-blue suit was sitting in the meeting room at the highest floor. His gaze was staring out of the French windows. The entirety of Feinia City was in his view, and further extended to the blue ocean in the distance.

He let out a heavy sigh and returned to his desk. On top of it was a blueprint of the city with a giant, striking red cross drawn over it.

“It looks like we’ve lost this time. If I can’t make it work with Feinia City, what do I even have to compete with people like Zhao Financial Group? I thought Feinia City was my hope...it’s all bullshit!” The man furiously picked up the blueprint and tore it into pieces.

The man’s secretary, dressed in a white shirt and a suit skirt, spoke softly when she saw the chairman venting his anger, “The mayor is here to talk...”

“What is there to talk about? That liar told me everything except for the most important thing!” said Chairman Lin with a hollow laugh.

“But we are left with no choice, we can’t just give up now. Or should we talk with the people from the family and ask for some money to deal with our biggest problem?” asked the secretary.

“Did you hit the corner of your bed in the morning? Are you out of your mind? Those old pricks can’t wait to see how I’ve failed, just so they can take away everything that I’ve placed as a mortgage, and you’re still asking me to ask them for money?” cursed Chairman Lin.

The secretary did not dare to speak further.

The meeting room fell silent. When Chairman Lin finally vented his anger, he waved his hand and said, "If the mayor is here to discuss the plan to annihilate the sea monsters, I'll talk with him. If he's asking me to build another facility to fawn over his superiors, tell him to piss off!"

The secretary walked out of the room while murmuring non-stop.

Chairman Lin had vented his anger on his subordinates after failing to make a profit on his investment. She was scolded almost every day, she even had the urge to resign on the spot!

As soon as she arrived in the hall, she saw a group of well-clothed young people sitting on the sofa. They seemed to be discussing something. Judging from their temperament, they were likely to be wealthy and respectable. However, one of them was obviously a local. Not only was his skin tanned, his jeans were whitened, and his sneakers were so worn out that they had almost left muddy footprints in the hall.

"I say, is it a good idea for us to come to Lin Building like this? They are the wealthiest group in our city. I heard that even the mayor is treating him with great respect," said Liu Meng uneasily.

"Zhao Manyan, are you sure it's going to work?" asked Ai Jiangtu.

"Trust me, someone in this building definitely needs our help," said Zhao Manyan confidently.

The secretary was still quite far away, thus she could not hear what the people were discussing. However, she did feel like their presence was an eyesore. She had no idea if they actually had any business coming here.

The mayor would be here soon. It was necessary to chase the miscellaneous personnel away. The secretary summoned a security guard and said, "Go and ask what they are here for."

The security guard went over and returned fairly quickly, "They said that the owner of this building is in trouble. They have come to help."

"What the heck?" The secretary was in a bad mood after hearing the words.

-Don't tell me these young people are fortune tellers, trying to warn us of some incoming disaster!-

"That's what they said, they even emphasized that there's nothing they can't do," said the security guard.

"Humph, then ask them if they have the courage to kill the sea monsters. Do they seriously have nothing else to do?" said the secretary.

The simple-minded security guard actually went to relay the message.

He soon returned and said to the secretary excitedly, "They said they can."

The secretary immediately frowned. She took another look at the group of young people. Somehow, she did not feel like they were a bunch of swindlers.

While the secretary was lost in her thoughts, a golden-haired, handsome young man walked up to her with a charming smile. The secretary's heart skipped a beat.

-This guy, he's so handsome!-

Zhao Manyan glanced at the tag on the secretary's chest and after he had confirmed her identity, asked, "Can I ask you a few questions?"

"If there's nothing urgent, please..." the secretary subconsciously rejected him.

"Your boss must be troubled with something, am I right?" Zhao Manyan asked confidently.

The secretary was startled.

The handsome guy was right, but the thing was, everyone would be troubled by something at all stages in life. Everyone could ask the same thing.

"What are you trying to ask?" said the secretary.

"Most of the real estate development in Feinia City is under your Lin Group. You've even built a perfect dock, aiming to develop it into a transportation hub connecting the north and the south. In the meantime, you're aiming to appeal to the ships from Japan and Korea, too. However, the city's economy is suffering. Most of the buildings are new, but there's no one buying or living in them. No one is willing to invest in your property, either. Your Lin Group is flying your banner on a solitary tree. It's meaningless if you can't convince people to buy your property..." Zhao Manyan stated in a clear and logical tone.

"What are you trying to say?" The secretary was not so impressed. Anyone with a certain amount of knowledge could have analyzed the state they were in. After all, everyone knew that the Lin Group was having trouble supporting the city's economy.

"A city supported by a large financial group, great real estates, a perfect dock, great location, there's only one reason why the economy is so poor!" Zhao Manyan rubbed his nose, pretending that he was wearing a pair of glasses!

The secretary was stunned by Zhao Manyan's aura!

"It's because of the sea monsters! Your sea is extremely dangerous. The sea monsters must have destroyed many ships, scaring the investors away! Your Lin Group is unable to develop further because the sea monsters have stopped your sources of income. Am I right?" asked Zhao Manyan sternly.

The secretary was stunned, but managed to rebut, "Anyone could easily learn the reason if they asked around."

"Which is why we've come to help you settle the problem. See my brothers and sisters behind me? They are all very capable. We'll get rid of the sea monsters, and in return, you just need to do us a small favor." Zhao Manyan snapped his fingers proudly.

"Just the fourteen of you?" the secretary was left speechless.

It would take at least a troop of Battlemages to annihilate the sea monsters. Hiring a troop of Magician was extremely costly, and yet they were running short on funds...

Asking fourteen people to annihilate the entire pack of sea monsters that had stopped the city from developing, the secretary only had the urge to ask Zhao Manyan if he was crazy!

Versatile Mage

Chapter 718: Going Out to the Sea to Get Rid of Evil

In the meeting room at the highest floor of Lin's Building...

"I hope you're not wasting my time. There is a whole pack of sea monsters roaming the ocean close to Feinia City. They first appeared around seven years ago, but their numbers have increased tremendously over the few years. The state council has sent someone to annihilate them, but the effect was close to nothing!" Lin Junxian looked at the group of young Magicians sternly.

In Lin Junxian's eyes, they looked more like a group of students going on training. Even though the students of some Magic High Schools were fairly talented, they were not as reliable as the Hunters from the Hunter Union, mainly because of their experience and knowledge.

Dealing with demon creatures required intelligence, and experience in real combat, instead of the shiny badges given to the Magicians!

Lin Junxian was from a renowned family. Although he was utterly clueless about magic, he clearly understood their identities as Magicians did not necessarily mean they could fight demon creatures, let alone an entire pack of sea monsters. Without a troop, they would easily be wiped out if they engaged the sea monsters!

"You won't need to worry about us. We would only accept if because we're confident in ourselves. It's unnecessary to doubt our capabilities now. Give us all the information you have on the sea monsters, and prepare some of the necessities we've listed. After it's done, all you need to do is wait here in your office with your secretary," said Jiang Shaoxu confidently.

"Fine, the favor you asked in return is nothing, but I have to warn you, I didn't ask you to risk your life. Your parents or schools are not meant to blame me if anything happens. I've failed my investment, but I still want my reputation," said Lin Junxian.

—

Lin Junxian was fairly generous too. He arranged for the fourteen Magicians to stay at the hotel inside the building, and proceeded to prepare the necessities they needed to annihilate the sea monsters.

The most important thing that anyone needed when going on a hunt was the medical supply. It was necessary to bring around twenty different kinds of antidote alone.

The demon creatures were not the only possible source of poison. Some special environments would be poisonous too, the air they breathed in, the scent of flowers, the mist lingering in the air, the plants that they came into contact with...

Mo Fan was not an expert with these things, but Nanyu definitely was. She quickly put down the things on a list and gave it to Lin Junxian. The things were quite costly, too.

“By the way, do we really need so many things to kill the sea monsters? Aren’t you listing a bit too much?” asked Mo Fan.

“The supply is not only for the sea monsters. We still have a long way to go. It’s to prepare for our journey to Japan, too,” replied Nanyu.

“You sure have the foresight,” Mo Fan raised his thumb at Nanyu.

Their supplies were prepared fairly quickly. The necessary instruments were prepared too, with a sufficient supply of water and preserved food.

They also received a map that clearly illustrated the ocean nearby. Ai Jiangtu immediately started to examine it to come up with a strategy.

—

Although the outside of Feiniao City was the ocean, there were islands scattering across the ocean too.

In the past, each island had its ecosystem preserved. They were placed on the boundaries of the safe zone, and were used as a kind of tourist attractions for adventurous tourists. However, the islands were no longer being developed after several incidents. They were completely abandoned, and as the boundaries of the safe zone shrank toward the inland, these islands ended up becoming part of the territory of the demon creatures.

The shrinking of the safe zone greatly troubled the ships and the fishermen. It also greatly affected transportation to the city. No one was brave enough to come to the city to do business, as the ships full of goods would suddenly go missing. The gleaming silver simply sank to the bottom of the ocean.

The big investors of Feiniao City had all withdrawn over the past few years. Only the Lin Group stayed and tried to support the economy. They tried to use money to make it look like the city’s economy was blossoming, but the truth was, no one was willing to buy the suites with the scenic views and the luxurious buildings!

The mayor was extremely troubled by the city’s economy, too.

The City Council had tried sending people to annihilate the sea monsters. However, their numbers were limited, and the sea monsters were extremely cunning. The Magicians he sent out either returned empty-handed or were ambushed along the journey. After a few tries, no one was willing to sail out to kill the sea monsters!

That being said, if someone offered a great sum, the Hunter Masters would still be interested in taking the quest. The problem was, the Lin Group could no longer afford that sum. The City Council was having financial problems too, and most of the time, the sea monsters remained even after they paid the money...

—

A white ship was sailing slowly on the slightly cloudy ocean, moving away from the boundaries of the safe zone.

Unlike the land, where a safe zone was guarded by watchtowers, keeps, and fortresses, the boundaries of the safe zone on the ocean were maintained by a few lighthouses stationed by a few Battlemages at most. It was far from a proper line of defense.

Luckily, the sea monsters were not as active in the shallows. A small number of Magicians was enough to protect the cities and the towns along the coastline.

Feinia City was a special case. The sea monsters had been showing up a lot lately.

“During the last operation, the Magicians arrived at a rocky island. They were ambushed by the sea monsters when they were resting at night, resulting in great casualties,” said Ai Tutu as he pointed at an island on the map.

“Which means the sea monsters will most likely show up at that island. By the way, what kind of sea monsters were they? If it’s Deep-Scales Sea Monsters, we should pack up and go home. We are screwed if it is a whole pack of them,” said Jiang Yu.

Jiang Yu was a clean-looking student with spectacles. One could easily tell that he was the studious sort from his appearance alone. He could identify a demon creature and its gender by looking at a single hair plucked from a demon creature’s leg, without looking at the illustration of the creature.

The Deep-Scales Sea Monsters he mentioned were the most savage and cruelest kind. It had been years since they last appeared along China’s coastline. News about them being spotted in Japan would occur occasionally, resulting in a panic.

“They are said to be scarlet. It’s impossible for them to be the Deep-Scales Sea Monsters,” said Nanyu.

“By the way, I’m not an expert at fighting in the water. If they drag us into the water, aren’t the ones without Water Element dead for sure?” asked Jiang Yu seriously.

“Me neither,” expressed Mo Fan.

Gong Yu glanced at Mo Fan and said calmly, “No one is counting on a substitute like you.”

[Versatile Mage](#)

Chapter 719: Underwater Wood, Bamboo Shoot Reefs

Not long after crossing the safe zone, the group immediately discovered lots of reefs scattered across the ocean. These reefs were made of coral that had eroded after being exposed to the sun and the wind over a very long time, as their surfaces looked like they had been polished.

Normally, these reefs were not supposed to appear here, mainly because it was likely that the ships arriving at the port would hit them. Perhaps it had been a long time since people were sent to get rid of the reefs because of the falling economy.

“These reefs are called bamboo shoot reefs. It’s quite a surprise to see so many of them here,” the knowledgeable Jiang Yu started to analyze again.

Mo Fan was an eager learner. He immediately went up to Jiang Yu when he heard his explanation.

Mo Fan was the only one interested in listening to Jiang Yu’s never-ending talk about Astronomy and Geography, maybe because it was the field he was lacking the most knowledge of.

“Why are they called the bamboo shoot reefs? They don’t look like bamboo shoots to me,” asked Mo Fan.

“Here, take these goggles and put your head into the water. You will see why they are called the bamboo shoot reefs,” said Jiang Yu.

Mo Fan was bored too, so he simply followed the instructions.

He put on the goggles and suspended himself at the side of the boat with a difficult posture before dropping his head into the water.

The water-vision goggles were quite effective, giving Mo Fan a very clear view under the water.

The water was deep and serene blue with plankton drifting around. The depth within a few hundred meters was serene blue, and beyond that, the water became dark, ocean blue. Further down, it was nothing but darkness...

Swaying in the water, Mo Fan saw a rough, thick shadow extending from where the reefs were to the bottom of the ocean.

They were still not too far out from the land, so Mo Fan could barely see the bottom. The shadow was simply rocks shaped like ridges poking out of the water. The reefs above the surface were their peaks.

Mo Fan discovered lots of similar shadows growing from the bottom of the ocean. Some had only reached halfway from the surface, some were close to the surface, but still under it. Some had only grown a little bit out...

From his distance, it looked like a forest of rocks growing at the bottom of the ocean, a remarkably strange sight!

“The bamboo shoot reefs grow every day. They can absorb impure substances, dust particles, and rubbish in the water and turn them into rocks like bamboo shoots. The rocks eventually grow extremely tall, it’s a very interesting kind of coral!” Jiang Yu explained to Mo Fan.

Mo Fan lifted his head from the water. He washed his face and said, “It’s interesting indeed. It’s my first time seeing rocks that can grow like a plant. Speaking of which, these bamboo shoot reefs above the surface of the water should be around four hundred feet tall. They are actually quite spectacular. The water close to the land is not as clean, either.”

“These bamboo shoot reefs are good stuff since they can purify the water, but most cities don’t like them, since they are the main reason that many ships sink,” explained Jiang Yu.

Mo Fan nodded.

It was fairly understandable. These bamboo shoot reefs were quite scary too. For some ships with a deeper waterline, they might not spot the bamboo shoot reefs on the surface, and the ships might still hit the reefs. It was likely that the growth of these bamboo shoot reefs was one of the factors that greatly hindered the development of the city.

“Steer away, avoid the area ahead, there are lots of dead bamboo shoot reefs there,” Liu Meng said to the sailor urgently.

“Where? The detector isn’t showing anything,” replied the white-uniformed sailor.

“Just listen to me, steer away now!” Liu Meng’s voice turned hoarse as he began to panic.

The sailor steered the ship to alter the course to avoid the area ahead despite being skeptical.

Suddenly, the ship shuddered, alarming everyone after being fairly relaxed along the journey. The air suddenly stiffened.

“What happened?” asked Ai Jiangtu.

“The starboard has lost some paint after a little scratch. It’s not a huge problem, but luckily the ship did alter course. Otherwise, the hull would have hit the sharper coral below,” a sailor reported after inspecting the situation.

The sailor in the cabin looked at Liu Meng in astonishment. He immediately reevaluated the fisherman before him.

“Young man, impressive, how did you know there were dead bamboo shoot reefs there?” asked the sailor called Zhao Jing.

“I go fishing with my uncle every day. Even though our boat rarely hits the bamboo shoot reefs, he still taught me how to determine if any of them are nearby. I can’t really tell you how, but either way, I can tell where they are!” Liu Meng had learned the ability at a very young age, thus it was hard for him to explain the details.

The truth was, he was relying on the movement of the waves, the reflection of the sunlight and his experience to make the call. It was a necessary skill for every fisherman. He was more familiar with the sea than anyone else on board.

“Brother, that’s very impressive of you!” Jiang Shaoxu smiled.

“Of course... uhh!” Liu Meng had a pleasant smile before he was shocked to see that Jiang Shaoxu had changed into a bikini. The pieces of cloth that were smaller than his palm were covering the important parts of her stunning body, leaving the rest of her milky-white, tender skin exposed in the air.

Liu Meng had seen a bikini on the television, but he had never seen one in real life. He immediately swallowed hard!

Jiang Shaoxu was smiling like a vixen while holding a cocktail glass in her hand. She totally looked like she was on a vacation. Her buttocks shook while she was walking to the deck. She did not forget to turn around and asked with a smile, "Do you want to help me with the sunscreen?"

Liu Meng nodded slowly...

—

"We're quite a distance away from the land. There are lots of islands around us, most of them were only a few thousand meters square in size. We should be able to see the Rock Island where the crew encountered the sea monsters." Ai Jiangtu had come from a military academy. Unlike the rest of his undisciplined teammates, only he and Nanyu were busy figuring out a strategy to handle the sea monsters, as expected!

Based on the information provided by Lin Junxian, there was a whole tribe of sea monsters here. They were still unfamiliar with one another's capabilities, hence it was impossible to tell if they were able to take on a whole tribe of demon creatures.

Most importantly, they were in the middle of the ocean. Ai Jiangtu had already asked around. Only three members of the team were experienced with fighting underwater, which meant that their fighting capacity would be a lot weaker.

"Let's set up a camp there. We'll decide if we are going to use the device to get the creatures' attention after we've prepared ourselves," said Nanyu.

"It's unwise to use the device, we still don't know how many sea monsters are there. If there are over ten thousand of them, we'll simply die after being trapped by the creatures!" Ai Jiangtu immediately turned down the suggestion.

[Versatile Mage](#)

Chapter 720: Scarlet Soaring Demon

The Demon-gathering Beacon was a device that only the military had access to.

It was fairly easy to use the device. Similar to the Element Sensors, the devices would release energy ripples once they were placed under the ground, attracting most of the demon creatures within a certain distance.

The Demon-gathering Beacon had a stronger signal than the Element Sensors, producing a sound outside of the hearing range of humans. The sound would agitate the demon creatures in the sky, on land, underground, or in the water, provoking them to gather toward the signal.

Normally, if the military was planning to clear an area of demon creatures, the Demon-gathering Beacon would come in handy, provided that the military was utterly confident that their Battlemages were strong enough to take out all the demon creatures. Hunters rarely used a device like this, as they normally went hunting in smaller groups. Using the Demon-gathering Beacon would simply get them killed. Not many Hunters would be willing to take the risk.

Also, use of the Demon-gathering Beacon was prohibited without permission. Nanyu thought the device would be efficient for their goal, so she had asked Lin Junxian to prepare a few of them. Lin Junxian's connections were quite impressive, since he had actually managed to get a few of the devices.

"If it's an entire tribe, we should avoid doing something so risky. If a Commander-level demon creature shows up, we're all going to die," said Ai Jiangtu.

It was a challenging mission, one that would normally require a group of Advanced Magicians. On top of that, the group would have to be quite experienced. Ai Jiangtu was appointed the captain for the national team, and he could not risk putting the team in danger.

The group eventually arrived at the Rock Island. As the name suggested, there was nothing but rocks on the island.

The island was fairly sizable. It would take an ordinary person about two hours to complete a circuit of the island.

The island had quite an amount of stuff on it too, including some destroyed tents, torn clothes, and medical supply boxes. It was likely that they were left here by the previous team that was assigned to fight the sea monsters.

That team had suffered a humiliating defeat. Instead of annihilating the sea monsters, they were forced to flee for their lives in panic, as they were the ones who were hunted. Since then, the local Hunters no longer dared to hunt the sea monsters, even the weaker ones, which explained why Lin Junxian had totally lost hope for the city.

"Look at this gash; the claws of the sea monsters were at least this long!" The observant Jiang Yu had immediately noticed some marks on the rocks.

The marks did resemble those produced from claws, extending from the top of the two-meters-tall rock to its middle, leaving three deep lines on it. The marks implied that the sea monster's hand had three claws...

"Can you tell what kind of creature it is?" asked Ai Jiangtu.

"Three claws, scarlet in color... it's a rare species. It's not really described well in the books, but I'm guessing that it's the Scarlet Soaring Demon!" replied Jiang Yu confidently.

"Scarlet Soaring Demon... never heard of it before. We should understand what they are capable of before starting a fight with them. We need to know what their deadliest moves and attacks are," offered the brown-haired Mu Tingying.

"To be honest, it's unlikely that we're going to find any information about the creature on the Internet. As for their capabilities, our only source is the information provided by Lin Junxian. One thing we're sure of is that they are not poisonous, but their claws are extremely sharp..."

"Their feet seemed to be huge, there's a footprint here," Zhao Manyan called out, having discovered something.

“There’s something that looks like a pile of dried ash here. It must be their stomach acid when its exposed to the air; it was mentioned in the information given to us. The liquid can turn viscous rapidly and ensnare their target,” said Nanyu.

As expected of the most talented students from different institutes, they immediately learned a great deal of useful information from the clues provided.

However, someone in particular was totally out of the picture compared to the rest of the group. He had been roaming around the island since they arrived. When everyone was done with their analysis, he came back to the group, dragging a scarlet creature that was half a man tall...

“Err... is the creature that Mo Fan brought back the Scarlet Soaring Demon that you just mentioned?” Zhao Manyan asked softly, astonished.

It took Jiang Yu a while to collect his thoughts. When Mo Fan tossed the dying creature to the group’s feet, Jiang Yu nodded heavily and said, “It is! Mo Fan, where did you find it?”

Nanyu and Ai Jiangtu seemed displeased. If they were in the army, someone like Mo Fan would be dragged away and whipped until his flesh was torn to shreds. He had shown literally zero discipline!

While the others were analyzing the clues left by the Scarlet Soaring Demons since they had just arrived on the island, the guy simply went and brought back one that was still alive. What the heck was he thinking?

“The creature doesn’t seem like it’s that strong, it’s just like a Servant-class creature,” Mu Tingying commented.

“I’m afraid it’s only a young Scarlet Soaring Demon, an adult Scarlet Soaring Demon should be...” Jiang Yu was just about to describe the creature when he saw a scarlet creature over four meters tall jumping out from the rocks in front of them.

The thing had two muscular legs, with strange-looking, sharp scales circling its waist. Its front limbs were thin but long, with three claws tipping them like curved daggers!

Jiang Yu was stunned. An adult Scarlet Soaring Demon appeared as soon as he was about to describe it. He quickly changed his mind and blurted out, “That...that thing standing on the rock is in the adult phase!”

The little Scarlet Soaring Demon surrounded by the Magicians burst out crying as soon as it saw the big Scarlet Soaring Demon. It was obvious that it was asking for help.

The scales around the waist of the Scarlet Soaring Demon rose and opened up like the giant mouth of a fish. It let out a furious roar at the group!

“Humph, a mere Scarlet Soaring Demon dares to act so scornfully, I’ll eliminate you at once!” Zhao Manyan harrumphed coldly.

As soon as he finished the sentence, more than ten figures appeared from behind the rock in a line...

They were enormous and scarlet, all with scales circling their waists. Their bulging eyes were glaring at the invaders!

“Err... let’s attack together and eliminate them!” Zhao Manyan’s aura weakened instantly.

“Their auras are strong,” Nanyu frowned.

Anyone in the team could easily eliminate more than half of a group of ten Servant-class creatures. There was nothing to be afraid of.

However, it was obvious that they had missed something extremely important...

The Scarlet Soaring Demons were not just Servant-class, they were Warrior-level in their adult phase!

“Did you lead them here?” Mu Ningxue asked Mo Fan.

“Hehe, I thought I got rid of them. I didn’t expect them to have such a sharp sense of smell,” Mo Fan let out an awkward laugh.

Liu Meng was just an ordinary fisherman. He had never seen a real sea monster before. No matter how the people from the village had described the sea monsters, it was nothing as fearsome as seeing them standing in a line right in front of him.

The presence of Warrior-level creatures was very intimidating to ordinary people. Liu Meng had already fallen to the ground in fear, soaked in cold sweat!